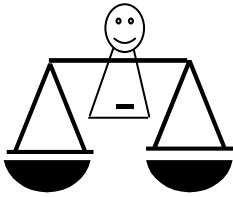


CAMEROON YOUNG JURISTS LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER



**CYJULERC**

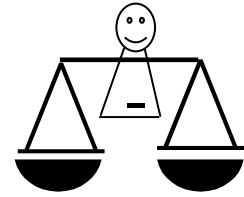
Registration No 236/G.37/D.14/Vol.8/T/ OAPP

**VISION:** “Securing livelihoods for Women and Children within a legal framework”

P.O BOX 68 Buea, South West Region- Cameroon

Telephone: +237 33322140; Email: [cyjulercb@gmail.com](mailto:cyjulercb@gmail.com)

Website: [www.cyjulerc.info](http://www.cyjulerc.info)



## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Snails Domestication training workshop for rural women in Eyumojock Sub-Division in the Snails' Multiplication & Training Farm in Mfuni

**BUEA  
SOUTH WEST REGION  
CAMEROON – AFRICA**

## INTRODUCTION

### ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

CAMEROON YOUNG JURISTS LEGAL RESOURCE CENTRE known by its acronym as CYJULERC is a National NGO with its headquarters in Buea.

CYJULERC was founded by a group of individuals (mostly Female Jurists) who in 2003 with registration No. 237/G.37/D.14/1/VOL.8/I/OAPP of 03/05/2003, when they realized the need for the promotion of Human Rights in Cameroon. The organization is nonprofit, non-sectarian, non-governmental with a focus to enhance democracy through the development of a Human Rights and Rule of Law culture in Cameroon. CYJULERC members recognize that there is a critical need for Civil Society Organizations to work

towards the promotion and protection of Human Rights with emphasis on issues that impact on abuse, poverty and inequality (discriminatory customary and cultural practices) against women and children; and the need to expose these ills, draw the attention of the stake holders and lobby to influence state policy and action. We work to promote and protect general Human Rights with emphasis on Women and Children's rights.

**BRANCH OFFICES:** Apart from the head office in Buea, CYJULERC operate two branch offices in Mamfe, Manyu division and Kousseri in the Far North region. These offices have coordinators in charge of project activities in their zone and constant reports are given to the head office.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Our mission is create a community free from abuse and marginalization for women and children, and to contribute to build a fair and equitable future society that guarantees the respect of human rights, democracy and the rule of law for Cameroonians citizens.

### OBJECTIVES:

CYJULERC was created by a group of Common Law Jurists (Judges, Magistrates and Lawyers) with a very wide role of promoting human rights in general, with focus on Women and Children's human rights.

Considering the fact that Cameroon is a developing country and most citizens are ignorant of the law, we thought it was necessary to include more broad activities related to the law so as to create legal consciousness and awareness among the citizens and enhance the implementation of human rights. This entails promoting legal education,

access to justice through legal aid; peace building and alternative dispute resolution, democracy and good governance with due regard to the rule of law in our communities.

### **Specific Objectives:**

-To promote women by empowering them economically, socially and politically, and by fighting against trends and tendencies that entrench a culture of gender exclusion, marginalization, poverty, ignorance and lack of self-esteem and specifically;

-To promote the enforcement of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discriminations on Women (CEDAW) and other international conventions, covenants and agreements in Cameroon;

-To use the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to promote and protect Children's Human Rights by fighting against child trafficking, child labour and delinquency;

-To implement strategies of the Global Platform for Action on violence against women through research, advocacy, campaigns and monitoring and implementation of laws;

-To do advocacy and lobby with the government on issues that touch women and children

-To ensure access to justice through Legal Aid to women, children, the poor and the abused;

-To collaborate with regional and international partners and networks on women's human rights issues and establish national and regional networks to promote and advocacy for women's human rights;

-To promote the implementation of all national and international laws on children's rights adopted and ratified in Cameroon.

Please, you can see detail information on our organization by logging at [www.cyjulerc.info](http://www.cyjulerc.info)

## 2010 PROJECTS

Four main projects were implemented with support from donor agencies and CYJULERC in the year 2009-2010 and our routine legal clinic and legal education programs were also carried out. The four projects are:

- Promoting, ensuring and securing the protection of children in conflict with the law “Juvenile Justice” in Cameroon supported by Cordaid, the Netherlands;
- Small Scale school on Wheels Project in Kousserie supported by MIVA/ One men, the Netherlands;
- Economic Empowerment of Rural Women – Snails domestication and NTFP extension to Upper Banyang Sub-Division in Manyu Division;
- Micro – Credit Scheme

### **1) Promoting, ensuring and securing the protection of children in conflict with the law “Juvenile Justice” in Cameroon supported by Cordaid, the Netherlands.**

The target communities are Yaoundé and Douala. Implementation of the Yaoundé phase started in July 2009, while the implementation of the Douala phase started in January 2010. The project covered three (3) Districts in Douala; Douala 1, 2 and 3.

