



2020 ACTIVITY REPORT

OF

CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS

By

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Introduction

The activities of *Change Communications* for this year ending, 2020 has essentially been focused on efforts to resettle in Yaoundé after we were suddenly and forcefully ejected from our office in Bamenda, the chief town of the NW region which is the epicentre of an on-going armed conflict between the Cameroon security forces and Anglophone militia fighting to carve out an independent state from the two English-speaking NW and SW regions of Cameroon. In fact, in the month of February 2019, a night attack was launched against the organization's office in Bamenda and all the office material and equipment ransacked by an unknown armed group of individuals and for reasons still unknown to us.

This incident dislocated our planned activities for 2020, and forced some of the personnel to relocate to the more secure city of Yaoundé. The organization then shifted its focus of activity to: (1) securing an office space in Yaoundé and re-equipping it, (2) raising funds to finance this resettlement effort, and carrying out a few and small-scale humanitarian initiatives, and (3) starting of the implementation of a 12 month project – *Youth Click for Peace*, (September 2020 – August 2021) funded by Centre de Crise et de Soutien, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Etrangères, via l'Ambassade de France au Cameroun.

1. Overall performance for 2020

Despite the challenges faced due to the forceful displacement of *Change Communications'* operational office from Bamenda to Yaoundé, the organization recorded a positive overall performance in terms of new objectives set in a crisis situation for we obtained a locale for an office, equipped it, carried out small-scale humanitarian activities regarding the education of internally displaced Anglophone secondary school drop-outs. We equally succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs through the French Embassy in Cameroon. The grant has been used to successfully implement a peace-building project – *Youth Click for Peace* in the Littoral and West regions of Cameroon. Our main challenges today consist of loss of data in the digital equipment destroyed and some of our staff who have left us.

2.0: Activity by activity review

In the year just ending we conducted the following activities:

2.1: Fund raising

Immediately we got to Yaoundé in December 2019, we immediately launched an aggressive fund-raising that lasted till March 2020. The fund-raising gave the following results:

- 03 staff of *Change Communications* forfeiting their 04 months-salary for the organization amounting to XAF3750000
- The Coordinator of *Change Communications* making a contribution of XAF 5,000,000 being an independent consultancy payment for services rendered to a partner
- 02 institutional friends of *Change Communications* namely *The Police Credit Union* giving XAF 1,500,000 a micro-finance institution based in the Littoral Region, and an NGO, *Education Information Service International (EISERVI)* based in Yaoundé contributed the sum of XAF 500,000
- Donations in kind, (furniture, digital equipment and office supplies) came from individual sympathizers) worth XAF 19,450,000

2.2: Securing and equipping office in Yaoundé

The organization secured an office in the Biyem-Assi neighbourhood of Yaoundé where it once operated before moving to Bamenda. Activities carried out to operationalize the office in Biyem-Assi Yaoundé consisted of:

2.3: Refurbishing work on office locale

- minor repairs on toilette system
- painting of the inner walls

2.4: Acquiring furniture

- 8 chairs,
- 6 tables,
- 2 shelves

2.5: Equipping the office

- 04 laptops,
- 01 printing machine,
- 01 photo copying and scanning machine,
- 01 digital editing machine,
- 01 professional digital HD camera

- Office stationery
- 01security guard hired

2.6: Conducting small-scale humanitarian initiatives

With an office secured and equipped, *Change Communications* embarked on a series of small-scale humanitarian interventions targeting internally displaced Anglophone (IDA) children attending secondary school facing academic and psycho-social problems. Our assistance consisted of:

- Providing psycho-social counselling to 105 war-affected students in difficulty with the help of a hired psycho-social counsellor
- Providing academic counselling and career orientation to 85 students in end-of-course examination classes
- Organizing 28 inspirational talks to an overall youth audience of over 1000 young people including estimated to school-going young people in Baptist and Presbyterian Church, and Mosques and other venues of youth gatherings
- Distributing 1040 text books obtained from a local NGO, (Education Information Service International) to 85 students preparing for secondary school certificate exams.

2.7: Start of implementation of *Youth Click for Peace*

- submitting and obtaining a peace-building grant proposal to the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Creating a steering committee to have a say and guide the performance of the project committee
- Organizing a training workshop in December 2020 on *Peace Reporting* for 20 community radio journalists broadcasting for an audience in the West Region which includes over 90000 IDPs from the neighbouring war-torn English-speaking NW region.

Done in Yaoundé, January 2021

3.0: The way forward

Surviving the destruction of its office in Bamenda and getting settled in Yaoundé constitutes a great achievement for *Change Communications* in 2020. However, the organization has recorded the loss of strategic data and may not be able to reconstitute it in the immediate term. Furthermore, two members of staff have left the organization. To fill up the gap, *Change Communications* has just been recruited a well-trained, competent and experienced lady – Linda Mussaa – a women’s empowerment specialist.

In 2021, *Change Communications* will continue to consolidate its resettlement efforts in Yaoundé by focusing on the promotion of its brand and visibility in the city. This will be done by conducting outreach initiatives and networking with non-governmental organizations, relevant institutions and agencies, at the national and international levels. The organization will do everything possible to conduct the on-going peace-building project – *Youth Click for Peace* – to a successful end in August of 2021. Finally, we will continue to source for funding to carry projects intended to benefit the thousands of war-affected populations of the English-speaking regions of the North West and South West.



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