

H4BF

Annual Report



FY- 2020

We went into 2020 with a great plan—the chessboard was laid out, and we knew our next 30 moves. Then COVID-19 hit, and every piece on the chessboard moved. With your unwavering support, we were able to pivot our plans to make a difference in this new reality.
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VOTE OF THANKS

H4BF delivers programmes in partnership beneficiary communities to help ensure that every women and child's lives in a safe and clean environment to meet their basic needs and expands their opportunities to reach their full potential. H4BF would like to express its deep appreciation to all resource partners including the **UNDP, UNFPA, Global Aid for Africa, MasterPeace Foundation, RDF Cameroon, International Cities of Peace, food plant solution**, who have generously contributed to its work on WASH, Gender Based violence (GBV), Nutrition, Peace Building, Agriculture, food security, Child protection, Health for women and children including persons with disability in the regions.

H4BF would like to extend particular thanks to partners who provided thematic funding including the UNDP, RDF Cameroon and Global Aid for Africa for H4BF; MasterPeace Foundation for technical support and recommendations, International cities of peace for recommending H4BF to funding partners.

The thematic funding has enabled H4BF to support communities within North West, South West, West, Center and Littoral regions of Cameroon to strengthen the enabling environments and deliver strategic direct interventions that bring Humanitarian Services to marginalized women and children (including persons with disability), their families and communities. Thematic funding provides greater flexibility, enables H4BF to continuously improve the quality of interventions, allows for longer-term planning and makes programmes more sustainable. It reflects the trust that resource partners have in H4BF's capacity and ability to deliver quality support under all circumstances and has made possible the results described in this report. Finally, H4BF takes this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in us, and in our work for women, children their families and communities within North West, South West, West, Center and Littoral regions of Cameroon.

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CONTEXT

In 2020, humanitarian needs in Cameroon remain acute with 3.9 million people in need of emergency assistance resulted from Boko Haram related crisis in the Far-North Region, the situation of over 270,000 vulnerable refugees from the Central African Republic in Cameroon's eastern regions, and the ongoing socio-political crisis in the North West and South West (NWSW) regions. In November 2017, the socio-political crisis in the North West and South West regions turned into an armed conflict with major humanitarian impact. Almost 680,000 Cameroonians are now internally displaced due to this conflict in addition to some 204,000 returnees and 52,000 refugees in Nigeria. The majority (52%) of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) are women and children. The displaced communities have acute needs for protection, food, shelter/NFI, water and sanitation as well as access to health and education. Various assessments¹ have revealed that most of the humanitarian needs have a direct impact on women and girls' protection against Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Protection monitoring reported 289 cases of SGBV in 2019. Out of these cases, 73% are sexual violence incidents, 93% of survivors are IDPs among whom 82% are female and 37% are children. The analysis of some reports received from GBV Sub Cluster (GBV SC) member revealed 1,065 GBV incidents reported in 2019 and received various support including psychosocial support and medical services.

These incidents out of which 31% are sexual violence affect mostly women and girls. The capacity of the government to continue providing basic social services including SRH and GBV has been considerably affected. More than 80 percent of the Government run health facilities are not operational and the remaining are only partially functional in the NWSW regions making the provision of quality clinical management of rape insufficient for women and girls.

The humanitarian needs in NWSW was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and has spread all over the world. The first case in Cameroon reported on 6 March 2020. The number of cases has increased steadily and is at 26,277 confirmed cases as of 29 December 2020. With this outbreak, the existing gender inequalities and vulnerabilities⁴ and risks of abuse may increase; women and girls may be at higher risk of intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence due to heightened tensions in the household and confinement. Other vulnerable people in this situation include elderly people, people with disabilities and children who may not have the appropriate care and access to services. Women and girls access to lifesaving SRH and GBV information and services might be considerably impacted due to insufficient capacities and resources of the government and partners to address both the needs for COVID-19 response as well as emergency SRH and GBV services in conflict-affected areas.

