

REACH OUT CAMEROON ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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REO on Social media:



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ABBREVIATIONS

ACWW: Associated Country Women of the World

ACMS: Association for Social Marketing

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

ANC: Antenatal Consultation

ARV : Anti Retroviral

BAWOPETAF: Bakassi Women for Peace Task Force

BCC: Behaviour Change Communication

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's Association

CUF: Christian Women's Fellowship

DMO: District Medical Officer

EU: European Union

FABASSO: Faith Building Association

GBV: Gender Based Violence

GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

GFATM: Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

HAMC: Health Area Management Committee

HEI: HIV exposed Infant

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HSPC: Health Services Partner Cameroon

IEC: Information Education and Communication

KGA: Keep a Girl Alive

KMIML: Knowledge Management, Impact Monitoring and Learning **LLINS:** Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets

LTFU: Lost to follow-up (referring to HIV positive patients)

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 à la Structuration de la Société Civile (Support Program for the Structuring of the Civil Society)

PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction

PMTCT: Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission

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

PROVARESSC: Health system strengthening programme based on the expanded program for immunization (French acronym)

RBM: Roll Back Malaria

PR: Principal Recipient

SR: Sub Recipient

REO: Reach Out Cameroon

RO: Relay Organizations

RTG: Regional Technical Group

SWR: South West Region

STIs: Sexually Transmissible Infections

SUFI: Scaling Up Malaria Control for Impact

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

VCT: Voluntary Counselling and Testing

WIW: World Immunization Week

YEP: Youth Engagement Programme

FOREWORD

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

Reach Out Cameroon (REO) has worked towards promoting mother and child healthcare, enhancing educational levels, creating livelihood opportunities, and building resilience in the event of a disaster among women and girls from the most marginalised communities in Cameroon. In the year under review, our programmes on Health, Gender and Capacity Building, and Wealth Creation with a focus on strategic partnerships with the local, regional and central government as well as with foreign partners, helped to strengthen the planning and implementation efforts of the governmental programmes in the areas of health, gender issues and economic empowerment of girls and women in the communities. We also expanded our collaboration with individuals, communities, corporations, and other diverse stakeholders to bring in new synergies and best practices in the areas of our expertise. Such cooperation has ensured that Reach Out Cameroon is well equipped to empower marginalised communities, especially women and girls, to live a life of dignity.

As we move forward, we are poised to become an organisation to be reckoned with. In Cameroon in general and in the South West Region in particular, we will now draw upon and expand our collective knowledge and experience to reduce poverty and social injustice, while reaching out to the most vulnerable and marginalised population in need of our services.

I take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continuous support.

Dr. Grace Arokhesi

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to report that in spite of many challenges throughout the year, REO worked successfully in 2015 and continued to deliver quality programs to support, train and empower the vulnerable women and youth of the South West Region.

Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers has grown in skills and confidence and has achieved much to be proud of. Our work in 2015, as in previous years, was based on the three pillars of our strategic plan: Health, Gender and Capacity Building, and Wealth Creation. This report is therefore inspired from the 2015 achievements of these key pillars which inform the organisation's focus. More than 75% of planned activities were realised, hence our strength as an organisation is mirrored in the improvement of livelihoods within beneficiary communities in Fako, Meme and Ndian divisions.

This year saw the elaboration of the first Resource Mobilisation Strategy of the organisation as well as the review of its five-year strategic plan until the year 2020. This giant step to the path of sustainability will yield positive and just outcomes for sustainable development in our areas of work.

Our successes were largely due to the high quality and unfailing support we received from our technical and financial partners. Words are not enough to express our gratitude to them. We think of: The Civil Society Strengthening Program (PASC), the African Women Development Fund (AWDF), the Canadian Local Initiative fund, USA PEPFAR Positive Action For Children (PACF), Plan Cameroon, Care Cameroon, the EU, the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS), and the Addax Petroleum Company. The BIR remained a strong partner in the execution of our activities in Bakassi. We thank all of them for their selfless efforts to see that development is real in Bakassi through our actions. The support we had from the councils, traditional and administrative authorities made us believe in the necessity of always establishing dialogue platforms for well-coordinated and concerted actions for greater impact at all levels. Our many supporters across the world gave us encouragement to effectively participate in the international development agenda

2015 was full of activities; it came with its own blessings and ushered in a smooth transition into 2016. I write with pride knowing that 2016 will give us reason to continue inspiring others with our mission to reach out and support the most vulnerable and marginalised.

We look forward to continuing the journey of making the world a better place for all together.

Njomo Omam Esther



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

REO's comprehensive strategic vision for programmes/departments includes:

Health & HIV/AIDS Program

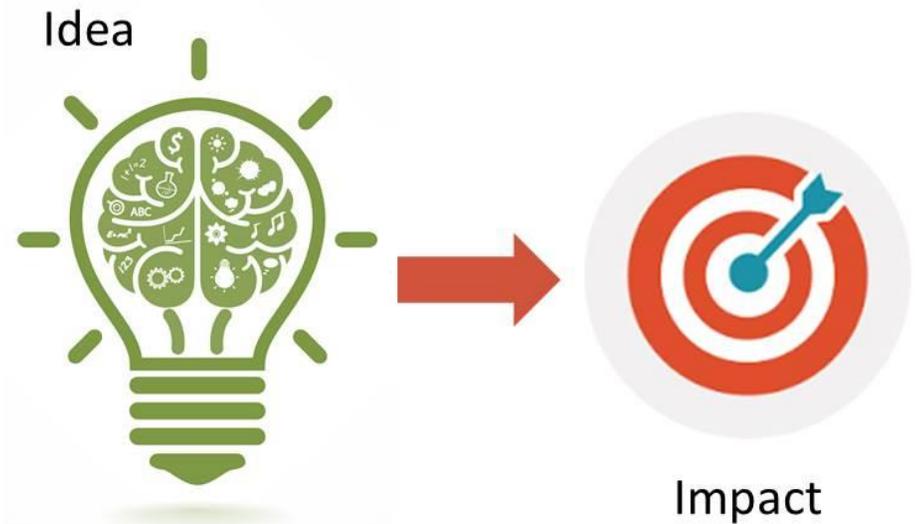
- Communities adopt positive behaviours to live a healthy and happier life.
- Orphans and vulnerable children are integrated into the community and enjoy the same rights and privileges as other children in the communities.

Gender and capacity building

- The capacities of vulnerable and marginalised groups are strengthened to ensure effective participation in development issues within their community for the improvement of their livelihoods.
- Communities adopt gender sensitive approaches and involve more women and youth in the decision making process.

Wealth creation

- Household incomes are improved through establishment of micro-projects and micro-credit operations so that beneficiaries become self-reliant in their community.



Health

- 8,000 persons sensitised on HIV, PMTCT, family and reproductive health during public events in Cameroon and in commemorating the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial;
- At least 2,232 persons empowered to bridge knowledge and skills gaps of PMTCT in the Bakassi peninsula and the Bamusso council;
- Trained 80 CBO members and 144 Dialogue structure members on the part that community responsiveness plays in the eradication of vaccine preventable diseases;
- 26 communities sensitised through the CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) approach to end open defecation with 259 latrines constructed with local materials;
- Provided care and support packages to 50 Orphan and Vulnerable Children in foster homes and in three orphanages.

Gender and capacity building

- At least 5,000 persons empowered to fight against gender-based violence and nine community elite committees created and trained on monitoring, reporting and preventing gender-based violence within their communities;
- Four women cooperative groups have been trained on group dynamics, cooperative management, book keeping, women's rights, and economic empowerment;
- 18 Gender parity clubs established in 18 schools and trained to carry out awareness campaigns, monitoring and reporting gender-based violence in schools and communities;
- 30 Bamusso council executives and councillors trained on their roles and responsibilities;
- 50 underprivileged women socially integrated and equipped with writing, reading and listening skills and provided seed capital for business opportunities;
- Celebrated the World Day of the girl, Women's day, and 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence with at least 300 young girls educated on various themes;
- Updated the Muyuka Council Development Plan.

Wealth creation

- 47 women and 3 cooperatives trained on bookkeeping, basic business management and group dynamics, and provided with start-up capital for small business development;
- Established micro projects on hairdressing, tailoring, and petty trading for 10 girls and single mothers;
- Constructed a temporal business site for a physically challenged single mother and paid 12 months of house rent for victims of fire disasters;

Summary results attained

Overall Goal/ Ultimate outcome

In Cameroon, especially in the South-West region, underprivileged and marginalized groups are socially integrated and economically empowered through: gender issues awareness and capacity building, wealth creation, health and HIV/AIDS programs

Organizational Mission

REACH OUT supports underprivileged groups within the communities on health issues, wealth creation, and provides capacity building and information through the use of participatory approaches and advocacy.

Vision for the organisation

REO is a self-sustained organisation, attracting skilled staff that works in cohesion to deliver services in the area of health, wealth creation, and gender capacity building programs with approved best practices and pooled resources at national and international levels for the betterment of communities in Cameroon.

Overall Goal/ Ultimate outcome

In Cameroon, especially in the South-West region, underprivileged and marginalized groups are socially integrated and economically empowered through: gender issues awareness and capacity building, wealth creation, health and HIV/AIDS programs

Strategies

- Good Governance
- Use of New Technology
- Human Resources
- Capital learning
- Sustainability



INTRODUCTION

DEVELOPING OUR KNOWLEDGE BASE FOR AN EQUITABLE SOCIETY

EMBEDDING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF KNOWLEDGE IN OUR ORGANIZATION

ROADMAP TO KNOWLEDGE ORGANISATION



- ✓ **Impact monitoring and testing hypothesis**
- ✓ **Aligning to knowledge themes**
- ✓ **Knowledge management**
- ✓ **Measuring performance quality, and progress**

Reach Out Cameroon is working towards strategically equipping itself to become a knowledge organisation. This has been an interesting journey of learning and improvement. The reconstruction is the result of the four-dimensional Knowledge Management, Impact Monitoring and Learning (KMIML) model woven integrally into each of our operations.

KMIML has been developed to analyse the impact and social changes of our programmes. The model will help in examining the social changes that have occurred by testing alternate hypothesis, monitoring the quality of our programmes and understanding the alignment of the change with our work. KMIML is important in building a system to engage in continuous dialogue with all stakeholders and achieving our long term goals.

Through this model, we are working towards inculcating a culture of knowledge sharing and capacity building in order to harness and act on the information that is available. A system of managing knowledge and communicating the information through the proper channel has been developed to ensure sharing, storing, retrieving and utilising the information. In-depth analysis of the quality of our interventions and assessments of our performance will then be used to leverage accountability and feedback.

The KMIML enlists the steps on the roadmap towards a knowledge organisation. This has been instrumental in strengthening our long term

programme shift, which has guided organisational development.

REACH OUT CAMEROON

Created in 1996, REO obtained its legal status on December 6th, 2000. REO is a women and youth centred organisation operating in the South-West Region of Cameroon.

The organisation was founded by some benevolent citizens who were concerned with the plight of the rural masses, especially those in the hard-to-reach areas, as well as minority groups such as widows, single mothers, and displaced women and their families, female school drop-outs, orphans and vulnerable children, and persons infected with HIV and AIDS.

Its Head Office is located in Buea along the Great Soppo native- Small Soppo Wonganga road. It also has focal points in Mundemba, Illoani in Bamusso subdivision, Limbe and Muyuka in Fako Division. Although REO is operational in only 3 of the 6 divisions of the South West Region, it covers the entire region in terms of relaying the activities of the Civil Society Strengthening Programme in Cameroon (PASC).

REO is governed by a Board of Directors and a Management Team who are chosen based on competencies and needs of the organisation. The office operates with a staff capacity of 20+ people including volunteers (national and international) divided into three departments headed by managers: an Operations Manager, an Administrative Assistant, a Communications Officer, a Finance Officer and a Finance Assistant. The managers are answerable directly to the Executive Director through the Operations Manager. The organisational chart displays the relation between staff members.

Inspired by the existing laws of the government of Cameroon, which seeks to empower individuals to assure full responsibility in nation-building, REO was created to support, strengthen and empower our communities through sustainable development.

