

**REPORT ON THE "SHARE A SMILE" PROJECT CARRIED OUT**

**BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR EQUALITY AND WELL-BEING (ASEBE)**

**IN THE LOCALITY OF ONGOT,**

**COMMUNE OF MBANKOMO IN CAMEROON**

**FROM 01ST MARCH TO 20th MAY 2021**

1. **GENERAL INFORMATION**
   1. **Summary of the project**

"**SHARE A SMILE**" is a water solidarity project implemented by the Association pour l'Egalité et le Bien-Etre (ASEBE) in the locality of Ongot, a village in the commune of Mbankomo, located in the Central Cameroon Region, Mefou and Akono Department.

In order to guarantee access to water and sanitation for all and to ensure sustainable management of water resources, which is the 6th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the United Nation[[1]](#footnote-0)The project aimed to "raise awareness on good hygiene and sanitation practices".

The "**SHARE A SMILE**" project was therefore based on three main activities: a training seminar, a vast awareness campaign on good hygiene and sanitation practices in the locality of Ongot and a digital awareness campaign on good hygiene and sanitation practices.

1. **THE TRAINING SEMINAR**

For the first phase of the "**SHARE A SMILE**" project, the Association pour l'Egalité et le Bien-Etre (ASEBE) organised a four-day training seminar from 9 to 12 March 2021 on specific themes such as the management of humanitarian projects (days 1 and 2), the principles and fundamentals of community health (day 3) and the treatment and management of waste and contaminated water (day 4). This very important seminar allowed the members of the Association for Equality and Well-being (ASEBE) and the participants to come out with the quintessence of these themes in order to be able to carry out the vast awareness campaign for the populations of ONGOT and on all digital platforms. This was without counting on the experience and skills of the three (03) session facilitators (experts) who ultimately met the expectations of the participants by providing them with the necessary bases.

1. **THE VAST AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON GOOD HYGIENE AND SANITATION PRACTICES IN THE LOCALITY OF ONGOT**

As part of the implementation of "**SHARE A SMILE**", a vast awareness campaign was organised by the Association for Equality and Well-being (ASEBE). It was held in the locality of ONGOT with the aim of sensitising the pupils of the Modern High School of ONGOT as well as the populations of this locality on good practices in hygiene and salubrity. It lasted for 2 days (23 and 24 March 2021). Day 1 was devoted to sensitising the pupils of the Lycée Moderne d'ONGOT on good hygiene and sanitation practices. Thus, going from class to class (6ème to Terminale), the Principal of the school and his staff allowed the project team (composed of 12 people including the President of the Association for Equality and Well-being (ASEBE), its members and the technical team) to be deployed within the school campus. The objective of the deployment was to sensitise the students of the Lycée on good hygiene and sanitation practices and the importance of personally and permanently ensuring that these practices are respected both at school and at home.

1. **THE DIGITAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON GOOD HYGIENE AND SANITATION PRACTICES**

The digital awareness campaign is the key to the success of the **SHARE A SMILE** project. It consisted of promoting the message conveyed by the project team on all digital platforms concerning good hygiene and sanitation practices. Because it is important to reach as many people as possible, digital technology is a universal tool that allows a message to be passed on easily and safely across borders. The project team understood this and implemented a strong digital communication through its official pages (ASEBE Facebook page, Twitter, WhatsApp group, LinkedIn account, Facebook group of International cooperation, ASEBE YouTube Channel, radio, internet and ASEBE web page) as well as those of its members and all participants adhering to the promotion of good hygiene and sanitation practices. The campaign reached nearly 35,000 people. This are the link of activities published in specialized journals on the internet (<https://panoramapapers.com/cameroun-calvaire-de-lacces-a-leau-potable-asebe-donne-du-sourire-aux-habitants-dongot/>) and (<https://newsupfront.com/acces-a-leau-potable-difficile-quete-des-camerounais/>)

* 1. **Reference period**

This report covers a period of two (02) months from 01 March to 01 May 2021

1. **Changes in the framework conditions and organisation of the project**
   1. **Have there been any significant changes in the project environment?**

This project, as initially planned, did not undergo any major changes since, as announced in its framework, it was well prepared in substance. Apart from the pending health situation due to the global coronavirus pandemic, the project had to adapt to the new health conditions, including the respect of barrier measures, the wearing of face masks and social distancing. For example, during the training seminar, a larger room was needed in order to respect the principle of social distancing. All this did not hinder the substance of the project, either technically or in the classroom.

