



Actions For
Development And
Empowerment

ANNUAL REPORT

Together we empower grassroots communities ...

2023

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADE : Actions for Development and Empowerment

CODE : Connected Development

CTAP: Covid-19 Transparency and Accountability Project

CSO's: Civil Society Organizations

EPI : Expanded Program on Immunization

FTM : Follow The Money

GBV : Gender Based Violence

HSFA: Health Security Finance Accountability

OGP : Open Governance Partnership

PHC: Primary Health Care centres



WHO WE ARE

Actions for Development and Empowerment (ADE) is a non-profit, and youth-driven organisation founded in 2019 with the aim of empowering citizens to act around issues that affect their lives and play an active role in the development process through the promotion of human rights, democratic governance, civic engagement and social empowerment. With its operational base in Yaounde, Cameroon, ADE focuses on in-depth research, crafting practical solutions, training and empowering citizens to lead change in their community and Africa at large. ADE is registered in Cameroon as a non profit organisation and has members in all ten regions of Cameroon

Our Focus Areas:



Governance and Democracy



Sustainable Development Goals



Peace and Security



OUR VISION :

We envision a world where all people – even in the most remote areas of Africa are equipped and inspired to improve their livelihood and realise the future they want.



OUR MISSION :

Our mission is to build and promote good governance, democratic principles and empower communities through research, advocacy and capacity development.



OUR VALUES :

Integrity
Commitment
Collaboration
Innovation
Inclusion
Learning
Selfcare

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MS. NDI NANCY SAIBOH

Chief Executive, ADE, Country Director,
Follow the Money Cameroon

The year 2023 was exceptional; we attained remarkable strides in line with our objectives to promote Democracy and Good Governance, Sustainable Development Goals, Education, and Girl-child Education.

2023 was full of defining moments as we continued to seek avenues to better the lives of Cameroonians, especially those of the grassroots communities, through continuous advocacy and collaboration with the media, government institutions, and civil society organizations.

During the year, we sought to understand the performance of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in strengthening immunization coverage while sensitizing the Cameroonian population on the importance of vaccination. Our CTAP III project permitted us to carry out community meetings in 5 regions to gather citizens' perceptions on health service delivery and promote conversations about vaccine equity, distribution, and hesitancy.

Through our “Eau Pour Tous” project, we carried out research to obtain detailed information from all the stakeholders involved in the water and sanitation sector in the town of Bertoua and engaged the media in advocacy for universal access to drinking water in the city.

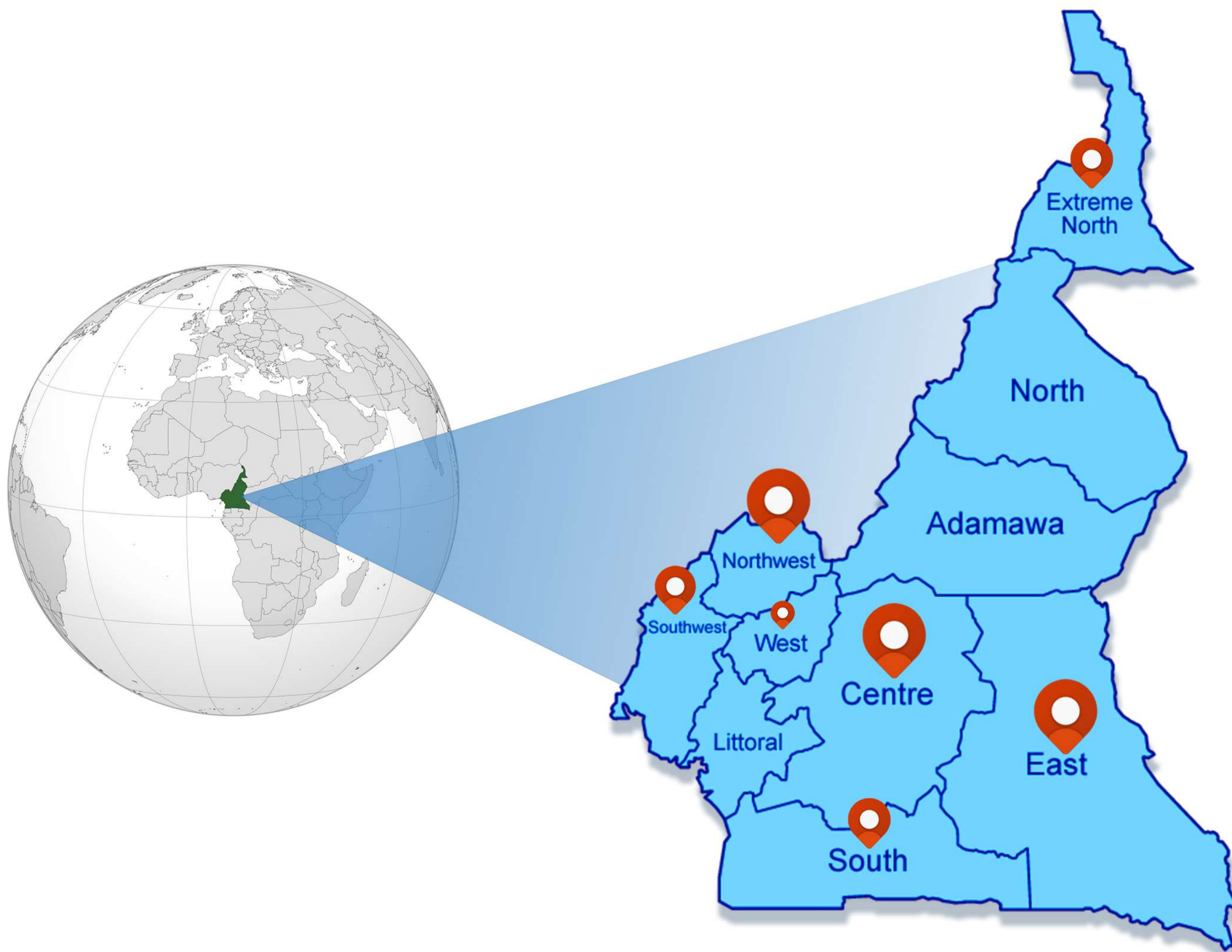
We began to advocate for strengthened health security, finance accountability, domestic resource mobilization, and equitable access to vaccines in Cameroon. Through our HSFA project, 20 journalists were trained on ways to lobby decision-makers to mobilize more financial resources for health security and equitable access to vaccines.

