



WOMEN IN ALTERNATIVE ACTION CAMEROON

PROGRESS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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WAA Cameroon

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List of Abbreviations/acronyms

- CCAS** – Cameroon College of Arts and Sciences
- CCSS** – Christian Comprehensive Secondary School
- CKC** – Christ the King College
- CRTV** – Cameroon Radio Television
- DO** – Divisional Officer
- EHS** – English High School
- FCSS** – Faith Comprehensive Secondary School
- FGM** – Female Genital Mutilation
- GAMIP** – Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace
- GBHS** – Government Bilingual High School
- GBV** – Gender-Based Violence
- GNB** – Girls Not Bride
- GPPAC** – Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
- IDP** – International Day of Peace
- MNJEC** – Ministry of Youths and Civic Education
- MINPROFF** – Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family
- NGO** – Non-Governmental Organization
- NYCP** – National Youth Camp for Peace
- PMEL** – Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
- PSS** – Presbyterian Secondary School
- QPI** – Queens for Peace
- R4G** – Room4Girls Initiative
- SRHR** – Sexual Reproductive Health and Right
- TCC** – Trauma Centre Cameroon
- UNICEF** – United Nations Children’s Fund
- UN ECOSOC** – United Nations Economic and Social Council
- UNFPA** – United Nations Fund for Population Activities
- UNSCR** – United Nations Security Council Resolution
- VOYCE** – Voices of Youth in Cameroon for Peace
- WAA** Cameroon – Women in Alternative Action Cameroon

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Introduction

Women in Alternative Action (WAA) Cameroon is a dynamic and impactful NGO dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights in Cameroon. Since its establishment in 2004, WAA has been empowering marginalized communities, with a particular focus on women, girls, youth, and ethnic minorities affected by conflict.

This organization firmly believes in the power of gender justice, equality, and peacebuilding with much emphasis on creating innovative and sustainable opportunities for women, youth, and girls not only in Cameroon. Our mission goes beyond promoting and protecting rights; it encompasses driving progress and development for the empowerment of youth, women, and girls. At WAA Cameroon, we recognize that achieving sustainable development requires addressing various facets of empowerment. This explains why we provide training in livelihood development and economic empowerment to women and youth leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to become successful social entrepreneurs in Cameroon. By doing so, we contribute to the broader development goals of our nation and the sub-region.

As you delve into this Annual Report, you will gain valuable insights into the impactful work WAA Cameroon has accomplished over the year 2023. From our collaborative partnerships to our innovative programs, we have strived to optimize our efforts and maximize our impact. Through our commitment to smart and effective strategies, we continue to work smarter, not harder, to promote human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development.

Founded in 2004, Women in Alternative Action (WAA), is one of Cameroon's leading NGOs enabling effective Human Rights Promotion and Protection. WAA Cameroon targets conflict-affected communities, and more specifically women, girls, youth, and ethnic minorities. The Organization works to promote gender justice, equality, peacebuilding, gender capacity building, innovative and sustainable opportunities for women, youths and girls in Cameroon and the Central African sub-region. WAA's mission, therefore, is not limited to right-based promotion and protection, but it is also embodied in achieving the broader development goals that catalyze progress for youth, women and girls; trainings in livelihood development and economic empowerment of women and youth leaders as social entrepreneurs in Cameroon and also seeks to contribute to these broader development goals.

