

LIVING EARTH AND LIVELIHOOD (LELIV) CIG END OF YEAR REPORT FOR 2022

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INTRODUCTION

Living earth and livelihood (LELIV) is a Common Initiative Group (“CIG”) registered in accordance with the business law in Cameroon. LELIV is registered under the North West Regional registry of COOP/CIG under registration N° NW/GP/031/20/166619 on the 06/05/2020; in compliance with law N° 92/0010 of 14th August 1992 relating to cooperative societies and common initiative groups and its decree of application N° 92/455/pm of 23rd November 1992.

LELIV focuses on community empowering initiatives covering food, nutrition and income security through organic farming practices. At LELIV, community programme, we believe that innovation and dynamisms synergy, partnership and human development foster major and unique changes in a community. LELIV community solutions project endeavours to create more inclusive, air and sustainable communities by holistically embedding the concept of relevance in local solutions to local problems. It is for this reason that LELIV and team have decided to engage in activities, looking for better ways to improve on the health, wealth etc of the inhabitants in Banten and its surrounding villages and those of the future generations by seeking support through your humble institution.

Our vision is to build resilient and dignified communities though sustainable resource management with focus on organic agricultural practices. We also advocate for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resource management and food security framework through appropriate training and assistance, with focus on the respect of human dignity and promotion of gender equality. We also promote entrepreneurial self-help initiatives either on our own or in partnerships with organizations with similar objectives.

What motivated us to get involved and work in the community is the fact that this community and its surrounding villages are heavily affected by the socio-political crisis engulfing the regions of the North West and South West in Cameroon. Presently, this community is faced with a humanitarian crisis termed the Anglophone Crisis within a global, COVID-19 Pandemic. These individuals are most affected by the war through displacements, loss of property and poor means of livelihood due to the unstable environment they are forced to live in.

Accordingly, LELIV's main target is to:

- Advocate for an enabling environment for development by being the voice of the voiceless, through networking with the traditional, government, faith based organizations, and leadership structures in the community (SDG 16).
- Educate the masses especially the vulnerable about entrepreneurship, sustainable natural resource management and food security frameworks through appropriate training and assistance SDG2.
- Train women and youths especially school dropouts who need employment skills under vocational training programs (detergent production (powder and bathing soap), honey juice production, transformation of medicinal plants and a selected array of farm produce) SDE5.
- Promote and valorize organic farming. SDG2.
- Eradicate Enhance poverty (reduce poverty by at vast 50%) SDG 2
- Implement social protection systems and partnership. SDG17
- Promote and encourage equal rights to asset ownerships like family farmlands, basic services, technology and economic resources.
- Planting of environmentally friendly trees and fruit trees SDG 10, SDG 13.

LELIV is governed by an executive committee and answerable to its board of directors and its general assembly members. The organization's commitment to making Banten and environs a role model in embracing sustainable farming practices in order to improve food security, livelihoods and alleviate poverty serves as the motivation to initiating participatory practices in promoting sustainable development initiatives among the resource poor rural community members.

RUBRICS OF ACTIVITIES OR OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

To improve on people's livelihood by strengthening resilience empowering the local community, time is of great essence. So LELIV discovered this aspect and then try to build self-confidence. The challenge is more because this crisis has prolonged itself six years running. People have known and lived the terror of war and its corollaries: innumerable deaths, school boycotts, maiming, lockdowns, arson, vandalism, kidnappings, financial hardships, wanton arrests, psychological instability and trauma, suspicion and confusion with no definite direction to take etc. No single country was left unaffected by the COVID 19 Pandemic which put the entire globe helplessly on its knees.

As if the above challenges were not enough, the unimaginable and unforeseen price hikes of almost every basic commodity in our markets has taken life a step lower, from bad to worse. Though the boat

of life has been ruffled, we have not been sunk by the waves. We have continued running the race, with LELIV and its activities building hope to the members of its communities.

