



# Beacon of Light Association

*Building Safe Spaces*

Reg. N° 32/E.23/11111/Vol.8/ALPS

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## Presentation of Beacon of Light Association- BeLA

### 1- Name and Legal Status

Beacon of Light Association (BeLA) is a grass root development, non-profit and nonpartisan organization founded and run by like-minded professionals who are passionate and dedicated to improving the lives of destitute and vulnerable women and youths. BeLA is a grant seeker (not a grant maker yet) with headquarters in Bamenda and governed by Cameroon law No:90/053 of 19th December 1990. Founded in 2018, BeLA obtained her legal authorization in April 2019 following Registration No: 32/E.29/1111/VOL.8/ALPAS with all its team made up of volunteers

### 2- Vision

BeLA dreams of a world where women and youth feel safe and empowered to excel while impacting their community.

### 3- Mission

BeLA is on a mission to promote and protect the rights of women and youth while leveraging capacity development and sports to rescue, transform and engage stakeholders to build better and safer communities.

### 4- Objectives

- To provide women and youth with equal opportunity in life void of violence and oppression.
- To improve the livelihood of women and youth by reducing barriers that prevent gender equality and fundamental human rights.
- To promote sports for development as an instrument for social acceptance and integration.
- To promote sexual and reproductive health and right while combating gender-based violence in all its forms

### 5 -Target Beneficiaries

Our efforts target mainly women and youth in both rural and urban settings.

### 6- Thematic Areas

The work of Beacon of Light Association focuses on the following four thematic areas:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Gender Based Violence
- Economic Empowerment and Social Integration

#### 7- Core Values

The following core values inform our work and guide how we relate with stakeholders at various levels:

- **Empathy:** We focus on understanding the thoughts, feelings, and emotional state of those we serve.
- **Dedication:** We are fully engaged in whatsoever we do and are committed to doing better in all aspects of our work.
- **Ethics:** As agents of change, we respect the ethics and best practices that govern the conduct of our work at all levels.
- **Advocacy:** We are dedicated to the practice of supporting our clients to make their voices heard.
- **Teamwork:** We leverage collaboration through volunteerism to engage stakeholders achieve a common goal.

We are committed to:

- Acting honestly, truthfully and with integrity in all our transactions and dealings;
- Avoiding conflicts of interest;
- Appropriately handling actual or apparent conflicts of interest in our relationships;
- Treating our beneficiaries fairly;
- Treating every individual with dignity and respect;
- Treating our employees with respect, fairness and good faith and providing conditions of employment that safeguard their rights and welfare;
- Being a good corporate citizen and complying with both the spirit and the letter of the law;
- Acting responsibly toward the communities in which we work and for the benefit of the communities that we serve;
- Being responsible, transparent and accountable for all of our actions; and
- Improving the accountability, transparency, ethical conduct and effectiveness of the nonprofit field.

#### 8- Guiding Principles

- **Gender Sensitivity:** BeLA believes in the elimination of all forms of discriminations, stigmatization, segregation, and stereotypes that negatively affect our members, staff, and other stakeholders, based on their gender.
- **Respect for human rights:** Respect for human rights is an inherent condition and held at the top of our priorities as agents of change.
- **Collaboration:** BeLA commits to fully engage her clients, host community, key stakeholders for a common purpose.

