

Distribution of didactic material to crisis affected children in rural communities in Nyen and Kob in MOMO Division Northwest Region of Cameroon in promoting the fundamental right to education for 2025 academic year.



Background to the choice of activity

Since 2017 as the current Anglophone crisis intensity's, boys and girls in the NWR of Cameroon are being exposed to multiple life circumstances that endanger or will endanger their rights to survival, development and eventually affect their right to development, protection, and participation. In a recent baseline survey carried out by Global MedAssist protection team, parents have reported Physical abuse, verbal violence and neglect, sexual abuse was identified to be very common with rape as a serious menace for more than 10% of girls during the study. The prevalence of domestic violence is also a point for concern. Children reported common illnesses like malaria and high rate of neglect. Boys are significantly more often victims of physical abuse and verbal violence than girls. On the other hand, girls are often victims of neglect and sexual abuse than boys. 55% of the girls compared to only 30% of the boys reported that they had suffered from hunger in their lifetime and 19% of girls versus 55% of boys reported sexual abuse. More than one out of ten girls have experienced coerced sex, in some cases before the age of ten and a majority hide it from their parents. Consequently, only few of the rape girls have received medical assistance after the incident and a good number even gets pregnant while some are affected STD without any proper follow up.

Further risk factors which are threats to boys and girls in these communities include:

- Children with caregivers who are living in extreme poverty.
- Children in polygamous households with many wives and children and the dynamic between them which leads to family conflict that weakens family protection mechanisms

- Children born to young parents, adolescents (children headed households) A child whose father or mother is unknown or as “disappeared “was also more likely to suffer from neglect, insulted and treated harshly.

The study also revealed that they are severe consequences on children due to exposure to trauma and distress and early marriage especially for girls. A major consequence on children due to exposure to trauma and distress has led to high consumption of substance abuse and other acts of delinquency. A major consequence identified was mental disorders among the children marked by “bizarre” or socially unacceptable behaviors. The children reported that they are stigmatized, mocked, rejected, dejected and sometimes punished. PTSD was the most frequent mental disorder with prevalence rate of up to 48%. It was significantly more common among girls than boys leading to gross school dropouts and limited parental support for education.

As part of Global MedAssist mitigation measures in preventing and responding to child protection needs, this yearly back to school support event took place on October 19/2025 right in the community where 50 children made up of 30 girls and 20 boys that fall within these categories of highly vulnerable children ranging from 5 to 18 years benefited from this year’s back to school support package.

Testimonies by some of the children and caregivers on the positive impact on the by the children.

- Ma Stella “life has been so harsh to me in the community since my daughter abandoned her two children with me. Benefiting from the back to support packages is so relieving as the package will help my grandchildren in school with ease”
- Ma Christabel “ I have been privileged for the second time after my daughter abandoned her two children with me with little or no support. Receiving the support again is going to facilitate their going back to school”
- Kelly, 15 years “I am benefiting from the back-to-school support for the second time from Global MedAssist . I really appreciate their support as having a school

back in the village is very difficult and expensive. The school bag is going to help me carry my school needs with great joy”

- Pa Joseph “We are very grateful for the humanitarian gesture from Global MedAssist in prompting the education of children through educational support. providing them with sports entire is very vital for their mental and physical growth”

Difficulties encountered

- More than 50 of the required number of children were present expecting to receive.
- Bad roads and insecurity into and out of the community

Recommendations

- The number of beneficiaries children could be increased in future
- Intense sensitization be done to the children on personal hygiene and sanitation
- Medical support be considered as the team came across some cases with untreated wounds and other health challenges.
- Intense sensitization be done on child protection to mitigate any aspect of trafficking and other forms of abuse and exploitation.
- Capacity building on positive parenting be organized to mitigate any possibility of child maltreatment and delinquency.
- Social cohesion sessions be organized between the host community to avoid any form of stigmatization and discrimination.
- Women and girls safe center could be created to bring under control the numerous adolescents to acquire life skills and mitigate any act of being exploited sexually or engaging on sex for survival.
- Sanatory pads could be provided to the young adolescent girls to avoid the use of non-standard items during menstruation.

Conclusion

Given that the situation in the two communities is still very volatile, 55% of the children are still living on limited means especially to education which may eventually lead to high vulnerability. Personal and environmental hygiene is equally a call for concern

which can help avoid contracting illnesses. Medical facilities is rare to come by thereby



leading to children consuming herds as a means of treatment. With the uncertainty about the possible improvement on their conditions, it is only a shared responsibility by humanitarian actors to carry out specific roles to ensure holistic support by implementing the above

recommendations that shall dignify their living conditions and restoring hope, cohesion and a sense of belonging.

Pictures illustration of activity

Presented by its executive president : **Dr Miranda Fonsoh**