

Mission 21 Cameroon
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1. Can you give us information about the emergency and relief program? How does this work? In cooperation with other organizations? Do you have a regular evaluation? Is there any change in the program since the beginning of the crisis?

For a clear answer to the questions, we will start our discussion from the last question.

The emergency and relief, programme is call Ecumenical Relief and Rehabilitation Programme¹. It was launched in August 2018. From its name, it means it is not tied to one partner or partner category. It involves churches and civil society organisations. Before the crisis that led to this programme, PCC was the only church partner in all Mission 21 activities. This has not changed, with respect to the regular development projects. The other partners in regular development actions are AI-ChrisWoV and PUCA (The Protestant University of Central Africa). It is good to see the relief and emergency programme in this light: -

Ecumenical: involves diverse partners, experiences, and outreach to the affected.

Relief: to act immediately and bring help to those in danger and in need of food, clothing, non-prescription medication, soap, sanitary kits, and education support among others.

Rehabilitation: getting people back to a more settled life as the crisis wanes away or comes to an end.

By its very conception, changes were implicit in the programme. Changes in terms of dimension or emphasis, geographic coverage, or networking. Some of these changes have come sooner than we expected and in areas we did not foresee.

The first change we had was in trauma and psychological support. As early as 2019 we realised that people were really disturbed and could not be satisfied with whatever relief support, we give. The pains and wounds in their hearts, were more primordial and over bearing on them. As a response we introduced trauma healing and psychological support to the programme. Today we work in 3 trauma healing and resilience building centres and one psychosocial support partner.

Second, the move to start rehabilitation come in earlier than envisaged. No one knew and even now knows how the crisis will evolve. Given the resourceful nature of the people from North West and South West Regions, and their desire for self-reliance, people started asking for means of earning their own living, rather than having food and non-food handouts. This moved the programme faster into economic empowerment actions backed by training. Displaced people are trained, given start-up money, and accompanied.

¹ Based on 4 humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence
(https://www.unocha.org/fr/node/897?gclid=Cj0KCQiAmaibBhCAARIsAKUlaKTUhUpadshZXI7VklLQ1tiQCYaj7PMhJVx7VKqUV83YVPxpp6z_8BwaApZtEALw_weB)

Based on our own monitoring and evaluation system, we see where impact can be appropriately and sustainably achieved and how it can be done. In this light, we are moving towards a system of multi-skill development and family centred approach.

Multi-skills development means IDPs will be trained in more than one craft or farming activity. This will give them more chances to restart life.

Family centred means not only one person, but every person in need is also seen as part of a family. If any part of that family is weak, that determines the strength of that family and that of the individual we are helping.

These activities have all been possible because of funding that has been channelled through Mission 21 Basel. From donations and various fundraising activities in Europe we have been funded. This without any doubt with effort and good will from you as well.

Through other sources too, especially ACT Alliance, we have received support. In the last 2 years (2020-2021) we received more than 80'000 USD through ACT Alliance.

Up to 2021, we received funding for direct partnership, but nothing in 2022. The direct partnership support was shared between the direct partner (60%) and one other presbytery (40%) decided at the level of the Synod office. This was a solidarity move in time of crisis.

The project is realised through the PCC, CBC and 11 NGOs. The PCC does the single biggest work, with emphasis on relief work. The NGOs are supporting with different specialised services based on their competences and area of operation – education, WASH, capacity building, and economic empowerment.

Regular evaluations are carried out in partnership with partners through regular reporting and meetings. External evaluation is done for the whole cooperation every two years. The next one will be done at the end of 2023.

2. Can you explain an example for a long-term project? What is the impact for the people?

WEELP (Women Economic Empowerment and Literacy Programme).

A programme of PCC, Women's Work Department

Target: Women and young girls, irrespective of religious orientation

Areas: North West and South West, through presbyteries

Impact: Women run small businesses, and many can read and write.

3. Are there any relations between the several direct partnerships and these projects?

No direct relations, all PCC projects operate within presbyteries as well as humanitarian action

4. Basel mission has worked in anglophone and francophone Cameroon. Is there any aid project between churches issued of Basel mission across the linguistic and cultural division line?

None, but would be an interesting option.