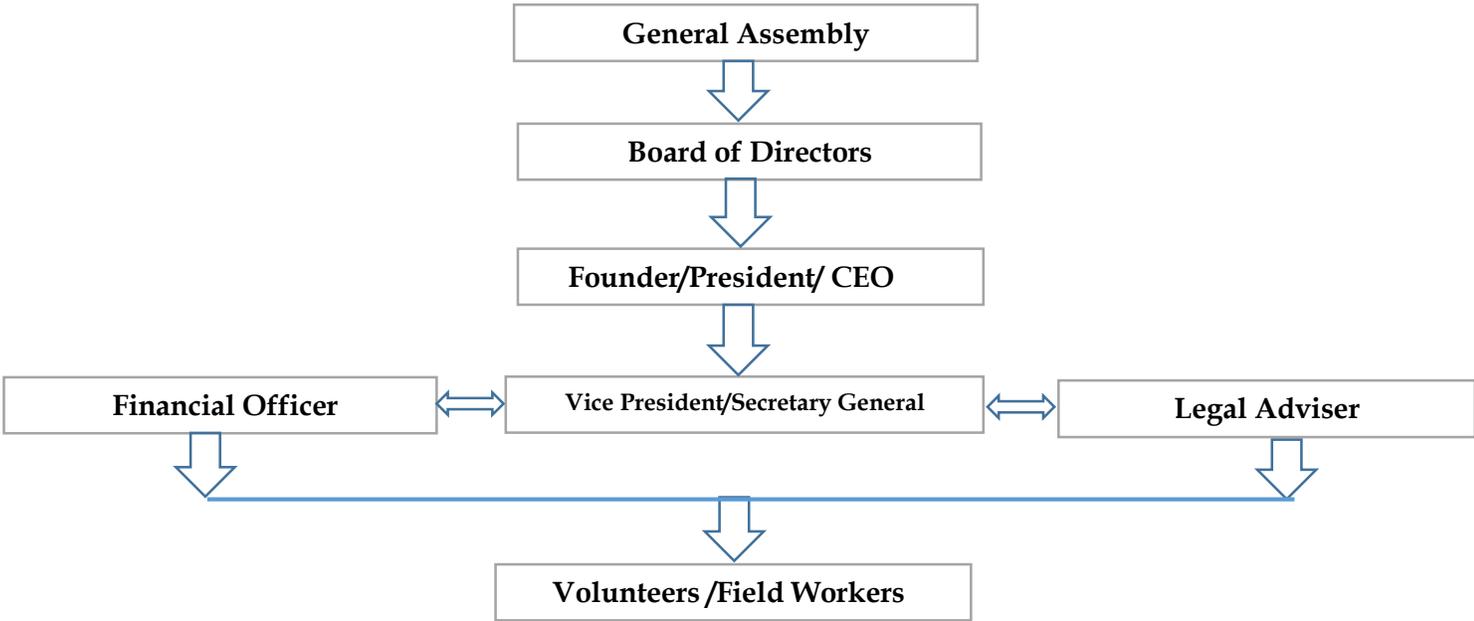
#### 9- Approach and Model

The work of Beacon of Light Association (BeLA) is sanctioned by a bottom-up participatory approach to development. BeLA believes that reaching out to women and youths on a regular basis does not offer them a chance to maximize their full potential.

That is why we leverage capacity development and providing access to equal opportunities for their individual transformation. That is why our work in all the three thematic areas is underpinned by capacity development and respect for human right. This to us is considered essential ingredients for success in today's ever-changing world.

### 10- Organization Structure

Eligibility for membership into BeLA is open to all natural persons who support and belief in the vision, mission, purpose and objectives of the association. These members who must have completed the membership application process form the General Assembly (GA) which is the supreme organ that determine the direction of the association for the coming year. The affairs of BeLA is overseen by a Board of Directors (BOD) which is the organ that plans and is responsible for the strategic direction of the association. The board members are elected by the General Assembly and Headed by a Board Chair who is voted amongst the five board members elected by the general assembly. The Board meets as often as possible to plan the organizations activities, organize the executive of the organization and carry out supervision over its activities. Positions on the BOD are reserved in a majority for young dynamic women less than 40 years old of various fields who share the mission and values of the association. The daily activities of BeLA are managed by the Executive Committee headed by the President or the Chief Executive Officer who is the founder of the association. The Vice President and or Secretary General, Financial Officer, Legal Adviser all form part of the executive. This team is made of permanent and devoted youths who are active members of the association. BeLA consults experts or resource persons in various fields when need arises for technical input on projects and activities. BeLA recruits volunteers and field workers during specific periods.



## 11- Sources of income

BeLA's main sources of financing over the years have been:

- Membership dues
- Donations from individuals
- Grants from the Urgent Action Fund
- Donations from partner organizations and well-wishers

## 12- Perspectives

BeLA hopes to create and construct its headquarters, a Multipurpose Economic Empowerment Centre with playgrounds in Bamenda the capital of the North West Region. The center will create a space where school going and out of school youths, women and other vulnerable minority communities and groups would find a space to interact through sports and sociocultural activities while learning a trade like hair dressing and barbing, shoe making and mending, pastry, decorative arts, computer maintenance and programming. With these skills, they would be empowered economically as these activities are highly solicited in the job market in Cameroon.

BeLA is looking forward to become financially independent and donate towards the realization of projects in the community.

For further details, please do not hesitate to contact;

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