



## LOCAL INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (LISUDEV)



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Meta quarter Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon.

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1.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, partners, supporters, and dedicated staff whose unwavering support has made 2024 a year of significant impact and growth. Your support has been essential in driving the success of our projects and transforming lives in the communities we serve. Together, we are making a difference in our communities.

### Donors and partners

**GlobalGiving:** For their generous funding and continued support of our initiatives

**Tadamon CSO Empowerment:** For their contributions and support of the Bakwa Health Center project.

**UNDP:** For their support through the Tadamon CSO Empowerment initiative to build our capacities and foster community development.

**MINSANTE Cameroon:** For their guidance and support of the Hospital Lifeline project.

**Njikwa council:** For their support of the Bakwa health center project.

**Talk Pregnancy with Dr Noella (TPWDN):** For their commitment to promoting Pre-conception care in Cameroon.

### Staff:

**Afor Rene Aza'ah:** Executive Director, for his leadership and vision.

**Fenwi Linda Ngengeh:** Programs Coordinator for her diligent coordination of projects

**Kwah Gideon:** Project manager for his excellent management of projects.

**Kort Antoinette Yaah:** Accountant for her excellent documentation of our financial records

**Atoh Despaine:** Public health officer for her diligent coordination of health activities

**Tumanjong Miranda:** MEAL Officer for her commitment to monitoring and evaluation.

**Awah Willie Amoh:** Communication Officer for effectively communicating our mission and impact.

**Numfor Miranda Tajong:** Women and Gender officer for effectively leading gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives.

**Neba Roland:** Administrative Assistant for his great work in administrative duties.

**Manka Maximillian:** Social worker/field coordinator for effectively coordinating field activities for maximum impact.



2.

## Forward by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 has been a remarkable year with a lot of successes and impact on our beneficiaries. In 2024, LISUDEV achieved significant progress through partnership and resilience. Our strategic initiatives have empowered individuals and communities in the Northwest region of Cameroon by providing access to healthcare for women and children through the construction of the Bakwa health center in partnership with the Njikwa council, strengthening the capacities of CSOs and health professionals, and empowering young girls through menstrual hygiene and SRHR.



**AFOR RENE AZA'AH,**

Executive Director

The AP-Care project in partnership with TPWDN has significantly improved the knowledge of healthcare workers on pre-conception care, and the uptake of pre-conception care in the Northwest region has improved. In addition, the menstrual health and environmental hygiene project has significantly improved the lives of adolescent girls, increasing their knowledge on proper menstrual health and hygiene practices, the menstrual cycle, and the impact of poor hygiene practices on the environment. The project has also built the capacities of males through our inclusive school-based approach encouraging support and breaking menstrual taboos. Further, the Hospital Lifeline project in partnership with the Bamenda Regional Hospital, the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS), improved access to infectious diseases and NCDs testing and knowledge, and the health and lives of patients at the Bamenda regional hospital.

I express heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, partners, staff, and communities for their unwavering support. As we build on this year's achievements, our focus remains on scaling our impact, deepening our collaborations, and fostering a healthy and sustainable society for all.

Thank you all

AFOR RENE AZA'AH

Executive Director



3.

## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

### WHO WE ARE

Local Initiative for Sustainable Development (LISUDEV) is a not-for-profit humanitarian and development association founded in 2020 and legalised in 2022 with registration number **21/E.27/750/SAAJ**P in conformity with the Cameroon Law No. 90/053 of 19 December 1990.

LISUDEV was founded against the backdrop of increasing inequality, poverty, inadequate access to education, clean water and sanitation and healthcare that has led to increasing morbidity and mortality among women, children and young girls in rural Cameroon.

Our Mission is to improve the quality of life, promote well-being, and reduce poverty among underprivileged populations and communities in Cameroon.

We provide humanitarian assistance to crisis-affected populations and address the root causes of poverty, inequality, and access to healthcare, clean water and sanitation, education and employment, and agriculture. We empower individuals and communities, particularly women, children, young girls, and marginalized groups, to build brighter, healthier, and more self-sufficient futures.

### OUR STORY

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 is lacking. The organization was founded in response to increasing poverty and inequality, and to the lack of access to education, safe drinking water, and healthcare facilities, which had resulted in a high illiteracy rate and the deaths of many women and children.

Concerned with the plight of underprivileged populations, especially women and children in rural and hard-to-reach communities, the group, made up of educators, health professionals, and agriculturalists, 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 not only in serving those in our community but also in improving the lives of all underprivileged and vulnerable persons in rural and hard-to-reach communities in Cameroon, promoting access to education, healthcare, water and sanitation, agriculture and menstrual justice.



