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GREDEVEL

THE GROUP OF THOUGHT AND ACTION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DOCUMENT PRESENTING THE ORGANISATION



Reduce inequalities and injustice:
More than a slogan, actions...

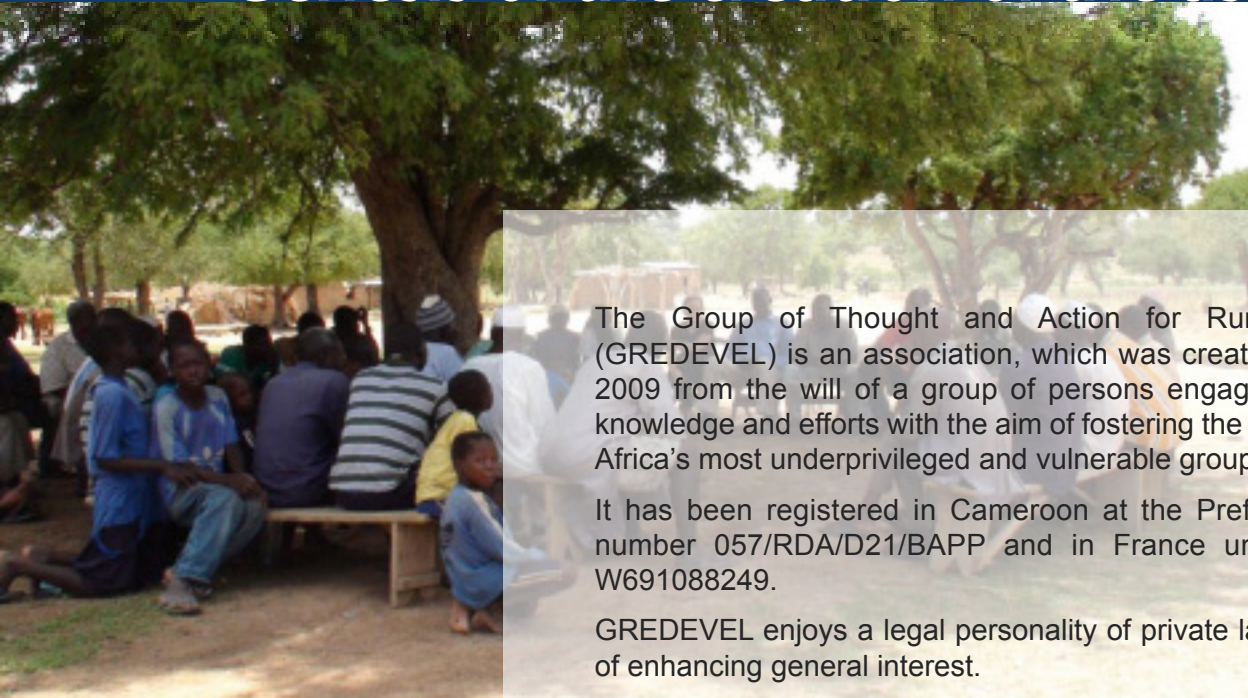
“

When the rich steal from the poor it is business, but when the poor defend themselves it is violence.
In order to reduce inequalities in our society, we do not simply need to collect from the rich to give to the poor. It is necessary to reduce all sorts of gaps by the means of acting solidarity.

”

GREDEVEL

Genesis of the creation of the association

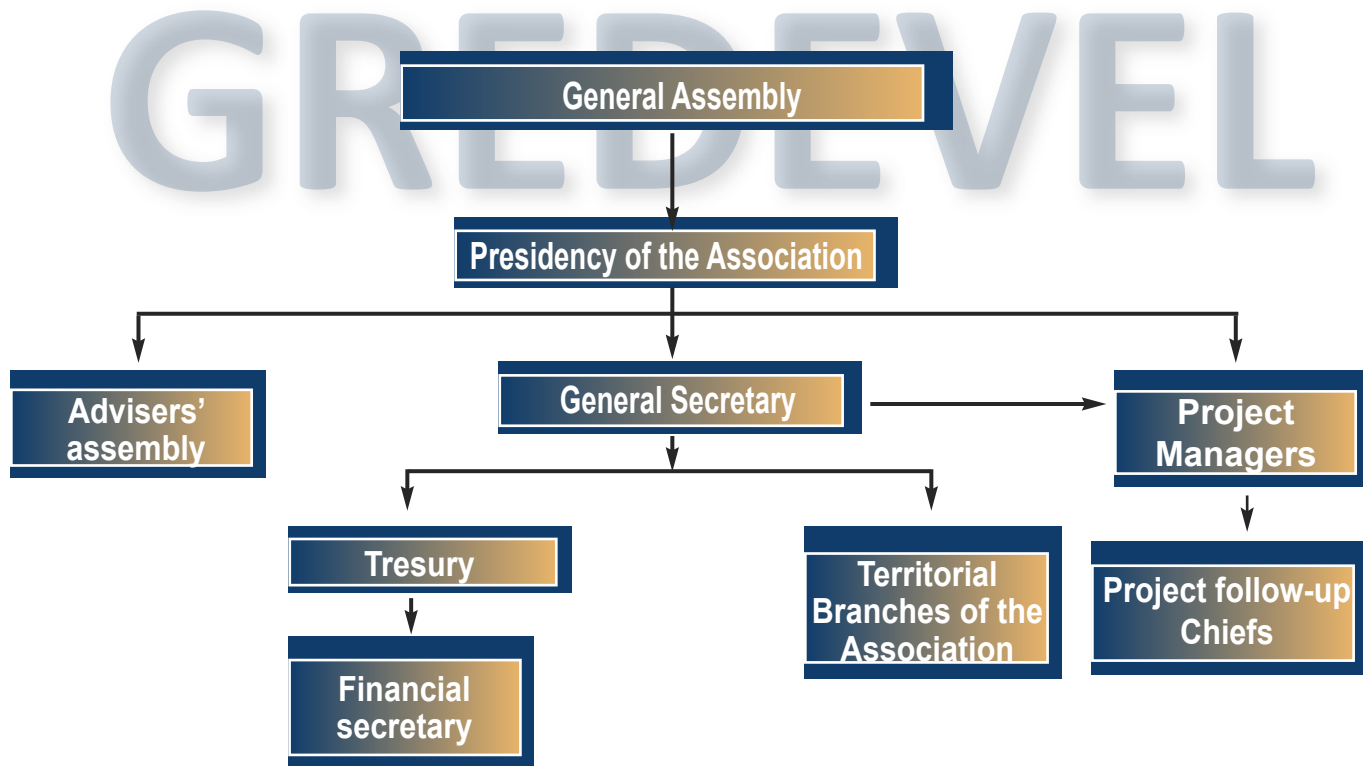


The Group of Thought and Action for Rural Development (GREDEVEL) is an association, which was created on August 27, 2009 from the will of a group of persons engaged to share their knowledge and efforts with the aim of fostering the auto-promotion of Africa's most underprivileged and vulnerable groups.

