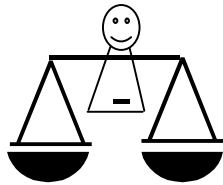
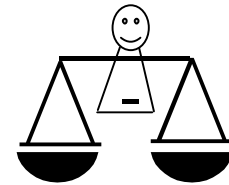


CAMEROON YOUNG JURISTS LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER



CYJULERC



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

Motto: "Securing livelihood for women and children within a legal framework"

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FINAL REPORT SMALL SCALE SCHOOL ON WHEELS PROJECT KOUSSERIE



SUPPORTED BY: **MIVA/OneMen, The Netherlands**

CYJULERC- BUEA: Taking education to the doorsteps of girls, children and women

INTRODUCTION

School on wheels is a programme of CYJULERC and United Action for children as an attempt to make basic education more accessible to children particularly the girl child who live in the rural areas of Kousserie in the Extreme North Region of Cameroon, help them improve on their school performance and grades, stay in school and to facilitate /encourage enrolment in school. It is also aimed at taking education to out of school children living in the rural areas or villages of Kousserie. It organizes remedial reading and other academic programmes in order to enable school going rural based children improve on their school performance; keep up with their grades and to stay in school. The project goes a long way to enhance educational opportunities for rural based children. The overall goal is to close the performance gap in the education of these children and provide them with the highest educational opportunities possible.

“School on Wheels” project educate children through mobile vans or Motor Bikes as is the case of Kousserie. It takes education to the door steps of children living in villages and do not have access to remedial programmes due to the poor educational backgrounds of their parents.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Encourage literacy and education of girls and 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

The project is targeting rural children between 6 – 13 years in the three village communities of Mitchetire, Massaki and Djarangoubou. 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 project was implemented according to the following Action plan submitted to MIVA:

- Meeting with individual elites and groups in and out of Kousserie;
- Sensitization meetings with local education authorities, municipal authorities, traditional or village councils and women's groups;
- Identification of villages that will host the school on wheels;
- Meeting external elites in Yaoundé;
- Identification and training of School on Wheels staff;
- Production and translation of School on Wheels materials into French and Arabic –the two common languages spoken in Kousserie;
- Visit and introduction of the notion of School on Wheels to the Hon Minister of Basic Education who is an indigene of the Northern Region;
- Identification and hiring of an office for the School on Wheels;
- Recruitment of the School on Wheels office staff;
- Purchase of motor bikes to start a small scale School on Wheels;
- Submission of the final school on wheels project to MIVA in 2011.

Previous reports already submitted have already dealt with issues concerning the following,

Activities were implemented as laid out in the above Action Plan and previous reports submitted dealt with: Meeting with individual elites and groups in and out of Kousserie; Sensitization meetings with local education authorities, municipal authorities, traditional or village councils and women's groups; Identification of villages that will host the school on wheels; Identification and training of School on Wheels staff; Production and translation of School on Wheels materials into French and Arabic – the two common languages spoken in Kousseri; Identification and hiring of an office for the School on Wheels; Recruitment of the School on Wheels office staff and Visit and introduction of the notion of School on Wheels to the Hon Minister of Basic Education. The only activity which has not been reported is the launching of the School on Wheels (Bikes) and the subsequent monitoring activities.

Some of the achievements of the aforementioned activities are worth recalling, to wit:

Three (3) villages; Michetire, Massaki and Djarangougou were selected for the project. Each village presented two persons as teachers and staff for the School on Wheels. They were evaluated and confirmed by the project team. Four out of the six teachers are women. Sensitization meetings with all the stakeholders focus on the need for girls to be educated and given priority in the project. For example, in Massaki, there were already 70 girls out of 110 children who were ready to start the School on Wheels program in September 2009 at the time of the visit in August 2009.

A need assessment with villagers indicated an urgent need for the Vocational Training programs for their children in trades such as sewing, hairdressing, woodwork and building/construction, which program can run concurrently with the basic education program, considering that there are many girls who are above 10 and have never been to school.

The central Coordinating Committee of the project was put in place by the Board in October 2009. The members of the committee are drawn from the various communities.