LISUDEV was founded on the premise that it is essential to prioritize the needs and aspirations of vulnerable communities, and empower them to take responsibility for their development. The organization's work aims to build a healthy and sustainable society for all, where everyone has access to basic social needs and equal opportunities and is empowered to realize their full potential, irrespective of age, gender, colour, race, or geographical location.

Our activities include humanitarian assistance, healthcare access improvement, infrastructure development, education support, advocacy, capacity building, and community development. Since launching in 2020, LISUDEV has impacted over 30,000 people, providing healthcare assistance, clean water and sanitation, education, and livelihood support. We strive to empower vulnerable populations and communities and build brighter futures where everyone can thrive.

### 3.0 WHAT WE DO

We provide humanitarian assistance to crisis-affected populations and address the root causes of poverty, inequality, and limited access to healthcare, clean water and sanitation, education and employment, and agriculture in underserved communities. These communities often face systemic barriers to adequate healthcare, clean water and sanitation, quality education, sustainable agriculture, and gender equality. By addressing these issues in an integrated manner, we aim to break the cycle of poverty, reduce vulnerability, and foster long-term community resilience and well-being. Our work is rooted in empowering individuals and communities, particularly women and marginalized groups, to build brighter, healthier, and more self-sufficient futures.

#### 3.1. OUR MISSION

To improve the quality of life, promote well-being, and reduce poverty among disadvantaged and underprivileged populations and communities in Cameroon.

#### 3.2. VISSION

We envisage a healthy and sustainable society for all, where everyone has access to basic social needs and equal opportunities and is empowered to realize their full potential, irrespective of age, gender, colour, race, or geographical location

#### 3.3. OBJECTIVES

LISUDEV pursues the following humanitarian and development objectives in accordance with the Cameroon National Development Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

1. Promote well-being and improve access to quality healthcare services for underprivileged populations and communities, and support equitable healthcare access for all **(SDG 3)**.



2. Improve equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable populations and communities, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all **(SDG 6)**.
3. Enhance food security, resilience, and self-sufficiency by promoting sustainable agriculture through the empowerment of smallholder farmers, youths, and communities with improved skills, capacities, and appropriate tools **(SDG 2 and 1)**.
4. Enhance learning outcomes and reduce educational inequalities by improving equitable access to inclusive and quality education through infrastructural development, strengthened STEM education, and targeted support for vulnerable and marginalized children **(SDG 4)**.
5. Economically empower women and young girls through entrepreneurship development, market-relevant skills training, access to productive resources, and leadership support, to strengthen their livelihoods and sustainable self-reliance **(SDGs 5 and 1)**.
6. Promote poverty alleviation and sustainable development in rural and hard-to-reach communities, enhancing self-reliance, food security, and overall well-being **(SDGs 1 and 2)**.
7. Promote climate resilience, environmental conservation, and sustainable natural resource management in vulnerable communities **(SDGs 13, 15, 12, and 6)**.

### 3.4. CORE VALUES

#### Accountability

We are accountable to our communities, partners, and ourselves.

#### Integrity

We uphold honesty and transparency in our work

#### Sustainability

What we do is meant to last long-term

#### Non-discrimination

We treat all groups fairly

#### Community-Focused

We prioritize the needs of our participants and communities

#### Inclusivity

We are inclusive and ensure equal opportunities for all individuals



### 3.5. AREAS OF FOCUS



4.

## OUR WORK IN 2024

### 4.1. SUMMARY

In 2024, LISUDEV continued with its mission to improve the quality of life, promote well-being, and reduce poverty among underprivileged populations and communities in Cameroon through initiatives in health, WASH, and women's empowerment. The organization made significant progress in improving access to healthcare, strengthening healthcare systems, and promoting WASH for vulnerable populations in the Northwest region.



#### 4.1.1. key program achievements



- **Healthcare access improvement in the Bakwa community, Njikwa health district:** Constructed the Bakwa health center facility, improving access to healthcare for 816 children, 425 women, 1500 community dwellers, and nearby communities (Batanga, Assaka, and Ikwebo), significantly reducing maternal and infant mortality. Funded by the Njikwa council, supported by GlobalGiving, and Tadamon CSO Empowerment.
- **Hospital Lifeline:** Conducted community health promotion and awareness on NCDs (Diabetes, Hypertension), and infectious diseases (HBV, HCV, HIV). Tested 200 people for NCDs (Diabetes, Hypertension), HIV, HBV, HCV, Sickle cell Anaemia and malaria through the mobile clinic. Conducted blood donation drives with over 31 pints of blood products collected which saved 40 lives at the Bamenda regional hospital especially patients at the ICU. Funded by Cameroon NBTS and the Bamenda Regional Hospital.
- **Menstrual health and environmental hygiene:** Trained over 5000 adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene management and its impact on the environment, provided 500 sanitary pads, equipped 4 school's clinics with sanitation products to ensure all menstruating students manage their period with dignity. Funded by GlobalGiving.
- **Pre-conception care (AP-Care):** Trained over 30 CSOs and 50 healthcare workers on pre-conception care in Mezam, Northwest in partnership with TPWWDN. Funded by membership contributions, and TPWWDN, and support from partners.

