### NEWS LETTER (VOL 1)

# SHUMAS





## A LEGEND GOES HOME

The world is mourning the loss of a true hero, (Mformi) Ndzerem Stephen Njodzeka, Director General of SHUMAS, who passed away on January 18, 2025. For over three decades, Pa Ndzerem dedicated his life to humanitarian work and development through SHUMAS, leaving an indelible mark on countless lives in Cameroon .

SHUMAS, under the leadership of (Mformi) Ndzerem Stephen Njodzeka, has achieved remarkable milestones in various sectors:

**EDUCATION**: Over 1,000 classrooms have been constructed and equipped with essential furniture, including 9,000+ benches and 3,000+ tables and chairs. Additionally, toilet blocks have been provided in schools to promote hygiene and sanitation. SHUMAS has offered scholarships to over 1,000 vulnerable children, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), providing them with opportunities for education and a brighter future.

**HEALTH CARE**: SHUMAS has constructed or rehabilitated over 150 health facilities, ensuring they are well-equipped to provide quality healthcare services.

**WASH**: The organization has provided over 180 potable water structures in schools and communities, improving access to clean drinking water.

**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**: More than 2,000 vulnerable women have received training and support, enabling them to improve their livelihoods and become more self-sufficient.

These achievements represent only a few of several developmental and humanitarian interventions championed by Mr Njodzeka. His tireless efforts have earned him several international and national awards, a testament to his unwavering commitment to serving humanity.

As condolences pour in from around the world, we remember (Mformi) Ndzerem Stephen Njodzeka's remarkable life and legacy, honoring his dedication to creating a more compassionate and equitable world by Improving lives, reducing poverty and empowering people to realise their full potentials without compromising posterity from meeting theirs.

#### SHUMAS GIVES HOPE TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN IN CAMEROON

SHUMAS, in partnership with Building Schools for Africa, has launched an innovative initiative to provide educational opportunities to out-of-school children in the North West and West Regions of Cameroon. The "Access To Education Through The Creation Of Neighborhood Learning Corners" project targets vulnerable out-of-school children, providing them with free training using radio programs and the "Teaching at the Right Level" (TaRL) approach for six months. Upon completing the program, school drop outs are transitioned into formal schools, where they will receive free educational materials and tution fees.





Baseline assessment in Babessi

Neighborhood Learning Corner Galim

#### C.S MOH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN GOOD PROGRESS

Access to education has been a serious challenge in the community Moh, Nkambe sub division in Donga Mantung Division of the NWR of Cameroon, due to strong winds that destroyed some classrooms causing over 200 pupils to stay out of school

In response to this crisis, SHUMAS and Building Schools for Africa have embarked on the construction of three classrooms, an administrative office, a store, toilets, school garden, benches, tables, and chairs, to CS Moh.



3 - Classrooms under construction

### **JANUARY 31, 2025**

# UNICEF AND ECHO PARTNER WITH SHUMAS AND OTHERS TO ENFORCE THE RIGHTS TO EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD IN THE NWR, CAMEROON

The UNICEF and ECHO initiative aims to transition out-of-school children in Cameroon's Northwest Region into formal education. The program is being implemented in 6 Divisions out of 7 in the North West Region, Momo being the only exception. A total of 9,600 out-of-school children are beneficiaries of this project. The focus on the Northwest Region is particularly significant, given the region's crisis with limited access to education. By supporting vulnerable children and helping them access formal education, ECHO II is paving the way for a brighter future in Cameroon. The project is implemented by 5 local partners with SHUMAS as the third party monitor.



Several secondary/high schools in kumbo lack a science laboratory which causes most science students to either switch to arts or drop out of school. This situation is worsened by the ongoing crisis in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. SHUMAS in collaboration with Citibank have created a science laboratory well equipped with Biology, chemistry, and physics equipments. 700 students from 9 secondary/highs schools around kumbo are benefiting from this project. The interest to pursue science options and general performance of science students in public examinations has significantly improved .





Monitoring in Mezam Division, North West Region, Cameroon





Science students in Kumbo making use of the Lab

### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR EDUCATION

The protracted crisis has cause several persons especially women and children to displace to cities, loosing their source of livelihood. Faced with city challenges, most of them leave in deplorable situation and unable to send their children to school. SHUMAS, BSFA and Gompels assisted 75 internally displaced female household heads in Bamenda and Yaoundé to step up their income and send their children to school through, training on establishing profitable businesses and supporting them with business start up items to engage in small profitable businesses. Since 2021, more than 500 female led families have been assisted. 75 school dropout children from the assisted households have received learning materials and currently back to school. These women have been supported to start village Savings and Loans scheme to improve the sustainability of their businesses.

