

Bamenda News

1 November 2026



A year to remember

This has been a special year for Bamenda with the visit of Pope Leo in April. As Fr Rinda Emmanuel of Corpus Christi in Portsmouth saw himself (below, left), Pope Leo's message of hope to a community suffering from conflict reminded our brothers and sisters they are never alone and never forgotten.

Each year your generous support for the Bamenda Sunday appeal shows we too have not forgotten Bamenda. Last year your support made a real difference to many people's lives. You can find details of all the projects we've been able to support in the Portsmouth Bamenda Committee quarterly [reports](#) and the three stories below are examples of how you directly helped this year.



Archbishop's Education Fund

Thirteen-year-old Stephen Ngong is now attending school. Fighting close to his village forced his family to abandon their home and flee to a safer town. Stephen's family barely manage to survive from day to day and so could not afford to send him to school. But through the Archbishop's Education Fund which supports children orphaned or displaced by the conflict you have supported him, and 250 other children like him to attend school.



Economic empowerment for single mothers

Caroline Lum, a 37-year-old single mother can now provide for her children. The stigma of being a single mother makes finding work hard for Caroline and other women like her. But through your help she is getting skills and advice to help set up her own clothes-making business and so build a more secure future for her and her two children.



Community Health Workers

In June 2025, forty Community Health Workers (CHW) were selected from rural areas in the Archdiocese and trained in basic maternal and child care (including childhood nutrition, maternal health, infectious diseases, water sanitation, and prevention of HIV/AIDS).

Over the year since their training the CHWs have visited over 4000 homes and conducted 630 health education talks, 981 prenatal visits and 1260 postnatal visits. They've also vaccinated 3929 children; administered 397 malaria treatments; made 847 referrals to health facilities for treatment; and provided education on water, sanitation and hygiene education to nearly 8000 people.

While it's difficult to measure improvement on many health outcomes in just one year, in that time there has in fact been a significant decrease in childhood malnutrition. In the initial quarter of the project 77 children were identified as undernourished, but subsequently the numbers have fallen to single figures reflecting the extensive education work being carried out by CHWs, including teaching mothers and caregivers to prepare fortified foods. Heartfelt congratulations for the hard work.

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A message from Archbishop Andrew

With a heart full of joy and profound gratitude of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, I praise God for the beautiful bond of faith and solidarity that unites the Archdiocese of Bamenda and the Diocese of Portsmouth. I am deeply moved by your constant generosity.

Your targeted interventions in healthcare, education, peace-building, and spiritual growth have brought transformative relief to our communities. By providing psychological healing to trauma survivors and driving sustainable economic empowerment for women, your generosity has become a profound beacon of hope to the faithful across the entire Archdiocese of Bamenda.

Amid the ongoing socioeconomic challenges in the Northwest Region of Cameroon, your charity serves as a tangible manifestation of Christ's love. Rebuilding broken lives and infrastructure is a long-term journey, and the needs on the ground remain immense. As we strive to expand these lifelines to more vulnerable families, we humbly look forward to your continued support and prayers.

Your ongoing solidarity is what allows us to keep bringing hope to places where despair often looms large. May the Lord reward your families abundantly and may He bless the works of your hands. His Grace,
Andrew NKEA,
Archbishop of Bamenda



Looking ahead - your support will make a difference

For next year, the Bamenda Archdiocese has asked us to support several projects. First to continue our support for the Archbishop's Education Fund. Education opens doors to a future and your generosity can make a real difference - the cost of a child attending primary school for a year is about £67, and £113 will allow a child to attend secondary school. Please help us pay to educate orphaned children and children whose parents can't afford school fees.

Secondly to support three communities in more remote rural parts of the Archdiocese to complete the construction of churches in Bamali, Wum and Njikwa. A church is a place of worship but also provides a focal point for communities to come together especially during times of trouble. In all cases the communities will use their labour and skills in the construction work but they need our help specifically to buy building materials.

A message from Bishop Philip

The link between the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Archdiocese of Bamenda is now well over 50 years old. It remains as strong today as it was in 1974. It is a testimony to a shared Christian commitment and journey in faith. Priests from Bamenda serve across our diocese here, helping us with our current challenges of mission, outreach and falling vocations. Their contribution is sincerely appreciated. Equally, I know from Archbishop Andrew how important our spiritual and financial support is to meeting the many needs of the growing Catholic community in Bamenda at a time of continuing conflict and uncertainty in life. It is a way for us to stand with our brothers and sisters and to let them know they are not forgotten. I say to the clergy and faithful of Portsmouth: please continue to be generous and offer support with whatever you can afford, and please remember the clergy and faithful of Bamenda in your prayers.

Bishop Philip Egan,
Bishop of Portsmouth

Donate through your parish Bamenda Sunday collection,

[Set up a Direct Debit](#)

[Set up a standing order](#)

Make a bank transfer directly into the Bamenda Fund account:
CDP Bamenda Commission.

Account No: 00867633, Sort Code: 30-93-04

Please don't forget to gift aid if you are eligible:

[Gift Aid Declaration Form 2023](#)



Ways to give