According to WHO5, 22% of people in conflict-affected areas have a mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder. Confinement and other measures limiting the freedom of movement or having an impact on access to basic livelihoods might have an impact on mental health too. IDPs women and girls vulnerabilities to mental health issues is increased due to the combination of the GBV trauma, the fear of COVID-19 confinement measures and the general fear of instability due to the ongoing conflict. Most of the IDPs are staying in host communities families, in overcrowded rooms, and bushes in hard to reach areas which exacerbate their vulnerabilities to GBV and COVID-19 and limit their access to existing services.



Despite challenging time, H4BF have been inspired and motivated. It has been a joy to witness H4BF's new initiatives come to life this year.

Cheers to another year of changing lives together.

Program's Achievement Highlights

Agriculture, Food Security & Livelihood

- 50 unemployed youths and leaders of farming communities between 16-35 years have received training on climate smart agriculture and agro pastoral activities for 2 years and 10 months training course at the H4BF Biofarm center
- More than 100 women, youths and leaders of farming communities have received training on livestock production/ management, planting technics, post-harvest management for the short course program at the H4BF Biofarm Centre
- Donated food to 150 households and over 2,200 internally displaced persons.
- Monthly Multipurpose Cash assistance provided to 50 household benefiting over 320 internally, displaced persons in Ako sub division, Donga Mantung.

Child Protection

- Over 20,000 children, parents, teachers, and caregivers reached through awareness creation on prevention techniques- teaching them how to stop abuse before it begins
- Over 12 workshops organized on effective investigations with a child victim-centric approach.
- Over 281 survivors and their families connected with shelter, medical care, counselling, educational support, and legal assistance throughout the judicial process and beyond.

Education

- Provided access to learning opportunities for over 1,000 girls and boys with 523 girls and boys in early learning programmes, 213 at primary level and 264 at the secondary level.
- We have Established School Environmental gardens in 4 schools to inculcate values of environmental protection and management in pupils and youths.
- Distributed over 12000 face Masks within 28 schools in North West and West regions.
- Installed four washing station in four schools to combat the spread of COVID 19.

Nutrition & Shelter

- More than 80 peasant farmers trained on Growing Healthy Food
- Over 600 one-on-one counselling sessions provided to women on exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months, weaning techniques, and maternal and child health and nutrition

- Over 80 micro loans provided with interested mothers to provide business & money management training and access to microloans to start or grow a business.
- Over 20 women groups empowered to increase access to high-quality foods, income-generating activities, and nutrition knowledge.
- 500 shelter kits distributed
- Non-food items distributed to over 800 Households



Gender Based Violence

- Over 500 women trained basic management, group dynamics, record keeping and supported with startup materials to begin their own businesses

- Over 86 micro loans provided with interested mothers to provide business & money management training and access to microloans to start or grow a business.
- Over 52,000 sensitized on gender base violence and women rights.

Health

- 10 female nurses' state registered nurses have been trained and supported to become entrepreneurs and to open health clinics in rural areas.
- Trained over 30 CHW and engaged them to provide preventive and curative basic health care to IDPS in bushes, affected communities, urban and peri urban areas
- Over 15 free classes organize in Nutrition, Dance, Meditation, Pilates, Awareness
- Over 7 individual provided with non-invasive care via partnerships with health districts in Bamenda

Water, Hygiene & Sanitation

- 13 villages trained (girls and boys, households and authorities) on adopting hygiene and sanitation practices
- 5 community provided with access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation, handwashing, and menstrual hygiene facilities
- 400: villages (local authorities) take ownership for water supply, sanitation and hygiene services
- We have trained 2 water management committees in all communities where we have provided potable water

Youth Engagements & Peace Building

- Over 12 workshops organized on youth career orientation and youth involvement on peace building, community development, and electoral process
- 300 youths trained and supported with start-up materials to start up their own businesses

Detailed Activities & Achievements

Over the course of 2020, H4BF received 167 applications from communities in need of food items, water and sanitation, school/health infrastructure support. These applications were diverse in need and origin. While most of the applications presented the problem of lack of water and sanitation in the different schools, a host of others presented the problem of rehabilitation or the need for teachers. Several also requested support for school nutrition, workshops and computer rooms. The applications ranged from nursery through primary to secondary and high schools, and covered government, denominational and private schools. The applications came from all the regions of Cameroon.