WAA Cameroon's affiliation with relevant structures



- WAA Cameroon is in partnership with the “Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace” (GAMIP), and she is in the process of creating a national GAMIP Chapter in Cameroon.
- Founder of the Queens for Peace International (QPI), which has become one of WAA’s most promising programs, that brings together female traditional title holders, the wives of traditional leaders and princesses to advocate for the rights of community women and girls for peaceful coexistence.
- WAA Cameroon is the founder of the “Room4Girls” initiative, which is a platform, created to enable young girls to freely exchange and build each other through experience sharing.
- Founder of Boys Count for Gender Equality, which is an initiative aimed at empowering boys and girls for Gender equality in schools.
- WAA Cameroon is a member of the Gender-Based Violence Sub Group coordinated by UNFPA and MINPFROFF.
- WAA Cameroon is also a member of Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage and coordinates the Cameroon National Coalition to End Child Marriage.
- Additionally, WAA Cameroon is a member of the African Union Civil Society Reference.
- Group of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa.
- The organization is in Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC.
- Moreover, WAA Cameroon is also a member of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) -led network of civil society.

OUR VISION

Women in Alternative Action (WAA) Cameroon envisions peaceful communities free of Gender-Based Violence, Stigmatization, Discrimination and Exclusion of women, youth and girls in the central African sub-region.

OUR GOAL

Contributing to gender justice, peace and sustainable opportunities for women, youth and girls in Cameroon and Central Africa Sub-region.

OUR MISSION

WAA Cameroon works to support initiatives that promotes gender justice, equality, peacebuilding, innovative and sustainable opportunities for women, youths and girls in Cameroon and the Central Africa Sub-region.

KEY ACTION AREAS

- Gender Justice.
- Peace and Security.
- Economic Empowerment.
- Empowering Youths for the Next Generation.
- Law Reform and Policy Review.
- Research and Documentation.

OTHER PROGRAM AREAS

- National Youth Camp for Peace;
- Boys count for gender equality;
- Youth Think Tank Clubs for Peace;
- Queens for Peace International;
- Kids for Peace; and
- Room 4 Girls.

OUR STRATEGIES

- Capacity development and training;
- Community mobilization and engagement;
- Advocacy and information sharing;
- Mentorship and leadership development;
- Partnership development and Networking;
- Research, documentation and dissemination; and
- Monitoring and evaluation.



2023 IN BRIEF: KEY EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Women in Alternative Action commemorated the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2023, under the theme “End Racism, Build Peace” by carrying out Peace Talks in 5 schools around Yaoundé: English High School (EHS), Faith Comprehensive Secondary School (FCSS), Christian Comprehensive Secondary School (CCSS Nkolmbong), Jordan Bilingual school and Jumping Jacks primary school. During these peace talks, WAA Cameroon created Peace Clubs in the above-mentioned schools and engaged the students in the planting of Peace plants as symbols of their engagement towards peace.
- Within the framework of a 36 months European Funded project dubbed: “Voices of Youth in Cameroon for Peace for the Prevention of Radicalization and re-radicalization of Youths in the North West and South West Regions. (VOYCE)”, WAA in synergy with Trauma Center Cameroon and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict has built the capacities of 100 youth leaders (75 youth leaders from youth-led associations/ movements and 25 ex-associates from DDR programs in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon.
- 9 Youth Think Tank Clubs for Peace are currently running across some communities in these restive regions. Through these clubs, youth will engage constructively with their peers, government, Non-governmental organizations, and International actors to ensure that peace returns to these restive areas.
- Increase visibility and awareness raising on the importance of localizing the UNSCR 1325/ 2250 on Women, Peace and Security, Youth, Peace and Security as well as SDG16+ on Peace, Justice and Inclusive Societies through the media and the production/ dissemination of advocacy gadgets (T-shirts, flyers, pens, folders, notebooks, banners, roll-up and training manuals). This has generated stakeholder commitment to peacebuilding.
- Increase appropriation of the concept by the government of Cameroon. MINPROFF, the Divisional Officer (D.O.) of Tubah Division in the Northwest region, the national youth council.



1. GENDER JUSTICE

International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM

The practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) violates the human rights of girls and women. FGM in Cameroon, though at a decreasing rate across the regions and population of Cameroon as findings from UNICEF stipulates, still persist in some communities due to selfish and radical beliefs and customs. In an effort to eliminate these harmful practices on our girls and women, WAA Cameroon joined her voice to SAY NO TO FGM on February 6, 2023 under the theme: “Partnership with Men and Boys to transform Social and Gender Norms to End FGM”.



