



REACH OUT  
CAMEROON

# ANNUAL REPORT



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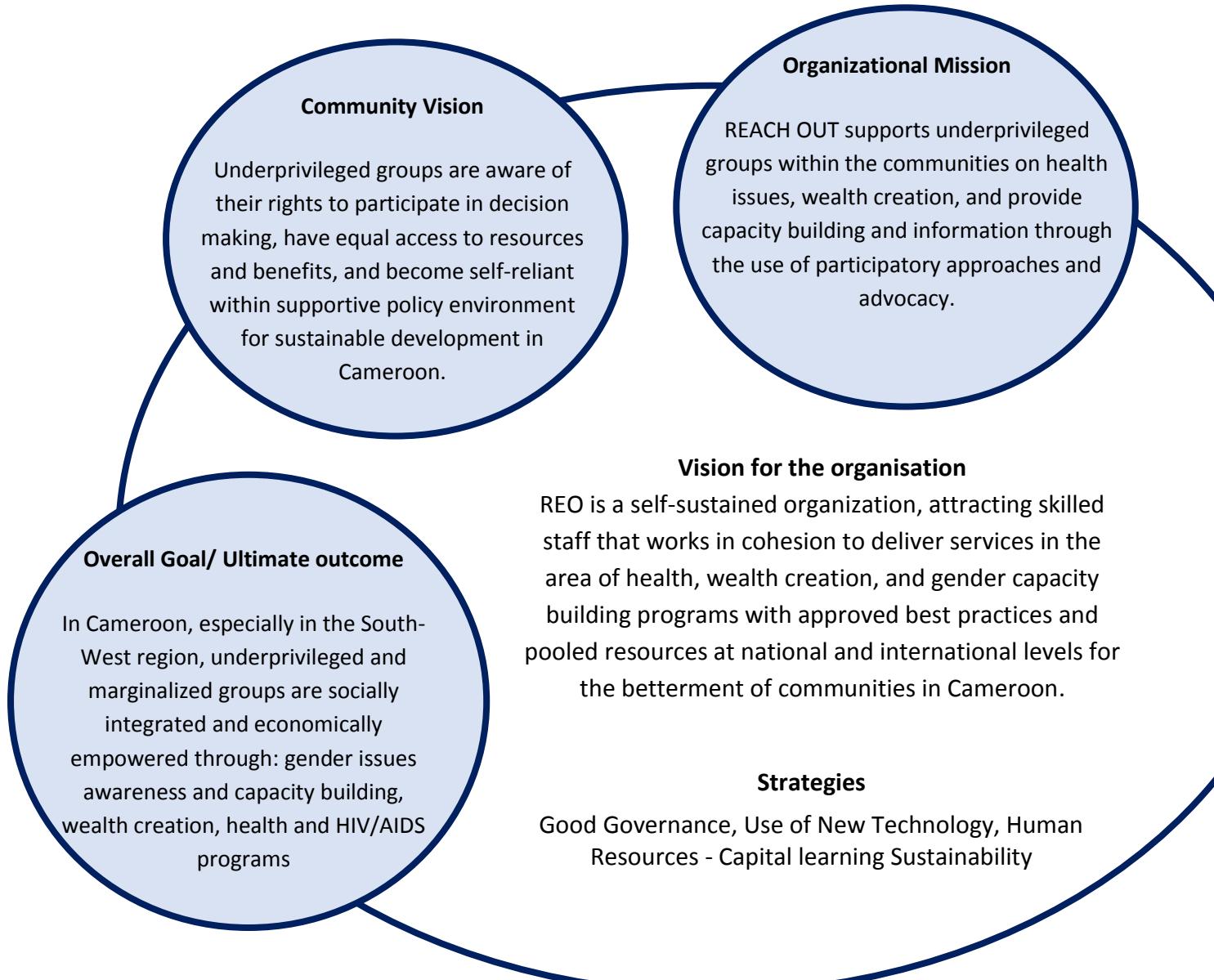
## ABBREVIATIONS

ACWW	Associated Country Women of the World
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<b>ACMS</b>	Association for Social Marketing
<b>ACTEE</b>	Projet Action Citoyenne pour la Transparence et l'Equite Electorale Au Cameroun (Citizen Action for Transparency and Fair Elections in Cameroon)
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>BCC</b>	Behaviour Change Communication
<b>CESO</b>	Canadian Executive Service Overseas
<b>CBOs</b>	Community-Based Organisations
<b>CIGs</b>	Common Initiative Groups
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>CRC</b>	Citizen Reporting Cards
<b>CDP</b>	Council Development Plan
<b>CCPA</b>	Citizen Control for Public Action
<b>CWA</b>	Catholic Women Association
<b>CWF</b>	Christian Women Fellowship
<b>DMO</b>	District Medical Officer
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FABASSO</b>	Faith Building Association
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>GFATM</b>	Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
<b>HAMC</b>	Health Area Management Committee
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immune Virus
<b>HSPC</b>	Health Services Partner Cameroon
<b>KGA</b>	Keep a Girl Alive
<b>LLINS</b>	Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets
<b>MINAS</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs
<b>MINEPAT</b>	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development
<b>MBOSCUA</b>	Mbororo Social, Cultural and Development Association
<b>NMCP</b>	National Malaria Control Programme
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization

<b>PASC</b>	Programme d'Appui à la Société Civile (Civil Society Strengthening Programme)
<b>PASOC</b>	Programme d'Appui a la Structuration de la Societe Civile (Support Program for the Structuring of the Civil Society)
<b>PMTCT</b>	Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission
<b>PNDP</b>	Program National de la Developpement Participative (National Community-driven Development Programme)
<b>PR</b>	Principal Recipient
<b>RBM</b>	Roll Back Malaria
<b>REO</b>	Reach Out Cameroon
<b>RO</b>	Relay Organizations
<b>RTG</b>	Regional Technical Group
<b>SIHOP</b>	Sisters of Hope
<b>SWR</b>	South West Region
<b>SR</b>	Sub Recipient
<b>STIs</b>	Sexually Transmissible Infections
<b>SUFI</b>	Scaling Up Malaria Control for Impact
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>YEP</b>	Youth Engagement Programme
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children Fund
<b>PW</b>	Pregnant women
<b>ANC</b>	Ante natal clinic
<b>LTFU</b>	Lost to follow up
<b>HEI</b>	HIV exposed infants
<b>PCR</b>	Polymecrase chain reaction
<b>SWRDPH</b>	South West Regional Delegation of Public Health
<b>TBA</b>	Traditional birth attendant
<b>MARPs</b>	Most at risks populations

## VISION FOR THE ORGANIZATION



### Why Women and Youths

In Cameroon, REO focuses on the empowerment of women and youths because they are disproportionately affected by poverty and discrimination; suffer abuse and violations in the realisation of their rights, entitlements, and access and control over resources.

Also experience shows that, when equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities overcome poverty, marginalization and social injustice.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

REO's comprehensive strategic vision for programmes and projects for 2017 includes:

### Health & HIV/AIDS Program

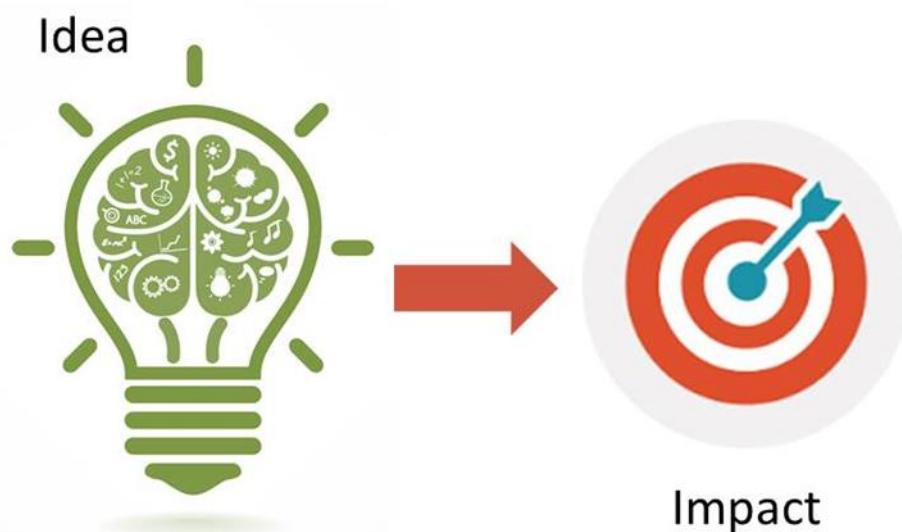
- Communities adopt a positive approach to health and health seeking behaviour for improved quality of life
- Orphans and vulnerable children have increased access to essential needs (medical, nutritional, educational and psychosocial support)

### Human Rights and Governance

- Stakeholders and communities adopt human rights sensitive approaches through increased capacity to ensure effective participation of all in development within their communities for improved livelihoods and peaceful cohabitation

### Wealth creation

- Household incomes are improved through establishment of micro-projects, promotion of sustainable agriculture and micro-credit operations, so that beneficiaries become self-reliant in their communities



## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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.

REO is governed by a Board of Directors and a Management Team who are chosen based on competencies and needs of the organization. The office operates with a staff capacity of 20+ people including volunteers (national and international) divided into 3 departments headed by Department Heads; an Operations Manager in charge of Project Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation an Administrative Assistant; a Communications Officer; a Finance Officer and a Finance Assistant/Cashier. The managers are answerable directly to the Executive Director through the Operations Manager. There is also the post of an Assistant Executive Director, who in the absence of the Executive, oversees the smooth running of organisational activities. The organizational 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 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.

Sustainable development entails the putting together of the limited resources at the disposal of people for positive achievements to humanity. In this quest, REO 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 women are an indispensable asset to the development of every society and should not be left out in the race for globalization and sustainable development.

REO strives to make the world a better place for our women, children and future generations of 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 for a sustained development. REO therefore envisages activities that will grant individuals and

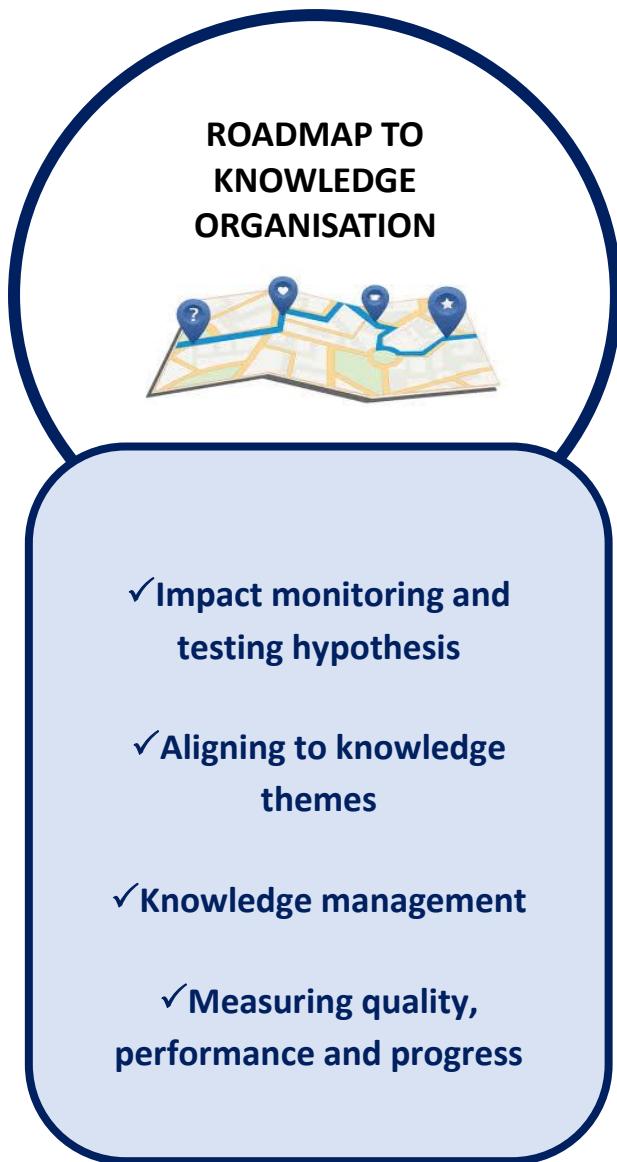
communities greater autonomy in life, improve on their living conditions (status), and transform their lives and that of posterity.

REO's purpose is to advance its core mission and vision. Its mission is achieved on a daily bases 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 currently a major focus.

In order to consistently meet its goals, an organization such as REO 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 for 2016-2020 was reviewed and a new vision, mission and strategic actions were developed to meet up with its new strategic focus. A Resource Mobilisation Strategy document was developed to facilitate the goals of collaboration and of pulling resources together for the advancement of our collective good. It articulates the vision and planned activities of REO in the next three years and the role development partners can play in forging the common agenda of development.

## **Developing a knowledge base for an equitable society: Embedding different aspects of knowledge in our organisation**



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

The model helps in examining the social changes that have occurred by testing alternate hypothesis, monitoring the quality of our programmes and projects, 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 building 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 enlist the steps on the roadmap towards a knowledge organisation. This has been instrumental in strengthening our long term programme shift, which has guided the organisational development.

This present report is an embodiment of the initiatives conceived and implemented in the year 2017 with the strategic plan as the blue print for the attainment of our focus of making the world a better place for all, taking into consideration its ultimate outcomes and expected results.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR GOALS

Our programmes executed this year increased community knowledge and awareness of the plight of children, teens, youths, single mothers, widows, and other vulnerable persons in our target communities. These provided encouragement and support to our activities with a focus on HIV prevention, care and support services for people living with HIV & AIDS, orphans and children in distress, gender, education and training, civil society strengthening, communal and community development, good governance and citizenship, promoting green enterprise, micro projects and credit delivery, and advocacy activities.



Through building on our experiences and emerging challenges, REO is adopting new and effective ways of maximising funding for sustainable socioeconomic growth of our target populations. We have identified operational goals that will change the way we work together in the future, including our programming, use of learning, skills in working with diverse stakeholders, policy development, how we obtain and use our income and our accountability.

Activities in 2017 are generated through an assessment of 2017 operational plan geared towards achieving the global objectives of our current 2016 - 2020 strategic plan. Developed goals are to focus on changing the world and to end the injustice of poverty; the right to be heard, advancing gender justice, saving lives, fair sharing of natural resources, micro-financing for development and guaranteeing universal access to essential services.