Need Assessment

The humanitarian situation in the North West and southwest regions of Cameroon has indeed been skyrocketing. The effects of these crises are not felt only in these affected regions, but have also spread to neighboring west and Littoral regions as many IDPs have fled to these regions for reasons including, safety, education etc. H4BF together conducted a need assessment in where we identified over 5000 households and 21,406 IDPS in need of WASH, shelter, Food, nutrition etc. These was conducted in the Noun, Menoua, Mifi and Bamboutous divisions of the West region.

Agriculture, Food Security & Livelihood

Agriculture

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

- Train peasant farmers (women and out of school youths) on organic farming methods and renewable energy through short and long course programs.
- Support peasant farmers with local and mechanized farming equipment for a greater output.
- Train and support displaced women, returnee women and out of school youths on modern animal farming techniques.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2020, H4BF trained over 300 women and 100 out of school youths on organic farming techniques thereby reaching out to over 15,000 persons. There was also massive sensitization on the renewable energy school, which will go operational as from January 2021.
- Moreover, H4BF donated local and mechanized farming equipment to 150 women and 50 out of school youths. The Equipment ranged from cutlasses, hoes and electric welders.
- It was also of utmost importance to train women and out of school youths on pig and poultry farming as the droppings could be used as manure to improve on their farm yields.





ACHIEVEMENTS

- Trained over 400 caregivers, women and youths on home gardening to cultivate highly nutritive crops.
- Created 5 action-oriented Infant and Young Child Feeding IYCF support groups with members including grandmother, mothers of SAM/MAM children, children with disabilities and women of childbearing age.
- Sensitize over 15,000 members of host community on key household practices including hygiene promotion and good nutrition practice.
- Donated food to 150 households and over 2,200 internally displaced persons.

- Monthly Multipurpose Cash assistance provided to 50 household benefiting over 320 internally, displaced persons in Ako sub division, Donga Mantung.



Project Approach

We selected and registered 600 households from 10 LGAs within Donga Mantung and Bui Division previously engaged in irrigation farming, and assisted them with rehabilitation of their irrigation schemes. We targeted a maximum of 1 hectare per household. 2. We provided Small-scale business trainings and distribution of startup grants: H4BF also supported 200 households, mainly female-headed households with trainings on selection, planning and management of small-scale business, beneficiaries were supported with a business grant approximately \$177 to enable them to start an income generating activity of their choice. With the Outbreak of COVID 19, other components like food distribution and Multi Cash transfer modalities were incorporated to benefited affected beneficiaries whom were also victims of the Anglophone crisis and gender-based violence.



H4BF
HOPE FOR A
BETTER FUTURE
CAMEROON

COVID-19 OUTREACH
Photo by: Divine Surjo N.

Child Protection, Education & Nutrition

Child Protection.

H4BF aims at improving safe and dignified access to quality Child Protection and MHPSS services addressing the needs of displaced and vulnerable children and host community girls, boys, men and women.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

- To create a child-friendly space for which children can attend and grow without fear.
- To establish a community-based child protection mechanism, in which community members will be capacitated and aware of child protection concerns and work to protect their own children.
- To provide structured MHPSS tailored to the needs and interests of girls, boys and adolescents.
- To promote best practice of hygiene and Sanitation among children to combat the spread of COVID- 19.



