



Reach Out

REACH OUT NGO (REO)

ANNUAL REPORT

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2. Abbreviations

ACWW: Associated Country Women of the World

ACMS: Association for Social Marketing

ACTEE: Projet Action Citoyenne pour la Transparence et l'Equite Electorale
Au Cameroun (Citizen Action for Transparency and Fair Elections in
Cameroon)

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

BCC: Behaviour Change Communication

CESO: Canadian Executive Service Overseas

CBOs: Community-Based organisations

CIGs: Common Initiative Groups

CSOs: Civil society Organisations

CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility

CRC: Citizen Reporting Cards

CDP: Council Development Plan

CCPA: Citizen Control for Public Action

CWA: Catholic Women Association

CWF: Christian Women Fellowship

DMO: District Medical Officer

EU: European Union

FABASSO: Faith Building Association

GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit

GFATM: Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

HAMC: Health Area Management Committee

HIV: Human Immune Virus

HSPC: Health Services Partner Cameroon

KGA: Keep a Girl Alive

LLINS: Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets

MINAS: Ministry of Social Affairs

MINEPAT: Ministry of the Economy, planning and Regional Development

MBOSCUA: Mbororo Social, Cultural and Development Association

NMCP: National Malaria Control Programme

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

PASC: Programme d’Appui à la Société Civile (Civil Society Strengthening Programme)

PASOC: Programme d’Appui a la Structuration de la Societe Civile (Support Program for the Structuring of the Civil Society)

PMTCT: Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission

PNDP: Program National de la Developpement Participative (National Community-driven Development Programme)

PR: Principal Recipient

RBM: Roll Back Malaria

REO: Reach Out

RO: Relay Organizations

RTG: Regional Technical Group

SIHOP: Sisters of Hope

SWR: South West Region

SR: Sub Recipient

STIs: Sexually Transmissible Infections

SUFI: Scaling Up Malaria Control for Impact

UNICEF: United Nations Children Emergency Fund

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

YEP: Youth Engagement Programme

UNICEF: United Nations Children Fund

PW: Pregnant woman

ANC: Antenatal Care

LTFU: Lost to Follow-up

TBA: Traditional Birth Attendant

Foreword from the Executive Director

2019 was Reach Out's most successful year ever, by most metrics: Number of beneficiaries (more than 300,000), the impact that we brought to most of them (critical life-saving assistance), the budget size of the organization (which for the first time in our history crossed the million dollars' mark), and the number and the calibre of the partners that joined us in the fight to keep the most-at-risk protected.

2019 was also the most dangerous year ever. Kidnappings became a familiar event to us, shooting, threats, detention of community leaders right in the distribution site, all these happened in 2019. The mental toll in our staff is likely overlooked by a shared passion to do good, but it is our responsibility to take care of them. The stress of managing such delicate and complex operations should also be taken into consideration. It has been such a difficult ride we barely take time to enjoy how much has changed for the better.

We can't be too happy about our success, because it is happening in these circumstances, and because we know that, despite the quality of our operations and dedication of our staff, this success is a natural consequence of the horrible, neglected, unnecessary and ruthless Anglophone crisis, which brought humanitarian operations to the South-West and North-West at a larger scale this 2019.

Just as we can't be too proud of what was a natural consequence of a horrible conflict, we should not be depressed when this assistance drops, and our organization seems to be shrinking. 2020 will see less funding than 2019 for humanitarian operations. Our responsibility is to be there, whether big, or small, and to keep learning and improving our services to reduce morbidity, mortality, poverty, and human rights violations.

It was a thrilling journey, but it is just another page in the book of Reach Out, an organization that this year made 19 legal years, and that needs to continuously grow out of every crisis, every partnership, every opportunity for exposure.

Njomo Omam Esther
Executive Director

3. INTRODUCTION

Reach Out (REO) with head office in Buea, is a women and youth centred Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) founded in 1996 by some benevolent citizens who were concerned with the plight of the rural masses and most particularly the fight against HIV/AIDS. REO's priority are women, youths, and minority groups such as widows, single mothers, displaced women and their families, female school dropouts, orphans and children in distress, and HIV and AIDS infected persons.

REO was legalised on the 7th of December 2000. Today, the organization is headquartered in Buea and has field offices in Kumba, Ekondo-Titi and Mamfe. The organization focuses on the South-West and North-West Region, but operates sporadically in the Littoral and West.

Reach Out (REO) strives to make the world a better place for our women, children and our children's children by empowering local communities to take control of their lives.

REO envisions a society where underprivileged groups are aware of their rights to participate in decision making, have equal access to resources and benefits, and become self-reliant within a supportive policy environment for sustainable development.

In May 2018 REO was among the first responders to the humanitarian crisis in Anglophone Cameroon. REO has provided relief support to more than 300,000 internally displaced persons in Manyu, Meme, Ndian, and Fako between 2018 and 2019. In 2019, REO attained unprecedented growth and impact, and a total of XXXXX beneficiaries were served.

4. PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR GOALS

This year 2019 as in 2018 REO worked for the safety and dignity of all people in times of crisis. We help people to stand up for their rights, and to recover and rebuild their lives. In the last year, REO responded to acute humanitarian emergencies in the South-West Region.

The organization surpassed its benchmarks in terms of number of beneficiaries served per year by far. Although the services provided were standard humanitarian activities with clear donor directives, and in some key areas (economic growth, agriculture, primary healthcare, food security, child protection, gender based violence) we can still consider the organization did not do enough to meet the needs on the ground.

This 2019, operations focused on the South-West, except for an assessment carried out in the North-West.

Overall, our projects impacted at least **357,473** persons this year. Disaggregated data can be found in the analysis of projects and activities. (Section 5)

New partners came-in during this 2019, such as: CARE International, REACH, UNDP, Amplify Change, and Manos Unidas. However, most funding came from the expansion of existing partnerships, mostly from the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and the

International Rescue Committee.

5. PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

REO's activities for the year under review involve working in cutting-edge, grassroots community-delivery programs within its three key expected results recorded as follows:

HEALTH/HIV & AIDS

INTRODUCTION

To better face the on-going humanitarian crisis, communities require of us direct approaches. This 2019 REO health focus moved from Health System Strengthening and awareness raising to direct provision of healthcare through community health workers and health personnel. The organization identified and responded to 3 outbreaks (measles, cholera, and monkey-pox) with service provision and vaccination campaigns.

RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM+) FOR TIMELY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DISPLACED COMMUNITIES IN HARD TO REACH AREAS.

INTRODUCTION

Following the crisis in the South West Region of Cameroon which gave birth to a humanitarian crisis, over 50,000 displaced and conflict-affected persons in Ekondo-Titi were left with no access to basic social services and critical supplies. To help meet the gaps noticed in Ekondo-Titi, Reach Out signed a partnership agreement with UNICEF to provide communities with life-saving assistance in health care, Nutrition of children under 5 years, WASH (water, hygiene and sanitation), and child friendly spaces. This humanitarian project is being implemented for a period of 12 months.



Objective

To provide communities with life-saving assistance in health care, WASH (water, hygiene and sanitation), Nutrition of children under 5 years and child friendly spaces.

Achievement

Programme Outputs*	Performance indicator*	Targets *	Achievement in reporting period**	Cumulative progress to date**
RESULT 1: (HEALTH) By March 2020, morbidity and mortality for 84,506 inhabitants of the target communities has reduced through improved access to basic health care services and commodities	# of families receiving 02 insecticide-treated mosquito nets each	2000	2000	2000
	# children treated against Acute Respiratory Infections	1000	815	953
	# children treated against Diarrhea	2700	570	657
	# of persons treated against malaria	3000	2375	2772
	# children vaccinated against measles	4111	317	317
	# children aged 6 months to 15 years that received vitamin A	6000	318	318
	# of PLWs provided with maternal care kits	320	303	303
	# caregivers provided new-born kits	290	216	216
	# of children 0-5 screened for malnutrition	4111	161	161
RESULT 2: (NUTRITION) By	# of children 0-5 screened for malnutrition	4111	2810	4090