Overall, our projects impacted over 24,000 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 support to attain our targeted goals for 2017 through our newly developed Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

Below are the key milestones achieved through our three core pillars for the year under review:

## **HEALTH**

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### **Community leaders working for women and children to bridge the gap of PMTCT in N'dian**

- 7 community leaders (CLs) and 7 health providers selected, trained for 3 days and engaged to carryout sensitization and mobilization on HIV/AIDS and PMTCT
- 9,921 (out of 8,000 targeted) educated on PMTCT and HIV, 458 PW, 5,061 women of child bearing age and 4,402 men
- 302 home visits: 275 pregnant women were met and counselled; 198 not started ANC were referred for ANC and PMTCT services
- From the home visits 172 PW (72 health facility, 18 home-based and 82 outreach) attended at least one ANC and benefitted from PMTCT services
- A total of 177 PW (172 ANC, 5 others) were counselled and 172 PW test for HIV (72 health facility, 18 home-based and 82 outreach)
- 12 out of the 172 PW tested positive for HIV (6.98%)
- 9 PW placed on treatment
- Service providers made regular home visits to HIV+ PW, HIV+ mothers and their exposed babies; checked how well they were following the treatment protocol, reminded them of treatment appointments, PCR testing of their HEIs
- 7 LTFU HIV+ PW were identified and 4 successfully relinked to care and treatment
- PCR was done for 3 HEI (results awaited)
- Providers now provide improved ANC/PMTCT care to PW in Bakassi
- PMTCT requisitions are now being made on time; no stock outs reported since November 2016 (national stock out)
- PMTCT commodities (test kits and ARVs) are now regularly available, especially thanks to the collaboration between REO and the SWRFHP

### **Android mamas for PMTCT: adapted mhealth intervention in post conflict Bakassi – Cameroon**

- 02 planning meeting held with REO staff
- 200 information letters and 1000 project posters produced
- 04 billboard produced
- 03 contact visits and meetings held with health sector authorities at regional, divisional and district health levels
- At least 5 communities mobilized and pledged to take actions in support of PMTCT service delivery
- Key community leaders within the project target communities pledged their support to the success of the project
- At least 2,000 people sensitized and awareness increased on project objectives

### **Scale up of HIV prevention to contribute to the reduction of HIV related morbidity and mortality by 2017**

- 24 young people who are out of school (aged 15 to 24 years) were trained to carry out community sensitization and mobilization of their peers
- 415 education sessions and 1,700 young girls received education on HIV/AIDS, sex education, proper use of condoms and stigmatization
- 4,498 male and 1,039 female condoms were distributed for demonstration during group talks and also during interpersonal talk sessions with each MARPs. The peer educators demonstrate with the use of an artificial penis

### **Achieve and maintain universal coverage of interventions to fight malaria for long term impact" (Amuili) in the south west region of Cameroon**

- 72 community health workers were trained from 5 health areas of Muyuka health district on home-based management of Malaria
- Didactic materials (lamps, jackets, rapid testing kits, bags) were provided to 72 trained community health workers
- 2,880 home visits and 167 education talks on prevention of malaria, HIV and TB were given by community health workers were conducted in five health areas in Muyuka health district

### **Distribution of birthing kits**

- 700 birthing kits were distributed to health centers in Isangele, Kombo Abedimo, Idabato, Muea, Tole, Wabane, and Menji

### **Community dispensation of ARV**

- 3 REO staff were trained on techniques of community dispensation ARVs
- 18 PLWHIV expressed interesting in receiving ARV from REO
- 02 PLWHIV received ARV from REO

### **Sensitization during Mount Cameroon race of hope**

- 1,296 men and 270 women were sensitized during this event
- 3,888 male and 750 female condoms were distributed to the population present at the event ground
- 267 people did the HIV test at the event ground. Of this number, 3 people were positive and one case indeterminate

### **World AIDS day**

- Over 250 students (180 girls and 70 boys) were sensitized on HIV/AIDS related issues in Buea
- Sensitized over 100 people through a march past organized in collaboration with RTG and other CBOs

### **Playing the role of interface association between the regional public health service of the south west and other partner associations in Lebialem, Manyu and Ndian divisions**

- 16 out of the 24 CBOs were coached on the main components of a report, features of a good report and reporting format and types
- 16 CBOs and other partner associations are inspired to collaborate with key stakeholders on health from the conception to closing phase of the projects and activities
- 16 CBOs were informed of the reporting channels and the importance of them report to the appropriate quarters
- 16 CBOs and other partner associations were encouraged to participate in health areas and DHS coordination meeting

### **Training of 100 youths on SRHR in the South West region of Cameroon**

- 100 youths received lessons on sexual reproductive health

### **Youth engagement program**

- 121 youths were mobilised and gained knowledge on basic health, hygiene and sanitation, and environmental practices. 121 participants learned about the modes of transmission and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs, and reason to say no to stigma and discrimination
- 121 participants understood the basics of their sexuality as well as the risk of early sexual intercourse
- 40 teenager female participants were coached on menstruation and menstrual hygiene and were provided with sanitary pads
- 65 teenager male and female participants were coached on sexual and reproductive health
- 121 participants received prizes and gifts (general or special) attesting their active participation in the program

### **Support to orphans and vulnerable children**

- Improvement in the management of resources at Roots for Kids Cameroon
- 15 children were successfully reintegrated with their families and 3 to another orphanage
- School fees of 18 children were paid at their different institutions
- Constructed a school of 4 classrooms for Mah Di's orphanage (Storey building, +30 children attending) valued at 1.8 million Francs CFA.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE**

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- Citizens action for the reinforcement of democracy in Cameroon
- Support project for the massive political participation of women in the 2018 elections
- Updating of Communal Development plans for the Bamusso and Ekondo Titi councils
- Community action to fight child abuse in Buea
- Enhancing youth initiatives for peace

- Strengthening CSO's on online crowd funding strategies
- National Advocacy for the revision of Cameroon's electoral code

## **WEALTH CREATION (IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS)**

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### **KGA**

- Disbursed 53 business grants to underprivileged girls
- Bookkeeping implementation rate of beneficiaries of the Keep a Girl Alive program remain at over 90%
- Average monthly profits of beneficiaries of 37,000 francs per month, 2.32 times larger than in 2014-2015 and 1.37 times larger than in 2016.

### **Greenpreneurs**

- 170 women gathered together in a Green Women Forum to learn about support programs and voice their issues in front of critical stakeholders
- Two of the participant groups (90 women) were selected to be part of the South-West Development Authority's (SOWEDA) maize's multiplication project, Receiving training, farming inputs and even 2 hectares of arable land, which addresses several of the grievances exposed, particularly access to land, but also others such as marketing (they will be selling directly to government at better than market prices)

### **Innovation challenge**

- 61 business ideas received from 48 women and 13 men and three cash prizes awarded
- 2016 finalists were followed-up, one received a business grant to create a piggery and 5 loans in partnership with the local Credit Union

### **Support to orphans and vulnerable children**

- Empowerment of 2 children of Mah Di's orphanage (Kumba) to develop poutries (125,000fr grants)
- Support to Mah Di's orphanage main poultry (1,000,000 frs grant)
- Set-up of a Palm farm in Father's House Orphanage (Muyuka) with capacity for 600 palms (500,000 francs 0% interest loan)
- Empowerment of 12 families assuming care of an underprivileged child previously staying in Roots 4 Kids Orphanage in Buea(100,000fr grants)

### **Microfinance**

- Obtained full re-payment of loans disbursed in 2016
- Disbursed loans valued at 1,500,000 francs CFA to a women group with 20 members
- Improved repayment speed

## **PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

REO's activities for the year under review involved working in cutting-edge, grassroots community-delivery programs. The results achieved are presented as follows, separated by departments.



## Health/HIV & AIDS

## **HEALTH/HIV & AIDS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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The health department of REO produced an operational plan with established goals to be achieved by the end of 2017. In this light, some projects were implemented to meet these goals. Below are projects carried out with the intermediate outcomes of the department for the year under review:

- Community Leaders working for Women and Children to Bridge the Gap of PMTCT In Ndian, South-West Region of Cameroon.
- Android Mamas for (PMTCT: Adapted MHealth Intervention in Post Conflict Bakassi - Cameroon).
- Scale up of HIV prevention to contribute to the reduction of HIV related Morbidity and Mortality by 2017.
- Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to Fight Malaria for Long Term Impact" (AMUILI) in the South-West Region of Cameroon.
- Community Dispensation of ARV.
- Sensitization during Public Event
- Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

## **PROJECT 1: COMMUNITY LEADERS WORKING FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO BRIDGE THE GAP OF PMTCT IN NDIAN DIVISION OF CAMEROON**

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### **Introduction**

After the implementation of the first phase of the project “Community Leaders Working for Women and Children to Bridge the Gap of PMTCT in Ndiān in the South-West Region of Cameroon”, there was a need for further intervention after the end of project evaluation. Thus a concept note was submitted and granted by the partner, “Positive Action for Children’s Fund (PACF)” to carry out an extension phase of the above mention project in two health areas, Isangele and Kombo Abedimo, for one year (September 2016 to August 2017).



### **Objective**

The project sought to increase the uptake of ANC from 23% to at least 40% and improve access to quality community PMTCT services by increasing community sensitization, mobilization and follow-up targeting PW, mother baby pairs, and male partners by 2017 in the Bakassi health district.

### **Achievements**

The following have been achieved during project implementation

- 07 community leaders (CLs) and 7 health providers selected, trained for 3 days and engaged to conduct sensitization and mobilization on HIV/AIDS and PMTCT
- 9,921 (out of 8,000 targeted) educated on PMTCT and HIV: 458 PW; 5,061 women of child bearing age and 4,402 men
- 302 home visits: 275 PW were met and counselled; 198 not started ANC were referred for ANC and PMTCT services
- As a result of the home visits, total of 172 PW (72 health facility, 18 home-based and 82 outreach) attended at least one ANC and benefitted from PMTCT services
- A total of 177 PW (172 ANC1, 5 others) were received and 172 PW tested for HIV (72 health facility, 18 home-based and 82 outreach)
- 12 out of the 172 PW tested positive for HIV (6.98%)
- 9 PW placed on treatment

- Service providers made regular home visits to HIV+ PW, HIV+ mothers and their exposed babies; check how well they were following the treatment protocol, reminded them of treatment appointments, PCR testing of their HEIs
- 07 LTFU HIV+ PW were identified and 4 successfully relinked to care and treatment
- PCR was done for 3 HEI (results awaited)
- Providers now provide improved ANC/PMTCT care to PW in Bakassi
- PMTCT requisitions are now being made on time; no stock outs reported since November 2016 (national stock out)
- PMTCT commodities (test kits and ARVs) are now regularly available, especially thanks to the collaboration between REO and the SWRFHP

### **Difficulties Encountered**

The following challenges were faced during project implementation;

- Some of the most populated communities are riverine and/or enclaved with insecurity issues. This explains why some targets were not met in the first half of the project
- For the non-riverine areas without insecurity problems, some PW referred to health facilities for ANC did not show up because they could not afford to pay the basic ANC fee
- Cultural and religious beliefs are still a challenge. Some PW still go to Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) and others prefer to go to neighbouring Nigeria to seek healthcare
- No personnel in Bakassi were trained in PCR sample collection; contributed in 2 HEIs missed for this purpose in the first half of the project
- Some PW who tested positive to HIV during outreaches are not yet on ARVs, due to refusal to accept status or inability to get to the HF for proper post-counselling before initiation on treatment

### **Attempted Solutions**

- REO wrote an appeal letter to the BIR to request for transportation and security services. This was granted and the BIR effectively accompanied CLs, SPs & HAs for outreaches to riverine communities
- CLs educated and collaborated with TBAs in bringing PW to the health facilities and intensified sensitization and mobilization to encourage usage of health facilities in Bakassi. REO supplied birthing kits to be given to PW during ANC to encourage PW to utilize HFs.
- REO collaborated with the PMTCT office at the SW RDPH to coach one SP, who then collected the samples of 3 HEIs in the second half of the project.

## **PROJECT 2: ANDROID MAMAS FOR (PMTCT: ADAPTED MATERNAL HEALTH INTERVENTION IN POST CONFLICT BAKASSI – CAMEROON)**

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### **Introduction**

Mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV is preventable where health services are available and accessible. In the post conflict areas of Bakassi, 77% of PW do not attend ANCs, thus increasing the risk of MTCT. Also the inaccessibility of Bakassi, the low impact of government's policy, and the rampant unwanted pregnancies in girls aged between 13 and 15 is a serious call for concern in the area, with our concern being in Idabato (Diamond, Jabane, Kombo Amunja, Ekea and Shell Creek) in Bakassi. The Bakassi Health District is served by under equipped health units which are very distant to surrounding communities and in most cases inaccessible either due to their maritime nature, kidnappings or pirate attacks. Most health interventions and programs do not reach these areas or are ineffectively carried out. Furthermore, communities' negative beliefs and traditions have played an important role in contributing to lost to follow-up (LTFU) cases of PMTCT and the promotion of HIV+ people to default treatment.



Our bold idea envisages bridging the gap between communities and health services by having more women accept ANC uptake and know their HIV status early to prevent MTCT. This innovation targets PW, mothers, women and men of reproduction age with empowering community interventions adapted to suit local reality, with the aim of saving children's lives.

### **Goal**

The main objective is to use animated video cartoon in local languages to bridge the gap between communities and health services by having more women accepting ANC uptake and knowing their HIV status early to prevent MTCT in Idabato in Ndian Division.

