



Reach Out

Annual Report

2021



Reach Out NGO | Cameroon

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Foreward by the Executive Director

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Esther Njomo Omam **Executive Director**

"The journey for peace may not happen overnight, but with persistence we can achieve it."



The year 2021 has been a remarkable year with a lot of success stories from our beneficiaries. As an organisation we have grown through challenges, failures and lessons learnt. We reached out to new frontiers and made new partners. In all, we have stayed true to our community-driven approach and commitment to serve the local population that we represent.

The Anglophone Crisis has continued to plague our country's North West and South West regions. We thank the many donors and funders that partnered with us to implement peacebuilding and social cohesion projects in these conflict-affected regions. We are particularly proud of our contribution to promoting the Women Peace and Security Agenda as we forge ahead in empowering women and young girls to participate in peacebuilding and local governance.

Our cream of staff have waded some of the most dangerous and neglected communities to bring relief in the areas of health care, economic empowerment and protection to the population. I want to express a vote of immense thanks to all the staff of Reach Out for your selfless services and bravery.

The year 2022, promises the same if not more challenges to overcome. Together as partners, funders and staff, we must live up to the challenges of our time.

Thank you all.

Njomo Esther Omam
The Executive Director

Our Story

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Started in 1996, the organisation became legalised in 2000. Reach Out was founded by a group of medical doctors, gender specialists, social workers, nurses, community relay agents and agronomists who were concerned with the plight of the rural people, especially those in hard-to-reach areas and those rendered vulnerable. These include, but are not limited to minority groups such as widows, displaced women and their families, school drop-outs, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) as well as HIV and AIDS infected and affected persons who are all main beneficiaries of Reach Out's programs.

The organisation was born in response to the wide-spread HIV epidemic in Fako district, particularly among rural communities which were left unattended. The pioneer group of social workers, agricultural experts, doctors and nurses and other well-wishers decided to focus on serving the rural populations with information about the virus and on how to build up immune systems with natural recipes. We quickly became interested on not only serving those rendered vulnerable, but advocating for them and raised our voice to denounce the injustices people living with HIV were suffering in our Country. We've never stopped advocating since then.

Experiencing the HIV pandemic was unevenly targeting women, with other specific challenges such as gender based violence, inequality, property expropriation and little access to leadership positions, the organisation broadened its focus and included aspects of Gender, human rights and training.

This saw the birth of the second department within the organisation – Gender and Capacity Building. In the course of carrying out activities in the Gender and Capacity Building Department, we realised that our sensitisation and capacity building efforts required a third leg. Thus, the Wealth Creation Department was born to take care of the economic empowerment of women and underprivileged groups. Today these three departments have separated focuses on interconnected issues, and work closely to bring the best impact to the communities where we have current projects Cameroon, Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and North-Eastern Nigeria.

Mission

Reach Out NGO in Cameroon supports underprivileged groups within the communities on health issues, wealth creation, human rights and governance. It provides capacity building for improved livelihood using a community centered approach and advocacy.

Vision

Underprivileged groups are socio-economically and politically empowered in a supportive policy environment.

Our Values

A

Accountability

Accountable to our communities, partners and ourselves

C

Commitment

Our work gives us strength

T

Transparency

Committed to improve standards in our country

S

Sustainability

What we do is meant to last

Departments



Health Department

Being the pioneer department of the organisation, the health department strives to ensure that communities adopt a positive and health seeking behaviour for improved quality of life. It also seeks to increased access to essential needs (medical, nutritional, and psychosocial support), for women, children, vulnerable persons and remote communities.



Human Rights and Governance

The Human Rights and Governance Department's key focus is on rights advocacy for women and children, peace building and mediation, activism against gender-based violence using conflict sensitive and survivor centred approaches, protection and the rule of law. The department also emphasises on organisational capacity strengthening and support for local governance and regional and local authorities. Youth empowerment and engagement in civic responsibility while promoting positive masculinities and human rights monitoring.



Wealth Creation

The Wealth Creation Department of Reach Out Cameroon has the main goal to improve household incomes of vulnerable women through the establishment of micro-projects, sustainable agriculture and micro-credit operations so that beneficiaries are self-reliant in their communities. Generally, beneficiaries include: school dropout, single mothers, internally displaced women, persons living with HIV and persons living with disabilities.

Our Work in 2021

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31
PROJECTS
IN
2021

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights		Fight Against Tuberculose		HIV/AIDS
	Malaria Treatments		COVID-19 Response		Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