Sustainable development entails the putting together of the limited resources at the disposal of man for positive achievements to humanity. In this quest, REO therefore seeks to exploit the lost skills buried in the heart of every living being and empower them to stand up and work for the wellbeing of the community. It also goes by the precept that the women folk are an indispensable asset to the development of every society and should not be left out in the race for globalisation and sustainable development.

Reach Out Cameroon (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. This is in keeping with the theory that "human life is sacred and must be preserved." This is the basis of sustained development. REO therefore envisages activities that will grant individuals and communities greater autonomy in life, improve their living conditions (status), and transform their lives and those of generations to come.

REO's purpose is to advance its core mission and vision. Its mission is achieved on a daily basis through supporting under-privileged groups on health issues, wealth creation, capacity building and information

through participatory approaches and advocacy. Engaging in community development initiatives through PASC is also currently a major focus.

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 Cameroon.

In order to consistently meet its goals, an organisation such as Reach Out Cameroon requires clear vision, proper decision-making, funding, strategies and collaboration of people of goodwill and institutions.

Towards the end of 2015, REO's strategic plan was reviewed with a new vision, mission and strategic actions to meet up with its new strategic focus for 2016 – 2020. REO further developed a Resource Mobilisation Strategy document which facilitates the goals of collaboration and of pulling resources together for the advancement of our collective good. It articulates the vision and planned activities of Reach Out Cameroon in the next three years and the role that development partners can play in forging the common agenda of development.

Future presentations will capture activities that are generated from the new orientation and focus.

This present report is an embodiment of the initiatives conceived and implemented through January to December 2015, with the strategic plan as the blue print for the attainment of our focus of making the world a better place for all by taking into consideration its ultimate outcomes and expected results.

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR GOALS

Our programmes executed this year increased community knowledge and awareness about the plight of children, teens, single mothers, women and youth in our target communities. These provided encouragement and support for Health/HIV/OVC, Gender, Education and Training, Civil Society Strengthening, Communal and Community Development, Good Governance and Citizen Reporting, Micro Projects and Credit delivery, Advocacy Programmes and Activities.



For Reach Out Cameroon to be most effective, we need to adapt to the change around us and the new ways of influencing funding for sustainable socioeconomic growth of our target populations by building on our experience and emerging challenges. We have identified Operational Goals that will change the way we work together and will focus on our programming, use of learning skills utilised in working with diverse stakeholders, policy development, how funding is received and allocated, and accountability.

In order to support REO's vision of a just world without poverty, we have set an ambitious agenda for 2016 – 2020, with the following goals to change the world and to end the injustice of poverty: right to be heard, advancing gender justice, saving lives, fair sharing of natural resources, and micro-financing for development and universal access to essential services. These strategic goals have been mainstreamed in our new strategic plan adapted to the challenges around us and the world at large. Achieving these 'enabling' Operational Goals will help transform Reach Out Cameroon from a project focused to a programme focused organisation.

Below are the key milestones achieved through our three core pillars with the year under review (2015):

a) Health interventions including reinforcing the prevention and transmission of HIV and STIs was achieved through Community leaders working for women and children to bridge the gap of PMTCT in the Ndian Division, Engaging women and girls to bridge the gap of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV (MTCT) in Bakassi of the South-West Region of Cameroon, HIV and PMTCT sensitisation during Public Events, Youth Engagement Programme, and the commemoration of International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day.

Other activities included were the healthy environment and healthy life project, follow up of community activities within the framework of the health system strengthening programme based on the expanded program for immunization (PROVARESSC), scaling up malaria control for impact in Cameroon, potable water provision and educational campaigns for students in GHS Mbongo and in 19 villages of the Bamusso council (main area), capacity building project for civil society organisations geared towards ameliorating quality within the framework of Global Fund subventions in Cameroon, strengthening independent local monitors to promote accountability, transparency and effectiveness in the implementation of Global Fund grants in

Cameroon, care and support to orphans and vulnerable children by supporting OVCS in Orphanages and those in foster homes, and the ADDAX Petroleum Cameroon Company Corporate Social Responsibility Project on improving school completion rates and thus setting the platform to increase the number of indigenous Bamusso and Idabato enrolling in Universities and the specialised institutions required to join Cameroon's competitive job market.

b) The Gender Integrated Development and Capacity Building Programmes included the project on sexual violence against women and girls in Kombo Abedimo and Isangele funded by the Canadian local initiative fund (CLIF) - "Making gender based violence history"; training of Bamusso councillors on their roles and responsibilities; adult literacy programme for women and young girls who have dropped out of school; celebration of international women's day; focused group discussions with the Musgoons women in Bamusso wetland on their socioeconomic rights and community integration; celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child; commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism to end Gender-based violence in Ekona and Muyuka; "My life, My right" project on preventing child, early and forced marriage for girls in Bakassi; Updating of Council Development Plan for the Muyuka Council; and coordinating the programme for the Strengthening of the Civil Society in Cameroon (PASC).

c) Wealth Creation Programmes included income generating projects and improving the economic capabilities of community-based organisations through projects and activities focused on women working for women to strengthen community systems against HIV and AIDS in the south-west region of Cameroon; The Keep a girl Alive programme (KGA); and the establishment of micro projects for affiliate community-based organisations such as piggery projects and fish pond projects and microcredit operations. The department team conducted training for agro-businesses and strengthened Small Business Development through small loans to new and existing groups.

REO's team provided lessons and coaching/mentoring activities to grassroots communities and civil society organisations on health, education, human rights, effective groups (group dynamics), conflict resolution, advocacy, and entrepreneurship to women and youth based organisations.

In general, our projects impacted over 10,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries throughout the South-West region and the national territory as a whole. We were delighted to receive grants from both old and new partners and we are still fundraising and seeking supports/grants to reach our targeted goals for 2016 through our newly developed Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

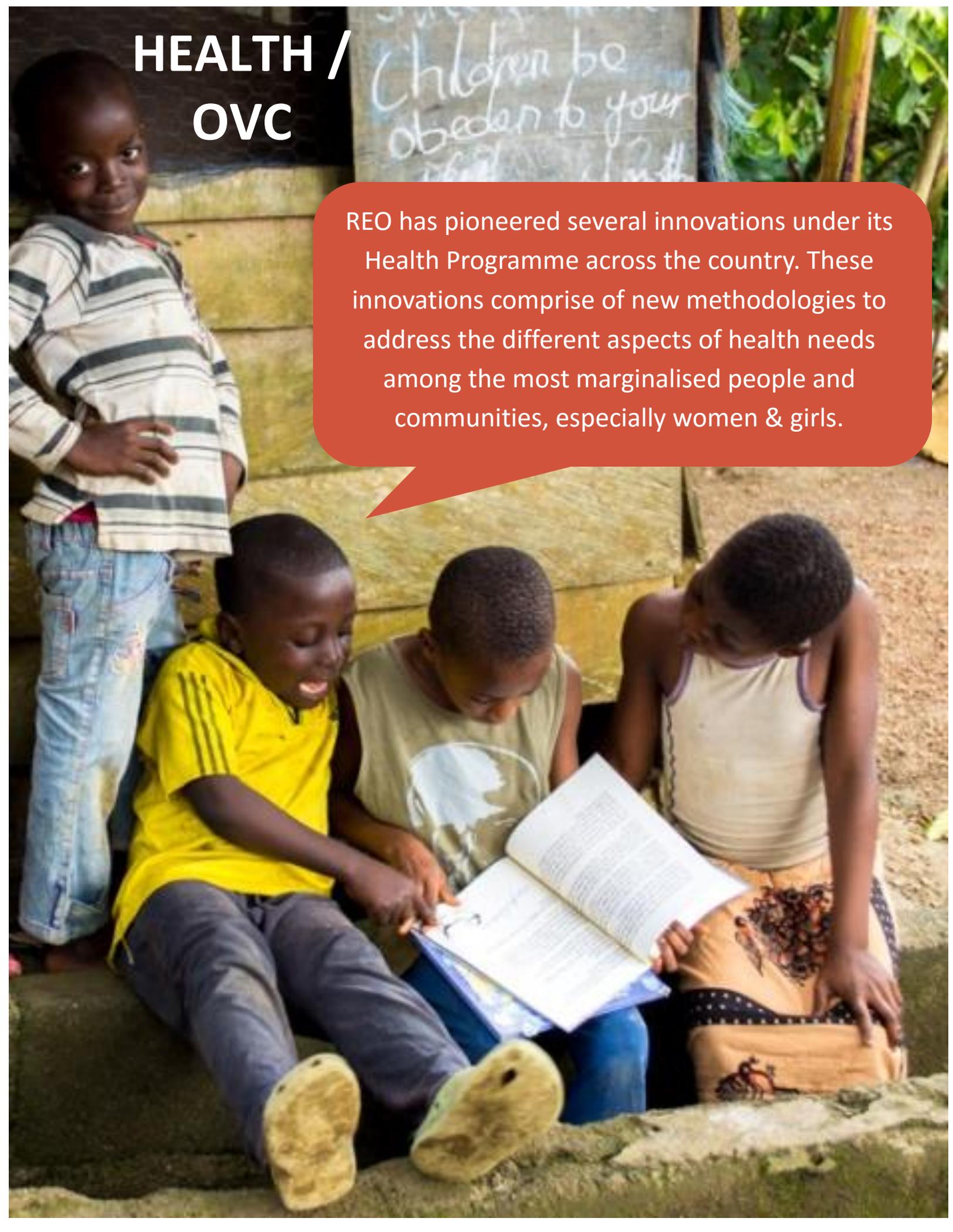
PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

REO's activities for the year under review involve working in cutting-edge, grassroots and regional community-delivery programs within its three key intermediate outcomes to promote societal wellbeing and the strengthening of community systems.

The results achieved are presented as follows, separated by departments.

HEALTH / OVC

REO has pioneered several innovations under its Health Programme across the country. These innovations comprise of new methodologies to address the different aspects of health needs among the most marginalised people and communities, especially women & girls.



INTRODUCTION



Cross-cutting strategies in improving the health, nutritional and psychosocial status of the poorest, most vulnerable and widely marginalised communities have remained a crucial area of work this year. The spotlight has continued to be on quality healthcare delivery, improved nutrition of infected and affected persons with HIV and AIDS, water and sanitation services to reduce maternal and child mortality, improvement of maternal and child health,

family planning and upgrading of health determinants have been prioritised. Through our work, we have seen an enhancement in the participation of rural communities, especially among the women of Self Help Groups, in public health management facilitated by village health sanitation structures.

Staff of the department put in their best efforts to ensure the success of projects and other activities of the department. This report gives a summary of activities and projects carried out so far.

The main activities carried out are listed below:

- Sensitisation on Family Planning during the Youth's Day;
- Sensitisation on Family Planning and HIV at the Mountain Cameroon Race of Hope;
- Sensitisation on Family planning during the 29th International Women's Day;
- Commemoration of the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial;
- Scale up malaria control for the impact in Cameroon, Phase II;
- Educational health talks with female and young inmates of the Buea Central Prison;
- Sensitisation during the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th National Round of Polio Campaign;
- Played an interfacing role between the Regional Delegation of Public Health of the South-West Region and other partner NGOs and associations in the Region;

- Implemented the project on “Community Leaders Working for Women and Children to Bridge Gap of PMTCT in Ndian Division in the South-West Region of Cameroon”;
- The Youth Engagement Programme during the summer holidays;
- Potable water provision and WASH education campaign in 19 communities in the Bamusso mainland area;
- Celebration of the World AIDS Day;
- Provided support to Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in Orphanages;
- Nutritional, medical and educational support to OVCs living in foster homes.



SYNOPSIS AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

REINFORCING PREVENTION AND TRANSMISSION OF HIV AND STIS

Preventing the transmission of HIV and STIs amongst pregnant women and the population in general was outlined in Reach Out Cameroon's 2015 health plan. This was in a bid to contribute in achieving the HIV strategic plan (2011-2015) and the Ministry of Public Health's sector strategy.