It has been registered in Cameroon at the Prefecture under the number 057/RDA/D21/BAPP and in France under the number W691088249.

GREDEVEL enjoys a legal personality of private law with the vision of enhancing general interest.

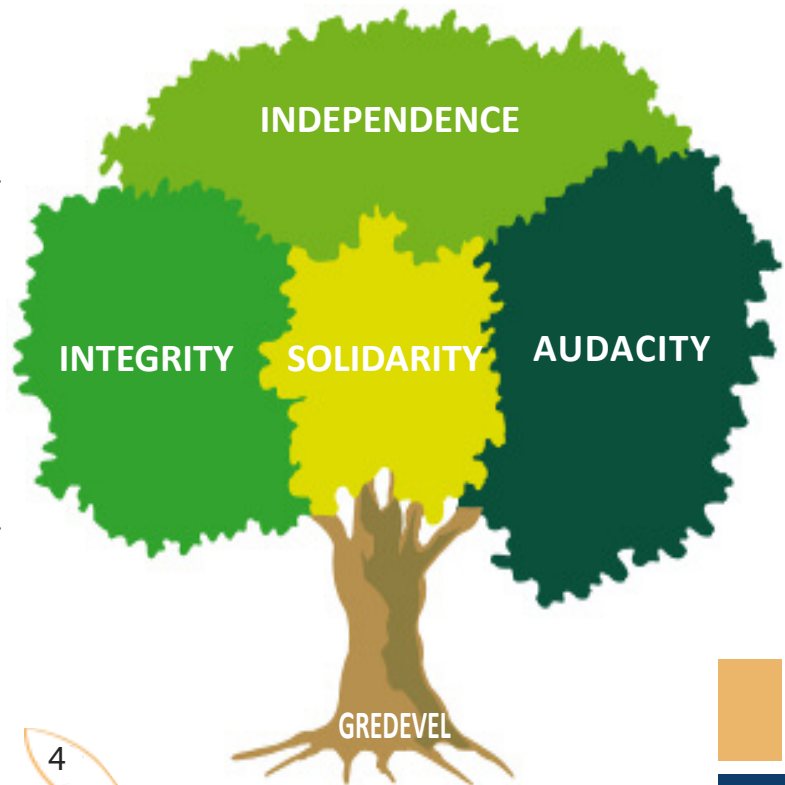
Fonctional Organigram



Specifics Identities of GREDEVEL

The identity of The Group of Thought and Action for Rural Development (GREDEVEL) is set up on four immutable and imprescriptible values, in coherence with the global objective of our organization: solidarity, audacity, integrity, and the independence of our initiatives.

These values represent objectives of the Association to which each member adheres. Manners of acting and the behavior which almost all members follow. They have to constitute a reference framework for everyone. These values constitute the basis of our ambition for a greater acting solidarity.



Specifics Identities of GREDEVEL

GREDEVEL has built its reputation on the solidarity of its members, the audacity of its managing team and the moral integrity of its advisers. The freedom of thought of the members of GREDEVEL is closely linked to its independence of action. No political or religious ideology could influence the vision of the association. Our specificity is portrayed by our independence of action and mind.

The members of the Executive committees are elected following their proven competences, integrity as well as their determination to take into account the interests of every member of the Association.

The meaning we give to :

Solidarity :

Written in our statutes, solidarity, be it individual or collective, is according to us, a moral **duty towards the less privileged.**

Acting with solidarity is choosing to stand together to defend the rights of everyone and to fight against all forms of exclusions, inequalities and discriminations.

Solidarity within our Organization, but especially beyond the framework of the association.

Audacity :

Daring to start the transformation of a situation where fundamental rights are perpetually violated, to a state where the victims are relieved, is not always a very easy task. Our actions are therefore continuously boosted by a considerable dose of audacity. And this works in most cases...

Integrity :

Qualities such as respect, confidence and the credibility portrayed by our members represents the true elements of measure of the integrity of our Association. It puts together members in a constant dynamics of discussions that go beyond differences in origin, religious beliefs as well as opinion.

Independence :

The independence of thought and action can only be built efficiently if our Association is based on values of solidarity amongst its members as well as its development partners.



Rationale of our association

The recrudescence of various cases of injustice is a glaring reality in Africa today. The problems that the population in general and the poor in particular face, perfectly demonstrate the difficulty and dangers which could be encountered in promoting an ideological debate, pluralism, the protection of fundamental rights as well as promoting democratic opinions.

The GREDEVEL Association has in fact noticed, following information collected that, major fundamental human rights principles have often been disrespected or even totally ignored.

Ills such as organized crime, corruption, torture, land expropriation of multinationals on the poorest, violence on women and homeless children, agricultural conflicts, population migration, desertification, climate change, low agricultural yields, female illiteracy and youth unemployment are just part of the numerous challenges that we face, this is why we have to combine our efforts to reduce these different injustices encountered.

The rise in the needs for a proximity justice is tangible, but the requirement of actions that cover a regional and continental scale has become increasingly significant.

The GREDEVEL Association, conscious of the emergency of working in collaboration with other organizations either of small or big size, puts cooperation at the center of her preoccupations. Activating a mobilization dynamics that would implicate actors of the civil society in various fields permits us to intensify our joint efforts in favor of the promotion of human rights within the framework of a harmonious, global and perennial vision.

GREDEVEL is established for the moment in France and in Cameroun. It however intends to cover other countries of French-speaking Africa.



GREDEVEL in Cameroon

GREDEVEL relies on the regional network of its rural branches which work daily for the improvement of the living standards of rural populations. More than 600 voluntary peasants are engaged in the association, in order to fight near the weakest for the respect of :

- Right to feeding based on the access to productions means;
- Right to the land ownership;
- The corridors of the National Bénoué Park;
- Human dignity in prisons;

GREDEVEL in Cameroon

A – The Gouna branch

The Gouna branch is made up of about a hundred members. It has opted for the strategy of Community mobilization to sensitize youths and women on the afforestation of their soils, prevention against viral diseases, securing of villages against aggressions and cattle theft.

Their approach in Community mobilization is based on the participation of populations themselves in defining their objectives and realizing their goals.

The Gouna branch has set some criteria in defining a community. For them, a Community is primarily:

- A territorial unit in a society, that is, a Canton such as Gouna;
- A unit of a social organization which can rely on the community of interests and common living conditions;

- An interpersonal climate, characterized by the mutual respect, a feeling of fraternity and friendship, etc

The Gouna branch of GREDEVEL has undertaken several mobilization actions in the fields of malaria and sexually transmitted diseases prevention.



GREDEVEL in Cameroon

B – The Touroua branch

How can sufficient agricultural products be produced in order to feed the galloping population? We think that, this is only possible by increasing productivity through the use of improved seeds. This is what the Touroua branch of GREDEVEL (North Region of Cameroon) does by developing a new variety of yellow corn.

Goal of the operation: To reduce food insecurity in our localities.