WAA/Cuso Program in Mbalmayo on Child Marriage



WAA Cameroon in synergy with CUSO International organized a 2- day training workshop within the framework of the “SHARE with the Queens for Peace International initiative” involving Queens from some regions of Cameroon in Mbalmayo on February 8 and 9, 2023 under the theme: ENGAGING QUEENS FOR PEACE AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD MARRIAGE IN CAMEROON. This is the second in a series of four workshop, which engaged 15 Queens drawn from the Center, South, and East Regions of Cameroon. It aimed at equipping female traditional leaders, wives of traditional leaders and princesses with skills and techniques that will enable them to raise awareness against child marriage as well as offer aid/ psychological support to survivors of GBV.



The International Women's Day 2023.

This year's International Women's Day was commemorated on the 8th of March 2023 under the theme: **"For an Inclusive Digital World: Innovation and Technologies for Gender Equality"**, with Sub-theme: **"Digital Inclusion and Women/Girls Empowerment"**. A round table discussion was held with participants from the Room4Girls and WAA staff members wherein the IT expert gave training on the following topics;

- Strengthening women and girls' capacities on the proper use of ICTs;
- Enhancing to put an end to violence on women/girls on the cyberspace.

Participants were reminded of the importance of creating strong emails and passwords in order to avoid being victims of social media hacking. They were also reprimanded on what they post on their various social media handles as the internet never forgets, and most things we post now, out of the excitement of using social media, can be detrimental in the future.

International Day of the African Child

Engaging children in peace processes and socializing them as peacebuilders early gives them that consciousness and intentionality in the art and culture of peace; WAA Cameroon thought it wise to mold the younger ones early enough as peace advocates: WAA commemorated the International Day of the African Child on June 16, 2023 under the theme: **"The Rights of the Child in a Digital Environment"**. Children of diverse background joined WAA Cameroon at her Head Office at Bambis; Biyem Assi, Yaoundé to commemorate this day through activities of fun, to empower them on the positive use of the digital space.





Commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child

The International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated on the 11th of October 2023, on the theme: **“GIRLS RIGHTS; OUR LEADERSHIP, OUR WELL-BEING”**. WAA Cameroon was represented at the CRTV Radio program “Calling the Women” alongside other organizations, to answer questions concerning the organization and the theme of the celebration.

Also, some WAA staff members were selected to represent the team at the Holy Cross International College Yaoundé, to carry out some activities with the students of the school in honor of the girl child. The students were made to understand the background of this celebration and its importance before the kick start of activities. The students were the main actors of the day carrying out these activities that included:

- Dance presentation from the students;
- Debate on the topic ‘Should women be given Leadership positions in Society’;
- Artistic presentations (Poetry recitals and arts/crafts presentation);
- Spoken words;
- And Q &A sessions.

Overall, the International Day of the Girl 2023 celebration at Holy Cross International School provided a platform for meaningful discussions, artistic expressions, and interactive sessions centered around the theme: "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being". The students as well as teachers had positive remarks to make concerning this event.

2. PEACE AND SECURITY

A. VOICES OF YOUTH IN CAMEROON FOR PEACE (VOYCE) PROJECT 2023

The Anglophone crisis which is known or characterized by its deep-rooted grievances and tensions between the Anglophone minority and the government of the Republic of Cameroon, has caused a lot of pain, suffering, displacement and disaster. This has prompted several projects and initiatives aimed at curbing the desecrated effects of the crisis and bringing about everlasting peace, amongst which The Voices of Youth in Cameroon for Peace is one. The 'Voices of Youth in Cameroon for Peace' (VOYCE) project started in 2021 as a ground-breaking initiative aimed at empowering the youth of Cameroon to actively participate in promoting and fostering peace and harmonious society. The project which has been running successfully over two years now, continues to strife with activities briefly explained below.