COMMUNITY LEADERS WORKING FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO BRIDGE THE GAP OF PMTCT IN NDIAN DIVISION

Through the funding from the Positive Action for Children's Fund (PACF), REO continued implementing the project on Community Leaders Working for Women and Children to Bridge the Gap of PMTCT in Ndian Division, South-West region of Cameroon. In its work, REO had a focus in three hard-to-reach health districts, i.e. Bakassi, Ekondo-Titi and Mbonge health districts, and partnered with three councils (Isangele, Kombo Abedimo and Bamusso councils). This year's activities included training for community leaders as educators, community education campaigns, IEC (Information Education and Communication) sessions, conduct active search of LTFU cases and advocacy meetings and coordination activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Train 50 Community leaders on HIV, PMTCT and on BCC techniques;
- 66 community leaders were supervised and briefed on key messages on HIV, PMTCT, partner notification and referral;
- 2232 persons were educated on HIV and PMTCT through educational talks by community leaders;
- ten Lost to follow up (LTFU) HIV positive children and 12 LTFU mothers were re-linked with health facility for treatment and care;
- 26 out of 33 pregnant women were mobilised for ANC (Antenatal Consultation) actually attended ANC;
- 8 out of 15 male partners who were mobilised to accompany their spouse for ANV actually attended.



Group of Community Educators during training on PMTCT



Conducting door-to-door sensitisation activity on male partner involvement in ANC

TABLE 1: ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE YEAR

SN	Indicator	Baseline 2013	2014 - 2015
1	Number of pregnant women who received educational talks	0	672
2	Number of women who received educational talks	0	3835
3	Number of pregnant women attending first ANC	325	518
4	Number of pregnant women who were tested for HIV during ANC	293	505
5	Number of pregnant women who collected their results know their HIV status via ANC	282	503
6	Number of HIV positive pregnant women	18	29
7	Number of HIV positive pregnant women receiving ARVs for PMTCT	21	26
8	Number of expose babies born of HIV positive mother	9	15
9	Number of HEI receiving prophylaxis	8	14
10	Number of HEI tested by DNA PCR	13	17
11	Number of HEIs tested HIV positive by DNA PCR	1	2
12	Number of men who received educational talks	00	3933
13	Number of partners tested for HIV	32	66
14	Number of partners tested positive for HIV	3	7
15	Number of LTFU positive children	0	24
16	Number of LTFU positive mothers	0	43

ENGAGING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO BRIDGE THE GAP OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV (MTC) IN BAKASSI OF THE SOUTH – WEST REGION

In partnership with The US president’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), REO started a project titled “Engaging Women and Girls to Bridge the Gap of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (MTC) in Bakassi of the South – West Region for two maritime councils of Bakassi in Ndian Division so as to increase PMTCT services and ARVs (Anti Retroviral) therapy in target areas by at least 40%. 44 women, girls and health workers from Kombo Itindi and Idabato councils were trained as community educators to deliver educational Talks on HIV, PMTCT and family planning with communities and organised groups and sensitization campaigns during public events.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Flyers and brochures were produced and distributed to sensitise stakeholders, partners and communities
- Billboard and banners were produced and posted
- 44 community educators were trained for three days on HIV, PMTCT and BCC techniques in Jabane - Bakassi
- One supervision mission has been successfully carried out
- The other indicators which were measured in the project are shown in the table below

S/N	INDICATOR	Baseline	Aug-Nov 2015
1	Number of pregnant women mobilized through educational talks	0	257
2	Number of men who received educational talks	0	1137
3	Number of women who received educational talks	0	1978
4	Number of pregnant women mobilized to attend ANC through HVs	0	138
5	Number of pregnant women attending first ANC	45	42
6	Number of pregnant women who know their HIV status antenatal	44	39
7	Number of HIV positive pregnant women	3	8
8	Number of HIV positive pregnant women receiving ARVs for PMTCT	2	8
9	Number of partners mobilized to attend ANC	0	60
10	Number of partners who attended ANC	4	15
11	Number of LTFU positive Children who were re-integrated	0	2
12	Number of LTFU positive mothers who were re-integrated	0	2

HIV AND PMTCT SENSITIZATION DURING PUBLIC EVENTS

Reach Out Cameroon, through its community educators and staff, carried out massive HIV and PMTCT education during public events in Fako and Ndian Division, precisely in Buea, Bamusso, Isangele, Kombo Abedimo, Kombo Itindi and Idabato councils. The targeted public events were: the Youth Day, Women's Day, World AIDS Days, and other local public event days. During these days, the public were educated through flyers and one-on-one discussions and HIV free testing was conducted for the general population. The tables below show the gender breakdown of persons reached through educational talks, flyers and condom distribution, and the HIV testing.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 900 Flyers were distributed
- 1500 male condoms were distributed
- 800 female condoms were distributed
- Condom demonstrations were done using about 600 condoms to educate the population on their correct and effective usage
- Educational talks were given to over 8000 people met who were mostly youths as targeted



In the course of the year, Reach Out Cameroon celebrated the World AIDS Day in Bakassi in which it conducted free VCT. This was done in close collaboration with the Regional Technical Group for the fight against HIV in the South-West region, the District Health Service and the BIR. Results obtained are shown below:

Community	Testing breakdown		Number tested HIV +ve	
	M	F	M	F
Idabato	7	39	2	11
Jabane	14	40	3	9
Barracks	50	15	3	1
Total	71	94	8	21

Councils	Men	Women	Youths
Buea	200	150	550
Kombo Itindi	100	50	50
Idabato	200	100	100
Bamusso	178	140	189
Isangele	266	418	221
Kombo Abedimo	69	116	45
Total	1013	974	1155

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME



The Youth Engagement Program (YEP) is an annual Youth-orientated Educational and Engagement Program that brings together youths between the ages of six and sixteen. YEP was launched in 2008 to empower youths with positive life skill (a positive attitude towards life). It helps young persons to make healthy decisions and provides structures to keep them active and away from risky behaviour.

OBJECTIVES

This program was aimed at preventing youths from engaging themselves in risky and life-threatening behaviours.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To empower youths with positive life skills.
- To help the youths make positive and healthy decisions
- To provide structures to keep them active and away from risky behaviour.
- To drill them on major health issues like HIV and AIDS, sex education, ICT.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 60 youths were brought together to spend time with each other, thus distracting them from getting engaged in risky behaviours in Tole
- The youths were always very eager to learn and participate in all the activities which were planned.
- The program offered activities which helped 60 participants to understand the basics of their sexuality as well the risk of early sexual intercourse.
- 60 Participants were coached on developing skills in arts, craft, culture and games.
- 60 Participants were able to explain and exhibit at least 10 positive behaviours at home and Community.

The gender breakdown of the participants is shown below:

Gender	Total
Boys	25
Girls	35
Total	60



COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL CANDLE LIGHT MEMORIAL DAY

The commemoration of the International candle light Memorial Day (is an annual event that usually takes place in the month of May. This year, the event was celebrated on the 18th May 2015 under the theme “Supporting the Future”. It involved a number of activities organized by health interested government agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations that were aimed at advocating for the support of people who are either infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Reach Out Cameroon, being one of the health-interested NGOs, fully participated in the commemoration of this year’s candle light Memorial Day by carrying out educational health talks in two secondary schools in Buea (Government Secondary School Tole and Excel High School) in order to educate students on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and the importance of psychological support to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this activity was to raise awareness on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and the importance of psychological support to people affected with HIV/AIDS in the communities of Tole and Clerk’s quarter within Buea Municipality.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The following was achieved during the health talks:

- 250 youths were educated on HIV and STIs in two secondary schools located in Tole and Clerk’s quarter in Buea.
- An estimated 100 people were reached through social media.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHY LIFE PROJECT

In a bid to improve on the hygienic condition of the inhabitants of Tole, a project on “HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, HEALTHY LIFE” was implemented in Tole. This one month project saw the participation of all three departments of the organization.

OBJECTIVE

The objective was to sensitize 500 persons in Tole on general hygiene and basic sanitation by June 19th 2015.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 250 households were sensitized on basic hygiene and sanitation
- 500 people were thought on the proper ways of hand washing and on the basics of water treatment
- 80 posters were produced and posted in the community



Demonstration on 8 steps of hand washing

FOLLOW UP OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHEN PROGRAM ORIENTED TOWARDS THE EXPANDED PROGRAM FOR IMMUNIZATION (PROVARESSC)

Reach Out Cameroon, being a member of the national platform of CSOs in favour of immunization was involved in carrying out a series of community-based interventions to strengthen the immunization program in the South-West region of Cameroon.

ACTIVITY 1

In response to the current polio outbreak in Cameroon, routine vaccination campaigns were organized to outmatch epidemic. As member of the platform, REO supported the districts of Buea, Kumba and Muyuka in carrying out vaccination campaigns. These targeted all children younger than five years.



ACTIVITY 2

As part of the activities marking this year's celebration of the World immunization week (24th – 30th of April 2015), Reach Out Cameroon conducted massive media campaigns to educate the public on the important role that vaccines and community responsiveness play in the eradication of vaccine preventable diseases. In order to do so, Reach Out Cameroon used Facebook and two popular audio outlets in Buea to sensitize the public on vaccine preventable diseases.

ACTIVITY 3

Training of CBOs and Dialogue structures; as focal point of PROVARESSC in the South West Region, Reach Out Cameroon was called upon to train CBOs and dialogue structure members in 8 health districts. This is in a bid to improve community involvement in increasing vaccination uptake.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A total of 500 children were vaccinated by Reach Out Cameroon staff
- Missed cases were identified and vaccinated. 25 missed cases were identified during the campaign and 26 cases after the campaign in Muyuka and Kumba.
- Vaccination campaigns were monitored by Reach Out staff in 11 health areas (Muyuka and Kumba)
- Celebration of the World Immunization week (WIW) through facebook with 329 Likes and 73 comments; 16 listeners took part in the Immunization quiz and 3 public health experts participated in the panel discussion on immunization
- Around 2000 people were educated during the WIW
- 80 CBO members and 144 Dialogue structure members were capacitated



SCALING UP MALARIA CONTROL FOR IMPACT IN CAMEROON (SUF1 Q17)

Cameroon has obtained a grant for the implementation of the second phase of the malaria project from the Global Fund. In this phase, Plan Cameroon which is the PR2 (principal recipient) has the responsibility of the coordination of the Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) and Advocacy executed by the Civil Society organization.

The sub-recipients are each implementing their projects in the two regions of the country, respectively in the Littoral and South-West and in the Centre and the South). Within the framework of this project, Reach Out Cameroon was responsible for coordinating BCC and advocacy activities in Buea and Muyuka health districts.

OBJECTIVE

The objective was to coordinate BCC and advocacy activities of 42 community health workers for the months of January to March 2015.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 5490 home visits were conducted in households with pregnant women and children under 5 years
- 37 community health workers of Muyuka and Buea were paid home visit dues for quarter 13 to 15

WASH EDUCATION CAMPAIGN IN GHS MBONGO AND 19 VILLAGES AND POTABLE WATER PROVISION SUPERVISION

Within the framework of the implementation of the WASH project which was launched some years ago by Plan Cameroon to improve on water and sanitation access and practices at the Government High School (GHS) Mbongo Balondo and surrounding communities through an educational out-reach programme for an eight month period of time Reach Out Cameroon (REO as a third party to the project, was directly in charge of the WASH campaign component of the project.)

Conditions of joint cooperation, roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the WASH campaigns were agreed upon and signed in a partnership agreement document between Plan Cameroon and REACH OUT Cameroon within a six months period (August 2014 to January 2015).

