



Initiative for Social and Economic Development

Building resilient indigenous people and rural communities

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



Mr. Headteacher of Primary School Elig-Zogo, ISED team and laureates

ISED: An impact driven non-profit organisation dedicated to accompanying indigenous people and rural communities in championing their own sustainable development initiatives.



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FOREWORD from the Board:

We are very grateful to all who contributed in one way or the other to make 2018/2019 Fiscal year for ISED a success. Our special gratitude goes to our formidable team of volunteers led by the country Coordinator; the board of directors, our sponsors, national and international partners and not forgetting our members and beneficiaries. You all are the reason why ISED is proud today of several achievements despite very limited funds and, amidst a 3-years and still counting armed conflict in the English speaking regions of Cameroon. We especially want to recognize the resilience and enthusiasm of our basic education partners in Bambili, Bambui, Mankon and Ndop rural areas, who were tactical in organising and conducting community home schooling despite life threatening warnings from the pro-independence fighters in these localities.

It is thanks to your unflinching efforts that close to 316 children had access to basic education during these 3years of school boycott, shutdown and targeted killing and maiming of teachers/school administrators following the ongoing escalated armed conflict in the English speaking regions of Cameroon.

In 2019, we made tremendous progress in the projects we initiated. However, much is still to be done to address the gross inequalities in rural communities and in particular, access to education by girls, access to education for displaced children affected by the crisis in the English speaking regions, vocational training for young single and struggling mothers, young farmers in the agricultural sector.

A big thank you to our National and International partners; Africa Evidence Network (AEN), International Network for the Human Economy (INHE), Effective Basic Services (eBASE) Africa, Cameroon Consumer Service Organisation (CamCoSO) for their technical collaboration and support in the implementation of our projects.



Long live ISED!

LOUISE AMUNGWA
Founder & Managing Director



Who We Are

The Initiative for Social and Economic Development (ISED) is an impact driven non-profit organisation based in Cameroon and France. We focus on grass-root projects within education, agriculture and women empowerment.

We support the underprivileged in the rural communities of Sub-Saharan Africa. We believe that education, agriculture and women empowerment are three fundamental instruments to alleviate poverty and create positive social impact. That is why we are engaging in projects that can educate, empower, build capacity and enable local communities to be self-reliant in a sustainable manner. In ISED we align our development and social initiatives to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to adapt tailor-made strategies that can help reduce poverty in rural areas.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create positive impact through initiatives that contribute to poverty reduction. Poverty persists as one of the most significant challenges facing millions of people in Sub Saharan Africa. Rural communities are the most impacted as they have less access to development resources, such as education and hospitals. Despite development efforts that have been carried out through government policies, international intervention, foreign aid and NGOs, rural areas as opposed to urban regions have benefited less from such assistance.

Our Values

- Empathy: We believe that when working with people we need to understand their situation by putting ourselves in their position and being able to relate to their situation, culture and environment.
- People: People are at the center of our work. We believe in engaging them in the process of identifying their needs and collaborate to identify and execute suitable solutions that address their challenges.
- Diversity: We believe everybody from different cultures can play an important role in our organisation. We are open and want to include different people who wish to participate in any way possible.
- Impact: We believe in creating positive impact with our work. Hence, we value monitoring and evaluation in order to measure the impact.
- Transparency: ISED is accountable to all stakeholders.

ACHIEVEMENTS

1) Basic Education For Children in Crisis Affected Rural Areas of the English Speaking Regions of Cameroon (2017-date)

Since 2016, civil disobedience operations, school boycotts, destruction and closure of schools, following the escalated armed conflict in the North West and South West English-speaking regions of Cameroon have greatly affected children of school going age. It is in line with the objective of “Leaving No Child Behind” in education, that a handful evidence informed primary educators in rural setting of Bambili, North West Cameroon like Petra, braved the odds and set out to organize Community Home Schools for affected children aged 3-5years.

