

**IVFCam**  
**INTERFAITH VISION FOUNDATION CAMEROON**



Promoting Gender Equity and Participation: From the Grassroots to the Nation

## **2013 ACTIVITY REPORT**



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DEC 2013.

## PREFACE

This report is highly summarized. More information on activities is found in the respective departmental (Program) reports that follow in this document. The period of report covers January to December 2013.

The report is presented in five chapters: Chapter one gives an insight of the organization with the Executive Summary report for 2013; chapter two paints a picture of the administrative and management activities; the third chapter reports activities within the Human Rights and Governance department; chapter four reports on activities of the Health & HIV/AIDS department; while chapter Five is on the Economic Empowerment department. Challenges faced, some recommendations, and projections for the year 2014, are found in the fifth chapter.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Government of Cameroon is appreciated for recognizing IVFCam's works through her absolute **understanding and collaboration of the Administration and Technical services**.

We remain thankful to the Women's World Day of Prayers (WWDP) in Germany for being our longest *international funder since 2005*, enabling us realize the great achievements we have had in reducing the marginalization practices against women and widows; for accepting to fund the project 'Strengthening the Rural Women Fund through a Property Security Scheme in the 10 target villages of Misaje and Nkambe of Donga Mantung division and beyond, for 2014.

The Catholic Relief Services, Cameroon (CRS/CM) is also highly recognized for managing the Global Fund Round ten OVC Care & Support Project.

Volunteer Services Organization's (VSO) fruitful partnership with IVFCam is worth appreciating. The staff capacity and strength of IVFCam today is mighty thanks to VSO Cameroon, following her continues support in organizing salient **training workshops**, and enabling the participation of IVFCam's staff, focal members and beneficiaries but however regrets the fact that VSO will be facing out from Cameroon in 2014.

The Global Fund for Women USA is also appreciated for making available funds used to organized training on conventional laws and practices at the grassroots which lead to an increased in female participation in the electoral process of Cameroon.

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA, is also appreciated for revisiting the project proposal 'Strategizing the Visibility and Influence of Newly Elected Female Legislators, for an Eventual More Women in Power for possible funding.

The Women's Democracy Network (WDN) USA is also appreciated for travelling to Bamenda-Cameroon to launch the WDN-Cameroon Chapter and presided over the last Women Leadership School (WLS) organized in Bamenda.

Thanks to the National Employment Fund (NEF) of Cameroon for the wonderful collaboration in placing 02 staff on IVFCam and partly contributing to their monthly stipend. In addition, widows and other women in small income business ventures, remain indebted to NEF for her very low-interest loans.

The volunteers and staff members, led by the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of IVFCam, are specially recognized for their devotion and hard work.

We are exceptionally thankful to those who committed the organisation in prayers. This actually contributed to making 2013 **"The Year of Stability and Recovery"** as christened by the CEO at the beginning of the year.

# CHAPTER ONE

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

### **BACKGROUND**

IVFCam is an indigenous development organization, with headquarters in Bamenda, North West Region of Cameroon, and presently works in four regions of the Country: Littoral, South West, Western, and North West.

Founded in 2000, IVFCam started as a single and Christian faith Organization with the name Aid International-Christian Women of Vision (“AI-ChrisWOV”). But due to the diversity of her target population on the field which includes non-Christians, and owing to the growing needs of this population, an Organizational Development Process was carried out and facilitated by VSO Cameroon, involving beneficiaries and partners. One finding was for the name of the Organization to be changed to embrace beneficiaries and members of other faiths. Due to this change, IVFCam came into being as a transformation for inclusion, and registered under its present name in 2008.

IVFCam has a branch office in Mbengwi Sub Division and a satellite office in Donga/Mantung Division in the North West region.

### **VISION:**

“To have a world of Equal Opportunities in development for all, irrespective of their Origins, Faiths and Social Background”

### **MISSION:**

“To Access Wealth and Health to the Needy and Vulnerable, as a Service to God, through Feasible and Realistic Actions of Charity and Human Development.”

### **Purpose**

Promoting Gender Equity and Participation: from the Grassroots to the Nation.

### **GOAL:**

“To contribute to Social Justice, through sustainable interventions, for the alleviation of poverty and misery, and the promotion of gender equity and education.”

**Core Values:**

- Team spirit
- Accountability
- Transparency

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

IVFCam has the following strategic objectives:

- Increase the Human Rights and Freedoms of the disadvantaged.
- Improve Service Delivery and Utilization, especially in area of Treatment, Care and Support
- Facilitate Sustainable Livelihood.
- Encourage Unity of Faiths in Actions of Charity and Development.

**KEY PROGRAMS:**

IVFCam carries out related projects within the following key programs:

- Human Rights and Good Governance
- Health & HIV/AIDS
- Economic Empowerment (RuWEF)
- Skills Enrichment and Events Management

**TARGET GROUP SERVED:**

- Vulnerable Women (widows and other vulnerable/minority women)
- Orphans & other Vulnerable Children and Youths.
- People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV)
- Destitute Communities.

IVFCam's interventions are beneficiary-focused, and so support to them is holistic with the integration of sub-program activities in every implemented project on the field.

**SUB-PROGRAMS:****For HR & GG:**

- Property Inheritance
- Leadership
- The Rule of Law.
- Gender Participation

**For Health & HIV/AIDS:**

- Prevention

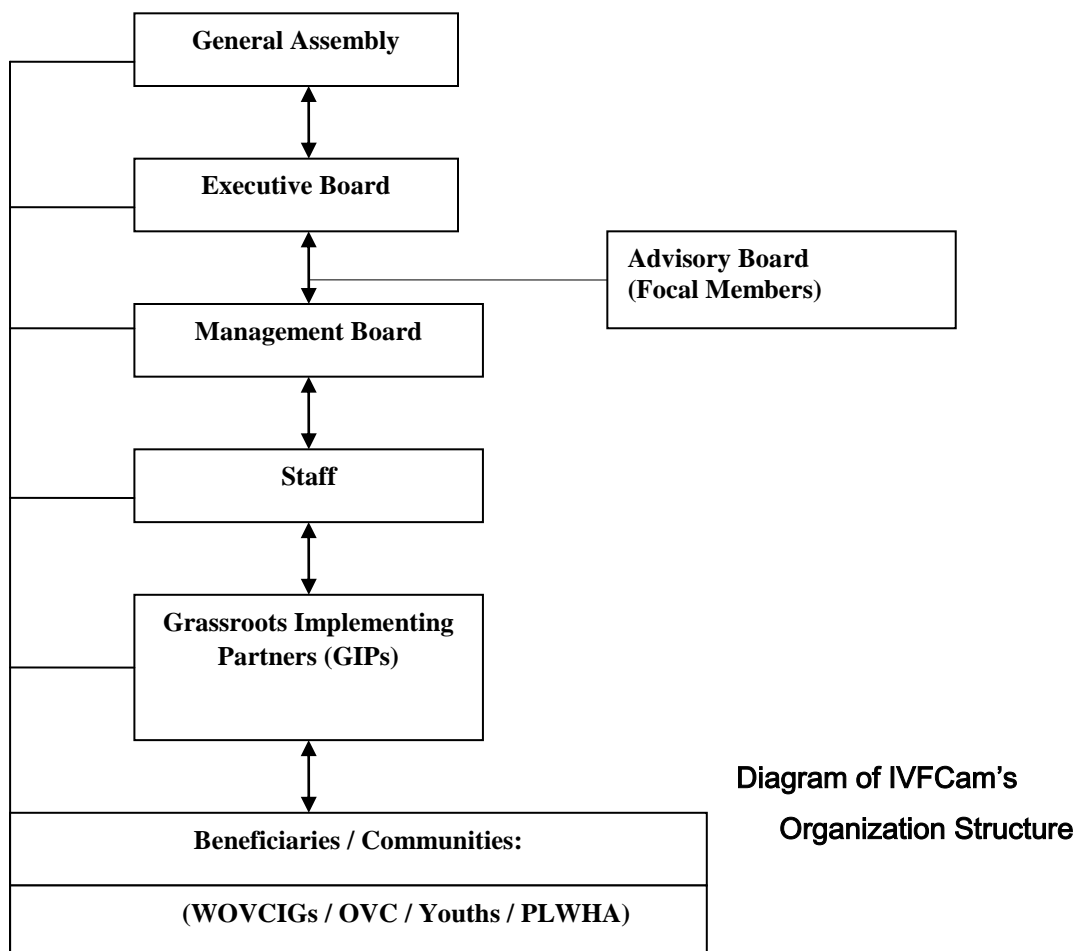
- Care and Support
- Capacity Building
- Treatment Literacy

