

DEVELOPMENT FOR HUMANITY - DEH NGO



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DEH...For a holistic, just, participative and integrated development of Humanity

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR HUMANITY (DEH)- CAMEROON NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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Introduction

The year 2023 was a good year for Development for Humanity (DEH) given the level of implementation of activities, even with limited funding. This report summarizes the organization's achievement based on the plan outlined in the 2022 narrative report.

DEH'S Vision and Achievements for 2022

The key areas envisaged for Development for Humanity (DEH) in 2023 can be summarized as follows:

1. 50 scholarships for vulnerable children
2. Fully engage in the INCITIS FOOD aquaponics project
3. Set up own aquaponics innovation center and train/support aquaponics innovators
4. Strengthen volunteerism
5. Engage and train students on internship
6. Increase search for possible funding sources for DEH's traditional activities
7. Continue to establish new partnerships, especially in the field of research and development
8. Engage in participatorily identified rural development projects for the poor in North West Cameroon

The 2023 annual report will be structured along the lines of the above mentioned (envisaged) achievements. Additional achievements will follow the reporting on activities planned in 2023.

Achievements in 2023

1. Scholarship program

The scholarship program was eventually replaced by visit to an orphanage, due to limited funds.

DEH as a beacon for hope and aspirations to orphans in Cameroon

Development for humanity is very worried by the growing number of orphans, partly attributed to the violent conflict that has ruffled the North West and South West regions of Cameroon, since October 2016. In this light, members of DEH gave hope to some children of Grace Tait Shelter Orphanage at Foncha Street Nkwen Bamenda, Cameroon.

The coordinator of DEH Mrs Peng Ernestine led a delegation to said orphanage on Sunday the 05th of November 2023. In addition to messages of hope and encourage, she and her delegation brought along basic food items to support the daily needs of the children. The head of the orphanage Pastor Numfor, the matron and a cross-section of the children were present to receive the gifts. The head of the orphanage appreciated the gesture, saying that it came at a time when the orphanage was facing a lot of difficulties, since it could not access the farm where food used to be cultivated to support the children's food needs. In addition, the children were not attending school regularly, due to difficulties to pay for

school needs. There are over 1.2 million orphans in Cameroon orphans and vulnerable children in Cameroon. About 450.000 internally displaced persons are children. Offering them a hand can change their lives. DEH believes in, and is engaged in bringing hope to the hopeless in Cameroon.



A cross section of items offered to Grace Tait Shelter Orphanage at Foncha Street Nkwen Bamenda, Cameroon (5.11.2023)



DEH Coordinator (third from the left) at Grace Tait Shelter Orphanage at Foncha Street Nkwen Bamenda, Cameroon (5.11.2023)

2. Fully engage in the INCITIS FOOD aquaponics projects

Embracing innovative circular Aquaponics Initiative in Cameroon

Development for Humanity is one of the first organizations to join the Integrated and Circular Technology for City Region Food systems in Africa (INCITIS FOOD) project at the Bamenda University of Science and Technology – BUST Living Laboratory in Bamenda, Cameroon (<https://incitis-food.eu/knowledge-hub/living-labs/lab/bamenda-university-of-science-and-technology-bust/>). DEH visited the project severally, and participated in the first ever stakeholders' workshop at BUST on circular technologies in February 2023. The organization is particularly interested in the innovative chopped and flip aquaponics system aimed at promoting sustainable circular farming practices in Cameroon. This system integrates aquaculture and hydroponics, enabling the cultivation of vegetables in a resource-efficient manner. A technology selection workshop organized with 34 youths on 7 November 2023, confirmed our choice technology. We will work towards establishing these technologies in 2024. Meanwhile, BUST living laboratory has accepted DEH's request to bring farmers to the Lab at any time to be introduced to these circular technologies.

Development for Humanity aims to create a generation of farmers who can produce high yields with minimal environmental impact, and reduction in carbon footprint. The project

not only provides practical agricultural training but also encourages innovative thinking and sustainable livelihoods, contributing to the broader goal of community resilience and self-sufficiency in Cameroon.

The first step is to render its training and demonstration farm in Bambui – Cameroon climate-smart. For this, a sustainable energy source is required. This is a key target for 2024.



Chopped and flipped aquaponic system (courtesy of BUST Living Laboratory Bamenda, Cameroon).

3. Set up own aquaponics innovation center and train/support aquaponics innovators

A project submitted to support the establishment of an aquaponics training and support center at BUST was not successful. This activity was therefore not carried. Given its relevance, further applications are envisaged in 2024. The Board of Directors is also taking this seriously and agrees to make minimum financial allocation to start the process of transform its aquaculture training and demonstration center into a center of excellence on aquaponics.