March 2020, acute malnutrition among 30,000 children of the target communities has reduced through screening and treatment of severe cases	# of children 0-5 that receive therapeutic food	1300	79	91
	# of care-givers counseled on child nutrition	3000	3881	64
	# people reached with community sensitization (disaggregated by gender)	2000	2384	218
	# of children receiving basic psychosocial support through Child Friendly Spaces	1200	5886	1211
RESULT 3: (CHILD PROTECTION) By March 2020, violations against the rights of children have been documented, and the psychosocial status of 30,000 conflict-affected children has improved.	# of unaccompanied and separated children identified and documented	200	60	31
	# families reached with WASH Kits	2000	2000	2000
	# people reached with individual hygiene and Dignity kits (disaggregated by gender)	10000	9473	9473
RESULT 4: (WASH) By March 2020, 2,000 families have received basic WASH commodities (water storage and treatment, hygiene and dignity kits) and have improved their knowledge on hygiene management.	# persons sensitized on hygiene management	10000	9473	9473
	# of people reached with non-food items	10000	9473	9473
	# of affected	10000	9473	9473
RESULT 5: (Community engagement and accountability) By March 2020, affected populations have information to access humanitarian assistance and services and provide feedback to humanitarian actors to inform humanitarian planning through effective feedback and complaints mechanisms	Populations with information on how to access humanitarian assistance by gender /age/ vulnerability type			
	# of affected population satisfied with the quality and delivery of humanitarian assistance/assistance reaching the most in need	8000	27	27
	# affected pop. who know how to provide feedback/complaints to humanitarian actors	10000	27627	37101
	# and type feedback/complaints received and acted upon	2000	237	237

Difficulties/solutions

- Lack of supply of Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) has greatly affected the treatment of malaria in communities amongst children and adults. Although Reach Out succeeded to obtain 475 RDTs, this quantity is insignificant compared to the number of children, and adults who fall sick of malaria especially in the bushes. And the 2,772 persons treated so far against malaria were treated without a confirmatory test, but

based on diagnosis.

- Repeated networks interruptions made communication between the mobile team, CHW, and CFS volunteers very difficult.
- CHWs working in Ngolo Metoko, Illor, Loe, Ekondo Nene and Kitta Balue have to swim across rivers to provide care to children. These communities all have some quarters being separated by water, and apart from Illor and Loe that have canoes, the other communities don't have even canoes. They use a rope tied from one end of the community to the other end. So CHWs have to cross the water to provide basic health care to the other children leaving across the river in the same community. Doing so without lifejackets is very risky and CHWs of Illor in particular have reported to have been flogged by the military for not wearing a life jacket while crossing to attend to children in one of the five islands under their care
- The originally planned 2,000 emergency Kits have been exhausted, and UNICEF is willing to provide at least 3,000 more but this involves a complex extension project. The 2,000 first kits have only been distributed in 9 out of 30 communities.

Project title: CAMEROON JOINT RESPONSE

Introduction

Since late 2017, long-running tensions in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions have escalated, and shifted into armed conflict since August 2018. Violence against civilians in the NW & SW regions continues to have a serious impact on livelihoods and generate acute humanitarian needs. As a result of this, there has been an increase in Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and protection needs for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The vast majority of health personnel have abandoned their posts due to constant violence, including the direct targeting of health facilities and health personnel by both sides of the conflict. In most rural areas, only community health workers are still present. Access to primary health care, especially SRH (safe delivery, contraceptives) is denied to the majority of the population.

In a bid to address these SRH and mental health needs, CARE International with funds from the Dutch Relief Alliance, sub-contracted Reach Out to implement the Cameroon Joint Response project in the South West Region of Cameroon in Ndian, Meme, and Fako Divisions.



Objective

To increase access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services by building up the resources, capacity and the referral networks of local health providers to provide basic Emergency Obstetric and New born Care (EmONC) including family planning services, HIV prevention to displaced persons and conflict-affected populations.

Achievement

INDICATOR	MONTHLY TARGET	ACHIEVED				
		GIRLS< 18YRS	BOYS <18YRS	WOMEN >18	MEN >18YRS	total
Number of mental health consultation	250	0	0	0	1	1
Number of live births attended by skilled health personnel	600	43	0	214	0	257
Number of people reached with awareness raising on safe and assisted birth	10000	2327	1889	4539	3198	11953

Challenges/solutions

- Difficulties reaching project locations due to bad roads and insecurity.
- Harassment of community educators by NSAG which makes it difficult for community educators to give talks in some communities. When the NSAG see the community educators with reporting sheets, they think that these papers are used in recording their hide outs or even taking down names.
- Reporting sheets of community educators in Mbonge were torn by the NSAG. In order to solve this, community educators' organised educative talks without using papers thus took note of the number of people that attended then transfer this information on reporting tools at home.
- Difficulties in getting in touch with health facilities and community educators due to network problems. Messages were sent to them which was seen when network was available.
- Most people who are identified with mental health problems refuse to meet a psycho social worker for counselling. More to the above, communities like Mbonge and Ekombe that have people who are willingly to go for mental consultation have not psycho social workers to render these services. In order to solve this, community health workers have been trained on psychosocial first aid and will begin doing counselling directly in remote communities.

“Increasing the Uptake of ANC and HIV Positive Case Identification in Ekondo-Titi”

INTRODUCTION

In response to the strengthening and improvement of HIV/AIDS response and ANC uptake among pregnant women in Ekondo-Titi following the heavily-felt crisis in the South West Region of Cameroon, the HIV-free Southwest Program with funding from CDC/PEPFAR under the support of Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Service (CBCHS) and in collaboration with Reach Out N.G.O came to agreement to increase the uptake of ANC to at least 185 pregnant women in the Ekondo-Titi District Hospital as well as to actively searching and identifying 111 people living with HIV from communities and link them to ART in the Ekondo-Titi District Hospital. The duration of the project is from the 1st of November, 2019 to the 31st of December, 2019.



Objectives

The main objective is to increase the uptake of Antenatal care (ANC) and HIV positive case identification in Ekondo-Titi of the South-West Region.

Achievement

84 pregnant women were linked to free ANC services by Community health workers.

8 persons living with HIV were identified, 6 were linked to treatment and 5 were initiated.

Community	Number of people sensitized on ANC	No. of pregnant women identified and linked from communities	No. registered in project site (Ekondo-Titi District Hospital)	Target	Achievement rate
Week 5	45	39	27	185	65.41%
Week 6	13	11	9		
Week 7	27	18	12		

Week 8	24	16	16		
Total	109	84	64		

Community	Number of positive cases identified	Number of positive cases linked	Number of positive cases linked and have initiated ART	Cumm. Total	Target	Achievement rate
Lipenja camp	1	1	0	5	111	4.50%
Bekora	1	1	1			
Masore Balue	2	1	1			
Ngolo Metokor	2	1	1			
Bongongo 1	2	2	2			
Total	8	6	5			

CHALLENGES/SOLUTIONS

Some of the CHWs from Ndoh and Ngolo Metoko complained of their referrals not having ID cards since their ID cards were burnt thus stopping them from going to the hospital.

There was verbal abuse against pregnant women from Illor in Ekondo-Titi District Hospital. This was reported and a formal complaint sent to CBC.

The targets laid out at the level of project design were too ambitious and could not be attained.

MEASLES AND RUBELLA CAMPAIGN IN EKONDO-TITI HEALTH DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

In August 2019 there was a measles outbreak in Ekondo-Titi health district, as well as 63 other measles outbreaks within Cameroon. Ekondo-Titi is made up of remote hard to reach communities with extremely limited access for government health personnel due to the crisis in the North-West and South-West of Cameroon over the last 3 years. As a result, the measles vaccination coverage in this health district was expected to be low, and the effectiveness of a government-run vaccination campaign to be extremely limited. From the 4-9 December 2019, Reach Out, funded by UNICEF, carried out a vaccination campaign in Ekondo-Titi health district.



Objective

To Vaccinate 4,250 children aged 9 months to 59 months (Adapted from 14,500 aged 6 months to 15 years) for measles and rubella and screen 7,500 children for malnutrition.

ACHIEVEMENT

Trained 56 persons who worked as vaccinators, preparers and supervisors.

A total of 2,850 children were vaccinated over the 5 days across 7 health areas. 685 of these were zero doses, which are doses for children who have always been missed by routine immunisation.

Using the MUAC tape, 2,969 children between 6 months and 59 years were screened for malnutrition. There was a normal nutritional state rate (NNS) of 93.0%, a moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) rate of 6.7% and a severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 0.3%. This makes a global acute malnutrition rate (GAM) of 7.0%.

Vitamin A was administered to 2850 children in 7 health areas of Ekodo Titi District. Mebendazole was given to 2584 children across 7 health areas.

