



The Integrated Development Foundation

Our mission, work, and experiences in
Local Economic Development

March 2011



Table of Contents

About IDF...3

IDF's Experience in Local Economic Development...4

Water and Sanitation in Bamenda...5

The FOURMI Program...6

Empowering Village Development Associations...7

Local Economic Development at the Grassroots...8

Atuazire Community Development...9

Mugheb Community Development...10

Ntambag Community Development...11

Empowering Local Councils in Local Economic Development...12



Integrated Development Foundation



The Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) is a development organization located in the North West region of Cameroon, dedicated to improving the lives of the marginalised in the North West Region.

IDF's main activities fall within the areas of:

- Local Economic Development
- Community Health
- Women Empowerment
- Child Rights
- Capacity Building with Grassroots Organizations

About Us

Visit us online at:

www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com

Contact Us

We are located on the 4th floor of the NWCA Building on Commercial Avenue in Bamenda, Cameroon.



Mailing Address :

Integrated Development Foundation
PO box 338, North West Province,
Bamenda, Republic of Cameroon

Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

E. Mail: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr

We look forward to hearing from you!



Our History

IDF was founded by a group of friends in January 1994 (it was also legalized in that year) in Bamenda. They realized that many funders focused solely on field work as a factor of development success and ignored the importance of organizational management and governance. Although, IDF started out with management training programs, IDF decided to participate more in project development and supervision based on its reputation for being well governed and managed.

Goal: To undertake and carry out actions throughout the world that will help to strengthen the less privileged urban and rural female and male populations of Cameroon through an integrated and sustainable development.

Vision: "To reduce inequality and marginalization among the male and female population of the North West Region by 10% between 2010 and 2015"

Mission: "To empower the male and female population of the North West Region to be able to take part actively and democratically in the development of their community, socially and economically with guiding principles of team work, quality, equity and social justice.

Objectives:

- Promotion of solidarity in the defence of the rights and in the economy of the marginalized male and female population.
- Contribute to the success of the strategies and policies put in place by Government to combat the spray of HIV/AIDS in the Region.
- Implementation of activities that can contribute to the amelioration of the sanitary, social, economic and environmental well being of the target populations.
- Promotion of the civil society organizations in the management of public policy.

Target population:

People living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children, youths especially single adolescent mothers, village and quarter development associations, groups and co-operatives.

Area of intervention: Primarily in the North West Region and focussing on the Mezam, Menchum and Bui Divisions. IDF's head office is located in Bamenda.



Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development

IDF Local Economic Development Projects

IDF has undertaken a number of local economic development (LED) projects including empowering local councils in LED approaches and coordinating larger LED projects on behalf of organizations such as the Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET). In addition IDF has been supporting three quarters in Bamenda undertake a LED project ensuring quarter involvement and participation.



Improved water drainage thanks to LED



Children safely crossing a creek thanks to LED



Improved roads thanks to LED

Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

What is Local Economic Development?

According to the World Bank local economic development (LED) is the process by which the economic capacity of a local area is built up to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which public, business and nongovernmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation. The International Labor Organization further defines LED as meaning more than just economic growth. It is promoting participation and local dialogue, connecting people and their resources for better employment and a higher quality of life for men and women.

What is the Decentralization Process in Cameroon?

Cameroon is currently undergoing a decentralization process where the central government is delegating some of its power to local councils giving them decision making power and control over their budgets. In order to ensure this process is effective it is essential that capacity building with local councils is undertaken so that they will be able to manage their new role in a competent, transparent and participative manner.

What is IDF's history and experience in this domain?