Peace Advocacy and Distribution of Advocacy Gadgets in Schools.

From the 18th to 28th of April 2023, a community awareness-raising campaign and distribution of youth-friendly advocacy gadgets to secondary schools in the Northwest and Southwest regions was carried out.

The objectives of this campaign were to; promote youth-for-youth awareness and mobilization; raise awareness of secondary school students on community cohesion and peacebuilding; sensitize the youth on the importance, of their role in building peace in Cameroon, and engage youths in schools to become agents of change in their various communities. 10 schools were visited in the Northwest which are; Government Bilingual High School- GBHS Bayelle, Government Bilingual High School -GBHS Atiela, Baptist Comprehensive High School -Nkwen, Step by Step College -Ntarikon, Presbyterian Secondary School - PSS Mankon, Government Bilingual High School -GBHS Bamenda, Government Bilingual High School- GBHS Downtown, Christ The King College -CKC Nkwen and Saint Paul's College- Nkwen. In the Southwest region, 9 schools were visited which include; Summerset Bilingual College -Buea, Inter Comprehensive College - Buea, Government High School -Buea, Government High School Mbonge (Kumba), Bilingual Grammar School BGS Mile 6- Ombe, Government Bilingual High School - GBHS Mile 1 (Limbe) and Cameroon College of Arts and Science - CCAS Kumba



Second Focus Group Discussion

This meeting was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at City Council Hall Yaoundé, from 9:00 am to 3 pm. Its objective was to monitor the evaluation of the project implementation through project key actors in the field. This would enable tracking and measuring of progress achieved so far in the project implementation, gather data on challenges, lessons learnt, and best practices of the project implementation so far, and propose recommendations and a way forward for the continuation of the project implementation. 15 persons were in attendance including; the steering committee members, the youth think tank leaders and project staff.

Experience Sharing and Advocacy

Tours with GPPAC Colleagues.

WAA Cameroon, which is part of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Network, received their GPPAC counterparts from the Global Secretariat (Amanda Huits-PMEL Officer, Johanna Hilbert- Advocacy and communication Officer, and from Nigeria (Rafiu Lawal of Building Blocks- newly voted at GPPAC West Africa Secretariat). During this meeting, the following activities were carried out in response to the VOYCE Project's framework.



Internal learning and exchange meeting with WAA and TCC Staff:

The meeting consisted of sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learnt from GPPAC's peace-building work so far. WAA and TCC staff were empowered on advocacy, strategic communication, planning, monitoring, evaluation, and Learning harvest/storytelling.

Advocacy meetings with MINPROFF and MINAS

These meetings with these relevant ministries and embassies, had as main objective, to explore avenues of collaboration between the institutions (WAA Cameroon, GPPAC and Trauma Center) within the framework of engaging youth as agents of peace in Cameroon through the VOYCE Project. Specifically, these meetings were a medium to create platforms for working in synergy with relevant Ministries and embassies to improve the involvement of youths in the promotion of peace and to create awareness on the ongoing VOYCE project. A potential partnership with MINAS was envisaged to foster the inclusion of persons living with disabilities in peace processes in Cameroon.

Intergenerational Dialogue for Peace: Bamenda and Buea.



The dialogue aimed to create a space for reflection, listening, and exchange of ideas among young people, and traditional, religious, and administrative authorities. Its objectives were as follows:

1. **Closing the Intergenerational Gap:** Fostering understanding and cooperation between youths and community leaders to promote peaceful community cohesion and coexistence.
2. **Leveraging Experience:** Tapping into the knowledge and experience of previous generations to raise awareness and find long-term solutions for peace-building and conflict prevention.
3. **Empowering Youth:** Developing transformative strategies to maximize youth potential and prevent radicalization or re-radicalization.
4. **Collaborative Action:** Crafting joint intergenerational Peace Action Plans.