16th of February 2022: Planning for 2022 Activities and Evaluation of 2021 Activities

LELIV team members had a 2hrs meeting evaluating activities of the previous year 2021, looking at the activities that were carried out such as the reviving of wheat cultivation again amongst the local population, introducing and or reviving the different ways on how to cultivate wheat to the old as well as new farmers on wheat cultivation respectively. Also seeking better solutions on the farmer/grazer conflicts existing between farmers and grazers. Much work and or sensitization was done on the various ways of living rightly (organically) and too eating rightly for your blood type, with adequate follow-ups to be done this 2022. Secondly it was agreed that LELIV team member's meetings should be holding after every three months to evaluate each team member(s) activities with reports and analysis done, possible corrections if any and the way forward. 2022 will be a year of bringing possible solutions to the farmer/grazer conflicts through the formation of a commission, promote the cultivation of crops organically, follow ups on some funded projects by Community Investments Beyond Philanthropy (CIBP) which is an Irish based organisation 100% owned by Cameroonian immigrants based in Europe and the UK. The function of CIBP is to capitalise on the economic potential of the Cameroonian diaspora to fund bankable micro projects in local communities back home, thereby contributing in building sustainable economic groupings and entrepreneurs in Cameroon. Her main supervisor in Cameroon is LELIV that supervises the sponsored projects. Some of the projects funded were, the youths of Kikaikom Parish to promote the production of powdered and solid soap, Mary Birmo agricultural and many others projects all sponsored but supervised by LELIV. To continue monitoring and making sure the finances are given back in due time. Increase sensitisation to be carried out in more villages within and without Bui Divison. The meeting ended appreciating LELIV team members for their wonderful works done in 2022 and encouraged by the CEO to do more come 2023

Powdered and Solid Soap Production with the Youths



26th of February 2021: Thanksgiving Mass at Emmaus Centre with the Mentally Deranged Persons in Bamenda.

Fulfilling of LELIV's outreach programmes. LELIV team supported them to raise funds to build a fence that will help control the inhabitants. A visit was done by LELIV and team to the Emmaus Center, a home for the Mentally Deranged Persons in the regional headquarters in Bamenda. Some discussions made with the superiors, LELIV donating some food items to them and a mass offering made by LELIV and Team with their invited guest who came to help raise some funds that could support build a fence that will help protect and secure inhabitants in the vicinity.



28th of February – March 4th 2022: Capacity Building of LELIV Team Members. Trauma management seminar in Yaounde – Cameroon by ME for REAL Non-Governmental Organisation.

Dealing with a community that is involved in the Anglophone Crises, we noticed that the people of these communities have been experiencing a new lifestyle which is traumatising to them. So LELIV thought it wise to empower ourselves with certain skills on how to manage trauma and stress and help these communities learn and know how to embrace their new lifestyle without or less stress



7th March 2022: Exchange Visits

Meeting with the CEO of GIC KAWTAL in Ngoundere. KAWTAL is very good in transforming some medicinal plants to finished products that helps in the treatment of respiratory diseases ie ginger, garlic, lemon, honey etc. Experiences were shared and a lot learnt from the exchange visit.



17th and 19th March 2022: Capacity Building

Capacity building training on Human Rights Monitoring, Accountability, Documenting and Reporting in Buea – Bamenda Cameroon respectively. A two days' workshop with the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA). The different tools to use also how to go about identifying human rights abuses or violations in and around us, proper tactics in collecting data, accountability, documenting and reporting without bias were learnt.



27th of April: Presenting the Farmer/Grazer conflict commission to the Traditional Council and the Community.

Justice and Peace Commission of Kumbo Diocese presented the farmer/grazer commission to the traditional council. In the preceding years, LELIV did some feasibility studies in need identification in Banten and the surrounding villages or communities. It was discovered that one of the main problems plaguing the villagers of these villages was stray animals. By helping to solve the problem, LELIV invited Justice and Peace Commission of the Kumbo Diocese who are experts in farmer/grazer conflict resolution to come and give a training to the population of Banten and the neighbouring villages. This idea was welcomed by the villagers and a commission was formed after a two days' seminar through elections. This commission was then presented to the traditional council by LELIV and Justice and Peace Commission who were then accepted and permitted to then carry out their activities hinge free.



