

Focus: Creating opportunities for the empowerment of marginalised children, women and youths in Cameroon's poorest and marginalised communities (2014-2018)



Giving hope to pregnant village women



Women take part in action planning



programs office in Bangem



Recognition from the world Bank



Youth delegates present their option documents

Official summary Report of Activities carried out by
CCREAD-Cameroon from January – December 2014

Team of facilitators/reporters at CCREAD-Cameroon

- Mr. Hilary Ewang Ngide (Team leader)
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1. Introducing CCREAD-Cameroon

Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD-Cameroon) is an active registered non profit Non Governmental Organisation registered under Cameroon Law in December 2006. CCREAD-Cameroon is led by devoted local and International volunteers who work closely with local communities in identifying problems, creating community led structures and mechanisms to plan for solutions with the main goal of fostering the empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities in Cameroon. CCREAD-Cameroon has been reviewed and recommended for UN consultative status, is affiliated to 5 International organisations/networks and an active local partner of more than 25 local organisations in Cameroon since 2006. CCREAD-Cameroon won the 2011-2013 World Bank Development marketplace competition in the domain of good governance promotion in the educational sector.

Our reputation is grounded in the fact that;

- We don't just live besides people; we live with them.
- We don't just teach them; we learn from them.
- People don't just know us; they understand us.
- We are not all knowing experts; we are committed participants.
- We are not a replacement; we are a facilitator.
- We do bring what we want; we ask what works for the people

1.2 Working objectives which are driven by the communities we serve are;

- Increase the application of good governance, decentralization, and democratic practices in hard to reach/marginalized regions in Cameroon
- Reduce the high incidence of poverty among marginalized women and youths with focus on hard to reach forest communities of Cameroon
- Increase basic education and health facility access for children, women and youths in poor communities
- Foster peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives in selected communities
- Increase the respect of the rights of children, and women
- Raise environmental sustainability awareness and promote management actions among youths

1.3 Target groups for our interventions

In our current action plan (2014-2018), CCREAD-Cameroon is very keen to see positive changes within the following groups' in identified Cameroonian communities in collaboration with partners

- Orphans with no support
- Marginalised widows and disabled persons with nothing or nobody to look up to
- Marginalised and disadvantaged women and youths across identified communities
- Abandoned Teenage mothers with no employment/livelihood.
- Poor and unemployed indigenous communities with environmental constraints

1.4 Approach: Since we do not offer our options but focus on working on the options driven by the communities we serve, we have a very flexible approach which mainstreams the following;

- Education, campaigning and sensitization
- Targeted training
- Community organisation
- Service delivery through projects and programs

2.0 Interventions completed in 2014

2.1 Skill building and employment creation for poor women through vocational training

CCREAD-Cameroon through many baseline studies confirmed with rural communities that the non participation of rural women is not because they are very weak, but because they are not exposed to social and economic empowerment opportunities. Within this framework, CCREAD-Cameroon established a pioneer charity intensive vocational training center located in Bangem, South West Region of Cameroon which started effective training in 2013. In 2014, the center was able to accomplish the following;

- 40 women and teenage girls trained on ICT s with 20 currently working within enterprises while the rest are operating small documentation units as self managed businesses
- 10 young girls finished training as tailors and 6 of them are currently running small tailoring shops while others are still undergoing speciality training
- 120 women and youth trained on social entrepreneurship, project management and business plan development



Actions implemented and impact being created on the lives of rural women

2.2 Community organisation of local communities

Development work championed totally without the strong commitment of the local people is never sustainable and the lack of community structures which can ensure sustainability of development and self realisation projects. As a continuation of work started since 2011;

- 14 new women and youth led development common initiative groups were created
- 3 Farmers cooperatives were registered and trained
- 5 of the 14 new groups created in 2014 were officially affiliated to local government structures within the South West Region

This was thought to be an important activity because local communities have come to be very effective and efficient in projects and programs through these groups which they are the leaders with CCREAD-Cameroon serving more as a facilitator



Groups created and coordinated by CCREAD-Cameroon in actions during an on farm training

