

HAVEN OF HOPE



EVALUATION REPORT

01 JAN. 2013 TO 31 DEC. 2015

**REHABILITATION OF TEENAGE MOTHERS
IN URBAN CENTRES AND
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR
MBORORO/FULANI
TEENAGE MOTHERS IN THE
SANTA SUB-DIVISION, N.W.R. CAMEROON**

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HAVEN OF HOPE

EVALUATION REPORT

1st January 2013 to 31st December 2015

A. OVERVIEW:

After almost three years of operation, we thought it necessary to have an overview of the activities being carried out, access its impact on the community and evaluate our achievements so far; which will enable us to determine to what extent we need to readjust our approach, so that it is in harmony with the dimension the assistance to these teenage mothers and young single adult women is taking.

During the first year of operation, we dealt mainly with the urban caseload in Bamenda and its immediate vicinities. The Regional Delegation for Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) has been the main governmental body we interacted with during this initial stage of our operation, in its capacity as the government authority responsible for women's affairs and family matters. At this initial stage, out of the 20 teen mothers we sponsored in various rehabilitation programmes, 25% were referred to us by MINPROFF. Others were directed to us through word of mouth, flyers and bill boards. As the activities unfolded and expanded, we were introduced to the Divisional Delegation for Social Welfare as well as the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedom with regard to cases that were clearly abusive and needed legal protection. Our collaboration with the National Employment Fund was initiated due to the assistance we give to teenage mothers in the area of vocational training and loan scheme to start income-generating activities. We also accosted the Regional Delegate for Youth Affairs with the hope of collaborating in civic education and other areas of interest. The local medical team of Atuakom Quarter of Bamenda 2 sub-division was also approached in view of giving joint seminars to teenage girls and young adult women.

As we entered into the 2nd year of operation in 2014, we decided to extend our assistance to the sub-division of Santa. The Sub-Delegate for Women's Empowerment and the Family in Santa launched a public invitation to teenage mothers to congregate at his office, for the official presentation of Haven of Hope in his jurisdiction, whose aim was to assist destitute teenage mothers. Here we encountered a new caseload of Mbororo/Fulani teenage mothers. These being of pastoral background, and who live within their community, apart from other ethnic groups, obliged us to put in place a special programme addressing their specific needs, basically illiteracy. Within this context, we linked up with MBOSCUDA (the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association), who paved the way for us to present the grievances expressed by the Mbororo teenage mothers in the Santa sub-division to the traditional leaders and parents of the community. After obtaining the green light from the Ardo (Mbororo traditional leader) of Santa to assist his subjects as specified, the Para-legal Advisor of MBOSCUDA joined HOH to approach the Sub-Divisional Inspectorate for Basic Education, with whom we discussed the high illiteracy rate in the Mbororo community. We concluded to start a capacity building project for the Mbororo teen mothers and young adult single women; functional literacy being the starting point.



At the Inspectorate of Basic Education, Santa-after working session.

By taking up the Mbororo/Fulani caseload, we realized that we have to put in place a dual approach of assistance for our beneficiaries: The Urban caseload and the Rural Community-based caseload.

B. EVALUATION

In order to better depict and define the results of this evaluation, this report has been divided into two parts; the Urban caseload and the Rural Community-based Caseload - Mbororo/Fulani of Santa Sub-Division.

1. URBAN CASELOAD :

1.1 PROFILE OF ASSISTED TEEN MOTHERS:

- As of date HOH has assisted over 30 teen mothers in rehabilitation programmes. Their ages ranged from 14 to 22 (age limit of in-take). Counselling services has also been dispensed to teenage mothers who needed orientation, young adult women who are married or single adult women who are above the age limit to benefit from our rehabilitation programmes.
- Of those who have benefitted from the rehabilitation programmes, 16 of them live with parents or close relatives (aunts/uncles, older siblings, grandparents),
- The others face life's challenges alone, and receive extra financial support to make ends meet;
- 3 of them are orphans of both parents, 1 is orphaned by the mother, 4 are orphaned by the father, 3 raised by single mothers after separation, others swing between the homes of their parents and other relatives.
- The caseload in rehabilitation programmes constituted 4 in sewing, 2 in decoration, 4 in hairdressing and beauty care, 8 in secondary schools, 4 in vocational training institutions (1 electricity, 1 nursing, and 1 commercial study 1, Baby and mother care), 7 in petty trade, 2 financial assistance to care for their children pending long term solutions.