IDF has been working in the area of local economic development (LED) since 1995. In its work IDF generally undertakes the role of social engineer which permits IDF to create new links between social groups and the organizations responsible with the social wellbeing of the target populations. Social engineering (SI) encompasses the techniques and knowhow that permit the diagnosis, implementation and the coordination and evaluation of social projects. In short, SI includes engineering social action and social development. In this respect, IDF has successfully played the role of social engineer in the following projects:

- 1996 – 1998: Participatory Action Research on Water and Sanitation in Bamenda with GRET (Groupe de Recherche Technologique)
- 1996 – 1999: FOURMI: Fonds aux Organisations Urbaines et aux Micro Initiatives avec le GRET with financing from the European Union.
- 2006: Capacity building with 32 village development associations on LED approach and to prepare them to work in partnership with Councils. This was undertaken with the support of Plan Cameroon.
- 2008 – April 2010: Building capacity of three councils on LED using the **International Labor Organization's approach.**
- 2007 – present: Due to its track record, IDF was selected to be the social engineer for the **Projet de Développement des Secteurs Urbains et de l'Approvisionnement en Eau (PDUE)** which is a large LED project funded by the World Bank and the Ministry of Urban Development and housing.

IDF continues to bid for LED projects and hopes to expand its knowledge and skills by carrying out LED in some of the villages in the North West Region. **In keeping with the trends, IDF's staff recently participated in a World Bank training on using GPS which will be a great tool in LED projects in the region especially in localities which have poor access and insufficient maps.**

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



Participatory Action Research on Water and Sanitation in Bamenda

Description: The water and sanitation project was a pilot action financed by the French Ministry of Cooperation, coordinated by the Research and Technical Exchange Group (GRET) and executed by IDF. GRET and IDF played the role of mediators while the main bulk of research was carried out by the actors themselves.

Project Context: Water is an important issue in Bamenda which impacts all stakeholders. The partners in this project were interested to see how some of the methods used in France dealing with local management of water issues could be adapted and applied to the Bamenda situation. The project set up a forum for dialogue to enable stakeholders (local councils, civil society and the state) to exchange views on water and sanitation management and to work together to solve problems related to water management. The project was deemed necessary because at the time decision makers in Bamenda did not take into consideration the impacts of water related problems. There was a major problem of erosion of roads from rain water, the lack of access to drinking water in populated quarters, and the lack of a understanding of the inhabitants on the disadvantages of the consumption of non-drinkable water.

Activities:

- Carried out surveys and technical studies
- Conveyed results to the authorities, technical services and the population (maps, household surveys, present situation)
- Raised awareness and tested the competencies and limits of each and every actor using participative actions
- Set up a forum for dialogue among actors including (civil society, elected community members, local councils, private businesses and the state)

Results and Impacts: As a result of the project, the actors were able to prioritize the key water related problems in Bamenda as: 1) Sanitation, 2) Water, 3) Household refuse. In addition, this project led to the development of the first numerical map in Cameroon which marked out the boundaries of quarters. A representative dialogue forum was set up to facilitate frank discussion and problem solving among key actors. This forum was equipped with tools and knowledge to enable it to carry out its function as a platform for the exchange of views and discussion.

Project Information

Budget:
Dates and Duration: June 1996 to October 1998
Location: Bamenda
Partners: French Ministry of Cooperation, GRET

Dialogue Forum was comprised of:

- The Bamenda Urban Council
- The Ministries of Public Health, Environment and Forests, Mines, Water and Energy, Town planning and Housing, Women's Affairs
- Para-public corporation: SNEC
- Population: Elected representatives of quarter committees (DAC)
- NGOS: EYPIC, HURCLED CENTER, IDF, ORICAA, CIPCRE, COMINSUD
- Resource persons

Dialogue Forum Mission:

- Facilitate exchange of ideas between all the actors including beneficiaries
- Treat problems with a global vision
- Enable the conduct of an operation which ensuring coordination of all the actors concerned within the whole town
- Guarantee the quality and pertinence of actions as well as a good quality/price ratio and their proper management

Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



The FOURMI Program

Description: Fourmi is the French word for ant. This acronym was developed to illustrate the aspects on which the approach is based: Funds for Urban Development and Micro Initiatives. IDF helped GRET implement this project in Bamenda, which was one of the five target towns selected. IDF acted as a local partner who coordinated and provided support and advice to local associations for the preparation and implementation of collective interest projects and of a fund to co-finance these works.