17th June: LELIV Meeting with Team Members.

An evaluation meeting, reports and feedbacks from the activities carried out in the months of February – June Beginning with a Training of the Youths of Kikaikom Parish on the production of natural powdered and solid soap, capacity building and training of LELIV team members on Trauma Management in Yaounde organized by ME for REAL NGO in Yaounde, to an exchange visit to KAWTAL CIG in Ngoundere, capacity building and training of LELIV team members on Human Rights monitoring, accountability, documenting and reporting seminar with CHRDA NGO in Buea and lastly to the formation through elections of the farmer/grazer conflict resolution committee in the Banten local community. With the assessments of these activities, LELIV had it on her to follow up the trainings if what was thought with the youths, the respective funding's done by CIBP etc. planned trainings were made to train the local communities on some trauma management methods that will help them especially during this Anglophone crises and possible ways on how to better live within the said crises. A plan of was drawn out on the next chain of activities to be carried in the coming months.

10th – 11th July: Training on Production and Proper Handling of Organic Pesticides

Training on the production and proper handling of organic pesticides with the use of garlic, onion, cayenne pepper, marigold flower etc. These trainings were carried out in the villages of Mbosha, Diyri and Banten. Valorisation of organic farming was also carried out.

12th – 16th July: Wheat Planting

Last year 2021, LELIV engaged most of her teachings on eating right diet for your blood type. If you are not healthy, you cannot function to your optimum. We encouraged the local population to improve on their diets with focus on wheat cultivation and other cereals. Nkum Sub-Division climatic conditions is excellent for wheat cultivation. LELIV by so doing did engage in training the local population (farmers) on how to go about with wheat cultivation.



13th – 14th July: Presentation of the Farmer/Grazer Commission by LELIV/ Justice and Peace Kumbo Diocese and Traditional Council to the Local Population.

LELIV together with the Justice and Peace Commission Kumbo Diocese and the Traditional Council presented the Farmer/Grazer Commission to the villages and community at large in the Banten market square. The villagers were very happy with this move and promised to work together with the commission. They appreciated the church for always being ready through Justice and Peace Commission and other ways to help them solve pertinent problems especially during this trial moments of the Anglophone crises.

15th July: Handing of White and Crutches to the Fomonyuy Group of Banten

The Fomonyuy Group in Banten is a group of persons with disabilities who join together in a union to overcome some of the challenges as a group. LELIV continued in her outreach programs by donating white canes, crutches and some items to members of this said group.

Donation of White Cane and Crutches to the Fomonyuy People Living with Disability Group in Banten



17th -18th July: Organic Pesticides Production and Proper Handling with the Fulani, Diyri, Lo-ong and Banten Youths

Organic pesticides production and proper handling training was carried out with the Fulani, Diyri and Lo-ong youths. It came to our knowledge inorganic pesticides were having a lot of adverse effects on the health of the local population and even humans at large, our soils as well. Also the availability and cost, scarce and exorbitant for the farmers to afford. LELIV being a promoter of sustainable organic farming with its slogan being “Community Solution” saw it necessary to intervene to remedy the

situation by helping farmers through trainings on how to use what is locally available and or what they can grow and transform to address these issues.

Tutorials and Practical Session with the Local Community(s) of Fulani, Diyri, Lo-ong and Banten on the Production of Organic Pesticides



19th – 20th July: Pesticides Replication in Banten

Pesticides production was replicated in Banten since more farmers showed a lot of interest on how to produce organic pesticides.

21st July: Follow- up visit with the Fulani Community Banten

A follow-up visit was done in the Fulani Community in Banten on the Start Awareness Support Action (SASA) Approach on handling human rights abuses, and instances of gender based violence; valorisation of organic farming; preservation of farm produce and menstrual hygiene. Start Awareness Support Action (SASA) methodology emphasizes on no blame, participate positively and then we bring the balance.