1.2 QUANTIFIABLE RESULTS

After three years of implementation, we have registered some success stories:

- 4 teen mothers are running their small scale businesses after receiving small scale loans or minimal financial support from us, and benefitting from basic business classes. One passed away before she could realize her wish.
- 2 who participated in the basic business training improved their business strategy and are doing well.
- A few who achieved their initial goals – 1 in small scale business and 1 in hairdressing - decided to resume studies. Haven of Hope pays school fees while they use acquired skills to earn enough money to cover their basic needs and those of their children.
- 2 girls in tailoring did not complete their rehabilitation programmes, 2 are currently in training centres.
- 2 hairdressers who completed training decided to extend their apprenticeship because they were not satisfied with skills acquired; they were assigned to another trainer with more options in hair dressing, beauty care and massage.
- 2 took option in Decoration; 1 has completed her training and has settled down with the father of her son and have another baby. Haven of Hope has facilitated her start off through our loan scheme to set up her workshop. The other one suspended due to a 2nd pregnancy and has resumed the training after delivery.
- 5 wrote the GCE O level exams and 2 wrote the GCE A level exams. All passed, and have decided to pursue their studies to higher levels. 3 are currently in form V. All 3 in vocational institutions succeeded; engineering in electricity continues to higher technical school, nurse graduated in December and has

obtained employment, and the commercial student is specializing in a 6-months intensive training in office administration and we hope she will obtain employment at the end of the course in March 2016.



Graduation celebration of teen mothers in Decoration and hairdressing in March 2015 accompanied by Parents, Trainers and staff of HOH.



She finally realizes her dream. She successfully graduated from nursing school in December 2015.

1.3 CHALLENGES :

- In view of those who have achieved their goals, and remain single, we still have to find a means of ensuring that they maintain the momentum of success and do not lose sight of their vision.
- We have noticed that some girls who had been separated from their families, and are now succeeding, return to them with the hope of being accepted; we note the enthusiasm in their income generating activity drops, and there is a downward pull. We have to figure out how we can make them maintain good relationship with their families, while remaining focussed on their vision.
- How do we bring those who have completed their apprenticeship training, but are hesitant to set up their own income-generating activity? By the end of their training, or immediately after completion, the trainees receive a 3-day basic business management course, so that they are prepared to apply the right principles as soon as they start with their own businesses. However, we have been taken unawares by a couple of these young women who simply went back to their former lifestyle, and stopped communicating with us. We hope to be able to spot out those with this tendency, and keep them on track after completing their training.
- With regard to those pursuing post secondary studies, the financial implications are more demanding; therefore we need to improve on our fundraising strategy in order to meet up with the financial requirements. While we have benefitted until now from donations by a few individuals, we will have to explore other possibilities such as obtaining grants from governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and major associations that are willing to fund humanitarian projects like ours. We are also studying the possibility of launching fund-raising events.
- We need to be more alert in discerning any signs of discouragement on the young mothers as they progress in their rehabilitation programmes, in order to rekindle their enthusiasm and encourage them to stay focussed on their visions. Some discouragements have occurred because the teen mothers could not find a reliable person who could care for their children when they had to attend to their rehabilitation activity, or they did not have the finances to meet up with their most basic needs (food, rents), and were afraid to inform us.

1.4 POSITIVE REMARKS:

- The introduction of monthly gatherings in April 2014, created a cohesion among the girls, which generated collective enthusiasm and motivated those who were slag in their rehabilitation programmes to be more serious.



A session of monthly gathering; enhancing awareness on positive lifestyle.

Positive cohesion builds up self-confidence and engenders motivation.



- One of the teens who completed her IGA training reconciled with the father of her son and married soon after she completed. She has started her IGA with the initial financial support from Haven of Hope.
- We have been intervening in some families to help stabilise relationship between recalcitrant daughters and their parents.

- Some parents have expressed their appreciation of the positive change they have noticed in their daughters, which has impacted the lives of their younger siblings, positively, and have improved relationship among family members.
- It is highly motivating to HOH team to notice the zeal in some beneficiaries to pursue their studies at the post secondary levels, and express their desire to be at the top of the ladder. This zeal was demonstrated in the 100% success of HOH protégés in the GCE Ordinary and Advanced levels exams in August 2015.