Project Context: FOURMI had three priorities: (1) the promotion of public health; (2) the improvement of living conditions; and (3) the conservation of natural resources. The general aim of FOURMI was to improve the urban environment in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods of the main towns of Cameroon through micro-projects that would, among other things, create infrastructure and employment for the local population. GRET, a French NGO, was selected by the EU and the Cameroon Government to execute the project. IDF was chosen by GRET to act as an intermediary structure to implement the project in the North West Region. IDF was to accompany the structuring and formalisation of development associations in various quarters. Local animators residing in various quarters were trained in order to reinforce the internal dynamic of the various associations by facilitating the participation of the inhabitants in the definition of priorities, the mobilisation of quarter's financial or material contribution, and the follow up and maintenance. IDF's technical service was to design the projects as requested by the population, prepare the file and defend the proposal to the selection committee in Yaoundé. Once the project was accepted, then IDF's technical service was to prepare the bid and assist in the selection of a supplier. Then, IDF and the development committee had to follow up the construction, the management and maintenance of the infrastructure.

Activities: In its role of local practitioner, IDF had two main objectives, first to ensure that the work undertaken was useful, of high quality and was an effective use of funds, and secondly that IDF contributed to the structuring of inhabitants in their quarters. Under those objectives, IDF carried out the following activities:

- Carried out extensive research of the quarters and their inhabitants in order to better understand their situations, needs and priorities;
- Established action plans for each quarter setting out the approach and plan of activities that would be carried out in each quarter;
- Raised awareness about the project within the quarters and encouraged participation;
- Assisted with the organization of elections for the DAs and built their capacities to effectively make decisions and manage the development in their quarters; and
- Supported the DAs to identify priorities, select projects, validate the selections, oversee the implementation, and monitor and evaluate the projects



Schools built through FOURMI



Bridge built through FOURMI

Results and Impacts: IDF was successful in carrying out 31 micro-projects which considerably improved living conditions in disadvantaged neighbourhoods including the first 3 public fountains, 5 clean drinking water access points, 4 water supply expansions, 17 bridges, 6 classrooms for schools as well as drainage projects. IDF also supported 23 quarters and helped set up 31 DAs. This project helped lay the foundation for a decentralized development program by showing urban populations how the existence of a fund for financing micro-projects can be an effective way of alleviating poverty. The program demonstrated the feasibility of mobilizing human resources and showed local authorities that the population was ready to contribute to the provision of infrastructure if they had confidence in the way things are being done and if projects were properly managed.

Project Information

Budget: US \$1.7 million
Dates and Duration: 1995 to 2000
Location: Bamenda
Partners: European Union and GRET

Lessons Learned

- Collaboration between the State, NGOs and local businesses is possible in the area of development and can yield positive results.
- The expression of social needs must arise from participation at the grass roots and be supported by the population.
- NGOs can use international funds to promote local development
- The structuring of the population is a vital process that needs to occur to ensure decentralisation and sustainable local development



FOURMI helped improve the access to clean water which was identified as a priority by Bamenda residents. Wells, water ducts and water access points were built.



Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



Empowering Village Development Associations in LED

Description: This project was undertaken by IDF with the support of Plan Cameroon to ensure a high level of competence and the smooth functioning of Village Development Associations or Committees (VDAs/VDCs) in the



Presentation to the VDC Bamali

Ngoketunja Division, North West Province. IDF carried out diagnoses of the VDAs/VDCs to determine the constraints facing the functioning of VDAs/VDCs. Awareness campaigns were also carried out to **raise the population's understanding on the role and importance of VDAs/VDCs in the development of their communities.** IDF

also carried out consultative meetings and trainings to build capacity with the VDAs/VDCs.

Project Context: Plan Cameroon is a humanitarian Child Centred Community Development organization which seeks to improve the well being of children in the communities in which it works. Plan wants to leave its foot print in every community. To ensure that the chain does not break, Plan Cameroon seeks to build the capacities of village development associations so that they should be able to manage their own development and work independently with other actors of development.

It is with this background that IDF was chosen as one of the organizations to facilitate the capacity building workshop of Village Development Associations in Bamali, Babalang and Bamessing.



