



# Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board

## HIV Free NW/SW Project

### Using Income Generating Activities: A Strategy to finance Healthcare

*Written by Divine N. Ngange, Fotabong, Delphine Fri, Alphonse Abanda*

#### Introduction

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As the LCI introduced innovative strategies to improve on the uptake of health services, the issue of sustainability kept arising. Thus to ensure a robust health system that is fully owned by the community, LCI initiated the concept of Income Generating Activities. This was geared at engaging Dialogue Structure Committees in enhancing and optimizing health services uptake and sustainability of health programs.



#### *Initial Income Generating Activity in Akwaja IHC*

#### Challenges to health care uptake

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The inability of health facilities to rely on government subsidies to run their health facilities, coupled with the little or no charging fee on consultation increased the level of impoverishment witnessed in most

health facilities. This consolidates to explain why most health facilities lack basic medical equipment and staff among other needs. As explained by the COC of Akwaja Integrated Health Center

*“Acute shortage of staff greatly handicapped healthcare delivery in the Akwaja integrated health center. 2 technical staff and a pharmacy attendant served a community with a population of over 11,000 inhabitants. This was a huge challenge in the Akwaja HA”* COC of Akwaja Integrated Health Center, Eugene Tah Berinyuy.

#### Income generating activities as a means of sustainability

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To curb these problems, the LCI initiated the concept of income generating activities as a means of sustainability of healthcare services. The LCI team realized that training key Dialogue Structure members on business and financial management will go a long way to strengthen and capacitate them with skills to implement activities in various health areas. Hence a training workshop was organized at the level of each district with selected HD Health Committee members.



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*Mr. Eugene Tah Berinyuy COC for Akwaja IHC*

Based on the nature of each health area, each dialogue structure carried out a study on what they think could yield profit if well implemented. The LCI went an extra mile to sponsor some of their lofty business ideas which included; poultry farming, food crops cultivation, bee keeping, running a provision store, trading of palm oil and cocoa, just to name a few.

*“Thanks to funding from the LCI, we embarked on a small scale piggery, bee keeping and tomatoes gardening that have so far proven to be a very lucrative venture. Through this we realized over 270,000 FRS Proceed within a period of one year. This has gone a long way to boost the management and financing of the Akwaja Integrated Health Center and promoted primary and secondary disease preventive services through outreach activities in the Akwaja HA.”* Health Area Management Committee Chair Person (HAMCC), Wazabua Dieudonne



*Tomatoe Garden IGA at Akwaja IHC*

Likewise, in 2016, the LCI provided financial assistance to support the Mbengwi HD to engage in the trade of palm oil and Poultry farming. Profit generated was used to; Construct a stand tap in the health facility, motivate community staff, purchase basic equipment, Reinvest and enable the area to employ new staff.

In order to ensure the smooth functioning of these activities across the Health Districts, the LCI encouraged each dialogue structure to establish a cash book to register financial transactions so as to guarantee accountability and transparency. An incentive was given by the LCI to dialogue structure members who showed proof of commitments in initiating activity in each health area.



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### Results of LCI Support

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#### *Palm Oil Trade IGA in Teze IHC*

Thanks to this initiative, most Health Areas have been able to uplift barriers hindering the proper functioning of health care services with proceed from their various income generating activities. This has also enabled the health areas in the 5 implementing Health Districts of the North West region to sponsor their outreach activities. Through these outreach activities, more awareness was created though the various activities offered by the outreach caravan. This led to an increased in the number of those utilizing health facilities. This wouldn't have been possible without the financial, technical and supervisory assistance provided by the Local Capacity Initiative team.