The discussion involved 100 participants (50 per region), including representatives from the GPPAC Global Secretariat, traditional leaders, religious leaders, administrative authorities, leaders of youth CSOs, media professionals, and youths trained in Peace Advocacy by the project.



B. Transforming Mind-Sets for Youth Engagement in Crisis Prevention and Inclusive Peace Building in the Northwest Region of Cameroon- Phase 2.



This was a scale up of the Open Society Foundation - OSF funded project "Transforming Mind-Sets for Youth Engagement in Crisis Prevention and Inclusive Peace Building" in Cameroon's Northwest Region. It aims to support conflict management efforts, align with Cameroon's Vision 2035, and promote unity in diversity. Activities from April to November 2023 focused on youth engagement, access to education, and community resilience. Lessons learned emphasize the importance of collaboration with local focal points for effective project implementation and the central role of education in fostering peace.



Training of 150 Youth as Peace Champions

This activity involved identifying and mobilizing 150 youths to be trained as peace change agents and champions. This training aimed to engage youths, youth groups, and CSOs in promoting community cohesion and peace processes. Two groups, totaling 100 participants, underwent a 2-day training session covering conflict analysis, communication, conflict resolution, and SDG16+. Each participant received advocacy materials to promote peaceful coexistence in their communities, resulting in increased community engagement and positive outcomes in peacebuilding efforts. Notable participants included community leaders from CSOs and church groups, fostering increased youth engagement in peacebuilding and governance efforts.

Empower youths to share knowledge and skills through 2 community workshops



This activity supported youths in transferring knowledge and skills to their peers through two community workshops. In Esu, peace champions organized a peacekeeping tournament and visited the postnatal department of the local hospital to promote peace and social cohesion. The tournament attracted over 500 community members, fostering teamwork and unity. In Weh, Befang, and Bafmeng villages, a restitution workshop drew over 300 youths, focusing on nonviolent communication for community growth. These activities, which exceeded expectations, showcased the youths' positive impact in their communities, fostering social cohesion and meaningful participation in peace processes.

Enhancing the safety of women and girls while providing SRHR support

Activity 3 aimed to enhance the security and safety of women and girls during armed conflicts in Menchum Division while providing SRHR support services to SGBV survivors. The training, held from July 25th - 26th, 2023, empowered 32 adolescent girls and young women with modules covering SRHR, GBV awareness/response, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Women were organized into five groups, each representing a community, and were supported in establishing businesses such as pig and poultry farming. Funding was provided to kick-start these businesses, with ongoing remote mentoring support ensuring their success.



Training Community Connectors for Peace

We trained 150 selected youths to become Community Connectors for Peace. These trainings focused on equipping youths with skills for income-generating activities, promoting unity, and sustaining relationships in their communities as alternatives to violence. One training session was held on August 16th and 17th, 2023, emphasising team building, business planning, financial reporting, and market assessment. Participants developed business plans tailored to their communities, focusing on ventures like poultry farming and documentation services. Progress in these activities will support SDG 16+ localization efforts and peace club coordination. The training not only fostered income generation skills but also promoted unity and community cohesion.

Financial support

We implemented 14 financial support schemes for newly trained Community Youth Connectors for Peace and provided remote follow-up for existing ones. Support was provided in the form of purchasing necessary materials and equipment for income-generating activities (IGAs). Seven communities received support, each focusing on a specific IGA such as piggery and poultry farming. By organizing connectors into groups and supporting their IGAs, social cohesion and community participation were promoted, enhancing their sense of belonging and active engagement with their communities.

Mentoring

We provided long-distance mentoring support to community connectors of Peace to develop business plans according to market assessment and feasibility. Dedicated focal persons visited the groups to facilitate plan development, while remote mentoring was provided through regular phone calls. This collaborative effort empowered connectors to make informed decisions and tailor their plans for success in their communities. This support also extended to adolescent girls and young women trained on SRHR and economic empowerment.