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Achievements

- Over 20,000 children, parents, teachers, and caregivers reached through awareness creation on prevention techniques- teaching them how to stop abuse before it begins
- Over 12 workshops organized on effective investigations with a child victim-centric approach.
- 1 child friendly created in Nkambe.
- structured MHPSS provided to over 345 children
- Over 81 survivors and their families connected with shelter, medical care, counselling, educational support, and legal assistance throughout the judicial process and beyond.
- Over 41 displaced children enrolled in school.



Nutrition

The main goals to provide a live-saving intervention that will prevent the death of children due to malnutrition and contribute to reduction and prevention of malnutrition in communities affected by the Anglophone crisis.

Specific Objective:

- To improve access and utilization of nutrition and basic health services in primary health care facilities in accessible communities
- To improve the knowledge and practice of members of communities on good nutrition and key household practices
- Improve coordination and integration of nutrition specific intervention with other multi-sector nutrition sensitive interventions at the community level.

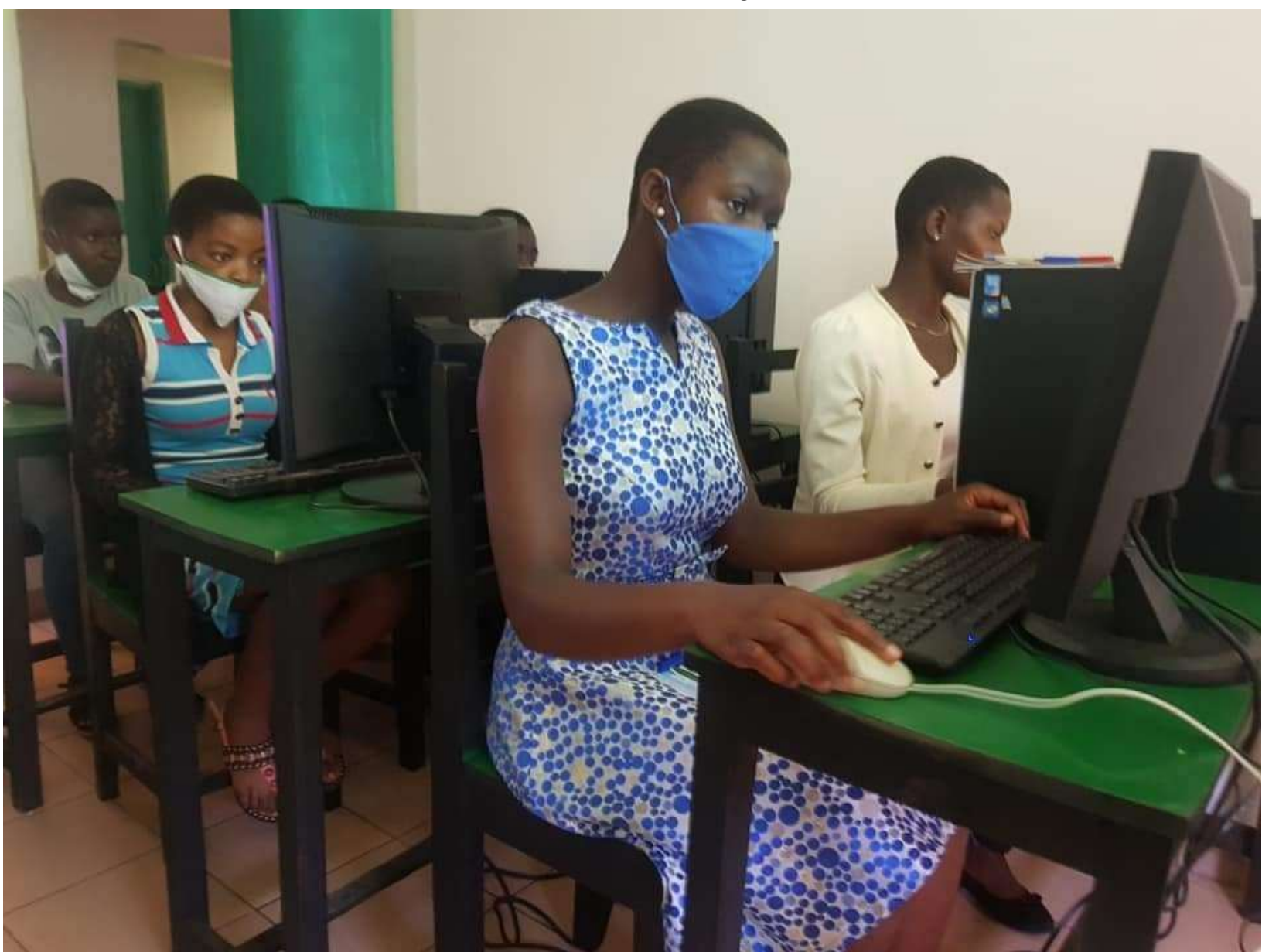


Achievements

- IYCF counseling / awareness carryout in 5 host communities within Donga Mantung (Nkambe, Ndu, Ako, Nwa and Misaje).
- 312 caretakers trained on family MUAC activity
- 35 caregivers trained on gardening and poultry farming to produce highly nutritive food.
- Over 3000 members in 15 host communities sensitized on key household practices including hygiene promotion and good nutrition practice

Education

We targeted 1,000 children and adolescents over the period January – December 2020, of which (55%) were female. H4BF focus was on reaching girls and boys in Wouri and Nkam in Littoral region and, Mezam and Donga Mantung in North West region Cameroon. In total, over 632 girls and boys were provided access learning opportunities, including some 44 girls and boys in early learning programmes, 342 at primary level and some 246 at the secondary level, in both formal and non-formal education settings.



Youth Engagement & Peace Building

H4BF Youth Empowerment Program is designed to enable the youth to access the resources and training they need to lead healthy lives, revitalize their culture and achieve their goals. H4BF organizes workshops and intercultural exchanges, within communities in Cameroon, in order to help the youth step into their rightful role as positive change-makers for their communities.