1.5 WAY FORWARD:

a) CURRENT CASELOAD:

- Review individual status and agree on when to phase out.
- Sensitize on importance to become part of HOH after attaining self-sufficiency and becoming self-reliant, either by membership, promoter/ambassador or motivator.

b) FROM 2016 ONWARD:

- Determine maximum duration of assistance or highest level at which an individual may benefit of direct assistance from Haven of Hope.
- Determine entry age and limit by which an individual can benefit rehabilitation sponsorship from HOH. Presently we accept entry up to 22 years, but must have graduated by age 25.
- Encourage more involvement of parents, guardians, trainers, school authorities in dialogue.
- As much as possible solicit participation and involvement by government authorities in their areas of jurisdiction.
- Sensitize the public on the existence of Haven of Hope and services offered through local radios, distribution of flyers, and improve visibility by having more billboards in different parts of the city. This is in addition to our annual year-end party which normally takes place in July, to which local authorities, parents, institutions and others are invited.

2: RURAL COMMUNITY CASELOAD:

2.1 PROFILE: THE MBORORO/FULANI TEENS OF SANTA

- Among the 10 pioneers, only 1 teenage mother is married, 2 don't have children, 1 teen mother returned to her parents' home after her husband left their home to an unknown destination, the other 6 are single teen mothers.
- The above shows that an increasing and unrestricted number of Mbororo girls are having children out of wedlock. Thus the urgency to find a way to stop this growing tendency.
- The Mbororo girls have shown a keen interest to be literate and to learn a trade so as to be financially comfortable. This is the result of the fact that they are realising that they can no longer depend entirely on the men to satisfy their needs.
- Mbororo girls and women are daring to accept petty jobs for which they receive meagre wages, generally between 10,000 and 15,000 Frs. a month. The minimum wage authorised by the government is about 30,000 Frs. a month.
- This denotes the urgency to improve their literacy standard so that they are in a better position to defend and fend for themselves.
- Among our current caseload, 1 of the girls has no family support and life is very difficult for her. She sells food at minimum wage of 10,000 Frs. a month to care for herself and her baby.



2.2 QUANTIFIABLE RESULTS By 31st December 2015:

- 10 Teens actively participated in the functional literacy programme.
- By the end of the reporting period the head teacher confirmed that 5 of them were at a level that would enable them sit for the First School Leaving Certificate exams (FSLCE) in June 2016.
- The literacy classes were divided into 4 levels: 1A + 1B, 2A + 2B.
- In the course of this programme several Mbororo teenage girls and young women (about 40) have expressed their interest to take functional literacy classes in the next session which begins in January 2016. At least 20 new candidates are expected to show up for classes in January.



5 aspiring girls for FLCE - June 2016- receive textbooks.

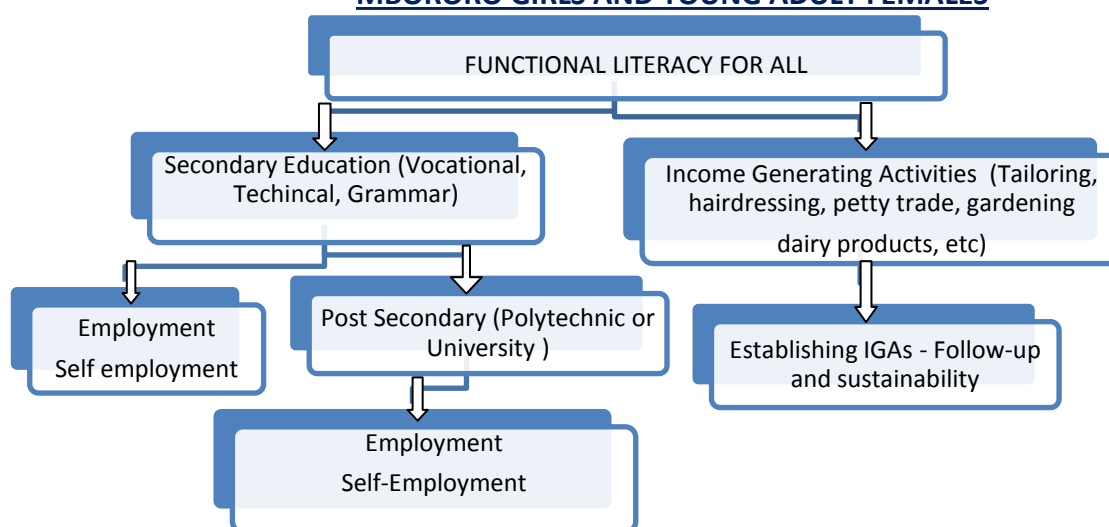
2.3 PROPOSED SOLUTION FOR MBORORO TEEN GIRLS AND YOUNG FEMALE ADULTS:

- With no further delay, facilitate access to functional literacy education to teen girls and young women from age 14 and above.
- With regard to the older girls, once they have acquired basic literacy to give them the opportunity to learn an income-generating activity. To the extent possible this should feature with their traditional income-generating activities.
- With regard to those who have demonstrated a good level of intellectual capacity to recommend them to pursue studies in secondary education; either technical/vocational training institutions, commercial or grammar schools.
- Promote Common Initiative Groups in view of reinforcing solidarity among them, and consolidate their resolve in running their respective IGAs, as sharing common interests will be an impetus to improve and persevere in their individual undertakings.
- Parents will be involved in capacity building, especially in the areas of updating them on progress made in capacity building programmes for their daughters, and the expected impact this will have on their community in the long-term.
- Sensitization seminars will be organized for male and female youths of the Mbororo community, to raise their awareness in family planning, interpersonal relationships, including those of the opposite sex, as well as with persons outside their communities.



Pioneer group in functional literacy, with parents, teacher and HOH team

RURAL COMMUNITY-BASED INTEGRATION PROGRAMME FOR MBORORO GIRLS AND YOUNG ADULT FEMALES



2.4 SPECIAL CONSIDERATION: In view of the specific nature of the MBORORO/FULANI community it is essential that solutions for this group be addressed in such a way that concrete and long lasting results can be obtained. The objective is to bring the Mbororo girls who are lagging behind the rest of the population to a level where they can integrate and benefit of the opportunities available to the citizens of the nation. To this effect:

- Earmarked Funds for this community are absolutely necessary to ensure sustainability of the programme and enable us meet our medium and long term goals.
- We rely on the good will of government departments to collaborate with us in areas where their intervention, participation and subvention are needed such as: facilitating administrative procedures for their enrolment in public exams, lowering the criteria for admission into educational institutions, giving them preferential treatment in job opportunities and employment, granting subsidies for promotion of functional literacy, training in income generating activities and continuous studies in educational institutions, facilitating acquisition of or accessibility to buildings for the interest of the beneficiaries.
- MBOSCUDA will accelerate literacy programme for the male population in order to avoid intellectual gap between the female population and the male population.
- Open forums will be organized for the female population to sensitize and educate them on different aspects of societal interaction so as to facilitate their integration with the mainstream population
- Organize joint sessions with the male and female population in collaboration with MBOSCUDA to educate on specific issues to enable the community gain understanding on matters of common interests which will accelerate progress for their community and integration into the mainstream society.
- Exchange visits to other Mbororo success projects and stories, such as the Wum diary women project sponsored by ILO, and others, to learn from them.



Let's prepare them for a sure and brighter future!
With Hadja - the Ardo's wife, and her grand daughters

C. FINANCIAL SUMMARY STATEMENT (In XAF = CFA Frs.) 01 January 2013 to 31 August 2015				
PART 1: INCOME:	Jan-Aug. 2013	Sept 2013-Aug 2014	Sept 2014- Aug 2015	TOTALS
FOUNDER	4'018'675.00	3'672'667.00	5'731'352.00	13'422'694.00
PRINCIPAL DONORS	1'374'890.00	3'387'361.00	4'795'652.00	9'557'903.00
OTHERS	279'916.00	2'697'874.00	1'597'459.00	4'575'249.00
TOTAL PER PERIOD:	5'673'481.00	9'757'902.00	12'124'463.00	27'555'846.00
PART 2: EXPENDITURE				
A. URBAN CASELOAD				
- TUITION FEES-SECOND./POST PRIMARY VOC. INSTITUTIONS	1'098'675.00	710'000.00	930'900.00	2'739'575.00
- REQUIRMENTS: SECOND./POST PRIMARY VOC. INSTITUTIONS	500'000.00	312'000.00	421'700.00	1'233'700.00
- TUITION FEES-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING-IGA		346'375.00	163'200.00	509'575.00
- OTHER ACTIVITIES + YEAR END PARTY	191'350.00	800'450.00	2'543'403.00	3'535'203.00
SUB-TOTAL A:	1'790'025.00	2'168'825.00	4'059'203.00	8'018'053.00
B. RURAL CASELOAD	-			-
- MOBILISATION & SENSITISATION		306'950.00	120'000.00	426'950.00
- FUNCTIONAL LITERACY SPONSORSHIP	-		527'942.00	527'942.00
SUB-TOTAL B:		306'950.00	647'942.00	954'892.00
C. AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT				
SUB-TOTAL C:	222'000.00	1'934'900.00	1'721'000.00	3'877'900.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE: A+B+C:	2'012'025.00	4'410'675.00	6'428'145.00	12'850'845.00
ADMIN OVERHEAD CHARGES: 10%	201'202.50	441'067.50	642'814.50	1'285'084.50
NET EXPENDITURE A+B+C	2'213'227.50	4'851'742.50	7'070'959.50	14'135'929.50
D. ADMIN. & MANAGEMENT				
- ADMINISTRATION	640'000.00	2'866'780.00	3'747'106.09	7'253'886.09
- HUMAN RESOURCES	680'000.00	1'803'959.00	1'758'658.00	4'242'617.00
- PUBLIC & EXTERNAL RELATIONS	540'000.00	393'000.00	806'123.29	1'739'123.29
- LESS OVERHEAD CHARGES	-201'202.50	-441'067.50	-578'020.30	-1'220'290.30
SUB-TOTAL D:	1'658'797.50	4'622'671.50	5'733'867.08	12'015'336.08
TOTAL OVERALL EXPENDITURE:	3'872'025.00	9'474'414.00	12'804'826.58	26'151'265.58
BALANCE @ 31 August 2015.				1'404'580.42