## Achievements

- 02 planning meeting held within REO staff
- 200 information letters and 1000 project posters produced
- 04 billboard produced
- 03 contact visits and meetings held with health sector authorities at regional, divisional and district health levels
- At least 05 communities mobilized and pledged to take actions in support of PMTCT service delivery
- Key community leaders within the project target communities pledged their support to the success of the project
- At least 2,000 people sensitized and increased in awareness created on project objectives



## Constraints/Solutions

The following difficulties were faced and solution proposed to solve these difficulties;

- Accessing all the communities was difficult as they are all maritime areas
- The insecurity of the area rendered movements within the creeks difficult. In this regard the assistance of the Rapid Intervention Battalion was sort to accompany the REO team while in the field
- Some chiefs and village elders could not read and write and consequently could not sign the project documents or the mission orders. Project staff made use of local facilitators who interpreted to the local chiefs and community leaders
- Most administrators and some sector heads were not on seat as the general tradition seen in such hinterlands and inaccessible areas. We had to get into contact with them through phone calls resulting in them delegating their assistants or other staff to preside or represent in the meetings
- In some villages, most of the villagers did not understand the local lingua-franca which is pidgin that was use as the major language for mobilization. In this regard local translators were hired in each community to facilitate the mobilization exercise

## **PROJECT 3: SCALE UP OF HIV PREVENTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REDUCTION OF HIV RELATED MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY BY 2017**

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### **Introduction**

With funds from Global fund through CAMNAFAW and PRESSE JEUNE contacted REO to implement activities to fight against HIV/AIDS in Limbe. REO identified and trained 12 young girls who are out of school to work as peer mentors in Limbe. These girls were trained on the basic principles of HIV/AIDS, sex education and other STIs. Information letters were circulated to the various stakeholders in the Limbe municipality. Contracts were signed with the 12 peer educators, and each peer educator has to organise education sessions in their various quarters and interpersonal talk with each of the participants.



### **Goal**

The main objective of this project is to contribute to the reduction of new infections to 50% from now to the end of 2017.

### **Achievement**

- 24 young people (aged 15 to 24 years) were trained to carry out community sensitization and mobilization of their peers
- 415 education sessions were held, and 1,700 young girls received education on HIV/AIDS, sex education, proper use of condoms and stigmatization
- 4,498 male and 1,039 female condoms were distributed for demonstration during group talk and also during interpersonal talk session with each MARPs. The peer educators demonstrate with the use of an artificial penis

### **Difficulties**

- Printing data collecting tools was an issue due to expense
- Some of the peer educators had problems with writing clearly
- Transportation was seen as a hindrance as there is no budgetary line for supervision from Buea to Limbe

- Language was a barrier as all data collection tools to be used by Anglophone young girls were in French
- The drugs in the health facilities were not available in the early stages, making some MARPs lose confidence in the PE
- The crisis in the country, especially the Southwest Region, contributed to the fact that most girls could not complete their education talk because of fear

### **Attempted Solutions**

- All peer educators were coached on the reporting tools, thus making it easier for them to use the reporting tools and addressing the issue of language which was a barrier
- REO advocated at the district level for drug availability at the health facilities

## **PROJECT 4: ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN UNIVERSAL COVERAGE OF INTERVENTIONS TO FIGHT MALARIA FOR LONG TERM IMPACT (AMUILI) IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION OF CAMEROON**

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### **Introduction**

Within the new Global Fund funding model, REO is one of the District Civil Society Organizations (DCSO) implementing the project “Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to Fight Malaria for long Term Impact” (AMUILI) in the South West Region of Cameroon under the direct supervision of IRESCO (Institute for Research Socio- economic Development And Communication).

In a bid to achieve this objective, REO working in the Muyuka health district will be carrying out coaching/supervisory sessions with community health workers every quarter with the Chiefs of Centress at community levels.



### **Goal**

The main goal of this project is to use Community Interventions to ensure that at least 80% of the population adopts practices that favour the promotion of healthy behaviour and the prevention and integrated management of diseases (Malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, onchocerciasis, vaccine preventable disease) at a community level.

### **Achievements**

- 72 community health workers were trained from 5 health areas of Muyuka health district on home-based management of Malaria
- Didactic materials (lamps, jackets, rapid testing kits, bags) were provided to 72 trained community health workers
- 2,880 home visits and 167 education talks on the prevention of malaria, HIV and TB were given by community health workers in 5 health areas in Muyuka health district

### **Difficulties**

- Most CHWs did not complete the reporting forms correctly
- CHWs did not understand the criteria for validation of home visits
- Procedure for home visits were not properly followed
- CHWs did know their target for each month. They were either below target or far above their target
- Some did not complete the communication and consultative registers
- Most CHWs did not refer any patients because they had not understood referral procedure
- Educational talks and advocacy were poorly carried out
- Most CHWs had not started treatment because of the late supply of medication and working materials

### **Attempted Solution**

- CHW were coached on reporting, referrals procedure and criteria for home visit validation
- CHW were reminded of their targets quarterly
- CHW were tutored on the different ways carrying out educational talks

## **PROJECT 5: COMMUNITY DISPENSATION OF ARV**

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### **Introduction**

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

### **Goal**

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

### **Achievement**

- 03 REO staff were trained on techniques of community dispensation ARVs
- 18 PLWHIV had given their concern to receive ARV from REO
- 02 PLWHIV received ARV from REO

### **Difficulties Encountered**

The following challenges were faced during project implementation;

- All reporting tools and documents were produced in French thus acting as a barrier for reporting
- Most PLWHIV still face the problem of self-stigma thus hindering them to take their medication at the community level

### **Attempted Solution**

- Some reporting tools were translated by REO staff which eased reporting
- REO staff carried out a counselling session on the importance of community dispensation of ARV with clients at the treatment centre at the Buea district hospital

## **PROJECT 6: SENSITIZATION DURING PUBLIC EVENT**

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### **a. MOUNT CAMEROON RACE OF HOPE IEC CAMPAIGN**

#### **Introduction**

The Mount Cameroon Race of Hope is an annual event, held each February, in Buea, South-West Region of Cameroon. It is a crowd pulling event that brings together athletes from within and beyond Cameroon who competitively race to climb Mount Fako. REO collaborated with the Regional Technical Group for the fight against HIV in the South-West to conduct HIV sensitization and Voluntary Counselling and Testing during this public event.

#### **Goal**

This event had as objective to create awareness on HIV thus encouraging the population to know their HIV status.

#### **Achievement**

- 1,296 men and 270 women were sensitized during this event
- 3,888 male and 750 female condoms were distributed to the population present at the event ground
- 267 people did the HIV test at the event ground. Of this number, 3 people were positive and 1 case indeterminate

### **b. WORLD AIDS DAY**

#### **Introduction**

World AIDS Day is celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> December every year. The aim is to unite people in the fight against HIV, show support to people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died of HIV/AIDS. This year's celebration was commemorated under the theme "MY HEALTH MY RIGHT". REO celebrated this day by giving educational talks to students of Government High School Bokova and in collaboration with the Regional Technical Group for the Fight against HIV in the South West Region sensitized the community on HIV/AIDS through a march past.



## **Objective**

The objective of this day was to create awareness of the existence of AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection.

## **Achievement**

The following goals were achieved during the commemoration of World AIDS day;

- Over 250 students (180 girls and 70 boys) were sensitized on HIV/AIDS related issues in Buea
- Sensitized over 100 people through a march past organized in collaboration with RTG and other CBOs

### **c. DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHING KITS**

#### **Introduction**



ANC), PMTCT uptake and service utilization in the South-West Region of Cameroon is low due to inadequate mobilization/sensitization of communities and some cultural barriers. Many PW in these rural communities are poor and do not give birth at recognised health facilities because of the cost of delivery. Many PW turn to Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) who have little or no specialization and poor equipment, therefore exposing the mother and child to infections. To improve the well-being of mothers and babies and to increase births at health facilities, REO applied to an Australian based organization “Birthing Kits Australia” for the supply of birthing kits, to be distributed to health facilities and communities.

#### **Birthing kits**

Period of arrival	May 2017	September 2017	November 2017
Quantity	200	500	800

### Break down of Quantity distributed

Health District	Health Area	Quantity
Bakassi	Isangele	32
	Kombo Abedimo	32
	Idabato	100
Fontem	Wabane, Menji, Lewoh	300
Buea	Tole	100
	CMA Muea, Mile 16, Bokova, Bova, Buea Road, Buea Town, Bokwaongo	100
Muyuka	Ekona, Malende, Muyuka, Bafia, Meanja	36
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>700</b>

### Challenges

- Lack of funds for the collection of consignments from the sea port and distribution to different health districts within REO's areas of operations
- Difficulties of communication and reception of reports from health districts such as Bakassi and Fontem



### Proposed Solutions

- Mainstream this activity in REO's interventions
- Source funding from other partners to facilitate the process
- Work in collaboration with key stakeholders such as DMO and CBH to ensure timely reports

## **PROJECT 7: PLAYING THE ROLE OF INTERFACE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL DELEGATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTING HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN LEBIALEM, MANYU AND NDIAN DIVISIONS**

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### **Introduction**



Saving lives and healthy living falls within the competence of the Ministry of Public Health and has become a concern for all. To address this, some Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and partner associations implement health projects and activities within the region. Difficulties encountered include that some of these entities 1.) do not align their projects and activities with National Health Development Plan (NHDP); 2.) do not collaborate with the health areas/district within their areas of operations; 3.) do not report or under report on their activities and 4.) do not drop copies of their reports at the health area, district or the regional delegation of public health. This has made it very difficult for district health services, such as the Regional Delegation and Ministry of Public Health, to access their impact toward attaining the NHDP 2016-2020. Therefore the Ministry of Public Health contracted REO to strengthen collaborations between CBO, partner associations and the district health services in Lebialem, Manyu and Ndian divisions.

### **Objective**

To ensure the production of services to strengthen collaborations between CBOs and the district health services in Lebialem, Manyu and Ndian divisions.

### **Achievement**

- 16 out of the 24 CBOs were coached on the main components of a report, features of a good report and report format and types
- 16 CBOs and other partner associations were inspired to collaborate with key stakeholders on health from the conception to closing phase of the projects and activities
- 16 CBOs were informed of the reporting channels and the importance of them report to the appropriate quarters

- 16 CBOs and other partner associations were encouraged to participate in health areas and DHS coordination meeting

### **Difficulties**

- Legal status of most of the CBOs are either outdated or do not align with the vision or national health plan
- Almost all the CBOs do not have an office
- Most CBOs did not understand their contribution towards the NHP
- Most CBOs do not collaborate with stakeholders on health and do not attend to present their activities
- Nigerian health district has not been trained due to the socioeconomic crisis in the North West and South West of the country. Thus the number of CBOs trained is 16

### **Proposed Solution**

- All CBOs should update their legal status and submit a copy to the DHS by the end of September
- All CBOs who are not yet register should do so by the end of September
- CBOs should compile reports of activities they have implemented on health for the past years and submit them to the DHS
- CBOs should report all health-related activities to the health area and DHS
- All CBOs should attend coordination meetings organized by the district to be keep updated with health policy
- CBOs implementing health-related projects should involve the DHS (key stakeholder) at all level of the project (initiation, planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation and closing)
- The DHS should provide CBOs with the law organizing health activities in Cameroon to help guide them on what is expected of them in the field
- CBOs should have a biannual meeting to evaluate and strengthen themselves
- CBOs organized themselves and have a common office that can harbour other CBOs that can afford an office

## **PROJECT 8: TRAINING OF 100 YOUTHS ON SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION OF CAMEROON**

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### **Introduction**



Since 2015, the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education organizes a 1-month training session for students (conscripts) ranging from 18 -21 years old in the 10 different regions of Cameroon. This is a civic service conscript training curriculum developed on the competency-based approach to different aspects of citizen's life and citizenship. To this end, it was rooted in the historical, social, cultural, political and economic realities of Cameroon in their specific manifestations at the level of each locality concerned by the training, in order to best satisfy the real training needs of conscripts.

The training of the 2017 batch of conscripts came in the context marked by the clear desire to promote bilingualism and multiculturalism, as well as the moral and civic rearmament of the populations within the framework of the three year special youth plan announced by the Head of State. This year 100 conscripts were selected from the 6 different divisions of the South West Region (Fako, Kupe-Mwanenguba, Lebialem, Meme, Manyu and Ndian), together with their monitors were lodged at Christ the King College in Tiko during the 1 month period.



### **Goal**

The main aim of this training was to provide knowledge and know how that are applicable and useful on a day-to-day basis to a conscript as a citizen invited to participate in the development of his community and to that of his country.

### **Achievements**

- 100 youths received lessons on sexual reproductive health

## PROJECT 9: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

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### Introduction



The Youth Engagement Program (YEP) is an annual summer vacation program organized by REO. For the past 9 years, we have been committed to providing alternative education in Cameroon. We want to raise the standard of what youths receive from society, and what they can give back in return. REO embraces

unconventional approaches to education, and seized this opportunity to bring youths together during the summer vacation, with the main goal of helping them develop skills to be creative and assertive adults, thereby empowering them to adopt positive behaviours and avoid dangers such as juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, and sexual activities leading to HIV/AIDS and STIs. This year the YEP sessions were organized in the Tole neighbourhood of Buea. The increasing number of children participating in this program was an indication of the positive response of parents, participants and the community to this program.



### General Objective

To help young leaders adopt positive behaviours to live healthy, happier and fulfilled lives, taking the lead in the development of their communities.

### Achievements

- 121 youths were brought together to spend time with each other, thus reducing the likelihood of them engaging in risky behaviours
- 121 participants learnt about the modes of transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs, and reasons to say no to stigma and discrimination
- The program offered activities, which helped 121 participants to understand the basics of their sexuality as well the risk of early sexual intercourse

- 40 adult female participants were coached on menstruation and menstrual hygiene and provided with sanitary pads
- 65 adult male and female participants were coached on sexual and reproductive health
- REO staff and international volunteers, and Pan African Institute for Development – West Africa (PAID-WA) interns were enthusiastic and assiduous in deploying the best of their efforts to enhance YEP
- 121 participants received prizes and gifts (general and special) attesting their active participation in the program



### **Difficulties Encountered**

- The mobilization, sensitization and registration of participants in Tole was difficult due to the adverse weather during this time of the year; heavy rain made the terrain muddy and rocky which hindered movement.
- Communication materials like banner and posters could not be produced due to insufficient funds and this limited the visibility of the program
- There were limited human resources during session to facilitate the activities. This was due to insufficient funds for transportation of REO staff to the program venue
- Due to the absence of school for the academic year 2016-2017 more participants turned out for the program; 160 participants took part in the program, compared to the 90 targeted

## **PROJECT 10: SUPPORT TO ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

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### **Introduction**



Root for Kids, located in Buea in the South-West Region of Cameroon, is a solace home for orphans and vulnerable children created in 2008 to cater for identified children whose biological parents are deceased or unwilling to care for them. This orphanage provides housing, medical, educational, nutritional and psychosocial support to 17 children (8 girls and 9 boys). In order to ensure that this orphanage is well managed and coordinated, REO signed an MOU with Root for Kids Netherlands to supervise activities carried out by this orphanage. Several consultation meetings were held with the board of directors of Roots for Kids Netherlands and other organizations in Netherlands to evaluate the impact of the children's; home on child development. This work found that the environment or homes where children live plays a large role in their development, and most children who grow up in orphanages experience difficulties such as low self-esteem, stigma, and bonding problems. It is for this reason that a decision was taken by the board of directors Netherland to reinsert all children living at Root for Kids Cameroon to their different identified families. REO was contracted to carry out this reinsertion process.