* 1. **Has the project design been modified and/or the project objectives/impacts changed?**

The key elements of the project such as the target group, the place of implementation or the definition of the problem have not been modified as the planned objectives of the project were to train the members of the Association pour l'Egalité et le Bien-Etre (ASEBE) as well as the participants of the seminar on the above-mentioned themes, to sensitise the pupils of the Lycée Moderne d'ONGOT as well as the population of this same locality on good hygiene and sanitation practices and to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices on digital platforms. It is clear that the main objective of the "**SHARE A SMILE"** project was of major importance to the local population. Thus, no changes were made during the practical implementation of the project except to adapt to the new measures related to the coronavirus pandemic. This led to a practical course by ASEBE volunteers to the people of ONGOT on how to apply the hygiene measures linked to Covid-19 in order to better protect themselves, prevent and fight the disease.

1. **Implementation of the project**
   1. **Objective-performance comparison of project measures or activities**

The planned activities as mentioned above were the training seminar, the extensive field awareness campaign and the digital awareness campaign on good hygiene and sanitation practices.

* **The originally planned training seminar programme did take place**.

From 09 to 12 March 2021, in terms of target/actual, we achieved this. This is due to the fact that the seminar envisaged the basic presence of 15 participants (limited number due to the coronavirus pandemic) during the 04 days of activity, which was the case, as revealed in the report of the training seminar attached to the document.

The trainees at the training seminar were composed of 10 participants, 04 trainees and 1 reporter. The activity was therefore carried out in an appropriate manner and with respect for both the participants and the health measures related to COVID-19. The participants were edified in many ways and their initial apprehensions were quickly dispelled by the professionalism and skills of the facilitators. This training gave them the necessary skills to educate the masses during field visits. Thus, equipped, they were able to implement the vast awareness campaign on good hygiene and sanitation practices.

* **The vast awareness campaign on good hygiene and sanitation practices in the locality of Ongot has indeed taken place.**

From 23 to 24 March 2021, in terms of objective/actual, we are there. Day 1 of the programme focused on sensitising pupils at the Lycée Moderne in Ongot on good hygiene and sanitation practices. The campaign reached all the pupils of this school and in terms of numbers, nearly 750 pupils benefited from this awareness campaign. Day 2 directly involved the people of ONGOT village who benefited from a vast campaign and anti-Covid kits which were made available to the Chief of the locality in order to benefit his people.

* **The extensive digital awareness campaign was rolled out**

As planned, it was carried out through the different ASEBE platforms and its members for a greater impact. The Facebook page has been boosted and all the graphic elements of the project **''SHARE A SMILE''** have been put online on our web page in order to benefit our multiple visitors. So in terms of evaluation, the account is there. All in all, compared to all the activities planned in the terms of reference, with the main objective of "improving the living and health conditions of the people of ONGOT", the objectives have been achieved and well done. The learners of the training seminar were well informed on the themes and were able to use this knowledge to learn and to sensitise the people of ONGOT on good hygiene and sanitation practices in order to stay healthy and have a healthy life. The awareness campaign has been and continues to be carried out in order to achieve better health for the local population.

* 1. **How were the conditions of the approval notice implemented?**

The conditions of the approval notice were implemented in strict compliance with the legal procedures and the normative framework in force.

1. **Achievement of objectives and direct impacts**
   1. **Reaching the group**

The ultimate goal of the "**SHARE A SMILE**" project is to raise awareness of good hygiene and sanitation practices in ONGOT in order to improve the living conditions and health of the local population. Thus, the target group, which is the population, both young girls and boys, men, women and the elderly have benefited from this project. The various awareness-raising activities carried out have made it possible to teach and inform the population about the risks they face on a daily basis due to poor hygiene practices and diseases linked to the use of non-drinking water.

