



Creating opportunities for the empowerment of marginalised children, women and youths in Cameroon's poorest and marginalised communities merged with the promotion of environmental sustainability (2016-2020)





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 2016



Team of facilitators/reporters at CCREAD-Cameroon

- Mr. Hilary Ewang Ngide (Team leader)
- Ms. Belinda Menyange
- Ms. Carine Kenne
- Mr. Cyrus Mesumbe

A word from the Director

Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD-Cameroon), has again come to the end of another important year, marking the 10th year of practical field presence in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programs aimed at fostering the social and economic empowerment of people and communities in need across Cameroon. As a growing charity, 2016 was not just another year, but provided an opportunity for the organisation to start new activities, expand and consolidate existing interventions and above all continued in building a strong team of program facilitators. Throughout 2016, the organisation focused on turning ideas into action within the framework of its current 2016-2020 action plan focused on social and economic empowerment and the promotion of environmental sustainability. Education, health, skills building and the promotion of sustainable agricultural program promotion were central while the protection of the environment was properly mainstreamed.

An important highlight of the year 2016 was the outstanding recognition within the international development scene as Centre for Community Regeneration and Development was one of the three organisations all over the world selected as winners of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for sustainable development (ESD) for its long term integrated ESD schemes within schools and communities in Cameroon which has focused for the past 6 years on educating children, women, youths and indigenous issues, some of which are the root causes of extreme poverty in Cameroon. This Award did not only help to boost the program outreach, but it has helped in further demonstrating that Centre for Community Regeneration and Development has been a vital stakeholder in the promotion of related ESD interventions in Cameroon

Throughout 2016, the organisation started three different vocational skill building centres across Cameroon for the intensive training of hundreds of identified marginalised and disadvantaged women and youths especially abandoned single mothers and marginalised widows together with unemployed youths. These vocational training facilities also included promotional activities for the generation of seed capital' handed over to trainees at the end of their training to enable them start micro enterprises and stay out of poverty and other associated social vices . Support to orphans, widows and community members through sustainable agriculture and environmental education were some of the key interventions of the year

Most importantly, CCREAD-Cameroon was most honoured to have had the highest number of request for collaboration letters from local communities across Cameroon and internationally. This meant that the news of the wonderful projects and programs and their impact. Our commitment for 2017 is simply not only to do more than 2016, but to ensure that our long term programs are kept alive while providing coaching, mentoring and continuous evaluation of current activities to make our program impacts more visible across the country. On behalf of the Board of Director, General members and management, I want to thank all local and international partners for pushing us this far.



Hilary Ewang NGIDE
Director

Ph. D Researcher (Natural Resources and sustainable Livelihoods)
MS.c (International Development and environment studies)
MS.c (Geography and Regional Planning)
PGD (Projects and Human Resources Management)
PGD(Organizational leadership and Development Communication)
BS.c (Geography and Regional Development)

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 runs two active program offices in Cameroon, is a member of UNOY (www.unoy.org), an NGO participant of UN Global Compact and also gained United Nations Special Consultative Status since April 2015. Centre for Community Regeneration and Development won the 2011-2013 World Bank Development marketplace competition in Cameroon for the promotion of good governance within the education and health sectors (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/178581468190184454/pdf/98050-WP-P121448-Box391503B-PUBLIC-DM-summary-report-2015.pdf>). CCREAD-Cameroon also won the 2016 UNESCO Japan Prize on the promotion of education for sustainable development activities in Cameroon for the over 8 years of ESD interventions (<http://en.unesco.org/prize-esd/2016laureates/ccread>) and is a current UNESCO Partner within the framework of the Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development since October 2016

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 (2016-2020), 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 2016

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. After running two vocational training units since 2013, CCREAD-Cameroon following pressure from local women and youths created three new vocational training units in 2016

- 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
- 35 women and girls received intensive training of hairdressing, beauty salon management and out of this number trained in 2016, 25 have been provided with start up capitals from the promotional activities they conducting while undergoing training and CCREAD-Cameroon will be coaching them throughout 2017-2019 to ensure that they are not only out of poverty, but are able to train other widows and single mothers
- 20 Women and youths also received training from the tailoring and designing depart through the vocational training and within the first two months of 2017, they will be provided with seed capital while 10 of them have already identified shops in which they will be employed and start earning their own money to carter for their children.



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



Intensive vocational training schools established for women and youths in 2016

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtFzUpIY_HM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcye8l7Hfzw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjehR6kZS3U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA0a43xIRfE&t=9s>

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 on community organisation and planning, 2016 saw the completion of the following activities;

- 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 2016 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 , coach and mentor for the groups.