### **Objective**

Coordinate all activities carried out by Root for Kids orphanage in Cameroon.

### **Achievement**

- There was an improvement in the management of resources by staff of Root for Kids Cameroon before closure of the orphanage
- 15 children were successfully reinserted to their families and 3 to another orphanage
- School fees of 18 children were paid at their different institutions
- 11 families were economically empowered

### **Difficulties**

- Difficulties in communicating with families of children based at a resettlement village in Mundemba due to limited access to networks in that village
- Bad roads (Kumba to Mundemba) made the implementation process challenging
- The non-collaborative nature of some orphans made project execution difficult



## Human Rights and Governance

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

In 2017 the Human Rights and Governance department saw the implementation of actions that contributed towards the realization of its operational strategy and the attainment of REO's overall objective of making the world a better place for all. Characterised by an unstable socio-political environment and a countdown to an election year, the department focused on stakeholder sensitization and mobilization with an overall objective of reinforcing Cameroon's democracy through the promotion of electoral transparency and citizen participation. Human rights promotion, especially for women, girls and children, also took a central stage in our operational axis. Our governance actions were also directed towards the updating of council developments plans, creating and empowering village committees and strengthening organizations ability on crowd fund raising.

Our achievements in 2017 were due to activities we carried in the framework of the following projects;

- Citizens action for the reinforcement of democracy in Cameroon
- Support project for the massive political participation of women in the 2018 elections
- Updating of communal development plans for the Bamusso and Ekondo Titi councils
- Community action to fight child abuse in Buea
- Enhancing youth initiatives for peace
- Strengthening CSO's on online crowd funding strategies
- National advocacy for the revision of Cameroon's electoral code

## **PROJECT 1: CITIZENS ACTION FOR THE REINFORCEMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN CAMEROON**

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Within the framework of the European Union funded project on “Citizens Initiative for the Reinforcement of Democracy in Cameroon” (INCRED) with UN MONDE AVINIR as the principal recipient, REO is the co-applicant with a mandate of coordinating project activities in the South West Region.

In the framework of the 3 years mandate, REO has the following principal Terms of Reference:-

- Monitor and follow up the general chronogram of activities at the regional level
- Logistical and technical organization for all activities at regional level
- Plan and follow up the activities of proximity facilitators
- Prepare and submit reports of all project activities at the regional level

### **Objective**

The INCRED project seeks to contribute in the reinforcement of democracy in Cameroon through the promotion of electoral transparency and citizen participation.

Specifically, the project seeks to;

- i. Empower key stakeholders (CSOs, political parties, the media and public authorities) on participatory democracy
- ii. Develop and support initiatives that promote freedom of expression and access to information during pre and post electoral periods
- iii. Arouse effective participation and the active involvement of citizens in the electoral process in the upcoming elections and the long-term

### **Target Groups**

The main target groups of the project are youths (65% of the national population), women, Directors of media organisations and journalists (major actors in terms of education and sensitization of the population), Political Parties (central link in the dynamics of democracy), CSOs and Leaders of Associations (proximity to citizens), and the election management body and parliamentarians.

## **Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the project are:

- Capacity reinforcement and sensitization of actors in the electoral process
- Creating and animating concertation forums CSOs and political parties
- Organizing public debates and conferences
- Exchange workshops on citizen journalism
- Election observation
- Monitoring and capitalization
- Lobbying and advocacy

In the operational year of 2017, the following activities were planned and realised within the framework of the INCRED project;

S/N	Planned activity and realized activities
1.	Recruitment and training of proximity community animators
3.	Organization of a conference for journalists
4.	Community mobilization and sensitization of the electorate
5.	Training for CSOs, Political Parties and the Media
6.	Monitoring of the electoral process and participation in talk shows

## **Organization of a conference with journalists**

During the press freedom week, REO in collaboration with the National Syndicate of Cameroonian Journalists (SNJC) organized a one-day conference for journalists from the North West, South West and West Regions of Cameroon. Considering the social unrest that reigned in the North West and South West Regions and the role journalists play in either fuelling or mitigating the extend of the unrest, the theme that was selected for the forum was “Professional Practice in crises situations”.

The conference was attended by the South West Regional Delegate of Communications (Madam Gladys A.), the National president of SNJC (Mr. Denis Nkwebo) and 35 journalists from different media houses. Discussions during the conference centred on peace journalism and objectivity and neutrality in reporting of conflict situations. In a panel discussion, the

panellists highlighted the rights of journalists as well as professional practices in crises situations.

Some of the rights highlighted were:

- Free access to all sources of information
- Rights to refuse all subordination contrary to this work contract
- Cannot be forced to accomplish a professional act or express a contrary opinion to this
- Editorial team must be informed of a decision likely to affect company choices
- Rights to belong to a professional group
- Professional practice in crisis situation (managing crisis before, during and after)
- Before the journalist plays mediating role
- Fairness, balance reporting
- Respect editorial policy - where, why, how?
- Management resource person - where, why, when and who

Speaking at the close of the conference, Mr. Jean Baptiste Sippa, a retired and experienced journalist reminded the journalists of their important role in shaping the society, describing them as apostles with a socio-political and economic role who should be able to create a dialogue space from a sideless position with humility and curiosity. The conference ended with the journalists expressing the need for regular opportunities to share experiences, especially for the younger generation of men and women in this profession.



### **Organization of a one-day exchange between Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations**

The CSO / Political Parties Concertation Framework was organized in response to the deficiency observed in the public sphere with regards to coordinating actions and seeking solutions to societal problems. On an intermittent level, there are some manifestations of dissatisfaction in the public sphere, often resulting in acts of violence on the part of both the public authorities and the populations. These manifestations, which are often legitimate but not properly coordinated and poorly structured, are in fact the expression of an absence or insufficiency in space for citizen dialogue.



Based on this background, a one-day Exchange Forum was organized for CSOs, Political Party militants and the Media from the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon.

The overall objective of the Exchange Forum was to initiate a process of building strategic alliances between CSOs and political parties for synergy building which is favourable for participatory democracy. This exchange Forum brought together 30 participants from selected Political Parties (SDF, PAP and CPDM) as well members from selected CSOs, ELECAM and MINADT.

### Theme of the Exchange

Prior to the Exchange, participants identified a theme which was validated by the selected consultant and REO, based on the socio-political context of the North West and South West Region of Cameroon. Considering the fact that the gap that exists between citizens and elected officials is a source of discontent and a potential reason for violent uprising, the Exchange Forum was centred on "***The Interconnection between the electorate and the elected***". The Forum was facilitated by Mr. Tanyi Christian, an expert in governance and civil rights.

### Evolutions and outcomes

After his presentation which focused on the Social Contract between the elected and the electorate, participants shared their experiences of the relation between those who represent them in policy bodies.

In a group exercise that followed, participants were classified in groups to respond to the following questions;

- a. *Is there a missing link between contracting authorities and the contractors?*
- b. *How can we strengthen the link?*
- c. *What strategies to establish a mutually respected social contract are needed in 2018?*

In the plenary presentations that followed the group work, the various groups underscored the opinion that there is a great distance between the electorate and the elected. This was explained by the fact that most of the elected only visit their constituencies during the period for elections and the concerns of the elected are never prioritized in their political agendas.

### Conclusion and recommendations

At the end of the session, a multi actor platform was put in place consisting of CSOs, the Media, Political Parties, ELECAM and MINADT. One mandate of the platform is to strengthen the link between the electorate and the elected through public rallies, town hall meetings, voter sensitization/ education and media programs and suggest strategies on eliminating electoral fraud in Cameroon, with a key focus on the 2018 elections in Cameroon.



### Organization of training for leaders of Political Parties and CSOs

CSOs, Political Parties and the media play an important role in animating and stimulating socio-political consciousness due to their proximity to the public, their role in community education and sensitization, follow up and in enhancing democracy.

It was against this background that a one-day capacity building workshop was held that sought to equip representatives of political parties with knowledge to better understand the challenges of a good society project and the ideal communication approaches. It was an opportunity for participants to understand the functioning and challenges of participatory democracy with the purpose of establishing a new relationship between elected representatives and citizens. This activity also aimed to improve the understanding of the different stages of the electoral process in order to better plan pre-electoral activities.

The participation of CSOs, the media and political parties provided an ideal opportunity for building a strong synergy between key stakeholders whose contributions to the implementation of actions within their different communities is necessary for improving Cameroon's democracy.



## Specific objectives

The training workshop had the following specific objectives;

- To help political parties better understand the conceptual and methodological elements related to society projects, enabling them to ensure a better visibility of their ideal of society
- Improve participants' knowledge and understanding of the electoral cycle, and the concept and the challenges of participatory democracy

The following topics were covered;

### A. Social projects

- Understanding a public project
- Structural design of a public project
- Mechanisms and strategies for communicating public projects

### B. Participatory democracy

- Theoretical description of participatory democracy
- Stakes and challenges of participatory democracy in the context of Cameroon

### C. The Electoral process

- Understanding the electoral cycle
- Structure and functioning of the various organisations provided for in the electoral code

## Evolution and outcome of workshop

The workshop that was initially planned for 33 participants saw the presence and effective participation of 35 participants from selected Political Parties, CSOs and the media. After preliminary pleasantries to welcome participants and introduce the project, Dr. Claude Abe provided the first training modules that focused on social and political projects in the political agenda of political parties. In his presentation, he pointed out the absence of a political agenda by most political parties in Cameroon. He noted that a professional political actor does

not take the population for granted because the population is not naïve. He then highlighted some basic content in a political project, including but not limited to;

- Should be visible and understood by all
- Must be costed and made affordable
- It must raise expectations
- Politicians need to be creative and solution oriented

In concluding this presentation on a social project, Dr. Abe noted that politics is not improvising. It is an art and political parties need to have a political project that outlines the ideology and identity of the party. Thus, there is a need for politicians to be organized and visible.

On participatory democracy, Dr. Abe noted that it is for the population, not the elites. It is from bottom to top and not vice versa, noting that citizenship is both passive and active but that in participative democracy, the citizen is active. He concluded by noting that the media, CSOs and Political Parties must fight against political apathy, while underscoring the role of the media in encouraging the population to be active citizens.



The second presenter, Mr. Michael Kemfouet, provided participants with understanding of the electoral cycle, highlighting that the aim of any political institution is to obtain and conserve power. The role of the media was again highlighted in sensitizing the public on the political parties and their actions. He then defined the electoral process and used the electoral code to explain to participants the different clauses, the gaps and how it affects elections in Cameroon.

### **Accompanying and following up Proximity Community Facilitators in the mobilization and sensitization process**

The planning meeting with Proximity Community Facilitators on the 31st of March 2017 paved the way for effective implementation of outreach activities based on their different plan of actions in their respective areas of coverage. To guarantee the successful implementation of this activity, these Community Facilitators were continuously followed up through field visits and phone calls. For the period of reporting, the following results were achieved;

Community	No. of people reached in April				No. of people reached in May			
	Men	Women	Youth	Total	Men	Women	Youth	Total
Buea	25	48	81	<b>154</b>	24	50	78	<b>152</b>
Limbe	19	18	50	<b>87</b>	29	27	60	<b>116</b>
Tiko	58	76	37	<b>171</b>	52	73	31	<b>156</b>
Kumba	22	18	32	<b>72</b>	22	22	36	<b>80</b>
Muyuka	10	20	20	<b>50</b>	20	30	52	<b>102</b>
Tombel	18	15	59	<b>92</b>	32	33	45	<b>110</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>716</b>

Community	No. of people reached in June				No. of people reached in July			
	Men	Women	Youth	Total	Men	Women	Youth	Total
Buea	49	116	128	<b>293</b>	33	49	170	<b>252</b>
Limbe	65	30	39	<b>134</b>	53	18	44	<b>115</b>
Tiko	12	32	21	<b>65</b>	32	29	05	<b>66</b>
Kumba	18	05	37	<b>60</b>	20	10	40	<b>70</b>
Muyuka	20	30	20	<b>70</b>	10	40	30	<b>80</b>
Tombel	31	30	39	<b>100</b>	25	23	52	<b>100</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>695</b>

**Consolidated data for number of people reached for the months of April to July**

S/N	Month	Number of people reached			Total
		Men	Women	Youth	
1.	April	152	195	279	626
2.	May	179	235	302	716
3.	June	195	243	284	722
4.	July	173	169	341	695
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>699</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>1206</b>	<b>2759</b>

**Achievements**

- a. Through the 2,064 people touched directly by the project by proximity community animators, there is more awareness of citizens on their rights to register and vote as the only way to have their voices heard and participate in the democratic process in their country. This is due to the outreach sensitization and awareness campaigns conducted by 15 proximity volunteers in 6 sub divisions of the South West Region
- b. We were able to facilitate directly the registration into ELECAM of 64 potential voters
- c. There is a media community, through the Cameroon Community Media Network (CCMN), that is ready and open to work with REO and other CSOs working on democracy, with an emphasis on encouraging massive registration and participation in the 2018 elections and ensuring a peaceful environment before, during and after the 2018 elections
- d. There is improved collaboration between ELECAM/MINADT and REO who now understand the complementary but also important role CSOs play in advancing the democratic process in Cameroon
- e. Political parties now have increased capacity to mobilize and work in synergy with CSOs and the media in selling their political agenda
- f. There is a multi-actor platform consisting of CSOs, the media, Political Parties, ELECAM and MINADT. One of the mandates of the platform is to strengthen the link between the electorate and the elected through public rallies, town hall meetings, voter sensitization/education and media program, as well as suggest strategies on eliminating electoral fraud in Cameroon with a key focus on the 2018 elections

## **Challenges**

- a. The socio-political climate in the North West and South Regions, characterized by the social unrest has further demoralized citizens on the electoral process such that they see no need or motivation to register and vote. This has rendered the work of the proximity community mobilizers difficult as some of them have been threatened for talking about elections in a political context where they think everything is characterized by fraud. This has greatly affected the outreach target of these mobilizers
- b. Most of those sensitized refuse to give their names and contacts with the justification that they do not trust what is going to be done with their personal information
- c. Delays in getting reports from the distant communities like Tombel delays the reporting process
- d. It is very difficult to mobilize, especially militants of the ruling CPDM party
- e. Follow-up of the multiple activities of the multi actor platform to combat electoral fraud has not been possible because of lack of means

## **PROJECT 2: SUPPORT PROJECT FOR THE MASSIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE 2018 ELECTIONS**

To bring a qualitative, substantial and measurable resolution to the dysfunctionalities existing within the political participation of women and women's representation in public management systems and to accompany the government in the realisation of an egalitarian democratic society, the Network for More Women in Politics (NMWP), REO and other partners have set out in the year 2017 to continue with activities for the support project for the Massive Political Participation of Women in the 2018 elections.