**For Socio-Economic Empowerment:**

- . Small Scale Agriculture
- . Income Generating Activities
- . Micro-Credit and Micro Grants
- . Subsistent food processing

**STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

The General Assembly, made up of all the members, staff, beneficiaries and Partners, is the supreme organ. The Executive Board is made up of elected members, and the founder of the Organization. The Advisory Board is the third organ, and is made up of the focal members who contribute voluntarily in cash and in kind, and who voluntarily participate in project implementation when the need arise. The Management Committee makes up the fourth. Composed of senior staff and is responsible for the daily running of the organization. IVFCam’s Grassroots Implementing Partners and Beneficiaries, constituted in Coalitions and networks, make up the last organ.



**Diagram of IVFCam’s Organization Structure**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:



Anne Stella Fomumbod, CEO OF IVFCam

Welcome to IVFCam. We appreciate your interest in getting to know about our work in 2013.

At the very start of 2013, IVFCam christened the year, “**The Year of Stability and Recovery**” “As if this were a prophesy, IVFCam was very stable and saw all issues related to the Organizational re-structuring put in place. IVFCam maintained herself nationally and internationally and felt a

sense of fulfillment in her undertakings, with the following evidences:

### 1. On Project Activities:

Several projects were implemented; thanks to international and national support. Since IVFCam must constantly keep the mission running, she constantly provides her own funds for her core projects; support to Orphans & widows.

Her dream, therefore, came true as IVFCam **achieved more than 150% on her planned activities for 2013**, with the following highlights:

- She maintained her activities with three other regions: South West, Littoral and Western where by some former Women’s Leadership Schools project students were brought in as pannier members of WDN-Cameroon Chapter and participated in drawing up of its strategic plan and the launching of the chapter.
- She maintained her more than 05 substantial Funders: UNDEF via WDN-USA; WWDP-Germany; GFW-USA; PACF-UK; NED-USA., Synergoes USA.
- She increased her visibility via her collaboration with MINAS, MINPROF and the Human Rights Commission, in the North West region.
- She made herself felt, by women, especially, through her intensive trainings on “Women’s Leadership,” whereby about 150 more women have gained courage to stand for the municipals, come the 2013 elections as a result of GFW project ‘Implementing Conventional Laws and Practices at the Grassroots for Increased Female participation in upcoming elections’.
- IVFCam made many orphans to smile, by supporting, with internal funds in education and external funds in nutritional and hygienic needs Ngoketunjia, Momo, Donga Mantung and Mezam Divisions. .
- She contributed to improving the livelihoods of hundreds of single mothers & Women LWH/A, by increasing their capital in small businesses with very low-interest rate loans in 06 subdivisions: Mbengwi, Batibo, Widikum, Bamenda II, Nkambe, and Misaje.
- Even students of primary and secondary schools got to know IVFCam via her activities in commemoration of the Day of the African Child, International World AIDS Day with award of prizes.
- In partnership with the University of Buea and CCEMMED of Bamenda more than 06 students from this Institutions were placed on IVFCam for their internship and many more passed through IVFCam as volunteers to build their skills and capacities..
- Both national and international personalities paid visits to IVFCam.

STAY BLESSED and for more and details read the reports of the Programs:

## CHAPTER TWO

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



Mr. Lemon Kennedy Kwankam

*Administrative Assistant*

#### INTRODUCTION

This division contains the documentation, communication, personnel and reception bureaux; thereby explaining its outreach to other offices of the organization, the beneficiaries and communities.

The 2013 year has been hectic for this division, as the personnel, apart from their own assigned duty within the division, also worked as support staff for all the departments of the programs divisions. They produce project implementation materials and were actively involved in trainings and conferences on the field. Several developments occurred in the life of the organization in general, the staff, members, and beneficiaries in particular; resulting to a tremendous growth of the institution. Read more on the pages that follow.

### GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

#### ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DIVISION:

##### IMPROVED GOVERNANCE:

In order to cause both staff and members to be actively involved and informed of the activities of the organization, the Board decided to re-enforce the activities of **Associative Life Forum**, wherein, both staff and members participatory plan and report on activities of the organization on regular monthly basis and also shared in each other joy or sorrow. This has greatly improved communication, accountability & transparency.



##### STRENGTHENING THE ORGANISATION:

**Staff Weekly Coordination:** Staff took turns in coordinating the organization for a week. \*As such staff enhanced their capacity in coordination, personnel management and reporting.

An Audit firm was contacted and given the responsibility to audit the organization for the period of two



years there by coming up with a positive result about the running of the organization.

**Recruitment of more staff:** 01 staff was recruited to increase the number of staff on roll: Nde Lesley was recruited as the communication officer. While Philomena Tabe, Awa Ndikum and Gwangwaa Martha were recruited by the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and sent to IVFCam to implement the Global Fund Round ten project for the OVC.

**Improved Staff Welfare:**

\*Salaries of staff were maintained and also regular.

\*Staffs were provided weekly communication & transport allowances

All these resulted to increased staff performance and commitment to work.

**PLACEMENT:**

Students on Internship and volunteer placement:

For the first time in many years, IVFCam hosted more than eleven students who were in IVFCam either as interns or volunteers.

Through our partnership with the **Buea University**, 02 female students (Kelly Ngesungwo and Ngong Candid), from the Social Sciences department and 06 female student from CCEMMED carried out their internship programs on IVFCam.

Volunteer Staff:

Two graduates of the University of Buea: Eze Solange and Nsairun Jude were on placement in IVFCam to build their capacity.

**ENHANCED COMMUNICATION:**

**Installation of a Live Box:**

\*The Orange internet **live-box** installed sometimes ago has been IVFCam internet service provider that has served the organization very well in the course of 2013. Today all offices are connected and communication with partners regularly which greatly enhanced and led to more funding opportunities.