Achievements

- 1 youth empowerment center was created in Bamenda.

- 312 youths were trained on smart agriculture, fashion, computer courses and renewable energy.
- 52 youths were provided with structured MHPSS tailored to the needs and interests.
- 4 workshops were organized on Career orientation, Youth engagement on electoral process, the role of youth in peace building, and Youths in IT.
- On the use of talents to promote peace, a Facebook Live concert was organized of which 12 different with artists from 5 regions of Cameroon presented peace songs and emphasized on the need for non- violence to handle conflicts



Women Empowerment and Peace Building

Gender Based Violence

Overall Objective:

To rehearse dignity of vulnerable women, girls, boys, men, improve access to Quality GBV services and strengthen their resilience, H4BF shall provide standardized dignity kits, access to quality P.S.S to women, girls, boys, men of reproductive age as well as strengthening their resilience through livelihood support activities.





Achievements

- 341 women provided with MHPSS
- 30 community outreach workers (CWs) and psychologists trained to provide SRH services
- Over 500 women trained basic management, group dynamics, record keeping and supported with startup materials to begin their own businesses
- Over 86 micro loans provided with interested mothers to provide business & money management training and access to microloans to start or grow a business.
- Over 52,000 sensitized on gender base violence and women rights.



Health and COVID-19

Overall Objective:

To Increase access to lifesaving basic health care interventions and services for vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host communities.

Specific Objectives:

- To provide Comprehensive Sexual reproductive health services to women of reproductive age including pregnant women in communities and support health facilities.
- To provide referral and specialized services to survivors of obstetric complications
- To Procure and distribute medical equipment, supplies, Reproductive Health Kits, dignity kits and other items essential for health services
- Strengthen advocacy and leadership of the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) sub-working group under the health sector to channel support to the maternal health programme and specific response.
- Advocate at health sector level to ensure uninterrupted access to maternal health, and non-diversion of healthcare.
- To sensitize affected communities on save measures of COVID – 19 and distribute PPE (face mask, WaSH kits, etc).



