

BERUDEP QUARTERLY



Director's note

Dear readers, I am particularly happy to introduce to you BERUDEP quarterly. This is an initiative arrived after a series of workshops organised in collaboration with VSO Cameroon and consultative talks with our partners and volunteers to diagnose and identify the loop-holes of the organisation. The workshops and consultative talks have proven amongst other things that BERUDEP needs to inform its stakeholders regularly to keep every concerned individual abreast with our activities. Communication is the life-blood of every organisation likewise BERUDEP. With all haste we have immediately embarked on informing people using this medium, we believe is the fastest and most effective means of communication. Communication is considered the first step in solving the other identified problems holding back our organisation.

This issue will inform you on issues ranging from agricultural, governance, and social and community projects. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we continue to update you on the latest developments of BERUDEP. We thank you all for being part of us.

Ngwainmbi Simon

BERUDEP DEVELOPS FIVE YEAR OD WORK PLAN

The stakeholders of Belo Rural Development Organisation (BERUDEP) have successfully developed a five-year Organisational Development (OD) Work Plan on 19-21 of April 2010. We also created a one-year plan, based on our organisational top priorities, for BERUDEP to submit to Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Cameroon. The plan was created by our staff, the Board of Trustees, selected local partner beneficiaries, and volunteers. The workshop was facilitated by a VSO short-term volunteer, Peter Carr, who was recruited specifically to conduct the three day workshop, that took place at BERUDEP After School Education Program (ASEP) building in Belo.

There were 17 participants that attended the workshop and contributed enormously to the creation of these effective and realistic plans, through successful group participation that gave room for brainstorming and the consideration of new ideas. These plans were arrived at with the help of some prioritised areas that were identified in previously organised interviews and workshops. These areas of need among others included: organisational and financial transparency, board accountability, financial resources, staff training,

organisational policies, HIV and AIDS awareness, IT resources, and terms and conditions of work.

These mentioned indicators need improvement for BERUDEP to befit an organisation worth emulating, especially as it was elected a focal point for Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in Boyo Division in 2009

It should be noted that these plans have a provision to continue to allow input from VSO, Berudep Staff, the Board of Trustees, and volunteers in regards to the specific implementation and review of these plans. This input includes the specification of tasks, and time frames, resources, success indicators, and means of monitoring, and the evaluation method to achieve its goals. Furthermore the one-year priority plan is based on the resources the organisation already has in place, while allowing the organisation to mobilise for increased resources to continue with the 5-year plan. The five-year plan is still subject to negotiations between 7th – 30th

May 2010 by BERUDEP and VSO before the final signing of a



partnership agreement scheduled to take place in June, with anticipation that the implementation of the one year plan starts off in July 1st 2010.

The 5-year and the priority one-year plans shall serve as a yardstick and a way forward for effective organisational and resource management, aimed towards the realisation of good governance eminently important for the

sustainability of the organisation. It is subject to annual reviews to ensure effective implementation and utilisation of available resources

The good news is, now the entire family of BERUDEP is aware of its strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities, allowing us to transform the organisation to an exemplary one.

Joan Yein

BERUDEP BENEFITS FROM NEW DONOR

At the beginning of 2010 a grant of 4 million CFA was received from a new Donor SETEM NAVARA in Spain meant for the construction of a honey processing unit and the provision of income to bee farmers through the buying and selling of their produce. A sum of 2.4 million CFA was immediately allocated for the purchasing of honey from farmers distributed proportionately to Belo, Njinikom and Fundong branch managers to take care of this exercise. Statistics show that these three offices have been able to purchase approximately 1500 litres of honey as of May 15th 2009, though there has been some difficulty of selling, to ensure repeat purchases from the farmers. Moves have been taken to see the possibility of expanding the honey market while limiting credit sales; being the main draw back for this business for some years now. This explains why many farmers are still in possession of honey as they keep frequenting the three branch offices with these messages “I have honey”, “do you buy honey here”, “I have 100 litres of honey” etc. A lot needs to be

done in the area of selling in order to increase productivity and sustain beekeeping activities in Boyo Division. We hope to encourage “a cash and carry business in this sector.” On the other hand the construction of the honey processing unit will take place later in 2010, as funds are being mobilised to construct alongside the permanent building of BERUDEP. This is in a bid to maximise the use of available plot obtained in 2006. We have high hopes that our honey operation will continue to grow in order to better serve the honey farmers of the Boyo division.