In the year 2023, we were at the forefront of making valuable input to create a more equal and safe environment for women and girls. To address the problems of the girl child in rural areas and conflict zones, 153 underprivileged girls in the Far North and Northwest regions were equipped with Menstrual hygiene kits through the support of our partners and donors. We also sought to strengthen engagement in the fight against Gender-Based Violence by spurring online conversations during the 16 days of activism against GBV.

Through partnerships, we organized the first-ever National Youth Forum for Peace, which enabled us to train 500 youths from the 10 regions of Cameroon on ways to silence hate speech and reduce youth radicalization in Cameroon.

Our work and engagements would not have been possible without the support of all changemakers and national citizens, our funders and partners who are committed to providing a better life to the vulnerable population and the people in need, and my ADE colleagues who believed in the vision.

WHERE WE WORK



Centre region: Yaounde, Bafia, Mfou

South West: Limbe, Buea

North West: Bamenda, Sabga, Bali Nyonga

Far North: Maroua, Tokombere, Mora

East: Bertoua 1, Bertoua 2

South: Bandevouri, Kribi

West: Bandjoun, Bayangam, Bafoussam

LIVES IMPACTED

- 🏆 Community champions: **20**
- 🏛️ Town hall meetings: **05**
- 🤝 Health care workers meeting: **02**
- 👥 Community outreach: **12**
- 📱📷📧 Online: **8 269 persons**

CTAP PHASE III VACCINE EQUITY



Actions for Development and Empowerment (ADE), under the banner of CTAP phase 3: Vaccine Equity sponsored by the Conrad Hilton Foundation in partnership with Connected Development and BudgIT Foundation, is a social accountability-led initiative carried out in 2023. It aims to promote conversations about vaccine equity, distribution, hesitancy, and government commitment to the health sector. In order to achieve the project goal, ADE organized health care workers' meetings, community meetings, and market sensitizations in five regions of Cameroon: Far North, Centre, West, South West, and North West.

1.1 Health care workers meeting

In a bid to initiate conversations on vaccine equity and the performance of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in strengthening immunization coverage, ADE organized a meeting with health personnel (Expanded Program on Immunization, EPI Focal points) in the West region and South West region of Cameroon. The meeting focused on:

- ✓ The presentation of the Covid-19 Transparency and Accountability Project (CTAP) analysis report entitled "COVID-19 Vaccination, contextual analysis & training manual"
- ✓ Data collection on the difficulties encountered by health workers during vaccination
- ✓ Brainstorming on strategies to strengthen immunization coverage in these regions.