September 3rd: A One-Day Seminar on Strengthening Young Women Entrepreneurship

LELIV and Team attended a one-day seminar on Strengthening Young Women Entrepreneurship organized by Youth Connect Innovation Lab. Participant were drilled on how to improve on their business skills, encouraging innovation, proving how different your services and or products are different from the already existing, what are you bringing new to the society and what is the impact that you have created. Analysing the problem tree approach, branding etc.



September 12th and October 22nd: The Right Diet for your Blood Type

Lectures on the Right Diet for your Blood Type was given to the Catholic Women Association (CWA), at the divisional branch level. This was handled together with Green World Common Initiative Group and Mme Florence Yuyen.



14th – 15th September: Agribusiness Summit Participant

LELIV participated in an agribusiness summit on the theme; Breaking Barriers in agribusiness.

Branding, nursery management techniques, construction of mini propagator etc trainings were treated or carried out.



September 21st: Capacity Building of Team Members

After a long series of activities in the last three months beginning from July 10th to September 15th, an accounted number of successes in both outreach and much knowledge gained by the team was recorded. Notwithstanding a few lapses which were corrected much was done. Individual accounts and reports as to the tasks given to the individual members assessed, challenges faced. Beginning from July 10th with training on organic pesticides training and proper handling with the Fulani, youths from the villages of Diyri, Lo-ong and Banten respectively, it was welcomed by these farmers thus LELIV called upon to do proper follow ups and called upon to do this more in the neighboring villages too. Wheat planting was also revived on the field, since it was new to most of the farmers close and proper and physical follow up is to be done as most of the farmers engaging into wheat cultivation is still new to some of them and too with the new methods introduced will require close monitoring. Applauded success in the donation of white canes and crutches to the Fomonyuy Group. The Fulani women after training using the SASA methodology are to be followed closely so to reduced and or stopped completely on abused rights. It was a success as their Ardo (leader) and husbands welcomed the idea by releasing their wife's to attend this seminar. Even with the successes recorded for the past month's team members were encouraged to do more research on what they so far did with the various communities, develop new skills and also be close to those communities they have been with making sure what they have thought be carried out or practised in the respective communities.

7th October: Training on the Transformation of Medicinal Plants with CAMGEW and WECMA

A training on the transformation of medicinal plants organized by CAMGEW and WECMA. It has been observed that there has been a lot of wastage and loss in post-harvest of plants. Transformation being the changing of the original state of something to improve/add value and increase shelf life, we decided to empower ourselves so that we can use the technique to help our community.

11th November: Training on Rubbing Oil Production with the Fomonyuy Group

A training on rubbing oil production was organized by LELIV to train the Fomonyuy Group in Banten. This group is a group made of people with disabilities. Teaching them how to locally produce rubbing oil was as a means of helping them generate income through yet another new means for themselves and their families.

13th November: Handing of Registration Certificate to the Nkum Women's Faeming Group.

LELIV in one of her activities helps local groups registered as well as facilitate the certification of the groups as Common Initiative Groups. This was the case with the Nkum Women's Farming Group in Banten



29th December: Three Months Online Certification Course on Public Speaking, emceeing and On-Air Personalities Completion with Blessing Ekiko Global Impact

A three months' online certification course completion was done by two of LELIV's team members. This certification course carried out was on Public Speaking, emceeing and On-Air Personalities. Training and or communicating our local communities on how to better their living standards through the various skills which LELIV and team has developed in the past years, she needed to educate some of her team members to learn some better ways of communication thus, they saw need of this communication course. Capacity building of team members on how to better address their audience especially when talking to the local communities was a call for concern. Our communities are made up of mostly farmers with little and or only elementary education. LELIV needs to strategize the various ways and or methods they use to pass info to farmers, talking to people with different educational backgrounds and with different levels of understandings, making sure what she teaches is gotten and understood by everyone.



