

# OK CLEAN WATER PROJECT

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

### INTRODUCTION

Efforts to continue educating communities on the importance for sustainability of their water schemes remained OK's main priority for most part of the year. The transition towards becoming a Cameroonian Association also took center stage in our activities. In this light, villages were continuously sensitized on the necessity and benefits of becoming partners to the OK Association. Most communities sponsored this far had met the criteria as well as applied to become partners with OK. Thanks to the efforts of the advisory committee members, more and more villages gradually understood the rationale behind the Association. In order to focus more on **EDUCATION for SUSTAINABILITY**, we spent very little on new water projects, concentrating our efforts and resources to work with water management committees to ensure the continuous survival (sustainability) of the existing water schemes.

### HANDING OVER THE WATER MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION

One of the major milestones for OK in 2016 was the creation of an office in Tobin – Kumbo on August 1, 2016. This was a major step towards becoming a recognized Association in Cameroon. Mr. Visi Edwin who had been consultant for the past eight (08) years assumed the role of Country Director of OK Clean Water Project in Cameroon, while Yenika Collins Litika was recruited as Community Liaison Officer to assist the country director as well as gradually take over the role of the advisory committee in the field. At the opening ceremony of the new office and presenting Both Mr. Edwin and Collins to those invited, Sr. Catherine Molloy who had been coordinator of the project from its inception encouraged everyone to support them in order to see their work succeed and for the organization to move forward.

### CARETAKERS TRAINING AND UPDATES

To ensure this continuous supply of water all year round, OK Clean Water Project is making frantic efforts to involve every stakeholder in its education for sustainability. Caretakers of the various water management schemes are very important actors in the sustainable management of the existing and would be water projects. They are charged with the day-to-day maintenance and repairs of the water facilities and installations. Constant update and training of these caretakers on issues related to their job is very crucial for such sustainability.

Caretaker trainings comprised of indoor presentations on the duties and responsibilities of caretakers, position of the caretakers alongside other members of their various water management committees and communities respectively. Practical demonstrations on water testing and the identification of common fittings used in plumbing was also part of the training. Through such training workshops, many more caretakers are becoming versed with their duties and responsibilities in water management.

## **THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

OK's advisory committee has been very active in the course of the year as well as working towards the transition of the organization into a Cameroonian association. They were instrumental in bringing information from villages in their areas and taking reports from the office to their various communities. During advisory committee meetings, the organization often learned of strides made by some communities in providing potable water for themselves. This often included the construction of new structures, like water storage tanks, new catchments, or prompt payment of water maintenance levies, amongst others. During one of the meetings, the advisory committee members were awarded certificates in recognition of their commitments, efforts and contributions towards helping OK Clean Water Project to move forward over the past years.

## **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LEUVEN – LIMBURG VOLUNTEER**

OK's application for a volunteer from University College Leuven – Limburg in Belgium under the International Cooperation North – South Relations was approved. This connection was established earlier on when Mr. Visi Edwin hosted volunteers from the same program some years back. As a result, Mr. Mathieu Mannekens was sent to OK to volunteer his services and do his postgraduate research and thesis write up. Amongst others, his job description included field visits to monitor water schemes, carryout water tests when the need arose, assist in OK's ongoing education for sustainability and together with the community liaison officer develop WASH and other educative programs and activities for schools in the areas where OK intervenes.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (KITIWUM)**

This year (2016) instead of the usual area meetings held in each subdivision, the office decided to organize an enlarged annual general meeting in Kitiwum village on November 12, 2016. The reason for this general come-together was to enable representatives from different village WMC's to share experiences, learn from each other as well as reduce the financial cost of moving from sub division to another.

During this meeting topical issues were discussed they included; importance of joining the OK Association, handing over leadership from one water management committee to another amongst others. The process of doing a simple water test was demonstrated to those present by testing the water from a nearby stand tap. The Village water management committees were encouraged to make use of the educative charts, which the OK office uses during their water management training sessions.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The year 2016 saw the creation of the first ever board of directors (BOD) of OK Clean Water Project Cameroon. This was yet another giant step towards becoming an Association, recognized by the Government of Cameroon. There are eleven (11) board members from various occupations. The first board meeting held on November 25, 2016 at the OK office. Mr. Nyar Marten of the Himalayan Institute Cameroon was elected to the post of board chairperson. During this meeting some amendments were made to the draft constitution and Internal Rules and Regulations, pending signatures of all board members and subsequent submission of an application to become an Association from the administration.

## **CHALLENGES**

Most of the challenges we face are those which directly affect sustainability of water schemes. They include slow payments of water maintenance levies, catchment protection, non-respect for demarcated catchment areas by other inhabitants in some villages, transparency in management, handing over of leadership from one water management committee to another.

Continuous **EDUCATION for SUSTAINABILITY** remains the key towards bringing the people to understand where we stand and where are heading.

**Actual Expenditure 2016**

1	Advisory Committee	390,000
2	Miscellanoeous	15,000
3	Volunteer	240,000
4	staff/Consultancy fees	1,750,000
5	Administration	3,014,000
6	Association	80,000
7	Transportation	127,400
8	Job opening	10,000
9	WMT sessions and Area Meetings	835,000
	<i>Total for operational costs</i>	<i>6,461,400</i>
	<b><i>Total for Water Projects</i></b>	<b><i>15,502,200</i></b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21,963,600</b>

Mr. Visi Edwin

Yenika Collins Litika

29/03/2017