Activity Images



Health Care Workers Meeting West region



Health Care Workers Meeting South West



1.2 Community Town Hall Meetings

In line with CTAP 3, we organised community meetings on vaccination and health sector accountability in the Far North, North West, Centre, West and South West regions of Cameroon in the months of July and August 2023. The purpose of these meetings was to engage in conversations about vaccine equity and the performance of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in strengthening immunisation coverage in these regions. In order to collect citizens' perceptions on health service delivery and raise awareness of the importance of vaccination, ADE deployed her staff and paralegals to these regions and carried out conversations with these communities. These conversations permitted us to gather useful information which will aid in the development of the Cameroonian health system.



MORA, FAR NORTH REGION



BANDJOUN AND BAYANGAM, WEST REGION



MFOU, CENTRE REGION



BUEA, SOUTH WEST REGION

BAMENDA I, NORTH WEST REGION



1.3 Market sensitization



Muea market, Buea



Mfou Market, Centre



Bamenda I Market



Mora Market


ADE organised market sensitizations in four towns of Cameroon; Buea, Mfou, Bamenda and Mora to collect citizens' perception on vaccination while demystifying and educating the population of these towns on the importance of vaccination. A team made up of at least five persons were deployed across these markets, spreading messages and educating the population on the importance of vaccination, the different vaccines available at health districts and vaccination campaigns ongoing for children, women, men and the aged in Cameroon.

ADE was assisted by EPI focal points of the regional delegations of Buea and Bamenda in responding to the worries of the population during these market sensitizations. Citizens' perception ranged from lack or inadequate information to the fear of vaccine side effects.






1.4 Partnering with media and Influencers



 **ADE**

In order to achieve more impact in line with our CTAP III Project, ADE partnered with Kwoh Elonge AKA Auntie Felicia for a period of six months. This partnership had as its main aim to push forward the message of healthcare access, investment, and accountability in Cameroon. Throughout the year 2023, ADE used several media outlets nationwide as a powerful tool for advocacy for her projects and initiatives.



HEALTH SECURITY FINANCE ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT



In recognition of the fact that we all have a role to play in achieving better health services, Actions for Development and Empowerment, in partnership with Positive Generation and YOHEDA Health Solutions through the project Health Security Finance Accountability, embarked on a strategic mission to advocate for strengthened health security, finance accountability, domestic resource mobilization, and equitable access to vaccines in Cameroon. This project aims to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs), advocates, and media in Cameroon to meaningfully engage, demand, and improve accountability and transparency in health security finances. The goal is to improve government domestic resource mobilization for Health Security and Local Vaccine Production, increase media visibility of health security finances accountability challenges through investigative journalism, and have an increased number of published and aired stories.

To introduce the HSFA project to implementing partners and the public and to exchange views in line with the three focus areas of the project - Domestic Resource Mobilization, Health Security Finance Accountability, and Vaccines Equitable Access in Cameroon - a press conference was organized on 10 October 2023. The conference aimed to highlight the challenges associated with financial accountability for health security and educate the target audience on issues related to financial responsibility for health security, emphasizing its role in mobilizing local/national resources and ensuring equitable access to vaccines.



HSFA JOURNALISTS WORKSHOP

In an effort to engage major players, such as the media, to enhance communication, improve the processing of information, raise awareness among stakeholders, and advocate for financial accountability in health security, a capacity-building workshop was held on Saturday, 11 November 2023, at Positive-Generation headquarters in Yaounde. The main objective of the workshop was to equip the media with the necessary tools to produce press articles that can influence decision-makers to allocate more financial resources for health security and ensure equitable access to vaccines.





EAU POUR TOUS PROJECT

In 2023, we successfully implemented the “Eau Pour Tous” project in Bertoua I & II, East Region of Cameroon with support from Global Greengrants Fund. This support permitted Actions for Development and Empowerment to advocate for portable water in Bertoua, East region of Cameroon. This advocacy was structured in four main parts:

- ✓ Preliminary visit to project target communities found in the East region of Cameroon
- ✓ Field research carried out in project target communities (Bertoua I and Bertoua II)
- ✓ Presentation of the research report titled: Water and citizens well-being in Bertoua: the case of the Bertoua 1 and Bertoua 2 communities.
- ✓ Advocacy visit to the head office of the water company in Cameroon (CAMWATER)

The first phase of this project focused on preliminary visits and engagement with government as well as local officials in Bertoua I and II in charge of portable water supply. This visit to the project region had the following objectives: presenting the project to the authorities, identifying sites, collecting primary data, facilitating and supporting activities to be implemented (Tracking data), and proposing a schedule for data collection. It allowed ADE to gather first-hand information on all stakeholders involved in the elaboration and execution of water policies in these communities. These visits were carried out in March 2023.