**CAPACITY BUILDING (SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS):**

Focal Members, Staff, Beneficiaries and internal partners has benefited from seminars, workshops and trainings organized within and beyond IVFCam premises in the course of the year funded by partners such as Synergoes, New York – USA with the Strategic Planning training facilitated by Senior Fellow Madam Tomaida Banda of Zimbabwean Nationality who was in IVFCam, Bamenda in April to help out in the reconstruction of IVFCam's 2013 – 2017 Strategic Plan.

**(Find details under the various program areas in this report).**

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

The Senior Fellows Award, by Synergoes, New York, USA: 2012-2014

The Founder-CEO was recognized for her contribution to Social Justice through her organization, IVFCam. This award provides opportunities for senior fellows in development to meet internationally, for sharing of ideas, knowledge & practices on Social Justice. As such Mrs. Fomumbod Anne Stella was privileged to meet others in Brazil, April and Ethiopia, August 2013.

**NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS:**

**National Partnerships:**

- Cameroon’s Ministry of Health for the Project on Scaling Up the Impact of Malaria (SUFI): 20012 to 2016.
- The National Employment Fund (NEF): support for self-employment.
- Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Nkwen, Bamenda partnership in the implementation of the Positive Action for Children Fund Project in Cameroon.
- The North West Association of Development Organizations (NWADO: For networking.
- IVFCam was also accepted as a member of the Non Governmental Organisation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

**International Funding Partnerships**

S/N	Name of Funder / Partner	Type of Funding	Program Area	Title of Project Funded
1.	Global Fund for Women (GFW), USA	Financial	Human Rights & Good Governance	‘Gender and Good Governance...
2	Women’s World Day of Prayer (WWDP), Germany	Financial	Human Rights and Secure Livelihood	“Liberating Grassroots Widows of Misaje and Nkambe Sub Divisions... phase III
3	Voluntary Services Oversea (VSO) Cameroon	Technical & Financial	Health & HIV/AIDS	Advocacy on Gender and HIV/AIDS.
4	Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Cameroon	Technical	OVC Care & Support (HIV/AIDS)	SILC (Savings & Internal Lending Communities

5	Positive Action for Children Fund (PACF), UK	Fin. & Tec	Health & HIV/AIDS	'Tools for HIV Prevention & Reproductive... North West Region'
6	National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA	Financial	Human Rights & Good Governance	'Center on Community Education for Democracy and Development (CCEDD) in Cameroon'.
7	Alliance International, Burkina Faso	Technical	Health & HIV/AIDS	Capacity Building on PMTCT and PPTCT
8	UNDEF via Women's Democracy Network (WDN), USA	Fin. & Tec	Human Rights & Good Governance	Women's Leadership School
9	Synergoes, USA	Fin. & Tech.	Human Rights & Good Governance	Capacity Building
10	Global Fund via Gov't of Cameroon	Fin & Tech	Health & HIV/AIDS	Scaling Up Malaria Impact

#### OFFICIALS RECEIVED AT THE IVFCam's HEAD OFFICE:

NAME OF VISITOR	POSITION/ORGANISATION	PURPOSE OF VISIT
Njweipi Stephen	Delegate – DRAS, NW	Courtesy visit
Richard Awandam Tanyi	Mayor of Mbengwi Council	On behalf of the orphans of Momo.
Hon. PC Fonso	Member of Parliament from Momo	Deliver a certificate of recommendation from Mayor of Mbengwi.
Talsh Donatus Mboh	Teacher in Bamali-Ndop	To drop a report on the plight of orphans & widows and lobby for support.
Aboe Agnes	Coordinator- MAJE –Y'de	Courtesy and returned visit

Baleba Larid Euloge	Regional Delegate of SNEC (CDE)	Progress on work on site
Tomaoda Banda	CEO-Child Protection, Harare – Zimbabwe.	Facilitator on IVFCam Strategic Plan.
Kibot Ruth Amumdam	DDPROFF – Momo	Lobby for IVFCam involvement & participation in the widow day in Momo Division.
Lori Kunze	CRS	Courtesy and sharing lesions
Scott Campbell	Coordinator - Catholic Relief Service	Field visit on program with Global Fund Project.
Sally Dura	Member-WDN, Zimbabwe	Observer for the creation of Cameroon WDN Chapter.
Lisa Cresce	Member WDN, USA	Attend the launch of WDN Cameroon chapter and WLS 6.
Erika Veberyte	Program Manager WDN, Washington USA.	Launch of WDN Cameroon chapter and close WLS 6.
Balick Awa Fidelis	Mayor Bamenda II Council	Attend giving out of Micro-finance loan by RuWEF.
Tembu Christoper	Proprietor – Glassman shop	Donate a Mirror to the IVFCam office
Rev. Tache Florence	Reverend Pastor	To know more about IVFCam
Rev. Erna Stevenson	USA based Reverend Pastor	To learn about the marvelous works of IVFCam.
Stephen Tardzenyuy	Manager Beneficial Life Insurance	Courtesy visit



*Rev. Tache Florence & Rev. Erna Stevenson from the U. S. A being briefed by the CEO on IVFCam's activities*

### **FOCAL MEMBERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013**

This report covers the period from January 2013 to December 2013. This year started well and went on smoothly. This year on like last year, the Focal Members' monthly meeting was merged to that of staff i.e. monthly planning meeting – every first working day of the month.

This was to enable members (Focal) to be vest with the different activities carried out by the different departments of the Organization. Focal members were also in this meeting, make their monthly plan known to the staffs that are always of help to them.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

- Members attended their monthly and Associative Life Forum
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2013, members attended a seminar on strategic strengthening at the IVFCam office
- Held an extra-ordinary meeting on 11/07/13 to plan home visits/needs assessment for their internal sponsored OVC
- July 2013 – Wrote a circular letter to foster parents
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> members were part of the launching and closing ceremonies of WLS in Azam Bamenda by the Director all the way for USA
- July – carried out home visits and distribution of letters to foster parents
- August – Members took part in the disbursement of NEF funds to groups – phase five where they also benefited
- Sept. – Receiving letters of application from foster parents confirming that they will like their children to continue in the support program of IVFCam
- Oct. –Members went out to homes and schools of OVC to pay fees and hand purchased needs. It was a visit to see how the children are fairing both in bookwork and health wise

In all 15 OVC were supported with each child receiving 20.000 FRS cfa.

**DIFFICULTIES FACED**

- Members are not time conscious i.e. come to meetings late and sometimes they don't even attend
- Members do not do their work on time like updating their OVC's file with information
- To get the foster parents at home sometimes is not easy as such will call for several moves or phone calls.

**APPRECIATIONS**

Our appreciations go first to God Almighty for protection, providing us with strength and even finances to run the affairs of the organization. We continue to say thank you to our MAMA of the house – the CEO for her untiring effort to see that members do the task assign to them on time and well. May our good Lord continue to strengthen you - MAMA? Above all we say thank you to the entire staff for their hard work, team and teaching spirit in them. We say the God who is the owner of this Organization will continue to bless you all, as you continue to work for man as though you were serving God directly.

Thanks a million time.