#### **Objectives**

- Write a Handbook which contains all the National and International Laws in force on Juvenile Justice in Cameroon;
- Building the capacity of all the actors in the Juvenile Justice process in Yaoundé and Douala;
- Creation of a Juvenile Justice Chain, a permanent network that links all the services and actors involved the process of Juvenile Justice, to ensure the special protection of children is respected by all services/actors of Juvenile Justice Process;
- To promote alternative measures to detention for Children in Conflict with the Law;
- To give Judicial and Social assistance and Legal Aid to children in conflict with the law;

## Project Achievements

Below are the achievements of the various objectives:

- **Write a Handbook which contains all the National and International Laws in force on Juvenile Justice in Cameroon:**

4.500 copies of a bilingual Juvenile Justice Manual (French and English) containing all national and international laws on juvenile justice in force in Cameroon, to be applied by all State and non-State actors involved in the juvenile justice process was produced.

The manual also contains contact information of all the State and Non-State juvenile justice services covered by the project in the three (3) Districts of Douala covered by the project. 3.280 copies were distributed to workshop participants and state and non-state services in Douala and some cities of the South West Region. The distribution is on-going depending on need.

- **Building the capacity of actors of the Juvenile Justice process in Douala:**

One training seminars were organized in Douala in January 2010. 14 Magistrates, 16 Judicial Police Officers, 8 Prison Officers, 15 Social workers and 38 members of Civil Society Organizations were trained on various laws and topics on Juvenile Justice, and Procedures applicable in Cameroon. Each presenter laid emphasis on the provisions related to the various actors and the link between their roles.

Participants were trained in the following topics:

- An over view of the Cameroonian Juvenile Justice System.
- The provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), African Charter on the Rights of the Child and other International Conventions. They were also trained on the specific provisions on children in the 2007 Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Code.
- The Administration of Justice to Minors.
- The Role of Social Affairs in the Administration of Juvenile Justice in Cameroon.
- The Judicial Protection of Children Deprived of their Liberty.
- The Role of the Civil Society Organizations in the Juvenile Justice process in Cameroon.

- **Creation of a Juvenile Justice Chain, that links all the services and actors involved the Juvenile Justice process, a synergy of actors to enhance and ensure the special protection of children is respected by all services/actors of Juvenile Justice Process:**

- Like Yaoundé in 2009, one (1) Juvenile Justice Chain made up of all the various actors were created in Douala in January 2010 to link all the services and actors

who play a role in the juvenile justice process. The chain was created at the end of the workshops in each city. The participants had very exciting training workshops and have since been working as a chain for an effective juvenile justice system which secures the rights of children. The results can be seen in the fact that the number of children detained has dropped considerably in Douala where the parents and families of most children can be traced.

- The chain started functioning during the workshop as practical cases were brought up by members of the civil society organizations, difficulties they were facing in pending cases and some cases which were discovered during data collection were discussed. Solutions were proposed during the workshops and participants took appointments to resolve them.
- Because of the Juvenile Justice Chain in both Yaoundé and Douala, most of the children who are in conflict with the law are neither detained by Judicial Police Officers nor Magistrates because Civil Society members take them on bail or Social Workers trace their families, and this accounts for the fact that, there were only 36 children in the Douala minors unit at the end of 2010 with only 5 old cases.
- Finally, there is more collaboration between State and non-State actors, more involvement of Social workers and Civil Society in the juvenile justice process and State services are more accessible.



Juvenile Justice workshop in Douala, January 2010

- **To give Judicial and Social assistance and Legal Aid to children in conflict with the law in Douala and Yaounde:**

- In Douala, there were 280 children in the minors unit during the data collection but 231 were released following a plea from the head of Foyer St. Nicodeme, Sr. Marie in honor of her birthday, so there were only 49 children in the minors unit in need of judicial and social assistance at the time we held the capacity building workshop.
- 45 children out of 49 were released by May 2010, that is, five (5) months after the capacity building workshop;
- 21 children were immediately released following the capacity building workshop in January 2010.
- 41 children were reinserted into their families by May 2010.
- 2 children are undergoing rehabilitation Foyer St. Nicodeme.
- About two (2) children of foreign nationality are under the care of Foyer St Nicodeme pending repatriation for which we are following up with the Regional office for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
- Children have been completely separated from adults in the New Bell prison in Douala and a special entrance created for children as part of measures taken by the prison officials to separate children from adults.
- The number of children detained in the Douala Central prison has dropped considerably and only four (4) children are in the minors unit today.