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



Providing training to leaders of community development groups

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 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 2016, 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 2016. 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 and communities within the South West, Littoral and North West Regions of Cameroon. The program which is implemented through community base and school oriented workshops and campaigns is centred on

- Environment and climate change
- Good governance promotion and civic education
- Leadership and nation building
- Sexuality and family planning
- Human rights and democracy.
- In 2016, 27 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. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bXYvjHe6ew>
- In 2016 a team of 15 ESD trained volunteers organised 34 community based workshops on ESD which were focused on conservation education, forestry management and governance, family planning, sexual and reproductive health
- In 2016, CCREAD-Cameroon won the 2016 UNESCO Japan Prize on Education for sustainable development http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/one_mans_inspiring_sustainability_education_project_makin/



Youths educated on vital human development through educational workshops

2.5 Fighting to end all forms of violence against marginalised women (Human rights)

Over the years, the close collaboration between CCREAD-Cameroon and rural communities has helped 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 2016 planned activity and thanks to the support received from partners, 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 2020.



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, Bakassi and Mamfe in the year 2016. By December 2016, 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 2016, 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 2016. 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, 5 community schools in Cameroon were assisted in 2016 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 2016 in all the schools assisted.



2.8 Sustainable agricultural promotion for poverty alleviation

After the formation of more than 14 new local development groups, the year 2016 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 2016,

- 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
- An additional production and training central livestock farm was established in 2016 by local and international volunteers serving in CCREAD-Cameroon. 15 improved variety species were installed in this new farm and it will in 2017 serve as a community livestock multiplication, learning and distribution unit for poor women and youths.



Building of a multipurpose and production livestock Unit for widows and single mothers



CCREAD-Cameroon assists a family to grow and market fresh tomatoes for income generation



The Director of CCREAD-Cameroon Trains youths in action on mix cropping on the same piece of land

2.9 Orphans in school and assistance program

- In 2016, 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.
- CCREAD-Cameroon established partnership with three new orphanages in Cameroon through the provision of hygiene and sanitation materials, provision of gardening materials and training of orphans to set up organic gardening farms for them to start producing most their foods and vegetables to supplement their feeding and depend less on donations.



CCREAD-Cameroon assisting children and team members at Grace Orphanage-Cameroon



Donation of benches, buckets and gardening materials to orphanages-Cameroon

2.9.1 Rural women leadership training program (governance) and environmental education

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 2016 with 16 environmental education workshops. The trainings are conducted within rural communities with marginalised women prioritized. These 6 trainings successfully held in 2016 were aimed at;

- Educating rural women on leadership and performance monitoring
- Organised 16 environmental education workshops with schools and within communities
- 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 throughout 2016.



Rural women local governance and leadership training activities organised by CCREAD-Cameroon



Training single mothers on staying alert against sexual and GBV within communities

2.9.2 International Conference on Agricultural entrepreneurship and exchange between European and African Youths

Within the framework of the Erasmus Plus KA2 focusing on capacity building in the field of youth with innovations, CCREAD-Cameroon was part of an international consortium that received a European Commission 24 months grants which was coordinated by SVIMED-Italy. The project was focused on building capacities of youth to engage in the creation of sustainable agricultural enterprises, exchange of ideas. After the first transnational meeting of the project held in 2015, CCREAD-Cameroon as the implementing partner in Cameroon for the project organised the 2nd transnational conference which focused on;

- Training youths on setting up monitoring and evaluation plans for agricultural enterprises
- Building competitive business plans for agricultural enterprises
- Financial management for enterprise managers and how to run social enterprises within the agricultural sector

The International conference was fully organised by CCREAD-Cameroon and it was held from the 1st through the 7th day of February 2016 at the Executive Hotel in Buea. It was heavily facilitated and a total of 63 youths with in attendance. Participants came from Cameroon, Italy, Ghana, Greece, and from The Gambia