CHALLENGES/SOLUTION

There were great challenges with calculating population figures for children aged 9 months to 59 months. The only figures available predate the crisis and do not take into consideration mass displacement. Adjustments were made using data collected as part of other Reach Out projects as well as discussions with community leaders and analysis of the Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment which assessed some communities.

The high level of insecurity made it difficult for vaccination to be done in some communities. In order to solve this, much sensitization and mobilisation was done for community acceptance of these vaccines.

ARCHIVE AND MAINTAIN UNIVERSAL COVERAGE OF INTERVENTION TO FIGHT MALARIA FOR LONG TERM IMPACT

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Global Fund's New Funding Model (NFM), for the fight against Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV, Cameroon benefited from a subvention (a continuation phase) with the ministry of public health being the principal recipient (PR) and a synergy of Plan International Cameroon, MCCAM- and IRESCO as Sub-Recipient (SR). Reach Out is one of the District Civil Society organisations (DCSO) implementing the new Global Fund funding model project “Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to Fight Malaria for long Term Impact” (AMUILI) in the South West Region of Cameroon under the direct supervision of IRESCO (Institute for Research Socio- economic Development and Communication).



OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the Harmonized strategy of Community Interventions is to ensure that at least 80% of the population adopt practices that favour the promotion of healthy behaviour, the prevention and integrated management of diseases (Malaria, Acute Respiratory Infections, diarrhoea, tuberculosis, HIV\AIDA, malnutrition, onchocerciasis, Vaccine preventable diseases...) at Community level, particularly in the priority areas of intervention.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Description	Target	Achieved
number of persons reached with education on all project thematic (malaria, diarrhea, Tuberculosis, HIV)	16320	14400
Number of suspected malaria cases tested in the community	15264	14400
Number of suspected malaria cases testing positive		9550
Number of confirmed malaria cases receiving treatment		8550

CHALLENGES/SOLUTIONS

Non availability of first line malaria drugs used by community health workers

The current on-going Anglophone crisis which has led to the burning of houses reduced in too many displaced

The short shelf span of drugs sent into the community

The coming of several NGOs giving drugs for free pose a problem to the sustainability of the program. CHWs were supposed to sell their own drugs though at a minimal amount.

HIV LIMBE: Scale Up of HIV Prevention To Contribute To The Reduction Of HIV Related Morbidity And Mortality By 2022 »

INTRODUCTION

Like most sub-Saharan African countries, Cameroon is affected by HIV and AIDS, with a generalized type of epidemic. Within the frame work of the New Funding Model (NFM) project activities towards the fight against HIV, Cameroon received a grant to boost activities towards the fight against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Reach Out is working as a sub-sub recipient under the supervision of Presse Jeune Développement who is a sub recipient.



Reach Out (REO)

working in the Limbe Health District with young girls and young boys out of school (JFNS/JGNS), reaches out to their target population through group talks, home visits and during voluntary testing and counselling campaigns where in addition to HIV testing

counselling and referrals for treatment takes place, there is also the syndromic screening of other STIs which is the main project intervention strategy.

OBJECTIVE

The project has as objective to educate and screen youths on HIV and STIs in Limbe, through educative talks and voluntary testing and counselling.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Description	Target	Achieved
number of young girls reached during sensitisation and VCT	1440	1440
number of young BOYS reached during sensitisation and VCT	1640	1640
Number of Campaigns organized	3	3
Number of positive cases referred for treatment	50	13

CHALLENGES/SOLUTION

Lack of working material for raining season like umbrellas, raincoats and boats makes it difficult for peer educators to educate in their communities. Working tools like rain boots/coats and umbrellas should be provided to peer educators.

Fear within some communities as a result of the on-going crisis made it difficult for peer educators to conduct home visits and even sensitization. In order to solve this, identification badges were produced and given to peer educators to identify themselves during home visits and sensitisation.

ENHANCING SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES OF NDIAN DIVISION

INTRODUCTION

Reach Out received funding from Amplify Change to carry out activities to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of adolescents in the Ekondo-Titi Health District. The project seeks to increase community awareness on sexual reproductive health issues within rural communities of the Ekondo-Titi Health district providing non-discriminatory, age-appropriate and evidence-based education, and a full range of reproductive health-care information, including, prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as well as contribute to accessible, affordable, acceptable and convenient family planning to all users. In all, the project seeks to increase community awareness on sexual reproductive health issues within rural communities of the Ekondo-Titi Health district.

OBJECTIVE

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 Health District.



ACHIEVEMENTS

A baseline survey to assess level of knowledge, attitudes and different practices regarding SRHR was conducted across a cross section of the population to get a better understanding and guide the information and communication team in production of information materials. 20 community volunteers were trained, of which 16 were retained, to carry out educative talks and home visits on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). They have also been trained to deliver face-to-face confidential sexuality counselling sessions, home-based HIV testing, gender base violence (GBV) case identification and referrals to health facilities, family planning referrals (FP) and communication for positive behaviour change/life skills. 11,519 persons have been reached with education on SRHR, GBV, HIV and FP, as well as been shown the correct use of the male and female condoms. Of these 11,519 people, 5,731 are between the ages of 15 and 25years (2215/1636 girls/boys respectively) and 1,937 people aged 26 or older.

A total of 620 home-based HIV tests were conducted with 9 positive cases identified. These cases were referred for counselling and treatment. In addition, 200 persons were referred and tested at health facility level.

A total of 1,150 adolescents are accessing home-based sexuality counselling sessions, with 320 attending at health facility level, following these 109 accepting family planning methods.

More than 50 survivors of GBV have received counselling and been referred to the local health facilities if required.

CHALLENGES/SOLUTIONS

The absence of bikes in some communities makes movement difficult for community educators to go to other communities for sensitization. In order to solve this, community educators have to trek long distances to sensitise their communities.

As a result of looting and burning down of houses, some communities have relocated to far off villages to seek for refuge thus making it difficult for them to be sensitized due to their relocation.

COMMUNITY DISPENSATION OF THE ANTIRETROVIRAL MEDICATION TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN BUEA.

INTRODUCTION

With the adoption of the new approach of Test and Treat to achieve the UNAIDS 90 90 90 goals, there is a need for more community involvement in activities to fight against HIV/AIDS in Cameroon there by reducing stigma and increasing adherence to treatment. It is for this reason that the Ministry of Public Health selected and trained some Community Based Organization working in the domain of HIV to dispense ARVs at the community level for better and quality service delivery for PLWHIV in Cameroon.

OBJECTIVE

The main goal of this project is decentralize and improve client's access to ARV

ACHIEVEMENT

24 PLWHIV (20 women 4men) received monthly Anti Retro-Viral drugs from Reach Out.

CHALLENGES/SOLUTION

The following challenges were faced during project implementation;

Most PLWHIV still face the problem of self-stigma thus hindering them to take their medication at the community level (REO). REO staff carried out counselling sessions on the importance of community dispensation of ARV with client at the treatment centre at the Buea district hospital.

The distance to REO office is seen as a barrier for clients to come take their medication thus they prefer to go other CBOs dispensing ARV. This has affected the increase in number of people taking medication with REO.

RAPID INTEGRATED (WASH AND HEALTH) HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO AFFECTED POPULATION IN SOUTH WEST REGION OF CAMEROON (MEME DIVISION)

INTRODUCTION

This project began in 2018 and was extended to January and February by UNICEF. In March 2018, UNICEF, with support from Reach Out, carried out an emergency MIRA assessment in Meme and Manyu Divisions. This revealed critical vulnerabilities on access to water and sanitation, and gaps in hygiene. It also revealed that the majority of displaced persons were settling in the forests and farmlands of Meme Division, the Division most affected by the conflict.

This latter stage of the project focused on WASH infrastructure. Latrines and water points were developed.

Double Latrines and bathing rooms		
Division	Community	estimated population
Meme	Fotabong 1	500
Meme	Fotabong 2	400
Meme	Ayangari	400
Meme	Yaoundé Quarter	600
Meme	Obakaka	1200
Meme	Last Mango	400
Meme	Down StoneHill	500
Meme	Pongo	500
Meme	Musone 1	800
Meme	Musone 2	1300
TOTAL		6,600



A rehabilitation project was carried out in Banga Bakundu serving at least 6,000 persons. The existing catchment and network of taps working on gravity was rehabilitated. Two out of five taps were not working due to low pressure and leakage in pipes. Head taps were damaged. New pipes of galvanized iron and a lesser diameter to improve the pressure were set-up. The five taps are currently working.

An attempt to build a hand-dug well in Obakaka failed, meeting limestone at the depth of 8M. An alternative was found also in Obakaka, by developing the natural unprotected spring of the community to meet WASH standards. (1,200 persons served).

Menstrual Hygiene Pads were added to the WASH Kits package.

OBJECTIVE

By 2020, vulnerable inhabitants of target areas, including those affected by emergency situations, use drinking water points and sanitation facilities and adopt good hygiene practices.(PTG)

ACHIEVEMENT

17,281 persons received WASH Kits and mosquito nets. (For a total of 66,824 with the beneficiaries of 2018)

20 latrines were developed in 10 communities of Mbonge Sub-Division

Access to safe, potable water improved for 7,200 displaced persons of Meme Division through water catchment rehabilitation and water point development.

CHALLENGES/SOLUTION

- Multiple security incidents with both parties of the conflict. REO developed and improved its Security Guidelines.
- High needs in the project areas

TARGETED FOOD ASSISTANCE

INTRODUCTION

These were 3 consecutive partnerships with the World Food Programme to support displaced persons and vulnerable hosts in Meme, Fako and Manyu Divisions over the year. These interventions touched 31 localities and hundreds of communities.

Division	Location / Sub Division	January	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Meme	Kumba (6 sites)	31,853	40,000	13,183									85,036
Fako	Muyuka				6,789								
Manyu	Mamfe	5,621		8,763	10,772	10,771	2,000	5,234	1,454	1,837	1,200	1,770	49,422
Manyu	Okoyong	898		898	-	-							
Manyu	Nchang	1,644		1,475	1,500	1,500							
Manyu	Eyanchang	500		714	1,000	1,000							
Manyu	Etemetek	200		286	500	500							
Manyu	Bessong Abang	1,507		1,507	1,229	1,229					-		
Manyu	Bachuo Ntai						1,500	1,500	1,332	1,300	1,302	1,300	321,514

Manyu	Bachuo Akagbe						1,500	1,500	1,294	987	989	989	
Manyu	AyukAba							1,008	992	987	987	987	
Manyu	Ewelle							1,002	898	1,003	916	950	
Manyu	Ossing							1,300	765	1,225	1,225	1,297	
Manyu	Kembong							2,500	2,459	2,911	3,216	3,042	
Manyu	Mbinjong									1,019	1,019	1,019	
Manyu	Etoko								1,406	2,000	2,081	2,081	
Manyu	Ndekwei							1,100	778	1,641	1,740	1,335	
Meme	Kake			2,017	6,550	5,000			-		-		
Meme	Diffa					3,500			-		-		
Fako	Ekona			3,345	9,045	7,502	7,500	7,500	7,299	7,761	7,000	7,000	
Fako	Malende					2,000	2,000	2,000	2,202	2,125	2,000	1,946	
Meme	Ekombe				12,023	12,000			-		-		
Fako	Ikata				4,002	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,203		
Fako	Munyenge					3,200	6,500	6,500	6,500	7,078	7,000		
Fako	Owe					1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600		1,200		
Fako	Bafia				5,014	3,190	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,836	3,615		
Fako	Mile 40				-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Meme	Mbalangi				9,346	6,500							
Meme	Bombe				2,500	3,000							
Meme	Banga Bakundu				7,600	7,000							
Meme	Ediki				2,033	3,000							
TOTAL		42,223	40,000	32,188	79,903	76,692	29,000	40,144	36,379	39,910	39,693	24,716	455,972

OBJECTIVE

To improve food security among vulnerable displaced persons and hosts in Fako, Meme, and Manyu.



ACHIEVEMENT

455,972 food rations distributed to more than 200,000 persons. Critically reducing extreme hunger in hotspots of the Region.

CHALLENGES/SOLUTION

- Multiple security incidents
 - Lack of flexibility, particularly in the second part of the year.

WASH Kits and Mosquito nets distributions

INTRODUCTION

Upon the closure of the WASH partnership with UNICEF, REO was granted permission to distribute the remaining kits among vulnerable populations. Majority of these kits were shared in Munyenge, while others were distributed among targeted populations of Buea.

Stock available:

Item	Unit	Quantity	Total
Mosquito Nets Bails	Bails of 50	80	4000
Cartons of Soap	Cartons of 48	954	45792
Cartons of Aquatabs	100 Cartons	100	16000
Buckets	Bucket	900	900
Potty	Potty	250	250
Kettles	Kettles	250	250

Beneficiary table

Location	F 0-17	F 18-59	F 60+	M 0-17	M 18-59	M 60+	Total
Buea	2232	807	267	2232	807	267	8,422
Munyenge	2129	1628	208	1556	2009	420	7950
TOTAL	4,361	2,435	475	3,788	2,816	687	16,372

OBJECTIVE

Providing people in need with life-saving WASH commodities and mosquito nets.



ACHIEVEMENT

17,281 persons received WASH Kits and mosquito nets. (For a total of 66,824 with the beneficiaries of 2018)

CHALLENGES/SOLUTION

- Due to lack of funds, kits had to be shared in Buea as opposed to the hard-to-reach areas.

PROVISION OF MULTIVITAMINS AND BIRTHING KITS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

SUMMARY

In partnership with Vitamin Angels, Reach Out provided vitamin supplementation and de-worming for children of Mbonge, and multi-vitamins for pregnant women of Meme, Fako, and Manyu Divisions

In Partnership with Birthing Kits Australia, emergency delivery kits were given to pregnant women in the same target areas.

OBJECTIVE

Improve maternal and new-born health by strengthening nutritional levels of pregnant women and children 0-5 at risk and delivery conditions for pregnant women.

ACHIEVEMENT

1,476 children 6-11 months supported with Vitamin A supplementation

6,421 children 12 to 59 months supported with Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming

900 pregnant women supported with multivitamins.

1,600 pregnant women received birthing kits.

CHALLENGES/SOLUTION

- The partners do not provide operations funds but just the stock, the multivitamins were easy to integrate in food distributions but the doses for children 0-5 years took a long time to distribute.
- Beneficiaries' feedback about the Birthing kits was not satisfactory, it did not improve what is available in health centers, and there was little interest on it. Therefore, REO decided to discontinue the partnership.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

INTRODUCTION

The dawn of 2019 saw an acceleration in the humanitarian response in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon. The crisis rocking these regions has caused over 400,000 persons to be displaced from their original settlements into the forest, the urban areas, or neighbouring Nigeria.

Despite this, our tenacity in response was questioned with the increase in the security threats. In collaboration with other departments, the Wealth Creation and Health Departments, we however continued to carry out our activities and the implementation of our projects. Women and girls continued to be at the centre stage of our activities.

Through our community participatory and community centred approach, we recorded a great number of successes and a number of challenges which we are hoping to transform into stepping stones come 2020 as we pursue our overall vision of “Making the World a Better Place for All”.

Our achievements in 2019 were due to activities we carried in the framework of the following projects:

- Coordinated Response to the Urgent Protection Needs of Women, Girls, Boys, & Men Especially Pertaining to GBV in Fako Division in the South West Region
- Protection Need Assessment for an Emergency Response in the SWR
- Multi-sectoral need assessment in Ndian, Meme, Fako, and Littoral
- 16 Days Activism to End Gender Based Violence

COORDINATED RESPONSE TO THE URGENT PROTECTION NEEDS OF WOMEN , GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN, ESPECIALLY PERTAINING TO GBV IN FAKO DIVISION, SOUTH WEST REGION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Issues of Gender Based Violence are rife within conflict settings and the case of the on-going crisis in the South West and North West Regions of Cameroon have not witnessed any difference. Made worse by constant migration and the frustrating nature of it, the incidence of GBV has been on the rise. It is for this reason that, Care International in partnership with Reach Out NGO and LUKMEF engaged in contributing to put an end to GBV scourges within the South West Region.

PROJECT GOALS:

Strengthen the capacities of the communities of Tole and Ekona as far as care of survivors, prevention, and the mitigation of GBV risks are concerned.

Provide response to victims of GBV and others at risk of GBV.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Trained 22 community mobilisers comprising of 10 females and 12 males.

Community mobilisers sensitized 1,146 males who were less than the age of 15, 1,192 who were between the ages of 15 – 19, 1,485 who were between 19 – 24 years, 1,994 who were above 25, and 2,597 male persons of undetermined ages. This brings the grand total of GBV sensitizations for the male to 8,424.

Community mobilisers sensitized 1,175 girls below the age of 15 years, 1,213 girls between 15 – 19, 1,413 women who were between 19 & 24, 2,107 were above 25 years, and 2,406 women of undetermined age. This brings the sum of the female to 8,415.

A total of 2,560 household targeted GBV visits were carried out.

Case managers have managed 75 survivors: 30 cases of rape, 3 cases of sexual assault, 25 cases of physical assault, 8 cases of psychological violence, and 9 instances of denial of resources and economic empowerment.

4,500 female condoms have been distributed whereas for the male condoms, 42,480 have been distributed.

125 dignity kits were distributed to vulnerable women at risk of ToLe.

Provided emergency Sexual Reproductive Health kits to three health facilities – Ekondo-Titi, Bolifamba, and Bomaka.

10 survivors have benefited from ergo therapy (1 was empowered on pastries, 5 African foot wear, and 4 on the production of laundry soap).

CHALLENGES:

250 dignity kits could not be distributed within 2019.

The building of latrines to support the community plan to mitigate GBV was delayed and then cancelled.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The donor (Care) needs to be reminded of the urgent need for the respect of their commitments with regards to the provision of the 250 dignity kits, as well as the building of the community latrines which will go a long way to help in the mitigation of GBV.

PROTECTION NEED ASSESSMENT FOR AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Reach Out NGO was contracted to lead a Protection Needs Assessment in 10 communities of Fako and Ndian. In each of these communities, Reach Out's local volunteers were to carry out 1 security audit, 1 service mapping, 8 focus group discussions, 4 key informant interviews and 1 community mapping.

PROJECT GOAL

The main objective of this project is to carry out a need assessment within communities in Fako and Ndian to inform for an emergency response.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The assessment exercise was a success; we had all our objectives attained as seen below:

Description	Division		
	Fako	Ndian	Total
Security mapping	6	3	9
Observation tools	6	3	9
Focus group discussion	24	12	36
Key informant interview	48	24	72
Community mapping	6	3	9

KEY FINDINGS

From data collected it was revealed that:

There are Limited health facilities which are functional to take care of sick persons and pregnant women.

Schools in these areas are not functional

There is no legal system functional to guide and protect people in these communities.

CHALLENGES and SOLUTIONS

Refusal of the community to participate in the focus group without financial or material gain slowed down the assessment process. We took out time to explain to community members what the protection need assessment was all about and that the information they give us will help to inform our partners of the kind of aids they can provide to them.

Patrols of the military on the Muyuka-Ikata stretch made these inhabitants to constantly run into the bush for safety thus slowed down the data collection process.

Most of the members in the community find it difficult to understand what the need assessment was all about which made us to spend more time explaining the process.

The data was captured by REO but sent directly to the IRC, so REO could not analyze it independently.

Multi-sectoral need assessment

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

UNHCR and the WASH cluster engaged the international NGO REACH to carry out a multi-sectoral needs assessment in the South-West and North-West to understand the needs of conflict-affected populations. The assessment differentiated between urban populations, rural populations, and populations temporary living in farms and forests.

Reach Out was sub-contracted by REACH to provide information about Ndian, Meme, Fako, and Wouri Divisions.

PROJECT GOAL

To inform the WASH and Shelter/NFI clusters' response strategy by identifying specific needs of conflict-affected populations in NW, SW, Littoral, and West Regions.

KEY FINDINGS

43 % of respondents indicated that when sick they do not go anywhere for healthcare, or relied on traditional healers (31%).

62% of Key informants reported Mosquito Nets were not available in the markets

46% of rural and forest settings reported no access to markets

35% of informants in forest settings reported open and random areas as the most common places for defecation.

CHALLENGES

- Limited scope of the assessment and contribution to data analysis.

CELEBRATION OF 16 DAYS ACTIVISM TO END GBV

All around the world, from the 24th -10th December is commemorated as the 16 DAYS TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE. A move that started in Canada and eventually spread to other parts of the world. This year, the 16days were commemorated under the theme; ORANGE THE WORLD: "GENERATION EQUALITY: Stand Against Rape."

This year, Reach Out joined its counterparts across the world through a series of activities. Activities kicked started with a social media campaign. Making use of our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp), a series of sensitization messages were put up, tailored at ending rape within our audience. A total of 03 Messages were powered online and received 53 likes and 3 shares, 1566 views, and 137 interactions from colleagues, partners and friends of REO.



Added to the social media campaigns, a community sensitization was led within Ekona and Ikata. As communities within Fako, our fief within the South West Region, they could not have been left out. After sensitization proper, beneficiaries were privy to male and female condoms. In all 7,200 male condoms were distributed and 480 female distributed.

The last of these activities was the projection of a GBV related movie to young girls within Buea subdivision. The movie projection brought together 40 girls ages 21 to 35 who are beneficiaries of other projects within REO and also internally displaced. After the movie, they received a coaching a GBV types and the different service providers available in the South West Region.

CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

In an attempt to support children in distress so as to improve their livelihoods, the Department working alongside with the Health Department supported two orphanages in Muyuka and Kumba, with funding from GlobalGiving. The Child Protection unit also conducted an assessment with referred cases of children in need in Ekona and Buea, and was able to direct them to relevant humanitarian services.

Goal: To increase well-being and feeling of safety of children affected by the conflict through improved living conditions and access to services based on needs.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Carried out a need assessment in Father's House orphanage to identify the needs of the orphanage. Needs were nutrition, WASH (Hygiene kids), Livelihoods and Health Supported Father's House Orphanage with a monthly Allowance of 100.000 per month for a period of six months, July to December 2019.

Father's House with the help of REO was able to relocate some of the orphan children back to their families due to threats and attach from Non State Armed Groups and State Armed Groups.

Paid the school fees of 3 secondary school students of Ma D's Orphanage in Kumba, worth Donated some WASH items to Ma Di's orphanage in Kumba (Savon, Buckets, Potty, mosquito nets, aquatabs etc)

Assisted 23 families of the disabled children through the Voucher assistance from International Rescue Committee (IRC).

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Father's House orphanage still needs A lot of financial support to stand back on their feet after they lost all of their partners because of the crisis
Ma Di's Orphanage is also in need financial aid to expand their school building and pay teachers

WEALTH CREATION

INTRODUCTION

The wealth creation department of Reach Out has as ultimate goal to improve household incomes of marginalized women through establishment of micro projects, sustainable agriculture and micro credit operations. The Anglophone crisis continued to escalate this year which led to an extension of the department's activities to humanitarian interventions, impacting many lives positively. Development activities ranged from trainings on income generating activities (IGAs), provision of seed capital for establishment of micro projects and coaching sessions. On the other hand, humanitarian interventions ranged from livelihood interventions, food security and economic recovery.

In 2019, cash transfer was made to 489 and 2,893 beneficiaries directly and indirectly respectively (387 grants of 13,890,000FCFA and 102 loans of 7,080,000FCFA loans). Of this number, women constituted 81.2% of the beneficiaries, men 6.7% and 12.7 % supported through care givers (Orphans).

Specific skills were also acquired in sustainable agriculture, production of shoes, jewellery and bags and business management. Staff capacity slightly increased from 07 in 2018 to 08 in 2019 with several interns.

The areas of interventions and people met are summarized in the table below:



Project	Type	Women	Men	Children	Total	Indirect Beneficiaries	Total Amount (FCFA)
Keep a Girl Alive	Grants	73	0	0	73	511	2,190,000
Employment opportunities For Youth At Risk in Meme Division of the South West Region	Loans	44	30	0	74	308	3,650,000
Women for Business: Empowering A New Generation Of Female Entrepreneurs in the South West Region	Grant	250	0	0	250	1,750	10,500,000

Microfinance Fund	Loans	28	3	0	28	196	3,430,000
Building Livelihoods for Orphans and Vulnerable Children	Grants	2	0	62	64	128	1200,000
TOTAL		397	33	62	489	2,893	20,970,000

SKILLS ACQUISITION – DIRECT BENEFICIARIES				
Project	Specific skills Trained on	Women	Men	Total
Keep a Girl Alive	Entrepreneurship, Book keeping, Family planning	73	0	73
	Production of Jewellery, shoes and bags	10	0	10
Empowerment and food security strengthening in rural area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entrepreneurship and financial management ▪ Planting and climate change resilience ▪ Farm maintenance and Pest Control ▪ Cassava transformation techniques 	33	02	35
Employment opportunities For Youths At Risk in Meme (Training of loan management committee members)	Humanitarian principles	04	06	10
TOTAL		120	08	128

PROJECT 1: KEEP A GIRL ALIVE PROGRAM

Change a girl's life through Micro Entrepreneurship

The Keep a Girl Alive Program has for the past 08 years supported girls at risk in underserved and conflict affected communities of Cameroon through the provision of financial assistance, training and coaching sessions.

The year 2019 was characterized by a massive increase of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the major Towns of Fako majority of which some women who could no longer bear it in the bushes like Ekona, Black Bush and Munyenge , just to name a few. This forced the department to expand this program to



Ekona and Limbe 1 within Fako Division. From January to December 2019, the department has given grants to 73 beneficiaries; gave out loans to 13 active beneficiaries and facilitated savings for 48 beneficiaries. The department conducted 5 training sessions on

entrepreneurship, business management, sexual reproductive health (in collaboration with the Health Department).

Trainings were also conducted on income generating activities like shoes, bag and jewellery production in collaboration with Lenya foundation, a resource person from Nigeria.

Project Goal: Enable young girls-at-risk to become economically self-reliant through the creation of small businesses.

Achievements

- 73 young girls supported with grants of 30.000 FCFA each as seed capital for starting up/expansion of their businesses (Level 1 beneficiaries).
- 10 Internally Displaced women and girls who have a background on tailoring were trained on shoes, bag and jewellery production.
- 48 girls saved income from their businesses under the KGA program with REO. Their savings were refunded in December with an additional incentive.
- New Participants (2019) increased their monthly incomes by 50% as per their baseline data collected at start of program in January 2019.
- 40% of monitored participants have a monthly profit average above 50.000 francs CFA and will be given their second grant of 50.000CFA if they continue in this light in 2020.
- 23 survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) were referred into the program and are active in their businesses.



Challenges and way forward

- 80% of the program beneficiaries this year are Internally Displaced girls. Most of them are hosted by either friends and or family members who at the start supported their host but in the long run most beneficiaries complained of jealousy and envy within the households and these exposed them to risk of further exploitation, prostitution and cohabiting. A critical case of such was attended to by paying for two months rents in Small Soppo, Buea.
- Owing to the increased number of IDPs in Buea, women and girls keep coming to the office on a daily bases to seek for assistance. To address the issue, they were referred to other humanitarian aids such as the WASH voucher distribution that was done by the International Rescue Committee.
- Follow up in some areas like Ekona was extremely challenging because more than 90% of the survivor beneficiaries do their business in the bushes where they have settled. This is not safe for the follow up team given the frequent attacks from both parties. To address the issues, some communities, trust worthy community

mobilizers/workers who have proven good records during other projects like World Food Program in Ekona were identified to do supervision and give feedback through pictures and reports. Arrangements were also made with Ekona Health Centre where the team meets monthly with beneficiaries for follow up sessions.

- The current crisis also affected loan repayment as it was very slow. Some beneficiaries had to relocate to different areas such as Limbe, Douala, Bamenda and other parts of Buea, which making follow up challenging as staff had to visit the different areas such as Tole, Bokwango, Small Soppo, Muea, OIC market and in Limbe and Tiko. The other beneficiaries who were out of Buea and Limbe were reached on phone, for those whose numbers are going through.
- The team members were faced with insecurity problems due to the humanitarian crises. However, staff of the department had to undergo online security trainings which made them conscious of security issues before and while going to the field.
- 90% of the Internally Displaced women trained on shoes, bags and jewellerys production have not started implementing their skills due to lack of capital. They have been encouraged to start with jewellery production while the department plans to submit project on Global Giving to raise funds. Project proposals have also been submitted to funders like UNESCO and Hostetter's ministries to raise funds.

Female Farmer's empowerment and Food Security Strengthening in Rural Area

In 2017, Reach Out NGO (REO) in partnership with the National Community Driven Development Program (PNDP) conducted a project to update the communal Development Plan (CDP) of Ekondo-Titi municipality. This activity took the organization to all the 49 communities of Ekondo-Titi municipality where they had as task to analyse challenges, background and assets of all its communities. In the course of the project, many problems were identified by the community in all the 33 sectors of the country. While doing problem analysis and logframe, the pressing need was to Improve knowlege of farmers on modern, sustainable and environmental friendly farming methods. Cassava as expressed by the communities is the highest cultivated crop in Ekondo-Titi

Reach Out therefore submitted a proposal to Manos Unidas with the main goal to contribute to improve the standard of living of rural farmers population in Ekondo-Titi subdivision.



Specific Objectives

- Improve food security and incomes of female farmers in Illor, Loe, Lipenja and Funge, through the implementation of innovative farming techniques.
- Provide farming inputs and training on cassava farming techniques.
- Create local Cooperative to facilitate marketing.
- Create Internal Micro-Lending system with groups

Achievements

- During mobilisation, access was negotiated from both Non State Armed Groups (NSAG) and State Armed Groups (SAG) in all the four target communities (Loe, Funge, Lipenja and Illor). At least 05 hectares of land was earmarked from each community where the project will be executed
- Baseline studies were conducted for all beneficiaries and main data collected on their economic activities, kind of business, income levels, knowledge on cassava production and processing, knowledge on cooperative creation and management and perspectives on cassava as a main agricultural crop and as business women. This information had a big role to play in the development of individual business plans of the beneficiaries and will also be compared with impact assessment at the end of project. The information was also useful in the development of manuals for trainings
- Farm inputs in the form of 20 cutlasses, 09 hand pushed trucks, 60L of herbicides and pesticides were disbursed to the beneficiaries. While handing the hand pushed trucks to the beneficiaries, they were advised to do some rentals with the trucks within the communities such that it gives them little income
- Cassava cuttings (400,000) distributed to farmers in the target areas: Loe, Illor, Funge and Lipenja). Cuttings have been planted and being properly managed by the different farmer's groups. Training was conducted on entrepreneurship and financial management where participants gained knowledge on the ABC's of starting small businesses and also saw the need of considering a farm as a business
- Training also conducted on different aspects of sustainable agriculture:
 - Planting and climate change resilience
 - Farm maintenance and Pest Control
 - Cassava transformation techniques



Participants gained the following knowledge:

- How to identify healthy cuttings and most appropriate time to plant
- Different planting methods of cassava factors behind each technique



- How to obtain multiple cassava cuttings
- How to prepare healthy stems before planting
- How to differentiate between signs and symptoms of diseases
- How to intercrop cassava
- How to identify different cassava diseases
- Type of pesticides to apply on cassava
- Why garri tastes differently in different areas
- What temperature is best for garri processing
- How to process cassava into cassava flour
- Why some waterfufu smells
- Why some white garri always looks brown



Employment Promotion For Youths At Risk In Meme Division

Mbonge Sub-Division is at the core of the Anglophone crisis, being the most-populated most-affected Sub-Division of the South-West by a considerable magnitude (estimates vary between 70,000 and 200,000 internally displaced persons residing in the forests of Mbonge). Before the crisis, it was an agricultural centre of cocoa and palm production, among other crops. Economic activities were booming, and the youths had access to higher education in Kumba and Buea. However these youths now have very few employment and entrepreneurial options, and they quickly filled the ranks of the non-state armed groups as well as criminal groups. Young girls and women also found themselves idle and without perspectives of future, and have adopted premature sexual and social behaviours, more common of highly isolated rural areas than of the formerly cosmopolitan Mbonge.



It is for the above reason that Reach Out NGO, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, UNDP is implementing a project, titled “Employment Promotion For Youths At Risk In Meme Division” with main goal to Provide Decent Work in conflict-affected communities by assisting internally displaced young men and women from Kumba, Small Ekombe and Big Ekombe to create businesses and find employment.

Specific objectives

Establish a sustainable orientation centre for opportunity-seeking youths of Meme that provides counselling to at least 1,000 displaced youths and outlasts the project.
 Create a microfinance fund that provides at least 60 micro-loans to internally displaced youths in the target areas within a year, with an 80% repayment rate.
 Create a database with at least 500 internally displaced youths and disseminate to at least 20 employing institutions, connecting at least 40 displaced youths to quality jobs.

Major Achievements

A database of 600 youths identified with their profiles and highest level of certificates registered for job seeking internally displaced youths in Meme.

A counselling and orientation centre developed at REO office, where youths have been constantly drilled on techniques of developing Curriculum Vitae (CVs) and necessary preparations before going for job interviews.

Employment opportunities granted to ten internally displaced youths by identified business owners and private sectors within the context of the project.

Loans, 50,000 francs given to seventy four (74) Internally Displaced Youths for establishments /expansion of their businesses. Repayments are on-going at a rate of 64%.

Challenges And Way forward

Repayments have been slow (64%) and most beneficiaries' complaint of general low turn outs. the loan management committee intensified their activities to ensure faster loan recovery.

- ✓ Due to the on-going crisis which has grossly reduced the economy of Meme, most employers were laying off their workers and so potentials of employing the identified youths was very low as compared to the initial plans.

Project 4: Women4Business: Empowering a New Generation of female entrepreneurs in the South West Region

In partnership with the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), the department has for two years been carrying out a project aimed at increasing economic rights and opportunities of grass root women, principally through legalizing their informal groups into cooperatives for better access to resources and seed capital for internal revolving loan schemes. In 2018 and 2019, most of the activities were carried out, mostly training of the women on entrepreneurship, cooperative creation and management, profiling of successful entrepreneurs and sharing of success stories to inspire others. Major activities in 2019 were geared towards disbursement of funds for internal revolving loan scheme, legalization of informal groups into cooperatives and impact assessments

PROJECT GOALS

Enhance access to economic rights and opportunities for women's groups of Meme and Fako Divisions of the South-West Region of Cameroon within 10 months

- **Project outputs (deliverables)**
 - Train 21 groups on tax literacy, Savings and entrepreneurship.
 - Profile successful women entrepreneurs of the project area and produce a handbook with their life stories, challenges and lessons
 - Facilitate the formalisation of 07 cooperatives and two union of cooperatives
 - Training group managers on economic opportunities for groups
 - Call for advocacy session with sectoral ministries and stakeholders
 - Organise a disbursement of funds ceremony with beneficiaries (21 groups)

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Most of the activities took place in 2018 ranging from mobilization, trainings and formalizing informal groups into cooperatives. In 2019, the following achievements were made:

- ✓ The sum of five hundred thousand (500,000FCFA) was given to all 21 groups as seed capital for them to add in their own already existing revolving loan schemes within each group. At least 55% of the beneficiaries had collected the money as at end of project in July 2019. So far, 89% of the beneficiaries have already collected the loans for their business start-ups/expansion.
- ✓ Five informal groups legalised into cooperatives for better access to resources. They are listed as thus:

S/n	Name of cooperative	Abbreviation	Main activity
1	Buea Muslim Women with Board of Directors	BMWCOOP-BoD	Cassava production and processing
2	Soil Management with Board of Directors	SOMACOOOP-BoD	Livestock Piggery and poultry
3	Charity sisters promoters cooperatives with board of Directors	CHAPSCOOP-BoD	Poultry farming
4	Mengom social cooperative with Board of Directors	MENGONCOOP-BoD	Maize production and processing
5	Mbororo Social and cultural development cooperative	MBOSCUDCOOP-BoD	Plantain production and processing

- ✓ Charity women's cooperative with Board of Directors through their status got funding from Manos unidas, worth 5.5 million Francs (\$9000) to scale up their poultry. They are now into production of chicks and supplying to other poultry farmers
- ✓ Mengon social cooperative with Board of Directors who are also specialized in maize



production and processing has also been in partnership with SOWEDA, where they produced and sold maize worth over 20 tons.

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- ✓ The burning of houses caused the most of the groups to be internally displaced in different communities, not even with phones where they could be reached. Very few of them could be located in other areas and still received support while others (Kwakwa) were completely replaced with groups in less risky zones within the project areas
- ✓ Also, most of the beneficiary groups had their group accounts in local microfinance institutions that had gone bankrupt as result of the crisis. Some of the groups therefore had to open new group accounts which delayed the process. All groups were supposed to receive their support through bank transfers
- ✓ Economic activities within the two English speaking regions which is the centre of the crisis was also slowed down. This grossly affected the functioning of the created cooperatives and made the creation of union of cooperatives impossible
- ✓ The amount given for each group was small (500,000 FCFA) giving room for some groups to only give 40000 frs to their members and expecting repayments within the next 3 months. It was therefore challenging for the members to make profits or do big businesses in just 3 months.

MICROCREDIT OPERATIONS

Reach Out manages a small micro-finance fund with the objective of providing capital to groups in need, as well as to keep a systematic approach in place that could be scaled-up quickly on the event of an opportunity, as the creation of a Microfinance Fund within the organization is one of the ultimate goals of this Department.

For the past 3 years, loans have been given out to the same Women's Group, Charity Sisters, this is because of the beneficial effects of long-term access to capital. Last year, the group set-up a poultry with support from the loan and the Programme for the Improvement of Competitiveness of Family Agro-Pastoral Farms (ACEFA in its French acronym). This 2019, loans were distributed among individual members selected in a participatory exercise with the group, Major recommendations established last year have simplified the loan procedure, reduced interest rates and increased repayment speed, the capital is expected to grow to 1,600,000 Million in 2020.



Goal: Increase access to capital among vulnerable populations of Fako Division.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Disbursed loans ranging from 100.000 to 300,000 francs to 8 members. Repayments will be completed by November 2020.

Successfully collected the loans owed by 23 members of the group that were contracted in 2018.

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

Limited Access to capital for the group.

The Anglophone crisis has made it difficult for some members to repay the loans and attain their estimated profits, Nine members of the group are still to pay back the loan borrowed.

Emergency response to conflict and displacement in the South-West Region

The department was involved in the response to conflict and displacement in the South-West Region. The International Rescue Committee in partnership with Reach Out carried out two complementary projects funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Dutch Relief Alliance.



The methodology used was influenced by the training received by the International Rescue Committee on targeting, accountability, and participation and also some in-house training by REO on safety, gender mainstreaming.

The project staff carried out mobilization with the various communities involved in the project. (Limbe 1, Limbe 2, Tiko, Muea, Bomaka, Mile 16 and Ekondotiti).

The project entailed the distribution of vouchers, rehabilitation of water points, construction of latrines and community sensitization. The targeting and registration were done based on the vulnerability criteria given by IRC which comprises:

- Lactating and pregnant women.
- Child-headed households
- Household headed by elderly,
- Household headed by a person with a disability.
- Priority was given to the pregnant/lactating women.

The project staff worked closely with the community focal points to reach to these beneficiaries since they have a good knowledge about their community, also during the last voucher distribution we used a lot of referrals from the other programs of REO such as the KGA, OVC, and GBV programs.

Goal

Contribute toward Reducing Risk and meeting needs of Crisis-Affected Communities in the South West Region of Cameroon.

Achievements

880 families that were targeted and registered received food and wash vouchers, making a total of 5668 individuals.

Category	Food voucher	Wash voucher	Total
Number of households	625	255	880
Number of supported persons	4308	1360	5668
Amount allocated	43900	18500	62400

- ✓ 35 latrines were constructed in Ndian(20) and Fako(15).
- ✓ Water points identified in Ndian
- ✓ 40 CHW were trained on hygiene promotion campaign in the South West.
- ✓ 9,680 persons were sensitized on hygiene-related issues.

Challenges and way forward

Accessing a community like Ndian and Ekona was very difficult and tiring, access to abandoned water points was a major issue especially due to insecure roads and long distances to get to the water points.

During distribution, some beneficiaries complained of price inflation, about 70% of the beneficiaries interviewed complained of having received a price which was higher than the market price by the assigned vendors.

6. FUNDRAISING, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION

Reach Out NGO (REO) efforts resulted in the increase of partnerships, specially with UN and international agencies.

Our presence in humanitarian and developmental forums such as Humanitarian Cluster meetings have been strategic in projecting REO in the limelight of the donor community in the region and country. These platforms have brought remarkable changes in the lives of our target beneficiaries and populations, and show an enhancement in organisational capabilities and opportunities.

In looking forward, REO will continue to look for ways to increase our income. This 2020 onward, we reinforced our fundraising by expanding into new markets, and by pursuing new opportunities in institutional funding, and a coordinated best practice approach to humanitarian fundraising, committed giving and proposal writing.

The challenges ahead are to improve quality of reporting and partnership management, and to increase the scope, depth, and effectivity of project proposal writing.

REO is committed to raising funds in an ethical way. The Board and Management Team of Reach Out are committed to respect the principles and basic norms of ethical fundraising set out in international instances.

7. COLLABORATION/COOPERATION

Reach Out works with many different actors to influence decision-makers at the national and local levels in Cameroon for pro-poor and humanitarian change. We hold governments accountable to their citizens and to empower those citizens to raise their voices against the injustice of poverty and basic human rights.