Community Mental Health and Trauma Healing Training

We conducted three Community Mental Health and Trauma Healing sessions in Menchum Division, focusing on training psychosocial counsellors and caregivers from various sectors. Over 70 caregivers were trained in psychosocial counselling and trauma intervention strategies. The sessions, held at the Presbyterian church hall in Naikom, Wum, provided critical modules on case identification, management, referral systems, and therapeutic listening. Caregivers' feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 90% affirming readiness to apply learned skills in their communities. Enhanced skills and knowledge are expected to contribute to healthier schools, improved community care management, and reconciliation efforts in conflict-affected communities.

Intergenerational Dialogue

Two Intergenerational workshops were conducted for 100 participants from state and non-state structures, focusing on fostering reflection, listening, and idea exchange between young people, traditional, and religious authorities to promote youth participation in sustainable peace efforts. One workshop, held on September 5, 2023, in Wum, facilitated dialogue on leveraging past experiences for long-term peace solutions and maximizing youth potential to prevent radicalization. Participants developed joint peace action plans, enhancing understanding and collaboration between generations and diverse perspectives.



Equipping Community Schools

Provided school furniture and equipment to improve learning environments and offered scholarships to 300 students and 150 pupils who had dropped out of school due to the crisis in Menchum division. Furniture distribution took place from October 30th to November 3rd, 2023, benefiting 17 schools. Additionally, enrollment and support with school fees occurred from November 6th to 11th, 2023. These efforts aimed to create conducive learning environments and ensure equal access to education for disadvantaged students and pupils. Appreciation from community leaders, teachers, and beneficiaries highlighted the positive impact of these donations.





C. Commemorating the International Day of Peace (IDP)

WAA Cameroon participated in preparatory meetings for the 42nd International Day of Peace. The meetings, held on August 29th and September 16th, 2023, aimed to plan activities to promote peace, social cohesion, and unity. WAA Cameroon commemorated the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2023, with a week-long series of events including a Peace art showcase, Sports for Peace, WAA Open Door day/WAA Gallery, and a Screening and Discussion of a short film on Peace and Conflict Resolution.



D. YOUTH THINK TANK CLUBS FOR PEACE



Buea Think Tank Club

The Buea Think Tank Club engaged in a radio advocacy program on September 21, 2023, International Day of Peace, reaching over 1000 listeners and involving 50 active participants. The club also conducted Community Outreach and Sensitization on local conflict resolution strategies in August 2023, reaching over 100 community members in Buea Municipality.

Kumba Think Tank Club

The Kumba Think Tank Club conducted school-to-school peace-building sessions at three secondary schools in Kumba on April 28, 2023. Over 1000 youths were impacted, learning about peace importance and conflict resolution. The club also participated in National Youth Day on February 11, 2023, promoting responsible leadership and peace. Additionally, a Peace Building Training on leadership and conflict resolution was held in Mbonge on February 8, 2023, emphasizing the youth's role in peace advocacy and community leadership.



Limbe Think Tank Club

The Limbe Think Tank Club conducted school advocacy sessions on peace and responsible leadership in May 2023, enlightening secondary school students on peace-building and conflict resolution strategies. In July 2023, media sensitization campaigns were held on local radio stations in Limbe, focusing on inter-generational dialogue, peace-building, and conflict resolution, emphasizing the importance of bringing stakeholders of different age groups together for peace.

3. EMPOWERING YOUTHS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The National Youth Day

The 57th Edition of the National Youth Day was commemorated under the theme “Moral, Civic and Entrepreneurial Rearmament of youth through the Exaltation of Patriotism, Peace, Creativity and Living together Cameroon”. WAA Cameroon through the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC) was privileged to have a stand at the youth village at Hotel de Ville, Yaoundé. This is to showcase to youths and the entire population how youth can get to contribute to civic responsibility and sustainable Peace in Cameroon by integrating themselves in WAA’s program areas on Peace & Security and Empowering Youth for the Next Generation. These different interactive exchanges with the public enhanced WAA's visibility on what she has been doing on enabling effective human rights protection and promotion.

