



Cameroon Baptist Convention
Health Services

Liliane
Fonds

open the world
for a child
with a disability

Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program

2020
Annual
Report



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBC	Cameroon Baptist Convention
CBCHS	Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services
CBR:	Community Based Rehabilitation
CP	Cerebral Palsy
CUAPWD:	Coordinating Unit of Association of Persons with Disability
COVID 19:	Corona Virus 19
CwDs:	Children with Disabilities
DHS	Director of Health Services
EDID:	Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development Program of the CBCHS
IFM:	Issues and Feedback Mechanism
LINC	Liliane Inclusive Network
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MINAS	Ministry of Social Affairs
OT	Occupational Therapy
PT	Physiotherapy
PO:	Partner Organisations of the SPO
PSG:	Parent Support Group
PMEL:	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
PWD	Persons Living with Disability
SPO:	Strategic Partner Organisation of the Liliane Foundation in Cameroon
SPD:	Services for Person with Disabilities
STEP:	Support Tools Enabling Parents
SEEPD:	Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disability
QEA	Quality Education for All

APPRECIATION

The CBCHS EDID program will forever remain grateful to the Liliane Foundation and MIVA for their continuous support which is enabling children and youths with disabilities 9 Regions of Cameroon to have access to quality education, healthcare, social and livelihood opportunities which they would never have had without this support.

We appreciate all our Partner Organizations in the 9 regions of Cameroon who work relentless to identify children and youths with disabilities, from very far and remote locations and follow up to ensure they access education, health, social and livelihood opportunities.

Executive Summary

In 2014, thanks to the recognition of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services as an outstanding provider of disability services in Cameroon, the Dutch Based Liliane Foundation entered into Partnership with the CBCHS to serve as her Strategic Partner Organization in Cameroon. This role gave the CBCHS the responsibility to coach, mentor, coordinate, supervise, monitor, evaluate and provide financial assistance to over 20 disability partner Organization in 9 regions of Cameroon who had disability as their core mandate. To enable the CBCHS to effectively play this role, the Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih put in place a team which he called “The Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program team”, a name which best reflects the objectives of the program. This team harness competencies from the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SEEPD) program as well as other programs and services of the CBC Health Services to provided the needed support to Partner Organizations.

The Liliane Foundation funds the plans of the Partner Organization through the CBC Health Services on yearly basis. The Liliane Foundation also supports the management and capacity building programs of the CBC Health Services as her Strategic Partner Organization. The role of the Partner Organization is to identify and financially assist needy children with disabilities to have

access to education, healthcare, social and livelihood opportunities as well as ensure that all barriers hindering their inclusion in the society are eliminated. Some of these barriers include communication, infrastructural, attitudinal as well as institutional (policy related) barriers. On yearly basis, the Liliane Foundation supports a total of 3000 children and youths with disabilities in all the above listed domains. For 2020, through our Partner Organizations we were able to reach out to 2740 direct beneficiaries and 12,782 indirect beneficiaries. Other activities implemented include signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the Ministry of Social affairs and 3 councils, building capacity of partners on local resource mobilization and advocacy and supporting partners to raise funds locally. Partners were also supported to provide emergency COVID 19 relief kits to families of children with disabilities to enable them respect the COVID 19 prevention measures. An Issues and Feedback Mechanism was instituted in all 23 Partner Organizations to capture the feedback and concerns of all the actors involved in the care process especially children with disabilities and their families. In this Annual Report we offer you an overview of our approach, activities implemented and results achieved in 2020. We hope you enjoy reading this report and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your commitment to the CBCHS EDID program and the Liliane Foundation.



Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, MPH, Ph.D.
DHS, Program Director



Agho Glory, BHSM, MSc. PG M & E
Program Manager

I. Advocacy and partnership

a. Partnership with Ministry of Social Affairs



The CBC Health services and the Ministry of Social Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) geared towards fostering collaboration framework in the domain of the protection and promotion of disability rights and prevention of abuses against persons with disabilities. The MOU was signed by Her Excellency, Irene Pauline Nguene, and the Director of CBC health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih. This partnership among other benefits, has enabled the the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) to recognize the CBCHS as a key actor in policy discussions on the

wellbeing of people with disabilities at the national and international levels; the importation of rehabilitation and assistive devices by the CBCHS benefit from tax exoneration thanks to this partnership. On the other hands, the CBCHS is supporting the regional and national structures of MINAS to identify and facilitate access to services for children, youths and adults with disabilities. An action plan has been developed from the MoU and an implementation committee set up to ensure that parties respect their commitment to the MOU.



Signing of Partnership between the MINAS and CBCHS. From left to right: Mrs. Agbo Glory, Prof. Tih Pius, H.E Pauline Nguene Irene and 2 of her close collaborators

b. Partnership with the West Regional Delegation of Secondary Education

The Regional Delegation of Secondary Education in the West Region and the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services' Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) program signed a partnership agreement aimed at facilitating access to Quality Inclusive Education in mainstream secondary schools for learners with disabilities in the West Region of Cameroon. The event took place at the Regional Delegation of Secondary Education in Bafoussam on December 31, 2020, during a Stakeholder and Management Committee Meeting of the Quality Education for All project. This

vital document was signed by the Regional Delegate for Secondary Education in the West Region, Dr. Ngabnya François, and the Program Manager of the EDID program, Mrs. Agho Glory Tsangue who signed for and on behalf of the Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih. The 2-year renewable agreement extends to December 2023. During this term, both parties committed to work collaboratively to improve the participation and performance of learners with impairments in Secondary Education in mainstream Government Secondary Schools in the West Region of Cameroon.