Joan Yein

INHABITANTS OF
INTINITWANG:

RECIPIENTS OF PORTABLE WATER

The inhabitants of Itinitwang community of Belo will any moment from now become beneficiaries of portable water services sponsored by KIRABO, an NGO from Spain, under the direct supervision of BERUDEP. The project has been realised through the joint input of KIRABO, BERUDEP, the Itinitwang steering committee, and local villagers. The objective of this project is to provide good drinking water to the inhabitants of this community. This would reduce their risk of acquiring water borne diseases and lower the distances needed to be covered to carry this water. The project consists of a catchment, chambers, and a



water
storage
tank

constructed at the catchment area - 20 kilometres away from the village. In addition, there are fourteen stand pipes positioned evenly to ensure a balance in the distribution through the village – avoiding lopsided development. This project was executed in 3 phases. The whole project cost 9,835,400CFA, including the resources of the community. The water system shall be inaugurated in June following the arrival of the President of KIRABO, Carol Kroon and her team.

This Spanish based NGO has also sponsored the construction of a building consisting of two modern toilets, three classrooms, one office, and a staff room at the Fundeng Baptist Primary school. The finishes of the classrooms will be through soon. The modern toilets will help create a conducive and sanitary environment for studies. We encourage these communities to do their best to maintain the projects in order to enable them stand the test of time. As the philosophical saying goes that “a thing of beauty remains joyous forever.”

Carol is a former volunteer of BERUDEP, in 2008 that had the vision of starting a charity back home to support the efforts of BERUDEP.

Joan Yein

LAKE NYOS SURVIVORS
INTRODUCED TO BEE
KEEPING AS AN
ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF
INCOME.

Bee farming was introduced to the survivors of Lake Nyos at Camp Ipalim situated at the outskirts of Bafmeng. This training was conducted by the director Ngwainmbi Simon and the Branch Manager of Fundong Tim Fidelia. The two day training was attended by 30 participants and they were taught on modern bee farming techniques. This was in a bid to rehabilitate the occupants of this Camp by providing alternative activities that can generate income for them. It is envisioned that the beekeeping activity is likely to do well in this area given that it is remote and has a variety of trees and green vegetation making the establishment of beekeeping easier. The planting of few bee loving trees are needed in this area to attract bees to facilitate the colonisation of hives, since bee keeping is new to this area. In turn the participants thanked the facilitators for the wonderful initiative taken to provide training to them. They decried the fact that it is difficult for them to acquire bee keeping equipment like hives, smokers, bee suits etc. to fully indulge in this activity. The director closed the training by assuring them that their problems are recognized, though enough time is needed to mobilise the requested resources. He ended by promising follow-up visits to fill up the remaining gaps.

Joan Yein

BERUDEP TAKES PART IN
LABOUR DAY
CELEBRATIONS

The 2010 edition of Labour Day was the 128th edition internationally and 38th edition nationally, with the theme of "Combating Vulnerability within the Labour Milieu." Celebrations for Boyo Division as usual took place in Fundong, the headquarters of the division.



Activities for the day began at 9:00 am with the arrival of all involved.

The main talk of the day was made by the Chairman of the Boyo Trade Unions who thanked the Government for its recent efforts to improve the working conditions of labourers. He however called on the Government to continue to better the working conditions of all workers in Cameroon amongst other pleas. He stated, he dreams of the day when there will be no speech asking the Government to do these things; that there will be a day when all the problems of Cameroon workers will be met.

The Workers on their part gave the Labour Day celebration 2010 the pomp and pageantry it deserved. The march pass was colourful as workers were clad in colourful and assorted uniforms representing their various organisations. The BERUDEP staff were no exception, as they march pass, displaying some of their products and services like medicinal plants, large lumps of bee wax (which some people mistook for a new type of soap), and honey. The

activities of the day were spiced up by animation from groups which comprised of choral music and traditional dances.

The day ended with the staff having a family meal of “pepesoup” and plantains and some juice to push it down. This was followed by some songs. Workers are certainly looking forward for the next celebration come 2011.

John Paul

VOLUNTEERISM:
A SPRINGBOARD TO THE JOB
MARKET.