### **Project Goal**

This project aims specifically to improve Cameroonian democracy through the development of a democratic and civic culture among 500,000 women, ensure pre and post-electoral peace in the 2018 elections and promote gender mainstreaming in public management systems of 20 councils in 7 regions Cameroon.

For this 2017 period of reporting, the following activities were realized:

#### **A. TRAINING OF 2 IDENTIFIED COACHES FOR THE PROJECT**



A 3 days training programme was organized by the NMWP in Yaounde. The objective of the training was to provide the coaches with knowledge on the DEMOFEM project to facilitate them in coaching female political candidates. Three people participated in this exercise including Denis Kumbo, Anne Munjong and Yong Merolyn as the project coordinator. These coaches also will have as their task the

restitution of training to other CSOs within the project sites and the coaching of 34 female candidates and aspirants to take up political leadership roles in the 2018 elections, for each of the elections (municipal, legislative, senatorial, presidential).

N/S	NAME OF COACH	DOMAIN OF SPECIALISATION	CONTACT
1	Denis Kumbo	Development Agent/Political Scientist	677273849
2	Anne Munjong	Senior Journalist	677300628

## B. LAUNCHING OF EDUCATIONAL TALKS

For greater sensitization and attainment of a wider audience, educational talks have been launched in the South West Regions. These educational talks will cover different aspects of women's socio-political participation, including; local governance, stakes of women's political participation, electoral observation and malpractices as well as civic education.

S/n	Civil Society Organisation involved in Buea	Contact
1	Changing Mentalities and Empowering Youths	677727276
2	MDDT – Movement for Democracy, development and Transparency	675230509
3	APWAC – Association for the Promotion of Women and Children	677809876
4	NADEV - Nkong Hill Top for Development	677405633
5	CCID - Community Centre For Integrated Development	674432435
6	RUWDEC – Rural Women Development Centre	677770496
7	WEEP – Women Economic Empowerment Program	679286145

## Civil Society Organisations involved in Limbe

1	Denis Miki Foundation	677985413
2	OGCEYOD – Organisation for Gender, Civic Engagement, and Youth Development	674215497
3	IYEC – Integrated Youth Empowerment Centre	677914091
4	Green and Better World	675167964
5	LUKMEF - Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation	677947449
6	CAJAD	677631919
7	International Human Development and Creativity Foundation	675734836

### C. RESTITUTION MEETING WITH CSOs



Restitution meetings were organized involving 14 CSOs (7 in Buea and 7 in Limbe). These meetings were for a restitution of the coaches training to other CSOs within the project sites in the South West Region. These CSOs, upon signing a partnership agreement, agree to act as satellite organizations in Buea and Limbe and to support the mobilisation process for the DEMOFEM project in a bid to attain the project objectives for a massive participation of women in the 2018 elections, both as voters and as candidates.

### Challenges



The DEMOFEM project met with challenges in the course of the 2017 implementation year. The major challenge was the halt on project activities within the seven regions of the project implementation since January 2017. This has greatly affected the project implementation because many people who had shown some interest in the project lost interest in the course of this long break and many VDFs who had been trained for the educational talks were also lost. This may greatly impede the attainment of the overall project objective.

### Achievements

- 02 coaches trained for the project
- Educational talks launched and delivered in the South West Region
- 14 CSOs capacitated within the framework of the project to act as Satellites

## **PROJECT 3: ENHANCING YOUTH INITIATIVES FOR PEACE (EYIP)**

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Though Cameroon has been relatively peaceful and stable over the years, its peace is currently threatened by the insurgency of the BOKO HARAM group in the North and the Anglophone Crisis plaguing the two English speaking regions of the country. Furthermore, with the advent of the quadruple elections in 2018 (presidential, senatorial, parliamentary and municipal), this relative peace is even more threatened. The threat of a rebound is particularly high in communities which have suffered from conflict in recent times. In addition to the threat of an eminent rebound, possibilities of youth radicalization are increasingly evident as unemployment increases and ideologists are widespread.

The South West Region, characterized by an influx of various non-traditional churches and Muslim groups is currently particularly threatened by the on-going crisis and its ideological spread amongst various religious and socio-political groups. The youth, constituting a great majority of people exposed to these concepts, need to have the tools for peaceful, effective and innovative social change, as alternatives to violent approaches. The EYIP project funded by the African Union therefore aims to engage youth actors as peaceful activists in a bid to prevent violent extremist tendencies and youth radicalization in the South West Region.

### **Project Goal**

This project aims to provide the unemployed youth with tools to enhance their opportunities and transform them into peaceful agents of change.

### **Mobilisation and preparations**

The project at the time of reporting is still in its preparatory phase and key activities are information to regional stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the project and a secured environment in the course of its implementation. Also, mobilisation of participants is underway to ensure that major activities effectively kick-off in the first week of January.

## **PROJECT 4: GLOBALGIVING AMBASSADORS**

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This project, which started in 2016, aimed to build the capacities of CSOs in online fundraising, specifically using the platform GlobalGiving. In 2016 the focus of this project was on training, but in 2017 the focus expanded to assist individual CSOs and CSO leaders to register in GlobalGiving.org and attempt to raise funds for themselves through coaching sessions and accompaniment. The organization also acted as a link between GlobalGiving and Cameroonian organizations on the ground.

### **Project Goal**

Improve CSOs skills in online fundraising.

### **Project Activities**

- 15 coaching sessions were conducted with 7 different organizations which are currently at different stages of the process of becoming GlobalGiving partners
- Registration of three new participants into globalgiving.org
- Interceded for a banned organization that was involved in a cause of fraud without their knowledge. They were allowed to register again in the platform

### **Challenges and way forward:**

- The political situation broke the momentum of the project, after participants had been trained and had a window to register, internet was blocked for three months in the North-West and South-West Regions and most of those interested could not register. The blockage also made it impossible to organize a follow-up workshop which was scheduled for January 2017
- Cameroonian organizations in general are still having critical technical, communication and management gaps that make it difficult for them to successfully become a GlobalGiving partner, and if they are, to make the most of the crowd funding platform

## **PROJECT 5: UPDATING OF COMMUNAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE BAMUSSO AND EKONDO TITI COUNCILS**

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For the past decades, Cameroon has been running a centralized government system until decentralization was introduced to the Cameroonian public in 2004 and went operational in January 2010. Within the framework of the implementation of the strategy for growth and employment and the decentralization process in Cameroon, Councils are more than ever taking central positions and are becoming real actors in the process of socio-economic development.

The process draws inspiration from the 18th January 1996 Constitution, which states in Article 55 that: “The duty of councils, regional and local authorities shall be to promote the economic, social, health, educational, cultural and sports development of a given municipality.”

To assist in the decentralisation process, the government introduced a series of development programmes, including the National Community Driven Development Programme (PNPD) in 2004. It is one of the tools for the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) of Cameroon under the component “Support to local development”. The programme has as goal to support local councils in Cameroon in the process of decentralization and help them draw up Council Development Plans (CDPs) as well as ameliorate living conditions of the people within the council by funding their development plans.



Major orientations in the elaboration of a CDP include the following:

- Orientation of the process towards poverty reduction and wealth creation
- Transparency in the management of human, material and financial resources
- Taking into account the strategic interest of several cultural groups (women, youths, entrepreneurs, technical services, municipal counsellors etc.)
- Affirmation of the central role of the council in the planning process, and particularly the recognition of the municipal council as a deliberative organ

- Opening up participation to other actors in the council areas (private, state services or civil society) considered resource persons able to contribute to the situational analysis, the formation of proposals and the taking of responsibilities
- Particular attention should be given to the aspects of cost efficiency, quality with the financial and human support of the council in order to facilitate the appropriation of the council development process by the council

## **Project activities for 2017**

### **Launching Workshop**

To begin the CDPsfor Ekondo Titi and Bamusso, launching workshops were organised in both councils, in a bid to inform local stakeholders and traditional authorities of the planning process and to enable them to appropriate the updating process for an effective actualisation of these CDPs.



### **Collection of Baseline Data**

After the Launching workshop, the process for data collection was immediately initiated. This phase comprised the collection of baseline data from different sectorial heads and units of both councils. These data will be complemented with the participatory diagnosis.

### **Council Institutional Diagnosis (CID)**

This phase describes the entry process into the exercise beginning with planning meetings with the Council Executive and an inception meeting with the entire council staff.

The CID started with a planning meeting with the Mayor, Secretary General, and Development Officer. During this meeting a proposed work program was presented, modified and validated. An inception meeting was held with all the staff of both councils in their respective council chambers. The council institutional diagnosis focussed on data collection in terms of human resources, financial resources, Council property and relationship management. The

end result of this exercise is to adequately conduct a SWOT analysis for the councils and provide recommendations for an improved council institution.

### **Urban Space Diagnosis**

The aim of this phase was to update the CDPs for Ekondo Titi and Bamusso councils. The following areas were identified as urban spaces; Bamusso, Bekumu and Illoani for Bamusso council and Ekondo Titi and Bekora for the Ekondo Titi council. Using different diagnosis tools, an urban space diagnosis was carried out in these areas to identify existing potentials which can be used to enhance development within these urban spaces.



### **Village by Village Diagnosis**

A participatory diagnosis was equally carried out in all 49 villages of Ekondo Titi and 28 Villages of Bamusso council. Five teams of three people each were constituted to lead this exercise in both councils.



### **Challenges**

The implementation of these project activities met with some challenges, first on the part of the local support organisation and then the council. The local support organisation had major

challenges in terms of timely implementation of the project because they had to constantly depend on the council for the realisation of most project activities and the validation of the activities' reports. This often met with postponement as the council in most cases had no funds to organise these activities.



The main activity, which was the village by village diagnosis, was led in the heart of the raining season. The poor state of roads at this time in N'dian division was a major setback to movement and transportation.



## **PROJECT 6: COMMUNITY ACTION TO FIGHT CHILD ABUSE IN BUEA**

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In the framework of a subvention received from the United States Embassy in Cameroon under the Africa Regional Development Fund Program (ARDF), REO aims to contribute towards the promotion of children's rights by reducing and preventing child abuse in 3 communities in the Fako division of the South West Region of Cameroon. The project will;

- Improve prevention of violence against children by creating awareness, carrying out educational campaigns and encouraging participation of local communities
- Strengthen the quality of public and private support services for child victims of violence by engaging service providers and key actors in a participatory process of social change
- Identify and support victims of child abuse as well as follow up with legal assistance from lawyers and other open minded human rights lawyers (children's advocates)

During the first quarter of the project, which occurred in the last quarter of 2017, we conducted general community mobilization and sensitization, and identified proximity volunteers who will be trained to carry out community outreach activities in the first quarter of 2018.

## **PROJECT 7: NATIONAL ADVOCACY FOR THE REVISION OF CAMEROON'S ELECTORAL CODE**

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Elections play an important role in political processes, strengthening the rule of law, good governance and democratic alternation. Since 1992, Cameroon has held several elections. However, all ended in many disputes. Whether in presidential, legislative, municipal or senatorial elections, post-electoral disputes have only grown, sometimes giving rise to violence and social unrest in several localities of the country. Hence the creation of an elections supervisory unit, ONEL, which later became ELECAM. The Electoral Code was adopted by the elections supervisory unit, however it has been subject to questioning and suggestions for amendments of some key clauses by the national monitoring network.

Dynamique Citoyenne, a national network for the monitoring of state policies and development strategies, led a critical study on the law no. 2012/001 of 19 April 2012 on the Electoral Code. However, it is important to note that this initiative by Dynamique Citoyenne is not the first of its kind. It comes to add to others that were led by other political actors such as the Social Democratic Front (SDF), the Democratic Union of Cameroon (UDC), and the Movement for the Renaissance of Cameroon (MRC). The outcome of the analyses of the study and consultation with other development stakeholders in the political process was the development of a proposed alternative Electoral Code that could guarantee free, fair and transparent elections in Cameroon and encourage citizens to effectively take part in the electoral process. It is against this backdrop that Dynamique Citoyenne in its 2017 operational plan organized a South West Regional restitution workshop to present the proposed amendments for the Electoral Code to various stakeholders in order to consolidate action for a national advocacy.

### **Regional Restitution Workshop**

A one-day workshop was organized with CSOs, media and other political actors to enable them to appropriate the suggested amendments to the Electoral Code. In the course of the workshop, the findings of the study which had been conducted by Dynamique Citoyenne were revealed to the participants and a synopsis of the alternative code stating the negatives of the present Electoral Code and then further citing the clauses for amendment in its form and content.

## **Observations**

This was closely followed by observations from the various participants. The SG for SWELA gave some salient points on ELECAM as an appendage of the CPDM, sensitization of the citizenry by the various stakeholders, the need for recognition of political parties by ELECAM and the marking out of constituencies by ELECAM both for parliament and the senate. The participants were then placed into 3 groups to discuss and scrutinize the proposed revised Electoral Code. The discussions in each group were animated by a group secretary and coordinated by Mr. Ngwa Elvis and Mr. Tanda Godwin. At the end of the time allocated, the various groups presented their recommendations to the general assembly and all of these were promised to be taken into consideration by the regional executive of Dynamique Citoyenne.

## **Achievements**

A press release was then prepared and read out for adoption to the general assembly. This was deliberated upon and adopted by the general assembly. This was followed by observations from the SG of SWELA and the representative of Mediafrique radio who both appreciated the initiative and the workshop and recommended that such workshops be organized at the sub-divisional and divisional levels.

