

LOCAL INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (LISUDEV)



MISSION: Improving the quality of life, wellbeing and reducing poverty amongst underprivileged and disadvantaged populations and communities in Cameroon

ANNUAL REPORT

(Jan- Dec 2023)

Branch office: Meta quarter Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon.

Postal address: P.O. Box 857 Mankon-Bamenda, North West Region,

Tel: (+237) 677-474-012 or (+237) 674-753-216

Email: contact@lisudevcm.org or lisudevcm@gmail.com

Website: <https://lisudevcm.org>

WHO WE ARE

Local Initiative for Sustainable Development (LISUDEV) is a registered (REF No. 21/E.27/750/SAAJP) non-profit Association that was created to improve the quality of life, promote wellbeing and reduce poverty among disadvantaged and underprivileged populations in rural and hard to reach communities in Cameroon.

OUR STORY

Founded in July 2020, the Association became legalized in 2022 per the Cameroon law No. 90/053 of 19/12/1990 on associations. LISUDEV was founded by Afor Rene Aza'ah alongside a group of passionate women who were natives of the impoverished Njikwa municipality, where access to education, safe drinking water, basic healthcare, menstrual hygiene and sanitation facilities, and road infrastructure was lacking. The organization was founded in response to the lack of access to education, safe drinking water, hygiene and healthcare facilities that had resulted to high illiteracy rate, and the death of many women and children. Concerned with the plight of the underprivileged populations especially women and children in rural and hard-to-reach communities, the group that was made up of educationist, health professionals, agriculturalist decided to serve the population. We began by educating children, young girls and community members on the importance of education, menstrual hygiene and good health practices. We quickly became interested in not only serving those in our community, but improving the lives of all underprivileged and vulnerable persons in rural and hard-to-reach communities in Cameroon, promoting access to education, healthcare, water, hygiene and sanitation and menstrual justice.

OUR MISSION

To improve the quality of life, promote wellbeing and reduce poverty among disadvantaged and underprivileged populations in rural and hard-to-reach communities in Cameroon.

OUR VISION

A healthy and sustainable society for all. A society where everyone has access to basic social needs, equal opportunities and is empowered to realize their full potential irrespective of sex, age, ethnicity, religion or geographical location.

OUR BELIEFS

- We believe in equal opportunities for all, regardless of religion, sex, ethnicity, race, or geographical location.
- We believe in transparency and accountability. We are responsible to our supporters and our constituencies, and we explain, clarify and justify our accounts. LISUDEV is open, frank, and honest in all communications, transactions, and operations.
- We are a committed, passionate and willing to give our time to achieve our vision.
- We believe in fairness and equity.

CORE VALUES

As a non-profit association, LISUDEV function in adherence to moral and ethical values that are essential in guiding the activities and preserving the image of the association to ensure continued support from the government, philanthropist, and the general public. We are guided by the following core values:

- **Non-discrimination:** No persons will be discriminated against on any ground. LISUDEV will adopt a non-judgmental, welcoming attitude towards all vulnerable and marginalized groups including women and girls, and key affected populations as they constitute our key population of concern. **Integrity, honesty,** and trustworthiness is our watchword and will be exemplified in all our activities. LISUDEV promote **transparency, teamwork,** and **accountability** in all our endeavors to achieve our mission and vision.
- **Upholding human dignity:** All life is important and should be respected; LISUDEV will strive to promote autonomy of each individual.
- **Participation and inclusiveness:** LISUDEV will create opportunities for vulnerable groups to participate and be included in its governance and activities at all levels. We

respect the individuality, diversity and professional responsibility of **partnering entities** and all **stakeholders** in serving the intended community.

- **Client-centred services:** Clients are empowered to decide how to utilize essential social services and choose options most suited to their needs and environment.
- **Teamwork:** We take advantage of team work to harness individual skills and competences to meet the organizational aspirations.

OUR PRINCIPLES

We work in accordance to the code of conduct stated below:

- **Openness:** We listen to the ideas of others and encourage open dialogue.
- **Selflessness and dedication:** We believe in justice, we work very hard, beyond our comfort to achieve our goals.
- **Needs focused:** We strive to understand the needs and challenges of the underprivileged and disadvantaged groups and communities, women and other marginalized individuals to ensure that we provide solutions that work best for them.
- **Integrity and professionalism:** We let ethics and honesty govern our dealings with all our partners while upholding good stewardship of all financial resources entrusted upon us.
- **Continuous improvement:** We strive to be a learning organization to perfect what we do on a daily basis.
- **Confidentiality:** Throughout our work, we hold all client and partner information confidential and use it only for the purpose it is intended.

WHAT WE DO

We work to ensure improved access to education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and healthcare for underprivileged populations in rural and hard-to-reach communities in Cameroon. We do this through community engagement and partnership to bring lasting solution to the population we serve. We operate in an integrated participatory and collaborative approach. We integrate our activities to ensure meaningful change. We actively involve stakeholders and the beneficiaries at every stage of the project cycle. We do this to ensure the beneficiaries have feelings of ownership,

take good care of the project, protect it and gain skills that can allow them carry out similar projects in their respective communities.