Management committee Members of the QEA



From Left: Regional Delegate of Social Affairs, Regional Delegate of Secondary Education and the Program Manager of the CBCHS EDID program

c. Partnership with Councils

Similarly, during the second half of the year, the Director of Health Services Prof Tih Pius and his team continued their crusade to bring on board all disabilities stakeholders for the inclusion of children with disabilities in all development endeavors. The caravan took the team to the City Council of Bertoua, Garoua and

Maroua. Mrs. Agho in her presentations convinced the Mayors on the importance of mainstreaming disability in all council development actions. The Mayors welcomed a Tripartite MoU, between the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, the City Council and our Partner organizations to facilitate the inclusion

of Children, youths & adults with disabilities in all aspects of development. The Mayors praised the timing of the visit, which fits squarely in the council's social development plan. This activity has led to the signing of Memoranda of

Understanding with Mbouda, Foumban and Douala 3 councils. 15 other MoUs are presently being reviewed for signature by different councils.



During the Signing of MOU with the Foumban Council



from Left: Prof Tib Pius, Mrs. Agbo Glory, Mayor Tomaino Patricia Ndam Njoya



Advocacy visit to the Mayor of Foumban



Mrs. Agbo advocating for inclusion at the Garoua city council



During the Signing of MOU with the Foumban Council



Mrs Agbo Glory and team after advocacy visit in Maroua City Council

d. Partnership with the Coordinating Unit of the Association of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWDs)

The Coordinating Unit of the Association of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWDs) with support from Liliane Foundation through the EDID Program of the CBCHS, intervened by sensitizing and providing humanitarian relief support to boys and girls with disabilities in the Ngoketunjia Division, North West Region affected by the current anglophone crises and the COVID 19 pandemic. A vulnerability assessment was conducted to determine the beneficiaries most in need, giving priority to children and internally

displaced persons with disabilities. The project conducted a baseline study on priority needs for persons with disabilities in conflict situation as well as those affected by the COVID-19. Communities and humanitarian agencies were sensitized on the need to include children, youths and adults with disabilities in emergency relief packages. As a result, 100 households benefited from COVID 19 response kits made up of basic food items, and personal protective equipment to enable them cope during the period of the lockdown.

II. Key achievements from Partner Organization

II.1. Direct Intervention to Children and Youth with Disabilities

Despite the COVID 19 challenges, the 23 Partner Organizations of the CBCHS EDID program, continued to support and care for children with disabilities across 9 Regions of Cameroon. Below are key results from these interventions.

i. Analysis of Statistics for 2020

Data from 23 POs revealed that a total of 2740 children and youths with disabilities benefited from direct interventions in at least one Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) domain of education, health, social and livelihood and 12,782 benefited indirectly. The indirect beneficiaries were family members of children with disabilities, service providers who provide services to these children with disabilities, community members whose knowledge about disability increased, field workers whose skills were enhanced etc

Fig1: Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries

Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries

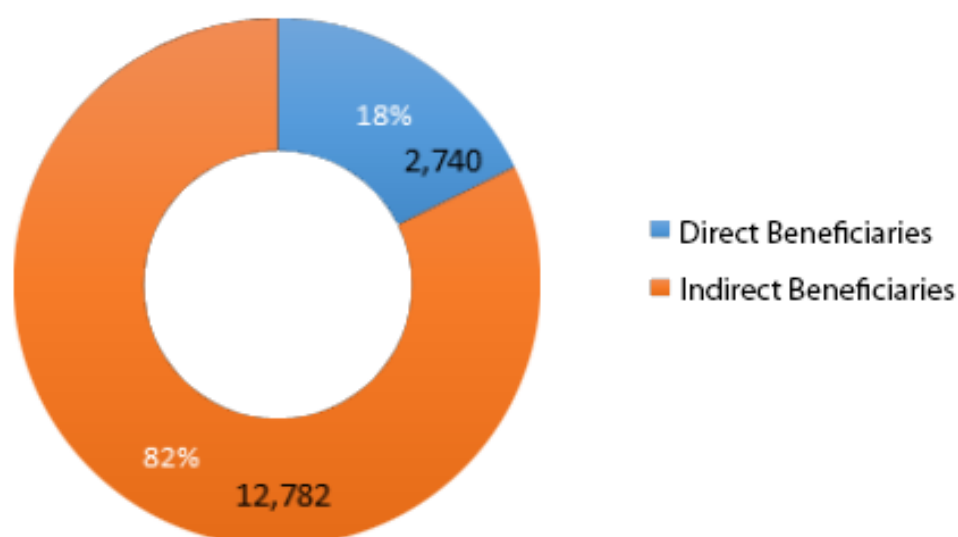


Fig 1 shows the 2740 children aged within 25 years who benefited from one or more interventions while 12,782 members of their families and communities equally benefited from COVID 19 emergency response measures and other projects that were implemented by the local partner organizations as well as the CBC Health Services.