- **To promote alternative measures to detention for Children in Conflict with the Law:**

- 353 children were identified in Yaoundé and Douala during the baseline survey.
- Considering that there are very few special children's centers for detention, rehabilitation and re-education, most of the children released were ordered to be re-inserted into their families directly under the supervision of social workers for any necessary social assistance during rehabilitation and integration within the families.
- 327 children were released from minors' units in Yaoundé and Douala within one (1) year of the project.
- 316 families of the children were identified and 316 children integrated their families within one (1) year of the project.
- Four (4) children who were involved in serious offences and obliged to stay in special children's detention centers, were released from minors' unit in Kondengui prison, Yaoundé – 3 transferred to the government Children's Re-education Center at Betamba, Center Region and 1 to Foyer d'Esperance, a private children's rehabilitation center and a partner organization (CSO) to CYJULERC in this project.
- Two (2) children who were involved in serious offences and obliged to stay in special children's detention centers, were released from minors' unit of New Bell

prison, Douala and transferred to Foyer St. Nicodeme, a private children's rehabilitation center and a partner organization (CSO) to CYJULERC in this project.

- Two (2) children of foreign nationalities were also transferred to the Foyer St. Nicodeme in Douala and a procedure to repatriate them has commenced with the Regional Office for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.
- After the capacity building seminars, the Penitentiary Officers became aware of the provisions of the laws and importance of separating minors from adults, and as such children were transferred to a building far from the adults, so they are now completely separated from adults in Yaoundé. In Douala, children have been completely separated from adults and a special entrance created for children only.
- Following the training of the Penitentiary Officers, they ensure minors are kept away from adults as much as possible. They ensure children do not mixed up with the adults at any given time even during transportation to the court, and while in court; children are transported in a different vehicle and they no longer attend or wait for departure in adults' court sessions or court rooms.
- Children have been reserved a special area or room in the court premises to wait for departure to prison after court sessions and therein, parents, guidance and family are allowed to chat with them pending departure to prison.



Street children with their tools for begging (dishes) in Maroua





CYJULERC President and National Coordinator visiting and giving a meal to street children in Maroua

## **02) Small Scale school on Wheels Project in Kousseri supported by MIVA/ OneMen, the Netherlands**

2010 saw an extension of the School on Wheels (SOW) programme implemented by CYJULERC and United Action for Children as an attempt to make basic education more accessible to girls and children in communities around Kousserie, Logone & Chari Division of the Far North Province.

The SOW program is aimed at taking education to out of school children living in the rural areas or villages of Kousserie. It is also aimed at encouraging education of the girl child, helping them stay in school, improving on the school performance and grades of the children, and facilitating /encouraging enrolment in mainstream schools.

Activities carried out during the extension of the SOW programme to two more communities, Ibou and Massaki II were a continuation of the project to cover the entire communities which practice Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Kousserie area, as elaborated in the original project proposal and its accompanying plan of action.

The main activities were to handover the motor bikes and to setup the SOW program for classes to begin in these two communities.

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

The specific objectives of the project are;

- Encourage literacy and education of girls, rural children and urban poor in Kousserie and the Logone et Chari Division;
- Help rural children and urban poor improve on their grades and stay in school;
- Facilitate the enrolment of rural based children and urban poor in schools;
- Guide parents through mothers clubs in villages in educational matters;
- Stimulate an interest in lifelong learning and applied technology that will help them grow into a confident, self-reliant, responsible and responsive adults;
- Encourage, foster excellence and applaud literature and translations in and between the two official languages spoken in Kousserie area, French and Arabic;
- Forge cross- cultural connections through storytelling and mentoring in education;
- Create opportunities to gain access into existing mainstream schools

## **TARGET GROUP**

This implementation phase targeted the rural children between 6 – 13 years in the two village communities of Massaki II and Ibou.

The project focused was on girls, for over 90% are not sent to school and they are victims of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Women and parents were also targeted to inculcate a literacy culture in the communities.

## **ACTIVITIES**

The main activities carried out were the setting up of the school program and the handing over of the motor bikes to the Teachers for Massaki II and Ibou villages.