After the preliminary visit, fieldwork in Bertoua took place in April 2023 with the primary motive being to assess the governance of the water and sanitation sector in the city of Bertoua through a data collection questionnaire specific to each stakeholder. This aimed to gain knowledge on the effectiveness of water and sanitation governance, assess the efficiency of water and sanitation, and evaluate citizen participation in the formulation and implementation of public policies. Citizens and government officials linked to the governance of water in this region answered questionnaires that aided in our advocacy for portable water. Additionally, a water sample from this town was collected and tested at the Centre Pasteur, Yaoundé to aid with the research.

After analyzing the data collected from Bertoua II and Ngaikada chieftaincies, on Thursday, November 2, 2023, ADE held a press conference to engage the media in advocacy for access to portable drinking water for all in the city of Bertoua through the presentation of the results of the research entitled "Water Governance and Well-being of the Citizens of the City of Bertoua: The Case of the Municipalities of Bertoua I and Bertoua II." This press conference strengthened the understanding of the actions carried out by ADE and its partner, Global Green Grants Funds, presented the results of the research on water governance in the East Region, and popularized the recommendations made during the research. This stage allowed for widespread dissemination of our research through media outlets to the entire Cameroonian population.

Lastly, to reinforce advocacy for portable water in the East Region, ADE visited the CAMWATER head office in Douala in December 2023 to present findings in hopes of favorable conditions in these communities.



PROMOTING GIRL CHILD EDUCATION

4.1 ONE PAD ONE SMILE CAMPAIGN



To address the problems faced by girls in rural areas and conflict zones, ADE, with the support of its partner, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), and donors, celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day in Bali Nyonga, North West, and Serardoumda, Far North regions of Cameroon through educational talks in line with this year's theme "Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030." A total of 153 young women and girls were sensitized on menstrual hygiene, how to calculate their menstrual cycle, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, and how to maintain good hygiene during their periods. Following these talks, the participants received sanitary kits containing non-disposable pads, washing soap, and a five-liter bucket for better menstrual hygiene management.



Menstrual Hygiene Day in Serardoumda, Far North region



Menstrual Hygiene Day in Bali Nyonga, North west region

4.2 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

In a bid to strengthen engagement in the fight against Gender-Based Violence within the 16 days of activism against GBV, ADE organized a virtual conference on Twitter Spaces titled "Let's Talk GBV" under this year's theme, "UNITE, Invest to prevent violence against Women and Girls." The event, which was attended by about 30 participants, featured intervention topics: i) Ramifications of GBV on an Economy and Cameroon's response ii) Consequences of GBV on the Health and well-being of a community iii) The role of men in protecting women's rights iv) How women and young girls can empower themselves to prevent GBV.

Let's Talk GBV

PANELISTS

- Dr. KENKO Ingrid**
Médecin spécialiste de santé publique. MINSANTE/YOHEDA
- Jokem B. Quinivet**
National Secretary of Human Rights Justice and Peace Popular Action Party (PAP)
- Nkweti Sidoan Tewah**
Moderator
Communications Officer ADE
- Kanda Honourine**
Community Coordinator at #defyhatenow/Civic Watch
- Pertulla Ezigha**
Founder/Executive Director Leap Girl Africa

Unite:
Invest to prevent violence against Women and Girls

Live
@actions4dev

6TH DEC | 11:00 AM

Logos: UNITE, YOHEDA, Leap Girl Africa, LOLA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION, #DEFYHATENOW, ADE

PROMOTING PEACE AND DEMOCRACY



5.1 ELECTIONS OBSERVATION

Through the deployment of Uzabe and 20,000 observers, ADE partnered with Connected development and other CSOs to observe the process and conduct of elections in 1.2 % of polling units across two states; the Kogi State and the federal capital territory state at the 2023 Presidential elections in Nigeria.

Ahead of the 2023 presidential elections on March 24th 2023, we officially unveiled the situation room and deployed Uzabe to share live situation reports from all polling units nationwide to ensure a credible and transparent election.

On the eve of the presidential elections, ADE and other CODE members visited the Okene Kogi state to mobilise people, especially the youth and women, to come out in their numbers to vote for the candidates of their choice. We encouraged them to vote for their leaders and protect their democracy.