ii. Beneficiaries per CBR component

Fig 2: Beneficiaries per CBR component

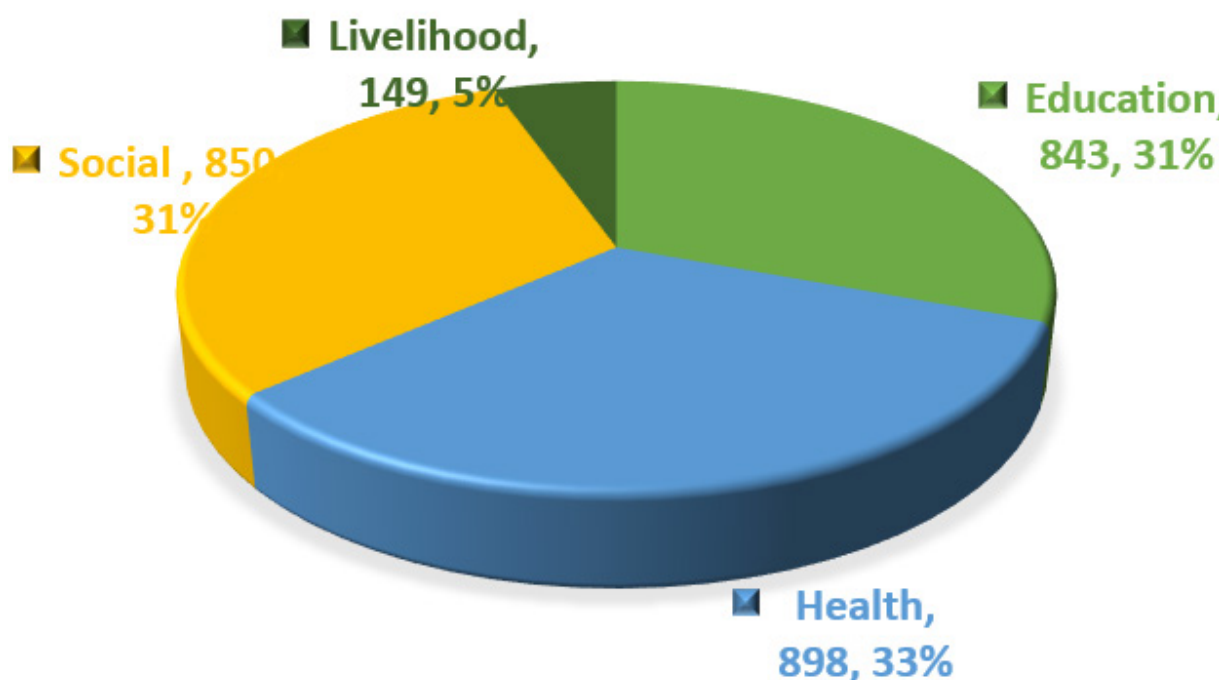


Fig 2 shows that the highest number of interventions was the COVID 19 response closely followed by Health intervention because of our priority to assist children and families during this COVID 19 crisis. The COVID 19 response included the provision of emergency response kits to needy families of children with disabilities comprised of basic food and medical supplies, personal protective equipment to children with disabilities and their families and sensitization of communities and families of children with disabilities. The education component which is always highest in the rank of

intervention, scored lower because of the COVID 19 barrier measures, one of which was the closure of schools during this period. The Health component had 898 interventions while interestingly, the social and education intervention were both at 850 and 843 respectively. This is because members of both the partner organizations and the strategic partner organization carried out massive counseling to the beneficiaries during this period where children were out of school to enable children cope with the new “normal”.

Interventions/beneficiaries per disability area

Fig 3: Summary of interventions/beneficiaries per disability area

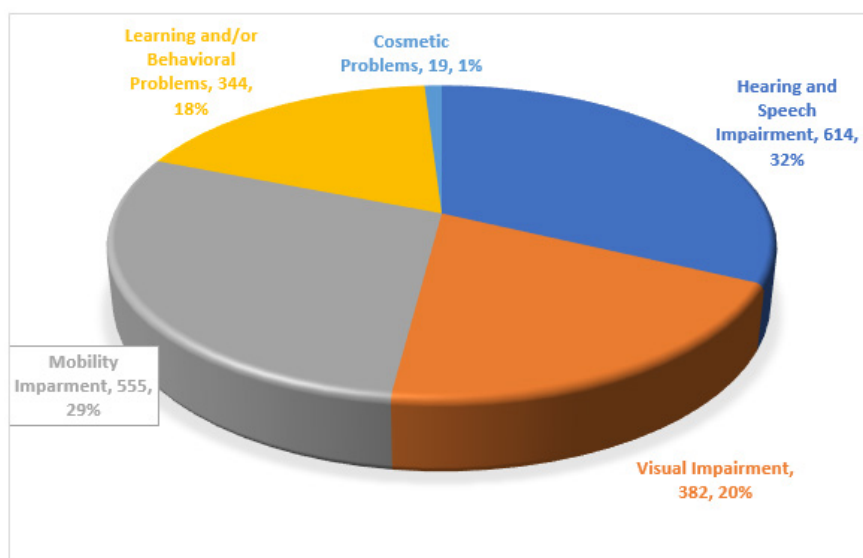


Fig 3 shows that interventions for beneficiaries with mobility impairments was the highest followed by interventions to children with hearing and speech impairment. Mobility impairment embodies a wide range of impairments

including cerebral palsy, orthopaedic issues, clubfeet, spina bifida, amputations, knock knees, bow legs etc which explains why this category record the highest number of interventions.

II.2. Implementation of Activities by Partner Organizations (POs)

In 2020, a total of 269, 298, 205F was approved and disbursed to POs in two instalments for the implementation of their approved annual plans. However, few weeks into the implementation, the COVID 19, struck the world, advancing rapidly from the western world to Africa. To curb the spread of the virus, the government adopted several measures to be respected by all. These measures included: ban on gatherings of over 50 people, respect of social distancing, and complete closure of schools amongst others. This caused the cancellation of interventions by the PO and SPO that required gathering of more than 50 people, famous among which was the “We Ring the Bell Campaign” that had mobilised close to 1000 participants for advocacy on education of children with disabilities. Notwithstanding, the SPO applied and got approval from the

donor, Liliane foundation, to transform planned activities to provide response packages to children with disabilities and their families. Thus, POs were guided to plan and use the funds allocated to them during the first half of the year to provide emergency response kits to beneficiaries. The SPO ensured regular updates about the virus were received from authentic sources and context appropriate measures communicated to the POs on regular basis for implementation. Letters and daily guidance through the PO – SPO WhatsApp forum kept the SPO close to the POs during this challenging period. From 25th May to 5th June 2020 the SPO team undertook field visits to support POs in their interventions to children with disabilities, amidst the COVID 19 period. The overall feedback was very encouraging.