OUR PROGRAMS

To achieve our vision, we operate in 5 main areas:

- **Education:** The goal of our education program is to contribute towards the achievement of SDG 4 of inclusive and equitable quality education for all through the construction, rehabilitation, equipping of educational structures, provision of aids to the underprivileged and orphans to improve performance and reduce school dropout.
- **WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene):** We work to ensure the availability of sustainable water and sanitation for all through improving access to water, hygiene and sanitation for the underprivileged population and rural communities in Cameroon.
- **Health:** The goal of our health program is to promote wellbeing and improve healthcare status of the underprivileged populations in rural and hard-to-reach communities, promote equitable healthcare access for all in Cameroon and supporting government in achieving universal health coverage.
- **Agriculture:** The objective is to empower women farmers, young girls, small scale farmers and communities through improved skills and capacities for sustainable agriculture to support farm-based activities, hence ensuring household food security and self-sufficiency.
- **Women and girl's empowerment.** The goal is to empower women and young girls on life changing skills so that they can be able to live a self-sufficient life.

OUR WORK IN 2023

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Education remains the foundation for the growth of every nation. Sadly, the ongoing socio-political crisis in the two English speaking regions of the country have deprived thousands of children of children the opportunity to study. The crisis which has had a significant toll on the education sector has led to burning of schools depriving children in many communities' access to quality education. As one of our pillars is education, LISUDEV set out to encourage school children in the Njikwa subdivision of the Northwest region with the objective to reduce the level of school dropouts and enhance the performance of primary school pupils by providing them with some learning materials. In partnership with the Bakwa cultural and Development Association, and the Bakwa Youth Association, over 45 poor and vulnerable children within the council area were identified and supported with necessary school needs such as exercise books, pens, pencils and rulers. We also recruited two community teachers to assist and guide these children on their educational journey.

An activity which brought joy to both children and parents of the community, parents expressed their gratitude at being able to receive the assistance rendered and remarked of the impact this gesture has on their children which serves to build and renew their hope in pursuing education for a brighter future.

FUNDER: Contributions from members, and project support from the Bakwa cultural and Development Association, and the Bakwa Youth Association.



Fig 1. Handover of school materials and recruited teachers to the Bakwa community.

2.0 WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE

(WASH)

2.1 Projects

2.1.1 Gravity water system construction

Over the years, the community of Njikwa have been experiencing water issues due to limited water sources which greatly affects the day-to-day lives of the community as well as community development negatively. LISUDEV in collaboration with the council constructed a water tank with stand taps to service the population of the municipal council area with the goal being to improve access to safe drinking water for the population of Bakwa, Njikwa municipality. The water source will serve the population of 1500 people (816 children, 364 women and 320 men) to gain improved access to safe drinking water, increased awareness on WASH practices.

FUNDER: Council support fund through the Njikwa council, contributions from members, and in-kind contributions from the beneficiary community. The project was implemented in partnership with the Njikwa municipal council.



a) 10 M3 water tank



b) 1.7km pipeline



Stand taps

2.2. Menstrual health and hygiene support to IDPs

LISUDEV celebrated world menstrual hygiene with Internally displaced adolescent girls of Bamenda 2 subdivision. An activity which brought together 30 IDPs, poor and vulnerable adolescent girls was chaired by staff of LISUDEV and Talk Pregnancy with Dr. Noella. The objectives for the program was;

- To improve on the menstrual health of IDPs, poor and vulnerable adolescent girls in Bamenda through increase awareness and education on menstrual hygiene and reproductive health.
- To improve on the accessibility of sanitary products for IDPs, poor and vulnerable adolescent girls in Bamenda.
- To promote menstrual equity, ending period poverty and period stigma.

Participants were drilled on menstrual hygiene and reproductive health, the menstrual cycle, the importance of maintaining good hygiene during periods, proper and effective use of sanitary pads (disposable and non-disposable), as well as practical demonstrations on the use of sanitary pads. They also received knowledge on MHH and sexual reproductive health and rights. Every participant received a set of WASH kits and they were tasked to serve as ambassadors of menstrual hygiene management in their homes and localities.

FUNDER: Contributions from members, and project support from HERO Cameroon, Triad Research Foundation Buea, and Talk Pregnancy with Dr. Noella in Bamenda.



Menstrual Hygiene Workshop with IDP Adolescent girls



CHALLENGES

Our main challenge was lack of funding. As a baby CSO, all projects were funded with contributions from members and support from well-wishers and partner CSOs. Due to this, some projects planned for the year couldn't be executed. Secondly the conflict rocking the Northwest region made it difficult for LISUDEV to execute some planned projects.

WAY FORWARD

To achieve greater success, LISUDEV intends to:

- Foster cooperation with existing partners and communities.
- Engage and create more partnerships with local authorities, government agencies, local CSOs, and philanthropists.

OUR PARTNERS