Meeting with individual elites and groups in and out of Kousserie and sensitization meetings with local education authorities, municipal authorities, traditional or village councils and women's groups had created awareness among the two communities already and so they were prepared for the commencement of the SOW programme.

The main activities carried out were, purchase of motor bikes, visit to the two communities and launching the SOW program in the two communities.

The CYJULERC team held meetings with the members of the two communities; both communities presented teachers to the team. The team also visited the sites where classes will be held in the two communities and a list of children and women enrolled in the classes was handed to the team in each community. The schedule for women and

children was drawn-up by members of the communities, the teachers and the CYJULERC team.

### **SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES**

Teaching and didactic materials were bought and handed over to teachers & communities, and 4 motor bikes were also handed over to teachers & the communities. Needs assessment was made for mentoring exercises and sports the two communities.

The two communities also supported the program by providing volunteer teachers, mats, blackboards, and open air spaces under trees for classes as their own contribution. Classes began on January 30, 2011 in both communities.

### **HANDING OVER OF MOTOR BIKES**

A ceremony was organized for the handing over of motor bikes to the SOW teachers of Massati II and Ibou. The ceremony took place at the Delegation of Women and Family office building. The traditional rulers called “blamas” of the two (2) target communities; Massaki II and Ibou, were present with teachers of the other three (3) communities Massati 1, Michetere and Djarengoubou, CYJULERC staff & team, and some indigenes of the two villages.

The State administration was represented by the Divisional Delegate for Women’s Empowerment and Family. The project implementation team composed of CYJULERC staff and the members of the collaborating local organization in Kousserie, Al Fan were also present.

The Delegate for Women’s Empowerment and Family made a short speech in which he lauded the initiative of CYJULERC for such an important gift once more in their communities. He also thanked MIVA Netherlands for their financial support which has enabled the project to be extended to these other two communities. He called for more support so that the other communities can be reached. The teachers were encourage to make maximum use of the project motor bikes by ensuring that they are present during learning sessions and on time.

The Delegate reassured CYJULERC of his personal continuous commitment to personally supervise the use of the motorbikes and any misuse will result to withdrawal of the bike and possible claim for damages because the bikes are meant for the SOW programme aimed at the development of the community and not for personal use.

The Divisional Delegate for Women Empowerment and the family also made short speeches on the importance of girl child education and that the target communities to ensure their girl children are effectively registered to make use of the program.

The Regional coordinator for CYJULERC in Kousserie also made a short speech, reminding the target population of CYJULERC's commitments to work with them. The Delegate handed over the motorbikes to the teachers. The ceremony ended with some light feasting.



**Motor Bikes handing –over ceremony to Ibou and Massaki II communities**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- The school on wheels program has been effectively set up in Massaki II and Ibou villages.
- Two volunteer teachers are available for each community and they are effectively started teaching the children and women.
- Children and women have been well sensitized and they are enthusiastic to study.
- Mentors have been identified from the Kousserie Teachers Training School to mentor the girls and boys so as to encourage them to make maximum use of the opportunity and they have started the exercise with one session per community each month.
- Didactic materials have been and distributed to the teachers and classes have commenced in the two communities for both the children and women already.
- Motor bikes have been distributed to the teachers to facilitate their movement to learning centers.
- Enrollment is very encouraging as seen below.

### **Enrollment for the two Communities**

<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>No CHILDREN</b>	<b>No WOMEN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Massati II</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Ibou</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>261</b>

## **DIFFICULTIES**

The following problems were encountered during project implementation in the field:

- Transportation of the motor bikes from Douala to Kousserie was slow and expensive due to the poor transportation infrastructure.
- There were no classrooms. Like the other three (3) communities, the class sessions are holding under the trees.
- Lack of seats. The children and women use traditional mats and this makes it difficult for them to write.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Construction and equipping classrooms on the land provided by the communities should be given priority so that class sessions are not disrupted by sun, wind and rainfall. This will also help the communities and teachers to cover their schedule for the year, since classes will not be disrupted and the two hours session for classes will be effectively covered throughout the year without suspension because of rain.

It will also ease the monitoring and evaluation of the project by CYJULERC and MIVA.

Constructing the classrooms as soon as possible will also keep up the enthusiasm excitement of the population alive.



CYJULERC team visiting Ibou community January 2010



Girls in the School on Wheels program studying in Hagrangoubou

### **03) Economic Empowerment of Rural women in Manyu Division through the Domestication of Snails**

The **main goal** of this project is to improve local incomes of women in the rural communities by creating a sustainable alternative income generating activity which will empower the women economically while promoting activities which do not endanger the environment.