Petra is one of the educators that ISED has been working with, within her Educator Empowerment strand aimed at equipping teachers with the necessary equipment and skills for evidence based pedagogic practice. After learning of how beneficial early childhood and Pre-school interventions could be in



Figure 1: Petra teaching 3-5years children in her Bambili Neighborhood (NWR Cameroon, 2018)

preparing children for school and academic success, Petra bravely took up this initiative to gather children aged 3-5years in her neighborhood within her pre-school provision. In her interview with ISED about her pre-school initiative, this is what Petra said concerning her motivation “I can’t afford to sit and do nothing for these children after learning how effective early childhood interventions can be in preparing children for academic success.”

It could be interesting to know that Petra started up by using her family



Figure 3: ISED donation of Instructional materials to Petra's pre-school Setting

home parlour as her classroom and a set of kitchen chairs borrowed from neighbors for the children to sit on during classes. With assistance from ISED, Petra now has a more decent teaching environment with appropriate teaching equipment and better setting for children to learn. At the moment, Petra has 20 children attending her pre-school. This number has the potential of increasing due to the interest that other parents are expressing and the worsening nature of the armed conflict in the North west and South west English-speaking regions of Cameroon.

It is worth mentioning that, ISED is only accompanying a community



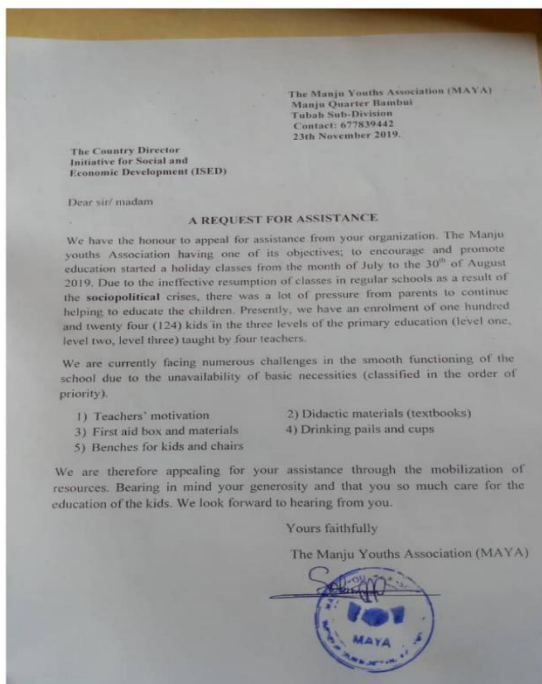
Figure 4: Petra teaching her 3-5years children in their transformed pre-school setting (Bambili, 2018)

initiated, run and owned endeavor to provide education to these affected children of school going age in conflict zones of the North West region of Cameroon, who have been deprived of their basic right to education for 03 academic years now and still counting. ISED organises training sessions with teachers of community home schools to introduce them to evidence, build their capacity to access, interpret and

implement relevant evidence in view of improving children's learning

outcomes. Community home pre-school initiatives like Petra's could be a substitute for formal pre-school facilities as the later is scarce and expensive for most children living in rural settings, given that it is almost entirely left in the hands of private sector education facilities.

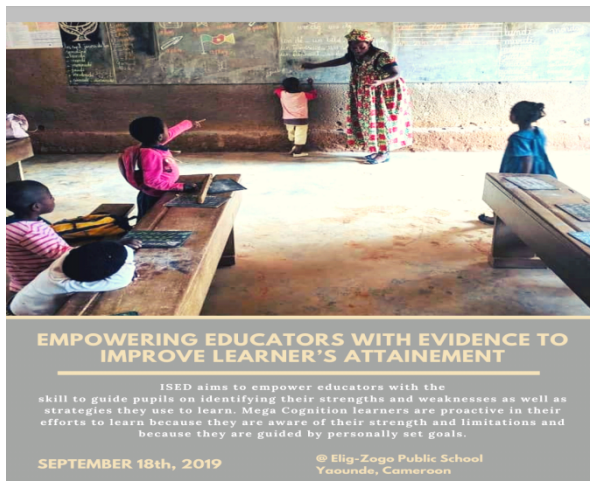
As a result, most children living in typical rural settings in Cameroon do not have access to pre-school interventions and start school from primary one, thereby missing the benefits of early years pre-school intervention.