## **PROJECT 8: RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS LED IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR**

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In the course of 2017, two main radio and television programs have been led to promote human rights and governance issues within the South West Region and beyond.

### **Ngwa Elvis's - HiTv**

The program focused on the need for electoral participation in an atmosphere clouded by violence and social unrest. Borrowing from experience acquired in the course of implementation of the INCRED and DEMOFEM projects, the program highlighted the need to encourage women and youth participation in political processes as they constitute not only a great majority of the population but also of the voting force. This need is further buttressed by the fact that, regardless of what form the State may finally take, democratic instances will continue to abound.

### **Yong Merolyn- CBS Radio**

The key focus of the radio program was on female beneficiaries, which aligns with REO's priorities. This program therefore presented an opportunity to highlight and bring to the limelight REO's activities. Cutting across different departments, the speaker carefully and succinctly analysed REO's activities and how these have been touching the lives of women in Buea and the South West Region.



## Wealth Creation

## WEALTH CREATION

### INTRODUCTION



REO's Wealth Creation Department works with people below and slightly over the poverty line to create sustainable solutions to allow people to take care of themselves. This is achieved through capacity building projects targeting strategic gaps (e.g. access to information, technical capacities) and making grants and loans available to vulnerable individuals and groups to remove themselves from poverty.

The department this year had a total of 397 beneficiaries touched with life skills, knowledge and opportunities, and 171 directly receiving transfers of capital (65 grants of 3,715,000 francs, and 88 loans of 4,450,000 francs). 82% of beneficiaries were women, besides 39 men (90% youths) and 56 children. Total grants and loans given (2.15 growth from 2016 to 2017) and total amount received (1.3 growth) have significantly increased, and we expect this tendency to continue in 2018.



This improvement is also qualitative: beneficiaries' monthly profits have improved, even amidst a severe economic and political crisis (2.22 times more than 2014-15, 1.3 times more than 2016). From 2016 to 2017, the Department has grown from having 2 to 4 permanent staff and has been complemented by several interns and international volunteers, who have been playing a supporting role to assist during events, capitalizing and documenting our work. The

Department has also reduced focus on Income Generating Activities for the organization, except for the low-maintenance snail farm. This has significantly liberated unproductive hours to be used more effectively on what we know to do best: changing lives, one at a time.

SKILLS ACQUISITION – DIRECT BENEFICIARIES			
Project	Girls	Boys	Total
Keep a Girl Alive	83	0	83
Greenpreneurs	170	3	176
Innovation Challenge	48	13	61
Economic empowerment of children in distress	15	10	25
Bookkeeping training and participatory project development	52	1	52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>397</b>

CASH TRANSFERS – Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries							
Project	Type	Women	Men	Children	Total	Indirect Beneficiaries	Total Amount
Keep a Girl Alive	Grant	51	0		51	255	2,400,000
Innovation Challenge	Prizes	1	2		4	16	170,000
Innovation Challenge	Loans	7	3		10	80	2,000,000
Economic Empowerment	Loans	5	4	38	47	94	950,000
Economic Empowerment	Grant	8	3	18	29	72	1,225,000
Microfinance Fund	Loans	31			31	155	1,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>8,245,000</b>

A summary of the projects carried out within the intermediate outcomes for the year 2017 are provided below.

## PROJECT 1: KEEP A GIRL ALIVE PROGRAM

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### Change a girl's life through Micro Entrepreneurship



The Keep a Girl Alive Program supports girls at risk in underserved communities of Cameroon through providing financial assistance, training and on-going coaching. In 2017, the department conducted on-going coaching for 83 girls, gave 51 grants and registered 42 girls under the Mutual Health Insurance program. The Department conducted 3 training programs on Entrepreneurship,

Business management and Sexual Reproductive Health (in collaboration with the Health Department), and two focus group discussions to improve the program. We also carried out a comprehensive evaluation of current and past beneficiaries.

#### Goal

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



#### Achievements

- 20 girls were supported with grants of 30.000 FCFA and joined the program (Level 1 beneficiaries)
- 28 girls were supported with grants of 50.000 FCFA after successfully managing a business (Level 2 beneficiaries)
- 3 girls were supported with grants of 100,000 (2) and 200,000 (1) (Level 3 beneficiaries)

- Bookkeeping implementation remains high, at over 90%
- 83% of girls supported since 2012 are currently self-employed or employed
- Average monthly profits of beneficiaries in 2017 are 2.22 times greater than in 2014-2015, and 1.3 times greater than in 2016

### **Challenges and way forward**

- High mobility of beneficiaries makes execution and follow-up difficult
- Shortage of office cameras limits capitalization
- The experience with the Mutual Health Organization was not satisfactory. Consistent with several other members complaints, beneficiaries were blocked when attempting to use the insuranceThe Mutual Health Organization is facing a crisis and cannot be considered a functional, stable partner. An official complaint will be presented to the Ministry of Health and REO will stop purchasing insurance from the Organization
- We have made great strides at poverty alleviation but we are still facing a ceiling when it comes to complete break out of poverty and economic empowerment. The department needs to explore solutions to provide higher amounts of capital to be used at the right time and pace



## PROJECT 2: GREENPRENEURS

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### Creating a new generation of Female Green Entrepreneurs

The Greenpreneurs project focuses on female farmers of Fako Division. The project supported them alongside the value chain: distributing quality farming inputs (seedlings), building their capacities on sustainable agriculture, training them on entrepreneurship and closing with a Green Women Forum to bring together 170 women vegetable farmers and 30 representatives of government and civil society agricultural stakeholders to discuss their marketing and production challenges, share best practices and promote cooperation.



### Goal

To promote women's Economic Empowerment through Green- Entrepreneurship in Fako of the South-West Region, Cameroon.

### Achievements

- 170 women benefited from capacity building and improved seedlings
- 170 women gathered together in a Green Women Forum where they explained their problems to relevant government and private stakeholders of the region, and learnt about a number of opportunities available to them
- As a result of the forum, two of the participant groups (90 women) were selected to be part of the South-West Development Authority's (SOWEDA) maize multiplication project. They received training, farming inputs and 2 hectares of arable land, which addresses several of the grievances exposed, particularly access to land, but also others such as marketing (they will be selling directly to government at better than market prices)

### Challenges and way forward

- Due to the late start of the project, it was quite difficult for the women to water the plants. Some groups had to employ people to water the farms and even pay water bills to that effect.

This should be considered in the future whenever planning and writing timelines for agriculture-based projects

Beneficiaries had the following challenges:

- Selling their produce at a good price, given they are into organic production
- Obtaining inputs from the Government
- Accessing land and loans

In an attempt to address some of the concerns, the department developed the follow-up project, Women 4 Business. This project will, among other things, help organize these farmers into cooperatives to facilitate their marketing, productivity and access to government opportunities, and provide support for the creation of micro-credit internal schemes.



## PROJECT 3: WOMEN 4 BUSINESS

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As a continuation of the Greenpreneurs project and with another grant from the African Women Development Fund, this 2-year project addresses important gaps in women entrepreneurship and collective organization.

The project aims to:

- Inspire women with the identification of successful women entrepreneurs of the South-West Region and the elaboration of a directory and handbook
- Facilitate the set up and institutionalization of groups into at least 7 cooperatives under the OHADA law (6 Board of Director Cooperatives and 1 Union of Cooperatives)
- Support 21 groups of Fako and Meme Division to set-up and reinforce internal micro-lending communities

Still within the planning and mobilization phase, the following activities were carried out:

- Identification of beneficiary Groups and successful women entrepreneurs
- Mobilisation of stakeholders
- Development and administration of baseline study
- Development and administration of survey on women entrepreneurship

### Goal

Enhance access to economic rights and opportunities for women's groups of Meme and Fako Divisions of the South-West Region of Cameroon within 20 months.

### Achievements

The project has been met with excitement and high collaboration and attendance of beneficiary groups.



### Challenges and way forward

The project comes from critical realizations about the needs of women groups in the region, and it could support many more groups, being particularly necessary in the Ndian Division. However, limited funding has constrained it to only 21 groups in Fako and Meme. Another twin proposal was developed for extension.

## PROJECT 4: INNOVATION CHALLENGE

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REO's Innovation Challenge aims to promote creativity, particularly business innovation, in communities of the South-West. The format is an open competition where community members are asked to come up with "new" business ideas. Application is highly simplified and uses different community structures.



Participants opt to compete for 3 cash prizes, but they are also connected to the local microfinance and identified for other projects of REO. Follow-up, and sometimes support with start-up funding, is provided for the best ideas and most committed entrepreneurs. In 2017, the department worked with past finalists and organized a new Innovation Challenge from October to November 2017, in Tole, a suburb of the South-West Region.

### Goal

To build the creative capacity of community members of Tole-Buea, South-West Region within one month.

### Achievements

- 61 business ideas were received from 48 women and 13 men and three prizes distributed for 45,000, 30,000 and 15,000.
- Average ideas were significantly more innovative in 2017 compared with 2016
- Giovanni, winner previous winner, received a grant of 80,000 francs and he set up a small piggery.
- The five participants of 2016 who got loans from Tole Tea Credit Union fully repaid their loans after setting up their businesses.

### Challenges and way forward

- Funding in the crowd funding platform GlobalGiving barely exceed 10% of the expected income and therefore the project had to be downsized. The project has been removed from GlobalGiving.



## **PROJECT 5: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

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In order to assist orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) to improve their livelihoods, the Department working alongside with the Health Department and its OVC unit, has supported the following OVC and houses of care, with support from REO Germany, Roots 4 Kids and GlobalGiving donors:



- Empowerment of elder child of Mah Di's orphanage (Kumba) to develop a poultry (125.000fr grant)
- Set-up of a Palm farm in Father's House Orphanage (Muyuka) with capacity for 600 palms (500,000 francs 0% interest loan)
- Training on entrepreneurship and empowerment of 9 teenagers of Father's House Orphanage to set up their first businesses (50,000 francs 0% interest loans)
- Empowerment of 11 families assuming care of an underprivileged child previously staying in Roots 4 Kids Orphanage (Buea) (100,000fr grants)
- Monitoring of all the above mentioned activities and those previously set up at Mah Di's orphanage (Poultry, Fishpond and Piggery)

### **Goal**

Secure the livelihoods of underprivileged children, teenagers and houses of care through sustainable entrepreneurship.

### **Achievements**

- All the above mentioned businesses (21 of the 23 business set up) are working successfully
- Father's House Orphanage has set up a healthy stream of profits that make them more independent of limited external funding
- Mah Di's orphanage keeps growing their economic activities, with 700 chicks recently purchased and a profitable piggery
- 18 underprivileged children could be successfully relocated with and supported by their direct relatives given the newly gained financial strength

### **Challenges and way forward**

- The fishpond of Mah Di's has yet to give a really profitable harvest, the orphanage has been instructed to seek advice from local experienced fish farmers

- The snail farm at Mah Di's was attacked by rats due to unsafe construction
- Some of the economic ventures of the young orphans of Father's House are not very profitable, although this is considered to be a good first experience into the world of business



## PROJECT 6: MICRO CREDIT OPERATIONS

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

For the past 2 years, loans have been given out to the same Women's Group, Charity Sisters, due to the beneficial effects of long-term access to capital. Last year, the group set-up a poultry with support from the loan and the Programme for the Improvement of Competitiveness of Family Agro-Pastoral Farms (ACEFA in its French acronym). This 2017, loans were distributed among individual members selected in a participatory exercise with the group, and another smaller loan was given to the group as a whole to begin production in their poultry.

Major recommendations established last year have simplified the loan procedure, reduced interest rates and increased repayment speed, the capital is expected to grow to 1,600,000 Million in 2018.



### Goal

Increase access to capital among vulnerable populations of Fako Division.

### Achievements

- Obtained full re-payment of loans disbursed in 2016
- Successfully agreed to terms of loan with the group for 2017, which will be completely repaid in March 2018
- Disbursed loans of 50,000 to 300,000 francs to 10 members and the group as a whole
- Improved repayment speed

### Challenges and way forward

- Limited access to capital of the group and under-budgeting of the ACEFA project meant the group had to ask for a second loan after half of the repayment had been finished. This second loan of 500,000 was given out in August 2017
- The Anglophone crisis has made it difficult for some members to repay the loans and attain their estimated profits

## **PROJECT 7: TRAINING ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

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In October 2017, the Department visited Illor in Ekondo-Titi Sub-Division to have a meeting with 10 women groups. The meeting had a dual objective, first to build the capacities of the group members on Financial Management (basic bookkeeping and saving tips), and second, to develop a joint project proposal that would truly tackle the needs of farmers of Ndian Division and particularly Illor, Dibonda and Funge villages.

### **Goal**

Improve the livelihoods of women farmers of Ndian Division.

### **Specific Objectives**

- Build capacities of female farmers on Financial Management
- Develop a project that can effectively improve the situation of female farmers of Ndian Division in 2018

### **Achievements**

- 52 women trained on financial management
- During the participatory project development the 10 groups and the facilitator discussed a concept note under development for 2018
- The project outline was described and the groups gave their inputs step by step, including what was essential, what specific seedlings, inputs, products and vegetables they were most interested in, and their knowledge gaps
- The process was highly empowering as the women took ownership of the project and gave very valuable insights that strengthen the project

### **Challenges and way forward**

Majority of beneficiaries will require regular accompaniment to effectively implement the financial management practices taught. This will be provided if the project proposal is granted in 2018.



## PROJECT 8: INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITES FOR REO'S SUSTAINABILITY



In early 2017, REO evaluated the different Income Generating Activities under its control, as laid out in the Wealth Creation Operational Plan for 2017.

The following projects were evaluated: Wonya Nangoh Land, Beehives, Snailry, Piggery, Palm Farm and Speed Boat. A summary of each evaluated project and the recommended resolutions are provided in the table below.