# ***HUMAN RIGHTS & GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAM***

## **INTRODUCTION**

Of the three Program Areas that make up IVFCam, the Human Rights & Good Governance department works within traditional settings and communities where human rights violations are particularly high, usually in compliance with the organization's mission and vision. Just like the other departments, this unit works collaboratively to contribute her resources and expertise

to enable the entire organization meet up with its defined objectives and goals, particularly in providing a holistic intervention support package to the entire beneficiaries and target grassroots communities.



**Goal of the Program:** Empowering women and disadvantaged persons for political participation in the nation through strategic interventions for the promotion of human rights and strengthening of local governing institutions.

In order to meet this goal, the program works within four sub programs:

- Awareness Building
- Capacity Building
- Lobbying, Advocacy and Networking

Using these sub-programs as strategic intervention techniques to meet the needs of the target beneficiaries, the department works closely with the administration of IVFCam to develop and implement approved projects within target communities of the North West Region; specifically Donga-Mantung, Momo and Mezam Divisions. Based on the core values and key intervention areas of the department, it has been able to empower women and girls advocate for their rights through the establishment of partnerships with international and national human rights organizations, traditional institutions and the local government.

## IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS FOR 2013

3 projects that were implemented last two years carried out activities this year, marking completion of project activities for the program and the results have recorded far reaching achievements and successes in improving the lives of the beneficiary population and target communities.

### STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS FOR 2013

			Men	Women	Total
	Project Title	Target Communities			
1	<i>Liberating Grassroots Widows from Traditional Marginalization, Ignorance, Stark Illiteracy and Acute Poverty .....Phase III funded by Women's World Day of Prayer, German Committee</i>	10 target villages (Nkambe and Misaje Sub divisions)	121	372	493
2	<i>Increasing and sustaining the capacity of women to participate in the democratic process through the Women's Leadership School funded by UNDEF via Women's Democracy Network (WDN) USA</i>	North West, West and Littoral Regions of Cameroon	15	150	165
3	<i>Gender and Good Governance Program: Implementing Conventional Laws and Practices at the Grassroots for Increased Female Participation in Upcoming Elections in Cameroon funded by The Global Fund for Women, USA</i>	Santa Sub Division of the Northwest Region of Cameroon	203	458	661



## ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS OBTAINED

### AWARENESS BUILDING

Though this was mainstreamed in all activities, activities carried out here were geared towards massive community sensitization on human rights and good governance, through the designing printing and dissemination of human rights flyers and posters; organization of radio talks, interactive educative sessions in target schools and communities, conferences and symposiums on UN and AU theme days, etc. The program employed the use of Community Volunteers, CBOs, traditional councils and Field Agents as actors of change to raise public awareness on human rights. Activities carried out here include:

**R**aising Awareness on Human Rights on National/International Advocacy Days: This year's interventions ran throughout the International Human Rights Week and IVFCam in collaboration with the Regional Branch of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms, carried out human rights educative talks in GBHS Santa and two other secondary schools in which copies of the UDHR and other human rights educative materials were handed to students to create awareness of human rights (3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> December, 2013). Besides, in collaboration with MINPROFF, IVFCam carried out activities marking the commemoration of the International Widows Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013, via the organization of an advocacy march by the WOVCIG's of Widikum, Mbengwi, Nkambe and Misaje, raising and creating community awareness on widow's and women's rights.



**R**aising awareness on Women's Participation Rights: With objective to create community awareness in Santa Sub Division of the Northwest Region of Cameroon on gender equity and the right of women to participate in public life, Community sensitizations and education on the rights of women; brought together 30 community leaders, municipal, government



and legislative authorities to share on conventional laws that promote female participation in politics and governance. Besides, the celebration of the International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2013, under the theme *"A promise is a promise; Time to Take Action for Eliminating Violence Against Women"*, was an occasion for IVFCam and other human rights stakeholders and partners to raise awareness on women's rights and advocate for change towards ending violence against women and voting more women into parliament. Over 3000 persons were reached under this activity.

**R**aising awareness on ending Violence against Women/Widows: Raising community awareness on women's rights and freedoms via media channels has over the years been an effective Human Rights sensitization strategy utilized by the Human Rights and Good Governance program. For this year, IVFCam organized and participated in a radio talk (4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2013) on women's rights within Mezam Division, wherein community awareness was raised on the theme of the International Women's Day *"A promise is a promise; Time to Take Action for Eliminating Violence Against Women"*. Through this activity, an estimated total of 8000 people were reached.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

The objective of capacity building as one of the core activity areas of the Human Rights and Good Governance program is focused on improving the organization's service delivery systems and strengthening community interventions on human rights advocacy and good governance related issues, which are cross cutting in other program areas of the organization. Areas of capacity building this year included strategic planning/development, leadership, community mobilization, good governance, financial/project management etc. As a result, the program joined partners and other stakeholders to organize and facilitate events running from Conferences, seminars through workshops and trainings for community members, IVFCam staff and members to build capacities in these areas within the framework of implemented project activities:

**T** **Training of Human Rights Agents on Community Mobilization and Women's Participation (Feb 2013):** With objective to create community awareness and improve on gender equity and the right of women to participate in public life, IVFCam being a Global Fund for Women grantee, organized 02 ToT's sessions of 03 days each, that trained 30 Community Human Rights Agents from the 10 target villages in Santa Subdivision, on community mobilization and advocacy for increased women's participation in governance and development.

**T** **Training of Women on Leadership (Jan, Feb & July 2013):** Within the framework of the WDN-USA via UNDEF funded project on Women Leadership Schools in Cameroon, IVFCam organized a 03 days intensive training for 25 women on leadership in three regions of Cameroon (Douala, Bafoussam and Bamenda). These trainings focused on encouraging women to take up leadership positions in public/political life of their immediate environment and beyond. Over 75 women were trained within the 03 regions and coincidentally; the September 2013 legislative and municipal elections made the trainings very timely and gave it more impetus.



**T** **Training of Community Volunteers on Project Writing (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013):** Organized by the HR&GG Program Area and funded by WWDP Germany, a 01 day follow-up and refresher training on project writing using a simple project proposal format was organized and carried out in Donga-Mantung Division. The training had 22 participants (mainly Community Volunteers already engaged in the project since 2010) who were trained on writing simple community projects to source external funding for the created widow's groups within their respective communities. This training also accorded to the CV's the new task as functional community and resource



mobilizers for their respective communities. The trainings ran from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of March in Nkambe and Misaje Subdivisions respectively.

**T** **Training of Community Volunteers on Gender Perspective on Property Inheritance and Will Drafting (7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March 2013):** As key implementing organization of the Grassroots Widows Support Project funded by WWDP Germany, a 03 day intensive training session was organized in Misaje and Nkambe sub divisions, wherein 20 CV's were trained on Gender perspective on Property Inheritance and Will writing. These trainees/participants in turn targeted meeting groups, CBO's and FBO's via the holding of educative talk sessions on these topics with the aim of curbing problems emanating from the non-respect of these conventional practices.