Achievements

- 37 health workers trained on the risk and mitigation of stigma and discrimination and engaged in the sensitization of pregnant women on the COVID-19 infection symptoms and related prevention and hygiene messages.
- 20 health workers provided with (PPE) equipment's (gloves and masks, gowns and protective lenses).
- 6000 face masks distributed to pregnant, and displaced women within Mezam, Kumbo and Donga Mantung
- Over 45000 sensitized on covid 19
- Psychosocial Support provided to 72 survivors of Gender Based Violence



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WaSH)

MAJOR OBJECTIVES:

The major objective of the water, hygiene and sanitation program at H4BF is improving access of rural communities to portable water and improve general hygiene standards. This specifically entails; providing clean portable water in at least 10 rural communities and organizing hygiene awareness campaigns and workshops in Cameroon every year to reduce the incident of water borne diseases in these communities.



The aim for 2020 was to provide equitable access to safe water and sufficient quantity for drinking and domestic purposes and safe sanitation. We adopted basic personal hygiene among the affected people of concern. Monitoring and maintenance of these facilities was conducted; we also created feedback mechanisms, hotlines, and complaint and feedback mechanism within Mezam and Donga Mantung in the North West region of Cameroon.

Achievements

- In Partnership with RDF Cameroon, we completed the rehabilitation of a water catchment in Didango community, Under Koutaba, in Noun Division, West region.
- Digging of a protected water well in Ako town, Donga Mantung,

- Distributed 800 WaSH kits to female-headed families within Bamenda III in Mezam, Ako and Misaje in Donga Mantung.
- Trained a water management committee in Didango community



STAFFS CAPACITY BUILDING

Building the capacity our staffs is an essential part of programme implementation of which we take seriously. 2020 training sessions were both internal and external, internal staffs were trained via online courses and via workshops.

Internal training

Training were organized in the following topic to strengthen the capacity of H4BF internal staffs.

- GBV case management
- Humanitarian response guiding principles
- Finance and resource management.
- MEB refresher training.
- COVID 19 Mass Gathering RISK assessment training
- Covid 19 - integrating gender-based violence risk mitigation
- Programming with and for adolescents
- Developing, Mentoring and Supporting Youth Leadership



External Training

External training included those organized by different agencies. Topics included:

- GBV case Management by UNFPA
- MEB refresher training for North West By WFP
- COVID 19 Mass Gathering RISK assessment training By UNICEF online course
- Covid 19 - integrating gender-based violence risk mitigation by UNICEF online course
- Programming with and for adolescents by UNICEF online course

- ONG capacity building workshop on financial management and accounting for UNDP technical partners By UNDP
- GBVIMS training By UNFPA
- Humanitarian Cash Transfers (HCT) by UNICEF online course.



MAJOR CHALLENGES

- More beneficiaries and communities are more aware of H4BF's activities and, demanding her services. As a low resource, project dependent organisation, H4BF material and human resources are insufficient to meet these demands.
- H4BF still has the key challenge of no funds for staff salary or operational cost. H4BF depend on volunteers for her service delivery
- All H4BF vehicles are obsolete apart from one Hilux, which cannot cover all projects in all 10 Regions of Cameroon. This really slows project monitoring and project timeframe not met.
- The socio-political crises in the country is also a limiting factor hindering execution of projects.
- In 2020, the educational projects were not really functioning as most schools in the troubled regions had completely shut down due to intense crisis and outbreak of COVID 19.
- The outbreak of COVID-19 delays some of our funding(Some partners withhold funding)

Despite this challenging time, H4BF have been inspired and motivated. It has been a joy to witness H4BF's new initiatives come to life this year.

Cheers to another year of changing lives together.

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Partnership

H4BF HEAD OFFICE:

During FY2020, H4BF entered into new partnerships and continued existing ones to implement strategic programmes with the support from various partners and donors at the global, regional, and country levels. Global partners, in addition to Global Aid for Africa, MasterPeace Foundation and UNDP include:

