



Improving the nutrition, food, and income securities of 50 most vulnerable IDPs and their host community members in Kompina village in the Littoral Region of Cameroon following the ongoing prolonged Anglophone crisis in Cameroon

Summary

Saika Elisabeth Foundation plans to establish an Agro-pastoral Capacity Building, Demonstration, and Production Centre in Kompina where we shall organize and provide 03 short capacity building and training exercises of 08 weeks each on intensive poultry (broilers) farming and organic sustainable mixed market gardening to 50 most vulnerable internally displaced persons from the North West and South West Regions and their host community members. This poultry and market gardening demonstration farms will brood broiler chicks and nurse garden crops which will at the end of every training session be donated to trained project beneficiaries as part of their start-up capital to establish their own market gardening and poultry farms for both nutrition and income generation from the sales of mature chicken, and surplus garden crops, considering that there is a huge ready market in the city of Douala, some 30 minutes' drive from Kompina.

The overall objective of this project is to reduce the dependence of the most vulnerable internally displaced persons and host families on humanitarian aid from humanitarian organizations, families, friends, and other benevolent individuals in order to strengthen their independence and their resilience. The project is therefore expected to enhance food, nutrition, and income securities; strengthening self-sufficiency; and promote the socio-professional integration of 50 most vulnerable IDPs and members of the host community by training them on sustainable environmentally-friendly and economically viable agricultural techniques; and supporting them with startup material and micro-credits (to facilitate land leasing for those without access to land) to establish their own organic gardens and poultry (broilers) farms. We shall then continue to follow-up, coach, and accompany them till they are fully socio-professionally integrated



Situation description

In its 6th year, the prolonged and ongoing socio-political crisis and armed conflict in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon has continued to force hundreds of thousands of people especially the youth, women, and children to flee their communities to seek refuge in relatively safe regions in the country such as the Littoral, Centre and Western Regions. This internal migration has been a source of hardship and social conflicts that often results in situations where IDPs do not enjoy their basic rights in host communities. Despite the effort made by the Government and some humanitarian actors in providing support, internally displaced persons in these regions are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

Kompina; a small farming village in the outskirts of the city of Douala in the Littoral Region is among the localities with a good number of internally displaced persons in the Littoral Region. Over 200 IDPs have fled the North West and South West Regions to the Kompina locality, thereby placing a significant burden on the host community.

According to information collected by the SELF team during the exploratory mission in Kompina village, most of the IDPs fled in desperation, leaving almost everything behind and sought shelter into a network of relatives and friends who initially supported them against the worst hardships; but eventually, they became burdens to the host families and community

Also, majority of IDPs in Kompina originate from rural areas, and considering that their host community is a rural agricultural area too, this has continued to increase pressure on natural resources, food security and agricultural systems in the host community. With very limited access to formal and full livelihood and employment opportunities, most of the IDPs make a living by offering their services as seasonal agricultural workers for local households and smallholder plantation farmers; and are paid very insignificant wages...some even fall prey to unscrupulous moneylenders who give them loans for farm inputs and collect their pay in kind (farm produce) during the harvesting seasons when prices of farm produce are still very low; and IDPs are therefore forced to remain in the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger. This makes it difficult for them to pay school fees for their children, feed themselves and the families properly, pay for housing, and medication etc. This poses risks to both host and IDP communities that often lead to instability and social tensions.

As a result of declining soil fertility, poor seeds/breeds, improper management techniques, and increase in land pressure; most farmers in this locality including some IDPs are facing very low crop and livestock yields. As such, they are resorting to farming methods that require costly inputs and improve yields at the expense of the environment and the sustainability of their land and income.

Proposed intervention approach

As part of our humanitarian response to this ongoing socio-political crisis, Saika Elisabeth Foundation shall establish an Agro-pastoral Capacity Building, Demonstration, and Production Centre in Kompina where 50 identified most vulnerable Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and members of the host community in Kompina village shall receive sustainable environmentally-friendly hands-on demonstration and capacity building on market gardening and intensive poultry (broilers) production and sales.

During the project period, beneficiaries will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in **organic market gardening**; (site selection and land preparation, compost making, seed selection, seed nursery and transplanting, pest and disease control, general farm maintenance, harvesting and storage, and conservation, farm records, and marketing; **poultry (broilers) brooding**; (housing preparation, selection of broiler breed, broiler feed composition, feeding, poultry sanitation, disease control and management, and marketing): **basic entrepreneurship and farm management and marketing**. Training shall be 03 sessions of 08 weeks each. During these training periods, trainees will alternate between theoretical learning and practical demonstration in the training and demonstration center; and hands-on study visits to local agribusiness enterprises or individuals. This process will allow for a permanent relationship between practice and theory, work and study, experience and knowledge and also promote reflection, induce a strong sense of intellectual curiosity, and personal organization. After receiving startup capital at the end of the training, we shall continue to follow-up and coach beneficiaries in their agricultural enterprises until they are totally socio-professionally integrated.

Outline of intervention strategy and activities:

In order to meet the nutrition, food, and income security needs outlined above, SELF will implement the following activities:

- Construct and equip a demonstration and production poultry farm and vegetable garden for hands-on training and demonstration
- Organize and execute three capacity building workshops of eight weeks each to train 60 vulnerable IDPs and members of the host community on organic market gardening and poultry (broiler) production; basic entrepreneurship skills, marketing and farm management techniques
- Donate 50 four-weeks old chicks (broilers) each, with feeders, drinkers; two bags of composed chicken feed each; vaccines and medication, chicken cages, and other valuable items to all the beneficiaries in order to enable them improve their diets and nutrition, as well as strengthen their livelihoods through the consumption and sale of fowls.
- Donate hoes, cutlasses, sprayers, wheelbarrows, vegetable seeds, spices and manure to all beneficiaries for market gardening.
- Provide collateral-free and interest-free loans to some beneficiaries who demonstrate the ability to expand their enterprises
- Follow-up, coach, and accompany project beneficiaries to ensure the effective implementation of their business enterprises

Expected results

At the end of the project, beneficiaries are expected to

- Enhance their incomes, food security, diet and nutrition, standards of living, and their socio-economic self-reliance

- Enhance their self-respect and self-esteem in the host community and greatly reduce their marginalization and exploitation by unscrupulous moneylenders and odd-jobs employers
- Have some financial discipline and learn how to save and invest.
- Pay for their children's education, medication, and clothing
- Improve peaceful coexistence with their host community members

Estimated budget

7,500,000 FCFA (11,434 Euros) will construct and equip a demonstration and production poultry farm and vegetable garden for hands-on training and demonstration (poultry pen, chicks, drinkers, feeders, feed, vaccines, and medication; garden fence, farm tools, garden crops seeds and seedlings, sprayers, insecticides/pesticides etc.

2,000,000 (3049 Euros) will construct a water well and install and water hand pump

1,500,000 FCFA (2,287 Euros) will install solar panels and its accessories for the lighting of the project site and use of computers, projectors, water pump and other electrical appliances

10,000,000 FCFA (15,245 Euros) will provide farm tools, seeds/seedlings, pesticides. insecticides and cages for chicks, drinkers, feeders, composed feed, vaccines and medicine, etc. to beneficiary IDPs

3,000,000 FCFA (4,573 Euros) will cover all training costs (administrative and training materials/equipment, handout technical slips or pamphlets, transportation cost, communication cost, allowances to two volunteer project and training staff, follow-up/coaching, etc.

Total Project Budget: 24,000,000 FCFA (36,588 Euros)