The members of the Touroua branch of GREDEVEL received a donation of improved seeds for 5 hectares of arable land. This is made up of Corn seeds of CMS 9015 type offered by the Ministry of agriculture and rural development of Cameroun. This variety is said to be precarious. Once the seeds are put in the soil, they take 45 days to develop and produce corn ears. If everything goes on well, the new variety of seed approved by the Cameroonian Government, would permit to obtain in the next 5 years a 40% increase in output compared to the current yield of ordinary seeds





On a purely experimental basis, we set up two seed-farms of 5 hectares. Do we therefore, simply need to distribute quality seeds to the peasants in order to obtain a miraculous harvests? However, reality is different. Our action lacks subsidies for a large scale production.

Peasants who seldom have the means of buying the

best seeds at full price only represent about 2 % of the national market. Our association would like to obtain improved varieties that are adapted to the local consumption needs, either by paying for the production cost, or by organizing a chain of seed-farms in the North region.



C – The Sakdjé branch

More than 9 000 persons live along the Bénoué National park. These are people mainly coming from migratory movements. Several Communities originating from the extreme-north region are installed on these lands along the National park. The Sakdjé GREDEVEL branch carried its actions following two objectives:

1) The respect of the ecological corridors of the National park

There exists several potential ecological corridors adjacent the Park. The local populations takes part in their maintenance and enjoy the financial benefits from the ZIC (Zone of Hunting Interest).

It is worth noting that the Bénoué wildlife reserve was created on November 11, 1932 and became the National park after Decree N°120 of December 5, 1968. The limits of the ZICs contiguous to the Bénoué National park were set by the Decree N° 0580 of 27 Août 1998

2) The " Zero pesticide in our plates "campaign.

It is one of the main activities of the Sakdjé branch of GREDEVEL. Sensitizing and mobilizing villagers to abstain from the use of pesticides in the production of fruits and vegetables. After two years of the "Zero pesticide" campaign, the village has started evolving as well as the positions. The populations of the Sakdjé village have made considerable efforts in this light.

Biodiversity is often destroyed by pesticides. Men are not the only victims. The ecosystems would also suffer from these effects, which in the long run could disturb the food chain.

In Sakdjé as everywhere else in the agricultural areas, pesticides are used to fight against insects, grasses or mushrooms. But their toxicity is however not only limited to the species which they want to eliminate. They are also harmful to Man and the environment.

Even though the mechanisms through which pesticides act in our body are complex and not well known yet, their effects on their part have been clearly highlighted. Reproduction troubles, cancers, and troubles of the nervous system are some known examples.

D – The Beka Branch

The traditional Transfaro rice is very resistant to all forms of stress: disease, dryness, and parasites. It presents very promising characteristics. It grows in abundance, but however requires much water, therefore one cannot be cultivated without an irrigation system. But nature has endowed Koma (the native people living on mount atlantika) with everything. The bed of the Faro steam which takes its source from river Benoue is filled with water all through the year. Faro became a «water mine» which favors the cultivation of rice in the area.

The idea of opening of a branch of our association in Béka was put forth by these people who for a long time had been marginalized by the Tchamba people, who mainly held the political, traditional and economic power.

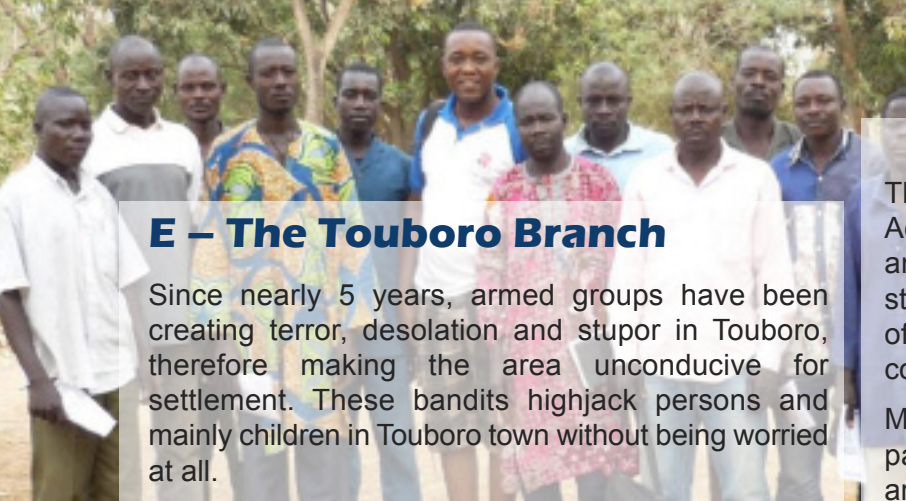
Rice therefore became a new discovery for them, with thousands of tons cultivated yearly in the area. Neighboring Nigeria continues demanding and is ready to buy all the output no matter the price.

The largest rice producers in the area adhered to the



association and are now full members. The president of the local branch in Beka, Daniel SALIMOU is one of those who produce more 20 000 kg/year.

Rice growers in this subdivision seek technical support from the Ministry of agriculture, as well as rolling stock (tractors) in order to improve on their output thereby reducing famine in the North region of Cameroun.



E – The Touboro Branch

Since nearly 5 years, armed groups have been creating terror, desolation and stupor in Touboro, therefore making the area uncondusive for settlement. These bandits highjack persons and mainly children in Touboro town without being worried at all.

We have been told that these armed bandits generally operated in the night. They strip the populations of their money, steal cattle and kill all those who tried to resist them before going back to the Central African Republic.

The localities of Mbaïmboum and Touboro have been a scene of fatal attacks these recent weeks and this situation, constantly denounced by the population has been lasting for many years now.

Alhadji DJABARI, considered as one of the richest men in the area with wealth worth about 10 000 oxen, was hijacked in town in May 2015.

This phenomenon has taken significant proportions. According to various sources, these local gangsters and their relays are well known. They should be strongly armed and of a significant number. We hear of about 400 persons based on the mountains and coming from the Central African Republic.

Mayo Rey in general and Touboro subdivision in particular became true nests of insecurity where armed men terrorize people all along the main roads. There is a recrudescence of organized crime in this Division which shares its borders with Chad and the CAR, creates panic within the populations and enormously slows down the touristic and other economic activities.

The phenomenon of highway rubbers, abducting and armed robbery is experienced almost daily by the population of the Division. We remember that a merchandise truck conveyor was cold bloodedly shot and killed by a group of highway rubbers in the locality of Mbang Rey. Not long ago, another group of highway rubbers killed a shepherd and carried hundreds of cows away. The wife of the SDO of Rey



Bouba Division has equally been a victim of these brigands between the Tcholliré and Guidjiba crossroads. A significant amount of money which she transported was collected by these rubbers.

Insecurity has been intensifying itself in Mayo Rey and has the tendency to go beyond the Division.

The populations organized themselves in order to push back these assailants. GREDEVEL organizes sensitization meetings to inform the population on their rights, considering this rise in criminality.