**R** **egional Training of CSO's on the Decentralization Process, Bamenda (14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2013):** Participating in the Regional training of CSO's on the Decentralization Process organized by PASC (Programme d' Appui à la Société Civile), was a great capacity building opportunity for the HR&GG program as IVFCam actively participated in this training, represented by the PC for HR&GG program. This 03 day intensive training equipped participants with knowledge and skills on the decentralization process in Cameroon and varied strategies, tools and techniques that CSO's can initiate to support the process. IVFCam's participation amongst other regional CSO's was strategic as it resulted to redefining the HR&GG program to incorporate CSO-Local Council partnership approach for development, considering the fact that the decentralization process in Cameroon emphasizes on increased collaboration and partnership between CSO's and local government in fostering local sustainable development interventions.



**T** raining of Community Volunteers on Law Drafting and Human Rights: Strengthening community interventions for massive education and sensitization on the obnoxious laws and customs that

violate widow's rights, was the goal behind the 03 days training organized for 22 CVs from the 10 target villages in Donga-Mantung Division. Held in Nkambe and Misaje sub division, this intensive training built the capacities of participants with skills and knowledge on legislation, law drafting and human rights, at the end of which participants carried out 157 community trainings, education and sensitization campaigns in the respective sub-divisions (73 in Misaje and 84 in Nkambe).



#### LOBBYING, ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

Strengthening community interventions on human rights advocacy and good governance related issues through lobbying and advocacy, has as objective the attainment of a common ground of understanding and building a network of collaboration between IVFCam, grassroots governing institutions and the national government, in advancing the cause of human rights and freedoms in Cameroon. This is feasible via the development, review, adoption, dissemination and implementation of supportive policies, laws and practices that foster women's rights and the rights vulnerable groups and disadvantaged persons. As a result, the program in collaboration with other partners is continuously seeking and gaining support for human rights interventions via conferences, seminars and consensus building workshops.

**C** onsensus Building Workshop with Traditional and Municipal Councils of Santa Subdivision (Feb - March 2013): Within the framework of the GFW sponsored project for 2012, traditional and municipal councilors of 13 targeted villages in Santa Subdivision were guided on the development of their Local Conventional Law (LCL) that promote women's participation rights in political/public life in Santa sub division. This



workshop facilitated traditional and municipal councilor's understanding of women's inclusion rights to participate in public life; and strategies for increasing female participation in decision making by facilitating the high level participation of women in elections.

## **C**onsensus Building Workshop on Widowhood with TC of Misaje and Nkambe Subdivisions (8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June, 2013):

Following a 03 day training on human rights and law drafting organized for the community volunteers under the WWDP funded GWSP, traditional councilors of the 10 target villages in Donga Mantung Division were guided in revising and documenting their traditional laws in a consensus building workshop that held at the headquarters of the respective sub divisions of Misaje and Nkambe. The traditional rulers of all the villages in the respective sub divisions were guided through using the draft laws of the pilot villages as "Working Documents," as they all developed and enacted a Traditional Charter on Widowhood for Nkambe, and for Misaje sub divisions; respectively.



## **P**ublication and Dissemination of the Traditional Charters on Widowhood in Donga-Mantung Division (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2013):

Within the framework of the WWDP sponsored GWSP project on "Liberating Grassroots Widows from Traditional Marginalization, Ignorance, Acute Poverty and



Misery, "IVFCam organized and effected a field visit to Nkambe and Misaje Subdivision for the enactment and dissemination of the Traditional Charters on Widowhood for Donga Mantung Division. All 10 target villages were mobilized by the respective community volunteers and with the backing and support of the government (represented by the D.O and Mayor for Nkambe and Misaje), the team from IVFCam presented this legal referential document to the traditional rulers of the 10 target villages for implementation

and dissemination to the other villages in the division. This activity culminated with the distribution of farm support tools to the widow's groups of the 10 target villages to secure their livelihoods.

**P**ublic recognition of Community Volunteers and WOVCIG leaders as Human Rights Advocates (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2013): 11 community volunteers were publicly recognized by IVFCam due to their unwavering commitment to upholding the rights of widows in their respective communities as well as their efforts in community mobilization. To this effect, these CV's were issued attestations of service by IVFCam to applaud their work and commitment under the patronage of the Mayor's representative for Nkambe and Misaje subdivisions respectively.



### ACHIEVEMENTS

From the evaluation of the Human Rights and Good Governance Program activities carried out for this year, IVFCam's human rights activities has recorded significant impact ever than before in the lives of their population and communities. Changes in the human rights situation in these target communities are visible. The following are worth mentioning:

1. Effective and efficient Project Implementation: implementing projects using available resources, within the defined time frame and budget, and above all producing satisfactory deliverables have been strong points that characterize program management and implementation under the Human Rights and Governance program in 2013.
2. More women have taken up elective positions in the just conducted twin elections of September 30th 2013 as compared to the previous elections ever held in Cameroon. 34 out of the 76 (44.73%) trained female aspiring leaders were elected in influential positions in their respective political parties.
3. The publication and dissemination of Local Conventional Laws on Women's Participation and the Traditional Charters on Widowhood in over 30 villages in 02 divisions of the North West Region can be said to be the most far reaching achievement for the Human Rights and Good Governance program area for this year. Thanks to this legal referential document; there has been a significant drop in the abuse of widows rights (baseline comparison).

4. Community members timidly demonstrate knowledge of their inalienable rights and are enjoying them, thanks to the capacity building and awareness raising sessions held in these target communities as well as the very presence of the trained community volunteers who are there to record and report cases of human rights abuse.
5. More widows are testifying that they now enjoy some rights and freedoms which they were formerly denied. Another great achievement was the participation of two widows and CVs from Nkambe and Misaje in the Leadership training dubbed the Women's Leadership School that held in Bamenda, NW Region of Cameroon, from the 23rd to the 25th of July, 2013; sponsored by the United Nations Democracy Fund, via the Women's Democracy Network in the USA. The skills and capacity gained by these women would undoubtedly enable them to lead the cause of women in their localities

### **CHALLENGES/DIFFICULTIES FACED**

1. 100% Community mobilization was difficult to achieve given that most target villages are communities engaged mainly on farming, and the implementation of the projects fell within farming season. So meetings and sessions with them had to be planned at their convenience thereby retarding project activities to an extent.
2. Besides, documenting and publishing traditional laws against the violation of human and widow's rights was so strange a thing to target communities, and to this effect certain traditional councilors and rulers objected to the revision of their customary laws and were adamant to change arguing that it is an ancestral law that is difficult to change and it is practically unheard of for a woman to own landed property. As a result we had to employ a traditional law resource person to do the work with them, and the mayor to enlighten them.
3. Traditional rulers who by tradition are most honored and not customary to displace from their palaces, were successfully taken out by lobbying, advocacy, respecting palace protocol and paying traditional fines for displacing them from their palaces to attend meetings.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Advocacy with traditional councils and local grassroots institutions should be intensified with continuous awareness building on human rights particularly on women's and widow's rights, so as to sustain the results achieved.
2. The impact of WWDP GWSP project in Momo and Donga-Mantung division is quite enormous especially with the documentation, publication, dissemination and implementation of the traditional charters on widowhood in these target communities. It is thus recommended that activities should also be extended to other enclave communities in the region so as to have greater impact given that the HR&GG program is a program which cuts across other programs

# ***HIV/AIDS PROGRAM 2013***

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Health and HIV/AIDS Program is one of the three Departments that make up the Programs Division of IVFCam. Within the framework of IVFCam's Vision and Mission, the Health and HIV/AIDS Program is designed to contribute its expertise and resources in conjunction with other Program Areas to enable IVFCam provide a holistic support package to her entire beneficiary population and communities.



