



AUTHENTIQUE MEMORIAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION (AMEF) CAMEROON

AMEF FACTSHEET

Since December 2017, the AMEF re-oriented its operations in the South West Region of Cameroon due to the increasing needs of people displaced by the Internal Crisis between the State armed groups and non-state armed groups. This crisis, has shattered communities and driven over 135 million people from their homes. Six months into reaching out to displaced population, AMEF has taken a global approach and commitment to assist internally displaced people survive and reestablish themselves through: Food items & Livelihood, - Education, -Protection (child friendly space), - Health, - Non-food items (NFI), - Counselling, - Hygiene & Sanitation promotion.



Humanitarian Situation in the South West & North West Region

October 2016, the English Speaking Regions in Cameroon witnessed internal conflicts and security incidents by State armed groups and Non-state armed groups. It all started with strikes by lawyers in October 2016, followed by various strikes by teachers in November, leaving the two English speaking regions in a state of socio-political instability. Gripped by tension and fear due to a “No School” policy declared by armed groups, parents progressively stopped or timidly sent their children to school. This situation has persisted for the past two years reinforced by periodic clashes by the state armed groups and non-state armed groups. The internal crisis has driven over 150 thousand people from the South

*Address: Mbonge Road, P.O Box 317 Kumba; Email: amefceciljean@yahoo.com
Facebook Account: Amef kumba Cameroon; www.ameffoundation.org*



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West and North West Regions¹ from their homes, shattered local livelihood, and reinforced insecurity challenges. By June 2018, in Kumba for example, the doors of 50 out of 75 government secondary and private schools and over 40 nursery and primary schools have remained shut down. Imposed by armed groups, ghost town is observed every Monday. This is slowly draining the economy.

In the toughest areas, many villages have been burned, villages have been abandoned entirely, and makeshift shelters have been sorted in the bushes. Among the vulnerable categories are Children who are exposed to nutritional deficiencies, lack of health care, unsafe water and sanitation. This has led to some cases of infant mortality.

Women especially (nursing mothers, pregnant women) are exposed to lack of care during birth, pregnancy, child bearing and postnatal care. Communicable diseases, unsafe water and sanitation, poor menstrual hygiene, and nutritional deficiencies especially for women headed households. The elderly, are at risk of already deteriorating health challenges, poor nutrition, and psychological trauma. Health data collected also reveals that about 500 HIV-positive IDPs registered at the general hospital in Kumba are unable to access regular treatment.

AMEF activities in the field

In December 2017, AMEF scaled up its solidarity action to include assistance to internally displaced people in the South West Region of Cameroon. AMEF has provided Food items, clothing, hygiene and sanitation, informal education (created child friendly space), counselling and protection referral services for persons with special protection needs as well as the distribution of non-food items.



Food distribution (Rice, Corn & Beans)

¹ Data from UN OCHA

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Coordination

With regards to the context, AMEF has taken a lead coordination role and mobilized other NGO's within Meme Division, with the aim of identifying the response of various actors within the community, to create a synergy, avoid duplication and ensure effective implementation of various actions. A series of meetings have been held within the larger group of actors and within sectors of intervention.

Food Items & Livelihoods

AMEF is providing immediate food items to support the internally displaced people (IDP) in the Meme Division with basic food items like (Rice, Salt, Maggi, Beans, Corn, sachet tomatoes). Due to the movement of IDP's in town, AMEF has organized a part one training of trainers in urban agriculture, waste paper recycling and poultry farming to boost capacity, and encourage better nutrition of households who are faced with the problem of limited access to land. AMEF also aims to establish the production of AMOF, an organic fertilizer to farmers and link them with new platforms to ensure that beneficiaries are empowered with the necessary skills and agricultural inputs needed (notably seed and fertilizer) to improve production and the quality of their living conditions. Due to displacements most farmers have lost agricultural tools, some of which were burnt in their homes, this also is a concern of AMEF with regards to food security. In kumba presently, it is almost impossible for food to leave the rural areas to markets in town as was the case before the crisis, hence the need to encourage urban agriculture.



AMOF organic fertilizer

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Education & Protection

For education, AMEF has created a child friendly space within the Mbonge road quarter (the Authentique Conference Centre specifically), encouraging children within the environment who have been out of school for the past 2years and Children (IDPs within families settled in Kumba) to participate in informal activities. These include beads making, waste paper recycling, ribbon designing, sewing, gardening, games, reading competition (exploring AMEF's Library for kids) etc. Short talks are also given to children with regards to nonviolence tendencies among children. In as much as some children are showing up already, the response has been timid since parents within the environment are gripped with fear of the unknown. Presently AMEF is doing a profiling of children IDPs within the community and bushes around Meme Division.

Health

In the health domain, there is ongoing registration of IDPs faced with diverse health challenges coordinated by AMEF and CARITAS. Identified health cases have benefitted from free medication mobilized and provided through one of AMEF's partner, the Fire Bible Institute Yaounde. The Faith Medical Health Foundation is the implementing partner of AMEF Health Intervention. Vulnerable categories and beneficiaries of this assistance are female headed households, the elderly , and youths IDPs within Kumba and those who are able to make it to town from the bushes for health assistance. Other referral cases are also sent to the Saint John health center.

Non-Food Items

In collaboration with CARITAS kumba, AMEF between April-June 2018, responded by addressing immediate needs, providing NFI kits (Mats, Blankets and Savon) to IDPs from Mbonge, Konye, Ndian, Kupe-Manenguba sub-division. Donation by UNHCR and UNICEF. A total of 55, 000 individuals have benefited from this assistance.

For over 7months, when the internal crisis took a negative turn leading to a humanitarian crisis, AMEF has reach out to about 60,000 individuals, with food items, non-food items, medication, and child friendly space.

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