#### **Specific objectives**

- To promote food sufficiency, fight hunger and improve the quality of food of rural women and their children;
- To alleviate poverty and provide a regular source of income for women in the rural communities;
- Conserve wild life species by providing an alternative source of meat;
- To involve rural women in environmental protection.

#### **Training of farmers Groups on snail rearing**

In 2009-2010, CYJULERC trained four farmers groups on how to rear snails. The groups were, Tabong women CIG, Tanyi Enow Women CIG, Ofon Ogomabi CIG, all in Mfuni village and Mandam Achei Ye Nyu in Ntenako village. A total of 60 farmers were trained within the year and their snail farms established.

It is worth noting that these farmers were constantly supervised technically within the year.

### **Training modules**

- The importance of rearing snails
  - Nutritional value
  - Economic value
  - Medicinal value
  - Environmental Value
- Selection of site
- Construction of snail pens
- Preparation of the pens
- Stocking
- Feeding and Food
- Predators, Parasite and Disease control
- Farm management
- Marketing
- Farm sustainability
- Cost estimate / requirement to build a pen
- Practical



CYJULERC coordinator for Manyu training women in Tinto on how to construct a suspended snail pen for snail rearing

### **Achievements**

- Today in Manyu division, there exist more than 200 women rearing snails.
- Individual women can now rear snails for food and to generate income.
- Through the snail rearing, other partners like Heifer International Cameroon have come in to support the women groups with other projects such as piggery.

## 04) Micro-Credit Scheme

CYJULERC micro-credit scheme is aimed at extending micro credit facilities to the rural poor and marginalized women in order to fight exploitation of the poor by rich traders who impose very low prices for products produced by rural women; organize marketing and add value to their products.

Specific objectives of the Micro-Credit Scheme are:

- Extend micro credit facilities to the rural poor and marginalized
- Eliminate exploitation of the poor by rich traders who impose very low prices for products produced by rural women and men;
- Add value to women's agricultural products (including non-timber forest products NTFP) by bringing women from the poorest households, within the fold of an organizational format which they can understand and manage by themselves;
- To extend micro credit facilities to poor women and communities and create opportunities for self-employment for the vast multitude of unemployed people in rural Cameroon;
- To undertake social development programs which address basic needs of its communities and customers;
- To reduce economic dependency of women on men with a resultant reduction in vulnerability and abuses perpetuated on them

The micro-credit scheme was extended to Upper Banyang communities in 2010 and a total of 25 women's groups benefited from loans worth 8,000,000 FCFA. The 25 women's groups made up of five (5) old communities in the Ejagham area and five (5) new communities in the Upper Banyang area. The five communities of the Upper Banyang area received two (2) sessions of pre-loan training after fulfilling membership conditions before the loans were granted to them.

The communities which benefited from the micro-credit scheme in 2010 were Tinto, Fotabe, Sumbe, Etoko, Bachuo and the old communities were Kembong, Ajayukndip, Ogomoku, Taboh, Eyumojock.

The loans were intended to organize harvesting, processing and marketing of cassava products, egusi, bush mango (*Irvingia gabonensis* (sweet specie) and *I. wombolu* (bitter specie) seeds, oranges, njansa, and different types of nuts.

**Monitoring** and supervision carried out by CYJULERC staff was focused mostly on the new communities considering that the old communities were already vest in the scheme. Monthly work plan and follow-up meetings held in the new communities and reports sent to the main office in Buea.

CYJULERC ensured frequent monitoring of the groups' activities for maximum success.

### **Difficulties**

Presently since there are no external financial support for the project, CYJULRC is facing in adequate supply of funds to the groups. There are so many communities eager to join



the micro-credit scheme and there are many products which if organized will greatly alleviate poverty, improve on women's lives and promote financial independency of women in the area.



Bush mango (*Irvingia gabonensis* (sweet specie) and *I. wombolu* (bitter specie) collected by Tabong Women's group

### **PARTNERSHIP**

In 2010, CYJULERC worked with both national and international partners. Some of the international partners include; MIVA OneMen Netherlands, CORDAID Netherlands, MIVA Switzerland. National partners include Diplomatic missions in Cameroon such as the American, British and Canadian Embassies. Government departments such as Ministries of Justice, Social Affairs, Women Empowerment & Family, and Environment & Nature Protection. CYJULERC also worked with other NGOs such as United Action for Children, Heifer Cameroon, AL FAN, Foyer d'Esperance, AWA and Foyer St Nicodeme.



Enthusiastic girl-children in the SOW program excited to welcome CYJULERC President to Ibou in January 2010