23rd January: LELIV Meeting with Partner(s) with CIBP/MBAM

LELIV had meeting with her partner(s) CIBP/MBAM to access the various projects which they sponsored beginning from Mary Birmo building of a fence round her potatoes farming and buying of seedlings for planting, Mrs Brigette of Roberta, Mr Visha with Loan for his agribusiness paid, Mr. Fai Emmanuel for his egg incubator project interest paid and applying for a renewal of his loan, and lastly the Kikaikom youths powdered and solid organic soap production project loan paid back. With these successes recorded was applauded given the help it gave the farmers as it was intended. With the CIBP/MBAM permanent site/platform undergoing maintenance was promised by the technicians in the background to be completed, up and running by the end of June 2023. Functional testing and possible criticisms is already being done by CIBP team members and LELIV for possible corrections and improvements. LELIV and CIBP/MBAM looking forward in doing more for the local communities as she supports and sponsors local entrepreneurial and sustainable projects.

POPULATION TARGETED AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES WITH LELIV

From the Nkum Council Development Plan, the entire population of Nkum Sub-Division before the intensified Anglophone crises the total population was at 106,945 people with the villages of Banten with 5485, Diyri 711 and Mbosha 1390 (LELIV's arears of focus for now) respectively. Due to this crises, Nkum Sub-Division being one of the most affected Sub-Divisions, classified as a red zone, most of its (about 45-50%) population left for safety in nearby villages and towns. Thus LELIV, s targeted population in the villages of Banten, Diyri and Mbosha joint together rests at 3795person, s.

With a bit of calm now existing in the area, most of the community(s) activities have now resumed on a serious note. The farmers are actively taking part in the on the ground. They do initiate and claim ownership of trainings carried out and facilitated by LELIV as can be seen from the accompanying pictures.

STAKEHOLDER INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION

In response to the need of the community and various humanitarian mission's requirements, LELIV facilitates bringing some solutions of working together some solutions by working together with stakeholders present in the community. LELIV works together with the traditional authorities, religious, public authorities and institutions, other CIGs and NGOs and Government technical services. With the main focus of having the local community or population at heart and also making sure or seeing to it that their lifestyle is improving. All the stakeholders at their various angles are always ready to chip in their own contributions, available with their technical know-how and other information ready to better the lives of the local population under their jurisdiction of operations.

REALISED SUCCESSES AND LESSONS LEARNT

In order to examine the efficiency of LELIV towards achieving the goals and objectives, some important pointers are used. They are based on the set targets for the timeframe and their extent of changing the conditions of the project beneficiaries lives for the better. They include the number of sensitisation meetings held, number of farmers trained, rates of adoption leading to a decrease in the rates of dependency ratio on the use of external and detrimental inputs as well as conspicuous change of attitude by the farmers and their neighbours manifested in regular exchange visits and replication of the techniques learnt. The reduced rates of farmer/grazer conflict as compared to previous years is also testament of the continuous success of LELIV's presence in the community as her Motto goes: Community Solutions.

Finally, the wide use of organic pesticides which are not harmful to the environment and their health by the local communities of Banten and the surrounding villages is also another testament of the success story. This has empowered some members and even employment for some. It is envisaged that lessons learnt together with available resources could be replicated in other communities.

VARIOUS RISKS AND MITIGATION (ASSUMPTIONS) STRATEGIES

RISKS

The risks that surround the development of these undertakings includes: –

- **Security:** As earlier mentioned, the on-going socio-political conflict in the region is of serious concern to the LELIV team and an obstacle in carrying out its program in a free manner. However, abandoning the citizens is also impossible as this will instead create further instability and expose the vulnerable. Therefore, LELIV is committed to play a leading role in advocating for peace within the community through its project empowering programs.
- **Reversion:** Some of the trained farmers may revert back to their old ways of farming i.e. conventional farming.
- **Weather Conditions:** Large number of our target group relies on rainfall for their agricultural activities which has of late been characterized by erratic situations thus interfering with on farm implementations.
- **Commercial Interference:** Some merchants promoting their synthetic products and or transgenic seeds may influence the farmers' perception. This in most cases will occur to individual farmers on the lookout or in need of making quick gains.
- **Group's Disintegration:** Sensitized and trained community members might be unable to hold together onto their convenient groupings making it difficult for follow ups and sharing of ideas.

