

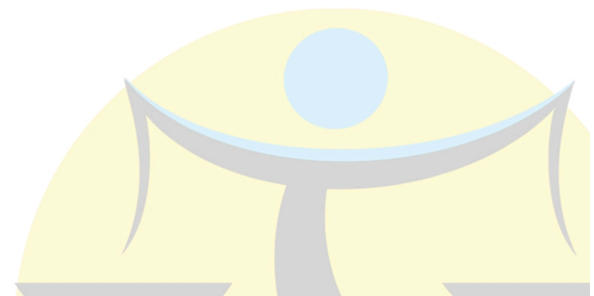
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2018

Annual Report



*Combating Sexual Violence in Armed
Conflict in Cameroon*





Message from founder

Dear Friends,

When we launched CYJULERC in 2003, we had a deep conviction that we could and must act against the violations of women and children's rights in Cameroon. CYJULERC has now become a standard for activism on the ground where we try to translate women and children's needs into national law, policy and practice.

This report looks at our contribution to assert women's rights during the on-going conflicts in Cameroon, as we take on the challenging task of combating sexual violence in conflict zones in Cameroon.

The report also discuss CYJULERC's efforts in alleviating the untold sufferings of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are abused and exploited for labour, assaulted and sometimes raped by their host communities; by providing them with livelihood skills and start-ups to enable them survive these extremely difficult moments of their lives.

As we look back on this year, we want to express our sincere gratitude to all our donors for their financial contributions, for without their generosity, these projects could not been implemented.

We also want to thank our friends and supporters, colleagues and companions, who have given their time and shared their wealth of knowledge and wisdom with us. We want to thank our members who helped frame our strategic plan and joined us to make these projects a success. We could not do this work without you.

Many thanks for supporting us as we make efforts to secure justice for women, children, and the internally displaced persons.

Esther Ayuk

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Esther Ayuk".

ANNUAL REPORT

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Mission Statement

CYJULERC's mission is to contribute to the respect of human rights of women, children, and marginalized communities, through the fight against discriminatory traditional practices, the implementation of grassroots empowerment projects, advocacy to influence policies and promoting the adoption and enforcement of legislation.

Vision

Our vision is to contribute to building a fair and equitable society free from abuse and marginalization, and create communities that guarantee the respect of women and children's human rights, the rule of law and a better world that upholds human dignity.

Who we are

Cameroon Young Jurists Legal Resource Center (CYJULERC) was created in 2003 with Registration No 236/G.37/D.14/Vol.8/T/ OAPP with a membership of over eighty (80). CYJULERC is a predominantly feminist membership nongovernmental, nonprofit organization working to promote women and children's human rights, and for the empowerment of marginalized communities in the entire nation of Cameroon and the Central African region.

CYJULERC has a head office in Buea, in the South West region and two field offices in Mamfe in the Manyu Division of the South West region and Kousseri in the Logone & Chari Division of the Far North region.

For close to seventeen (17) years, CYJULERC has contributed to achieving legislation to criminalized worst forms of discriminatory cultural practices against women, promoted juvenile justice and children's education, fighting sexual violence in conflict, and the empowerment of women and their families.

Among our successes is advocacy for law to criminalize Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and six (06) other laws criminalizing abuses on women and children adopted in the 2016 Penal Code and the construction of a multimedia center and a Community Radio, FM95.0; and creation of a Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Farmer's Cooperative and installation of NTFP processing plant.

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Activities of Report

Our work, in 2018 CYJULERC implemented two (02) projects. The first is 'Preventing Sexual Violence within Networks in Conflict Zones of Cameroon' and the second is 'Providing sustainable livelihood for internally displaced women and youths (IDPs)'.

1. Preventing Sexual Violence within Networks in Conflict Zones of Cameroon

Cameroon has been plagued with armed conflicts for over five (5) years with the arrival of 250,000 Nigerians fleeing Boko Haram in the Far North region and the onset of separatist's movement in the two English - speaking regions of the South West and North West. Being the most vulnerable groups, women and girls were most hit by both conflicts, as sexual violence did not only increase; it was most often targeted at them. Before this project, very little was done to support victims of sexual violence in the two English-speaking regions.

In an effort to help support desperate women and girls who were victims, the British High Commission with grants donated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and a partner, Wim Jansen in collaboration with Rotary Amsterdam jointly funded the sexual violence in conflict zones project.