HUMAN RIGHTS & GOVERNANCE

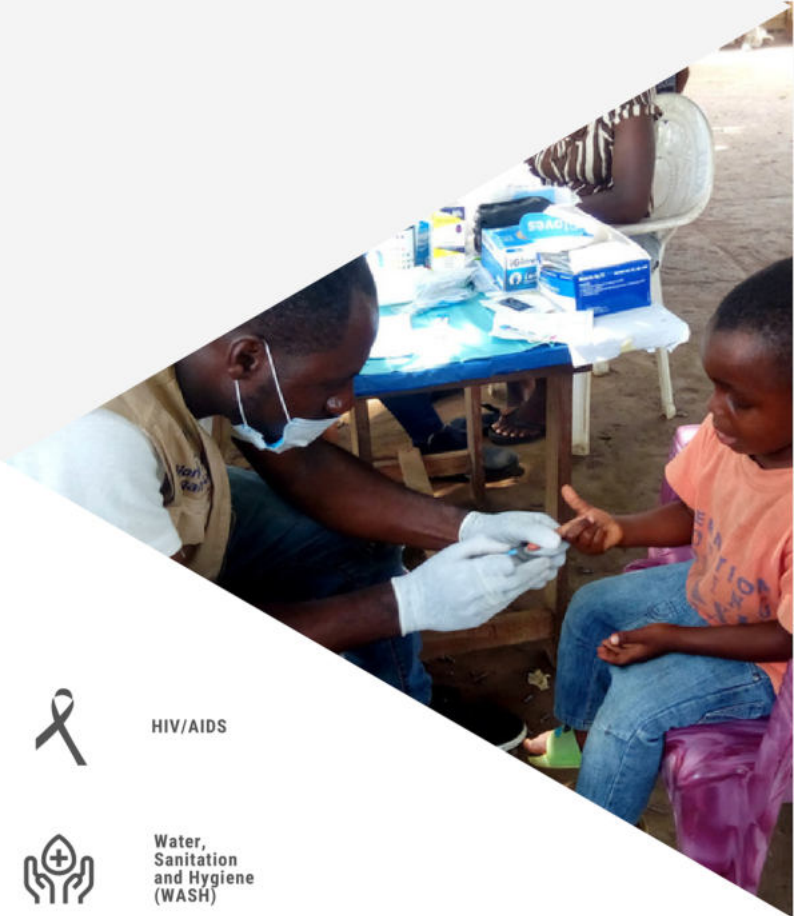
	Protection		Human Rights Monitoring		Gender-Based Violence
	Peacebuilding		Local Governance		Education

WEALTH CREATION

	Sustainable Agriculture		Economic Empowerment		Assessments
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Health Department

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Our Project in 2021:



Sexual
Reproductive
Health and
Rights



Fight
Against
Tuberculosis



HIV/AIDS



Malaria
Treatments



COVID-19
Response



Water,
Sanitation
and Hygiene
(WASH)

1. Enhancing Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Remote Communities funded by AmplifyChange
2. Community Dispensation of the Antiretroviral Medicine to PLHIV funded by Regional Technical Group (RTG) for the fight against HIV/AIDS
3. Remote Community Health Promotion funded by GlobalGiving
4. Spring catchment construction/rehabilitation in response to cholera outbreak funded by Miss Takunaw Etondi Tambi
5. Scaling Up Malaria For High Impact funded by The Global Fund For The Fight Against AIDs, Malaria and TB.
6. Ensure the quality of Malaria Civil Society participation in the development of Global Fund funded by CS4ME
7. Implementation Project Of Health System Strengthening Activities Oriented Towards Epi, 2nd Phase (Rss2) funded by PROVARESSC
8. Breaking Barriers In Access To Effective Malaria Treatment Among Conflict-affected Communities Of The South-west And Littoral Regions Of Cameroon funded by Expertise France/Initiative 5%
9. Comparing Primary Healthcare Delivery Models In Conflict-Affected Settings Of Cameroon And Nigeria funded by Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC)/ELRHA



Health Projects

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Enhancing Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Remote Communities of the Ndian Division

Project Goal: To improve and increase quality community based sexual and reproductive health services and rights (SRHR) for youths, women, and men in rural areas of Ekondo Titi and Bakassi Health Districts.

Funder: AmplifyChange

Results Realized in 2021

36,424 persons including 18,442 young persons from rural hard-to-reach communities gained increased awareness of their sexual reproductive health and rights. 22 survivors of violence and 13 persons living with HIV were linked to appropriate services. 9,020 beneficiaries received counselling, information, HIV testing, and/or requested contraceptives for the first time. Health care personnel from 10 functional health facilities were trained to increase varieties of services, information, and commodities to provide youth-friendly SRH services. 52 young women received family planning services for the first time



Health Projects

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Community Dispensation of the Antiretroviral Medicine to PLWHIV in Buea within the Framework of The Global Fund's Subsidy Funding

Objective: to ensure that the treatment centers are decongested and clients have their medication at the community since so many complain of finance, thus reduction in cost and time

Funder: The Global Fund, through the National Aids Control committee.

This program aims to decongest the HIV treatment Centres and thus need for decentralization and reduction of the workload.

Reach Out has been carrying out follow up with clients to respect their rendezvous and adhere to their treatment plans. Ensure they do their viral load and other checkups when is due. We also pay home visits to beneficiaries and offer individual counseling sessions and administer their drugs. In 2021 we provided these services to 89 PLHIV. The project is key in combating stigma related to HIV as beneficiaries are more comfortable coming to our offices for their drugs rather than the treatment centers.



Health Projects

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Remote Community Health Promotion

Project Goal: to provide basic primary health care services to vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach places without access to health care services.