Volunteerism is one of the most pervasive activities in the world today, one which has been a historical tradition in the Western world as oppose to Africa where the concept has been misunderstood, though it is gradually gaining grounds in recent years. The most common factors identified as triggering the quest for volunteerism in the west are as follows: interest in helping others, interest in the work activity, wanting to learn and gain experience, having a lot of free time, devotion to a cause, know someone who was involved, and those with religious concerns. In a pure Cameroonian context volunteerism provides useful experience to back up the certificates obtained from tertiary education since the key reason for young people not gaining employment is the lack of experience. Above all, volunteering offers an opportunity for the volunteer to share his or her

knowledge and experience with the beneficiary organisation, thereby increasing the productivity of the host organisation at a reduced cost. It is cost effective for the host organisation. Volunteers in the course of volunteering gain more skills, valuable experience, and increase their chances of penetrating the job market in the private and public sectors. It is in this regard that BERUDEP offers volunteering opportunities to both International and National volunteers with the International volunteers dominating since the inception of the program. Every individual is a potential volunteer, it all depends on where, when, and why your skills or services are needed. The technical, material and financial assistance garnered from the ex and present volunteers of the program have been the backbone behind the successes recorded by our organisation. Many ex-volunteers of BERUDEP have had good jobs back home as a result of their struggle to express their act of charity altruistically. Conversely, many volunteers have left good jobs at home in an act to help our community. It is a good example to young Cameroonians to gain more skills and contacts and paid jobs as they struggle to share what they have with others. Let us stop passing over opportunities repeatedly in the name of poverty and cost involved in volunteering.

Joan Yein

NEW NATURAL FERTILIZER INTRODUCED TO BOYO FARMERS

The population of Boyo have succeeded to have organic manure (EM) to replace the usual fertiliser they were using. This has been done through a series of workshops organised in Belo, Njinikom, Fundong and Mbingo. This activity took place in the months of March and April 2010 under the supervision of BERUDEP.

Boyo farmers in 2010 are expected to have heavy yields giving the fact that the EM organisation Cameroon, through BERUDEP, has trained the Boyo farmers on the use of EM manure which is organic.

This training was given to farmers of Boyo in March and April by experts from EM Cameroon. The number of farmers that received the training in Fundong were 82, 105 in Njinikom, 51 in Mbingo and 38 in Belo. Most of the farmers are reporting that their farms and animals like pigs and chickens are all doing very well and they are all looking forward for harvest.

The reason for this training was to heed the cry of farmers, who have experienced low yields from their farms as well as animals. In this regard BERUDEP had to contact EM Cameroon to train and supply EM products so as to enhance better farm and animal yields. The EM head office is in Bamenda.

At the end of the training most farmers purchased EM products like EM 1 for farming, EM5 for environment, and EM 2 for livestock. Handouts were given to the farmers

for reference for their daily use of these various products.

All these trainings were organised by Berudep through her coordinator Ngwainmbi Simon.

Ngam Emmanuel

OVERVIEW OF BELO ORPHAN PROJECT

As in most underdeveloped countries, there are many orphans. Contrary to other nations, these children normally do not live in an orphanage, but they are taken in by a family member or acquaintance. These families are usually only able to provide him/her with housing and the basic food, but very often there are not enough funds for medical treatments, school fees or other needs. If a family for example cannot afford school fees or text books, the children will not attend school.

That is why the BERUDEP Sponsor an Orphan project was set up in 2006 by Andy Burger-Seed, an international volunteer from Scotland. The aim is to provide the neediest orphans with essential medical care, education, food supplements to combat malnutrition and clothing. Currently we are supporting 57 orphans in NW Cameroon and to be able to manage that we have two full time field workers employed who are responsible for the day to day running of the project. The project is supported by international volunteers from around the globe and a long-term international volunteer is assigned to oversee the whole project. Each child has a sponsor who sends a monthly donation through one of the European partner organizations Afri-Link or Kirabo. The project is designed so that 100% of sponsorship money is

spent on the child without any money being lost along the way on bank fees or admin fees.

Life in Cameroon is very hard but if, on top of this, the parents die, life can become desperate for the children. The BERUDEP Sponsor an Orphan Project aims to make a difference in their lives. [Anita Friedrich](#)

Presentation of BERUDEP

Belo rural development organisation is a non profit making organisation with particular interest in alleviating poverty among the poorer population of Boyo Division and beyond. To accomplish this, she works in the domains of agriculture, health and social services thereby striving hard to give a holistic approach to development. We have various social projects that focus on vulnerable groups such as widows, orphans, and disabled individuals. Additionally, we have an eco-tourism program that benefits individuals in various villages across the North West Region alongside community development.

It has two branch offices in Boyo division found in Fundong and Njinikom sub divisions.

The organisation functions under the provision of law No. 92/006 of 14th August, 1992 its decree of implementation No. 92/455 pm of 23rd November, 1992 at Bamenda on the 17/09/2008. Registration occurred on the 24th march 1997 at the regional Register of cooperative societies and common initiative groups in Bamenda.

Please, direct your concerns, and suggestions through this email address: berudep@yahoo.com

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**IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY
LOOK AFTER OTHERS**

BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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