



Humanitarian aid



Bamenda. North West Region (Cameroon)



People served

1212 families

732 host families and 480 displaced families.

1212 students

(609 males y 691 females)



People working in the project

29

17 people in Futrú, 7 in MBelem and 5 in Menteh.



Presentation of the social reality:

The political crisis in the country is turning into a livelihood and employment crisis that will lead, if urgent action is not taken, to a food crisis and the violation of children's human rights.

Particularly vulnerable groups are:

- Displaced population with limited legal access to work, no right to access land for cultivation, limited right to move freely.
- Children who lack access to and availability of nutritious food.
- Women: their main income depends on agriculture, which is undermined by the insecure conditions in the area and by Covid-19's own measures.

- The host population, in already impoverished rural areas, suffers pressure on already limited food resources and basic health, education, water and sanitation services.

Let us not forget that, living in a conflict zone due to the Anglophone crisis brings with it a significant degree of insecurity. Separatist groups continue to put pressure on the population and the government through threats and attacks (in the last 2 years, schools have been systematically attacked and forced to close).



Simple description of the task to be carried out

This project aims to improve the resilience of the population to cope with crises and ensure food security for displaced families and the host population that are part of the educational community in the three Piarist schools in Bamenda.

The target population are the pre-school and elementary school children enrolled in the schools, the teaching and management staff, and the parents who are members of the Parents' Associations (AMPAS). They are all children living in mud, block or tin houses, with little access to sanitation, belonging to large families below the poverty line and with a basic or illiterate level of education. The selection is based on the school census of the previous school year, in which socio-economic and special vulnerability criteria, such as displaced people, were prioritised in the new enrolments. The involvement of parents in their children's education and their commitment to regular school attendance is also positively valued.



Achievements in the last years

- Measures taken to promote the integration of the most vulnerable groups.
- Regarding the displaced population, 40% of our schools in Bamenda are made up of displaced people. This project contributes to reducing the vulnerability of children and their families, as they have access to safe and nutritious food.
- For girls, the closure of schools not only means that girls take on more household chores, but also that a significant percentage of girls drop out of school before completing their education (especially displaced girls living in rural and isolated areas, and those living in poverty). Recognising that crises have a greater impact on women and girls, the food aid project prevents families (in the face of reduced income and given that girls support household and agricultural work) from deciding not to enrol their daughters.

Future intentions (lines of improvement)

- Strengthen the humanitarian response capacities of the local partner and educational community.
- Improve the nutritional and hygienic conditions and habits of the 1,212 families in: Saint Michel Futru Catholic School (757), Saint Augustin Mbelem Catholic School (194) and Saint Joseph Calasanz Menteh Catholic School (261).
- In addition to the above activities, we see the need to offer scholarships to students who are willing to face all threats to go to school, especially in this environment.