D. CONCLUSION:
LONG TERM SOLUTIONS FOR THE YOUTHS

- Introduce good moral education in the early stages of life: nursery school and kindergarten;
- Review civic education and ethics in the educational system : respect for self and others, love for the nation and patriotism;
- Enhance consciousness of environmental friendly behaviours and eco-system protection through concrete actions such as cleaning common areas in the cities, developing the habit of placing trash cans in rooms, parks, streets, etc, and making gardening and farming activities in schools mandatory;

- Introduce and promote healthy extra curricula activities for youths: e.g. sports, theatres, debates, dance clubs, musical groups, etc. To this end the government authorities should create access-free parks and sporting facilities both open air and indoors in the cities and rural areas. Accessibility to recreational areas should be mandatory for all regular educational institutions;
- Encourage the youths from primary level to enjoy community service such as cleaning common areas of their quarters, helping the elderly and sick especially those who are alone, visit prisons, hospitals, orphanages, etc, and carrying out actions that will leave a print of their visit in these places.
- Government should facilitate youth's integration into active adult life by alleviating entrepreneurship formalities and obligations such as extending tax-free period for new businesses, lower VAT and other forms of taxes, to encourage private business ventures, subsidise education on new technologies and facilitate acquisition of these.

In brief, the central government, through the various ministries of education, needs to restructure, reorganise and re-strategise its educational system, not only to focus on academic achievements, but to include good moral and ethical standards, physical and mental fitness, environmental awareness, and patriotic consciousness with a global vision.

Haven of Hope is a non-profit, non-partisan foundation, desirous to contribute in its own little way, to improve the lives of those who fell short of their dreams in one way or the other, through counselling and giving them the opportunity to reconnect by sponsoring them in a chosen programme, and accompanying them through the rehabilitation programmes to ensure that they achieve their goals and reintegrate into active community life successfully. Teenage mothers and young single adult mothers from various backgrounds are the target group through which the vision is being realized.

In light of our achievements so far, and in view of the tasks that lie ahead, HOH thanks all those who have been supporting our actions, and we continue to welcome donations of all forms in favour of our target population with gratitude.

*By Gladys Ndang
Chief Executive Director/Founder
Haven of Hope Cameroon
January 2016.*



At the event of the year end party in July 2015: The Divisional Officer of Bamenda II Sub-Division acknowledges the work of HOH and encourages the team with his presence. Picture with beneficiaries and staff of HOH.

HAVEN OF HOPE

CAMEROON



How can single illiterate women face the complex situations in a post-modern society which they have not been prepared to live in?

In response HOH initiated a capacity building project for Mbororo/Fulani teenage girls, beginning with a functional literacy education programme in January 2015 with 10 teenage mothers of Mbororo descent.

Single teen mothers proudly and happily display their certificates at the end of their vocational training programmes.



As her eyes caught the promise of hope, she pondered if her dreams would finally come true. Today she sees a bright future ahead as she successfully completed her nursing course, after 2 years training, and steps into her new life as a qualified nurse; thanks to the opportunity given to her by HOH.



A moment of ecstasy as she walks out to meet her friends of HOH after graduation formalities.