Funder: GlobalGiving (individual donations)

Specific objectives

- General consultations for all disease
- ANC to pregnant women.
- Nutritional services.
- HIV services.
- Screening for and management of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension.
- Sensitisation on health issues

Results Realized

Community Health workers and the mobile clinic provided primary health care services to the people of Kitta and Tole communities affected by the ongoing socio-political crisis. These services included the treatment of uncomplicated common infections/diseases through the provision of essential drugs, referral of complicated cases, immunisation of children, proper nutrition for children <5 years, maternal and child health and education about common diseases with guidelines for prevention and control. Results for activities were grouped according to Health, Sensitisation and Nutrition.

CHWs received 993 persons (486 males, 507 females), sensitised over 1,500 community members on preventing diseases and screened 725 children (351 males, 374 females) for Malnutrition. The mobile clinic received 362 persons with health problems in Tole (124 males, 238 females). The people of Kitta and Nalende express their earnest gratitude for the services provided by the Global Giving crowdfund.



Health Projects

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Spring Catchment Construction and Rehabilitation in Response to the Cholera Outbreak

Project Goal: Provision of safe potable water for the population living in Mabeta, Limbe III Sub-division.

Funder: Miss Takunaw Etondi Tambi

Following the cholera outbreak, in June 2020, in Mabeta, a team from the Health Department of Reach Out carried out an assessment aimed at determining community vulnerability to the spread of cholera and capacity to manage the cases. Mabeta small combo and Mabeta big combo, the two affected communities were targeted. This assessment consisted of focus group discussions, visitations to health centers, latrine points and water points within these communities. A total of 31 participants took part in this exercise, 8 women and 23 men. The main source of potable water in the two communities was found to be a spring catchment with high risks to external pollution. As part of Reach Out's intervention, the rehabilitation of this water source was an immediate necessity to be accompanied by the construction of other water sources.

Results

With funding from Miss Takunaw Etondi, the water catchment was rehabilitated and now this isolated conflict-affected community, has access to a clean source of potable water for drinking and for domestic activities. An estimated 1,500 persons in Mabeta make use of the drinking water from the catchment.





Health Projects

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Scaling Up Malaria For High Impact

Funder: The Global Fund For The Fight Against AIDs, Malaria and TB

The general objective of the mission assigned to Reach Out as the Humanitarian Sub-Recipient is to contribute efficiently, within the framework of the national strategy on community-directed interventions to improve the provision of quality care and services. In response to previous low performance of the traditional public health programming in the new context, this innovative format gives responsibility to the Humanitarian SR to improve health indicators related to the three target diseases (HIV, Tuberculosis, Malaria) in the two Anglophone Regions, covering 27 Health Districts and a team 1920 Community Health Workers, two mobile clinic teams and 90 mother mentors. The Humanitarian SR will work in collaboration with the existing health structures and will decentralise operations through 27 District Civil Society Organisations.

Summary of the **main activities** carried out:

- CDI implemented through 1920 CHWs (780CHWs in the SW and 1140 in the NW)
- Field case management through two mobile clinics
- PMTCT through 90 mother mentors (M2M) (40 in the SW and 50 in the NW)
- Specific Health system strengthening activities related to HIV and Tuberculosis
- Purchase of and production of supplies related to the implementation of the grant.
- CDI implemented through 1920 CHWs (780CHWs in the SW and 1140 in the NW)
- Organise Taskforce meetings at the Regional, District, and community level



Health Projects

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Ensure the quality of Malaria Civil Society participation in the development of Global Fund country concept notes COVID-19 response mechanism 2021-2023

Project Goal: Reach Out coordinated with civil society organisations across all 10 regions to develop a country level concept note for Global Fund COVID-19 response mechanism.

Funder: CS4ME





Health Projects

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Implementation Project of Health System Strengthening Activities Oriented Towards EPI, 2nd Phase (RSS2)

Project Goal: To strengthen the involvement of community actors and CSOs in the promotion of immunization in the South West Region of Cameroon

Funder: PROVARESSC





Health Research

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Breaking Barriers In Access To Effective Malaria Treatment Among Conflict-affected Communities Of The South-west And Littoral Regions Of Cameroon

Project Goal: To identify, develop, implement and evaluate scalable, replicable, and innovative approaches to improve access to effective malaria case management through community-based services in 80 conflict affected and host communities in the South-West and Littoral regions of Cameroon by 2023.

Funder: Expertise France/Initiative 5%.

Key findings from quantitative data during formative research

- A total of 2386 community members were interviewed and 52.9% of them had adequate knowledge and attitudes towards malaria prevention.
- A majority (58.4%) of the community members were reportedly using a malaria protective method.
- A majority (53.0%) of the caregivers whose children had had fever prior to the survey were found to have adequate care seeking behavior for malaria services.
- 41.7% of the children received a recommended malaria drug within 24 hours of malaria diagnosis.
- 54.5% of the under five children were diagnosed positive for malaria using the RDT.
- 32.1% of the children were diagnosed with asymptomatic malaria.

Key Barriers to effective malaria care services

- The cost of malaria treatment, limited number of CHWs, distance between patients in the community and health facilities, absence of health facilities and insecurity were the major barriers to effective malaria treatment.