ANNUAL REPORT

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Objectives

The objectives of the Grant were to raise awareness, educate actors / stakeholders, train women's rights organization and community leaders, and support centers for women, to reduce sexual violence and ensure victims/survivors are supported during the on-going armed conflict in the afore-cited three conflict regions of Cameroon.



Some survivors



Activities

The activities of the project consisted of three (03) main capacity building workshops implemented in the targeted three (03) conflict zones of the North West, South West and Far North Regions.

The capacity of one hundred and eight (108) participants was built in the three (03) workshops which held in Bamenda and Limbe in September and October 2018 and in Kousseri in November of the same year.

Five (5) modules were presented at each workshop, to wit: General introduction of the project, the rationale and the expected goals (module 1), a general paper of sexual and gender-based violence and with emphasis on sexual violence in conflict - consequences – physical & psychological consequences (module 2).

The Legal framework of sexual violence – national & international (module 3), and Prevention & Response – psycho – social support, legal and medical support were presented and creation of focal persons and networks (Sexual violence actors networks) (module 4).



Limbe workshop



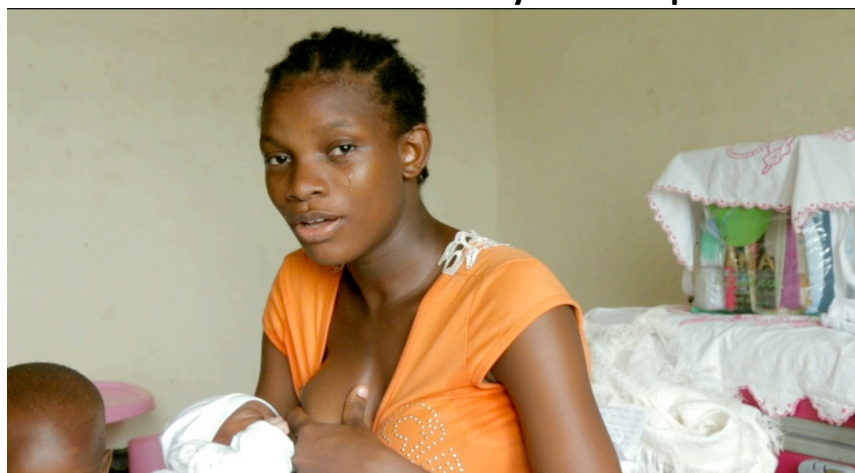
Bamenda workshop

Impact

- 120 women's rights promoters, judiciary, judicial police officers, community leaders trained and increase capacity of local administrators on prevention of sexual violence in conflict;
- Three centers strengthened to monitor incidents of sexual violence, support victims, collect data and follow-up cases;
- Support to three medical centers & creation of medical units to provide medical support to victims of sexual violence;
- A drop in sexual violence in conflict zones of South West & North West Regions and perpetrators are held accountable;
- 120 survivors benefitted various levels of financial support for medical bills and sustenance and preparation of childbirth, and legal support.



Survivors with her baby out of rape



Recommendations

At the end of the project and the exchange of experiences, participants realized the prevalence of sexual violence in conflict was high and very or no efforts was done by the government to address it despite the fact that Cameroon has two ongoing conflicts in three of its ten (10) regions.

All the participants recommended that:

- a network of sexual violence survivors be created to enable them advocate for compensation from the government;
- the three (03) WhatsApp forums created be constituted to a network of organizations for the fight for justice for sexual violence survivors;
- the network of organizations work to provide the necessary support to the survivors of sexual violence;
- both networks lobby government and stakeholders to justice and ensure perpetrators are held accountable;
- both networks lobby government to train health and legal professionals on how to collect evidence, investigate and prosecute cases so as to ensure accountability of our thousands of survivors of sexual violence.



2. Providing sustainable livelihood for internally displaced women and youths (IDPs)'

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) undergo untold suffering for they have no jobs or means of livelihoods, as such they are abused and exploited for labour, survival sex, and sometimes raped by their host communities, with many teenage girls getting unwanted pregnancies, STDs, HIV and Aids .