REO through her membership and affiliations in networks of the civil society, helped in improving gender planning and budgeting within Municipal Councils, as well as in the provision of better services for internally displaced persons, victims of gender-based violence and people living with HIV and AIDS.

Working with others and allying our strengths with those of our partners can achieve amazing results. When working in collaboration, REO aims to ensure the processes for planning, monitoring and evaluation are clearly defined so that we don't duplicate efforts of other actors but create opportunities for shared learning and maximum impact. We ensure that our approach to working with others is never extractive but instead empowers and values our partners' perspectives.

To ensure the sustainability and accountability of campaigns we are involved in, we build our exit plan into the design phase and consult and communicate well in advance with

partners and allies so that our exit does not jeopardize the campaign nor put them in difficulty. All our campaigns are time-bound so there is clarity for all concerned. In the past year all senior leaders in advocacy and campaigns have received training in exit-planning.

3. Grass Root Collaboration/Cooperation

Working with the community entails the participation of everyone. To meet these goals, development organisations have to work with the administrative representatives of their communities.

In community, local traditional authority, civil administrators act as auxiliaries of constituted authority and they are the ones who are in direct control of the population. In order to work for the people and with the people REO signed collaboration agreements with traditional councils/local community chiefs, community development and development agencies.

With the North-South and South-South cooperation we received funding from some well-wishers with the purpose of establishing a working relationship and active partnership, Not leaving out embassies and corporates, REO joined forces to promote gender equity at home and the work place through workshops, for a and public march in celebrating the International Women Day; celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child; the International Democracy Day etc.

4. National Collaboration/ Cooperation

We established and maintained partnership with the following partners:

- ⇒ Occupying the Vice President post of the South-West Civil Society Network (SWECSN) after being the pioneer Treasurer.
- ⇒ Coordinator of Coalition of Women Headed Organisations in the South West Region (COWHOSW).
- ⇒ Member of the Regional Committee to Follow-up the Growth and Employment Strategy in the South West Region.
- ⇒ Member of the South West Regional Consultative FORUM (Farmers Platform).
- ⇒ Elaborating Communal Development Plans with the National Community-driven Development Programme (PNDP).
- ⇒ Staff strengthening support with the National Employment Fund.
- ⇒ Member of the USA Embassy Civil Society Working Group.

5. International Collaboration/ Cooperation

Our international cooperation and partnerships is working with the following Technical and Funding partners to achieve our set objectives:

- ⇒ Member in Consultative status with the United Nation NGO and European Union Civil Society for grants and technical support.
- ⇒ Member of the international women umbrella organisation with headquarters in London - the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).

I. ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

REO is a fast growing organization with its activities expanding and its beneficiaries increasing every year. This increase in the needs of beneficiaries and events logically demands an increase in manpower and the intellectual capacity of the present staff. Conscious of the fact that one of the objectives of organizational development is orientated to improve structural effectiveness by providing learning opportunities and helping members of the organization to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to solve technical and operational problems by involving them in the change process, REO creates capacity building avenues for its staff.

Staff attended capacity development trainings workshops, conferences, consultative seminars and exchange visits in and out of the country to improve knowledge and increase project and activity performance.

6. IN HOUSE COACHING SESSIONS

For improved staff efficiency, often capacity building activities are organized within the organization for maximization of staff input. It is within this light that two in-house trainings were organized in 2019.

Both sessions were about safety protocols and were facilitated by the Humanitarian Coordinator.

From these trainings, the current Standard Operating Procedures were developed and updated. These trainings aimed to provide staff with a compass to handle humanitarian operations in highly risky areas, and covered interactions with the military, armed groups, and violent community members. These were complemented with completion of the International Federation of the Red Cross online trainings on Personal Security for humanitarian workers: *Stay Safe!*

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 40 REO staff were trained on safety and security
- 20 new staff submitted their attestation of completion of the *Stay Safe!* Course – Personal Security
- 10 staff completed the second level of training with the *Stay Safe!* Course – Managers Course
- Staff developed improved situational awareness and knowledge on safety protocols
- Safety SOPs developed and updated

8. CONCLUSION

2019 was a transforming year for Reach Out. We experienced unprecedented growth, and unprecedented risks.

We became a key stakeholder in the humanitarian response in the South-West, and meaningfully contributed to the delivery of aid, but also aid strategy overall. We have a huge responsibility which needs to be respected. REO's duty is to keep its eyes and ears on the ground, because when REO talks, the humanitarians listen.

Ground workers became team leaders, and team leaders became project managers, and management staff managed several critical partnerships at once. In this expansion, there were mistakes, which have been polished.

In the course of growing, in the middle of the emergency, some procedures of REO which were implemented more than 5 years ago, were bypassed, those mistakes were costly and a stain to the organization's reputation.

This 2020, REO is no more in an emergency, the humanitarian tragedy is the new normal, and aid has been 3 years late, REO vows to not rush, but to back each one of its steps with the right data and the right procedures.

2020 should be the year when REO realizes how big it is, and takes up on that responsibility, Reach Out's duty is not to be an implementer for no agency, no matter how big it is, but to lead, and execute, projects that bring meaningful lasting change to the communities it serves.

REO's name is now known all over the Region, by all parties of the conflict and affected communities. We have a responsibility to be up to the task.

With the Ekondo-Titi and Kumba offices established, it is time to look at the North-West, where majority of persons in need are. This 2020 REO will expand its operations to the North-West Region, to apply the knowledge acquired in emergency healthcare and humanitarian access into extremely challenging communities.

9. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Staff List and Expertise
- B. Organizational Learning and Development through Staff
- C. Financial Review

A. Staff List, Volunteers and Consultants for 2020

B. List of Key Staff 2020

S/N	NAME	BACKGROUND	POSITION
1	Mrs Omam Esther Njomo	BA (Hons) English/French, Diploma in Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening, Development practitioner, MBA in Humanities	Executive Director
2	Mr Ngwa Elvis Tangie	BSc Sociology and Anthropology/Political Science and Public Administration	Assistant Executive Director /Department
3	Ngo Bibaa Lundi Anne	Masters in Global Health	Assistant Executive Director / Head of Health Department
4	Mr Mark Awantoh A.	BSc Accounting (ACCA Part II)	Finance Officer
5	Mr Mosenge Hans Efesoa	BSc Management, Diploma in Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening, Development practitioner	Operations Manager (M&E) – Head of Field Office – Ekondo-Titi
6	Elizabeth Jarman	Medical Doctor, Tropical Medicine	Medical Advisor
7	Miss Nkweleko Fankam Falone	MSc Epidemiology and control of infectious diseases	Health Department
8	Mr Serna Rius Marc	BSc Political Science	Humanitarian Coordinator
9	Miss Ethe Jacqueline	BSc Sociology and Anthropology	Administrative Assistant

10	Miss Modjenpa Bibiche	MSc Botany	Head of Wealth Creation Department
11	Miss Tijang Belinda Ngang	BSc Accounting	Finance Assistant
12	Mr Tabi George	BSc Law and Political Science/Diploma in NGO formation and Management	Health
13	Miss Azah Kelly Azeeh	BSc Sociology and Anthropology	Health
14	Yong Merolyn Yafe	BSc Sociology & Anthropology	Human Rights and Governance
15	Wirsiy Roland Kimo	MSc Sustainable Dev't (Peace, Conflict and International Relations), B.Ed. CST/Biology	Human Rights and Governance
16	Mr Swiven Divine	Professional Driver's License	Driver
17	Emmanuel Nanje	Professional Driver's License	Driver
18	Sylvie Ebitoh Organji	BSc Economics	Wealth Creation
19	Tume Emmaculate Sanchou	BSc Sociology and Anthropology	Wealth Creation
20	Joan Mary Yuh	MSc Project Management	Wealth Creation
21	Atem Akonjong	BSc Political Science	Wealth Creation
22	Kimbi Sharon	MSc Environmental Science	Health
23	Ngum Helina	BSc Accounting	Health
24	Levai Pensiga	BSc Special Education	Health
25	Sandrine Teghen	BSc Sociology	Wealth Creation

26	Angyikai Lizette	BSc Sociology	Human Rights
27	Junior Ewane	BSc Epidemiology	Health
28	Solomon Enow Ako	Pyshics	Health
29	Nji Toh Sylvester	Nursing	Health

C. Organizational Learning and Development of Staff through

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS

D. Financial Review