II.2.1 Key Interventions During the Covid 19

a. Personal Protective Equipment to POs for Home Visits

The SPO provided reusable face masks and hand sanitizers to all POs who indicated willingness to continue visiting, sensitizing and supporting beneficiaries during this period of COVID 19. Also, letters were written to the POs outlining safety guidelines for field workers before and during visits to homes of CWDs. POs were encouraged to use MIVA donated cars for field visits,

and where not available, to hire taxis so that they were the only occupants in the taxi. Brochures, child friendly booklets and posters were printed in accessible formats and provided to POs to use in sensitizing families of Children with disabilities about the COVID 19 as well as supporting parents with tools to enable them continue with the education of their children at home.



Field workers sensitizing families of children with disabilities during home visits

b. Sensitization and creation of awareness on COVID 19

All POs actively carried out sensitization to over 2000 families of Children with Disabilities (CWDs). With the use of “My Hero” and COVID 19 booklets provided by the SPO, the field workers explained to these children and their families what the COVID 19 was

all about and how to prevent themselves from getting infected. During the back to school on June 1st 2020, field workers visited schools and educated the mates of children with disabilities on COVID 19 using simple to understand booklets and brochures.



Field workers sensitizing families of children with disabilities during home visits

c. Construction of Tippy taps in homes of CWDs for effective hand washing

A PO also devised an innovative way of enabling the children maintain hand hygiene in settings with water scarcity and non-existent “formal” taps and wash

hand basins. This was shared through the Whatsapp forum to encourage creativity across the network.



Field workers sensitizing families of children with disabilities during home visits

d. Provision of emergency response kits

Considering that the economic burden resulting from the COVID 19 was increasing on daily basis and was higher among families of children with disabilities; The SPO approved that POs use part of their budget to purchase and provide emergency response packages for needy families of children with disabilities. The package for each family consisted of food items including rice, garri, oil, salt, milk, beverages, ovaltine,

kerosene, plantains. Medical supplies including paracetamol, eferalgan, plaster, scissors, blade, betadine, alcohol, tissue, soap, hand sanitizers, disinfectants, face mask, plastic bags for discarding contaminated items in case of emergency were also provided since access to health facilities was limited,. The girl child with a disability was also taken into consideration and sanitary pads were provided so as to limit anxiety





e. Involvement of other stakeholders

Mayors, Quarter Heads, Regional and Divisional Delegates and religious leaders were engaged by POs in the distribution of COVID 19 kits across the national territory hence increasing community

participation, awareness and the visibility of the Liliane Foundation, the SPO and POs. This action also provided an opportunity for advocacy and resource mobilization.



II.3. Capacity Development of PO Network

a) Cultivation and marketing of Mushroom

As a result of COVID 19, POs could no longer do exchange visits with one another as was planned. After consultations with the Liliane foundation, this activity was replaced with the training of PSGs on how to cultivate and market mushrooms. In 5 locations: Bafoussam, Bangang, Bamenda, Yaoundé and Ndikiminiki,

100 Parents of children with disabilities were trained on how to cultivate and market mushroom hence increasing their income levels. A mushroom farming organization was engaged and effectively trained and set up mushroom farms in all the areas where the parents were trained.



Mushroom farming workshop in Bafoussam, Bangang, Yaounde, Ndiki and Bamenda

b) Local Resource Mobilization and Advocacy



From 17th to 22nd of February 2020, before the outbreak of COVID 19, a one-week intensive workshop held at the CBC Resource Centre in Yaoundé to train all 23 Partner organizations on local resource mobilization and advocacy. The workshop was presided by the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius. The objective of the workshop was to capacitate

POs to effectively mobilize resources and also advocate for the inclusion of disability issues in local development plans. The facilitators were Mr. Abanda Alphonse (head of CBCHS Resource mobilization department); Mr. Foyeth Eugene (The Advocacy and Policy Advisor), Mr. Awa Jacque Chirac and Mrs. Agho Glory (Program Managers for the Services of Persons with Disabilities) who did a participatory blend between theory and practice of these two concepts. The workshop ended with participants guided to develop local resource mobilization and advocacy plans for their respective organizations, which the SPO is supporting them to implement.



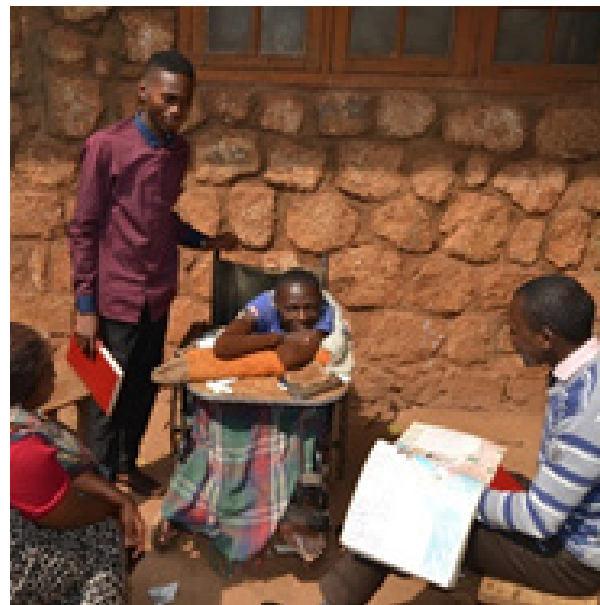
Mrs. Agho, Program Manager, facilitating during the workshop