*“Strengthening Community response systems is the most effective way of engaging them in combating HIV/AIDS ...” IVFCam Program Manager at the National AIDS Control Committee – October 2012*

**GOAL OF THE PROGRAM:** *Assisting Local Communities Overcome their Health Challenges.*

In order to meet this goal, the program works within four sub programs:

- Awareness Building
- Capacity Building
- Care and Support
- Advocacy and Networking (Cross-cutting)

Based on this program design, the program has been able to identify and establish local and international partnerships and networks, worked closely with the administration of IVFCam and above all developed and implemented approved projects, all of which have been potential funding sources to the activities of the program. The program implemented activities within target communities; specifically Momo, Donga-Mantung ,Mezam Divisions and this year extended to Ngoketunjia division all of the North West Region.

The results have recorded tremendous successes in improving the livelihoods of beneficiaries and the quality of life within target local communities of the North West Region.

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

S/N	PROECTS	DOMAIN OF SUPPORT	DDIRECT BENEFICIARY POPULATION REACHED							PERIOD
			COMMUNITIES	CBO	ADULTS		CHILDREN (OVC)		Total	
					MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS		
1	Global fund Round 10 OVC Project	Capacity Building/Technical Support to Project management team	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	0	19	13	0	0	32	April - May
		Nutritional Support	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	0	0	0	468	498	966	Dec.
		Hygienic Support Package	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	0	0	0	513	548	1,061	Dec.
		Preventive Health	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions				143	130	273	
		Psychosocial Support	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	0	0	0	110	94	273	April to Dec.
2	"Tools for HIV Prevention and unwanted pregnancies... (Funded by PACF-UK)	Technical Assistance	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	0	7	10	0	0	17	April – Nov.
		Direct Beneficiaries (Capacity Building)	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	0	25	25	0	0	50	
		Direct Beneficiaries (referrals for First ANC & testing, Contraceptives)	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	0	51	253	0	0	304	

		Indirect Beneficiaries (Peer Education)	Momo & Donga/Mantung divisions	96	595	1273	0	0	1,868	
3	IVFCam member's Internally Funded – OVC project	Educational Support	Mezam & Momo Divisions				12	16	28	May – Dec.
		Nutritional Support	Mezam & Momo Divisions				12	16	28	
		Psychosocial Support	Mezam & Momo Divisions				12	16	28	
4	Scaling Up malaria control For Impact (SUF1): Funded by the Global Fund	Technical & Financial Assistance	17 Health Areas in Mbengwi Health District	150	5850	9150	0	0	15,000	January to march
5	DAWILA - II OVC Project Funded by Founders	Legal Support	Bamali Ndop	0	0	0	34	20	54	Nov
6	SILC - OVC Program	Educational Support	Momo	0	0	0	21	32	53	
7	Youths and HIV: Alternative Methods of communicating HIV Education – VSO-	Technical and Financial	Widikum Sub division	05	0	0	29	46	75	
<b>Beneficiary Population Reached in 2013</b>				<b>251</b>					<b>20,110</b>	

## ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND RESULTS OBTAINED

### AWARENESS BUILDING:

All activities carried out in this year under this area, were tailored towards raising public awareness on, HIV/AIDS and PMTCT, the use of modern contraceptives and other family planning methods, home management of malaria and polio vaccination, OVC Care and support, etc. Through a network of Community Volunteers, Chiefs of Health Centers and Field Agents, the program was able to filter down to the grassroots conventional information on these key issues. Awareness building activities carried out this year included:

**R**aising awareness on HIV/AIDS and PMTCT: With over 5,356 persons reached last year with education on HIV/AIDS and PMTCT, activities for this year focused on strengthening last year's strategy of reaching out to local communities through the services of Trained Reproductive Health Community Relay Volunteers (RH-CRV). This year 25 men were



capacitated as RH-CRVs and brought on board to join 50 active women RH-CRVs in bid

to increase male participation in the uptake of PMTCT.



*Male RH-CRV carrying out condom Demonstration to women's groups of Widikum Subdivision*

Together, this team which was equipped sensitization materials and gadgets, reached out to 96 CBOs (1,868 member) within Momo and Donga/Mantung Division with conventional information on HIV/AIDS and promoting the

uptake of PMTCT. Within May – October 2013, a total of 192 effective educative talk sessions were held by the volunteers with members of their communities on the subject matter.

**A**wareness raising on Malaria Prevention and Control: The end of Phase I of the Global Fund project on Scaling up Malaria control for Impact (SuFI) in March 2013 did not however mark the end of interventions on Malaria control in Mbengwi Health Districts on the part of the CBOs trained under the project. Motivated by the outcomes of Phase I of the project and in anticipation of improvements in the upcoming project phase II, members of 150 CBO under 17 health areas continued their task of door to door checks and sensitization on the use of the Treated Mosquito nets (LLINs) for malaria prevention, HHM and IPT for new pregnant cases. With coaching from the SuFI project Coordinator, these groups reached out to over 15,000 persons within January – September 2013.

**R**aise Awareness on community involvement for OVC Care and Support: Inspired by the safety net model of caring for OVC, sensitizing communities of Momo and Donga/Mantung Division on caring for their own orphans was the underlying message that was mainstreamed in the May 2013 OVC identification and baseline survey conducted by 26 trained enumerators under IVFCam with funds from the Global Fund Round 10 project managed by CRS/CM. this message was embraced by the local councils of Misaje and Nwa subdivision

which later on established partnership with IVFCam on identifying possible strategies of increasing community involvement in OVC care and support within their jurisdictions.

**A**wareness Building on HIV/AIDS on National/International Advocacy Days (December 1, 2013: IVFCam joined the voices of the Government of Cameroon, Civil Society Organizations and other actors to remind people Worldwide of their commitment to unite in the fight



against HIV/AIDS under this year's theme *Getting To Zero" - Testing Is Vital.*

Activities carried out to mark this year's commemoration,

were successfully implemented with the partnership of the Delegation of Public Health through the Regional District Hospital and the Cameroon Medical Women's Association – CMWA. Out of the numerous persons reached with sensitization on HIV/AIDS prevention



through a sensitization motorcade, plenary discussions and one on one discussion, 101 persons that requested for Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) during IVFCam's Red Ribbon Campaign were linked to nearby VCT sites found at Regional District Hospital and CMWA.

