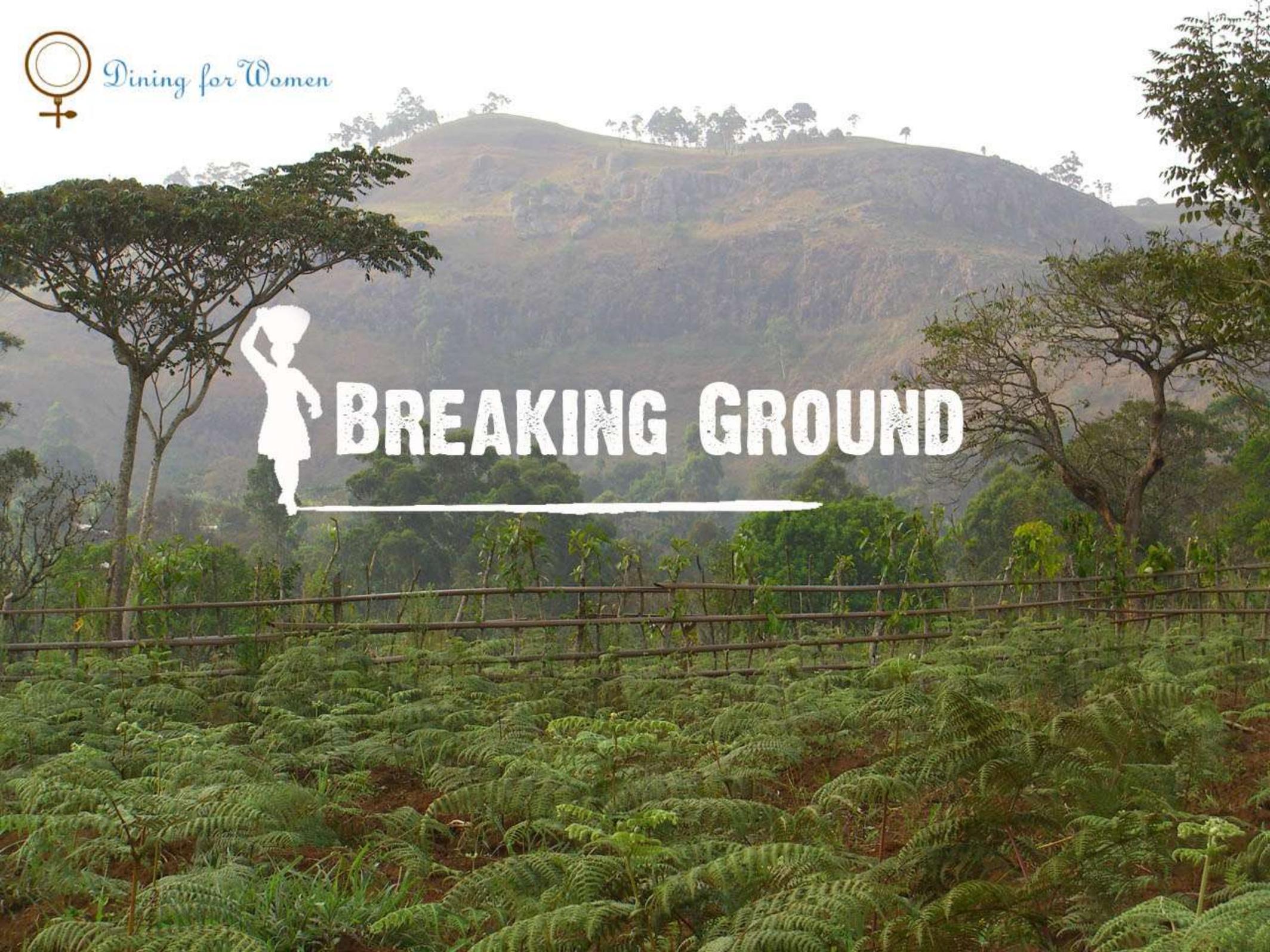




Dining for Women



BREAKING GROUND



Mission:

- Breaking Ground partners with Cameroonians to achieve lasting solutions to their self-identified needs by investing in local knowledge, empowering women, and promoting economic development.



Breaking Ground's three main approaches:

- **Community Partnership Program:**

We provide seed funding to projects of mobilized communities to further their development.