WAA also participated in an activity organized by Go2skul in which she gave a talk to youths, reminding them of their civic responsibilities. It was quite a wonderful experience as WAA Cameroon met and collaborated with other organizations.



The National Youth Youth Camp for Peace



WAA Cameroon organized the fourth edition of the National Youth Camp for Peace (NYCP) from July 25-29, 2023, hosting 75 youths aged 16-30 from all ten regions of Cameroon at CCSS Nkolmbong, Yaoundé. Themed "Building Bridges for Peace: Advancing Voices of Youth through Dialogue and Conflict Transformation," the camp aimed to foster intercultural learning, conflict resolution, and youth leadership skills. Participants engaged in dialogue, cultural exchanges, adventure activities, and role-playing exercises to develop conflict resolution skills. Awards and certificates were presented to participants at the program's conclusion, along with other items such as t-shirts, bags, books, and pens.



Kids for Peace

The Kids for Peace program is a WAA Cameroon initiative that is held every summer holiday. The 2-day program brings together over forty kids between the ages of 5 to 15 years. This year's edition ran from 10 to 11, August 2023, under the theme "PATHWAYS FOR KIDS PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY PEACE". WAA Cameroon uses the Kids for Peace Initiative to bring together children between 5 and 15 years old (kids), to instill in them the culture, and love for peace so that, they can become peace ambassadors in their different communities. The main objective of this program is to impart gradually the love and culture of peace in children, making them understand the need and essence of peace and helping them understand basic strategies of peacebuilding. Specifically, instill in these kids different pathways to community peace, equip young children with knowledge and skills to combat hate speech in their communities, educate children on nation-building and peaceful co-existence as alternatives to violence and drill the children on public speaking skills and self-development skills for peace.



SUCCESSIONS, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN 2023.

Successes:

Notable achievements were made by WAA Cameroon in 2023 across various program areas including gender justice, peacebuilding in crisis-affected regions, youth engagement, and economic empowerment.

- Specific accomplishments include:
 - a. Promoting gender justice through advocacy campaigns, workshops, and training sessions, resulting in increased awareness of gender-based violence and improved access to justice for women.
 - b. Playing a crucial role in promoting peace and reconciliation in crisis-affected areas by facilitating dialogue and mediation processes among local communities, religious leaders, and stakeholders.
 - c. Engaging and empowering youth through various initiatives, including training, mentorship, and facilitating youth-led projects addressing community needs.
 - d. Enhancing economic empowerment among vulnerable populations, particularly women and youth, through vocational training programs and income-generating initiatives.
 - e. Fostering greater local policy development momentum through CSO-state collaboration, notably supporting government policies such as back-to-school initiatives.



Challenges:

Despite successes, WAA Cameroon encountered several challenges in 2023, including:

- a. Limited financial and human resources hindering the organization's ability to scale activities, particularly in youth engagement and gender equality.
- b. Socio-political instability in certain regions disrupting program implementation, limiting access to communities, and hindering progress.
- c. Ensuring the long-term sustainability and impact of programs, particularly economic empowerment initiatives, due to challenges in securing partnerships and resources.

Lessons Learned:

Valuable lessons were gained throughout 2023, including:

- a. The importance of adopting a holistic approach to addressing complex social issues, integrating various program areas for a comprehensive response.
- b. The significance of understanding the local context and engaging with communities to tailor interventions effectively.
- c. The power of collaboration and partnerships in leveraging collective expertise and resources for enhanced program effectiveness and sustainability.
- d. The effectiveness of empowering local communities in achieving sustainable change and fostering long-term commitment.
- e. The necessity of continuous learning and adaptation through monitoring and evaluation processes to improve program implementation.
- f. The value of amplifying youth voices and involving them as equal partners in decision-making processes for enhanced program relevance and sustainability.
- g. The importance of advocacy and policy influence in creating systemic change and enabling an environment for long-term impact.



