



ANNUAL REPORT OF ACIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2023

JANUARY 2024



Introduction

This annual report gives an overview of the activities carried out by future Africa for the year 2023. The activities were geared towards the socio-economic empowerment of youths and young adults in Meme and Fako divisions of the south west region of Cameroon. The purpose of the programme was to promote the socio-economic wellbeing remote communities' residents, promote sustainable development and empower youths as active agents of change. The project targeted young people from the ages of 15 to 35 with and without disabilities and residing in remote communities of meme and Fako Divisions of the South west region of Cameroon. It also involved local authorities (Chiefs, Quarter heads, Head teachers) and community-based organizations. Activities planned for the year were capacity building workshops on leadership, civic engagement, vocational training, waste management campaigns and the digging of a borehole in Bokova village.

Background:

From needs assessment conducted in several remote communities in the target area (Mbalangi, Ekombe, Bokova and Tole. It was established that these communities face a number of challenges which include but are not limited to inadequate sanitation, scarcity of portable water, poor infrastructure, high poverty rates and low literacy rates. These issues limit community members from economic opportunities and hinder development.

In order to ameliorate these conditions, Future Africa put together a group of motivated youths who are passionate about community participation and sustainable development to address these challenges. The project aimed



not only to improve immediate conditions but also to foster a culture of self-reliance and resilience amongst community inhabitants.

Project Objectives:

- Enhance participation of youths in community development activities
- Improve sources of portable water and access to sanitation facilities to enhance health and hygiene.
- Promote sustainable livelihood practices to increase access to economic opportunities
- To strengthen community resilience and social cohesion through awareness creation

Activities:

The following activities were carried out in the year 2023:

4 training workshops were carried out in Ekombe, Mbalangi, Bokova and Tole communities. Topics handled during these workshops were, civic engagement, resource mobilization, advocacy, income generating/networking and leadership trends. A total of 459 youths were trained. By the end of the workshops, youths showed increase interest in community decision making processes.

Organize 4 stakeholder meeting between youths and community leaders to foster mutual understanding and establish partnerships.

Organize 2 waste management campaigns in Tole and Bokova. During these campaigns, youths participated physically in collecting waste and disposing of them properly. They also raised awareness on the impact of poor waste management to the health and environment through public gatherings.

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Provided 6 Vocational training for 115 youths in food processing (pastries, cassava flour, fruit juice and jam etc) and chemical processing (production of detergents, tie and dye, hair oil).

Impact of project activities:

There was a noticeable increase in youth engagement and leadership roles in community activities. Four Youth-led groups were formed in the different communities to exchange experiences and support each other during community activities. Increase engagement of youths in community activities will make development more sustainable.

Community leaders and local organizations in these communities have become more adept in advocating for youths interest. Chiefs of Bokova and Tole gave community halls free for youths to carry out their activities. This gave the community members ownership of the project and improved acceptance of other development ideas.

Some of the trained youths, 53 in number started their own small businesses after the vocational training sessions. This contributed in reducing unemployment, increase access to other economic activities and community development.

The waste management campaigns prompted local authorities to increase the number of waste bins around the community making community members to dispose waste more appropriately. Pollution of the environment especially in the Tole community has reduced greatly. This means that there will be less outbreak of diseases due to poor waste management.

Challenges and lessons learned:

Despite the successes recorded, the following challenges were encountered during the implementation of project activities;

- Limited finances. Funds and other needed resources were donated by the youths themselves and some community leaders. This made it difficult to meet up with all planned activities such as digging of the borehole in Bokova village.
- Insecurity: Due to the ongoing Anglophone crisis, some project activities were disrupted or not carried out at due time due to sporadic road blocks and ghost towns.
- Sustainability concerns: ensuring ongoing funding and community engagement remains an ongoing challenge.

Sustainability:

To ensure the longevity of project impact;

Stakeholders will engage at all levels of the project so as to foster ownership and accountability.

There will be continuous training of youths and community leaders on advocacy, resource mobilization and sustainable development practices.

Establish more partnerships with other local organizations and international organizations to secure funding and other resources to support project activities.

Document best practices and success stories to inspire replication in other communities.



Empowering youths to be able to participate in community activities is very important for the sustainable development of any community. If we have to build resilient communities, then there is need to support youth projects.