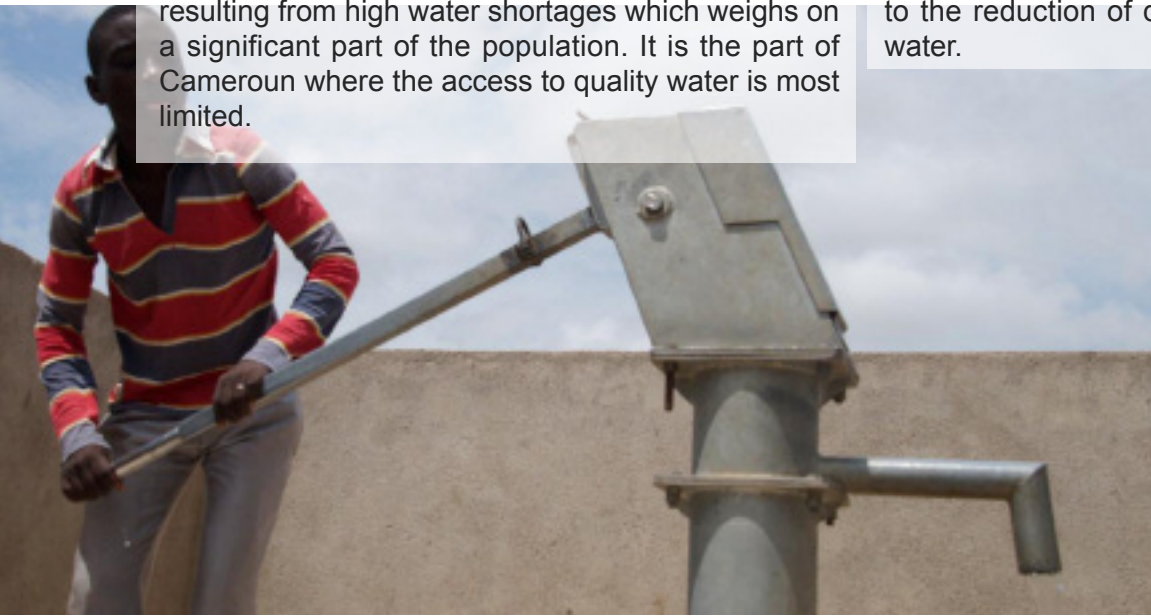
Other activities

A) Construction of a drilling at Bizili in the Touloum subdivision

800 million people do not still have access to potable water in the world today, according to the United Nations. Rural villages are the less endowed with access rates lower than 10%. The extreme North of Cameroon remains faced with a huge hydraulic stress resulting from high water shortages which weighs on a significant part of the population. It is the part of Cameroun where the access to quality water is most limited.

The GREDEVEL association engaged in building a drinking water point in February 2016 for the canton of Bizili in the Touloum subdivision of the Kaélé Division.

GREDEVEL would hence like to contribute in her way to the reduction of difficulties in access to drinking water.



Other activities



Orphans proudly showing their recently established birth certificates

B) Establishment of births certificates to " anonymous " children

In the Tcholliré and Rey-bouba subdivisions, approximately a hundred births are not declared yearly. Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child however stipulates that «the **child is registered immediately at birth and has the right to a name and to Nationality (...)** ».

In the villages of the Tcholliré and Rey-bouba subdivisions, the percentage of unregistered children sometimes reaches 70% of the new-born babies. These anonymous children are very vulnerable to all kinds of abuses and cannot profit from their most fundamental rights such as

Other activities

the right to education.

The non-registration of children at birth constitutes a problem at the regional level. The Northern part Cameroun is highly affected by this phenomenon. Nearly a quarter of children less than 18 years do not have a birth certificate. The reasons for this deficit are partly due to the ignorance of procedures of establishment of a birth certificate, but also on structural problems such as the dysfunctions of the administration. In Sakdjé for example, public medical centers charge families the sum of 10 000F added to a goat, before issuing a Birth notification for a new-born baby. The villages of the Rey-bouba, Mayo-galké and Landou subdivisions are localities where births said to less declared (46% of children below 18 years in these villages are not declared). We registered to date (2015) about 11 000 children of less than 18 years who do not have birth certificates in the Tcholliré subdivision alone.

These unregistered children were almost in all cases born in poor, marginalized or migrant families. Instead of going to school, the girls themselves still children, become mothers. In the Tcholliré and Rey-bouba subdivision, the

average nubile age of girls is 14 years. Poverty and the lack of education are reasons why the childhood of girls interrupted prematurely in many villages of this part of Cameroun.

These children can neither prove their date of birth, name, nor nationality. The children thus do not enjoy the privilege to have a birth certificate which is a most basic and fundamental right: the right to identity. For various reasons, the majority of children of the Tcholliré and Rey-bouba subdivisions reach adulthood without never having a birth certificate.

Our association met the civil status officers of special centers to point out their primary missions and to challenge the Mayors, as well as the Sub-prefects on the need for facilitating the procedures of obtaining a birth certificates for parents of children born recently.

Given the low level of birth registration, the envisaged option for late establishment of birth certificates is the suppletive judgment. This is a procedure which consists of requesting the Court of First instance to

Other activities

authorize the establishment of a birth certificate through a suppletive judgment. This judgment does not aim at operating a fraudulent change of name or filiation. This is a very tedious procedure and requesting a birth certificate to be established through this means is not easy at all. This is because birth certificates to be established beyond the time limits are subject to litigation. This is where things become complicated because of a long and expensive procedure which is sometimes strewn with many other obstacles.

The child must first be presented to a doctor who after consultation, determines his apparent age. A certificate of apparent age is established and it is this document which will latter constitute the main document attached to the request that is addressed to the president of the court of first instance.

After the court, it is necessary now to go to the mayor's office of the place of residence of the parents or guardian of the child, for the establishment of the birth certificate.

C) Protection of interests and rights of widows

The interest and what prompts the intervention of GREDEVEI here, is the need to solve the main abuses encountered by widows, which Cameroonian laws, International Conventions and even local customs ignore and do not protect sufficiently.

They originate from the villages of Golomo, Dawala-Biou, Gada Mayo, Pimtili, Guizlim, Bidoum, Guizai,

Douknoukou and Batao. They often lack everything for survival and to take care of their children (that is, paying for their school fees, health care, etc). In general, these widows face the following problems:

- seizing of the heritage of their late husband by members of his family and disregarding the law in the matter;



Discussions with widows of the Canton of Biou

- Difficulties in educating their children;
- The widow is sometimes accused to be responsible of the death of her husband and thus she is driven out of her house;
- They can neither read nor write.

The case of widows in rural areas who have never benefited from any particular legal protection is presented here. The unknown extent of silent tragedy that many widows in this part of Cameroun live is an

appalling situation. As the only living spouse, a widow in many villages of northern Cameroun is deprived of her right to inherit, land rights and she is even forced to practice degrading rites related to bereavement and burial, while she undergoes other forms of violence due to her condition of widow.

We are in Bidzar, a canton of almost 6000 inhabitants, located at about 1h30 of road from Garoua (Chief town of the North region of Cameroun). Since the death of her spouse, Asta Mariette, born in 1990, is entirely responsible of her 3 children aged between 3 and 11 years. In order to provide something for the needs of these children, she depended on a small plot of land and this plot was sold without her knowledge by her family-in-law, a few weeks after the death of



Sr Myriam and widows of Bidzar

her husband. It is only when the new owner came to expel her that she learned that her plot had already been transferred to another person.

This kind of situation has become very frequent in villages of the North region of Cameroun where 3 women out of 10 are widows.

The widows of men who died from sexually transmitted diseases are often accused to have

introduced the disease in the household and are thereby likely to see their land and other goods confiscated. They are then forced to live with their children out of the community. They are sometimes deprived from the right to access to land and must survive by selling food stuff in the street. Sometimes it happens that they lose the guidance of their children.



Meeting with widows of Bidzar

The children of widows are affected emotionally as well as economically. Mother Widows who take care of their children alone are sometimes forced to get their children out of school in order to use their labor force. These children who have never demanded to be born find themselves on the street begging for pieces of bread in order to feed themselves. As they do not go to school anymore due to lack of money,

they find themselves entering into drug consumption. Their mothers end up into prostitution or squatting in places with other widows. We then notice that widows who are single parents are more vulnerable to violence and other inhuman and degrading treatments

Discriminated, disinherited, accused of sorcery, expelled from their marital home, raped or victims of forced marriage to another family member, their situation is often more than disastrous. Widowhood is then stigmatized and perceived as a source of shame for the family-in-law. In certain villages of the north region, there is a popular belief that widows have been cursed. This is why they are often accused of practicing sorcery. These thoughts make them victims of ostracism, ill treatments and other worse behaviors.

Today there are more than one million widowed women living across the Cameroonian territory. (Source: Ministry of women empowerment and the family of Cameroun). UNO quantified the number of widows living in precariousness to be 245 million in the world.

D) **Guarantee of dignity under detention**

There are often many complaints against Cameroonian prisons concerning the disastrous detention conditions: overpopulation, insalubrity, disrespect of human dignity; these reports are known to everyone. Recurring mutinies in Prisons which very often lead to the death of prisoners. In the central Prison of Garoua, there are more than 1750 detainees for a capacity of 500 places. An overpopulation rate which almost represents an inhuman character of detention. Under temperatures of 45° and cells with very little ventilation, the prison of Garoua gives a degrading image which does not honor our country, Cameroon. Let us make a plain appraisal of the situation of these prisons.

Failure to carry your National Identity Card (NIC) may cause you the withdrawal of the liberty to freely move by the judge. Today, the number of people imprisoned for defect of NIC is increasingly growing, worsening the situation of prisons which become more and more overpopulated.

The answers brought by the Cameroonian Government however, does not give satisfaction. The





number of deaths of prisoners under detention remains very high and alarming. There were 71 deaths in 2015 at the Garoua Central prison. On average, one recorded 6 deaths per month.

To guarantee the respect of fundamental freedoms and safeguard the universal values of human rights everywhere, many actions were carried out by the GREDEVEL association.

We organize cultural activities in order to distresses prisoners of the Central Prison of Garoua:

- Traditional Dances,
- Ludic Plays,
- drawing Contests.



The pacification function of sports in prison has been proven, we understood that detainees could relax themselves while playing football. Holiday championships are often organized during holidays at

the Garoua Central prison. The elimination of illiteracy among prisoners is part of work objectives at the central prison of Garoua. They are more than 150 prisoners with half of this number made up of minors, who participate every day from Monday to Friday in an alphabetization program.

Our intention through the project of prisoners' alphabetization at the central prison of Garoua is to improve educational level of learners by 30%. We want to ensure an equitable access to the basic education programs and those of further education to every minor of the Garoua central prison.

By focusing on the elimination of illiteracy, we do not disregard other aspects of human formation which are useful for building up the prisoner.

Alphabetization is important for communication and all sorts of training and it is a fundamental condition needed in order to have access of today's wisdom societies. The aptitude to understand and use written information is a fundamental means of surviving in a world of high competition.

During six months, in every school year, they learn how to read, write and count. They follow the teaching programs in force in the National Education sector. The education we are talking about in this prison school is mainly the learning of diverse knowledge. It

stated from the youngest minors by giving them elementary knowledge that is, learning the French alphabet.

This is an essential step that shall permit the minor to continue his education at the secondary and even tertiary level. This prison school is equally a necessary learning milieu which helps these minors develop their personalities, identities as well as their physical and intellectual capacities. What is learnt in this school permits the transmission of common principles to minors coming from different families thereby conserving and perpetuating societal values. It equally contributes to personal blossoming and favoring social and professional integration.

This prison school aims at ameliorating the quality of life of the minor. This initiative benefits of a material and financial support from a few benefactors to whom we say THANKS for their sense of generosity which have permitted us to acquire benches, school stationary and other equipment.



E – Alphabetization of the little girl

The young girls are often sent to marriage very early (generally at the age of 14), while the boys of the same age takes care of farm and rearing. We equally notice the persistence of excision practices even though there has been a considerable drop.

Early and forced marriages which are equally very

frequent in the area reduce the chances of the young girl to benefit from her rights. The girl does not have the same chances to complete her education as the boy.

The decision to send or not send a child (girl and/or boy) to school is strongly influenced by the cultural habits. Parents are often forced to choose certain children who will go to school and others who will stay back home to help or go to work with their parents.

Concerning primary education, more than half of the regions of Cameroon have not yet reached the parity level between boys and girls. The roles built and imposed by the society often prohibits girls and women to build up their future. They then do not have access to education and even health care. They lack necessary information in order to protect themselves from diseases. Given that they do not have access to information, the have very little chance to obtain a remunerated job which could permit them take care of themselves and participate in the development of their country.

More than 233 000 children in the Far North region of Cameroon are not are not registered for primary education. This equally means that about 14% of children do not have access to basic education, two thirds of which are girls. Almost all the children that do not have access to primary education live in rural areas.

421 000 children in rural areas do not complete the six years of primary education, despite the fact that this is the necessary minimum expected. In fact, 40% of children drop out from school and only about 25% of boys and 10% of girls continue to the secondary level.

Many other economic, social or political obstacles cause this children's drop out of the school. Sometimes these factors are combined and thereby create an insuperable barrier which deprives not only the child from education, but also the whole society from a better future. Thus, the inequality faced with respect to education clearly reflects the social and cultural inequalities encountered in the whole society.

In most of the poor villages identified, the yearly cost of education in the primary school for a child can sometimes represent three months of salary for their parent considering the fact that about a hundred thousand men in the northern regions of Cameroon live in a situation of absolute poverty.

We acknowledge the fact that more and more women are prematurely married and consequently become widowed precociously. These women (the spouses alive) are mostly deprived of the right to make decisions,

earn an income and protect themselves from violence, ill treatments, and exploitation and even benefiting from legal protection. The first cause of this weakness is that they do not know how to read and write. Consequently, they cannot defend their basic rights.

Following this contextual description of the implementation of our project, we lay emphasis on the fact that, the right to education is a basic right, essential to the exercise of all the other Human and children's Rights. Education is therefore a powerful tool which permits adults as well as children who are economically and socially marginalized to leave poverty line and become accomplished citizens. This is essential for the development of individuals as well as that of societies.

To reduce the problem of inequality in women's instruction, intensifying the training of the underprivileged girl should be of priority on the agenda of government's action.

The association tries through functional alphabetization, since many years now to reduce the illiteracy rate by half among the most underprivileged social groups, particularly women and young girls.



F – Environmental Protection

Under a situation of economic crisis, recession and environmental ethics, we believe at GREDEVEL that putting intellectual efforts together would be the key to the solutions concerning problems faced by the youths and other vulnerable persons living both in rural and urban areas.

In other words, GREDEVEL relies on an organization of

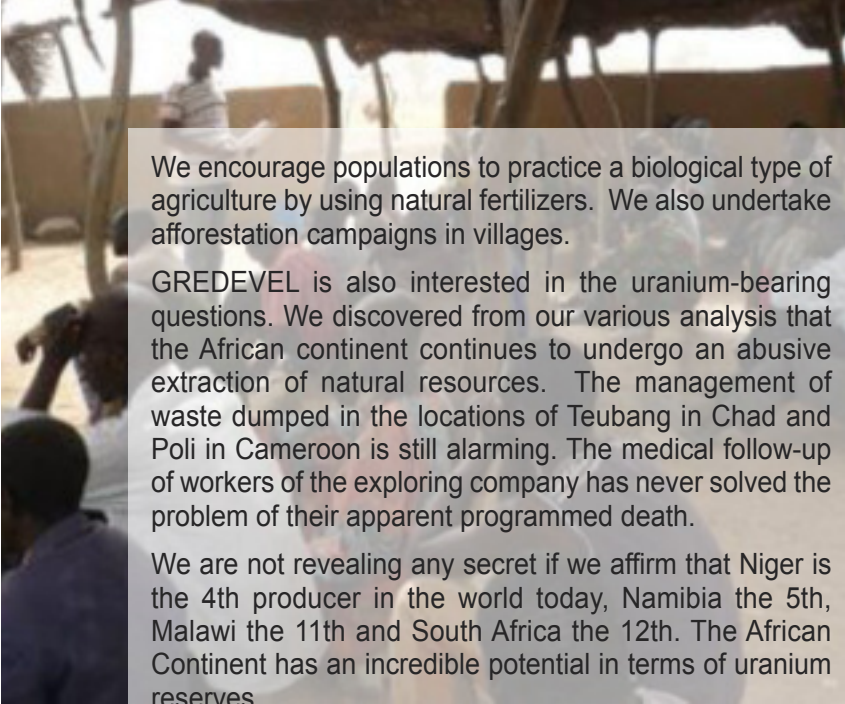
labor that aims at bringing together (with other physical or moral persons) goods, spaces and material in order to produce common values.

This approach can be easily developed with the help of new technologies and this would permit the amelioration of collective creativity as well as productivity. This equally answers to the need to conduct ecological practices and create more conducive social relations.

About half of the African continent is often faced with droughts thereby causing negative effects on the environment. These droughts are as a result of severe deficits in rains. The low rainfalls and severity of dry seasons often lead to a temporary disappearance of many steams.

The increasing need in firewood and wood for other services added to agricultural practice on burnt soils, pyromaniac fires and overexploitation of natural resources which are some common practices that have entered the habits of men and women.

Environmental problems should no longer be solved superficially through aids or subsidies, but it would rather be necessary to undertake as many measures as possible, aimed at stopping the true causes even if they are far from the problems mentioned.



We encourage populations to practice a biological type of agriculture by using natural fertilizers. We also undertake afforestation campaigns in villages.

GREDEVEL is also interested in the uranium-bearing questions. We discovered from our various analysis that the African continent continues to undergo an abusive extraction of natural resources. The management of waste dumped in the locations of Teubang in Chad and Poli in Cameroon is still alarming. The medical follow-up of workers of the exploring company has never solved the problem of their apparent programmed death.

We are not revealing any secret if we affirm that Niger is the 4th producer in the world today, Namibia the 5th, Malawi the 11th and South Africa the 12th. The African Continent has an incredible potential in terms of uranium reserves.

Beyond figures, we have geopolitics and the highly radioactive interests protected by companies which sometimes behave as a State in another State.

The companies exploiting this resource often get uranium at the minimum price totally disregarding the environmental, health and social consequences which are detrimental to the local populations.

“If one lamp out of three is lit in France thanks to uranium

from Africa (mainly Niger), the majority of Africans do not have access to electricity”.

Belonging to the Network “Leave Nuclear Power” is a major goal for GREDEVEL in her fight for the shutting down of nuclear thermal power stations in the world. We militate for the use of renewable energy. As its name indicates, these are the sources which are renewed and will never be exhausted throughout human existence.

Among renewable sources (solar energy, wind, hydraulic, geothermic, marine and the biomass), the most accessible and most available form in Northern Cameroon, is solar energy. This energy provided by the sun rays is the most powerful and it is free. We just need to exploit it.

Even though there is a strong will to make solar energy the main source of electricity for everyone, access to the material needed to transform solar energy to an electric or thermal form is still very expensive for the populations.

Solar energy is thus a chance for the poorest, it is a source of energy which is constituted or is reconstituted faster than the pace at which it is used.



G – Opening of association to the networks of civil society organizations

GREDEVEL also appears as a consortium of physical or moral actors aimed at collaborating in a project with the objective of obtaining one or more results.

GREDEVEL it is equally a real agreement established

between several associations for the execution of one or more operations and actions in the cultural, civil, scientific, economic or democratic domain.

GREDEVEL is currently creating a network of ten Cameroonian associations, thereby making up convergence platforms among them.

These convergence points could be permanent or occasional. They can equally rely on internet means (portals, forums, and social media).

The putting into a network has permitted us to solve the problem of isolation and to benefit from mutualized resources which GREDEVEL could not normally access to under normal circumstances (externalized competences). The associative network put in place has gained in terms of visibility and clarity.

The network permits the diffusion of objective as well as the modalities of public policies, to share a prior diagnosis (setting up of observatories) the bringing together of material resources, the identification of synergies and the sharing of good practices are also facilitated by this network.

GREDEVEL in France

The France office is made up of about ten persons from different nationalities. We can outline the presence of citizens from countries such as Benin, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and France. Members of this small team have varied formations: anthropology, philosophy, sociology, primary health and law.

This combination of backgrounds within our association have important advantages: it increases the performance of members and tightens our links.