* 1. **Comparison between objectives and expected direct effects**

**Comparison table between objectives and expected direct effects**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SHARE A SMILE" project activities | Training seminar | Awareness raising in Ongot | Digital awareness |
| INITIAL OBJECTIVES | To train seminar participants in humanitarian project management, community health basics and wastewater treatment and management. | To teach the students of the Lycée Moderne and the population of Ongot good hygiene and sanitation practices in order to avoid and prevent waterborne diseases. | Promote good hygiene and sanitation practices on the various digital platforms in order to have an impact beyond borders. |
| OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED | 10 participants, 04 trainees and 1 reporter were trained on the management of humanitarian projects, the fundamentals of community health and the treatment and management of wastewater in order to be able to raise awareness of the populations of Ongot and on digital platforms on the themes studied. | Nearly 750 students from the Lycée Moderne d'Ongot as well as nearly 2000 people from the population of Ongot were sensitised on good hygiene and sanitation practices in order to prevent water-borne diseases and reduce inequalities between girls and boys. | Nearly 35,000 people were reached on the various digital platforms (the Association's website, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn etc.) to promote good hygiene and sanitation practices. |

* 1. **Other, especially longer-term effects (possibly also negative or unintended), for example other effects of the project on the target group (quantitative or qualitative).**

A project such as "**SHARE A SMILE**", which aims to improve the living and health conditions of the people of ONGOT through a vast awareness campaign both on the ground and digitally, and in anticipation of the construction of a solar-powered water borehole, which is necessary for the blossoming of all the components of the commune, should not, however, have any negative aspects in the long term

Although it is a humanitarian project of solidarity, it was designed to respect one of the approaches to humanitarian interventions, which is "**Do No Harm**".

Indeed, **"Do No Harm" is an** intervention approach that advocates the sensitivity of development and humanitarian projects to conflicts that can negatively impact their results. Thus, we note that the construction of a drinking water point in the locality of ONGOT and the sensitisation of its populations on good hygiene and sanitation practices by the Association pour l'Egalité et le Bien-Etre (ASEBE), can only be beneficial for the living and health conditions of these populations and to promote economic development. Thus, the project provides a concrete solution to a specific problem that until now could create many tensions and inequalities between girls and boys. At the same time, the project reduces the risk of environmental pollution by raising the awareness of the people of ONGOT on how to respect nature when cultivating the fields and working the land.

1. **Evaluation and conclusion**
   1. Overall evaluation of the project

**Calendar of activities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date/Period | Activities |
| 09-12 March 2021 | Training seminar |
| 23-24 March 2021 | Large-scale awareness campaign on good hygiene and sanitation practices in Ongot |
|  | Extensive digital awareness campaign on good hygiene and sanitation practices |

The "**SHARE A SMILE**" project is globally satisfactory both technically and financially. Despite a particularly complex national context and an unprecedented health crisis, the planned activities were carried out. The project team was able to adapt to the habits and customs of the locality by ensuring that communication with the host populations was done in French as well as in the local language **"Ewondo"** in order to establish a climate of trust between the team and the local populations. This project has had a positive impact on the lives and health of vulnerable populations. The link with ONGOT has continued and a strong dynamic around the theme of youth has begun to be built with interesting perspectives between the different social groups. The future looks brighter for these inhabitants.

The viability of the "**SHARE A SMILE"** project lies in the fact that it directly touches the consciences and modifies the life habits of the target people, as awareness-raising makes it possible to re-educate the masses for an effective awareness. The people of ONGOT are then able to control their own behaviour for a healthier environment, which is necessary for a better life and to preserve future generations. The "**SHARE A SMILE**" project has therefore encouraged the people of ONGOT and the various people reached through digital platforms to adopt new behaviours in terms of hygiene and sanitation so that they are now better equipped and informed about the management of their environment and the treatment of their wastewater. In this sense, the objectives of the project have been fully achieved. To this extent, the project was a success from the point of view of the responsible organisations, the cooperation partners involved and the target groups. The cooperation partners involved were the staff of the Lycée Moderne d'ONGOT through its Headmistress, **Mrs. ABDOU Gertrude**, and the target groups, the populations of the locality of ONGOT through its Chief, **His Majesty MBA Albert.** These resource persons were satisfied with the contribution of the project in their area.

In reality, there is a real problem in the locality of ONGOT, which is that of access to drinking water, as identified by the project team, which has led to all the activities mentioned above and which will hopefully result in the construction of a drinking water point for the greater happiness of its populations. As a result, the project has responded to the real needs of the target group, who have been made aware of good hygiene and sanitation practices but there is a serious problem of sanitation in the school. The construction of modern toilets is essential for the health of the pupils.