Some training materials were bought and didactic materials were bought. All the materials bought were in the French language considering that, French is the official language used in schools of the Kousserie and Logone & Chari Division. Translation of the materials into Arabic was deemed unnecessary considering that all the teachers of the School on Wheels project understand and speak both languages, so the materials were not translated. The teachers and staff of the project were trained few weeks to the start of the project on basic concepts and introductory programs.

An office was identified and hired; and staff recruited for the School on Wheels project in Kousserie. The office was equipped with one motorbike, a desktop computer, and accessories, printer and stationary.

THE PURCHASE OF MOTOR BIKES

The final activity was the purchase and donation of Motor bikes to the participating villages under the custody of the Traditional ruler and the Kousserie Urban Council. This approach had to be adopted to ensure the community ownership of the project. Although the Bikes are being used by

the School on Wheel staff, they remain answerable first to the CYJULERC Regional Coordinator and secondly to their respective communities. This is also to ensure the judicious and efficient use of the Bikes by the staff.

Seven (07) motorbikes of Chanlin mark were bought and registered in the name of Cameroon Young Jurists Legal Resource Center (CYJULERC) in Douala. The registration numbers are as follows:

1. LTMT 433 AW
2. LTMT 434 AW
3. LTMT 442 AW
4. LTMT 968 AW
5. LTMT 984 AW
6. LTMT 986 AW
7. LTMT 989 AW

The copies of the registration papers are hereto attached. Below is a photograph of the seven motor bikes



Seven (7) motor bikes handed over to the communities at the launching ceremony of School on Wheels project



LAUNCHING OF SCHOOL ON WHEELS PROJECT

A ceremony was organized at the Kousserie Municipal Council building chaired by the Mayor. The traditional rulers called “blamas” of the three (3) target communities; Massaki 1, Michetere and Djarengoubou, the School on Wheel staff and teachers, indigenes of the various villages and Kousserie municipal staff were main participants at the ceremony. The State administration was also represented by the Sub-Divisional Delegate for Education and the Women’s Empowerment and Family. The project implementation team composed of CYJULERC and UAC members and the members of the collaborating local organization in Kousserie, Al Fan were the organizers. The ceremony attracted a host of on-lookers.



The mayor delivering a speech at the School on Wheels launching ceremony and the handing over of motorbikes

The Mayor who was the main speaker, made a short speech in which he lauded the initiative of CYJULERC and UAC for bringing such a very important project to their communities. He also thanked MIVA Netherlands for their immense financial support which has enabled the project to be implemented. He called on the target population to make maximum use of the project by ensuring that all their children, especially girls enroll and stay in the School on Wheels program. The Mayor concluded his speech by cautioning the teachers on the program and the use of the motorbikes. He also committed to personally supervise the use of the motorbikes and said any misuse will result to withdrawal of the bike and possible claim for damages.



Two School on Wheel female teachers charged with Mitchetere and recipients of two motorbikes

The two Divisional Delegates also made short speeches on the importance of education and the dire need for the target communities to ensure their children make effective use of the program. They also pledged their support in any issue that falls within their capacity and competence. Mrs Mariam Moussa, the president of Al Fan and Elmina also made short speeches which reminding the target population of their promises and their commitments to the project. The Mayor handed over the documents and the motorbikes to the teachers. The ceremony ended with some feasting that depicts happy events and ceremonies in Africa.

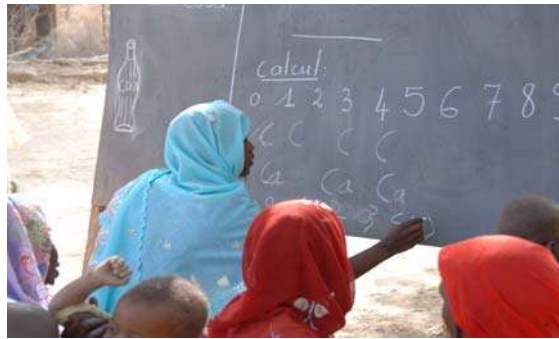


The Mayor with Mariam, Elmina and Victorine; members of the project implementation team



SCHOOL ON WHEELS ACTIVITIES

- Group learning (class) sessions for children and women
- One –to –one tutoring
- Facilitation of entrance into main stream schools (financial, material & moral
- Parents guidance in educational matters for their children
- Sports and leisure
- Mentoring programs by secondary school girls