2.3 Reducing maternal mortality and family planning within rural communities

While many local government and NGO programs have focused on accessible areas with new health outreach programs, CCREAD-Cameroon has continued to take the lead in the delivery of programs within extreme poor, marginalised and hard to reach/remote communities especially targeting women and children. Within this program, CCREAD-Cameroon partnered with some international organisations who donate birthing kits and micro nutrients to CCREAD-Cameroon to be donated to rural women. In 2014, 1,600 birthing kit packets were freely distributed to pregnant women in more than 50 rural communities with no health centres. These birthing kits are used by traditional birth attendants who are trained to conduct safe and clean deliveries. Apart from the free distribution of these birthing kits, more than 50 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) were trained in 2014. The project has continued to reduce to have the following results;

- Reduced death of women during delicate home deliveries
- Ensure safe and clean deliveries and the protection of new borne babies
- It has reinforced the capacity of local health centres and traditional health systems.
- More than 3,000 women were educated on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV

The project is a long term commitment of CCREAD-Cameroon to reduce maternal mortality within impoverished communities.



PMTCT actions and the donation of life saving birthing kits to pregnant women in villages

2.4 Education for sustainable development program (ESD)

CCREAD-Cameroon initiated this activity which is focused on educating youths through school base campaigns on issues which affect their daily living and their immediate communities. The program uses committed national and international volunteers who are placed at schools within the South West Region of Cameroon. The following topical issues are covered;

- Environment and climate change
- Good governance promotion and civic education
- Leadership and nation building
- Sexuality and family planning

- Human rights and democracy.

In 2014, 25 colleges were engaged and more than 8,500 students were reached. During the campaigns organised at schools as capacity building workshops, students are organised into promotion clubs with debates, dramas and quiz on these topical issues to test their practical understanding of principles, concepts and applications. It is one of the activities organised each year voluntarily by CCREAD-Cameroon which has changed the perspectives of students, teachers and parents.



School base ESD Program changing the minds of youths to be change agents of their homes and communities



2.5 Fighting to end all forms of violence against marginalised women

Over the years, the close collaboration between CCREAD-Cameroon and rural communities have help our field staff to come in contact with the different forms of violence perpetrated on women and girls. Domestic violence was identified as one of the targets for our 2014 planned activity and thanks to the support received from the Feminist Review Trust, CCREAD-Cameroon was able to complete the following in this area of activity;

- 10 community base anti domestic violence education, advocacy and counselling workshops were organised in Kupe Muanenguba Division
- 2 networks of women to serve as peer education groups and orientation for legal assistance and protection to women abused within communities were formed, registered and trained
- More than 10,000 rural women were educated on different forms of violence and best peaceful strategies of ending domestic violence and conflicts in families and communities. As a result of these activities, rural women have gained knowledge while men and traditional

authorities have been educated on the needs to respect the rights of women and girls and to see women as partners in development and not as tools they use when and how they desire. Functional groups are now campaigning against sexual, physical, emotional and other forms of violence while CCREAD-Cameroon is working to scale up these activities until 2019.



CCREAD-Cameroon focuses on fighting all forms of domestic violence on women and girls

2.6 Micro assistance scheme to abandoned teenage mothers

Another activity which took the time and resources of the management of CCREAD-Cameroon was a response to the many appeals made by a group of teenage mothers who have been abandoned by men. A total of 50 teenage girls were assisted through the granting of small micro finance scheme to enable them set up small businesses to generate income. The scheme was financed by voluntary crowd funding donations. CCREAD-Cameroon's international volunteers coordinated the project which took place in Bangem in the month of May 2014. By December 2014, these teenage girls were already in business with the help of small financial donations from CCREAD-Cameroon



Teenage mothers supported by CCREAD-Cameroon to reduce poverty incidence on their families

2.7 School health outreach program for poor children

In 2014, CCREAD-Cameroon was motivated by the impact created by the donation of hygiene and sanitation materials which were donated to some 13 community primary schools in 2013. In over 20 rural communities touched negatively by the outbreak of cholera which killed more than 10 school children, CCREAD-Cameroon had identified in collaboration with health officials through a baseline study that the poor hygiene and sanitation within community schools was a global call for concern. To continue its annual response to this problem, 3 community schools in Cameroon were assisted in 2014 through the donation of waste disposal cans, distribution of drinking buckets and drinking cups to more than 500 primary school pupils. This has reduced the transmission of water born diseases and no school child died in 2014 in all the schools assisted.