- **Investing in Agriculture:**

We provide training and resources to increase the ability of individuals and families to earn money through their primary income-generating activities, such as growing coffee or cocoa or processing palm oil, better enabling them to invest in their own local initiatives.

- **Women's Empowerment:**

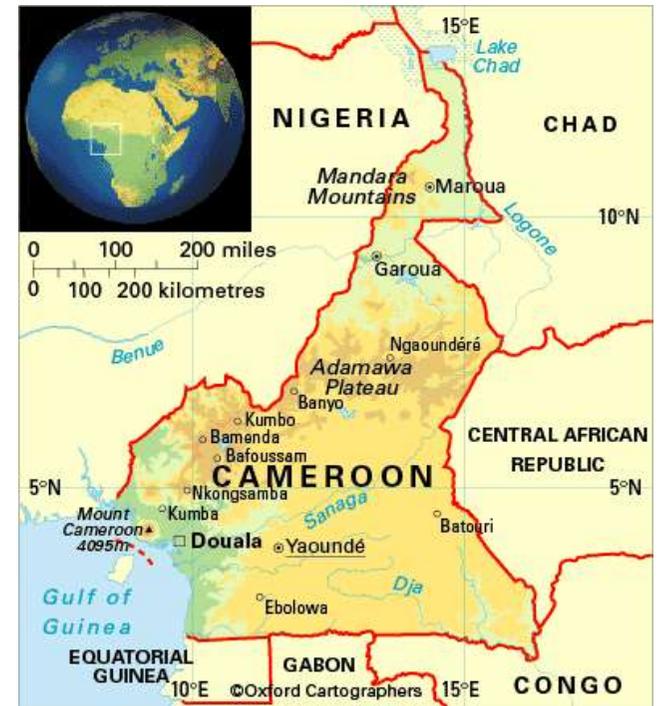
Our Women's Entrepreneurial Program provides women with critical business skills and the confidence to put them to use. Breaking Ground Football, currently on hold, helps girls and young women build confidence, independence, and respect for their peers of different ethnicities.



Where We Work: Cameroon

Located in Central Africa, the Republic of Cameroon is often referred to as “Miniature Africa” due to its diversity of environments and ethnic cultures. It is home to hundreds of ethnic groups, including the Bamileke, Fulani, and Baka. Cameroon’s official languages of French and English are spoken in addition to about 250 indigenous languages, and both Christianity and Islam are practiced alongside the many traditional religions.

Cameroon’s ethnic and linguistic diversity makes it difficult to encapsulate its culture; the lives, traditions and arts of the Fulani in the Far North region are very different from those of the Bamiléké in the Northwest or the Baka in the Southern rainforests.





Rhumsiski, Far North



Dschang, Northwest



Kribi, South Region



Sabga, Northwest Region

History

- Breaking Ground was founded in 2006 by Lindsay Clarke. In 2004, as a university student, Lindsay participated in the School for International Training's Cameroon program. She returned to Dschang in 2006 with a grant from Wesleyan University.
- While teaching English at a primary school in the village of Doumbouo, 12 kilometers from Dschang in the West Region, Lindsay saw that the greatest barrier to her students' success was the state of their classrooms, which had dirt floors and unplastered walls. On learning that the students' parents had raised the funds themselves to build the school and that construction had been halted when funds ran out, Lindsay contacted her community in the United States to raise funds to assist the community in its endeavors.
- Over the course of seven months, she raised more than \$12,000, which the village of Doumbouo used to finish the school and build a community library.





Students at Doumbouo elementary school, helping finish their classrooms.

Acknowledging that the success of this project was due to the **enthusiasm, vision, and mobilization of the community** in Doumbouo, Breaking Ground was founded to help similarly motivated and organized communities to achieve their goals.



Capacity building programs:

- As Breaking Ground evolved, it became clear that in addition to facilitating pre-existing projects through funding, there was also a need for capacity building programs that would give communities the tools to begin addressing their needs. Our first such program was the Women's Entrepreneurial Program, a business class and grant program designed specifically for women.
- In 2010, Breaking Ground hired its first program director and expanded to the Lebiallem Valley to work with rural communities to increase their revenue from palm and cocoa plants.
- The Women's Entrepreneurial Program funded by Dining for Women is our first entrepreneurial class designed specifically for a rural population.