<http://www.agro-youth.eu/index.php/partners>

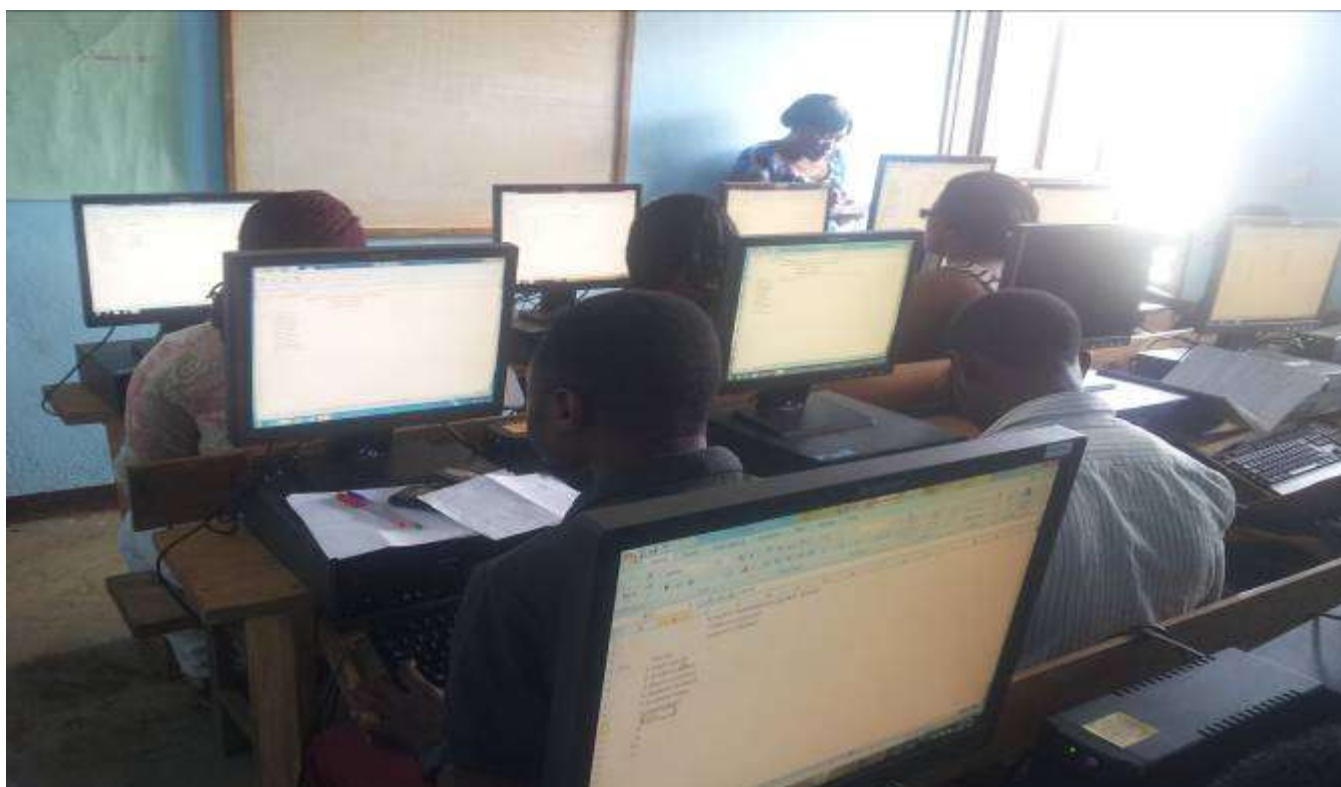


3. Providing free ICT training for community schools for marginalised children

Working with 5 community schools in 2015, CCREAD-Cameroon through donations was able to set up ICT training rooms for 3 schools where CCREAD-Cameroon locally recruited volunteers to provide free ICT training for children and community schools within very poor communities where parents cannot afford purchasing computers and the children need to have computer lessons as part of their end of year examinations. A minimum of 700 children were trained in 2016 by these charity schools ICT training units managed by the community and volunteers from CCREAD-Cameroon. This phase of the project was implemented in the Littoral Region of Cameroon and towards the end of 2016, CCREAD-Cameroon had handed over the training units to the local councils who are managing the units fully while expert trainers from CCREAD-Cameroon go periodically to check the progress made.



Charity ICT training units for marginalised community primary schools managed by CCREAD-Cameroon



Community members also benefiting from the ICT training units installed for community schools in Melong, Littoral

8. Difficulties encountered in 2016

1. Though we achieved most of what we planned doing in 2016, 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 2016; we however comforted them by including them in our 2017 plan of action
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.

9. 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

10. 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
- Seeking opportunities for community schools ICT training

13. 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

For general information: info@ccreadcameroon.org

For volunteering: volunteers@ccreadcameroon.org

For partnerships: partnerships@ccreadcameroon.org

For direct contact with the Director: hilaryngide@ccreadcameroon.org or ccreadcameroon@yahoo.com

Tel: +237 696202344 or +237 243062131

Website: www.ccreadcameroon.org

We trust in you and your contributions count.

14 Conclusions

Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD-Cameroon) is very pleased to have come to the end of another year. Though the year 2016 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 youth. We remain very grateful to our supporters and will continue to acknowledge their support and hope they continue to rally forces behind us. 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 2017 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 2016. Our 2017 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.