Efforts made by CCREAD-Cameroon's outreach team to save the life of children

2.8 Sustainable agricultural promotion for poverty alleviation

After the formation of more than 14 new local development groups, the year 2014 saw the establishment of 5 new group farms for most poor and marginalised widows. These farms which are sponsored by CCREAD-Cameroon grow and market pigs and organic gardening products which help the poor widows to generate income. In 2014,

- 100 women grouped into five livestock and organic gardening farming groups were assisted
- 20 women group leaders were trained on bookkeeping and financial management
- 20 women group leaders were trained on improved sustainable agricultural management practices
- 46 rural women selected across 3 sub divisions were trained on processing and transformation of tomatoes.

- 5 groups were assisted with agricultural farming and marketing equipment



2.9 Orphans in school program

In 2014, through donations from international volunteers and crowd funding platforms, CCREAD-Cameroon's community education program was able to remove 72 orphans from the street who are currently sponsored and enrolled into 5 different primary and secondary schools to give them a bright future and a sense of responsibility.



2.9.1 Rural women leadership training program

Communities in most developing countries and most especially in very poor settings of Cameroon do not make maximum use of the potentials of women because women are many at times not exposed to opportunities. CCREAD-Cameroon's annual leadership training program saw the organisation of 6 regional women's leadership trainings in 2014. The trainings are conducted within rural communities with marginalised women prioritized. These 6 trainings successfully held in 2014 were aimed at;

- Educating rural women on leadership and performance monitoring
- Educating rural women on best ways of taking economic and social empowerment chances
- Empower women with skills in conflict transformation and human security.
- A total of 300 rural women who are leaders within their communities were trained by CCREAD-Cameroon through out 2014.



3. Participation at a social entrepreneurship and conflict resolution International training held in April 2014 in Lagos Nigeria

CCREAD-Cameroon was a local implementation partner of a European Commission's Youth in Action program sponsored project on social entrepreneurship and conflict resolution centrally coordinated by UNOY Peacebuilders. Within the framework of this project, CCREAD-Cameroon participated at an international training which served as a training of trainer's workshop on social entrepreneurship for peacebuilding across Africa. Mr. Hilary Ewang Ngide of CCREAD-Cameroon effectively took part at the training program and also presented the activities of CCREAD-Cameroon to all international participants.



4. Selection as the only Cameroonian base NGO to be represented at the UNESCO ESD Youth and World Conference

In June 2014, UNESCO in collaboration with the government of Japan launched an international call to select NGOs which are effective in the promotion of sustainable development education in the whole world. CCREAD-Cameroon's Executive Director; Mr. Hilary Ewang Ngide who has championed the activities of the organisation with practical results across the 10 regions of Cameroon was selected as one of the 50 world Youth ESD leaders to participate in the Youth and World Conference organised in the month of November 2014. While in attendance, Hilary Ewang Ngide was selected by UNESCO/Gio Peace Foundation as the leader of discussions on the role of local communities and also selected as a drafting committee member of the deliberations of the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference held in Okayama, Japan from 4-8th November 2014, and UNESCO World Conference held on 10-12th in Nagoya, Japan.



Hilary Ewang Ngide of CCREAD-Cameroon with Irina Bokuva (UNESCO) Director General at UNESCO ESD World conference

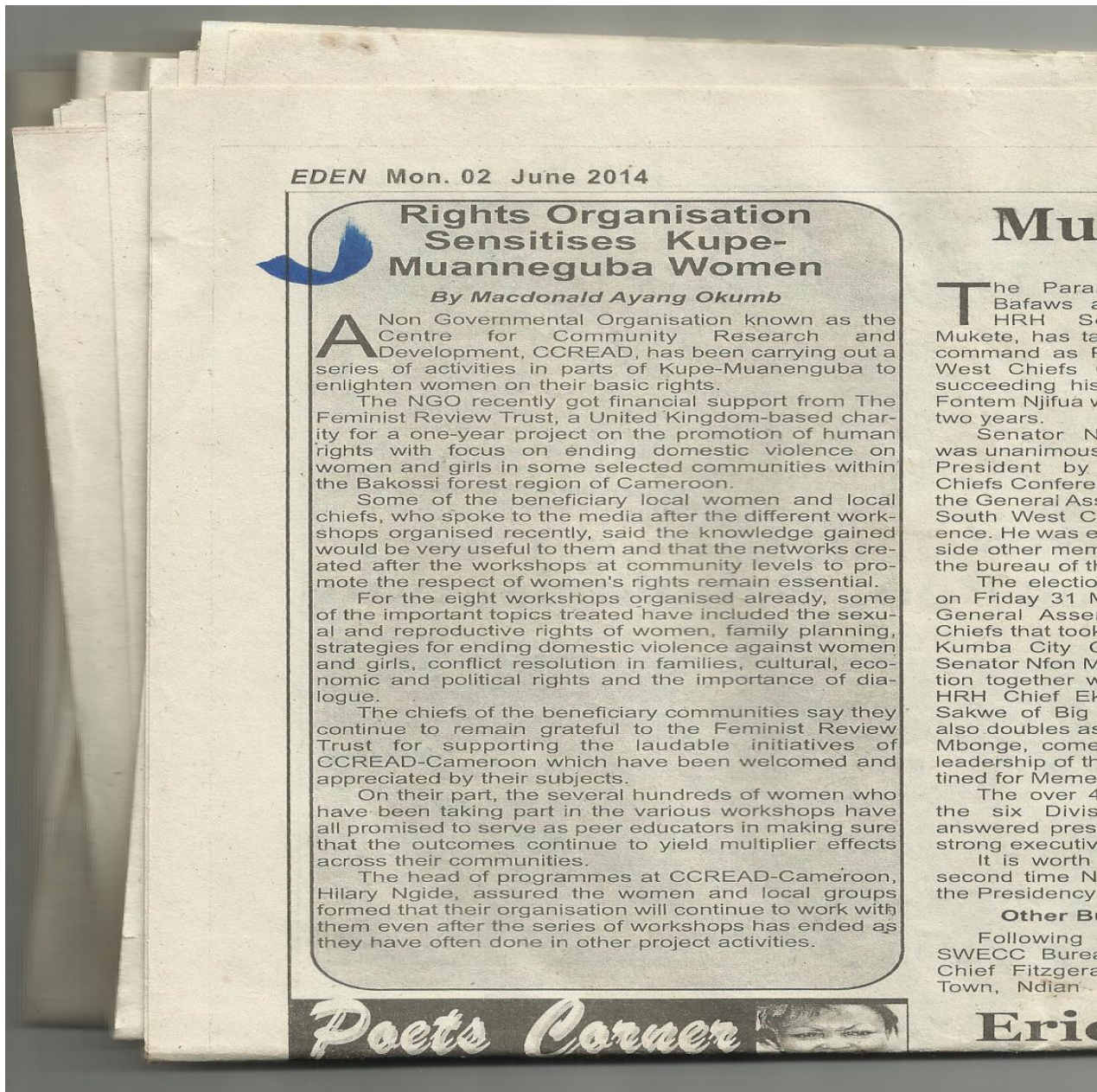
5. World Bank Recognition for the promotion of good governance and fight against corruption

In 2011, CCREAD-Cameroon was the lone NGO from the South West Region of Cameroon that won the World Bank Development Marketplace completion which lead the World Bank through The Catholic Relief Services to offer a micro grant of worth 20,000 USD to initiate activities for the promotion of good governance within the educational sector. CCREAD-Cameroon during the implementation phase of the project was visited, monitored and evaluated in the field by the World Bank, Catholic Relief Services and a set of internal external project evaluators who assessed the implementation of the project from 2011 -2013 as very satisfactory with excellent adherence to donor administrative and financial prescriptions. After 2013, CCREAD-Cameroon was presented a certificate of recognition by the World Bank in Cameroon for good work done.



Certificate of recognition from the World Bank for good governance promotion

6. Public media acknowledgement of CCREAD-Cameroon's activities in 2014



7. Difficulties encountered in 2014

1. Though we achieved most of what we planned doing in 2014, financial constraints limited the extent to which we could go
2. International volunteers and staff had very little remuneration since we have always kept our financial and running costs very low to reach more to the communities served
3. It was very challenging to reach our communities on time given very poor transport and communication access of a majority of the communities served by our organization. The roads were very inaccessible especially in the rainy seasons. We relied on our Project motorcycles which constantly got bad and we had to trek most of the times to communities,
4. Many more communities needed our interventions more than our financial ability to support them. This caused plenty of dissatisfaction among some communities we were unable to assist in 2014; we however comforted them by including them in our 2015 plan of actions
5. One of our current three offices lacked working equipment. This made work in particular regions very difficult and was not a motivated to our staff and volunteers
6. Many of our staff needed training more than we could support their participation in very important trainings. This is because most of such capacity buildings took place out of Cameroon and finding sponsorship was not very easy for CCREAD-Cameroon.