BREAKING GROUND

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM

LEBIALEM VALLEY





The Lebialem Valley, Southwest Region

This **holistic educational and entrepreneurial program** will provide women in the rural southwest region of Cameroon with new economic possibilities and the tools to provide a nutritionally rich diet to their families.



Program Objectives:

- **To strengthen the capacities of women** in the communities of the Lebiale Valley to manage commercial agricultural activities and thereby improve their incomes and living conditions.
- **To improve the nutrition of women and their families** through crop diversification and nutrition education.
- **To facilitate female leadership** by training, encouraging, and supporting a group of women to become role models and mentors for other women in the community. Through business and agricultural training, we will work with participants to build a dynamic women's organization that can mobilize its energies and resources to accomplish other projects in the future. New leadership positions will give women a stronger voice in their communities.



Millennium Development Goals

This project directly addresses two of the UN's goals for a comprehensive development agenda.

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY & HUNGER



PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY



Activities:

- Breaking Ground will **instruct the women** of these communities in applicable business and farming techniques, using a combination of classroom training and technical instruction.
- The business class will provide specific trainings that provide opportunities for increased productivity, such as soap making and coconut-oil processing.
- We will work with the women to build a **community garden in each village** that includes peppers, cassava, and citrus fruits. The community garden will be used for instruction in organic agricultural techniques and then provide seeds for the women to transplant in their own fields.
- We will also **provide loans** and support to women to invest in cocoa and palm production and pig farming. In time, we will also finance the purchase of mechanical processing tools, such as manioc grinders.
- As part of the business/agriculture class, we will demonstrate how women can integrate these crops into their diets.



Women's Entrepreneurial Program: Lebialem Valley

Item	Expenses Year 2013-2014		Expenses Year 2014-2015	
	Cameroon (in \$)	US	Cameroon (in \$)	US
Personnel Expenses				
Ground Coordinator (GC)	6,800		6,936	
Program Director (30%)	3,121		3,184	
Payroll Taxes in Cameroon for GC	1,360		1,387	
Personnel Total	11,281	\$0	11,507	\$0
Other Then Personnel Expenses				
Community Garden Materials	1100		700	
Microfinance Capital Investment	1200		1200	
Workshops by Technical Experts	670		440	
Fruit Trees	450		450	
Livestock	3400		5000	
Class Materials	470		310	
Communication Costs	135		135	
Housing & Transport for GC	3700		3700	
OTPS Total	11125	0	11935	0
Cost Subtotals	\$ 22,406.20	\$0	\$ 23,442.20	\$0
Total Cost in US\$	\$ 22,406.20		\$ 23,442.20	

Program Success & Evaluation:

- We will evaluate the six-year program based upon the following quantitative goals:
 - Train 885 women in business and agricultural skills.
 - Provide loans to 165 women.
 - Provide loans to 21 women's organizations.
 - See a reimbursement rate of 90% on all loans.
- For the time period October 2013-August 2015, we plan to train 290 women and provide 48 women with loans. We will also evaluate the program by looking at the productivity of the women's activities, the number of autonomous women's groups that develop in the communities, the involvement of women in the leadership of the community, and any changes in diet.



Other Ongoing Projects:

- **The Women's Entrepreneurial Program in Dschang.**

In collaboration with the locally based Groupement d'Appui pour le Développement Durable (GADD), we offer a seven-week business course that incorporates topics such as feasibility studies, basic marketing, cost analysis, and leadership, among others. At the end of the course women are invited to submit business proposals to receive loans from Breaking Ground.

- **Health and Clean Water Initiative in Baleveng**

The 3,500 members of Baleveng suffer regularly from water-borne illnesses. Through an education program, and by assisting the community's efforts to build a water pump, Breaking Ground is improving the health of Baleveng.



How You Can Help

- **Donate.** We simply can't do it without you.
- **Spread the word.** The more people who know about our unique, community-driven approach, the better.
- **Sign up for our newsletter.** Visit www.breaking-ground.org and sign up for our monthly updates.
- **Buy a pair of earrings.** Made by Cameroonian artisan Housseini Yaouba, our cow horn earrings, available at our website and select stores, are stylish and affordable.
- **Get creative!** Breaking Ground fundraisers have ranged from a picnic to a 5k run to a yoga retreat. When thinking about how to raise money, start with what you are passionate about and what will get your community involved. From there, **anything is possible.**





On behalf of the Cameroonians we serve, **thank you**, useko and merci!