**Assessment of sustainability/viability and financing of follow-up costs.**

The purpose of the **SHARE A SMILE** project is to raise awareness of good hygiene and sanitation practices. The project is set for long-term sustainability. This can be explained by the fact that a "**Water Management Committee**" has been set up in ONGOT, involving all the stakeholders in the project (the Headmaster and the best students of the Ongot Modern High School, the Chief of the village of Ongot) in order to ensure the sanitation of local water points (rivers, springs etc.) and the maintenance of a water supply system.So when all this is implemented for the next project, the project team will be supported by this "**Water Management Committee", which** will ensure the longevity ***advitam eternam of*** this water solidarity project for future generations of this locality and the surrounding villages.

The **"Water Management Committee"** is made up as follows

* Ms Abdou Gertrude (Headmaster) ;
* His Majesty MBA Albert (Chief of ONGOT village);
* Mr Baban to Iroumé Achille (Teacher);
* Mr Ndam Gérard Christian (Teacher) ;
* Ms Seugwah leumbe Linda (High School Major) ;
* Mr Ottou ndoumou Frédéric (President of the environment club) ;
* Miss Eyenga Anne Estelle (President of the health club) ;
* Miss Mbokop Zambo (President of the school cooperative).
  1. **Conclusions**

As detailed in this report, the **SHARE A SMILE** project has been implemented within several parameters set during the design phase. Thus, it is clear that the financial, social, environmental and cultural aspects of the project are coherent. The project team was keen to respect the dates and timing established in the implementation of the project. This allowed for a fusion of efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability which in itself could be useful and necessary for the implementation of similar projects. The implementation of this project has provided experience in humanitarian projects in rural areas, which involve different modalities and adaptations (adapting the activities, language and expression to the hosts) that must be seriously taken into account in order to gain the trust of the host populations, for an effective collaboration.

The project team itself also benefits from the experience and lifestyle that might be different from its own in order to come out of it more grown up and open minded. At the same time, the project team will be able to make good use of all the advice distilled for the benefit of their respective communities in order to perpetuate good hygiene and sanitation practices. The team of volunteers is galvanised by this first campaign and wishes to do more to continue sharing a smile wherever needed. **SHARE A SMILE''** will continue to be implemented in several sensitive communities in Cameroon, particularly in the Northern region, which is plagued by drought and climate change. This first project experience in rural areas will only be beneficial to ASEBE in all aspects. We are very grateful to TechEnergy For Africa **(TEFA e.V.)** for this opportunity. We hope to do more for the betterment of the people because everyone has the right to live in dignity.

1. **Explanatory notes to the statement of revenue and expenditure**

The procurement and provision of services was carried out in strict compliance with procedures and the principle of competition. A call for tenders was launched, then an internal commission met with the support of an expert from the Ministry of Public Procurement **M. BOMELA Milaire approval N°849** to select the best offers in order to send the purchase orders and at the end the services were delivered.

**NB: The maximum rate of variation of the amounts allocated to the various headings is plus or minus 20%, due to the fact that the cost assessment in the pre-project phase was not detailed.**

1. **Transparency of funding**

TechEnergy for Africa e.V**. (TEFA e.V.) has been** in contact with African associations since the beginning of the year 2020 within the framework of the WIE20 campaign "Water is Energy 2020" in order to try to find efficient solutions to facilitate access to drinking water and electricity to as many localities as possible. It is in this logic that the Association for Equality and Well-being (ASEBE) was chosen in view of their dynamism in the humanitarian landscape in Cameroon (fruit of previous collaborations between our two organisations) and after several joint working sessions during which we studied in depth the vision and mission of the aforementioned organisation, as well as the impact of a future collaboration on the well-being of the populations concerned.

After a year of investigation, we decided by mutual agreement to focus on the implementation of the "**SHARE A SMILE"** project, which is a water solidarity project led by ASEBE. From then on, several online working sessions via the Zoom meeting application were organised first between the two leaders and then with the members of the respective offices of the two organisations. "**SHARE A SMILE**" is therefore the concrete materialisation of a common will to act together to contribute to the development of rural areas in Cameroon through access to drinking water and renewable energy. This collaboration is therefore part of the development and strengthening of relations between the German diaspora and Cameroon. ASEBE has been informed orally by TEFA during our multiple Zoom meetings of the possibility of financing projects by German federal funds.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)