Babalang VDC Training Workshop

Activities:

- Carry out a diagnosis on the role and function of VDAs/VDCs with its members and stakeholders
- Training with VDAs/VDCs on project proposal development and presentation
- Carrying out presentations on community risk assessments and training on carrying out a risk assessment
- Training of development of community action plans

Results and Impacts:

Due to the awareness campaigns that were held, communities better understood the role and responsibilities of the VDAs/VDCs. Information and orientation workshops were carried out in the respective communities using a training manual provided by Plan Cameroon. Communities were provided with materials to reinforce the learnings and skills that they acquired in the workshops



Community Action Plan Development in Bamali

Project Information

Budget: 15 000 000 francs CFA
Dates and Duration: 2008 - 3 months
Location: Bamali, Babalang and Bamessing
Partners: PLAN Cameroon

Difficulties

- It was a challenge to set times for trainings with VDAs/VDCs.
- Educational and training material provided by Plan were insufficient.

Lessons Learned

- Women and children are poorly represented on VDCs/VDAs.
- Much still has to be done to instil the sense of belonging and common interest so that people can work towards their own development.
- The diagnosis framework was not appropriate for all VDAs/VDCs and changes were necessary.

Way Forward/Recommendations

- **The communities' structures are very young** and their members may find it difficult to coordinate their own activities harmoniously, thus they still need a lot of technical support.
- In order to ensure that the communities structure themselves positively and work together it is essential that a local organization such as IDF carries out a follow up to facilitate the implementation of the action plan.
- It is necessary that executives of associations, traditional leaders, Councilors and political leaders have a good educational background and a high level of competence to ensure they understand and respect the role and responsibilities of the civil society organization and that of other actors in the village (Traditional council, Municipal council, political parties).

Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



Local Economic Development at the Grassroots – Linking quarters with councils and improving access to services

The Government of Cameroon along with the World Bank through the International Development Association provided joint funding for a project improving the access to basic community infrastructure. This project was developed using Cameroon's poverty reduction strategy. The project was called "Projet de Développement des Secteurs Urbains et de l'Approvisionnement en Eau" but is more commonly referred to as PDUE. In Bamenda, two quarters were selected for the first round of funding - Atuazire and Mugheb. IDF, through its coordinator, was selected to be the project's social engineer. The objective of this project was to improve access to basic services (mobility, potable water, security, hygiene and sanitation, education and health etc...) for the greatest number of people in select cities of Cameroon and to support the putting in place of a framework for dialogue.

The approach used was *participative* and *inclusive* with the local council at the centre, involving a number of stakeholders such as Government technical services, traditional authorities, and community members. IDF, as the project's social engineer, was responsible for setting up a framework for social participation towards the organisation of the local population, as well as building their capacity to participate in the management of community services and infrastructure in collaboration with public authorities.

Phase 1: Diagnosis and Assessment

In this phase, IDF helped develop a baseline of the current situation in the quarters, and the quality of life of the inhabitants in terms of comfort and satisfaction with the existing services. At the end of this phase, each quarter had a list of specific investments that were to be made and modalities for local participation in the use, management and maintenance of the equipment and infrastructure that was to be put in place. IDF carried out a series of activities including : developing a description of the current living conditions for inhabitants (identifying dangerous and critical areas in the quarters, ranking and prioritizing the components of social demand (mobility, safety, security ...)); defining investment areas for the project according to social demands and maximizing the social impact; putting in place an initiative committee in each quarter; and sharing the diagnostic with the quarters and the City Council.

Phase 2: Detailed Study

Phase 2 formalised quarter development associations through elections of executive members, built their capacity and ensured that a partnership with the councils was established. These associations are responsible for facilitating the liberation of sites earmarked for the construction of various infrastructure projects. The associations will remain to ensure management and maintenance of the infrastructure and the sustainability of the project in general. In addition, this phase sought to identify the needs and expectations of the local businesses and to put in place support measures to ensure the growth of their activities. Awareness campaigns about the project were carried out to enhance interest and participation in the planning and decision making process. IDF was instrumental in guiding the development associations in negotiations with community members and businesses with respect of land rights and concessions for road expansions and community infrastructure.