4. Strengthen volunteerism

One of our interest is to engage with professional schools and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), by means of providing spaces for practical knowledge acquisition. In 2023, two students from the University of Bamenda Cameroon (www.uniba.cm) engaged as volunteers at DEH, where they eventually did internships and research on internally displaced by the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon.

5. Engage and train students on internship and support in data analysis

DEH data analyst undertook a consultancy on behalf of the organization to analyze data and write a report Needs Assessment for Children and youths affected by the ongoing Crisis in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon for Plan International, Cameroon. Data was analyzed for 25 Bachelor students, 10 Masters students and 2 PhD Students from five national universities in 2023.

6. Increase search for possible funding sources for DEH's traditional activities, and new partnerships for development

As an organization, DEH submitted projects to 5 new partners in 2023. Outcomes are awaited in 2024. The organization's staff were involved in a number of consultancy activities in 2023, such as facilitating a symposium Congo Basin Frontiers of Science Symposium on Security of Biodiversity, Climate, and Natural Resources, from 15-18 November 2023, in Yaounde Cameroon (<https://congobasinfrontiersymposium.com/>), and data collection on 'conflict induced displacement' at the University of Cologne, Germany (<https://cif.uni-koeln.de/projects/international-research-cluster-2023-24-michaela-pelican>).

The research on IDPs employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data gathered through surveys distributed to a representative sample of IDPs and qualitative data collected through in-depth interviews with IDPs, and community leaders from February 13 to November 20, 2023. Data collection adhered to strict ethical protocols, ensuring informed consent and participant anonymity.

The research was carried out in Bafoussam in collaboration with Rhema Care (a Bafoussam based NGO) who assisted in locating areas populated with IDPs who left from the North West and the South West region of Cameroon.

In line with the principles of participatory research and development, DEH and its partners plan to organize a feedback workshop in 2024, during which the results of this important research will be shared and validated with all stakeholders. The results will form the basis of future development projects.



Top left (After a FGD at the market with IDPs), top right (Quarter Data collection with IDPs)

Overall, although funding remained locally driven in 2023 for which the financial and non-financial contribution of members, staff and local benevolent individuals is highly appreciated, DEH made some key strides in networking and generating financial support from other partners.

9. Engage in participatorily identified rural development projects for the poor in North West Cameroon

Data collection on IDPs in Cameroon provided us with the opportunity to carry out participatory needs assessments which form the basis of future projects. For instance, the situation of IDPs of the Anglophone conflict living in Bafoussam, capital of the West region of Cameroon is a case in point. Economic empowerment, social integration and return preparedness represent areas for pro-poor development projects, which are envisaged for 2024.

Other achievements

Environmental and Natural Resource Management

In 2023, DEH identified five (5) tree nursery promoters in Bambui, a community in the periphery of Bamenda city in Cameroon, and supported them technically through two workshops on nursery practices and bee farming, respectively. Due to demand, DEH carried out six awareness campaigns including that of waste management in Bambui Fandom – Tubah sub Division.



Plate 1: Avocado (*Persea americana*)



Plate 2: Pygium (*Prunus africana*) / Indigenous species



Plate 3: Pawpaw (*Carica papaya*) in farmers' fields



Plate 4: Sensitization workshop in Tubah subdivision, Cameroon

300 trees were donated by trained farmers to other members of the community who in turn planted them around their compounds and on their farms. The aim of this project is to boost the production of honey and to create employment and the commercialization of its by products as well in future.

Broiler promotion project

DEH poultry project for 2023 was aimed at carrying out on-site training of small holder poultry farmers especially the youth and low income households in a bid to improve on their livelihoods. In 2023, three batches of 100 broilers each were successfully produced at DEH training and demonstration center. 20 practicing Broiler farmers met at the center twice, using it as Farmer Field School to exchange experiences on the subject.



Sample day old chicks at DEH training and demonstration center 3-weeks old chicks at DEH training and demonstration center 42-days old birds at DEH training and demonstration center

Conclusions for 2023

In general, DEH's achievements in 2023 are very satisfactory. The new board members who joined the organization in 2021 have been very supportive of these achievements, for instance by mobilizing more funds, and overseeing that monitoring and evaluation stay as integral part of the organization's development strategy. We will continue to expand our networks and partnerships for development in 2022. Of particular interest for 2024 is the EU-funded INCiTiS FOOD Aquaponics Project (www.incitis-food.eu), for which DEH is warming up to participate in its open call and enhance to its capacity as a service organization in the project currently hosted at the Bamenda University of Science and Technology, Cameroon.

Final word

Development for Humanity welcomes well-wishers and partners who want to support its humanitarian activities in any form. If you are willing to support this noble initiative, please contact the organization directly best by email (info@dev4humanity.org) or phone +237 671474422). Personal contacts can also be made directly to the Director or Programs Coordinator mentioned on the cover page of the report. Your little contribution can make a difference.

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