Project	State	Resolution
<b>Wonya Nangoh</b>	Unexploited due to distance, unprofitability and complicated collaboration with Village Council.  It was shared among staff as part of our Human Resources policy.  Documentation for the new site has not been obtained (deed of land)	Deed of land needs to be drafted and signed.  The land needs to be sold, it can be temporarily given to rent to a friend of the organization or a women's group.
<b>Beehives</b>	Given that the farm project has stopped, it has become time consuming and inconvenient to visit the beehives regularly, the project has been put into a halt, one active beehive was abandoned and only one remains.	There is an interested party that wants to rent the beehives. This seems to be the most profitable option.
<b>Speed Boat</b>	Without an engine, follow-up with former manager is being done to recover an engine and make the boat operational.	Continue legal follow-up and rent the boat.
<b>Snailry</b>	Roughly 500 Snails were sold during dry season, while baby snails are kept and grown. The environment and feeding has improved and been analysed. It is time to scale-up the project.	In order to scale-up: The opportunity to partner with Kite's and others SL to create a snail farm with capacity for 18,000 snails and supply to Nigeria is being explored. By the end of November, most the farms will host more than 5000 snails.

<b>Project</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
<b>Piggery</b>	An outbreak of swine flu accelerated the plans of closing down the piggery. The Piggery project finalized on January 2017 and some profit was made and used to support REO's projects.	The piggery structure has been used to create the new snail farm with some transformations.
<b>Palm Farm</b>	The Palm Farm in Boa Balondo is not yet at mature stage and not growing as required. The necessary resources to invest and follow-up with the land are not available either.	The farm could be rented for an extended period of time to any interested party.

### **Goal**

To provide unrestricted funding to the organization and promote sustainable agriculture in communities.

### **Achievements**

- A fully functioning “Snail Lab”, which could be among the biggest of the region by next year, has been set up
- MOU signed with Kites and others snail labs
- By critically analyzing the situation with Income Generating Activities, REO reduced significantly time and money wasting

### **Challenges and way forward**

- Limited access to unrestricted funding makes it difficult for REO to invest at the scale necessary for profitable business to thrive; hence the partnership with Kites and others snail labs was established to develop the snail farm
- Focus on other projects has resulted in some IGAs remaining unexploited. An extraordinary meeting with the Management team will be called to address these issues

## INNOVATIONS AND EMERGING PRACTICES

### Projects on ANC/PMTCT services

- Provision of ANC/PMTCT services during community out reaches improved ANC/PMTCT uptake by women and men of child bearing age.
- Advocacy with local authorities and government authorities resulted in the putting in place some laws which deter PW from giving birth at home and with Traditional Birth Attendants. This led to increase ANC uptake and delivery at recognized health facilities.
- Training of health dialogue structures on their roles and responsibilities in community interventions, sensitization and mobilization of their communities to access health services, has brought ANC/PMTCT services closer to women and men of child bearing age (community strengthening).
- Validation of data collected by Community Leaders and Health Facilities staff helped improve the quality of data that was reported by the organization and health facilities

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

During the year under review REO received technical support in the area of capacity building from the Cameroon Baptist Convention – Health Services (CBCHS) for the PACF project. CBCHS provided technical support to the REO on Governance and procedures, Community Action, Advocacy, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Planning and Financial Management of project funds.

## FUNDRAISING, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNICATION

REO expanded its fundraising initiatives and explored new avenues in the year under review. REO has partnerships with, and receives grants from, a large number of international institutions and development organisations, in addition to entities and embassies in Cameroon. These grants are usually assigned to particular projects and activities geared at attaining the strategic objectives of REO. 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 following their funding terms of references.

Channels of digital publicity, marketing and direct mailing were explored, with positive outcomes. The social unrest in the English-speaking part of Cameroon resulting to the government shutting down communication and internet facilities, which negatively affected our fundraising activities. This resulted in a decrease of our corporate donor base by 15%,

alongside a reduction in our corporate partnerships and our ability to form new alliances. Nonetheless, innovative methods of cause-based marketing were still maintained through the Globalgiving platform and direct contacts with well-wishers and foreign friends of the organisation.

Collaborations with long term partnerships in new projects were explored as the Executive Director used the opportunity offered by her trips abroad to talk strategically with some Board Members with advisory status and friends of the organisation. The outcome of these visits and talks is the reaffirmation of existing commitments and help to influence the allocation of international aid in the interests of the poorest and most vulnerable people.

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

The communication strategy focused on increasing awareness despite the challenges faced, 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 quarterly. Also other channels of marketing such as social media (facebook, twitter, etc.) were used.

In looking forward, REO will continue to look for ways to increase its income and visibility. As part of the new Strategic Plan, a new internal growth strategy has been developed, outlining our vision and priorities for fundraising.

In 2018 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, committed giving and proposal writing.

REO is committed to raising funds in an ethical way within the values of the organisation (ACTS- Accountability, Commitment, Transparency and Sustainability). The Board and Management Team of REO are committed to respect the principles and basic norms of ethical fundraising set out in international instances.

## **COLLABORATION/COOPERATION**

REO works with many different actors to influence decision-makers at the national and local levels in Cameroon for pro-poor change. We hold government and local community leaders accountable to their citizens and to empower those citizens to raise their voices against the injustice of poverty.

REO, through her membership and affiliations in networks of the civil society and other statutory organs of the government departments, helped in many areas, including improving planning and budgeting within Municipal Councils on gender, health care delivery, and governance.

Working with others and allying our strengths with those of our partners, we can achieve amazing results. In working in the domain of collaboration, REO aims to ensure that the processes for planning, monitoring and evaluation are clearly defined so that we avoid duplicate efforts of other actors while creating opportunities for shared learning and maximum impact. We ensure that our approach to working with others is never extractive but rather empowers and values our partners' perspectives.

To ensure the sustainability and accountability of campaigns we are involved in, we build our exit plan into the design phase and consult and communicate well in advance with partners and allies so that our exit does not jeopardize the campaign nor put them in difficulty. All our campaigns are time-bound so there is clarity for all concerned.

We plan to reinforce training in exit-planning for all senior leaders involved in advocacy and campaigns in the future.

### **Grass Root Collaboration/Cooperation**

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

In the community, local traditional authorities and 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 the work place, for example through workshops, public march in

celebrating the International Women's Day, and celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child.

## **National Collaboration/ Cooperation**

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We established and maintained the following partnerships:

- REO has been the 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 was involved in appreciating and making recommendations for the upcoming EU Civil Society Program in Cameroon (PROCIVIS)
- Regional Promoter of La Dynamique Citoyenne (DC), a national network that rallies organisations involved in budget tracking of state institutions and projects
- Occupying the Vice President post of 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)
- Member of the Regional Committee to Follow-up the Growth and Employment Strategy in the South West Region
- Member of the South West Regional Consultative FORUM (Farmers Platform)
- Elaborating Communal Development Plans with the National Community-driven Development Programme (PNDP)
- Staff strengthening support with the National Employment Fund
- Member of the USA Embassy Civil Society Working Group

## **International Collaboration/ Cooperation**

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Through international cooperation and partnerships REO is working with the following Technical and Funding partners to achieve its set objectives:

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

## ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Two of REO staff were privileged to undertake studies to foster their education in the fields below:

Name of Staff	Department	Field of Study	Place of Study
Ngo Bibaa Lundi Anne Omam	Head of Health Department	Public Health Strengthening	London - UK

### IN HOUSE COACHING SESSION

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For improved staff efficiency, often capacity building activities are organized within the organization for maximization of staff input. It is within this light that an in-house coaching session for REO staff was organized by the Operations Manager in charge of Monitoring and Evaluation on Project Planning and the development of Monitoring and Evaluation Plans.

The session was tailored at improving staff capacities on the planning of projects and stakeholder analysis for effective project planning. Monitoring and evaluation in our development work enables staff to review project progress and identify problems in planning and/or implementation; make adjustments by establishing indicators for efficiency, effectiveness and impact; set up systems to collect information relating to set indicators; collect and record data; analyze data; and use the information to inform day-to-day management. The importance of this exercise was equally emphasized as it is a deliverable for effective implementation and to ensure objective reporting of implemented activities.

As a main achievement for this exercise, the entire REO team has improved their knowledge on project planning, monitoring and evaluation, evidence in the trend thereafter.

## **CONCLUSION AND LOOKING FORWARD (PERSPECTIVES)**

All planned activities carried out this year contributed in achieving REO's ultimate goal for communities to adopt positive behaviours towards living healthy and happier lives. Projects were carried out bearing in mind the new focus. We tried to be results oriented due to better planning. The Board of Directors met in ordinary session to evaluate and plan a way forward. We hope to improve on performance at all levels so as to keep to our tradition of growing to achieve better results and greater impact.

For improved result-based management, key performance indicators are elaborated in the following areas:

### **Aid Effectiveness**

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Cameroon benefits considerably from international aid (European Union, World Bank, Global Fund, ADB etc.) amounting to billions of CFA Francs destined to ameliorate the health status of millions of Cameroonians who are faced with diverse socioeconomic challenges and in reinforcing socioeconomic infrastructures in various domains. However, this support has little effect because of inadequate transparency and accountability within government and public sectors. The beneficiaries and those who mediate and ensure that the work is properly done participate poorly in the management and monitoring/evaluation procedures. Generally, the persistence of corruption in public services remains a major problem which makes it difficult for an efficient management of resources. The actual Corruption Perception Index in the key socioeconomic sectors according to CONAC is about 40%.

As an active party in the socioeconomic improvement, REO intends to support the efforts of the nation by aiding effectiveness in the key socioeconomic sectors. To do this, REO is committed in making sure that the engagements taken by actors for development get the expected results ensuring maximal impacts to beneficiaries and the target populations. This involves making sure that the least franc budgeted gets to the target population-.

### **Program Effectiveness**

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Processes for the 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, environmental issues 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; and processes to take into account and coordinate with the activities of other actors.

## **Communication and Engagement**

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Our website and other social media channels (facebook, twitter, etc.) 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 regular update of the website so as to showcase up-to-date reports of activities carried out.

## **Building the base for social entrepreneurship for development**

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There is the need to come up with better strategies that will see the putting in place of social businesses that will guarantee funding for the organisation's activities and developing action for sustainability. The next five years will witness the development of agro-pastoral businesses and other initiatives aimed at generating income to help sustain REO's actions in her target communities.

## **2018 FOCUS**

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We are entering the third year (2018) of our new Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 that guides all our work. This current Plan is REO's third Strategic Plan but is crucially the first Plan that takes into consideration the first ever resource mobilisation strategy of the organisation.

Aligning with several partners for improvements in the following domains:

The Human Rights and Governance department will focus on seeing that stakeholders and communities adopt human rights sensitive approaches through increased capacity to ensure effective participation of all in development within their communities for improved livelihoods and peaceful cohabitation.

This will be achieved through the following outcomes:

- Community's needs are integrated in council's development plans and implemented

- Effective and efficient use of PIB and C2D funds by government is ensured in target communities in the South West Region
- More citizens know their civic rights and participate in the electoral process effectively
- Networking among CSOs is strengthened for better service delivery in communities
- Increased awareness on human rights, peaceful cohabitation and gender-based violence.

The Health department will focus on two outcomes being;

- a. Decrease in morbidity and mortality rates in communities, achieved through;
  - Increased knowledge on SRH, malaria, TB, non-communicable diseases, vaccine preventable diseases within the general population especially youths
  - More people know their HIV status and accept services. An increase in ANC uptake/PMTCT, male partner involvement and improved quality of service delivery in REOs area of intervention
  - PLWHA have easy access to and stay on treatment
  - Increased community participations in integrated management of malaria, TB, HIV, EPI activities
  - Baseline data on non-communicable diseases available
  - Communities are aware of WASH best practices and adopt positive hygienic behaviours
  - Improved collaboration between CSOs and Ministry of Public Health
  - Increased voluntary community involvement in blood donation
  - REO health center is operating within the ambit of the law and provide quality health care services to the community.
- b. Orphans and vulnerable children have increased access to essential needs (medical, nutritional, educational and psychosocial support), achieved through;
  - Improved access to education, medical, nutritional and psychosocial services for OVCs within communities
  - Orphanages are better coordinated for improved service delivery.

The Wealth Creation department will focus on seeing that household incomes are improved through the establishment of micro-projects, promotion of sustainable agriculture and micro-credit operations, so that beneficiaries become self-reliant in their communities.

This will be achieved through the following outcomes:

- Women Groups have improved access to marketing opportunities and stakeholder's support
- Youths and Community members have more creative and innovative business ideas and put them in practice
- Beneficiaries are motivated to save and manage their businesses efficiently
- At least 90% of the 127 individual beneficiaries are still managing their businesses by the end of 2018. An average monthly profit of the 118 individual beneficiaries is at least 35,000 francs CFA. At least 7% of the 117 individual beneficiaries make a monthly profit of at least 100,000 or more during 6 consecutive months
- Groups give at least 210 loans to their members
- REO benefits 10% of the profits made from IGAs
- Microfinance business plan presented to at least 10 prospective national and international partners
- Handbook informs policy makers and inspires women
- Basic tips and orientation on snail farming are available to interested farmers in the South-West Region

We will still be focusing our efforts, on improving lives and creating opportunities, improving societal wellbeing and welfare and equipping target groups with the power to write a better future.

Our future plans are to encourage women's economic engagement and empowerment, by helping women overcome financial barriers, build productive capabilities, improve their positions within homes and communities, develop multiple assets and foster participatory value chain development.

Cross-cutting strategies to improve the health and nutrition status of the poorest and marginalised communities will remained a crucial area of work this year and beyond. The spotlight will continue to be on quality healthcare delivery, nutrition, water and sanitation services to reduce maternal and child mortality. Also in improving maternal and child health, eliminating diseases, facilitating access to quality family planning services and upgrading health determinants.

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 through the Dialogue Structures.

Our future plans are to provide quality and inclusive education and awareness within formal and informal settings. Strategies will include fostering leadership skills, introducing innovative

methods and techniques in community development, bring all girls within the educational-fold, and consolidate indicators to strengthen the system.

Going forward, REO will shape new initiatives to focus on adolescent health, reducing mortality and morbidity, and support programmes to build health resilience among women. We will engage in data-based monitoring and dissemination of learnings to all stakeholders in order to improve the capacity of health service providers, actors in the gender and governance domain and the improvement of livelihoods.

Our advocacy strategy will focus on amplifying the voices of the marginalised. REO's people-centred and rights-based initiatives are directed towards community-level advocacy to address social, geographical and policy level inclusion. The policy-centred activities aim to influence regional, state, national and global level policies to reflect greater equity and concern for marginalised populations and groups. REO has been actively working towards raising the issues of the marginalized communities in the public forum and enabling them to realise their rights. REO interns to build partnerships with the media and engage them in amplifying the voices of the marginalised and minority communities. REO has also been influential in formulating national and regional level policies relating to improved governance, health care delivery, gender equality, etc.

