

BRIDGERS ASSOCIATION CAMEROON

'Empowering for Development'



Tel: (+237) 674 66 28 93 / 677 33 46 78

Email: info@bridgersngo.org

Location: Chief Street Bomaka-Buea

website: www.bridgersngo.org

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Brochure

Bridgers Association Cameroon was hatched from a careful sociological study inspired by some of our life experiences and stories. We settled on the decision to create a nongovernmental, nonprofit Civil Society Association that was to champion the empowerment of women/children and promote human and community development, and carry out effective sensitization and capacity building for sustainable development at the grassroots level. All these to work towards achieving SDG's.

We have an Advisory Board and a dedicated volunteering staff. This is a dynamic team of women and men of all walks of life imbued with practical experience and the zeal to positively contribute in changing lives in a holistic and sustainable manner towards poverty relief.

Bridgers operates from Buea, South West Region of Cameroon and always ready to partner and work with others in good faith to achieve results that advance the female folks.

Our Vision:

To be a leading Organization in Africa empowering women through advocacy.

Our Goal:

To promote and advocate for women's rights through women empowerment.

Our Mission:

To bridge the gap between men and women especially at grassroots communities to pave the way for gender balance.

Our Objectives:

- Advocacy for activities that minimize violence against women and girls;
- To train women and girls in entrepreneurial skills for poverty alleviation;
- Encourage and support women/girls to go to school and promote quality education;
- Seeking better ways to improve "Bridgers" services for community development.

Areas of Intervention:

- Addressing gender Issues and empowering women and girls;
- Community Development Projects that improve the livelihood of women;
- Educational promotion and Career Guidance for children especially girls;
- Sustainable Environmental Education;
- Capacity Building and sensitization campaigns on issues affecting women and the community.

Operational Methods:

Combining collaborative and participatory approaches, Bridgers is striving to achieve its objectives, while positively impacting the lives of beneficiaries and changing perceptions as well as mind sets on poverty alleviation and social change.

Our Principles:

- Honesty
- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Solidarity

OUR PROGRAMS

Our projects fall largely under four major areas:

- Women Empowerment;
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH);
- Agricultural Development and
- Human Rights & Good Governance.

Our Team

Our team is dynamic and flexible with practical experience, sound educational backgrounds and dedicated to work for the advancement of human and community development in its entirety.

Co-Founders:

Azah Jackline Chey (Coordinator)

ABAI Victor Asondo

Advisory Board Members:

-Azah Jackline Chey

-Aishatu Fabani

-Rev. Prof. Anyambod Emmanuel Anya

-Barrister Acha Macleans Afoh

-Tayui Florence Edzenyi

-Bih Renee

-Abai Victor Asondo

Bridgers Secretariat

-Qubeline Angawah

-Azah Jackline Chey

-Abai Victor Asondo

Briefly we are:

- **AZAH JACKLINE CHEY**

Coordinator



JURIST – She holds a Masters degree (LL.M) in International law. Expert in the Social Works domain as she has volunteered with MAHSRA Organization in Bamenda as well as the Muslim Students Association Bamenda (MUSAB) NGO before becoming the Coordinator of Bridgers Association Cameroon, an Association she Co-founded in 2013.

She is a Human Rights Activist and Advocate for Child Protection. This Jurist is particularly bitter on issues of early child marriages that are rampant in the North West, South West and the Northern Regions of Cameroon. Particularly so and even more because she carried out her Masters Degree research and defended in this area of the Law.

She is hardworking and enthusiastic about her work.

- **ABAI VICTOR ASONDO**

Project Officer



JURIST/PEDAGOGUE – Masters degree (LL.M) in International Law, and is a trained Technical High School Teacher (PLET) in Cameroon.

He is a public and motivational speaker, a youth coach and has particular reverence for ICT and youth entrepreneurship. He works on the advancement and plight of physically challenged persons and the less privilege in Cameroon.

- **Rev. Prof. ANYAMBOD EMMANUEL ANYA**

Advisory Board Member



UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR – He is the Vice Chancellor of the American ICT University in Cameroon. Former Dean and pioneer Rector of the Protestant University of Central Africa.

This distinguished Professor is a seasoned multi-dimensional administrator and a member of several International and National bodies (also member of the Good Governance Program in Cameroon) with many awards and honours to his credit (also holder of the Medal of the Cameroon National Order of Valour). He is an expert on issues of Governance and a social critique.

- **AISHATU FABANI**



Advisory Board Member

PSYCHOLOGIST – Masters Degree in Educational Psychology (M.Ed) and is a Child Advocate. She works extensively on issues affecting the Mbororo Indigenous children in Cameroon.

She is researching on pertinent issues affecting the Mbororo girl child and the women in general.

She is currently running the Aisha Fabani Foundation with a number of projects for the Mbororo girl child education.

- **ERIC OGAR**



Education Officer

PEDAGOGUE/JURIST – Bachelor degree in Law (LL.B) and a Trained Technical High School Teacher (PLET) in Cameroon. He is an innovative thinker and a community mobilizer with the desire to diligently serve the under privilege.