Most of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the two conflict regions of South West and North West are in and around the outskirts of the two biggest cities of Yaoundé and Douala. Having fled from their communities due to armed conflict, and after over four (04) years, they have very little or no means of livelihoods. They are abused and exploited by their host communities for labour, street vending and sexual violence. Many have no jobs and no source of livelihood. The women and girls are sexually abused and exploited and sometimes engage in survival sex and sometimes rape, while the youths are exploited for labour often with little or no pay.



Women and Children take refuge in a farm as they flee Armed Conflict in the South West Region of Cameroon

CYJULERC saw an urgent need to provide sustainable means of livelihood to IDPs and their families so as to curb the untold suffering, abuse and exploitation,

ANNUAL REPORT

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reduce poverty, reduce sexual exploitation and unwanted pregnancies, reduce exposure to STDs & HIV/Aids, and to improve on the standard of living of IDPs.

With own funding, CYJULERC decided to give some IDPs a livelihood. Being a short training program and considering that there is scarcity of chicken in the regions, training in commercial poultry farming is best to give women, youths and their households' sustainable livelihoods and increase availability of affordable chicken in the conflict zones.



Objectives

The overall objective is to prevent abuse and exploitation by giving livelihood skills and sustainable income to IDPs families by training them as smallholder poultry farmers for sustainable income generation; to provide affordable chicken to main cities of the conflict zones, and to develop **agri-business entrepreneurship** capacity in poultry farming, with a view of transforming it into smallholders poultry business hub in villages during resettlement in their communities.



Activities

In partnership with ANICARE Complexe Avicole Ltd, a large farm at the outskirts of Yaoundé, which is specialized in broilers production, CYJULERC trained four (04) women and six (06) youths (IDPs) in poultry farming in 2018 - 2019.

Each trainee represented a household, and at the end of their training period, they were given 500 birds each and the necessary technical and financial support for the entire period of production, which was six (6) weeks. ANICARE Complexe Avicole Ltd has put its vast land of about 15 hectares at the disposal of the trainees as part of his contribution to alleviation of the sufferings of the IDPs.

The training program is short – three (03) months, and the lifecycle of production is also very short, six (06) weeks for broilers (table birds) to be ready for the market, so many IDPs can be trained and given start-up capital. Technical assistance and expertise was by ANICARE Complexe Avicole Ltd, the technical partner of the project.



Impact

Ten (10) families of a 68 persons have thus been given start-up capital, and they are using the land made available to them by ANICARE Complexe Avicole Ltd to produce chicken to make a sustainable income for the family and to provide protein for the family.

This project is sustaining the sixty-eight (68) persons in their host communities until such time that they will be able to go back to the village communities at the end of the conflict. Part of the chicken from the project is shipped to cities in the conflict zones to reduce scarcity, improve on available protein and drop the high prices of chicken.



ANNUAL REPORT

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Recommendations

Dissemination of this project will be very easy for many IDPs can be trained.

The project can also serve as a resettlement project in their communities, provide income for families and provide affordable protein to the population of the conflict regions;

The project will also curb poaching of wildlife when IDPs resettle considering there will be available and affordable protein for the population;

There is a huge inexhaustible market in neighboring Nigeria, so Manyu people will be able to make sustainable income from poultry farming;

We recommend that the government invest in the project so that IDPs from each village community in the conflict zone are trained so this project can be used as a resettlement and to develop **agri-business entrepreneurship** capacity in poultry farming, with a view of transforming it into smallholders' poultry business hub in villages during resettlement in their communities.



Appreciation

Our sincere gratitude goes to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British High Commission in Yaoundé, Cameroon, for their financial support that enabled the implementation of the **'Preventing Sexual Violence within Networks in Conflict Zones of Cameroon'** project.

Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to our good friend Wim Jansen and Rotary Amsterdam for their invaluable financial contribution to the implementation of **'Preventing Sexual Violence within Networks in Conflict Zones of Cameroon'** project.

Words cannot convey our appreciation to the General Manager of ANICARE Complexe Avicole Ltd and the entire staff of the parental farm. The beneficiaries of the poultry farming training and the CYJULERC organization we will forever remain indebted to you.

We also think of patrons and members who donate, all those provide hands-on aid, will forever remain grateful to them.

CYJULERC, the voice of the voiceless is by this medium extending the sincere appreciation of all the direct and indirect beneficiaries of these two projects to the donors who came to their rescue at these very difficult times of their lives.



Tabot Beltus, a beneficiary of the Poultry Farming for sustainable livelihood