As network building is vital to shape the way change happens, REO has worked towards forming collaborations on a large-scale to bring social change in Cameroon and beyond. Broad cross-sector coordination and 'collective impact' has been widely used to address social concerns within its affiliated mandate.

REO's advocacy agenda connects to National and Local Governments, and civil society organisations. Future plans are to widen the network and work towards influencing policy and attitudinal change among people.

## ATTACHMENTS

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

## A. Staff List, Volunteers and Consultants for 2017

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### Staff

S/N	NAME	BACKGROUND	POSITION
1	Mrs Omam Esther Njomo	BA (Hons) English/French, Diploma in Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening, Development practitioner, MBA in Humanities	Executive Director
2	Mr Ngwa Elvis Tangie	BSc Sociology and Anthropology/Political Science and Public Administration	Assistant Executive Director / Head of Human Rights and Governance
3	Mr Mark Awantoh A.	BSc Accounting (ACCA Part II)	Finance Officer
4	Mr Mosenge Hans Efeso	BSc Management, Diploma in Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening, Development practitioner	Operations / M&E Manager
5	Miss Nkweleko Fankam Falone	MSc Epidemiology and control of infectious diseases	Head of HIV & AIDS Department
6	Mr Serna Rius Marc	BSc Political Science	Head of Wealth Creation Department &
7	Miss Ethe Jacqueline	BSc Sociology and Anthropology	Administrative Assistant
8	Miss Modjenpa Bibiche	MSc Botany	Wealth Creation
9	Miss Tijang Belinda Ngang	BSc Accounting	Finance Assistant
10	Mr Tabi George	BSc Law and Political Science/Diploma in NGO formation and Management	Health (Community Facilitator)
11	Miss Azah Kelly Azeeh	BSc Sociology and Anthropology	Health (OVC Coordinator)

12	Yong Merolyn Yafe	BSc Sociology & Anthropology	Human Rights and Governance
13	Wirsiy Roland Kimo	MSc Sustainable Dev't (Peace, Conflict and International Relations), B.Ed. CST/Biology	Human Rights and Governance
14	Mr Swiven Divine	Professional Driver's License	Driver
15	Mrs Yuven Dzekesen Juliana	BSc Women & Gender studies, Post graduate Diploma in Peace and Humanitarian Actions	Community Facilitator
16	Miss Leoga Kingne Mathilda	MSc Public Health and Hygiene	Coordinator of the PACF II Project
17	Mr Ayuk Solomon Ojong Mhi	BSc Development Studies	Community Facilitator
18	Sylvie Ebitoh Organji	BSc Economics	Wealth Creation
19	Tume Emmaculate Bonieh	BSc Sociology and Anthropology	Wealth Creation
20	Nana Gaelle	MSc Microbiology	Health (Community Facilitator)

### Students on internships

21	Tangko Hansen Ngwene	Peace, Conflict and International Relations (PAID-WA)	Human Rights and Governance
22	Njantyne Joan-mary Yuh	Project management (PAID-WA)	Wealth Creation Department

23	Wirsiy Roland Kimo	Development Studies (PAID-WA)	Human Rights and Governance
24	Marisca Amuteng	Women and Gender Studies (University of Buea)	Wealth Creation Department
25	Ambe Cynthia F.	Women and Gender Studies (University of Buea)	Wealth Creation Department
26	Esombe Belole C.	Women and Gender Studies (University of Buea)	Wealth Creation Department
27	Ako Tatiana E.A.	Women and Gender Studies (University of Buea)	Wealth Creation Department

#### International volunteers

S/N		COUNTRY	PROGRAMME
28	William Kay	USA	Wealth Creation Department
29	Holtkoetter Nils	Germany	
30	Vanessa Eskes	Germany	Health Department
31	Tim Schneider	Germany	Wealth Creation Department
32	Elisa Hildegard	Germany	Health Department
33	Florin Valentin Haidelieh	Germany	Wealth Creation Department
34	Celine Johanna Koreman	Netherlands	Friendly visit

## Organizational Learning and Development of Staff

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REO staff as a whole worked for national collaboration with government, political and the civil society. We have among other things participated in meetings, workshops/seminars on fundraising through proposal writing, technical assistance/capacity building.

**Participation in national consultations and workshops includes the following:**

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
Omam Esther	Consultation Workshop & setting up the Consultative Multi-Actors platform for the construction of shops in the Buea municipality	Buea Council	KFW - FEICOM	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Buea Council	Multi – Actors Platforms
	Validation of the situational analysis of the health financing strategy in Cameroon	Ministry of health	Ministry of Health	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Mont Febe	Health Sector Strategy
	Steering Committee Meeting of the INCRED Project	Un Monde Avenir	EU	23 <sup>rd</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Hotel Golden	Elections
	South West Forum	Elites	Government	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	Mountain Hotel	Peace Processes
	Workshop on Building Bridges and Building Networks for female leaders in Cameroon	Inter Faith Vision Foundation	USA Embassy	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017	Talotel	Women in leadership positions
	Regional Workshop to train local support organisations (LSO) on	PNDP	World Bank, AFC, C2D	18 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Mundemba Council Hall	Capacity Strengthening of service providers

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
	the elaboration of communal Development Plans (CDP)					
	Panel discussion with media practitioners	Reach Out Cameroon	EU- Un Monde Avenir	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Carlos Hotel	Professional Practices in Times of Crisis
	Training of CSOs, political parties and the media on social projects, participatory democracy and the electoral process	Reach Out Cameroon	EU- Un Monde Avenir	26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> Mai 2017	Carlo Hotel	CSOs/Political Parties Forum
	Technical validation of the socio-economic study for the development of agricultural value chain and agricultural business plan within the framework of preparation of the AIVDP	MINADER	RUMPI	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	MINADER Conference Hall	Study Validation
	Cameroon Women Business Leaders Association grand launching in Yaoundé	CWBLA	Multi Partners	14 <sup>th</sup> June	Hilton Hotel	Female Entrepreneurship
	Evaluation of the SDGs	Women for Change	MINEPAT	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Somatel Hotel Biyem-Assi	SDGs
	Workshop to train the Regional Technical team on the Regional Performance Basket and installation of the regional team	PNDP	World Bank	22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2017	Holiday Inn Hotel Limbe	Regional Performance Basket
	National Conference for female leaders in Cameroon: Building a	Interfaith Vision Foundation (IFVCAM)	USA Embassy	6 <sup>th</sup> July	Sport Complex Yaoundé	Female Leadership

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
	caucus of Cameroonian Women Civic Rights Advocates (CAMWOCRA)					
	Evaluation of councils in the region	Regional Technical Team	PNDP/World Bank		SWR	Regional Performance Basket
	Presided the Steering Committee of the INCRED Project	Un Monde Avenir	EU	26 July	Hotel Golden	Elections and democracy
	Workshop on Branding, Labelling and Packaging	CWB LA SWR	CWB LA SWR	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	Finni Hotel – Limbe	Female entrepreneurship
	Broad based meeting of key stakeholders for the establishment of peace in SWR	South West top elites	Government	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Mountain Hotel – Buea	
	Workshop on Civil Society Country Dialogue on Universal Health Coverage	Positive Generation/ FESADE	Government & partners	4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Yaoundé	Universal Health Coverage
	Workshop to analyse the Diagnostics & prospective reports of the zoning & master plans for sustainable development of the South West Region	South West Elite Association (SWELA)	GIZ	12 <sup>th</sup> October	Musango Hotel Limbe	
	Meeting with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	United Action for Children	OCHA	3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Untied Action for Children's hall	Anglophone Crisis

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
	Consultative workshop	MINEPAT	UNICEF	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Governor's office Bafoussam	
	Inter-Regional capitalisation of the mechanism of the Performance Based Basket of councils of the Northwest and Southwest Regions	PNDP	World Bank	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2017	Holiday Inn Hotel	Performance Based Basket
	Regional Coordination Meeting “ All Hands on Deck for the Fight against Maternal Mortality”	Regional Delegation of Health	Regional Delegation of Health	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Parliamentarian Flat Hotel	Maternal Mortality
MODJENPA NOUKEME BIBICHE	Training Of Local Support Organisations And Council Officials On The Updating Of The Council Development Plans	National Community Driven Development Program - PNDP	MINEPAT / World Bank	10 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Mundemba Council Hall	Train LSOs on the Procedure for the Actualisation/Updating of CDPs
	Training Of Local Support Organisations And Council Officials On Planning And Programming For The Updating Of Council Development Plans	National Community Driven Development Program - PNDP	MINEPAT/ World Bank	27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Holiday Inn Resort Limbe	Capacitate LSOs and Council Staff for the Planning and Programming Phases of the CDP
YONG MEROLYN YAFE	Workshop For The Review Of The National Engagement Strategy Platform	MBOSUDA & National Engagement Strategy	MBOSCUDA		Azur Hotel - Yaounde	Review The Status Of NES and Deliberate On Its Legalisation

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
	Training Of Local Support Organisations And Council Officials On The Updating Of The Council Development Plans	National Community Driven Development Program - PNDP	MINEPAT	10 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Mundemba Council Hall	Train LSOs on the Procedure For The Actualisation Of CDPs
	Training Of Coaches For The DEMOFEM Project	Network For More Women In Politics	European Union	28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> September	Observatoire Africaine De La Pratique Des Affaires (OAPA)	Train Coaches For The DEMOFEM Project
	Training Of Local Support Organisations And Council Officials On Planning And Programming For The Updating Of Council Development Plans	National Community Driven Development Program - PNDP	MINEPAT	27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> November	Holiday Inn Resort Limbe	Capacitate LSOs And Council Staff For The Planning And Programming Phases Of The CDP
TUME EMMACULATE	Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (AVC-DP)	MINADER	Government	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Buea Council Hall	Create Awareness Of Their Value Chain Project: Oil Palm, Plantain And Pineapple
	Multiplication of Corn Production	SOWEDA	SOWEDA	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	SOWEDA Office Buea	Identification Of Groups To Benefit From Their Corn Multiplication Project
NANA GAELLE	Training of CBOs on community dispensation of ARVs	RTG	GLOBAL FUND	26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	3813 Complex Hall Tiko	Capacitate CBOs On Community Dispensation Of ARVs

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
	Platform For Stakeholder On Reproductive Health And Family Planning	Delegation Of Public Health	South West Region Delegation Of Public Health	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Conference Hall Delegation Of Public Health	Creation Of Platform With Stakeholders In Public Health/Family Planning
	Mobilization Of Trainers Of 100 Conscripts	Ministry Of Youth And Civic Education	Ministry Of Youth And Civic Education	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2017	College King Of Christ Tiko	Engage The Various Trainers To Schedule Time To Educate The 100 Conscription Of South West Region
	Elaboration Action Plan Of Civil Society To Work With Global Financing Facility (Every Woman Every Child)	Global Financing Facility	WORLD BANK	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Merina Hotel Yaounde	Engage All Civil Societies To Work Together In Order To Attain The Objective Of Every Woman Every Child
	Pilot Phase Of Point Of Care For Exposed Infant Diagnosis	EGPAF/Delegation Of Public Health	EGPAF	3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	Conference Hall Delegation Of Public Health	Re-strategize On How To Handle Samples Of HIV Exposed Infants
	Revitalization Of Regional Task Force For Communication In Favour Of Health Activities	Delegation Of Public Health	Regional Delegation Of Public Health	12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Conference Hall Delegation Of Public Health	Drawing An Action Plan For The Activities Of The Task Force For Communication In Favour Of Health Put In Place
	Set Up Of Platform Of Civil Society Organisations To Fight Aids In Cameroon	Ministry Of Public Health	Ministry Of Public Health	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Conference Hall Djeuga Palace	General Assembly To Set Up The Platform Of Civil Society Organisations To Fight Aids In Cameroon

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
MOSENGE HANS EFESOA	Training Of Local Support Organisations And Council Officials On The Updating Of The Council Development Plans	National Community Driven Development Program - PNDP	MINEPAT	10 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Mundemba Council Hall	Train LSOs on the Procedure For The Actualisation Of CDPs
	Performance basket restitution workshop	National Community Driven Development Program - PNDP	MINEPAT	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Holiday Inn Resort, Limbe	Restitution of the performance basket report of the Southwest Region
	Training Of Local Support Organisations And Council Officials On The Planning and programming within the framework of the development of Council Development Plans	National Community Driven Development Program - PNDP	MINEPAT	27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> November	Holiday Inn Resort Limbe	Capacitate LSOs And Council Staff For The Planning And Programming Phases Of The CDP
AZAH KELLY AZEH & ETE NJIE JACKLINE	Training of CBOs on community dispensation of ARVs	RTG Buea	GLOBAL FUND	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	3813 Hotel-Tiko	Capacitate CBOs on the dispensation of ARVs to PLWHIVs
AZAH KELLY AZEH	Best practice sharing and national strategies on community dispensation of ARV	RTG Buea	GLOBAL FUND	20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	Council hall – Mbanga	Share experiences that helped in achievement of goals of community dispensation on ARV
	All hands on deck for the fight against maternal Mortality	Regional Delegation of Public Health	Ministry of Public Health	7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Parliamentarian Flat Hotel - Buea	Take actions to combat maternal mortality in the Southwest Region of Cameroon

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NKWELOKO FANKAM FALONE & TABI GEORGE ACHALE	Workshop on advocacy	CBCHS	ViiV Healthcare	17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2017	Yaoundé	Advocacy, and Monitoring and Evaluation

**Participation of the Staff in Workshops and Seminars out of the Country**

NAME OF STAFF	TITLE OF WORKSHOP	ORGANISER	SPONSOR	DATE OF WORKSHOP	VENUE	THEME OF WORKSHOP/RESULTS
OMAM NJOMO ESTHER	Resource Mobilisation Booth Camp	AWDF	AWDF	14 <sup>th</sup> – to 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Protea Hotel Johannesburg- South Africa	Returned with REO's first draft Resource Mobilisation Strategy
	Designing and facilitating GWIM Step- Down Trainings	Plan USA	Exxon Mobil	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Plan USA training Hall	Participatory facilitation techniques
NKWELEKO FANKAM FALONE	International conference on AIDS &STIs in Africa	ICASA	Cote d'Ivoire Gov't – ICASA	4 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan	Ending AIDS Delivering Differently

## **Financial Review**

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