

**FOUNDATION FOR RESOURCES AND
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
[FORCE-CAM]**

People Centred Development

Trust is Unity

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**FONDATION POUR LES RESSOURCES ET
RENFORCEMENT DE CAPACITE
COMMUNAUTAIRE**

Développement auto-centré

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2006 REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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PREFACE



Must I have more than enough before I contribute to the development of my community? Must I be retired before I become committed in seeking solutions to the problems in my community?

I once visited my village on a very cold September month in the year 2004. At 6:30 am, I got up (forced by the cold) and went to the kitchen to sit and warm myself by the fire my mother had made to prepare tea for the family. The rain, which had fallen all night, continued that morning, as the whistling wind with its cold breeze was least welcoming, providing good reason for every body to stay in doors. Suddenly, I heard my mother ask? Hello 'grand pa'! What brings you here this early under the rain? It was then about 6:45 am. The young boy (age about 9 year) replied, "My mother has sent me to come and beg for Brian's school uniform. (*Brian is my nephew*) We heard he passed the Common Entrance Examination to enter Secondary school and might not need his Primary school uniforms any more. I did not attend school last year because I never had a uniform." My mother called for Brian who collected two pairs of his Primary school uniforms and gave him. The boy left so excited under the rain, assured of attending school come reopening day.

I sat dumfounded and enquired from my mother how much a pair of uniform cost. She said about 2,000FCFA. That is about 5US\$. In the course of my further enquiry, I learnt that due to the high level of poverty in the families, some very intelligent kids are refused registration into Primary seven by their desperate parents even when they have been promoted for lack of funds for their Common Entrance and First School Leaving Certificate Examinations.

This situation is experienced in most of Cameroonian villages. FORCE-CAM hopes to provide an opportunity for the likes of 'grand pa' to have their fundamental right to education. Foundation for Resources and Community Empowerment of Cameroon, established from the inspiration of this experience seeks a Just United World Established on Peace, Harmony and Prosperity Felt at Personal Levels through mobilizing required resources for the socio-economic development of the population. Join us to make a difference in some one's life. Why not put a smile on a child's face?

Yuniwe Edison Chimi
President

I - INTRODUCTION:

Guided by the philosophy of a decentralized, participatory, holistic and integrated approach to ensure sustainable development, The Foundation for Resources and Community Empowerment (FORCE-CAM) was created to catalyze this orientation. FORCE-CAM now registered under Cameroon Law N° 90/053 of 19 December 1990 is an apolitical, non-profit making service provider organization which has been operating since July 2004. With its liaison office in Bamenda and an operational office in Ndu North West Province, activities of FORCE-CAM cover the National territory of Cameroon.

FORCE-CAM partners with the communities to identify, prioritise and resolve development needs. The needs are transformed into projects, which are executed in partnership with the beneficiaries to ensure sustainability.

The Foundation for Resources and Community Empowerment (FORCE-CAM)'s vision is a Just United World Established on Peace, Harmony and Prosperity Felt at Individual Levels as it Mobilizing required resources for the socio-economic development of the population.

The main goals of Foundation for Resources and Community Empowerment of Cameroon hinges on Promoting local developmental initiatives through partnership to ensure sustainability; and Assisting the less privileged, HIV/AIDS Orphans, vulnerable groups and highly disadvantaged communities in society.

FORCE-CAM mobilizes resources for the realization of its activities mainly from members contributions, cost of services rendered to third parties, funding from partners for project implementations and other donations and gifts.

II - ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

During this year under review, FORCE-CAM carried out a series of activities as explained below:

i. Cooperation / Consultancy

a) AIDS Orphans International Cooperation

Within the framework of a collaboration agreement signed with AIDS Waisen International in Germany, FORCE-CAM implemented an AIDS Orphans programme which entailed the provision of Educational needs comprising the provision of school fees, school uniforms and books/materials; livelihood care comprising the provision of food, medical care, clothing and general home needs; and activities to distract and educate the children socially. During the year under review, the programme supported 14 AIDS Orphans and their families.