Phase 3: Implementation

Work began on the chosen community improvements - road improvements, creation of footpaths, bridges and community halls. Field visits were carried out to raise awareness to the work being done in the communities. This phase involved coordination and management of contractors and service deliverers.



Working in the field and involving the community was integral to implementing the participative approach

Phase 4: Management, Maintenance, Monitoring and Evaluation

This phase has yet to be completed in any of the Bamenda target quarters. IDF continues to carry out awareness campaigns to educate community members about the developments and improvements that were made in their quarters. In addition, it is necessary to ensure that the community has the skills and tools necessary to maintain the improvements. This phase also involves the monitoring and evaluating of the improvement to gauge their social impacts.

Project Information

Budget: Financed by World Bank and the Government of Cameroon. Social engineer budget per phase : Phase 1 – 9,000,000, Phase 2 – 10,000,000 and Phase 3 & 4 – 12,000,000 francs CFA
Dates and Duration: 2007 onward
Location: Bamenda (Atuazire, Mugheb, Ntambag Quarters)
Partners: PDUE, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Bamenda city council, Bamenda 2 and 3 councils, ATUDA, MUDA

Difficulties

- The notion of « common goods » are not internalised in Cameroonian culture
- Many of the actors did not integrate the participative approach sufficiently in their actions
- The participation of women and youths was hampered by traditional roles and male dominance
- Poor participation at community development association meetings

Lessons Learned

- Inhabitants had a voice in the process and the sense of responsibility for the improvements was instilled in community associations
- Funding was not sufficient to address all the identified needs
- This project provided quarters and councils with in depth analyses and knowledge of their areas which will be useful for future work

Way Forward/Recommendations

- Training key stakeholders is integral to ensuring they are equipped with the understanding and skills to ensure this project works
- There is a need for social engineers in the councils
- Ensure that learning and experience is shared through exchange visits with other localities

Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



Atuazire Community Development

Atuazire is a quarter in the city of Bamenda, Cameroon. The population of Atuazire is estimated at 29,000 and the average household size is 6.45. This quarter has two main water streams which flow through and provide water to the residents. However, this quarter also has steep embankments which put certain Atuazire residents, who have built their homes too close to the gully, in danger of landslides. This quarter has potable water and electricity along its main routes.

Atuazire has undergone phases 1 through 4 of the Local Economic Development (LED) project. Phase 4 was completed with the handing over of all the infrastructure by PDUE to the Bamenda City Council and the subsequent handing over to the quarter associations. Below are some highlights from the LED process.



Democracy at work
Election of executive members for the Atuazire development association (ATUDA). This process involved using an electoral code developed using a participatory approach and a transparent ballot box. Local authorities were involved to increase credibility and transparency..

Foot path “39 Steps”

This path connecting two busy neighbourhoods has heavy pedestrian traffic. Before the project, the path was dangerous and insecure especially at night, it was also impassable in the wet season. Children had died falling into the creek due to the poor bridge and slippery footing. After the project this foot path is accessible and safe all year round, pedestrian traffic has increased and this area has become a touristic location.

Before



After



Building Communities

One of the priorities the inhabitants of Atuazire quarter identified was the need for a communal meeting space. Therefore, one of the investments made was the construction of a community hall. Before the project, the neighborhood held its meetings in the open air and the ground floor of an unfinished building. The development association was active in negotiating for the land on which this community hall would stand, and members of the community were instrumental in donating land. This hall will be used for community meetings, it will also be used as an income generating activity as the space can be rented out for events. The new community hall is not only a source of pride, but is also an area for public debates further enabling community dialogue and participation.

Before



After



Project Information

Budget: Financed by World Bank and the Government of Cameroon
Dates and Duration: 2007 onward
Location: Bamenda (Atuazire Quarter)
Partners: PDUE, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Bamenda city council, Bamenda 2 and 3 councils, ATUDA



Student from Humility School navigates across a dangerous foot bridge

There are 270 students between the ages of 3 and 10 at the Humility School. Almost all of these children walk to school.

The footpath and bridge by the Humility School used to be rough and dangerous for foot traffic. Children would often fall and it was a dangerous route at night where girls were put at risk for attack and rape.

After the LED project, the footpath is secure and safe. Children can walk to school without the risk of tripping or losing their footing and injuring themselves.

After view of the Humility School footpath



Handing Over Ceremony

The infrastructure in Atuazire is now officially in the hands of the quarter development association ATUDA. A ceremony was held to commemorate this handing over where the handing over documents were signed by the coordinator PDUE and the Govern



ment Delegate of the city council and the president of ATUDA.

Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



Mugheb Community Development

Mugheb is a quarter in the city of Bamenda, Cameroon. The Mugheb quarter has an estimated population of 19,000 with an average household size of 6.45. Mugheb encompasses not only highlands on a hill, but also lowlands which are at risk of floods and landslides due to erosion. These lowlands are especially prone to floods in the rainy season.

Mugheb has undergone phases 1,2 and 3 of the Local Economic Development (LED) project and is currently in phase 4. Below are some highlights from the LED process.

Spee footpath Steps and Bridge

The Spee step and bridge before the project were a dangerous area in terms of footing and safety. The initial bridge was made of uneven wood planks without any safety railings. Children had been known to fall into the creek below. The path upwards was rough and difficult for the elderly and children to walk along. After the project the bridge and the path are both secure and safe for Mugheb residents of all ages.

Before



After



Safe Crossings

One of the priorities identified by the residents of Mugheb was improved safety for pedestrians. A number of the projects undertaken through this project went towards building safe walkways and pedestrian crossings.



The initial bridge on the way to Mile 2



After the project a safer bridge with railings was in place

Urban Planning

Ghana Street and Cow Street are two main roads in Mugheb giving Mugheb residents access to and from the city centre. These two roads each go one way in opposing directions, often vehicles going the wrong way down either of the streets caused accidents and injuries. By improving the connecting roads between the two streets, motorists were given a safe option to changed roads instead of dangerously going the wrong way down one street.

Before



After



Thanks to the work done pedestrian accidents have been reduced and the people of Mugheb are safer.

Community Hall

The new Mugheb Hall offers quarter members a gathering place. It has been officially handed over to Mugheb inhabitants and recently a manager was hired to oversee its day to day administration. It will provide a source of revenue for MUDA.



Ndamukong street is another main road in Mugheb. The citizens of Mugheb experienced too much traffic on the existing road from Ndamukong street to the city centre and decided that a priority was to improve the road between Ndamukong street and Cow street to offer motorists an alternative route to the city centre.

Before



After



Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
 Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



Ntambag Community Development

Ntambag is the oldest quarter in Bamenda and is comprised of three smaller quarters - Ntambag I, Ntambag II and Ntambag III. Approximately 15,300 inhabitants live in Ntambag with a density of 161 inhabitants per hectare. The ethnic and religious backgrounds of Ntambag residents are varied and influence the inter-resident relations substantially. This quarter has a number of streams cutting across it and houses which have been built too close to the water ways are at risk due to landslides and flooding. Ntambag has undergone phases 1 and 2 of the Local Economic Development (LED) project and is currently in phase 3. Below are some highlights from the LED process.

Project Information

Budget: Financed by World Bank and the Government of Cameroon
Dates and Duration: 2010 onward
Location: Bamenda (Ntambag Quarter)
Partners: PDUE, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Bamenda city council, Bamenda 2 and 3 councils



First meeting with Ntambag Animators

Empowering Local Ntambag Animators
 Local quarter members act as volunteer animators to help mobilise the Ntambag population, raise awareness and encourage inhabitants to participate in the local economic development process. They facilitate workshops with Ntambag and represent their quarters at the councils to ensure the authorities take into account their quarters' concerns and demands.

Participatory Decision Making
 Ntambag residents have been active in the participatory decision making process. Once priorities and a list of possible improvements to Ntambag was generated through focus groups and community meetings, a decision making meeting at the Bamenda Council was held. At the meeting Ntambag residents were able to vote on the community development projects that are to be undertaken in their areas. Some of the selected improvements including grating certain roads, and improving heavily used footpaths.

Focus Groups with Ntambag Members
 IDF with the help of the local animators, facilitated a number of focus groups with Ntambag community members including quarter heads. These focus groups helped the Ntambag constituents identify existing services in their quarters, identify the needs that are currently not being met in their quarters and prioritise their needs. The focus groups results were then used to develop the LED action plan.



Members of the Ntambag quarter participate in focus groups



Ntambag residents participate in the LED process



Iron Boys of the Ntambag Quarter

Ntambag Iron Boys
 The Iron Boys are young boys who earn a living by collecting scrap metal on the roads. In the focus groups with these youth, they voiced concerns about the negative impact of road improvements on their livelihood. Better roads would result in less scrap metal being collected since it is more difficult to remove the scrap metal from the tarred roads as compared to dirt.



Young inhabitants of Ntambag read notices informing them about the developments in their quarter and about how to participate in the LED process

Creative Tools to Engage Communities

In order to ensure that the community members are fully engaged and can actively participate in the local economic development process, IDF carries out many awareness building campaigns. Using props such as large maps, conference paper lists, pictures and charts, IDF helps community members visualize their existing communities as well as the improvements that could be made.



Using maps to get residents to visualize their communities

Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
 Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

Integrated Development Foundation Local Economic Development



Empowering Councils in Local Economic Development

Description: IDF, in the capacity of consultant, worked with three councils in the North West Region (Wum, Kumbo and Bali) informing and educating them in local economic development.

Project Context: As part of its work to strive towards “Poverty reduction in communities vulnerable to child trafficking through the promotion of decent work in the North West region (TC-RAM) Project” the ILO provided funding for the empowerment of local councils about local economic development. The TC-RAM project development objective is to



Local officials attend the LED workshop

“increase income opportunities within communities vulnerable to child-trafficking through local economic development”. Central to this strategy is the involvement and empowerment of local economic development players at the grassroots level including the poorest, the mobilization of local existing resources and assets, and strong public-private partnerships (local government, the private sector, and civil society) for the economic advancement of the municipality. In that line, a IDF was hired in the capacity of social engineer to introduce and educate the councils to local economic development.

Activities: IDF, with another independent consultant from Kumu Fed, carried out three-day workshops in the three councils covering the following topics: Introduction to the LED Approach; LED and rural development; How to plan and implement LED strategies; LED tools and methodology; and Gender equality and gender mainstreaming through LED strategy.

Results and Impacts: Following the presentation of the various topics, observations, brainstorming, question and answer sessions during the workshops, it was clear that these three municipalities have potential economic-booming areas.



LED group work at the seminar

Project Information

Budget: 9 000 000 francs CFA
Dates and Duration: June-August 2009
Location: Wum, Kumbo, Bali
Partners: International Labor Organization

Difficulties

- Varying levels of literacy made running the workshop challenging.
- Deep rooted cultural practices values and discriminating attitude, discourage women from taking part in income generating and empowerment programs

Lessons Learned

- A program for people in rural areas with an agricultural focus using local available resources would be more effective.
- Need assessment should be done at the community level by involved members of the community.
- M&E is integral to ensuring success

Way Forward/Recommendations

- Civil society organizations should be strengthened especially the Village development associations.
- Early and unwanted pregnancies should be addressed to reduce single motherhood which impacts the rates of child labor and child trafficking.
- Emphasis should be put on the vocational training for capacity building and skill upgrading of women since they are disproportionately affected by poverty.
- More emphasis to be put on the entrepreneurship ability of vulnerable families through training and income generating activities.

Contact Us

Email: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr
www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com
Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62



The Integrated Development Foundation

Mailing Address :

Integrated Development Foundation
PO box 338, North West Province,
Bamenda, Republic of Cameroon

Website: www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com

Telephone: (237) 70 23 65 62

E. Mail: idfbamenda@gmail.com
idfbamenda@hotmail.fr