- **BIH RENEE**



Advisory Board Member

Post-GRADUATE RESEARCHER – Masters Degree in Tourism Management from the Eastern Mediterranean University North Cyprus and a Bachelor degree (LL.B) in English Law. She is a woman with interest in sustainable Community Development approaches.

- **TAYUI FLORENCE EDZENYI**



Advisory Board Member

ENTREPRENEUR – She is a seasoned entrepreneur with a long experience in financial management and records keeping. She is a social mobilizer, for Florence, doing community and social work is a habit well cherished right from childhood.

- **Barrister ACHA Maclean Afoh**



Legal Adviser

BARRISTER AT LAW – Maitrise (Post-Graduate Diploma) in Business Law after his Bachelor Degree in Law (LL.B). He is a practicing Lawyer with the Cameroon Bar Association and has great legal expertise and defends moral and physical persons in multi-faceted dimensions. He does legal consultancy.

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Bridgers Association Cameroon is in the process of building networks and partnerships with various local Organizations and enterprises in Cameroon. This is in line with the view that, to succeed in the civil society mission, one must work and collaborate with other development stakeholders. We are so far working on our partnership relations with the following organizations in the hope of continuing the process.

- **SACRCOD**
- **ICENECDEV**
- **NCHRF**

OUR ACTIVITIES

Being a charity body and drawing from our nomenclature, Bridgers Association Cameroon, we were created to bridge the societal gaps in many dimensions. Yet operating at the grassroots level since 2013, but officially registered in 2016 we have the urge to empower for development.

OUR PROJECTS FALL LARGELY UNDER FOUR MAJOR AREAS

- Women Empowerment;
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH);
- Agricultural Development and
- Human Rights & Good Governance.

❖ CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS

International days constitute a major part of Bridgers work as a civil society body; this is because these days are usually an opportunity for the organization to raise awareness on the relevance of such days and the issues of concern for the community. We usually define the neat link between the community and the issues associated with a particular convention and framework and what that framework seek to address.

Some of the international days celebrated by Bridgers Association Cameroon this 2018 either through physical activities or through awareness

creation campaigns on social media platforms are:

- International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM, (A/RES/67/146), celebrated February 6th 2018
- International Women's Day, celebrated March 8th 2018
- World Water Day, (A/RES/47/193, celebrated March 22nd 2018
- World Bee Day, (A/RES/72/211) celebrated May 20th 2018
- World Environment Day, (A/RES/2994/XXVII) celebrated June 5th 2018
- World Day Against Child Labour, celebrated June 12th 2018

❖ CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Training and Capacity building through seminars and workshops have been organized by Bridgers Association Cameroon. During these workshops/seminars, we invite eminent personalities/experts as well as motivational speakers in various domains to demystify and teach the techniques that makes the impossibility possible in particular practical cases.

Women empowerment has been the point of focus here, Bridgers has been doing so much to train rural women on the use of organic manure for similar output like that of inorganic manure. In this light, Bridgers provided improved seedlings of maize and plantains as well as financial assistance to some women farming groups in 2017 and even hoping to do more this 2018 and 2019 farming seasons.

On the other hand, Bridgers Association Cameroon has also been going out for capacity building workshops organized by other organizations and networks. In May 2018 Bridgers was represented by three members in a Human Rights Conference organized by the Youth Partnership on the theme: “Transforming the Future of Human Rights in Cameroon: Role of Young People”. Prof. Uwem Essia (Director of Pan African Institute) delivered the Keynote Address. Bridgers Association Cameroon as an active nonprofit and human development Organization with a Human Rights arm was part of this event. The eminent Prof. highlighted some key issues worth considering. Briefly put, young people should and must strive to receive human right education; they should get involved and intrinsically and integrally be motivated on human rights activities. Motivation here should not only be for money but for commitment and love for the advancement of our community.

For him, no society can develop if the respect of human rights is not considered paramount.

Another workshop which Bridgers took active part in that which was organized by CEDCOW Cameroon in Buea on the theme: “Access to Health Services for People with HIV or at Risk”

Bridgers was represented there by two team members and their output was good as per the report brought back.

- ❖ Bridgers Association Cameroon in line with this, visited some schools to enlighten children on their basic human rights, in this light we empowered them, especially the girl child to know her full rights and potentials which will serve as a weapon for them to fight for their rights by themselves, given that, one cannot fight for what you don’t know or less informed about. We noticed the unfortunate fact that our schools are less concerned with the notion of our children knowing or fighting for their human rights alike. Most importantly, children fall under the most vulnerable group of the society. We step in and prepare flyers and booklets which contain basic human rights of peoples and children as enshrined in the UN’s Conventions. We distribute to both students/pupils and their teachers after having lectured them and giving them clues on how to go about these important enlightenment exercises. In this domain therefore, we bridge the gap between the informed and less informed. And by so doing we spread human right values and principles even to non jurists in our communities. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights laws were given to someone in the course of our awareness raising campaign on human rights in celebration of a Human rights anniversary, and the recipients’ reaction was so amazing to our team of volunteers. This was because the man had heard about the UDHR but had never dreamt of seeing having

to read them one day knowing that he was not a Lawyer or never going to be a law student one day! He was just an ordinary peasant farmer though.