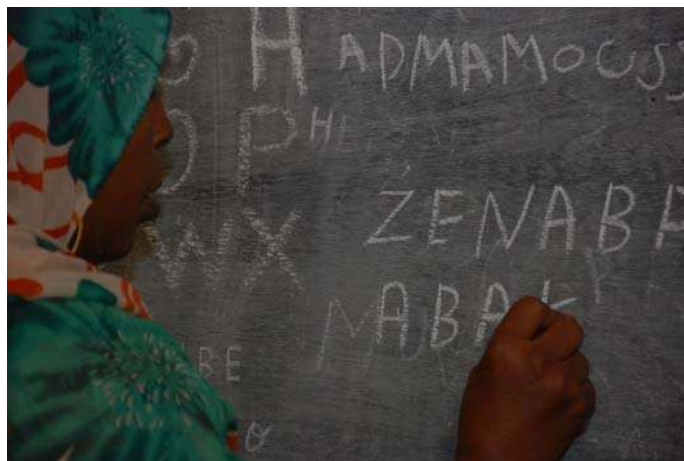
Girls' Group learning sessions



Group learning sessions in Djaragoubou



One-to-one tutoring in Massaki



Abaka of Michetere writes her name on the board

MILLAGE OF MOTORBIKES

Distances already covered by the respective bikes,

- Bike I – 445 km
- Bike II- 560km
- Bike III- 487 km
- Bike IV- 589 km
- Bike V- 607 km
- Bike VI – 498 km

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Three (3) Girls and Boys groups created, one in each community
- Increase in the number of women participating in the literacy programs in the three communities
- Increased number of girls enrolled in the 2010/2011 school year as shown in the table below
- Support from men in the three communities
- Drop in practice of Female Genital Mutilation in the 3 communities
- Women Female Genital Mutilation practitioners in the three communities abandoned the practice and handed over their instruments to CYJULERC and the Minister of Women's Empowerment & Family, Suzanne Mboback in 2008
- The 3 communities and the Kousserie population sensitized in the importance of girl child education

Number of children attending School on Wheels per Community

Village	Boys	Girls	Total	Enrolled in Primary School 2010/2011
Mechetire	34	78	112	28
Massaki	54	67	121	50
Djarangougou	17	19	36	7
Total			269	85

DIFFICULTIES

- The major difficulty we encountered was the movement of the bikes from Douala where they were bought to Kousserie. The unreliable nature of our Railway network contributed a lot to the late delivery of the bikes. This actually disturbed and delayed the launching of the project but the class sessions and other activities were not disturbed, for they were on.
- Accommodation for group learning sessions in a major problem. There are no chairs or benches. Classes have not yet resumed for this year because of the rains. The rain will determine when they will resume, that is, when it stops raining. Classes hold under trees to shade from sun, with children and women sitting on traditional mats on the floor or ground. Classes

cannot be held during rainy season for there is no roof to shade them from rain and the floor is wet and there are no chairs for them to sit on.

The communities have provided land for the classroom but the classrooms are still to be constructed. See photograph below.

Children's groups class sessions in Djaragoubou



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Construction and equipping classrooms on the land provided by the communities should be given priority so that class sessions are not disrupted.

It will also help the communities and teachers to cover their schedule for the year, since classes will not be disrupted and sessions will increase for classes will not be suspended due to 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.

- Introduction of personal development mentoring programs between teenage girls who can no longer integrate into mainstream schools and girls from vocational training centers.

CONCLUSION

On the whole, the reception of the project by the respective communities was very hectic. There is a visible flare of excitement in the minds of the population and one can notice the wave of positive change in the communities and among people, who in 2006 could not say a word to a visitor, are now able to greet and exchange a few phrases with us.

The knowledge they have acquired from this project within a short period and the fact that they can communicate and interact with visitors is the beginning of integration into the world. They are so different from the people CYJULERC team met in 2006, more curious and assertive; as if to confirm that 'Education is the Bedrock of Development'.



Despite the aforementioned difficulties, CYJULERC President, Esther expresses her joy in the progress achieved towards their goals in the above photograph



Mariam, Al Fan President and Marvezier on the motorbike with Esther in Kousserie