Beneficiaries of the AWI programme during one of the food distribution sessions. Standing extreme right is Edward Ngi, FORCE CAM's Community Support Programme Coordinator.

b) MASHAV Cooperation

During 2006, FORCE Cameroon fostered good relations with the Department of Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign affairs in Israel (MASHAV). This relationship which was greatly facilitated by the Israeli Embassy in Cameroon saw the organization of an on-the-spot training course in collaboration with the Israeli Institute of Leadership in Beit Berl Israel. See detail under Training.

c) UNVDA Cooperation

FORCE Cameroon initiated collaboration relations with the UNVDA Ndop in which it provided opportunity for one of its staff to be trained in Administrative and Financial Management of Savings and Loans Cooperatives for Poverty Alleviation. It established cooperation relations with UNVDA in sourcing for technical assistance and in-depth capacity building for leaders of its rice producer networks.

d) CHRISCOMDEF / CRS Consultancy

In 2006, FORCE Cameroon provided consultancy within training programmes organized by CHRISCOMDEF and Funded by Catholic Relieve Services (CRS). This consultancy involved training 23 local organizations and government officials working with CRS on HIV/AIDS prevention, management and support in Grant Proposal Writing, Implementation, Reporting and Sustainable Community Development Techniques.



Representatives of CRS Partners who attended the training. FORCE CAM's President, standing 3rd from left on the front row coordinated and was principal trainer during the workshop.

ii. Research / Publication

- a) Identified and collected bio-data of 25 highly vulnerable AIDS orphans and their families in the Ndu sub-division of the North West Province of Cameroon.
- b) Ongoing research on appropriate support strategy for HIV/AIDS affected families.
- c) Ongoing research on available funding opportunities for rural development in Cameroon. This research seeks to publish eventually the various funding institutions and conditions solicited for access to their funds.

ii. Training / Sensitisation

- a) FORCE-CAM organised from 11 December to 21 December 2006, in cooperation with The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The International Institute of Leadership, Beit Berl Israel and the Israeli Embassy in Yaounde - Cameroon, the training of 32 Managers and promoters of savings and loans schemes from 18 Institutions in a 2-week workshop on Administrative and Financial Management of Savings and Loans Cooperatives for Poverty Alleviation.





Workshop participants at the Bamenda Police Credit Union office during their field visit



Workshop participants at the CAMCCUL head office during their field visit

b) During the year under review, 65 families/groups were sensitized on the prevention, control and practical guidelines on living with HIV and AIDS. Materials: Where is the Good Samaritan today, Youth Sensitisation on HIV and AIDS were carried out within the Ndu sub-division. 15 women groups, 30 families and 20 youth groups were sensitized.

iii. Direct Community Support

- a) Provided educational materials to 30 highly vulnerable HIV/AIDS affected children in Ndu sud-division and Mezam central of the North West Province. Supports were made up of the provision of schooling needs, livelihood, medical care, etc.



Some beneficiaries of the AWI/FORCE CAM project of the Community Support Programme

- b) Support 4 school dropouts' from highly vulnerable families (3 girls and 1 boy) were enrolled and are undergoing vocational training in Tailoring for the girls and Carpentry for the boy all in Ndu town.



Three girls undergoing training in Tailoring in the FORCE CAM Skills Development Workshop



A beneficiary undergoing training in Carpentry in a FORCE CAM partner's Workshop

III - CHALLENGES

During the year 2006, FORCE-CAM faced a range of challenges namely;

- The increasing numbers of vulnerable families needing support amidst meager available resources.
- High need for more volunteers and paid staff to ensure regular supervision of field activities.
- No mobility resources to carry out field supervision.

IV – CONCLUSION / PERSPECTIVE

The various activities carried out during this year were highly successful, FORCE-CAM partners contributed significantly both financially and expertise wise in the realization of these activities.

With the challenges and experiences of 2006 and focusing in line with prevailing community needs; the following are envisaged for the coming year:

- Intensify cooperation activities with other institutions and encourage contribution of local elites in the Diaspora to FORCE-CAM community activities
- Increase fundraising and efficient wealth creation strategies within the families in the communities.
- Seek to increase direct community support activities in the area of improving the livelihood of highly vulnerable HIV/AIDS affected children and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Equip FORCE-CAM liaison and operational offices with transportation and reporting equipment.
- Carry out capacity building especially in the areas of Multipurpose Cooperatives, through collaboration with The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel (Department of Technical Cooperation - MASHAV) and the Israeli Embassy in Cameroon.
- Foster MASHAV collaboration with UNVDA Ndop for the provision of technical assistance and the Provincial Hospital in Bamenda for the Israeli Eye Camp programme.
- Develop and carry out a pilot phase of a community credit programme, which shall provide facilities for vulnerable community families to carry out sustainable wealth creation activities.
- Identify various health Centre needs and source for assistance to equip them.