## 4.2. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### 4.2.1. Healthcare access improvement in the Bakwa community, Njikwa health district

#### The problem

In Bakwa, access to healthcare is a significant challenge with pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers resorting to unsafe herbal remedies due to lack of accessible antenatal care. Women often trek for long distances to access healthcare in the Bassa HC or the Njikwa district hospital. The long distances to healthcare facilities, up to 80km, resulted to 50 deaths, and 10 pregnant women giving birth along roadsides without medical assistance, exacerbating maternal and infant mortality rates in the area. There is a need for urgent establishment and equipping of a health facility in this community to address the issues and also to serve nearby communities (Batanga, Assaka, and Ikwebo) lacking healthcare access.

#### Project Goal:

To improve access to healthcare for 816 children, 425 women, and the entire 1500 rural population of Bakwa, and the nearby communities through the construction and equipping of the uncompleted Bakwa Integrated Health Centre by November 2026.

#### Results

Constructed the Bakwa HC facility comprising 1 lab, IWC, wards (children, male, female), ANC unit, delivery room, consultation units, and pharmacy. Access to healthcare for 816 children, 425 women, 1500 community dwellers, and nearby communities (Batanga, Assaka, and Ikwebo) improved.

#### Funders

Njikwa council, supported by GlobalGiving, Tadamon CSO Empowerment.



## 4.2.2. Pre-Conception Care (Ap-Care): Steps to a Healthy Family.

### The issue

Pre-conception care remains underutilized and inadequately accessible, particularly in low-resource settings such as Cameroon. There is limited awareness and access to pre-conception care services, resulting in adverse maternal and child health outcomes. To ensure healthy pregnancies and families, there is a critical need to address the specific needs and challenges faced by women of reproductive age.

### Goal

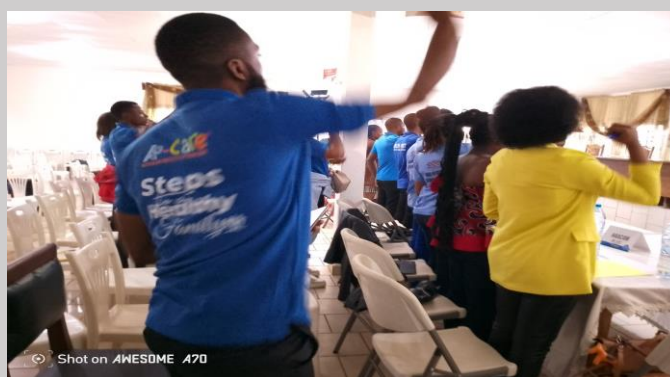
To strengthen the capacity of healthcare providers and CSOs working on SRH and women's health, and community health workers in the Northwest region in delivering effective pre-conception care services and counselling, by December 2024.

### Impact

30 CSOs, and 50 healthcare workers gained comprehensive knowledge on pre-conception care. This acquired knowledge will enable the healthcare workers and CSOs to effectively scale pre-conception uptake in their various communities.

### Funders

The project was implemented in partnership with TPWDN, funded by membership contributions, TPWDN and support from partners.



### 4.2.3. Hospital Lifeline

#### The issue

Healthcare access in the Northwest region is a significant challenge especially in crisis affected communities. The rise of NCDs and infectious diseases such as HBV, HIV, and HCV in the region is a call for urgent action. In addition, there is an estimated need of Blood at 5000 unit annually at the Bamenda Regional Hospital, but only 3000 to 3500 units is received, implying that many people go needing Blood without having them. This shortage often leads to delays in medical treatment, adversely affecting patient outcomes. There is a need to raise awareness on infectious and NCDs, increase access to testing, and ensure a reliable Blood supply needs to save lives.

#### Goal

To promote well-being and improve the healthcare status of the population of Bamenda II sub division, and to enhance patient care at the Bamenda Regional Hospital through blood donation by July 2026.

#### Impact

200 community members gained knowledge and access to diagnosis of NCDs (Diabetes, Hypertension), HIV, HBV, HCV, Sickle cell Anaemia and malaria. 10 suspected cases of hypertension referred and placed on Rxn, 5 suspected cases of HBV referred and placed on Rxn. 31 pints of blood products collected. Over 40 lives at the ICU of the Bamenda regional hospital saved.

#### Funders:

NBTS Cameroon, Bamenda regional hospital.