Financial Support to Manju Youth Association, Bambui; Community School Initiative

2. Empowering Educators for Improved Learner's Attainment

ISED as an impact driven organisation seeks to inform its interventions with

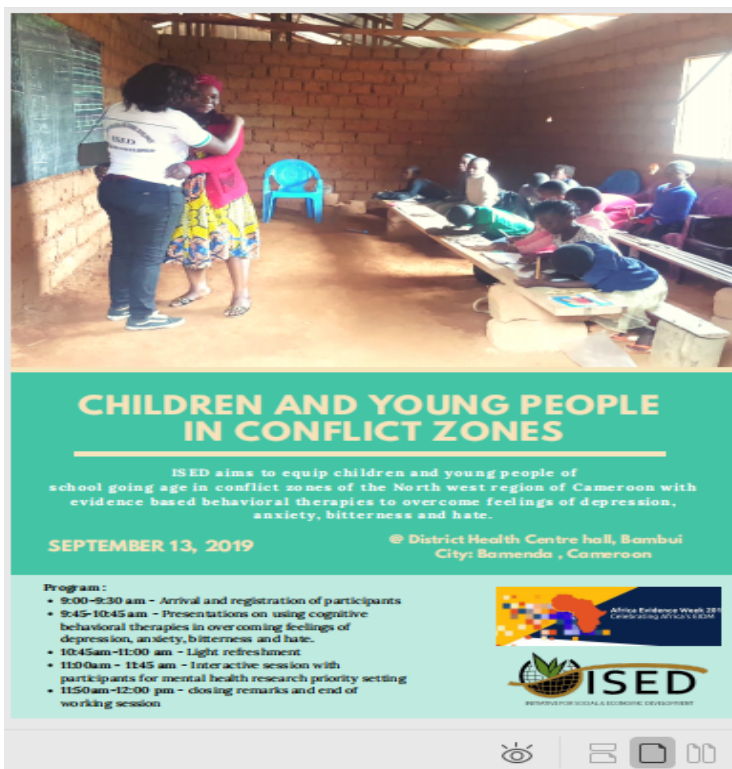


evidence; “What Works”. In this light, added to subsidizing tuition for underprivileged children, supporting rural primary school with didactic infrastructure, ISED in September 2019, organised a training workshop for basic educators in Sa’a, a rural community in the Centre Region of Cameroon. ISED organised and trained 17 classroom teachers, 02 Head teachers and 01 regional inspector of basic education on how to access and use pedagogic evidence in their teaching and learning activities. At the end of the training mentorship schemes were designed within trainees were assigned mentors to continue distance training, monitoring and evaluation of mentees. ISED awarded sponsorship to 10 more underprivileged children in Elig-Zogo.



ISED Scholars in Government Primary School, Elig-Zogo with their Scholarship Awards for the Academic year 2019/2020.

3. Evidence based Psycho-social Initiatives for Managing Common Mental Health disorders in Children and Adolescents of School going age.



As an impact oriented organisation, ISED aligns it's interventions with existing Evidence. We are a member of the Africa Evidence Network (AEN) and celebrated our flagship event-Evidence Week, this year by launching our psycho-social initiatives aimed at managing common mental health disorders such as anxiety, stress, clinical depression etc in children and young people living in the

restive English-speaking zones of Cameroon. This intervention is crucial to learning attainment given that these pupils' and student's face day-to-day experiences of gunshots, brutal killings, rape and torture ongoing in these regions.



Management Structure:

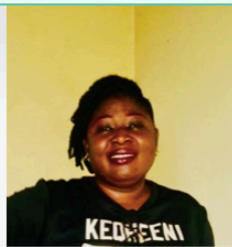


LOUISE AMUNGWA
Founder & Managing Director

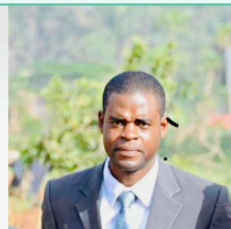
Meet Our Team



Mary Aban
Vice president



Nene Mbolle Eposi
Regional Coordinator



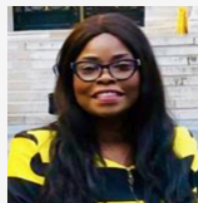
Lucas Awasum
Secretary General & Agricultural
Consultant



Winifred Bih
Communication officer
Winifred Joined ISED in 2019. She is



Pauline Amungwa
Social Media Consultant &
Brand Strategist.