Proposed Innovations for the implementation research

Community Health Participatory Approach (CoHPA).

CoHPA seeks to improve access to malaria care services through an inclusive community dialogue structures



Health Research

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Comparing Primary Healthcare Delivery Models in Conflict Settings of Cameroon and Nigeria

Project Goal: To explore how Primary Health Care (PHC) models are selected by humanitarian organisations and through stakeholder engagement design a toolkit for evaluation of quality in PHC care delivery across different models

Funder: Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC)

R2HC project is a research project that is currently on-going in Cameroon and Nigeria. The project brings together researchers working in conflict affected and humanitarian crisis settings. This project looks at the health care models used by humanitarian agencies or organizations in addressing health care delivery in conflict settings. In Cameroon, the project is focused in the North West and South West (NWSW) while in Nigeria the focus is in the North Eastern Nigeria (NEN). Reach Out NGO, in partnership with the University of Cambridge, University of Buea, University of Maiduguri, and HERWADCI, leads the research in Cameroon.

Results Realized

- Ethical and administrative clearance for the study have been obtained.
- Recruitment of research assistants for Cameroon and Nigeria
- Mobilisation and sensitisation of humanitarian organisations cluster leads
- Training of the research teams (Cameroon and Nigeria)

Human Rights and Governance

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Building a Future for Children in Conflict

Our Project in 2021:



Protection



Human Rights Monitoring



Peacebuilding



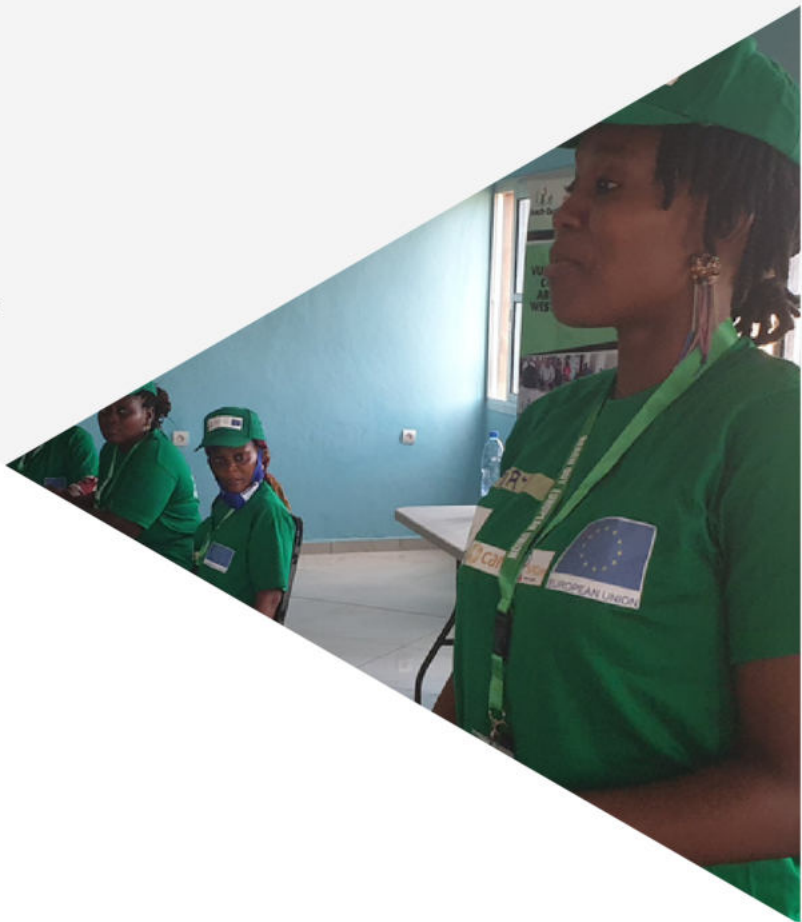
Local Governance



Gender-Based Violence



Education



1. Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Conflict Affected Areas of The North West And South West Regions funded by the European Union
2. Strengthen Networks of Cultural and Development Associations for Peace and Social Cohesion funded by the Centre De Crise et De Soutient of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
3. Human Rights Violations and Abuse Monitoring
4. Scaling Up Human Rights Monitoring funded by the U.S Embassy- ARDF
5. Supporting Councils in the identification and implementation of participatory and inclusive mechanisms in local governance and infrastructure management funded by GIZ PROMUD
6. Family Planning and Health System Support for Resilience project funded by GIZ GOPA
7. Emergency Protection Fund with funding from GlobalGiving
8. Accountability to Achieve SDGs - Human Rights and Gender Justice funded by Sonke Gender Justice on behalf of MenEngage Africa
9. Reflection Forum Community Women Peace Mediators sponsored by Women Peace Mediators Across the Common Wealth
10. Structuring Community Women Peace Mediators (COWOPEM) with funding from UNESCO
11. Cameroon National Women's Convention for Peace sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
12. Civil Society Organisation Consultation for the Dissemination of Study Results in the South-West
13. Education Cannot Wait Acceleration Facility Consultancy in collaboration with Street Child Cameroon



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Conflict Affected Areas of the North- West and South-West Regions

Funder: European Union

Project Goal: To contribute to the reduction of vulnerabilities and risks of susceptible groups and reinforce community resilience and response to violence against vulnerable populations living in English-speaking regions of Cameroon.