ASSUMPTIONS

Assumptions related to the project proposal includes: –

- LELIV will be able to carry out the project in a safe environment void of confrontation between armed factions.

- The community members will have an interest in sustainable methods of farming – organic farming i.e. avail themselves for the trainings, and play their duly part during training and implementation of the project in order to make a lasting impact.

- The social-economic political and weather conditions will allow for the process of awareness, training and more importantly adoption and implementation of the ideas.

- The project sponsors and partners will continue with their mandate without changing focus and mission.

LELIV BUDGET TEMPLATE

Field Visits/Project

Items	Details	Quantity	Unit Price	Total	Comments
Travel					
Bamenda-Kumbo	Round Trip	5	15,000frs	75,000frs	
Kumbo-Banten	Round Trip	5	6,000frs	30,000frs	
Kumbo-Mbosha	Round Trip	2	6,000frs	12,000frs	
Kumbo-Diyri	Round Trip	2	7,000frs	14,000frs	
TOTAL 1			Total	131,000frs	
Mission Allowance					
Elfrida Njolai	0	9	7,000frs	63,000frs	
Elvis Berinyuy	0	5	7,000frs	35,000frs	
TOTAL 2			Total	98,000frs	
Lodging					
Elfrida Njolai	0	9	1,000frs	9,000frs	
Elvis Berinyuy	0	5	1,000frs	5,000frs	
TOTAL 3			Total	14,000frs	
Hotel Conferences					
Hotel Rental	Days	9	10,000frs	90,000frs	

Catering	Days	9	2,000frs	18,000frs	
Workshop Materials (booklets, files, pens, banners etc)	Lumpsum	6	60,000frs	360,000frs	
Cocktails	Honey Juice	6	10,000frs	60,000frs	
TOTAL 4			Total	528,000frs	
Field Visits/ Projects					
Feasibility Studies	Days	1(2persons)	42,000frs	42,000frs	LELIV Management
Follow – Up Visits	Days	2(2persons)	42,000frs	84,000frs	
Incidentals		3	65,000frs	195,000frs	
TOTAL 5			Total	321,000frs	
Online Yearly Expenses					
Website Maintenance	Domain name renewal	1	48,000frs	48,000frs	
Social Medial Platforms (Facebook, YouTube etc)	Maintenance & Media Uploads etc	12	5,000frs	60,000frs	
Funds 4 NGOs Platform	Yearly Renewal	1	32,500frs (\$50)	32,500frs	

Project Writings	Proposed Projects for Funding	10	25,000frs	250,000frs	
Internet	Monthly Data Subscriptions	20,000frs / 12months	240,000frs	240,000frs	
Calls		12months	1500frs	18,000frs	
TOTAL 6			Total	648,500frs	
Misceraneous				200,000frs	

TOTALS	1+2+3+4+5+6+MISC			1,940,500frs	
Overhead Fees			10%	194,050frs	
GRAND TOTAL				2,134,550FRS	

REST/PLANNING MEETING FOR 2023

After a two week break in January, LELIV convened a team meeting of evaluation of last year's activities and planning for 2023 activities. After some brainstorming the general overview showed that LELIV and her team was on a positive note. Even with the challenges faced in the field, LELIV and team took them as a stepping stones for growth. Nothing is stopping LELIV till she reaches the last famer in their targeted communities

CONCLUSION

LELIV being a common initiative group based in Kumbo and the headquarters in Banten, and having worked with farmers for about 5 (five) years, now can guarantee that by the end of 2023, remarkable change will be noticed in these communities. The resilience of the local population will really be strengthen as they are now equipped with new adaptable skills.