Conclusion

This report highlights the key action areas and program areas of Women in Alternative Action (WAA) Cameroon, showcasing our commitment to promoting human rights, gender justice, and sustainable development. Through our strategic approach and partnerships, we have been able to make a meaningful impact in the lives of marginalized communities, particularly women, girls, youth, and ethnic minorities affected by conflict.

Our key action areas encompass gender justice, peace and security, economic empowerment, empowering youths for the next generation, law reform and policy review, and research and documentation. These areas form the foundation of our work, allowing us to address multiple dimensions of empowerment and create lasting change. To effectively implement our programs and achieve our goals, we have developed a comprehensive set of strategies. These include capacity development and training, community mobilization and engagement, advocacy and information sharing, mentorship and leadership development, partnership development and networking, research, documentation, and dissemination, as well as monitoring and evaluation. These strategies ensure that our efforts are focused, efficient, and impactful.

Operating in all ten regions of Cameroon, with over 50 members, WAA Cameroon is dedicated to reaching communities in need and making a difference at both the local and national levels. We recognize the importance of collaboration and cooperation in the development process, and thus, we maintain partnerships with various stakeholders, including local communities, authorities, organizations, and individuals at both national and international levels. As we conclude this Annual Report, we extend gratitude to our partners, donors, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to the success recorded so far. Together, we have worked tirelessly to promote human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development. We remain committed to our mission and will continue to strive for a brighter and more inclusive future for all.

THE TEAM



Peter Kum Che Mebeng
*Interim Executive
Director*



**Dr. Bengyedla
Ferdinant**
*Monitoring and
Evaluation Officer*



**Fuh Geogette
Lumwi**
Accountant



Ngah Claudia Eka
*Administrative
Assistant*



Ngwe Ellenor
*Communications
Officer*



Bih Majory
*Peace and Security
Officer*



Ndemazea Ruth
*Peace and Security
Assistant*



Ngupuh Afese
*Child Protection
Officer*



Sahwai Mbie Zou
*Child Protection
Assistant*



Kelly Mokake
*Youth Engagement
Officer*



Che Bernard
*Procurement and
Logistics*



Gracious Kumche
Programs Officer



Yuven Chrispin
*Regional Coordinator
- Southwest*



Feghang Tan
*Regional Coordinator
- Northwest*

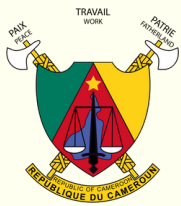


Ngedle Desmond
*Boys Count for
Gender Equality
Coordinator*



Ediage E. Mpako
*IT/Communications
Coordinator*

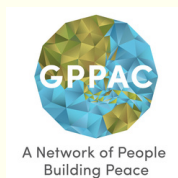
OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS



The Cameroonian Government through the ministries of MINPROFF and MINJEC is dedicated to promoting women's rights, protecting them, and facilitating young people's access to opportunities for civic engagement, social integration, and economic advancement.



The European Union - EU: In addition to its role as a leading economic partner of Cameroon, the EU is the primary funder of the VOYCE Project implemented by WAA.



Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a global member-led network of civil society organizations (CSOs) that actively work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.



Trauma Center Cameroon is a non-governmental organization that provides refugees and victims of human rights violations with practical help and support in various areas of life.



Cuso International: CUSO is a Canadian charity dedicated to eradicating poverty and inequality. It collaborates with local partners worldwide to enhance economic opportunities for all and empower women and girls.



Open Society Foundation: Open Society Foundations (OSF), is a grant-making network. It supports civil society groups around the world, with the aim of advancing justice, education, public health and independent media.