OBJECTIVE

The objective was to conduct a survey and obtain a comprehensive list of beneficiaries of the basic support which served to complement the latrine construction process of households and communities within the project target area.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2 M&E missions carried out within the period under review to ensure effective implementation of project activities for better results;
- 24 latrines constructed with either permanent and local materials;
- 162 latrines in construction process;
- About 73 new households pledging to engage in the future latrine construction process;
- Majority of members of target communities are putting into practice methods of hand washing;
- Schools in the project area appropriated good hand washing practices into school system, e.g. it was observed that some schools have put in place buckets with leads and cups in each class;
- Some Community leaders took the initiative in instituting fines to defaulters of free open defecation;
- Bamusso council renewed their commitment in ensuring that best practices in hygiene and sanitation are mainstreamed into the day-to-day activities of the communities;
- Regular supervision was ensured by Plan Cameroon WASH team for better implementation of project activities as laid down in the REO/Plan partnership document.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION'S GEARED TOWARDS AMELIORATING QUALITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GLOBAL FUND SUBVENTIONS IN CAMEROON



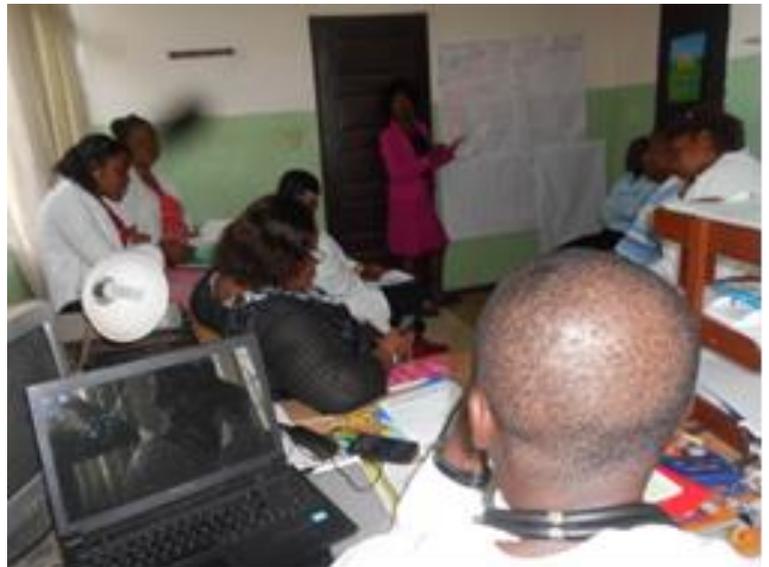
This project financed by France Expertise International (FEI) falls within the frame work of strengthening Civil Society for quality improvement in the framework of Global Fund funding in Cameroon. Due to the gaps realized during the implementation Global Fund Round 9 grant in Cameroon, Care Cameroon strengthened civil society organizations in the areas of governance, leadership and transparency management of resources. Reach Out Cameroon was sub-contracted by Care Cameroon to improve on the quality of services rendered to HIV clients at CTA Limbe.

OBJECTIVE

The project aimed to support HIV and AIDS programs in the framework of the Global Fund to be able to reach its goal that is to ensure universal access to PMTCT, global care, prevention and treatment of PLWHIV with the most vulnerable population.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- A regional consultative meeting where the entire project, methodology and expected outcome was presented to the stakeholders and Health district teams;
- Six COPE sessions resulted in an amelioration of the quality of services rendered at the CTA Limbe;
- Four formative supervision conducted with Health care staff of the CTA Limbe resulting in better performance at work and towards their clients.



STRENGTHENING INDEPENDENT LOCAL MONITORS TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GLOBAL FUND GRANTS IN CAMEROON

For Impact in Social Health (FIS Cameroon) obtained funding for a project “Supporting the strengthening of independent local monitors to promote accountability, transparency and effectiveness in the implementation of Global Fund grants in Cameroon”.

Reach Out Cameroon (REO) serves as the focal point in the South-West region of Cameroon to follow up strategically the effective and efficient use of The Global Fund's grants to fight tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS in Cameroon. The information collected and compiled by the watchdogs in the "shadow reports" serves as tool during advocacy meetings to promote accountability of key stakeholders (Principal Recipients, Sub Recipients and Country Coordination Mechanisms) of the implementation of The Global Fund programs.

OBJECTIVE

The objective was to improve performance, accountability and effectiveness of aid from the Global Fund in Cameroon through the publication of the shadow report on the quality systems and service delivery by 2016.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 12 Civil Society Organisations and 5 private media outlet representatives were trained as ‘Watch Dogs’ for accountability
- Targeted regional authorities have been informed about the project and its objectives
- 20 people interviewed
- Required information was gathered from the targeted respondents using questionnaires. This will be consolidated for the production of a shadow report

CARE AND SUPPORT TO ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

SUPPORT TO OVCS IN ORPHANAGES

Caring and supporting orphans and vulnerable children have always been amongst Reach Out's priorities. This aspect was realized through the support from Reach Out's international volunteers and the Global Giving portal. The orphanages that benefitted from support this year were Father's House and Mah D's Orphanages. The Father's House orphanage was supported with nutritional items for the children and Infrastructural refurbishing (fish pond – Father's has a fish pond?, sleeping beds and purchase of mosquito nets). With regards to education, school fees and schooling upkeep were provided to one of the orphans at the Fathers House orphanage for his University Education. Schools fees were paid to 15 OVCs; books and uniforms were bought to enable the children to go back to school and facilitate their learning process.

A breakdown of the beneficiaries is shown below:

Category	Gender	Total	Category	Gender	Total
Father's House	Boys	12	Mah D's orphanage	Boys	14
	Girls	28		Girls	15

SUPPORT TO OTHER OVCS

REO and its international volunteers provided nutritional, medical and educational support to some selected OVCs. For nutritional assistance, food stuff was provided to Baby Favour and three children from Florence Mbi (who is visually impaired). They were supported with rice, beans, palm oil, Maggie, salt, groundnuts and garri. Medical support was provided to baby Favour who was re-diagnosed of having a tooth problem instead of the tumour. The medical bill of favour was paid and an insurance scheme was installed. Mbi Florence was provided with start-up capital for a small business so that she could sustain her children. Neh Loveline who was victim of a fire disaster was as well supported with start-up capital to sustain her child nutritional and educationally.

The breakdown is shown here:

Gender	Total
Boys	3
Girls	8



Reach Out In-house OVC program with the support from Pastor Rabou, Mr Fritz and Chantelle (individual international donors) supported some OVCs with different educational level for the 2015/2016 academic year.

ADDAX PETROLEUM CAMEROON COMPANY CSR PROJECT IN BAMUSSO AND IDABATO COUNCILS

In compliance with its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy and Government recommendation, and as part of its social performance activity and its mission to support the socio-economic development of its host communities, Addax Petroleum is assisting the inhabitants of Idabato and Bamusso councils that fall within its scope of operation with the topic of education by providing didactic materials, registration fees for pupils and students taking their final exams, and providing scholarships to meritorious and needy students.

It is within this framework that a need assessment exercise was carried out within the scope of the project area to collect specific data on children performance in classical and public examinations whose overall aim is to improve on school completion rates in primary and secondary schools in Bamusso and Idabato councils.

OBJECTIVE

The goal of the project is to improve school completion rates and, thus, to set up a platform to increase the number of Bamusso and Idabato indigenes enrolling in universities and specialized institutions that are required for joining Cameroon's competitive job market.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 107 of the 110 identified beneficiaries received their scholarship packages according to their various categories as merited;
- 45 pupils benefitted in the first category for primary schools;
- 26 pupils benefitted in the second category for primary schools;
- 18 pupils in class six received registration fees for First School Leaving Certificate and Common Entrance into Form one;
- 6 form one students benefitted in the first category;
- 6 form one students benefitted in the second category;
- 5 form one students benefitted in the third category;
- 11 students in forms 2-5 benefitted in the first category;
- 5 students in forms 2-5 benefitted in the secondary category;
- 3 students in forms 2-5 benefitted in the third category;
- 5 students in form 5 secondary only received registration fees for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) O/L and Certificat d'Aptitude Professionnelle (CAP) exams.
- Willingness of parents to engage children in our Cameroon educational system for longer period of time acknowledged through speeches.

BRIEF REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF REACH OUT CAMEROON HEALTH CENTRE

The REO Health Centre in Mbalangi, a community in the Mbonge Subdivision and Kumba Health District, has a staff strength of nine health personnel and is headed by a visceral surgeon. Departments of the facility include a laboratory, a pharmacy, a theatre and a maternity. The maternity is the most active department with about a third of the women in the locality delivering in the health centre.

CHALLENGES

Challenges of the centre are:

- Insufficient equipment, theatre and delivery beds
- Insufficient funds to carry out projects like building, water supply etc.
- High staff turnover
- Absence of a legal adviser
- Complete fencing of the facility
- Poor access road to the centre

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Immediate needs of the centre include the following:

- Legalisation of the centre, expansion of the structure
- Water system
- Recruitment of more nurses, doctors and a night watchman
- More equipment
- Legal adviser to handle and mitigate litigations
- North-south and south-south cooperation for more sustainable fundraising mechanisms in boosting centre's activities.

A woman with short, vibrant purple hair is looking towards a young child. The woman has a gentle expression and is wearing a white top. The child, a young girl with short dark hair, is looking down at something out of frame. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with greenery outside. The overall mood is warm and focused.

GENDER & CAPACITY BUILDING

Working towards
gender equality.

The power to
make a better
future.

GENDER AND CAPACITY BUILDING

INTRODUCTION

Aligning with several partners in mainstreaming gender, improving and strengthening systems within communities, our interventions directly impacted our target beneficiaries being women, young girls and children of school going ages and not leaving out men from other vulnerable groupings.

The Gender department was involved in various activities specific to its objectives as well as activities under the different segments of Reach Out Cameroon. These activities



focused mostly on Fako, Ndian, and Meme Divisions of the South-West Region. It is worth noting that activities of the Civil Society Strengthening Programme (PASC) spread throughout the six divisions of the Region.

The department worked collectively over the past 12 months in a series of projects and activities in fulfilment of the department's operational plan for the year 2015. Though the accomplishment of the projects and activities has been challenging, staff put in efforts to ensure remarkable achievements. This report unfolds projects and activities that were carried out throughout this period.

Capacity building was done at three levels through several modalities:

Training programmes	Activities
Peer level	REO facilitated trainings on gender, peace building and conflict prevention, and capacity building programmes in Jabane, Isangele and Akwa in Bakassi, Buea, Kumba and Ekondo-Titi
Community level	A cyclone shelter leaflet was designed to provide various options for cyclone resistant shelter
Organisational level	Training was provided on the various tools and procedures used during emergency assessment and response. Also, an orientation program was organised to sensitise on gender issues during emergencies

A national strategy on 'Gender in Emergencies', which is grounded on the premise that women and men have different strategic needs particularly during emergencies, was devised. This document analysed and addressed gender dimensions during emergency preparedness and response. Our future goal is to build resilience among the most marginalised Dalit and Adivasi communities, to help them prepare for any disaster.

Projects and Activities carried out include:

- Project on sexual violence against women and girls in Kombo Abedimo and Isangele funded by the Canadian local initiative fund (CLIF)
- Making gender based violence history
- Training of Bamusso chancellors on their roles and responsibilities.
- Adult literacy program
- Women’s day celebration
- Discussions with the Musgoons women in Bamusso wetland
- Celebration of the international day of the girl child
- Commemoration of the 16th Day Activism to end GBV in Ekona and Muyuka
- My life, My right: Preventing Child, Early and Forced Marriage for Girls in Bakassi
- Updating of Council Development Plan for the Muyuka Council
- Programme for the Strengthening of Civil Society in Cameroon (PASC)



PROJECTS CARRIED OUT

FIGHTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN KOMBO ABEDIMO AND ISANGELE COUNCIL AREA

Although efforts are made to end Sexual violence in Cameroon, it still remains a call for concern in most communities. Reach Out, through several projects and commemorated activities and in collaboration with the



Regional Delegation of the Ministry of

Women Empowerment, is curbing gender-based violence in the South-West Region and especially in Bakassi of the Ndian division.

Through the project “Fighting sexual violence against women and girls in Kombo Abedimo and Isangele council area” which sought to improve prevention on sexual violence against women by expanding their awareness on violence, through a legal literacy campaigns and encouraging participation of local communities, through awards in Isangele and Akwa in Bakassi, 140 participants being women and youth leaders, administrative, local and traditional authorities and the forces of law and order gained knowledge on sexual violence and rights.

The Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Women Empowerment provided technical advice and orientation throughout the project.