II.4. Field visits of the SPO team to Partner Organizations

a) Visit to POs in the North West Region

From the 28th January to the 6th February, the SPO team undertook field visits to the following POs in the North West region: Holy Rosary Sisters, Caritas Bamenda, Women's work Department, Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis and CBCHS CBR. During these visits the SPO team strengthened the capacity of the POs in planning, implementation

and reporting. Program beneficiaries (children and youths with disabilities) were visited, their issues noted and addressed. Meetings were held with Program Management teams of the different Partner Organizations to listen and address challenges encountered in the course of implementation of activities.



Mushroom farming workshop in Bafoussam, Bangang, Yaounde, Ndiki and Bamenda

b. Visit to POs in the West, Littoral and South West Region

From May 25th – June 5th the SPO visited Bafoussam Baptist Health center, the West Regional Delegation of Social Affairs, Choose life generation and Filles de la Charité in the West Region. Spiritains in the Littoral and the Presbyterian Community Rehabilitation Services Kumba in the South West were

also visited. During these visits, the SPO accompanied the POs in advocacy endeavors; reviewed advocacy and Local resource mobilization plans, orientated POs on reporting and strengthened the capacity of POs in implementing planned activities amidst COVID -19 Pandemic.



Visit to Partner organizations to the West and Littoral region

C. Visit to POs in the East, North and far North Regions

From 16th – 31st July, 2020 the SPO team led by the program manager visited the Passioniste sisters in the East, SILH CORDAS in the Garoua and Fondation Bethleem in Mouda, Far North Region. Activities undertaken are similar to those undertaken in the other regions. The mayors visited all expressed the desire

to work with the CBCHS and her local partners to ensure inclusion and care of children with disabilities. Also, POs were very motivated to see that despite the COVID 19 challenges the SPO was close by to accompany them care for these children right into their homes.



Visit by EDID team to beneficiaries in the East and Far North Regions



b) Visit to POs in the Center Region

From 29th October – 5th of October, 2020 the SPO team visited PROMHANDICAM, Etoug Ebe Baptist Hospital, Missionnaires Claretains, Filles de la Charité Yaoundé and Nicolas Barré. During the visits, the SPO supported

the POs to come up with a technical assistance plan addressing gaps identified during the organizational assessment. The POs were orientated to include the gaps identified into their 2021 plan.



Visit to Partner Organisations in Center Region



II.5. Innovative project and documentation of lessons learnt

In 2019, the CBCHS EDID program called on Partner Organizations (POs) and Parent Support Groups (PSG) to develop and submit innovative projects proposals for funding consideration. The aim was to enhance sustainability and reduce dependence on the Liliane Funds for the care and support of children with disabilities (CWDs). Through a competitive selection process, the projects of the Parent Support Groups in Fouban, Bandjoun and Bamenda (Caritas) were selected for funding. The 3 POs received a total of 7million fcfa, shared as 3 million fcfa for Filles de la Charité in Fouban: 2 million fcfa for the Parent support group in Bandjoun and 2 million fcfa for Caritas Bamenda. A total of 82 parents in these 3 organizations were involved in the implementation of the project. 25 families in Fouban were handed 120,000FCFA each to engage in petit businesses. In Bandjoun the 17

parents in an association jointly engaged in increasing the number of pigs they were farming; while in Caritas 40 families were selected and grouped into 4 different sub-divisions to carry out socio economic empowerment activities (cultivation of crops, farming of animals). The SPO monitored and coached the POs in the implementation of these projects. An evaluation was conducted in 2020 and the projects were found to be doing well with lots of lessons to learn. Some of the key lessons learnt were: start small and scale up as you make profits, diversify business as per customer requests, be flexible to learn as you do business while making adjustments to customer needs, invest in both short term and long-term profit investments, seek expert advice and select the right species of animals to farm and always save-up and payback your loan.



Visit to POs and families implementing the Innovative project

II.6. Scaling Out of STEP (Support Tools Enabling Parents) to all Partner Organizations

In 2020 Parents and caregivers of children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) in Cameroon expressed their joys, and hope for their children who were beneficiaries of the (S)upport (T)ools (E)nabling (P)arents – STEP Approach. The STEP Approach seeks to ensure better rehabilitation and care of children with CP, using basic and simplified home-based functional approaches through the training of parents and caregivers. This approach was piloted among the PO network in Cameroon in 2017. By 2020

significant results had been achieved, and POs that were non beneficiaries of the pilot phase made requests for a scale out to include their parents and field workers. After a field evaluation of the pilot in the Center, Littoral, Adamawa, West, Southwest and Northwest Regions with applaudable outcome, STEP approach was scaled out to the other regions (except for the Northern regions planned for 2021). Some testimonies from parents during training and in the field were as follows:

“Before the program. I didn’t know how to carter for my little girl, I was unable to understand her, but with these trainings, I now have hope for a brighter future for my child. I wish that this training continues” Parent who doubles as a field worker.