7. Our production Unit which funds a good number of our activities faced problems especially the poultry and piggery components with the outbreak of infections which caused delays in production cycles.

8. What we recommend for the near future

1. CCREAD-Cameroon is a membership youth led development organizations. As such members and partners should be more determined to implement planned projects and lay more emphases on meeting our non profit objectives rather than for staff and volunteers to keep asking for increment on their monthly stipends
2. For many projects, our donors should consider monitoring projects even after funding stops because good impact for activities can only be measured after 3 to 4 years of implementation
3. Supporters and donors who share in the objectives of CCREAD-Cameroon should consider recruiting volunteers for the implementation of planned activities and giving any relevant institutional support.
4. Donors should speed up the recess of signing project contracts and disbursement of funds because any delay in these automatically reduces the impact of project and undermines the value for project money since activities regularly postponed have negative implications on development effectiveness

9. Planned projects for the future at CCREAD-Cameroon

- Vocational training for youths and women on ICTs, Tailoring entrepreneurship, and leadership
- Scaling up of youth leadership and governance training
- School base peace, human rights, governance and environmental education
- Start of Rise for Nature Program Phase 3 in 5 communities on environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation
- Integrated poverty alleviation scheme for women and youths in need
- Assistance to 10 schools through classroom and toilet constructions
- Donation of birthing kits to rural women for safe and clean delivery
- Construction of a permanent space for the training of women and girls

10. Team members at CCREAD-Cameroon (full time volunteers)

Name of staff	Position	Qualification
Hilary Ewang Ngide	Executive Director	MS.c(Development/Environment, PGC(PPME), BS.c(Geo& planning)
Belinda Menyange	Programs Officer	BS.c (Sociology/Anthropology)
Etienne Mponne	Projects officer	BS.c (Environmental mgt)
Sylvie E. Epolle	Outreach manager	LL.B
Cirus Msumbe Epie	Communications officer	B.ED, Dip(Communications)
Ntungwe Remitus	Administrator	LLB, Dip in PME
Nina Maria	Partnerships	BA, Community development
Lyn Tim	Outreach Assist.	LLB, Dip HRM
Anna Dressler	Coordinator	

11. Our partners

- The World Bank (GDM)
- The Catholic Relief Services (Cameroon Program)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (ACT project)
- United Nations Women's Guild of Vienna(Austria)
- The Kitchen Table Charities Trust (UK)

- United Network of Young Peacebuilders (Netherlands)
- The Feminist Review Trust (UK) and
- The Birthing Kits Foundation (BKFA-Australia)
- AFRAD Switzerland
- 23 local partner organizations in Cameroon, and other African Countries

12. Pressing Needs at CCREAD-Cameroon (Call for assistance)

- Core funding for any of our scaling up activities or new project
- Projects 4x4 wheel drive car and extension motorcycles
- Computers/tailoring machines for the vocational training center
- International volunteers/interns to join our team
- Permanent office accommodation and capacity building for staff.

CCREAD-Cameroon is very pleased to have met you through this summary report. As a charitable organization, our activities have been possible so far because of supporters like you. After this day, it is our wish that you become a partner of our activities at any level.

We appreciate the support of old and new partners and we will continue to acknowledge your support and will notify our target communities of the source of support. Thank you and hope to hear from you.

CONTACTS

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We trust in you and your contributions count.

13 Ending Note:

Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD-Cameroon) is very pleased to have come to the end of another year. Though the year 2014 had its challenges especially the difficulty in obtaining funding for our many projects, the organisation is pleased to have again created much impact and transformed the lives of marginalised and disadvantaged children, women and youths. We remain very grateful to our supporters and will continue to acknowledge their support and hope they continue to rally forces behind us. CCREAD-Cameroon is also very pleased to have been reviewed and recommended by the United Nations for special consultative status. We particularly want to thank the many volunteers, staff and partners whose names will be published in a more detailed report which will come up before the end of 2015 and wish that new donors should welcome us for groundbreaking community driven projects and programs especially those benefiting women and children we have identified in 2014. Our 2015 focus will remain the empowerment of marginalised and disadvantaged women, children and youths. We want to thank all local communities which have considered our organisation as their partner and are always ready to collaborate with us and give our donors information whenever they visit project sites even without notification. Thank you all.