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING:**

This core activity area was focused on improving IVFCam's service delivery systems and community response to key health related issues. Areas of capacity building included HIV/AIDS, PMTCT, Malaria, and OVC Care & Support. Events, running from Conferences, seminars, workshops and trainings, for community members, volunteers, IVFCam staff, members and Grassroots Implementing Partners (GIPs) were all geared to building the capacities of these various actors in the management structure. Such events included;

**T**echnical Assistance Training (TA) on PMTCT, Governance, Financial Management and M &E (February – September 2013 ): Participating in this series of trainings (one training per capacity area above) organized by the CBC HS under the Technical Assistance Project sponsored by the ViiV Health Care – UK, was the much needed opportunity by IVFCam to improve on her various levels of programming and Management as well as improve on the quality of HIV/AIDS & PMTCT interventions carried out within local communities targeted by the organization. The TA program which reached out to all ViiV Health Care grantees in Cameroon (IVFCam, MAJE and CADFIN), included on site TA to these grantees as follow up on the application of Skills and knowledge gained from trainings. It was on this note that IVFCam played host to



four TA visits within February – September with each TA visit targeting one of the above capacity areas. The TA for 2013 was closed with a field visit of October 30<sup>th</sup>, to beneficiary communities of the ViiV Health Care project with IVFCam (Nkambe subdivision), for assessment of the project’s activities on the ground and its impact on the local community.

**T****RAINING OF YOUTHS ON HIV/AIDS in Widikum (February – March):** It is common place to target youths with trainings and education on HIV/AIDS, however training youths to engage in carrying out massive education and sensitization on HIV/AIDS using alternative communication methods like drama, Art display, songs and other forms of animation was the touch of a difference that characterized this five days training of five youth groups of Widikum subdivision. Considering that this initiative was quite a novelty in the life of the Widikum community, public presentations by these youth groups on the 2013 international Women’s day was a marvel to the entire community which witnessed HIV/AIDS communicated from a whole new dimension.

**T****raining of 50 Sexual and Reproductive Health – Community Relay Volunteers (SRH-CRV):** With the aim of strengthening the current network of 50 female SRH-CRVs and increasing men’s involvement in the uptake of PMTCT services, a 05 day training on HIV/AIDS generalities and PMTCT was organized and held between March 26 – 30, 2013 at the Divisional headquarters of Mezam



and Donga-Mantung for 25 men and 25 women

(selected from the existing SRH-CRV network) from across Momo, Mezam and Donga-Mantung divisions. This intensive session served as a refresher/experience sharing for the 25 women volunteers while capacitating the men for the task of increasing male involvement and participation in community uptake of PMTCT. According to the plans of actions developed by the network of volunteers, much emphasis was made on interventions promoting male involvement. These accounted for the 62% project contribution to the increase in male participation at first ANC recorded by the 02 Target Health districts of the projects.

**T****raining of CSOs and Social workers (April 22 – 27, 2013):** as Sub Sub Recipient (SSR) of the Global Fund Round 10 (GFR-10) – OVC project for 2013-2014, IVFCam participated in the 05 day training of SSR (implementing partners for the OVC project) organized by the Catholic Relief Services Cameroon (CRS/CM). This training that was aimed at training SSR on the Management structure of the project and



*Training of Implementing partners for the Global fund Round – 10 OVC project in the NWR – April 2013*

its strategy of implementation, also served as the executive forum for the signing of project contracts recruiting the SSR and Social Workers to work with the SSR in implementing the psycho-social component of the project. IVFCam was assigned four social workers, allocated at two per Division of intervention (Momo and Donga-Mantung)

**H**old seminar/workshops for CHEPs for communities in Momo and Donga /Mantung: Crucial to the implementation of the PACF project on increasing community uptake of PMTCT was a one day seminar/workshop on Establishing Community HIV/AIDS Elimination Plans. Abbreviated as CHEPs, these workshops that took place at the Sub divisional headquarters of Widikum, Batibo, Misaje and Nkambe, laid the ground work for the greater involvement of key stakeholders (Medical services, traditional councils, religious bodies, influential CBOs and Community Volunteers) in the struggle to eliminate HIV in their communities as their own contribution to attaining ZERO infection.



*Community participation in Developing HIV Elimination Plans – February, 2013*

**T**raining of DSCO for SUFI Project Phase II (December 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013): As successful candidates of the Global Fund Round 9 funded Organizational Capacity Assessment of implementing partners of the project on Scaling up Malaria Control for Impact (SuFI), IVFCam’s invitation to/and participation at the Plan Cameroon organized training of District Civil Society Organizations did not come as a surprise. This activity which was aimed at equipping implementing partners for the SuFI project Phase II with the necessary knowledge and skills for the implementation of this phase’s activities, was attended by the Program Manager of IVFCam and a team of 04 staff (02 project Coordinators and 02 Accountants). The training as concluded with the signing partnership contracts between Plan Cameroon and IVFCam for the implementation of SuFI project activities in 04 Health Districts of the North West Region of Cameroon (Mbengwi, Njilwa, Bali and Batibo).

#### **CARE AND SUPPORT:**

Care and Support interventions for OVC recorded a tremendous increase in the number of Children reached out to this year. The GFR-10 - CRS OVC project accounts for 91% of the number of orphans and other vulnerable children reached with comprehensive Care and Support services in the North West Region. Support was also mobilized from the Dawilla Fomumbod II direct support project and the focal member’s internally funded OVC PROJECT to add to the effort of SILC groups within local communities. All put together, priority was given to Nutritional and hygienic, educational support and some components of legal and psychosocial support to OVC. Care and support activities included:



**N**utritional and hygienic support to OVC: within the framework of the implementation of the GFR-10/CRS-CM OVC project, 1061 children received nutritional and hygienic packages constituted of tablets of Soap, Portable water buckets, 10kg bags of rice and vegetable cooking oil. The distribution of these packages that took place in December 2013 across Momo and donga-mantung divisions was according to the project, the first session of distribution of support under this domain among two sessions programmed within the project's time line.



financial and educational support to 54 final-years OVC in 04 primary schools in Ndop

**P**sychosocial support to OVC in Donga/mantung and Momo Division: the psycho-social component of the GFR-10/CRS-CM – OVC project, handled by the social workers recorded over 273 OVC reached with psycho-social assistance. These children benefited, among other services provided by the social workers, from counseling, educative talks on HIV and life skills, internal/home conflict resolution etc.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Increase in the uptake of HIV testing and PMTCT among pregnant women and male partners, registering 624 (39% health area statistics) at first ANC within the 25 target communities, and 62% contribution (target health area statistics) to the increase in male participation in atleast 01 ANC session and HIV testing. All this thanks to the established network of trained Women (50) and men (25) as capable RH/HIV Community Relay Volunteers at the service of their communities and in collaboration with the Chiefs of Health Services within these communities.
2. 25 Communities of Donga/Mantung and Momo Divisions now have an established HIV Elimination Plan complimenting the enforcement of the revised traditional laws and charters on Widowhood and Orphanhood jointly developed by the Traditional Councils for these communities and Human Rights & Governance Program as technical assistance.
3. 96 CBOs (13,437 persons) reached with conventional HIV/AIDS, RH and PMTCT education.
4. IVFCam has increased capacity in community mobilization, PMTCT & PPTCT, HIV programming, and Organizational Development from the Technical Assistance of PACF (Hub Alliance and CBC Health Services).
5. Through the joint support from the IVFCam administration, local and international partners, over 1,570 OVC were reached this year with comprehensive support package comprising of Psycho-social support, Nutrition, Health, education and Judicial support.

# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (RUWEF)

## INTRODUCTION

The Economic Empowerment Program is the one of the three Departments that makes up the programs Division of IVFCam. Like the other Departments of IVFCam, she contributes her expertise and resources to enable IVFCam provide a holistic support package to the entire IVFCam beneficiaries.