“Given that medication, massage and other approaches have failed, I will like to call on the medical corps to embrace the STEP program in a bid to ensure that everyone come to the same platform. More so, the STEP program should be scaled up via general campaign, awareness raising in order to improve the standard of living of all children with CP”. A physiotherapy staff



Visit to homes of STEP beneficiaries and training on STEP

II.7. Scale out of issues and feedback mechanism (IFM)

The Management, staff and some resource persons of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program met in August 2020 at the CBC Health Services' Resource Centre in Mvan to brainstorm and map out better ways to provide evidence-based care to beneficiaries of the program. This resulted to the piloting and scaling up of an Issues and Feedback Mechanism (IFM) among all 23-partner organization in 8 regions of the country. This system revealed excitement from the beneficiaries and their parents who saw their feedback now taken into consideration in program

design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and learning. The mechanism is made up of 5 log books (Rehabilitation log book, Beneficiaries' issues log book, Field worker/ field visit log book, the field worker's issues log, and the supervisors' log) all aimed at ensuring that all actors involved in the care process of children have a clear channel to provide their feedback to the next level. This IFM mechanism is part of a bigger project funded by the Liliane Foundation to support the CBC Health services improve on its planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning systems.



II.8. Vehicle and Communication Items provided to POs to facilitate Field Work

In an effort to ensure that partner organizations effectively carry out interventions in the field and report, the program supported the acquisition of means of transport and communication to some POs who applied for. These include PROMHANDICAM who have benefited from a bus to transport children with disabilities from their homes to school and other service provision points,

the Coordinating Unit of the Association of Persons with Disabilities also benefited from computers and cameras to enable them improve on reporting and visibility and the WINHECAM as a key innovative implementing partner was given a Toyota Hilux.

MIVA transport and communication items for 3 Partner Organizations



II. 9. The Ministry of Social Affairs in Partnership with CBCHS Launched an Awareness Campaign on the Prevention of Disabilities

The Ministry of Social Affairs in partnership with the CBC Health Services and other partners launched the 2020 edition of the National Campaign on the prevention and Rehabilitation of Disabilities in Cameroon. The campaign was aimed at reviewing actions for early detection of impairments and

educating the general public on the need for disability prevention. The event brought together key organizations in the disability arena, including associations of persons with disabilities at the National Center for the rehabilitation of Persons Living with Disabilities (PWD) at the Etoug-Ebe neighborhood, Yaoundé.

II.10. We Ring the Bell Campaign

Every year in March, our main funding partner in Holland, the Liliane Foundation together with her Strategic Partner Organizations including the CBCHS, conducts a one-minute sensitization campaign across schools in Holland to raise awareness that children with disabilities are still left behind in education. This campaign is called “we Ring the Bell” Campaign. It is done by enlisting the support of schools and children and requesting them to bring elements like bells, gongs, vuvuzelas, music instruments, lids, whittles, pans, plates, spoons, etc to use in making a lot of noise for one minute to draw attention to the fact that their peers with disabilities are not able to or not allowed to attend school. Building on lessons learned from 2016 when the SPO started organizing this event, the CBC Health Services engaged widely in mobilizing efforts to get a huge gathering for the event. The

main goal of the 2020 edition of the “we Ring the Bell campaign” was to build greater public ownership of inclusive education through the active involvement of the various educational ministries for the institutionalization of Education for All Campaign in Cameroon. Miss Cameroon, junior parliamentarians, the ministers of education, Roger Milla, the football icon amongst other key stakeholders were all convinced to be part of the celebration. Unfortunately, on the eve of the campaign as a result of the COVID 19 which had just been declared a pandemic, the government spelt out 14 preventive measures amongst which was the banning of gatherings of more than 50 persons. This crumbled the event which was planned for March 18th. Notwithstanding, wide sensitization had taken place through various traditional and social media outlets

TIRER LA SONNETTE

**AMÉLIORER L'ACCÈS À L'ÉDUCATION DES ENFANTS
VIVANT AVEC LE HANDICAP AU CAMEROUN**
SUR LE PATRONAGE DE MINISTRE DE L'AFFAIRE SOCIALE
LIEU : MUSÉE NATIONAL, YAOUNDÉ
MARCH 18, 2020









Preparation to host the “We ring the bell 2020” at the national Museum



II.11. Quality Education for All (QEA)

i. ICT training of children with visual impairment

The CBC Health Services facilitated the training of 22 students with visual impairment from Lycée Classique and Lycée Bilingue de Bafoussam (government secondary schools) to acquire skills on Information and Communication Technology in a 3-week training. Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Delegate of Secondary Education, West Region expressed the commitment of the Government in putting measures in place to continue promoting Inclusive

Education in the Region. Representing the Director of CBC Health Services, the Program Manager for the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) Program, Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac noted with excitement the speed at which stakeholders have embraced Inclusive Education in the Region. He said the CBC Health Services is committed to working with the government to ensure inclusion.



Training of visually impaired students at Lycée classique and Lycée Bilingue de Bafoussam



III. Organizational Development of the SPO

a. Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL)

In July 2020 Leaders of the CBC Health Services held a three-day workshop on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL) System. The workshop held in Bamenda had as objective to foster a common understanding of an integrated PMEL system within the CBC Health Services. It was also a forum for the leaders to develop, adopt and approve the PMEL implementation strategy, and put in place a PMEL Management Team and structure for the institution. At the end of the workshop the PMEL

strategy project was officially launched and a management team installed by the Director of the CBC Health Services Prof. Tih Pius Muffih. The PMEL system is focused on strengthening the PMEL practices of the CBCHS and those of Partner Organizations. The overall aim is to have timely, analyzed and simplified information available for evidence-based decision making. The system is partly funded by the Liliane Foundation through the CBCHS EDID program.



Leaders of CBCHS during the launching of PMEL

b. Improving Quality of Rehabilitation Services

The poor quality of rehabilitation services, specifically for children with disability among Partner Organizations had been concerning. In Cameroon, no training exists for occupational therapy, a key profession which is required to enable children living with permanent disabilities to know how to integrate

and function with their impairment in the society. The Liliane Foundation supported the CBCHS to plan on setting up a Bachelor's level training for Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and a certificate program in Community Based Rehabilitation. To this effect, an assessment was conducted to determine

the profiles of field workers in the context of Cameroon. Similar assessments were done for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, all in a bid to develop context applicable curricula for these 3 programs. Consultants from the Liliane Foundation, the CBR Network in Cameroon and other International experts worked with teams of the CBCHS to ensure the technical,

structural and logistics aspects of the training are well planned. The Liliane Foundation is currently sourcing funds to further support the CBCHS to move from planning to implementation. Most meetings were held over zoom because of COVID 19 and the diversity of the team working to develop this curriculum.

c. Liliane Inclusion Network (LINC- Africa)

Strategic Partner Organizations of Liliane Foundation in Africa (LINC-Africa) on the 21st December 2020 voted by acclamation and installed into functions some Board members to add to and constitute the Governance Structure of the network. This was held during a virtual General Assembly meeting that brought together 14 of the 16 delegates across Africa. Greaterman Chivandire the Chairman of LINC Africa installed the delegates and thanked all members for voluntarily opting to take up the responsibility to move the activities of the network forward. The newly Installed members were: Leonard Nkunzu Muhari as Vice Chair, Twagirimana Eugene and Allopenou as representatives of the

French block, Agho Glory (Cameroon) and Vincent Ogutu (Kenya) to represent the English block. They joined the Chairman of the network who is from Zimbabwe and the Coordinator Awa Jacques Chirac from Cameroon to constitute the Board. Addressing all network members, the representative of the Liliane Foundation, Bernard Morvan, also a board member, appreciated them for their work and encouraged more commitment. The General Assembly also witnessed the unanimous endorsement of the Organization's Charter, a document that was worked on and reviewed by all members before its presentation at the General Assembly.

d. Breaking down barrier conference

On January 29th 2020, two staff from the CBC Health Services, Mrs. Agho Glory and, Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac participated in a conference at "The Hague" in the Netherlands, aimed at promoting cross cultural learning. The conference that was organized by the Liliane Foundation and African Studies

Center brought together academia and SPOs involved in the "Breaking down Barriers" project. Other participants included activists, policy makers and the media. 'Breaking down Barriers' was initiated in 2015 by the Liliane Foundation and the African Studies Centre (Leiden University) to identify the success factors

of advocacy for disability advocacy. Three SPOs from Cameroon, Sierra Leone and Zambia were involved. In Cameroon, the CBCHS, Liliane Foundation and the African Studies Centre (ASC) engaged in a tripartite collaboration for the purpose of the aforementioned project. The duo apart from taking part in the “Breaking down Barriers” Conference, also took part to formulate new orientations, develop justifications and lobby for the approval of the second phase of the Breaking down Barriers Project. Participants had the opportunity to follow key presentations in “Disabled and ultra-poor: not just economics and politics” by Prof. Ton Dietz, African Studies Centre Leiden; “Redefining advocacy. Persons with disabilities as agents of change”

by Anneke Donker, Liliane Foundation and Dr. Willem Elbers, African Studies Centre Leiden/Radboud University; and “In Whose Name and to What Effect? Accountability and Impact in Advocacy” by Prof. Duncan Green, Oxfam GB. The participation of the Program Managers for the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) and that of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Programs of the CBC Health Services, was rewarding to the institution, first, because of their successful participation in the formulation of “Breaking Down Barriers” phase 2 and networking with Royal Dutch Kentalis and Child Help International which presents the possibility for future collaboration.



Mrs. Agbo Glory (program manager EDID) and Mr. Anwa Chirac (Program Manager SEEPD) at the conference

e. Celebration of International Day of Persons with Disability

On the 3rd of December 2020, the Ministry of Social Affairs in partnership with the CBCHS EDID program joined the international community to commemorate the 29th edition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities under the theme: «not all disabilities are visible». The event which

took place in Yaoundé at the National Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities was presided at by the Minister of Social Affairs in the presence of the Administrator of Etoug-Ebe Baptist hospital, the representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Mayor of Yaoundé VI council,

persons with disabilities and other disability stakeholders. To demonstrate that disability is not inability, a group of hearing impaired, mobility impaired, visually impaired and intellectual impaired persons animated the event with beautiful dance moves to the listening and viewing pleasure of participants. The event was also characterized by an award of certificates and trophies to students

with disabilities who had undergone intensive training in diverse fields. It is worth noting that invisible disability is a disability that is not apparent to the eye. This is the case for people with what we may perceive as «normal» appearance but who suffer from mental illness, vision or hearing problems, brain damage, neurological disorders etc



Visit of the Minister to the CBCHS EDID stand during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities



I. Challenges, way forward and conclusion

Despite the achievements in 2020, the CBCHS EDID program was faced with a number of challenges. First, as visibility increased, the number of children with impairments identified and referred kept increasing without a corresponding increase in funding to address the needs. Second, some impairments were observed to have developed from causes which

could have been prevented like those resulting from stray bullets due to the ongoing crisis in the North West, South West and Far North Regions. 3rd, limited knowledge of CBR workers as a result of non-formal CBR training in the country, and the ongoing COVID19 pandemic which limited the implementation of some activities.

Story of change: Community Base Rehabilitation (CBCR) Gave Life to My Son

In most communities in the northern part of Cameroon, giving birth to a child with disability is often perceived as punishment from the supernatural world. In such cases the accusing fingers inevitably point to the woman, who must have offended the gods in one way or the other. These communities are also highly patriarchal with men having almost absolute power in their families. Women are considered second class citizens who are only useful for procreation. Imagine the scenario when a young girl gets married, is expected to produce “normal children”, especially male children to perpetuate the lineage and instead she opens the game with a male child with a disability! If the man is humane enough not to dissolve the marriage, he has the latitude to abandon the care of the said child to his wife with impunity. This is the case of Baida Rosaline, a young woman of 27 years in Kaele, a mostly Muslim community in the Far North Region of Cameroon.

Baida Rosaline as most girls in her community got married at the tender age of sixteen in 2010. She got pregnant that same year and cherished the idea of becoming a mother. Her excitement was short lived as a few months after the birth of her son, Palai Aimé Amadou, she realized something was not right. As most members of her community, she could not decipher what the problem was with her son. To make matters



worse, the hospital she went to didn't do much to enlighten her on the condition to dissipate her fears. Her husband outrightly rejected their son, refusing even to cuddle him. The inexperienced young girl was left alone to bear the brunt of taking care of a child with special needs, faced with the pressures of having other children as soon as possible to make up for the “abnormal one” or face the threat of a readily available co-wife. The situation was made more difficult as Palai was unable to achieve major age-related milestones. As even the most beautiful woman in the world can only give what she has, long years of taking sole care of Ahmadou took its toll on his mother. Tired and depressed for seeing no major change in her son, Palai's mother got

discouraged and resorted to abandoning her son alone at home, sometimes locked up in the room or simply left on the yard under very harsh climatic conditions.

A nun from the Congregation of Marie Reine des Apôtres, a Partner Organisation of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) that takes care of children with disabilities with funding from the Dutch based Liliane Foundation identified the child during a field visit in the community. Finally, a name was given to the condition of Amadou. Cerebral palsy. This was the first time Palai's mother had factual information about the condition. All through, she has believed her child was bewitched. The field worker explained to her that with patience, love and reeducation, Palai could achieve a certain level of functionality. Ahmadou was referred to Fondation Bethleem in Mouda, a rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities and another

Partner organization of the CBCHS.

Mrs. Tongou Jeanne, physiotherapist and CBR field worker at the centre explains that When Amadou first arrived the center all he could do was lie down all day long and sleep. Her goal was to help him stand and walk. With the use of a parallel bar, massages and good food, Amadou began to stand and walk for short distances. Mrs. Tongou says it was pure delight to see the joy on Amadou's face every time he took a step further than the previous day. "you could literally see him savoring each step added on daily basis", Mrs. Tongou recalls.

After four months at the centre, when Amadou's Mother came to pick him up for holidays, great was her amazement, not only could her son stand and walk, but there was a glitter about him that she could not explain. Amadou, who is now in an inclusive school went back home because of the Covid-19 pandemic; nevertheless. field workers continue to visit him in the community. Parallel bars have been constructed at their home with local materials. With constant follow up, Amadou has achieved another milestone. He is now capable to communicate and he can express his emotions and needs.



Amadou's mother is receiving capacity building to take care of her son whenever he is at home. Her faithful collaboration with CBR workers is testimony of her new found happiness. She has become a committed member of the parents' support group of her locality, using her experience to comfort other women with children with disabilities. With a huge smile, she expresses her gratitude to the Sisters of the Congregation of Marie Reine des Apôtres, CBCHS and Fondation Liliane who according to her gave life to her son. As she puts it, Amadou started living when he made his first step. This perpetual glitter on his face says it all. I'm forever grateful to all the partners who made this possible.

With a wheelchair my dreams of schooling are alive



Adijatou is a 9-year-old female youngster living with mobility impairment in Banyo. She covered a long distance to school by crawling. She felt pains as well and most of the time goes late to school because of the distance. She was not always clean. The EDID program supported her with a wheel chair which now makes it easy for her to go to school, she is clean, comes

early to school and has improved in her performance. She succeeded in the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) and the government common entrance. She has earned admission into the Government Bilingual School Banyo for 2019/ 2020. She also took part for the first time in youth day celebration and match pass. She is happy with the support, and so are her parents and teacher. Her self-esteem has been improved.



Mobility is ability



Maciene Peter from Njankop in Magba Sub-Division of the Noun Division, 19 years old boy born with severe cerebral palsy, that could not creep, stand, sit and talk properly. The only thing that he could do was to move by rolling on the ground for 17 years. After identification by the field worker, he was enrolled in the STEP pilot and focus was to coach his parents and also support him with the right assistive devices to facilitate good positioning. A CP chair was adapted for him, a mattress bought and a wheel chair all to improve on positioning. He is now able to sit on the chair looking good in physical appearance, visiting neighbors, going to church and trying to talk as he moves on the adapted wheel chair and table

Maciene is now a happy youth who participates in family and community life. The family of Peter and the entire community are very happy after seeing these great changes in Peter's life. They extend their appreciation to the organization; Peter's legs and hands that used to be stiff on an almost permanent basis are now flexible and he is able to sit on the chair like any other person. The community members are excited with the changes that are occurring in the life of Peter, things they never dreamt could happen. Peter is experiencing major milestones at this stage of his life, exemplifying the adage that says better late than never. This quality life Peter is leading wouldn't have been possible without the Liliane Foundation and her partners in Cameroon.



Our Partners



 (+237) 673 30 07 11 | 677 00 23 95

 edid@cbchealthservices.org

 @cbchealthservices-cbchs

 @CBCHSORG