Tanga Yote Louise
Treasurer & Women
Empowerment Consultant
Louise Is a retired civil



Efouba Francoise
Event organiser and
coordinator



THE WAY FORWARD: AGENDA 2019/2020

A. EDUCATION

1. Provide tuition and pedagogic materials for the basic education of 200 underprivileged children (150 girls and 50 boys) specifically those who have lost their parents and sponsors due to the on-going crisis in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon.
2. Increase our material (benches, didactic materials), technical (pedagogic training workshops) and financial (teacher motivations) support for community home school initiatives aimed at providing basic education to children in the crises zones of North west and South west regions of Cameroon. With the escalation of the ongoing-armed conflicts in these regions, a good number of basic education facilities especially in rural areas have remained closed. As such children in these areas are at very high risk of not going to school or at best resort to the community owned and led initiative of makeshift educational facilities- Home schools.
3. Intensify our psycho-social interventions of evidence based behavioural therapies aimed at managing common mental health disorders, with children and young people of school going age in the restive English speaking regions of Cameroon. Due to their constant exposure to gunshots, scenes of brutal killings and torture of themselves, relatives and other community members, these children and adolescents are faced with the challenge of dealing with common mental health disorders like clinical depression, anxiety, bipolar, dementia, post-traumatic stress and schizophrenia alongside their unstable, resource deficient learning circumstances. Hence, ISED will train 50 focal points. These 50 focal persons trained will be



commissioned with the task of identifying cases, providing first aid therapies and referring cases for medical assistance, legal assistance, material assistance psychological care in centers and institutions that will be identified by ISED. These focal points that we will train will include;

- 5 Rural Women Association Leaders
 - 14 Community Health Leaders
 - 5 Religious Leaders
 - 3 Education and Health Oriented Civil Society Organizations
 - 10 Youth Leaders
 - 5 Traditional Council Leaders
 - 8 Teachers and School Administrators
4. Increase the number of educator training workshops and sponsoring in-service professional development for some 5 outstanding basic educators.

B) Women Empowerment

1. The 2 single mothers we have been subsidizing for their training in hairdressing and tailoring will be rounding up with their training come January 2020. As such, we intend to assist them with start up capital of 750 USD each for the purchase of their work equipment and initial rent deposit for the venue.
2. Enroll 30 other underprivileged young women in vocational training programs and apprenticeship.



3. Support 30 widows with 147 USD each to rebuild and stock their burnt down market stalls in Ndop village following the escalation of the armed conflict. Support 20 other displaced widows who have fled the conflict zone to find themselves in Yaounde.

C) Agriculture

1. Sponsor the training of 25 other young people in plant, animal and livestock farming.

Initiative for Social an Economic Development (ISED) **Statement of Funds and Expenditures** **For the Year ended October 31, 2019**

INCOME:	FCFA
Grants	4,000,500
<i>Donations:</i>	
Corporate	1,025,000
Individuals	313,000
Appeals	345,000
<i>Membership Funds:</i>	
Admission fees (new members)	150,000
Annual contributions (existing members)	500,000



Carry over 2018	323,000
Loans	2,500,000
<i>Total Contributions and Incomes 2019</i>	9,156,500

EXPENDITURES:

Education

Tuition fees for ISED sponsored laureates	400,000
Didactic materials donated to home schools	325,000
Educator Empowerment workshop	126,000

Women Empowerment

Annual apprenticeship fees	225,000
Start-up Capital to graduate apprentices	364,000
Capacity building Seminar	178,000

Agriculture

Farm inputs to beneficiaries	449,275
Annual apprenticeship fees	300,000

General and Administrative Expenses:

Rents	400,000
Utility bills	126,000
Office supplies	183,900
Transport, Accommodation & Mission allowances	1,780,000
Interest on Loan	100,000



Research and Development:

International Training Conferences 4,000,500

Total Expenditures 2019 8,957,675

***SURPLUS* 198,825**

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