ACTIVITIES

- Mobilisation/ sensitisation/ advocacy meetings
- A broad based literacy campaign
- Public recognition of community leadership in the fight against sexual violence

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Through the mobilization and sensitization campaign/ advocacy meetings, the community and other stakeholders were informed on the project and its overall objectives, using flyers, information letters and project posters.
- The myths and taboos surrounding sexual violence and other acts of gender based violence were discarded through a broad based literacy campaign that brought together over 120 community members, traditional rulers and administrative authorities.
- Through the broad based literacy campaign, participants are now informed of the legal, medical and psychological consequences of sexual violence and what to do when faced with such situations.
- Different stakeholders are appropriating the project and suggesting community solutions to combat sexual violence.

- The public recognition of community leadership in the fight against sexual violence is acting as a booster for other community members to engage to put an end to sexual violence and other acts of gender based violence in the community by speaking out and guarding against acts of sexual violence.

TRAINING OF ELECTED COUNCIL OFFICIALS ON THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COUNCILS AND PARTICIPATING IN THE DECENTRALISATION PROCESS

REO facilitated a two days training workshop at the Bamusso Municipal Council Hall to build the capacities of 45 councillors and staff of the Bamusso Council. Participants were empowered on their Roles and responsibilities in participative management of the council's financial, human and material resources through different modules which include among others: Gender mainstreaming in planning, conflict management, group dynamics to enable councillors to blend very well in the special committees, to foster effective communication amongst themselves and their constituencies of the council. The end result of the exercise was to enable them to be more efficient in the management of their constituencies and participating effectively in council sessions and general council management.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME

The Gender unit has been offering literacy classes to the Mbororo women of Bomaka and the Muslim women of Buea Town. The adult literacy program was coined by REO to improve women's opportunities in society and to reduce the high rate of illiteracy by equipping them with writing, reading and listening skills. The program so far has achieved remarkable results i.e. increasing their self-esteem and willingness to integrate and contribute to developmental issues.

In order to integrate these women into the fast growing technological world of ICT (information and communication technology) a software program TTRS (touch read type and spell) and some basic lessons in computer were introduced which women began by getting familiar with the keyboard, typing their names and engaging themselves with other modules of the program.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Women should be able to:

- Read, interpret and answer questions on short passages
- Write down their names and ideas in good English
- Communicate in good English
- Perform basic Arithmetic and business calculations correctly

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 10 women are able to read and write using basic English and arithmetic
- 5 women have familiarized themselves with the basics of typing and using computer.

CONSTRAINTS

- Women are pre-occupied with child bearing and give less attention to studies though they have been sensitised on the importance of education.



A session with the Muslim women



A session with the Mbororo women

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF MUSGOON WOMEN IN BAMUSSO WETLAND

When working with communities in the Bakassi area, REO identified the Musgoons who are a minority group of people in the in Bamusso. The main occupation of the people is fishing which is being carried out by men. Women are only used for child bearing and home care. Noticing that the rights of these women are being infringed upon by their husbands and the community at large, REO carried out a feasibility study through focused group discussions with the objective to know their socio-economic status and the challenges they face from various community social strata.

Results of the evaluation show that as far as the rights of the women are concerned, they know little or nothing of basic human rights. These women do not have "a life of their own" and are not permitted to express themselves at home or publicly. Gender-based violence is a daily recurrence. A case in point was a case of domestic violence witnessed while conducting this exercise where a woman was beaten by her husband with wounds and oozing blood. Despite the numerous pleas by the neighbours for the man to open the door, he gave a deaf ear and continued his exercise and only released her when she was at the point of collapsing. After having been frustrated by no means of calling her parents and no financial means to run away, she just had to shelter herself with the husband against her wish.

Furthermore, the economic empowerment of these women is very low with just about 20% of them engaged in small trading (selling fried puff-puff, beans and pap). Because of limited capital to venture into small businesses, most of them resort to selling wood within the community with long distant trekking to fetch the wood. It is also important to note that the little profit got from the business is plough back into household spending and, thus, turning in the "life cycle of poverty."

Worst still, educationally, just one out of the ten women surveyed has ever attended primary school. Therefore, the situation of these women is a call for concern especially as they demanded that REO should caution their husbands on the importance of children's education and the aspect of domestic violence which is very rampant amongst them.

Through internally generated funds, REO provided those who took part in the survey with money for seed capital that will help improve their businesses.

Names of women	Proposed businesses
Ayissatou	Dress and shoes
Minatou	Fresh tomatoes and pepper
Mariam	Pap and puff-puff
Mariama	Increase business on pap, puff-puff, beans
Issatou	Smoked fish
Adama	Koki beans (hand machine)
Aminatou	Roasted fish
Rasidatou	Hand truck to fetch wood

CELEBRATION OF THE “INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD”

In commemorating the “International Day of the Girl Child” which is celebrated annually on the 11th October, and in Cameroon is led by the Ministry of Women Empowerment, Reach Out Cameroon organized a one-day-program which brought together young girls around Buea who benefited from educational talks on issues of gender-based violence and who were encouraged to take up science subjects. Furthermore, they were informed about rights of the girl child and they were shown a projection of a film portraying an inspiring African female lead, titled “Sarafina”. The purpose was to create awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide. Amongst others, the areas of violence against women and poor access to education were of major focus.

ACHIEVEMENTS

40 Girls received educational talks on gender-based violence and watched a film titled "Sarafina" which was projected to highlight the strength in girls using the example of Sarafina who led a group to fight against apartheid in South Africa. The talks emphasized the importance of the rights of the girl child to education and encouraged the girls to take education and science subjects seriously.

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WOMAN

The 30th edition of the International Women’s day this year under review was celebrated under the theme “Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Cameroon: Assessment and Perspectives”. As a tradition, REO actively participated in the activities organized by the Regional Delegation of Women Empowerment from the inception to execution. Through a diversity of activities ranging from planning meetings to the execution of the celebration proper. Over 100 registered women’s groups and about ten affiliated REO women’s groups within Buea council area took part in the week’s events, including the march pass exercise on the 8th March 2015, and were being sensitized by present officials on the importance of the day.

Groups took part in the following empowerment and recreational activities:

- A book presentation by Colonel Aya on “a woman spoke”
- A round table discussion which took place on the 3rd of March where women activists and health personnel educated and threw more light on the theme of the year through presentations
- Socio-cultural activities which took place on the 4th of March including choral singing, traditional dances, poems, and drama

CELEBRATION OF 16 DAYS ACTIVISM TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The year 2015 marks the 24th year of activities for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, a campaign initiated in 1991 by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership. Addressing, among others, issues of racism, sexism, and cultures of violence, this campaign is geared at eliminating all forms of violence against women. This year's 16 days activism campaign focused specifically on the relationship between militarism and the right to education in situations of violent conflict, in relative peace and variety of education while continuing to make the links with militarism.



Reach Out carried out a series of activities to commemorate this day which ranged, but were not limited to, educational talks on gender-based violence in secondary schools, a film projection which depicts women's role in peace building and their desire to forge ahead in life despite all the violations they face from society and a peaceful match with regards to the theme of the year "From Peace

in the Home to Peace in the World - Make Education Free for All.

Activities included educational talks with schools in Ekona and Muyuka including the Bethlehem High School and Government High School in Ekona; and the Our Lady of Grace College and GBHS in Muyuka.

Activities to mark this year's 16 days activism began with educational talks with a focus on reproductive health rights for all and for women in particular. Special attention was paid to SDG number three, which stipulates the importance of bodily integrity and the right to decide on their sexual orientation as well as decide on when, with who and how to indulge in sexual activity.



This activity was done in coordination with the Ministry of Women Empowerment, which was informed of the activity and provided orientation.

OBJECTIVE

- The objective of the talks is on ensuring that girls are empowered with knowledge to support victims of GBV to face the perpetrators and community stereotypes which fuel abuse
- Help victims to gain self-esteem and to begin speaking out against GBV

- Educational talks on topical feminine issues including sexual and reproductive health
- Mobilization of girls for a film projection

FILM PROJECTION

The next activity was the film projection with 30 girls from OLAGCOL and GBHS Muyuka at the Muyuka council hall where the films “Damaru” and “Pray the devil back to hell” were shown.

The 16 days activism march past from the Catholic church in Muyuka to the sub-divisional office, counting amongst its attendance the Divisional Officer for Muyuka sub-division, his assistant, other officials of the Muyuka subdivision, the Executive Director of Reach Out Cameroon, staff of REO, women groups, motor bike riders and students joined the march for the fight against GBV. Approximately, a total of 90 participants took part in this event.

GENDER FAIR

As part of activities for the 16 days activism to end GBV REO took part in the Gender Fair organized by Women for Change in partnership with the UN Women and the Regional Delegation of Women Empowerment. Showcasing projects and activities in view of informing the public on issues of GBV, REO staff demonstrated materials which are all tailored towards supporting this fight. During the event, REO equally participated in a round table discussion during which participants and the staff of the Women and Gender study department of the University of Buea had the opportunity to discuss issues related to improving livelihoods of female students on campus. Discussing specific needs such as toilets, gender responsive teaching and learning materials, it was realized that female students of the UB still suffer a lapse in much of the amenities provided. However, we are called upon to understand that it is necessary to appreciate diversity and difference for the attainment of equality and equity. Bringing the activity to a close was the Vice-chancellor of the University of Buea who encouraged participants especially the female folk to be more appreciative of their environment and to make the best of what is provided to them and by cooperating with the security in force for their educational well-being.

“MAKING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE HISTORY”

Within a joint partnership agreement, Reach Out Cameroon and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation (LUKMEF) are into a project titled “MAKING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE HISTORY” which is being funded by the European Union. The project targets the two Anglophone regions being the South West and the North West region within the timeframe **January 2015 to December 2016**. Reach Out Cameroon was assigned Meme and Ndian Divisions.

Peace and Gender Parity Clubs and committees of community elites were set-up in local communities, massive sensitization activities and training of 4 cooperatives was organized in collaboration with the sub-delegations of the Ministry of Women Empowerment, which provided technical support.

OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to raise public awareness on GBV, strengthen local-based developmental institutions, create or reinforce gender parity clubs in schools, as well as prevent all forms of violence against women especially in rural communities.

Table of project target groups:

Division	Community	Target groups and committees	Peace and Gender Parity Clubs put in place
Meme	Kumba	- 1 Community Elites committee put in place in each target community	None planned
	Kake		GHS Kake and GTC Kake
	Ekombe Bonji	- 2 women cooperatives trained (Etoko Women of Kumba and Sisters of Ekombe Bonji)	Ekombe Bonji
	KwaKwa		UCC Kwakwa and GBHS Kombone
	Bole		GSS Bole and PMCC Bole
Ndian	Bekora Barombi	- 1 Community Elites committee put in place in each target community	
	Ekondo-Titi		
	Mudemba	- 2 women cooperatives trained (Dynamic ladies of Ekondo-Titii and Njaringi cooperative group of Mundemba)	
	Isangele		
	Bekumu		
Both targets	All communities	Community mobilisation and sensitisation	More than 5,000 persons were mobilised and sensitised on issues of gender based violence and its manifestation through consultative meetings, posters, project brochures and information letters

ACHIEVEMENTS

So far, REO has carried out and achieved the following:

- 10 communities of the Meme and Ndian division have been mobilised and sensitised on gender based violence, its manifestation and implications.
- 4 women corporative groups have been trained on group dynamics, corporative management, book keeping, women's right, and economic empowerment, amongst others.
- 9 committees of community elites were created and trained on monitoring, reporting and preventing gender-based violence within their communities.
- 18 gender parity clubs were established in 18 schools of the Meme and Ndian divisions and members were trained to carry out awareness campaigns, and to monitor and report gender-based violence in schools and communities.

MY LIFE, MY RIGHT: PREVENTING CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE FOR GIRLS IN BAKASSI

Globally, child marriage (CM) is defined as marriage before the age of 18 years which is applicable to both boys and girls. In Cameroon, however, a marriage is legally considered as CM when a girl is less than 16 years old or a boy is less than 18 years old. Each year, 28 girls (40% in sub-Saharan Africa) are married off in every minute before the age of 18, thereby endangering their personal development and well-being. This violates article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as several other human rights treaties, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty.

Cameroon and the Bakassi Peninsular (Idabato) in particular with the reports from the District Health Service (DHS 2011) showing that 53.5% of girls are married before the age of 18 years; a situation that calls for concern!. For 16 years now that Reach Out Cameroon (REO) has been working in the South-West region of Cameroon and Bakassi in particular, the organisation had received reports through interviews and focused group discussions conducted during the elaboration of Council Development Plans for Idabato and Kombo



Abedimo Councils on the recurring phenomenon of child, early and forced marriages. Latest statistics from the Bakassi - Idabato health centre revealed that, out of 100 deliveries made, more than 40% are made by girls less or equal to 16 years and about 25% of girls are bearing their 5th pregnancies by the age of 25.

It is within this context that REO, in partnership with the Canadian Local Initiative Fund (CLIF), implemented the My Life My Right project in the Idabato council area of the Bakassi peninsula in order to fight against child, early and forced marriage of girls until the end of February 2016.

Project activities carried out within the first phase in 2015 included the following:

- Information of relevant stakeholders (MIMPROFF, MINSANTE, Administrative authorities, etc..)
- Carried out two clustered meetings and at least ten face-to-face contact visits to sensitise key stakeholders on the project objectives and overall expectations within two months of start of project.
- Conducted a 2-day girls forum/ workshop on My Life, My Right for 60 girls, informing the girls on their (legal and sexual) rights (carried out three months after the launch of the project). The forum aimed at raising awareness on the criminal character of child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) and on the importance of community solutions to preventing CEFM.

The workshop was attended by 64 participants grouped as follows:

Category	No. attended
Girls (aged 10-25 years)	49
Female school teachers	3
Motivational speakers	2
Reach Out Staff	5
Community well wishers	6
Total	69



OBSERVATIONS

The following observations were drawn from the group work presented by the young girls and female teachers:

- The young girls acknowledged that early and forced marriages destroy a girl's future
- Forced marriages expose girls to teenage pregnancies and STIs, thus putting their health and lives at risk
- Forced and early marriages psychologically traumatise young girls and make them miserable
- Forced marriages could be stopped if appropriate laws were put in place by the community and administrative leaders, and if an effective follow-up was ensured
- Forced and early marriages could be averted by encouraging young girls to pursue their education through formal and informal education
- Girls do not longer want to be forced into early marriages

UPDATING OF COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE MUYUKA COUNCIL

The government introduced a series of development programmes among which is the National Community-Driven Development Programme with its French acronym PNDP which is aimed at supporting local councils in Cameroon in the process of decentralization and at helping them to draw up Council Development Plans as well as to ameliorate living conditions of the people within the council by funding their development plans for the realisation of priority micro projects.

In 2010 and 2011, REO was selected through national call for open tenders to support the elaboration of council development plans for the Bamusso, Idenau, Idabato and Kombo Abedimo Councils. These council strategic documents were to last for a period of three years and to be updated as such thereafter.

It is within this framework that the Muyuka Council in Fako Division of the South-West region sought the services of Reach Out through a call for manifestation of interest to update their council development plan which expired in the year 2014.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The following results were obtained:

- The monograph of the councils updated
- An in-depth institutional diagnosis for the councils carried out and the council institutional strengthening plan updated
- Council Sectoral Diagnosis updated as a result of the consolidation of the data from the village diagnosis
- A geo-referenced data base of all existing infrastructure in the council area collected and updated;
- Re-dynamise village development management structures (Village Development Committee etc.) set up
- The identified training needs were translated into themes of training
- A system to impel financial resources for the implementation of the CDP was elaborated

ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION SUB PROGRAMME FOR CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING (PASC)

Reach Out Cameroon continued to play a vital role in terms of relaying activities of the European Union sub-program to strengthen civil society in Cameroon (PASC). Following an open call for tender to serve as relay organisation for the Civil Society Strengthening Program in the different regions of Cameroon, Reach Out Cameroon was returned as the relay for the South-West region with a 14 months mandate to implement the project “Action for Civil Society Organizations Strengthening in the South West Region (ACSOS)”.

With the overall objective to contribute to building a responsible and effective civil society that plays a significant role in the political, economic and social governance of Cameroon, activities of the project were spread across the following three major components:

1. Setting up a CSO communication system at the regional level
2. Support CSOs initiatives in the areas of governance and public/ private partnership
3. Technical, institutional and organizational capacity building for level 1 CSOs



Major activities were realised in 2014, while 2015 activities were geared towards monitoring, evaluating and final reporting.

PHASE ONE

Previous years' activities of the program include the Phase One

- Coaching and follow-up of trained groups
- Coaching and follow-up of PASC grantees
- Capacity Enhancement workshops for level 1 CSOs
- Coaching for level 2 and 3 CSOs with Initiatives on governance/ public private partnership
- Organised an information session for PASC call 2
- Information dissemination on PASC program and other development initiatives

PHASE TWO

- Production of a visibility sign post and a capitalisation roll up banner for ACSOS activities
- Coaching and follow-up of trained groups
- Coaching and follow-up of PASC grantees (FAIR and Call I)
- Capacity Enhancement workshops for 9 level 1 CSOs in Fako on Financial Management
- Production of capitalisation banner for PASC activities

- Impact assessment for PASC activities in the South West Region
- Coordinated the evaluation meeting of PASC and Regional Relays by MINEPAT
- Coordination meeting with the college (colleagues?) of Associates for the ACSOS project
- Information dissemination on PASC program and other development initiatives

ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2015

Within the framework of the year under review, visibility of the project was gained through the following activities:

- Visibility through the contribution of the EU was ensured through several mediums put in place by Reach Out Cameroon in her communication plan
- The visibility sign post in front of Reach Outs' head office has brought many on lookers who pass by REO to seek more information about PASC and the ACSOS project
- Banners carrying the EU logo and the indication "Funded by the European Union" placed on strategic positions in the community has been a graphic communication mode that speaks of the EU's contribution in the implementation of the ACSOS project
- The print and the audio/visual media have also played a major role in protecting the contribution of the EU in the ACSOS project
- The governor's office, regional delegation of MINEPAT, MIMPROFF, MINSANTE and other government structures received periodic information and invitation to activities of ACSOS, often indicating the EU as sponsor
- The project flyer continues to give visibility to the contribution of the EU in the ACSOS project. In all trainings conducted within the framework of the ACSOS project, participants' kits carry the project flyers. Manuals for training as well as stickers all carry the EU and PASC logo
- The ACSOS project flyer is powered on Reach Out's website to ensure the visibility of EU's contribution in the development of Cameroon

PROJECT ON WOMEN WORKING FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND BUILDING A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN BAKASSI (NDIAN DIVISION)

In partnership with the American Embassy Democracy and Human Rights Fund and in coordination with government structures (MIMPROFF), REO strengthened and encouraged women in Bakassi in identifying early warning signs which fuel violence against them and for which they are ignorant of and if not prevented could escalate into conflicts besides the already existing dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria and also to encourage women to translate these signs into powerful messages as a resounding call for government, the international community and development actors to take actions through the use of traditional communication systems that will enhance a culture of peace in all citizens.

The purpose of the project was to lift the barriers of ignorance suffered by women on their rights and to promote their role in conflict prevention and peace building through awareness and empowerment using traditional communication systems.

Key project activities and implementation methodology were as follows:

- Sensitise the beneficiary communities in three councils through advocacy meetings on the project as a whole,
- Create a supportive environment through a 3 days Information, Education and Communication (IEC) approach,
- Carry out Communication Advocacy through a public hearing with stakeholders.

The project started in 2014 with sensitisation, advocacy and IEC activities and continued in the year under review with Communication for Advocacy through a public hearing with stakeholders.

Another key success of the project was the launching of the Bakassi Women for Peace Task Force (BAWOPETAF) as presented below:

BAWOPETAF	No. of Members	President
Idabato	12	Favour Prudencia Mbelle
Kombo Itindi	8	Mispah Awah Ataba
Bamusso Maritime	7	Helen Motomba

LONGTERM IMPACT

Long term impact of the project is as follows:

- A culture of sustained peace is instilled in Bakassi
- Peaceful coexistence between Cameroonians and Nigerians living in Bakassi
- Empowerment of female leaders in decision making within Bakassi;
- Women including their children and families live happily in a favourable environment.

The table below better illustrates project activities for the year under review and the results obtained:

Specific objectives	Activities	Results obtained (Beneficiaries)					
		Primary			Secondary		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Sensitise the beneficiary communities in three councils through advocacy meetings	Community mobilisation and sensitisation	0	188	188	1632	1844	3476
	Communication for advocacy meetings	0	96	52	146	173	319
Create a supportive environment through Information, Education and Communication Sessions (IEC)	IEC session	0	52	52	283	97	381
Carry out Communication Advocacy through a Public Hearing	Public hearing forum	+100	+250	+350			

FOLLOW-UP OF BIP AND C2D PROJECTS

Reach Out Cameroon is a member of the Dynamique Citoyenne (DC), a national network of Cameroon Civil Society Organizations that are Trade Unions, Associations, Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and faith-based organisations whose overall goal is to contribute to improving the living conditions of the population, their effective involvement in the governance and respect for human rights.

The specific objectives of Dynamique Citoyenne are to promote good governance by the independent monitoring of public policies and strategies for cooperation by citizens, to stimulate citizen awakening, to promote social mobilization and to ensure respect for human rights and public freedoms.

To achieve its objectives, members of CSOs Dynamique Citoyenne adopted the following modes of action:

- Advocacy/ lobbying
- Public demonstrations, marches, sit-ins
- Public debates, alternative fora
- Independent investigations, alternative reports
- Annual conferences

One of DC's key objectives is to carry out independent monitoring of public policies and cooperation strategies through the state budget.

The independent follow-up of public investment budget is an activity that DC has been implemented for over five years now with REO spearheading such actions here in the South-West Region.

Following the terms of reference from Dynamique Citoyenne (DC) through its focal point at the regional level, members of the DC network carried out independent monitoring of local projects funded within the framework of the 2014 and 2015 Public Investment Budget (PIB).



Construction and equipping of Gov't School Great Soppo I



Based on the distribution of roles, Reach Out Cameroon was assigned the responsibility to independently monitor projects in the Buea municipality within the basic education sector, to watch and analyse the implementation of PIB projects at local levels, to come up with pertinent proposals relating to social dialogue, advocacy actions and lobbying to promote change for the benefit of local communities, and to sensitize, mobilize and question decision-makers on the gaps identified on the field.

Some abandoned projects observed:



The following projects were monitored by REO:

S/N	Description	Location	Project Amt (FCFA)
2014			
1.	Construction of one block of two classrooms	G.S Boanda	16,000,000
2.	Equipping of classroom with 60 benches	G.S Boanda	1,800,000
2015			
3.	Rehabilitation of Classrooms	G.S Bonduma	4,900,000
4.	Construction of one block of two classrooms	G.S Great Soppo	20,000,000
5.	Equipping of classroom with 60 benches	G.S Great Soppo	1,800,000
6.	Construction of one block of two classrooms	G.S Boanda	20,000,000
7.	Equipping of classroom with 60 benches	G.S Boanda	1,800,000

WEALTH CREATION

Improving lives &
creating
opportunities for
women and youth.



WEALTH CREATION

INTRODUCTION

Reach Out Cameroon's wealth creation (livelihood) programme is focused on providing support to the poor and vulnerable sections of the community, especially women and girls, to enable them to attain viable livelihoods, develop capabilities and improve on their purchasing power.

REO works to see that household incomes are improved through the establishment of micro-projects and micro-credit operations so that beneficiaries become self-reliant in their communities.



Our programmes focus towards self-empowerment of beneficiaries through promotion of entrepreneurship in micro, small and mid-sized ventures, transforming vulnerable persons into independent income generators.

Our attention through the strategic plan is focused on encouraging women's economic engagement and empowerment by helping women to overcome financial barriers, by building their productive capabilities, by improving their positions within homes and communities, by developing multiple assets and by fostering the development of a participatory value chain.



A summary of the activities of the Wealth Creation department from January to December 2015 are reflected herein.

PROJECTS CARRIED OUT

WOMEN WORKING FOR WOMEN TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SYSTEMS AGAINST HIV AND AIDS IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION OF CAMEROON



AIDS stigma and discrimination exist worldwide, although they manifest themselves differently across communities, religious groups and individuals. They occur alongside other forms of stigma and discrimination such as stigma based on physical appearance. Economic empowerment of this group of people is, the most powerful tool to eradicate stigma and discrimination.

It is for the above reasons that Reach Out Cameroon was awarded a contract by the African Women's Development Fund in August 2014. This fund which is based in Ghana is the first pan-African women's grant maker on the continent and has now been working for women's rights and philanthropy across Africa for more than 10 years the project sought to strengthen Women's Voices in the fight against stigmatisation and discrimination and to reduce women's risk/ vulnerability to HIV and AIDS through economic empowerment activities in Fako, Ndian and Meme Divisions of the South West region by 2016. The following issues were of special concern:

- Sensitize the community on HIV and AIDS anti stigma and discrimination through advocacy talks
- Produce a video documentary for best practice sharing on successful micro projects
- Coach cooperatives of women living with HIV on start-up and management of small businesses
- Provide start-up capital for members of three at risk/ socially excluded groups of women and girls

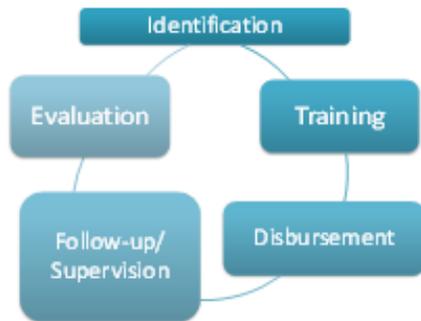


In the presence of administrative and local authorities, the sum of 3,600,000 Francs was handed over to the three groups. They include fourteen women from the Solidarity Association in Kumba, eighteen from the Hope is Rising Association (HIRASSO) group in Buea and fifteen from Women Of Hope, Ekondo-Titi. Each beneficiary received the sum of 70,000 F from the Hope is Rising Association group in Buea, and 80,000 F were given to the beneficiaries of the Solidarity Association in Kumba.



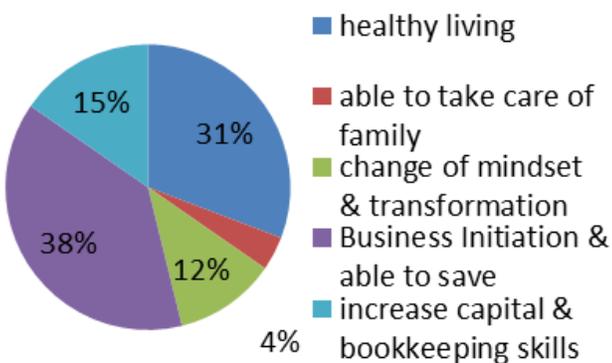
The target groups involve three women-headed associations of both HIV/ AIDS infected and affected women in Ndian and Meme Divisions of the South West region.

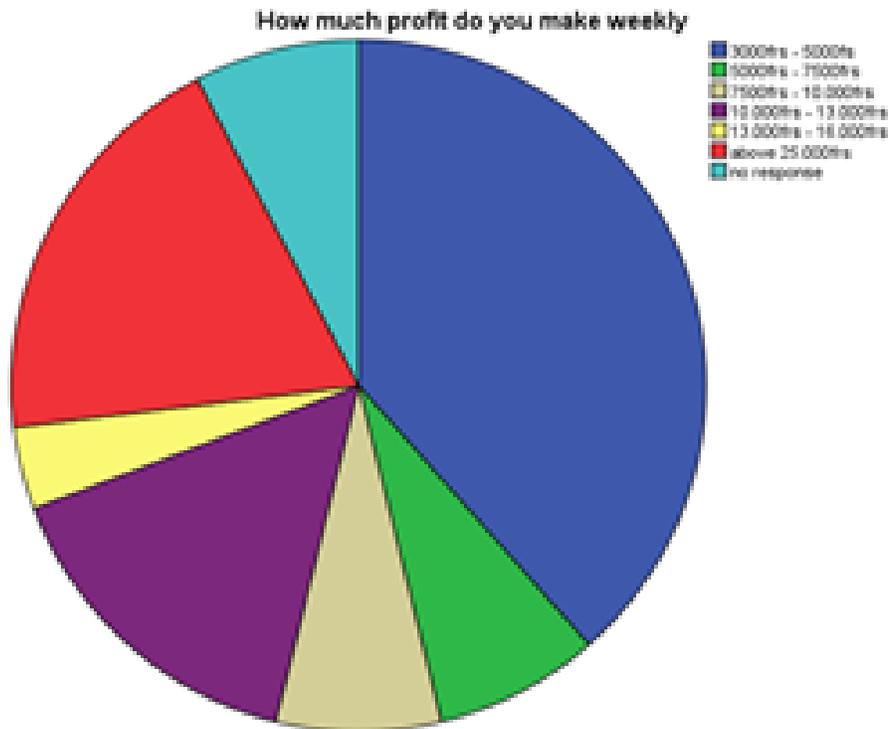
STRATEGY PUT INTO ACTION



ACHIEVEMENTS

- The target group members (47 beneficiaries) acquired knowledge and skills on bookkeeping, basic business management and group dynamics
- A video documentary produced for best practice sharing targeting successful past micro projects boost the self-esteems of beneficiaries in handling stigma and managing small businesses
- Practical lessons taught on nutrition and on immune builders, cough syrups, blood tonics from locally source recipes
- Advocacy actions with health and administrative authorities carried out to address the following:
 - Rudeness, arrogance and ill-treatment towards clients by health personnel at the treatment Centres
 - Corruption and financial malpractices by health personnel
 - Forced and frequent visits of clients despite their financial vulnerability.
- Field visits revealed that women are gradually getting out of poverty as 42% of the women confessed that they are able to save between 3000-5000 FRS (\$6-\$10) on a weekly basis while 8% are able to save above 15,000 francs (\$20)
- 90% of the women confirmed that this project enabled them to fight stigma personally





LESSONS LEARNT

- Advocacy meeting proved to be a very effective tool when beneficiaries' were assisted to formulate their claims.
- Follow-up and one on one coaching sessions are necessary to ensure appropriation of lessons learned.
- Work still remains to be done to fight stigma and improve self-confidence of beneficiaries.



Watching video documentary by Women of Hope, Ekondo-Titi



Training on nutritional counselling



President HIRASO, denouncing stigma suffered by the group

KEEP A GIRL ALIVE PROGRAM (KGA)

The KGA is an on-going program which started in 2011 with the purpose of empowering young vulnerable women aged between 18 and 32 years in the South-West region with economic development, making them self-sufficient, and active actors in their communities through trainings on income generating activities combined with small grants as start-up capital (sentence too long). The funding for this project comes through the GlobalGiving platform that allows individual donors all over the world to be connected with local NGOs through open donations that are made. This year, great impacts were made in the lives of many beneficiaries as their lives changed from grass to grace.



Some beneficiaries of Tole, after receiving seed capital



Establishment of saloon for Perpetua Itsa at Mile 16

This year, the department followed up with beneficiaries, who had previously received start-up capital, and also disbursed additional seed-capital to excelling beneficiaries following the results of the assessment exercise, and also to the extreme vulnerable cases. Furthermore, trainings with new groups were conducted on business management and economic opportunities. All these were undertaken to improve their livelihood for better community integration.



Mirabel at Mile 16 excelling in her petty business

ACHIEVEMENTS

Amongst the many girls who were empowered, the most remarkable ones include the following:

- Suzan Bekolo in Tole was selected for a series of grants due to her extremely vulnerable situation.
- Provided a new sewing machine with accessories to Abba Blandine in Tole
- Two hair dressing saloons constructed and equipped for Perpetua Itsa and Becky Ablaba in Bolifamba (Mile 16)

- Restoration of Lovelyn Mbi's life whose house and all belongings got burnt and was reduced to zero. She was provided with a One Year rent and the house equipped with basic furniture and equipment. She was also provided with cash (50,000 francs) as seed capital for business start-up and further paid school fees for her three children
- Construction of a temporal business site for Florence Mbi (a blind single woman with four kids in Tole) for her puff puff and beans selling business
- Trained eight beneficiaries from the Single Mothers Association in Tole on economic opportunities for groups and on business management
- Provided seed capital of 150,000 francs to the Ladies Association for Christian Education (Bokoko) group to support their agricultural ventures



Handing over a sewing machine and accessories to Blandine Abba in Tole

ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER MICRO PROJECTS

PIGGERY PROJECT

In a bid to increase the standard of living of vulnerable women and youths in the community, Reach Out Cameroon has carried out a piggery project, titled “Improving Livelihoods for the Poor through Improved Pig Farming Techniques” which was funded by an international volunteer through funds raised in the USA. This helped to assist the community by donating two (female and male) piglets to vulnerable families for continuous multiplication, which is to help improve on their living condition within the family and within society as a whole. The activity was also supported by the Ministry of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (MINPMEESA) who donated the sum of 2,000,000 FCFA to Reach Out Cameroon in July 2014.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Two piglets were donated to a beneficiary of the KGA program, a vulnerable family in Tole to help to support and improve on their livelihood within the community. Continuity will be ensured through “Passing on the gift” as during each farrow by the pig, two piglets will also be donated to other vulnerable families, with REO identifying the beneficiaries
- Currently, over 35 pigs and piglets are being fattened in the pen and others are on gestation

FISH POND PROJECT “TO KEEP AN ORPHANAGE ALIVE”

In order to improve the living condition of orphans at the Mah Di’s orphanage, two fish ponds were constructed at the orphanage land which was earmarked suitable for the project. This is to serve as one of its income generating activities, a sustainable solution to make the orphanage financially independent. The project will go a long way to improve on the living standard and protein intake of the orphans in the orphanage.



MICRO CREDIT OPERATIONS

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSAL ESSENTIAL SERVICES

There will be higher quality and quantity of financial flows that target poverty and inequality, and empower citizens, especially women, to hold governments, donors and the private sector to account for how revenue is raised and spent. More women, men, girls and boys will exercise their right to universal quality health and education services, making them full participants in their communities and strengthening the economic, social and democratic fabric of their societies.

Provision of seed capital through loans was carried out to eight women of the Charity Sisters in Tole as a request from the women themselves and the group executive posing as a guarantor of the loan with an objective to improve on the living conditions of the target members. Repayments are still on-going with deadlines being respected by all the beneficiaries. So far, about 37.5% of the repayments have been done by the women.

The seven women beneficiaries are as follows:

S/N	Name	Type of Business
1.	Nfor Susan	Vegetable business
2.	Belinda Chuo Kum	Provision store in Tole
3.	Ngwa Neba Bridget	Table shop/Poultry
4.	Ngum Justina	Poultry/Cassava business
5.	Beri Judith	Owens an off license
6.	Miranda Sih	Smoked Fish
7.	Ashu Ache	Provision



FUNDRAISING, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION

REO expanded its fundraising initiatives and explored new revenue opportunities in the year under review. REO has partnerships with, and receives grants from, a large number of international institutions and entities in Cameroon. These grants are usually earmarked for particular projects. REO also applies for institutional funding by submitting proposals that are in line with our strategic plan, and provides reports and other feedback to the donors.

Additional channels of digital publicity, marketing and direct mailing were explored - with positive outcomes. The efforts resulted in an increase of our corporate donor base by 25%. Our corporate partnerships were strengthened, new alliances formed and innovative methods of need-based marketing through the GlobalGiving platform were used. Collaborations with long-term partnerships in new projects were explored and existing commitments reaffirmed.

A UK-based board member of REO also raised funds for the organization through trail-walking, an endurance event done through walking or running several kilometers in a limited time and, by so doing, raising funds for REO's work. She battles exhaustion and rough terrain, usually getting a few blisters along the way.

Other past volunteers back in their respective countries mobilized families and friends through social events to raise funds which are channeled back to REO for targeted activities instituted during their stay in REO.

Through building long-term partnerships with our institutional donors, we are able to hold strategic dialogues with them, and help to influence the allocation of international aid in the interests of the poorest and most vulnerable people.

The communication strategy focused on increasing awareness, building engagement with our stakeholders and strengthening the resource mobilisation. We also worked towards increasing REO's visibility, presence and reach through various initiatives.

The 'BE WITH US' newsletter, our visually powerful volume, which chronicles the remarkable changes in the lives of our target beneficiaries and populations, and shows an enhancement in their capabilities and opportunities, was published and distributed once in every two months.