This cultural co-education constitutes the leaven of the life of our Association. It gears up the strategic orientations of the Association and its different branches. The team of GREDEVEL of France obtained some objectives. In particular:

Bringing together the African diaspora and her sympathizers living in France around a common goal of development for the countries of the south which would result in:

The creation of a dialogue platform for the civil society

in order to curb social plagues of our time,

- Valorization of environmental ethics for a healthy biodiversity,
- Sensitizing populations on their rights and elementary duties,
- The fight against an increase in pandemics,
- Contributing to the support of socio-professional insertion,



GREDEVEL in France

- Prevention and management of conflicts,
- Fighting against the massive emigration of young Africans,
- Contributing to food self-sufficiency in Africa,
- Encouraging the promotion of school enrolment and elimination of illiteracy of girls,
- Accompaniment of the populations towards a financial self-management.

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When the rich steal from the poor it is business, but when the poor defend themselves it is violence. In order to reduce inequalities in our society, we do not simply need to collect from the rich to give to the poor. It is necessary to reduce all sorts of gaps by the means of acting solidarity.

Knowhow of GREDEVEL

The main force of **GREDEVEL** is drawn from the various competences available. Men and women ready to give their best to make things move, enhance debates and bring up major and visible changes.

The savoir-faire of GREDEVEL mainly focusses on:

- A diversified formation offer for the follow-up of women and youths,
- Teaching tools and methods following the most recent innovations,
- Individualized follow-up,
- Follow-up and Evaluation of development project,
- Research for the development of knowledge,
- Teachings oriented towards the easing of professional insertion,

- Legal Council.

Finally, the GREDEVEL Association is closely interested in every project holder and any other instigator of change.



Our projects to come, horizon 2022

The GREDEVEL Association intends to undertake many concrete actions on major themes resulting from the rural contexts as well as its zone of influence. The objective of our projects is to come up with clearer interventions concerning sustainable development, in order to effectively participate to the efforts of the Cameroonian Government so that the 2030 horizon millennium goals can be met. Let us remind that during the Summit on sustainable development held on September 25 2015. The Member States of the UNO adopted a new program on sustainable development which contains a set of 17 world objectives to put an end to poverty, fight against inequalities and injustice, and to face the climate change challenges by 2030.

We expect to articulate our development initiatives around 8 projects for the next 5 years:

1) **Make the solar source of electricity available to everyone in the rural zones**

Among renewable sources (solar energy, wind, hydraulic, geothermic, marine and the biomass), the most accessible and most available form in Northern Cameroon, is solar energy. This energy provided by the sun rays is the most powerful and it is free. We just need to exploit it.

Even though there is a strong will to make solar energy the main source of electricity for everyone, access to the material needed to transform solar energy to an electric or thermal form is still very expensive for the populations.

GREDEVEL has undertaken since a few months the search of the organizations which could support the electrification of the most remote villages by solar energy in order to give a chance to children to make

their assignments in the night or read their books like all the children of their age, living in agglomerations.

Solar energy is thus a chance for the poorest, it is a source of energy which is constituted or is reconstituted faster than the pace at which it is used.

Solar energy would be an energy solution impossible to circumvent for sustainable development, particularly in the villages of Northern Cameroon.

2) Developing the concept of Community radio in the most remote villages

A fundamental characteristic of our concept of rural radio operator is that, it shall cover the Community and address issues on the needs of the community where it is located. Its main aim is to enhance the democratization of communication by permitting a large participation of men and women of the local community to various uses of the radio. This participation could take various forms depending on the prevailing social context.

Our Community radio would like to engage on an alternating use of programs, which would be focused on information, Education, Entertainment and Sensitizing. This choice of programs will be aimed at corresponding to local specificities. This option will really permit the populations to take part in the programming and definition of contents programs as well as managing the radio station.

By thus placing at the disposal of a social group in one of the rural localities, a means of mass communication such as the radio station, there would obviously be a popular passion and interest developed that would lead to a more active participation of populations.

Our Community radio could, for example, broadcast alphabetization programs and educate populations on health issues, agriculture and animal breeding. It would equally be able to innovate by creating an attractive type and form of radio broadcasting that will integrate values and the know-how of the village men and women. GREDEVEL therefore relies on the setting up of a Community Radio in order to the local advancement of the communities.

3) Intensifying functional alphabetization of young girls in the rural areas

Without a basic education, a teenager has little hope to build his future. Alphabetization is a second chance for those who could not enroll into national education programs. Formal alphabetization could offer to young people and particularly young village girls, the opportunity of avoiding poverty, making their opinions heard in their community and benefiting from a better quality of life. Alphabetization can have a significant impact on the capacity of girls and women in defending their rights and acquiring a social status, attain financial independence or improve their representation in politics.

However, more than 120 thousand young girls aged between 14 and 18 years in the villages of Northern Cameroon do not have access to basic education.

Since 6 years today, the GREDEVEL association has given the possibility to more than 250 girls and widows to have access to a basic and quality education. These formations done through alphabetization, have helped

126 young women and widows in becoming active members of their community.

For the 5 next years, the association will intensify its alphabetization program in several localities. We will follow our vision of global education by particularly supporting the enrollment of girls as well as that of handicapped children.

4) Support women's access to land ownership

Many countries in the world have faced the problem of the deprivation of lands and inequality in terms of land ownership.

Cameroun as other African countries have an economy primarily based on agriculture and the animal breeding. Land is therefore an essential element for the promotion of economic activities, especially in rural areas. An equitable access to this resource is hence a key condition for the development of populations as well as States.

The access of women to land ownership has always been across the years a crucial problem and is persistent today.

Managing land resources has always been one of the most essential elements for the activities of the community. Depending on the era or the privileged political option, the management would be highly influenced political and cultural traditions.

However, for a few years now, women's associations have requested this situation should be taken care of in a better way by the authorities. Therefore, the problems that hinder the equitable access to land ownership and other natural resources by women, and which constitute a hindrance to an improved economic productivity and social progress have to be tackled more effectively.

Cameroon adopted policies aiming at giving the same chances to men and women in the acquisition of natural resources in general and land in particular. But the reality on the field is very different. Women continue to undergo all kinds of discriminations which deprive them from this precious resource, which is land, essential to their auto-promotion and the socio-economic development of their localities.