Results Realized.

-40 Community health workers (CHWs) were trained on GBV, Stigma, HIV, Family Planning, and disability inclusion.

15,920 Persons have been sensitized by the CHWs on issues related to GBV, and 11,051 on disability, HIV, and family planning

-339 persons received necessary services (psychosocial, health, economic): 26 persons living with HIV lost-to-follow-up, 106 survivors of GBV, 38 PWD and 169 extremely vulnerable persons provided economic assistance and livelihood support.

-15,920 community members (3,045 boys, 4,126 men, 3,389 girls and 5,360 women) had been sensitized on GBV while 11,051 (4,765 men and boys and 6,286 women and girls) had gained increased knowledge on HIV, Family Planning and Disability inclusion. In addition, 34 GBV survivors (all females)



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Strengthening Networks of Cultural and Development Associations (CDAs) for the Promotion of Peace and Social Cohesion in Cameroon

Project Goal: To strengthen and build the capacities of Cultural and Development Associations (CDAs) in the NW & SW regions and Anglophone communities in Francophone regions of Cameroon towards the promotion of peace, integration and social cohesion with IDPs at their community levels.

Funder: The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs through the Centre de crise et de soutien.

Results

The project is still in the early phase of implementation, but as at December 2021 partner 10 CDAs have been identified and a two day working session was organised for the development and validation of a peacebuilding training manual.

Strengthening Quality and Coordinated Intervention of Prevention and Protection from Violence, Abuse and Exploitation for Conflict-Affected Children in the North- and South-West

Project Goal: to strengthen child protection in emergency response and its link with protection systems at administrative and community-based level in the North- and South-West Regions with the goal to ensure a continuum of care and to increase the prevention and protection of conflict-affected children from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Achievements

Reach Out has successfully registered 912 children with protection issues 511 from Meme and 401 from Ndian, all cases have been documented, and stored in field offices in Ekondo and Kumba respectively. Below is a table showing indicators and achievements



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Human Rights Violations and Abuse Monitoring

Project Goal: To monitor and document incidents of human rights violation and abuse committed in relation to the ongoing armed insurgency in the North-west and South West region. These incidents are documented in weekly incident reports which are shared with Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project (ACLED), and published on the website created for the publication of reports.

Achievements

This year, Reach Out successfully compiled 11 monthly incident reports, documenting human rights violations ranging from extrajudicial killings to torture, arbitrary arrests and property destruction.

Scaling Up Human Rights Monitoring

Funder: US Embassy- ARDF

Project Goal: This project was aimed at strengthening community-based Human Rights Monitoring and referral systems in the South-West and North-West Regions of Cameroon through community engagement and digital tools. The project was funded by the US Embassy through the African Regional Democracy Fund (ARDF) program, and it targeted the Momo and Ngoh-ketunja divisions in the North-West Region and the Fako, Meme and Ndian Divisions in the South-West Region.

Results

- 11 human rights monitors and 40 trained activists received capacity building in human rights monitoring and reporting.
- One human rights report, covering the months of January to March.
- 40 communities have been monitored.
- 1 functional website has been created to document and display data on the human rights situation (2373 incidents).
- 7 civilians under severe threat to life were assisted with transportation fare so as to evacuate the areas in which they were at risk of being killed.
- 27 victims of conflict violence have been provided cash transfers of 23,000FCFA each to take care of pressing financial needs.
- 1 toddler in illegal detention was re-allocated with his family. Originally, the project intended to refer and not support directly, but due to the lack of organisations providing services in those areas, referrals were difficult and there was need to serve those most vulnerable. Therefore, a re-allocation was requested to the U.S. Embassy.



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Supporting Idenau, Limbe 3, and Tiko Councils in the South-West Region in the Identification and Implementation of Participatory and Inclusive Mechanisms in Local Governance and Infrastructure Management

Project Goal: to contribute to strengthening the involvement and effective participation of the men, women, youths, and internally displaced persons living in Limbe III, Idenau, and Tiko council areas in local governance and the management of drinking water and market infrastructures, through the support of municipalities in the implementation of participatory mechanisms.

Within the framework of implementation of the second phase of the Programme for Municipal Development (ProMUD) 35 municipal councils of Cameroon are earmarked to receive capacity building on inclusive and participatory approaches for the management of shared resources, most specially the municipal budgets and infrastructure.

Funder: GIZ PROMUD

Results

The project is still in its preparatory phase in 2021 with no major results to be reported. However, the following activities were carried out.

- Attended the presentation of the council budget debate for 2021 and 2021 in Tiko, Limbe III and Idenau
- Attended the Examination and Adoption of the 2022 draft budget for the Idenau Council
- Developed draft questionnaires for baseline studies (Key informant interviews, Citizen Participation and Focus group Discussion)



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Family Planning and Health System Support for Resilience Project **Funder: GIZ GOPA**

Project Goal: to provide psychosocial support (PSS) and sexual and reproductive health right (SRHR) kits to vulnerable IDPs suffering from traumatic experiences living in Muea and Ekona communities in the South West region.