REO will continue to look for ways to increase our income. As part of the new Strategic Plan, a new internal growth strategy has been developed, outlining our vision and priorities for fundraising. From 2016 onward, we will reinforce our fundraising by expanding into new markets, and by pursuing new opportunities in institutional funding, and a coordinated best practice approach to humanitarian fundraising and committed giving and proposal writing.

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

COLLABORATION(S)/ COOPERATION(S)

GRASS ROOT COLLABORATION(S)/ COOPERATION(S)

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 the state administration 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 government structures, NGOs and associations.

With sectoral ministries, embassies and corporates, REO joined forces to promote gender equity at home and at the work place through workshops, and public march in celebrating the International Women Day celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child; the International Democracy Day etc.

With the North-South and South-South cooperation, we received Dr.Jürgen Bertold Maier and Mrs. Birgit Körber, from Germany who donated some medical items to the Reach Out Health Centre in Mbalangi (Mbonge sub-division) with the purpose of establishing a working relationship and active partnership.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION(S) / COOPERATION(S)

We established and maintained partnership with the following international structures:

- Reach Out Cameroon is Relay Organisation for the European Union Civil Society Strengthening Programme in Cameroon for the South-West Region. (PROGRAMME D'APPUI À LA SOCIETE CIVILE-PASC)
- PROVARESC
- Regional Promoter of La Dynamique Citoyenne (DC), a national network that rallies organisations involved in budget tracking of state institutions and projects
- Advisory role to the South-West Civil Society Network (SWECSON) after being the pioneer Treasurer
- Coordinator of Coalition of Women Headed Organisations in the South West Region (COWHOSW)
- Advisory position to the Cameroon Alliance for Voluntary Organisations in Development (CAVOD)
- Member of the Regional Committee to Follow-up the Growth and Employment Strategy within the Region
- Member of the South West Regional Consultative FORUM (Farmers Platform)
- Member in consultative status with the United Nations NGO and European Union Civil Society for grants
- National Community-driven Development Programme
- National Employment Fund
- Member of the USA Embassy Civil Society Working Group

OVERVIEW ON STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES



The participatory approach was very useful in getting everyone on board REO's programs this year again. A lot of lobbying and advocacy was carried out and this resulted in many achievements.

- Technical and Financial Partners played a strategic role in our institutional and organizational development
- Institutionalized Monday evaluation/planning meetings increased effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery
- International community sharing through volunteerism and consultancy by both national and international volunteers once again increased - once again - commitment and dedication for greater output and better results. It also improved organizational best practices
- Relocating our permanent structure gave us a conducive working environment. Absence of long term funding hindered our move towards sustainability

CONCLUSION

Major strides were recorded this year and we are proud to have been part of the solution of mobilising people, mostly our beneficiaries, towards fighting against poverty, social injustices, rights abuses, poor health behavioural patterns and to better and serene lives. Work will continue using the community centred approach for a more inclusive participation and appropriation of actions by our beneficiaries. The Board of Directors of REO which met twice this year to set policies will continue giving us the support we need to set standards that work for the organisation in meeting its assigned mission and goal.

PROCESS MONITORING

Processes for involvement of affected stakeholder groups in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs;

Mechanisms for feedback and complaints in relation to programs and policies and for determining actions to take in response to breaches of policies;

System for program monitoring, evaluation and learning, (including measuring program effectiveness and impact), resulting changes to programs, and how they are communicated;

Measures to integrate gender and diversity into program design, implementation, and the monitoring, evaluation, and learning cycle;

Processes to formulate, communicate, implement, and change advocacy positions and public awareness campaigns;

Processes to take into account and coordinate with the activities of other actors.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND LABOUR

Put in place initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reductions, and to mitigate environmental impacts of products and services;

Mechanism for workforce feedback and complaints, and their resolution as well as updating the volunteer country and location chart, and further institute another for in country staff.

STAFF ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

To live our values, REO will ensure staff are fully informed and actively engaged with organizational issues and developments. There are a number of tools for internal communication that are used. There are plans to run an intranet system connecting all offices and also update and elaborate more policies, information, reports and stories from our work. There are plans to re-launch the monthly e-newsletter for staff and

stakeholders for which all teams give input every week, and which includes an update from the Executive Director. Regular communiqués will also emanate from the Senior Management Team to staff about recent discussions and decisions taken.

Externally, our websites are bursting with the latest news, campaigns, information about our work and ways to be actively involved in REO's mission. Plans have been instituted to ensure review and regular update of the website so as to showcase up-to-date reports of activities carried out.

ATTACHEMENTS

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

A. STAFF LIST, VOLUNTEERS AND CONSULTANTS FOR 2014

S/N	NAME OF STAFF	BACKGROUND	POSITION
1	Mrs. Omam Esther Njomo	B.A. (Hons) English/ French, Diploma in institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening, Civil Society Management, Development practitioner, MBA in Humanities	Executive Director
2	Mr. Mosenge Hans Efesoa	B.Sc. Management, Diploma in institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening, Civil Society Management, Development practitioner	Operations Manager
3	Mr. Mark Awantoh A.	B.Sc. Accounting (ACCA Part II)	Finance Officer
4	Ngwa Elvis Tangie	B.Sc. Sociology and Anthropology/Political Science and Public Administration	Programs and Communications Officer
5	Miss Ngo Bibaa Lundi-Anne Omam	M.Sc. in Micro-Biology	Head of HIV & AIDS Department
6	Miss Modjenpa Bibiche	M.Sc. Botany	Head of Wealth creation Department and Microcredit Coordinator
7	Miss Joyce Ubanako Akuriya	B.Sc. Women and Gender Studies	Head of Gender and Capacity Building Department
8	Miss Nyandoh Paho Tadfor	B.Sc. Journalism and Mass Communication	Administrative Assistant
9	Miss Mbey Lucy	B.Sc. Sociology and Anthropology	Wealth Creation Department
10	Mr. Tabi George	B.Sc. in Law and Political Science/Diploma in NGO formation and Management	Health Department, Community Facilitator

11	Miss Azah Kelly Azeeh	B.Sc. Sociology and Anthropology	Health Department
12	Mr. Kudiang Wilson	Professional Driver's License	Chief Logistician
13	Miss Tijang Belinda Ngang	BSc in Accounting	Finance Assistant
14	Miss Swiven Divine	Professional Driver's License	Logistician
15	Miss Halecine Anong Azah	Cameroonian	Student on Internship
16	Miss Bate Tamara Ma-Mbu	Cameroonian	Student on Internship

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

S/n	Name of Volunteer	Country	Programme
17	Mr. Serna Rius Marc	Spain	Wealth Creation
18	Mr. Jan Michael Lukas Meyling	Germany	Wealth Creation
19	Miss Fenja Lena Bremer	Germany	Health Department
20	Miss Mona Wischhoff	Germany	Health Department
21	Mr. Janis Julian Körber	Germany	North-South partners (Donated medical items to the Reach Out Health Centre based in Mbalangi)

B. ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF THROUGH

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
Omam Njomo Esther	Resource Mobilisation Workshop	EMEX	AWDF	18 th -20 th March	Mountain Hotel Buea	Strategies for fundraising learned
	Civil Society Forum for Central Africa	COSADER	Partnership for Development Effectiveness	26-28 th March	Conference Center - Yaounde	Civil Society; A development Actor with full rights in Central Africa viz challenges for regional integration
	Restitution Meeting on Public and Private Partnerships	AGESFO	PASC	29 th April	Toung'ou Hotel Yaounde	Reach Out's contributions on subject matter where integrated in the document
	African Media Barometer Advocacy and Restitution Meeting	<u>Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung</u> Foundation (FES) Foundation	<u>Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung</u> Foundation (FES) Foundation	30 th April	Hotel La Falaise Yaounde	Reach Out inputs have been integrated in the final copy
	Coherence Development Workshop	PASC	PASC	30 th June – 2 nd July	MICOTEL Hotel Edea	Presented our best practices for the project with Bakassi women and our experiences as a Relay Organisation
	Governance and Leadership Workshop	Care Cameroon	Initiative 5%	7 th – 10 th July	Monastery Yaounde	New methods on leadership learned with an action plan drafted
	Global Women in Management Program: Advancing Women's Economic Opportunities	Plan USA	EXXon Mobil	24 th July – 22 nd August	Southern Sun Cape Hotel- Cape Town – South Africa	Came back with an action plan to follow
	Resource Mobilisation Booth Camp	AWDF	AWDF	14 th – to 17 th September	Protea Hotel Johannesburg- South Africa	Returned with REO's first draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy
Omam Njomo Esther, Mosenge Hans Efesoa & Ngo Bibaa Lundi	New Business Development	CBC	Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation	22 nd -23 rd October	Yaounde	Resource Mobilisation workshop

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
Anne Omam						
Omam Njomo Esther	Follow Up workshop: Dissemination of MINEE Water Management Tools	GIZ PADDL	GIZ PADDL	2 nd November	Limbe II council Hall	Given 05 USB keys with water management tools information saved in.
	Civil Society Sensitisation Day on Program Budget	PLANOSCAM	EU/ MINFI	17 th – 18 th November	Mont Febe- Yaounde	Given some hard copies of the program budget leaflets for dissemination
Awantoh Mark A.	Monitoring, coaching and discussions with programme stakeholders in the South- West Region	PASC-Yaounde	EU	18 th March 2015	Capitol Hotel, Buea	Discussions on challenges and proposed solutions to improve execution and justification
	Award of PEPFAR Grants by Ambassador Michael Hoza and workshop on execution modalities	US Embassy, Yaounde	PEPFAR	21th April 2015	US Embassy Yaounde	Award of PEPFAR small grants to REO and other CSOs
	Workshop on Public finance and governance	PASC-Yaounde		Eu	22 nd – 23 rd July 2015	Hill Top Hotel Bamenda
Modjenpa Bibiche Noukeme	Renforcement de la société civile pour l'amélioration de la qualité et de la gouvernance locale dans le cadre des subventions du Fonds mondial au Cameroun	Care Cameroon	FEI	4 th – 8 th May, 2015	Akena Hotel, Douala	Participants were trained on how they can
	Atelier de Formation des acteurs du LONOSO sur le leadership, Le plaidoyer et le coaching	Care Cameroon	FEI	22nd-25th September 2015	Akena Hotel City, Douala	
	Institutional Capacity Building (ICAB)	Cameroon Baptise Health Services	Global Fund	7 th – 10 April	Bamenda	4 days' work shop on training of CBOs on Community HIV/PMTCT sensitisation and mobilisation
	Atelier de Restitution de l'Etude et de planification du Programme de Plaidoyer sur les investissements publics au Cameroun	PLATEFORME DESC CAM		4th to 6th August, 2015	Monastere de benedictins du Mont Febe	

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
Modjenpa Bibiche Noukeme	Building the capacity of CSOs in the Southwest Region to monitor both Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and their ensuing Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP)	Environmental Governance Initiative (EGI)		9 th to 11 th December 2015	Vianello Hotel, Kumba	Participants were drilled on the steps of conducting Environmental and social Impact assessment (ESIA) and how they can monitor an (ESIA) plan
Marc Serna Rius	Capacity building training on Resource Mobilisation	AWDF	AWDF	17 th -20 th March	Mountain Hotel, Buea	Capacity Building on Resource Mobilisation
	General Assembly of the Regional Network of Human Rights Organizations (RNHRO)	RNHRO	RNHRO	26 th June	APWCR Limbe	Constitution of the Regional Coordination Team
	10th Anniversary of the Cameroon Association of Media Professionals (CAMP)	CAMP	U.S.A Embassy	12 th December	Semme Beach Hotel, Limbe	Briefing on CSO response to insecurity challenges. Launching of The Advocate Newspaper
Tijang Belinda Ngang, Mosenge Hans Efesoa, Awantoh Mark & Bibaa Elise Carine	Four days' workshop on Financial Management and Governance	CBCHS	PACF	27/04/15- 30/04/15	Nkwen Baptist Centre, Bamenda	Improve Financial Management and Governance issues among CBOs and CSOs for better reporting

C. FINANCIAL REVIEW