The ADE team together with Connected Development's Chief observer, Hamzat Lawal, also visited some INEC offices to observe the distribution of election materials going to their various polling stations.

The key findings during the elections raised several concerns about the management of the presidential elections by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC. Some of the disparities observed at the polls included; The late deployment of INEC Staff and election materials, which led to the late opening of some polling units, citizens faced difficulties in logging in to the INEC Result Viewing Portal, IREV, until late on election day, In some areas where elections did not hold, the results of polls were returned.



KOGI STATE AND THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY STATE NIGERIA





5.2 National Youth Forum For Peace

ADE partnered with the Movement for Democracy, Development and Transparency MDDT with other CSO's to organise the first ever National Youth Forum for Peace in Cameroon from September 27th - 28th under the theme; Promoting Youth advocacy and Reducing Youth radicalization in Cameroon. The forum brought together 500 youths from the 10 regions of Cameroon who were trained on ways to silence hate speech and reduce youth radicalization in Cameroon.





CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

In the year 2023, we faced a couple of challenges. That worth mentioning include long administrative procedures in carrying out some projects, low access to information, and inadequate resources needed to meet our annual objectives for 2023.

Regarding our HSFA and Vaccine Equity project, we faced the challenge of long administrative procedures to execute in some regions, especially in conflict regions. This slowed down our work as we had to reschedule deadlines.

The constraint of low access to information also decelerated our work, especially with the Eau Pour Tous project. Usually, when we approached competent authorities for information related to our work, it was challenging to obtain the necessary information.

We also faced the hurdle of inadequate resources, especially with the One Pad One Smile campaign. Due to limited resources and donations, we could not reach the envisaged number of underprivileged girls, as the project was executed only in two regions.

However, we were able to overcome these challenges as they only acted as foundations for growth. During the Vaccine Equity project, for example, we overcame the long administrative procedures by using our partnership with the Ministry of Public Health to facilitate the authorization of our activities in various regions. This way, we learned to utilize our network to fast-track administrative delays. Additionally, we have also learned alternative ways of collecting data for our projects over time.

To raise funds for our activities in line with our annual objectives, ADE learned to come up with innovative ideas that will permit the organization to impact more communities through its focus areas.

2023

Highlights

ADE partnered with the Movement for Democracy, Development and Transparency MDDT with other CSO's to organise the first ever National Youth Forum for Peace in Cameroon under the theme; Promoting Youth advocacy and Reducing Youth radicalization in Cameroon. 500 youths from the 10 regions of Cameroon were trained on ways to silent hate speech and reduce youth radicalization in Cameroon.



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2023 HIGHLIGHTS

2023

Highlights

Carried out Community Town Hall meetings, Market sensitization and Health Care workers meetings in Five regions to promote conversations about vaccine equity, distribution, hesitancy and government commitment to the health sector.



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2023

Highlights

Conducted a research to assess the effectiveness of all stakeholders involved in the Water and Sanitation sector in Bertoua 1&2 and engaged the media in advocacy for universal access to drinking water in the city.



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2023

Highlights

Trained 10 journalists from different media houses to publish and/or air at least 5 media reports on Health Security Finances Accountability, advocacy on Domestic Resource Mobilization and local vaccine production.



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2023

Highlights

Promoting Girl Child Education

Mobilised and shared Menstrual Hygiene kits to underprivileged girls in Bali Nyonga, North West and Serardoumda, Far North regions of Cameroon through educative talks on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRHR) and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).



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2023

Highlights

Fight Against Gender Based Violence

Organised an online webinar on twitter space with over 30 participants to strengthen engagement in the fight against Gender-Based Violence.



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2023

Highlights

International Events and Travels

Attended the African Regional Advocacy Summit for NGOs And Media in Abuja, Nigeria.

Converged at the fourth regional seminar of the Support Project for Francophone Open Governments (#PAGOF) in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Which aimed to promote and share good practices, tools and successful experiences of the Partnership for Open Government (OGP) in French-speaking African countries already members of OGP and those wishing to join.



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OUR PARTNERS



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The Money



COVID-19 TRANSPARENCY &
ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFRICA



MINSANTE
Ministère de la Santé Publique



YOUTH FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICA
Les Jeunes pour les actions de santé et le développement de l'Afrique



YOUTHS FOR A BETTER CAMEROON



connecteddevelopment.org



GLOBAL INTEGRITY
Data, Learning & Action for Open Governance



AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AU CAMEROUN

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité



MDDT
Movement for
Democracy
Development and
Transparency



AFRICA HEALTH
BUDGET NETWORK



MINPROFF



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