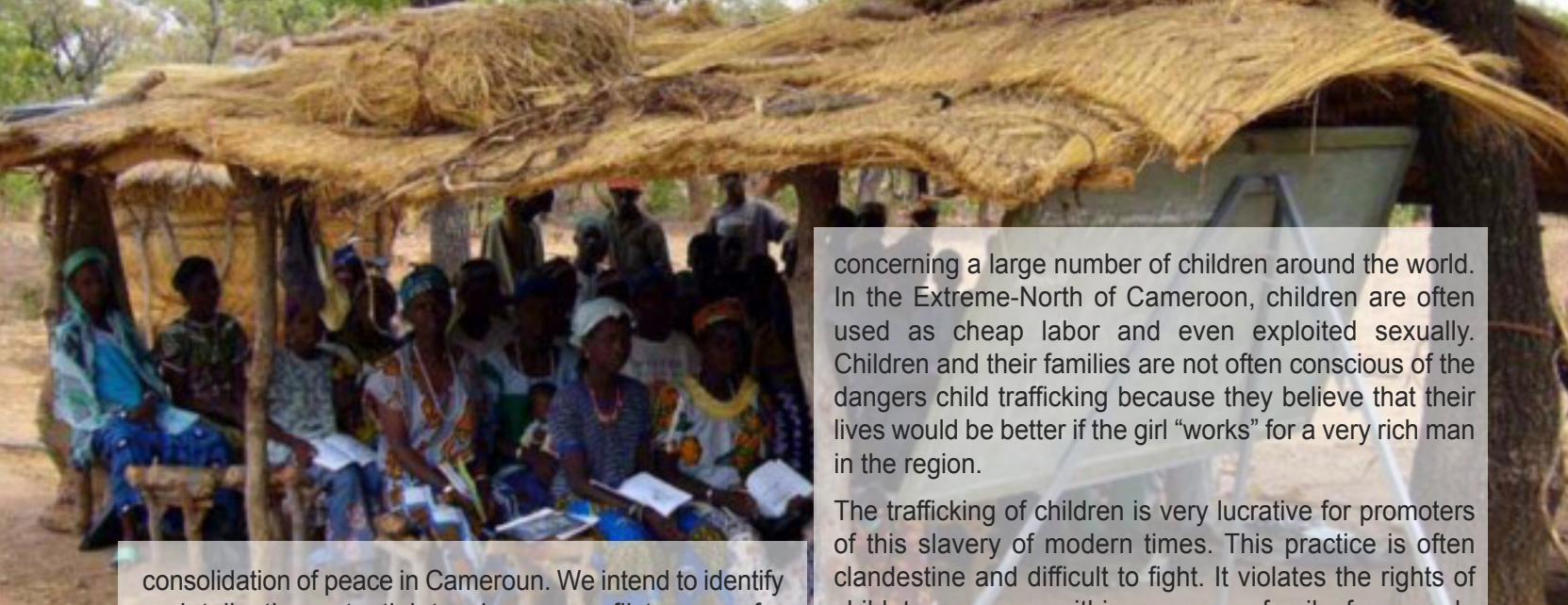
GREDEVEL aims at curbing these problems in the medium-term.

5) Encouraging permanent dialogue between young Muslims and Christians

Once two people are put together, there is a high probability that they tend to be opposed on many aspects that have to do with their daily lives. Ethnic, cultural, racial and religious diversities could constitute a threat for peace.

Dialogue is therefore a major means through which cohesion amongst populations could be maintained. Dialogue can also be a vector of peace amongst communities with varied cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds. It has been demonstrated that diversity is an asset and not a threat to the various identities, which are essentially many because of the close proximity between communities and the composite nature of families.

During the next 3years, we intend to promote an increased participation of young Muslims and Christian in our formal and informal educational talks on values promoting a serene cohabitation, essential for the



consolidation of peace in Cameroun. We intend to identify and tally the potential tension or conflict zones for prevention purposes.

We finally want to promote specific traditional expressions such as music, theatre and oral narrations, in order to permit young people from various communities that is, villages and towns to better understanding themselves.

6) **Guaranteeing legal protection to young children**

The treaty on children is a problem of general interest

concerning a large number of children around the world. In the Extreme-North of Cameroon, children are often used as cheap labor and even exploited sexually. Children and their families are not often conscious of the dangers child trafficking because they believe that their lives would be better if the girl “works” for a very rich man in the region.

The trafficking of children is very lucrative for promoters of this slavery of modern times. This practice is often clandestine and difficult to fight. It violates the rights of child to grow up within a serene family framework. Moreover, children subjected to trafficking are faced with a series of dangers such as violence and sexual assault. They are even arrested and imprisoned for minor offences on the street.

A great number of children are victims of trafficking in several villages of the Extreme-North region of Cameroon. The trafficking of children is particularly pronounced in the town of Maroua. It is essentially based on the recruitment of young girls as house helps which ends up to sexual exploitation. Nearly 90 % of these

house helps are girls.

In order to take part in the fight against this plague of modern times, our association would like to put in place a mechanism to favor denunciation as well as raising alarm. A toll-free number will be opened to the victims in order to give a response to aggressions that children or their mothers face. By dialing this toll-free number by any pilot person for any assault perpetrated on a minor, our association will be able to easily report the incident to the police nearest office. This toll-free line will permit parents to be channeled towards specialized structures for a medical and psychological care.

This alert number will hence, give a chance to any girl or mother on whom violence is perpetrated to easily seek for help from local authorities.

7) Providing legal counsel to victims of assaults and disrespect of fundamental rights

How can a peasant in a village care about freedom of

expression given that the possibility for him to have manure for his Sorghum farms seems to be much more useful to him? How can the workman living a slum understand the concept of the right to ownership, given that all he owns is simply his two hands and generally a family with many members?

Our association will try through its volunteer Jurists, to find a solution to this problems which very often look as a “congenital” injustices. The injustice of poverty seems here to be transmitted from Father to Child. Victims of these injustices are however recruited mostly found amongst the poorest. The association could develop in the long run some sort of “legal clinics” within villages and popular quarters in order to give a response to the lack of administrative and legal information.

8) Putting in place of a village library

Our concept of village library is similar to the idea of mobile library. The latter is built on the format of proximity library open to children and parents in precarious income conditions.

The term “mobile Library” covers various forms of activities, mainly, a circulating library with few books moved in wooden trunks and transferred by bicycles from one village to the other, particularly to the most remote and isolated zones. The mobile library will therefore give birth to a new model of knowledge acquisition which creates a favorable atmosphere for learning and therefore bring answers that fit the needs of our targeted groups.

Our association wishes to experiment the concept of mobile library in two villages with books or school textbooks for children who have it difficult to obtain books.



Conclusion



This document was conceived in order to give practical information that shows the unstable socioeconomic environment of the North and Extreme North regions of Cameroon. It presents the GREDEVEL association and it is made up of about forty pages that present what has previously been done by the different branches. A series of practical activities aimed at developing the competences, knowhow as well as the attitudes of beneficiaries towards human rights values, give them autonomy, increase their participation and

develop a critical spirit within them. This aims at giving them the ability to have an active democratic citizenship.

The rights defended by GREDEVEL are not simply abstract notions, but, these are fundamental rights inherent to every individual that protect them in their everyday lives, given

that they are members of humanity with aspirations of a free life of dignity.

The global procedure of GREDEVEL contributes to the effective amelioration of fundamental rights as well as the promotion of human rights worldwide.

To conclude, we can understand that the rights promoted in this document presenting GREDEVEL, raises attention on many fields of the lives of individuals, therefore, they are not only complementary but equally indivisible and interdependent.





GREDEVEL

THE GROUP OF THOUGHT AND ACTION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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