Also known as Rural Women's Empowerment Fund (RuWEF), the Economic Empowerment program carries out Capacity Building and Orientation in the areas of agriculture, food processing, IGAs Management and Marketing, Land security and advocacy for women's visibility and involvement. She also develops project proposals for implementing partners (beneficiary groups) to National and International Funders. Provide Agricultural tools and farm inputs, Micro-Credit schemes, facilitates the legal recognition of constituted prospective Partner-groups; as CIG. Besides that, RuWEF seeks possible markets for partners' produce, Mainstream conventional social issues in partnership with other organization and carry out M&E of group projects.

**Goal of the Program:** RuWEF seeks to improve the livelihood of rural women and their communities through strategic interventions for the reduction of poverty and misery, and for the promotion of participatory development.

The department operates 04 sub programs to meet its set goal. These include:

- Consultancy
- Micro-Financing for Income Generating Activities
- Land security
- Advocacy for women's visibility and involvement (Cross-cutting)

The sub programs were tailored with the involvement of all its stakeholders to meet the needs of the target beneficiaries.

## IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS FOR 2013

S/N	Core Activity	Description of Support or Activity	BENEFICIARY COMUNITIES	No OF BEN.
1	Consultancy	Constituted groups as CIG with the Ministry of Agriculture	Mbengwi Sub division	03
2	Micro-Finance	Support to groups through National Employment Fund (NEF) Project	Bamenda Sub division	240
		Support to groups and individuals through internally funded projects	Batibo, Mbengwi and Bamenda	110
3	Advocacy	Co-fund Trainings on Women's Leadership for Increased women participation in leadership and decision-making	Santa, Mbengwi, Batibo, Widikum, Bamenda, Nkambe and Misaje sub divisions	475
4	Capacity Building	Trained groups on internal and external loan management, IGA management & marketing, Resource Mobilization.	Mbengwi, Batibo and Bamenda II sub divisions	175

## ACTIVITIES REALISED UNDER SUB PROGRAMS

### **C**ONSULTANCY

Working in close collaboration with the Divisional Delegations of Momo and Donga/Mantung Divisions to facilitate the legal recognition of support groups and other Community Based Groups, RuWEF provided technical assistance to 03 CBOs in Momo Division for improved service delivery and livelihood for its members. Activities carried out here include:

#### **F**acilitating Legal Recognition of CBOs and CBGs:

Sensitized by RuWEF on the importance of acquiring legal recognition and its related benefits, CBOs mobilized funds for the acquisition of their CIG certificates and consult RuWEF for assistance. RuWEF used her collaboration with the Regional Delegation for Agriculture to facilitate the establishment of these Certificates within due time.



*Chief of Agric-post handing over CIG certificate to the Widows groups chunghe August 2013*

### **A**DVOCACY

RuWEF in partnership with the Delegate of Women Empowerment celebrated the International Widow's day 2013 in Mbengwi and Widikum subdivisions. RuWEF advocates for widow's rights and visibility as the women were mashing and carrying pluck chart fighting for their rights and visibility.

### **M**ICRO-FINANCING

Designed within the national framework for poverty alleviation, Micro financing as a sub program for RuWEF, made RuWEF focus on Capacity building on IGA Management, increasing access to micro financing, and land security & Reclamation for Widows/Women. The following are some of the activities realized

#### **C**apacity Building on IGA Management:

For 2013, a total of 16 capacity building sessions were held. These ran from individual group trainings through ToTs workshops. We actually trained 08 CBOs on IGA management for productivity. An estimated total of 175 CBO members across the North West region gained IGA Management skill and knowledge which they



*RuWEF staff on follow up visit to the IGA of a beneficiary after series of trainings in February 2013*



exercise in their individual as well as group businesses.

### **A**ccessing basic Micro-financing to CBOs:

Accessing micro-finance on the part of CBOs and other community members has been observed to be a major problem plaguing RuWEF CBOs and their community in general. To address this issue, RuWEF continued to introduce the CRS model of Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) to all her 64 CBO partners. Support from the RuWEF Internally funded was solicited to help increase the loan fund to some groups by 40% of groups running capital. By adopting this model, groups have been able to mobilize and own funds through addition of funding from RuWEF, even though RuWEF still suffer from limited funds. Though this fund is not usually big enough for the needs of all members, over 549 CBO members now have access to basic micro-credit for their immediate needs



*The mayor of Bamenda II handing over micro loans to women's groups on behalf of RuWEF – February 8<sup>th</sup> 2013*

**A**ccessing Micro-financing to individual Beneficiaries: Considering one of the major shortcomings of the SILC model is its incapacity to meet with large loan demands resulting from increasing beneficiary population and their IGA investment demands, RuWEF's partnership with the National Employment Fund, NEF and Women World of Prayer, WWDP Germany since January 2012 and 2010 respectively were all developed to meet this growing demand. Through this partnership, 380 beneficiaries from 30 CBOs in Mbengwi, Batibo, Widikum and Bamenda II subdivisions has benefited from micro loans of CFAF 50,000 each at an interest rate of 6% per annum for 02 years with NEF. On the other hand 10 groups in Nkambe and Misaje were supported with CFAC 100,000 each with free interest. The result of this partnership has totally change the standard of living of this groups of people hence has been a blessing to their communities.

### **Give Out Agricultural Tools and Farm Inputs**

Based on the high demand of agricultural tools and farm inputs, RuWEF partnership with the Women World Day of Prayer; (WWDP) Germany provided agricultural tools and farm input to 10 communities of Nkambe and Misaje sub divisions. A total of 153 widows were supported during this program. This activity was done with the closure of the project December 2013.

## LOANS MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY

**D**evelop Loan Management/Recovery Systems: Prior to the disbursement of micro loans under the RuWEF – NEF phase IV project and RuWEF internally funded project, 01 training session on loan management and recovery was held with each of the 08 beneficiary CBOs. Trainings were carried out in July and September 2013 for groups of Bamenda II and Mbengwi respectively. The result is the management of IGA and loan recovery through the establishment of an elaborate Monthly loan refund plan with cost allocations, and a contingency plan if groups/individuals become delinquent.



*Staff on supervision visit to support group for loan recovery and technical assistance*

RuWEF through internally funded project also supported an OVC of 21 years student of the University of Bamenda with a free interest loan of grace period 02 years in which the OVC must have completed schooling and have a job of his own and therefore will be able to refund the loan. Thanks to the mission of RuWEF; to access wealth, knowledge and the means for sustainable poverty alleviation at the grassroots.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- RuWEF successively registered 03 groups as CIG with the Ministry of Agriculture in 2013 as widows now constitute their group and come up for registration with RuWEF/ IVFCam/Ministry of Agriculture like the case of WOVCIC Tuayang and WOVCIG Kobenyang
- RuWEF has increased the visibility of widows groups' through the celebration of the International Widow's day; 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 in Widikum and Mbengwi sub Divisions.
- 58% of Group members have expanded their businesses with the micro loan provided, they now educate their children from their profit and also able to support OVC around their community with their group interest.
- Beneficiary groups have increase from 53 in 2012 to 68 in 2013.