❖ **WORKING SESSIONS**

Bridgers Association Cameroon has within the last one year has been making lot of effort to create contacts and have working sessions with other reputable organizations. in this direction, Bridgers team has successfully had four working sessions, with ICENECDEV in March 2018, SACRCOD in April 2018, FALCOH in June 2018 and FOWEC-CAM in July 2018. The big news about these working sessions is that they have always been very beneficial to the entire staff of Bridgers as they serve as learning sessions with both organization sharing their good practices and difficulties encountered in the field. As such they end up being training programs for our team per say. This has helped us so greatly and we appreciate all the organizations we have so far worked with.

❖ **RELIEF TO THE UNDER PRIVILEGE**

Bridgers also visited orphanages, where we found great joy in supporting the care takers of these children in giving them hope for a brighter future. We supported them with our time, our smiles and encouragement; we donated gifts such as clothing, food stuffs of varied types and many other human basic needs including finances. Bridging the gap existing between the privilege and under-privilege is our satisfaction.

❖ **PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

In the area of environmental protection and sustainability, as part of the human rights of all human beings, a healthy environment is of the essence. We conceived and motivated a school in Ekona in the South West Region to execute our “operation one man two trees” by planting 30 trees in the school to beautify the school campus as well as protect the environment. The trees will equally serve as shed for the students when they grow. Bridgers has strategized the possibility to begin a larger integrated nursery of NTFP as well as varied fruit trees in Ombe after having proven its worth in seed multiplication in the same community where the trees are intended to be distributed to women farming groups in Fako Division. These trees shall serve a double effect: environmental protection as well as income generating.

Bridgers has been carrying out community awareness on household waste management in Bomaka and Ombe New Lay Out.

❖ EDUCATION PROGRAM

Bridgers Association Cameroon, within its quality education for girls designed a program doped edu. 2017/2018 in which Bridgers team and volunteers has been working with three selected schools in Fako Division focusing but not limiting to the following:

- Professional orientation and academic counseling to get excellent results.
- The causes and negative effects of early pregnancies and the related issues.
- Castigating school dropout and motivating them with real life stories and testimonies of successful role models.
- Teaching the children Civic Education and Moral Ethics with the objective of grooming law abiding and responsible citizens who would love peace and country.
- Encouraging them on the reading culture with the iconic example of Dr. Benjamin Carlson of America.
- Over and above all, we have been using this opportunity to promote environmental education in schools.

❖ YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

The youth are the back bone and pride of every society; as such they require special attention from both the government and civil society bodies alike. We strive to get the youths busy for their self empowerment and community development at large. BRA has realized this goal by making some youths engage into petite businesses and trades to make both ends meet in life. Hence, the gap is bridged between the employed and unemployed. This is done in line with one of our objective of promoting the concept of self reliant thus reducing unemployment in Cameroon. This is through our “Rotating Fund and follow up Scheme.”

❖ BRINGING RELIEF TO THE OLD AND SICK

In this light therefore, Bridgers Association Cameroon extended a hand of fellowship to the sick and the old in a small community called Ngoh, situated in the suburbs of Bamenda: capital of the North West Region of Cameroon. Apart from the words of encouragement we give this old sick people, we offer little gifts such as drinks, food stuff, money and clothing which actually put smiles on their faces and give them reasons to keep living. In doing this, we bridge the gap between those who have and the have-nots in our own little but joyful way.

To meet up with our mission and activities we currently have six volunteers working with us on our projects:

- Madam Ebai Suzan: a school Guidance Counsellor and social worker, Field Officer at Bridgers;
- Senge Nadege: a YALI Alumni and community volunteer;

- Eric Ogar: Education officer in Bridgers and a professional Law teacher;
 - Aneaka Carine: Masters Degree in Peace & Development Studies and a YALI Alumni;
 - Qubeline Angawah: a graduate/community volunteer and
 - Abai Victor Asondo: Project Officer at Bridgers. He holds a Masters Degree in International Law. He is a public speaker and a certified teacher
- of Office Automation and co-founder of Bridgers Association Cameroon.
- Azah Jackline Chey: Coordinator of Bridgers Association Cameroon. Beside her experience in civil society work, she holds a string of certificates in laws with a Masters Degree in International Law with focus on Human Rights. She is equally a book writer and Poet.

Name of Organization: Bridgers Association Cameroon
Physical Address: Chief Street Bomaka, Buea
Phone: (+237) 674 662 893 / (+237) 677 334 678
E-mail: info@bridgersngo.org
bridgersngo@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.bridgerngo.org>
Blog: <http://www.bridgersngo.wordpress.com>

Contact persons: **AZAH Jackline CHEY (Coordinator)**
E-mail: jackline@bridgersngo.org
ABAI Victor ASONDO (Project Officer)
Email: victor@bridgersngo.org