This project has boosted the Reach Out's capacity in providing PSS to vulnerable people. Project still at its beginning phases in 2021.

Key Results

- 3 CHWs and 6 community leaders (religious and traditional leaders) trained on the provision of PSS and management of traumatic events and gender-based violence survivors.
- 33 IDPs in need of PSS and referred to the case manager.

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Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Emergency Protection Fund with funding from the GlobalGiving Platform

Project Goal: to provide emergency support especially to children and other vulnerable persons. This year, children and women with emergency protection cases were identified. Some were treated in the hospital and their bills paid for.

Project Target

-Identify children and other persons with emergency needs in the North West and the South West Regions through community health Workers

Key Results

-6 cases have been identified and assisted financially.



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Accountability to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Human Rights and Gender Justice Agenda for MenEngage Africa

Project Goal: to promote partnership in work engaging men and boys for gender equality, preventing HIV, promoting human rights, reducing violence at all levels, and questioning structural barriers to gender inequality.

Funder: Sonke Gender Justice through MenEngage Africa

Key Results

MEA Ubuntu and AGM (26 -27th May)

MenEngage had an Ubuntu symposium which brought together 23 members of the network. During the annual general meeting, members were trained on their roles and responsibilities to the network, and participated in a Panel discussion of activities within their organisations that promote the objectives of MenEngage.

Award to MenEngage Cameroon

In 2021, MenEngage through Reach OUT as the secretariat, received a grant from Sonke Gender Justice to implement a project; Accountability to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Human Rights and Gender Justice Agenda for MenEngage Africa. This grant was awarded in 2021 and will be implemented in 2022 for the network to engage in the implementation of activities that reflect key strategic areas of MenEngage alliance. All member organisations will participate to promote joint action for greater impact in fostering positive masculinities.



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Women Working for Women (W4W): Promoting a Culture of Sustainable Peace in the South-West Region (Extension)

Reflection Forum Community Women Peace Mediators

A two-day workshop was organised by Reach Out NGO for Community Women Peace Mediators from the 6 Divisions of the SW Region of Cameroon at the Chariots Hotel in Buea, on Sunday 28th March and Monday 29th March 2021. A total of 23 grassroots Women leaders attended the workshop which was facilitated by a consultant.

Objectives

1. Develop a Coordination Mechanism for grassroots Women Peace Builders in the SW Region.
2. Establish an advocacy strategy for a network of women peace builders.

Results

The workshop was attended by 23 grassroots Women leaders from all the 6 divisions of the SW Region. Support facilities was provided by the staff of Reach Out Cameroon, Buea throughout the duration of the workshop and some media practitioners (The Guardian Post and The Advocate) were present on the both days of the workshop. By the end of the workshop, the following outcomes were achieved:

1. The development of an Advocacy Plan developed by participants covering a period of 6 months (April – September 2021)
2. The establishment of a leadership framework for a Network of women peace builders, COWOPEM, and the elections of leaders at the Divisional and Regional levels to provide leadership and direction.



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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Structuring Community Women Peace Mediators (COWOPEM)

Reflection Forum and Mental Wellness

Women from six divisions of the South West Region, members of grassroots organisations were brought together in October, 2020 to begin what will later be known as Community Women Peace Mediators (COWOPEM). Having received series of trainings and carried out an intergenerational dialogue to identify separating factors between women and girls, COWOPEM members have thereafter been engaged in basic mediation skills within their communities, with a track record of success.

To enable their legal existence, members were gathered for a three days reflection forum and mental wellness with funding from UNESCO. The reflection forum provided a ground to put in place a governance structure and mechanism for the Community Women Peace Mediators. A mental wellness session ensued to provide an opportunity for trauma healing.

Goal: to structure 24 community women peace mediators into a regional network with Mental Wellness sessions in the South West Region of Cameroon by February 2021

Objectives

1. Hold a reflection forum to discuss governance and feedback mechanisms
2. Develop and produce statutory documents of the network
3. Organise a mental wellness session for the participants

Results

- The 25 participants represent 16 groups with a total membership of over 180 women
- These groups have now a clear action plan to build peace in their communities. They will meet key community and administrative stakeholders to advocate for peace, for the resumption of education in safe conditions, and for the safe and peaceful return of displaced persons.
- The impact of the group will have wider political, economic and social implications after the implementation of the Action Plan of the Network, COWOPEM.



Human Rights & Governance Projects

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National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon

The National Women's Convention for Peace in Cameroon was an initiative led by some 38 partner associations/NGOs under the facilitation and support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the involvement of the Swiss Embassy, the Goethe Institute, the High Commission of Canada, UN Women and the Ministry for Women's Empowerment and the Family. A national planning committee consisting of 38 civil society organisations working for peace and women's rights in Cameroon was responsible for the organisation of the convention. In attendance were women peace activists and civil society leaders, survivors of war-related violence and displaced women and girls, female traditional and religious leaders, female politicians, soldiers, businesswomen, grassroots women, and many more. Not only from all parts of society, but importantly the attendees represented all 10 regions in the country. Esther Omam, Executive Director of Reach Out Cameroon and a member of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), as well as a member of the Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth played the role of the president of the Personality Taskforce, in charge of mobilisation of key partners and stakeholders for the convention.

Goal: The aim of this convention was to unite women's voices for peace and seek pathways that could lead to a peaceful resolution of the crises. The main activities to achieve this goal was through experience sharing and workshops.

Objectives

1. Hold a reflection forum to discuss governance and feedback mechanisms
2. Develop and produce statutory documents of the network
3. Organise a mental wellness session for the participants

Reach Out's Contribution

"It is our collective responsibility to be peace mediators wherever we find ourselves. We call on the government and our brothers to receive the message from the Women's Peace Convention with an open heart because this is the time for peace" – Esther Omam, Reach Out Cameroon



Esther Omam presented on Women, Peace and Civil Society: What role, what actions and for what results? This presentation dwelt on the Boko Haram insurgency in the North, the Anglophone crisis in the North West and South West Region. Displacement from central Africa and migration to the East. Esther explained that women have evolved from victims to active voices: despite being significantly burdened by the crises in Cameroon, the women have learned to claim agency in order to manage them for positive outcomes. Drawing from the women's peace building movement in Cameroon since the outset of the crisis, Esther, capped her presentation of the 5Ws of women Peace building. To include; who are the female actors, what have been their actions, where have the actions been carried out, when these actions were carried out and why they have been put in place. She reiterated the fact that women peacebuilding networks have been formed and should continue to take up the peace building space to ensure the peace we seek is attained. This will only be possible if increasingly we build synergy amongst these networks and work for the common good. Despite the challenges faced, they can thrive with increasing support from external partners and improved coordinated actions.

Women's Peace Declaration

Women at the National Peace convention urged the government and other stakeholders to take concrete and immediate actions in the following ways:

- End hostilities, immediately and permanently, and thus give meaning to African Union's campaign to 'Silence the Guns' in Africa in order to achieve a conflict-free Africa, prevent genocide, make peace a reality for all and rid the continent of wars, violent conflicts, human rights violations, and humanitarian disasters;

- Pursue a continued and inclusive dialogue that addresses core issues around Peace, Solidarity and shared Humanity in Cameroon;

- Ensure the equal and permanent involvement of Women peace mediators and negotiators in peace processes at all levels, while enforcing their protection at all times, according to the four pillars of the UN Resolution 1325;

- Create additional and reinforce the existing centers for psychosocial support and trauma healing. Render the existing DDR centers functional and responsive to the existing conflicts.





Human Rights & Governance Research

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Study on the Situation of Vulnerable Groups in Conflict Zones in Cameroon: Civil Society Organisation Consultation for the Dissemination of Study Results in the South-West Region

In the framework of the project “Security for All”, co-financed by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the European Union, a study on the situation of vulnerable population was carried out in the conflict regions of Cameroon (North-West, South-West, Extreme-North) and published with the title “Vulnerability in Cameroon’s conflict regions: causes, manifestations and consequences on the population”. Data was collected between 1st and 15th March 2020 from three sectors: the public sector, the private sector, and CSOs. In each region, interviews were conducted with officials from public sector, the private sector, and civil society organisations. After the publication of the study by the end of 2020, there is a need to publicise its results especially as the media do not have easy access to these areas.

Objective of the Consultation

To disseminate study results on the situation of vulnerable groups in conflict zones in Cameroon and involve other civil society organisations in the advocacy campaign.

Achievements

Summary presentation of the study

- Presentation of the main findings of the study of the respective regions (the case of the South-West region)
 - Sharing of experiences of civil society organisations of the region with regards to the situation of vulnerable groups

There is continuous need for studies of this magnitude to inform not only CSOs but also the international communities on the crisis situation in the South West and North West Regions. The dissemination of this study amongst international media organs will greatly inform on the crisis and consequently actions which can be undertaken to bring the crisis to a stop.

Wealth Creation

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Our Project in 2021:



Sustainable
Agriculture



Economic
Empowerment



Assessments

- 1.Keep A Girl Alive.
- 2.Poverty Graduation for Young Displaced Girls at Risk.
- 3.DonorSee Projects.
- 4.Female Farmer's Empowerment and Food Security Strengthening in Rural Areas.
- 5.Needs Assessment - Educational Support Project.
- 6.Profiling - Persons Affected by COVID-19.
- 7.Data Collection - People Vulnerable to Food Insecurity.



Wealth Creation Projects

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Keep A Girl Alive

Project Goal: Enable young girls at risk to become economically self –through the creation and expansion of small businesses.

The KGA program is an Economic empowerment program which aims to improve Household income of single mothers, school drop outs and internally displaced person as that they become economically resilient and independent.

188 selected women are trained on:

Entrepreneurship

Book keeping

Savings

Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

Drawing of business plans.

Disbursements (first and second grants) were done through Mobile Money after training.

Achievements

- 178 young women at risk created or expanded their own businesses after receiving seed capital

- Beneficiaries built a savings culture as out of the 100 beneficiaries in 2020, a total of 26 saved with Reach Out using a 5.4% interest rate to increase their money saved.

- Improved access to financial opportunities and capital for the expansion of businesses through the creation of bank accounts with micro-financial institutions.

- Increased their participation in economic decision making at individual and community levels.

- Improved knowledge on sexual and reproductive health improved and women take informed decisions on their sexual and reproductive health.

- Increased monthly household income.

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Poverty Graduation for Young Displaces Girls in Douala

Project Goal: To help 30 internally displaced young women at-risk to overcome extreme poverty permanently in Bonabome, Douala.

The community of Bonabome has witnessed the influx of IDPs from Anglophone Regions. This area is saturated with women and children either for the security sake or education. This has seen an increase rate of vulnerability among these women because they have little or nothing to rely on for livelihood. This project is implemented with funds from ADDAX Petroleum and the Global Giving platform.

Reach Out worked on building capacity through income-generating activities and entrepreneurship, and the disbursement of grants.

Achievements

- 30 beneficiaries selected built their capacity on pastry business, savings, book keeping, entrepreneurship and SHRH.
- Disbursement of seed capital done to 30 women, each receiving 40,000 CFA.

Donorsee Project

DonorSee is an online video platform where money is donated directly to the most vulnerable persons through videos, describing their needs. 11 persons have been supported financially.





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Female Farmer's Empowerment and Food Security Strengthening in Rural Areas

Sustainable Agriculture and Female Farmer Empowerment

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is the most important grain crop in Cameroon and is produced throughout the country under diverse environments. Successful maize production depends on the correct application of production inputs that will sustain the environment as well as agricultural production.

Reach Out in partnership with Manos Unidas conducted a project in Lipenja, one of the conflict affected communities in Ekondo Titi, with the main goal to improve food security and livelihoods of 35 female farmers in Lipenja, Ndian Division through improved farming techniques.

Capacity building

Land Preparation and planting of maize

The proper use of organic and inorganic pesticides for maize

Proper use of organic and inorganic fertilisers to cultivate maize

Harvesting and post-harvest preservation techniques for maize

Purchase and Distribution of Inputs which includes:

Improved maize seeds with resistance to drought, pests and diseases

- Adequate Herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers, Spraying cans, hoes and cutlasses

Achievements

Cassava processing machine purchased and used by the community

- Improved knowledge of 35 farmers on production, management, post harvest preservation techniques and processing

35 female farmers gain access to improved farming inputs

Improved rate of cassava processed into garri (30%)

Increased maize production (25%)



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Educational Support Project: Scope for the Needs Assessment

Project Goal: To improve school completion rates thus setting the platform to increase the number of Bamusso, Idabato and Kombo Itindi indigenes enrolling in Universities and specialised institutions required to join Cameroon's competitive job market in the long run.

ADDAX Petroleum Company is the operator of the Iroko and Mokoko Abana blocks located along the coastal zone of Ndian Division and implements this project in line with its Cooperate Social Responsibility Policy and mission to support the socio-economic development of its host communities. High illiteracy rates and low enrolment and completion rates result to high youth unemployment. Addex wishes to improve the level of education and livelihood through the provision of didactic materials, provision of registration fees for pupils and students in examination classes, education campaigns, and the provision of scholarships to meritorious pupils and students. The company also wants to provide WASH support and food items to some Internally Displaced (IDPs) and households in need. Reach Out was mandated within the objectives of the project to carry out a needs assessment.

Achievements

30 schools were identified

- A total of 178 HH were identified, 155 recommended for assistance
- Identification of major changes of schools in the area

-



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Profiling of Persons Affected by COVID-19 in the Anglophone Regions of Cameroon

Project Goal: To Profile 6000 households within communities in Mezam, Momo, Bui and Ngoketunjia Divisions of the North West Region

This project was implemented as part of the World Food Programme's (WFP) food and cash assistance to persons vulnerable to food insecurity in Anglophone Regions. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited access to livelihood as workers are forced to stay home and many businesses are temporarily shut down. Persons living in conflict-affected areas are more vulnerable with the frequent lockdowns and general low standards of living.

Achievements

6098 Households were targeted for assistance in the North-West Region out of the 6000 that was planned. They have been receiving cash based assistance from the World Food Programme since November 2021.

Data Collection for the targeting of People Vulnerable to Food Insecurity in Anglophone Regions

Project Goal: To conduct profiling of at least 35,302 households within communities in Manyu, Ndian, Lebialem, Boyo, Ngoketunjia, Bui and Donga Mantung.

As part of WFP's food assistance to persons vulnerable to food insecurity in the South West and North West Regions, the selection of beneficiaries is primordial to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. It is in this

respect

that WFP partnered with Reach Out to conduct profiling of at least

35,302 households through:

- Stakeholder Analysis
- Recruitment of enumerators and supervisors
- Training of Enumerators
- Community Mapping Meetings
- Targeting exercise
- Validation of Lists

Achievements

A total of 36583 Households profiled in the North-West and South-West Regions who have been receiving food assistance since August 2021

Partners in 2021

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Donors



Miss Takunaw Etondi Tambi /

Partners



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