## 5. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

### 5.1. Menstrual health and environmental hygiene

#### The problem

Menstrual hygiene is a critical development issue in Cameroon. There is a lack of awareness about Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) practices in schools, along with the poor maintenance and inadequate school sanitation facilities for girls, have been identified as major challenges to proper MHM.

Menstruation, if not properly managed, can interrupt daily life, especially for young girls who may experience extremely painful periods that affect their attendance and performance at school. A lack of adequate facilities and materials during periods, imposes restrictions on girls', leaving them to feel shame, which contributes negatively to girls skipping school and their dignity. Menstrual health is a strategic aspect of the lives of women and girls, which affects them directly and/or indirectly and needs to be addressed.

#### Goal

To promote equity and Hygiene: Enhancing access to Menstrual Hygiene Education and Products in 10 schools in the Northwest region, Cameroon by August 2025.

#### Impact

5000 adolescent girls in 4 schools gained knowledge on menstrual hygiene management and sexual reproductive health, 4 school clinics were equipped with 500 sanitary pads to ensure all menstruating students manage their period with dignity. The education on menstrual health, sexual reproductive health, and environmental hygiene empowered students with the essential knowledge, fostering a supportive school culture.

**Funded by:** GlobalGiving.



## 6. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.

### 6.1. Challenges

- **Limited funding for scaling projects:** While projects such as the construction of the Bakwa Health Center, Menstrual Health and Environmental Hygiene, and the Hospital Lifeline made significant impacts, scaling these initiatives remain challenging due to limited funding. This limits our ability to extend our reach to other communities in need. Further, there is a growing expectation within crisis-affected communities in the Northwest region for actions in healthcare access improvement, clean water, and poverty reduction initiatives which has been unmet due to funding constraints.
- **Security concerns in conflict-affected areas:** The ongoing security issues in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon hinder project implementation and monitoring, affecting access to communities and impeding progress in areas such as the Bakwa Health Center in the Njikwa sub division.

### 6.2. Recommendations

- **Strengthen partnerships for resource mobilization:** To address funding gaps, we need to expand partnerships with donors, businesses, and government agencies. Collaborative funding models can help scale successful projects and increase impact.
- **Invest in staff capacity building:** Increase investment in staff training on digital education tools will enhance our ability to deliver programs effectively, especially in conflict-affected regions, and improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.



7.

## CONCLUSION

In 2024, LISUDEV has made significant strides in addressing some of the most pressing challenges faced by vulnerable communities in Cameroon. Through targeted interventions in health and well-being, healthcare strengthening, and clean water and sanitation, we have touched the lives of thousands of individuals, providing them with the tools, and resources to thrive. Our impact across sectors has been driven by our commitment to innovation, inclusion, and collaboration, ensuring that the voices of marginalized communities, especially women, young girls, and persons with disabilities are heard and acted upon. However, the journey is far from over.

Despite the significant progress, we recognize that there are still many challenges to overcome as the needs of our communities keep increasing, particularly in conflict-affected regions, where insecurity, lack of infrastructure, and limited access to resources continue to affect the population. With this in mind, we are focused on expanding our impact and scaling up our initiatives to reach even more communities, while continuing to build strong partnerships and advocating for positive social change.



## 8.

**WAY FORWARD**

As we reflect on the successes and challenges of 2024, we are committed to continuing our mission of improving the quality of life, promoting well-being, and reducing poverty amongst underprivileged populations and communities in Cameroon. In 2025, LISUDEV will focus on the following key areas to build on our accomplishments and further scale our impact.

- ❖ **Scaling successful programs building on the success of our core projects:** We will work towards expanding key initiatives, particularly in healthcare access, clean water and sanitation, and health system strengthening. This includes scaling the mobile clinic services, and WASH to reach more communities.
- ❖ **Strengthening partnerships:** We will focus on strengthening existing partnerships and forging new collaborations with local, national, and international stakeholders. This will enable us to leverage resources, share knowledge, and amplify our efforts to reach more beneficiaries and increase program sustainability.
- ❖ **Enhance Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEAL):** We will invest in improving our MEAL framework to ensure that our programs are data-driven and responsive to the needs of our beneficiaries. This will include expanding our data collection processes, conducting more rigorous evaluations, and ensuring that lessons learned are used to enhance program design and execution.
- ❖ **Fostering Gender Equality and Social Inclusion:** We will prioritize gender equality and social inclusion across all our initiatives. This includes continuing our efforts to provide economic empowerment for vulnerable women and girls, and addressing the needs of persons with disabilities and rural communities.
- ❖ **Advocacy and Public Awareness:** We will strengthen our advocacy efforts, focusing on raising awareness about key issues such as equitable access to healthcare, menstrual equity, quality education for all, climate change, and women empowerment. We will engage with policymakers and the media to influence decision making.



9.

ANNEX

ACTIVITY PICTURES





Meta quarter Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon.

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