#### SHUMAS AND BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA SPONSOR BOREHOLE AT GBHS KUMBO, BUI - NWR, CAMEROON

The GBHS Kumbo Borehole Water Project, sponsored by SHUMAS and Building Schools for Africa, is a vital lifesaving scheme benefiting Kumbo, particularly since the start of the Anglophone crisis. This project addresses a critical need, as all existing water schemes have failed, leaving students, staff, and the entire Tobin New Layout population vulnerable to waterborne diseases.

Upon completion, the project's benefits will be substantial, impacting health, environment, and human activity. Over 500 people will benefit from this initiative.





Some E3 beneficiaries







**GBHS Kumbo Borehole: Work in Progress** 

### **JANUARY 31, 2025**

# WFP AND SHUMAS USING FOOD FOR ASSETS (FFA) TO COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY IN THE NORTH WEST REGION, CAMEROON

SHUMAS and WFP's THIMO project has benefited 6,435 crisis-affected individuals in the North-West Region, achieving: 22 assets created, 54 hectares of community farms established, 5 warehouses, 10 fishponds, and 7 culverts constructed. The PULCCA FFA project generated 1,721,500 FCFA in revenue, improved food security for participating households and provided monthly cash transfers of 29,000 FCFA for 6 months to beneficiaries. The benefiting communities are Kungi, Nkambe, Sabga, Menteh, Santa, Baforkum, Mbengwi and Bali. A minimum of 6435 beneficiaries have been supported through FFA to combat food insecurity



**Fishpond** 



warehouse



Culver



Community Farm

## WFP AND SHUMAS' SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURAL MARKET SUPPORT (SAMS) CHANGING LIVES IN THE NWR, CAMEROON

WFP and SHUMAS' Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) program for the Emergency Project to Combat Food Crisis in Cameroon's North West Region has supported 700 beneficiaries in 27 cooperatives from 3 division (Mezam, Boyo and Donga Mantung). A total of 9.86 tons of food comprising rice, beans, maize, potato tubers, sweetpotatoes roots and vegebles have been harvested and sold at 2,359,150FCFA. For dairy, 33,391.5 litres of milk has been extracted, 3,219 tranformed into yoghurt and a total of sales of diary produce of 11,018,300FCFA. Cooperatives carrying out Village Savings and Loans saved a total of 4,930,925FCFA used by cooperative members to improve livehoods and promote social cohesion.



Dairy Farming



Harvesting of crops

### WFP-SHUMAS TOP UP AND MAM SUPPLEMENTATION PROJECT

SHUMAS' WFP-funded Emergency Project to Combat Food Crisis / Nutrition Project in the North West Region, Cameroon reached 661 caregivers with nutrition messaging (Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency), Screened 1,078 children for malnutrition, monitored 1,063 children 6-59 months' diets through, conducted 66 cooking demonstrations during home visits and 26 positive deviance sessions in targeted communities. 11 children with Moderate Acute malnutrition were successfully managed.



Screening for Malnutrition



Cooking démonstration with CSB++

# SHUMAS AND MANOS UNIDAS RESTORE THE RESILIENCE OF 200 VULNERABLE FEMALE LED HOUSEHOLDS IN BUI

SHUMAS and Manos UNIDAS, Spain have empowered 200 vulnerable, crisis-affected female-headed households in Bui Division through training on sheep production, pasture improvement, market gardening, and human rights. The project has made provision for 400 mature female sheep, 25 rams, crops and vegetable seeds, farm tools, improved pasture seeds, materials to construct sheep barns and paddocks to the 200 women-led families. Meanwhile, additional support included, Psychosocial support (PSS), basic numeracy and literacy lessons and registration as a cooperative.





Some happy beneficiaries post with their animal and crop produces

### **JANUARY 31, 2025**

# TRAINING OF STATE REGISTERED NURSES FOR COMMUNITIES WITH LIMITED OR NO TRAINED PERSONNEL

SHUMAS, in partnership with Spreading Health UK, is improving healthcare access in underserved communities in Cameroon. The project trains local nurses –midwives through scholarships and mentorship and redeploys them to serve in their communities for a minimum period of 3 years. Up until now, over 80 students have been trained and deployed to 80 communities nationwide.

Birthing kits have been distribution to vulnerable and minority women in crisis affected communities of the North West and Far North Regions. Over 450 kits have distributed up until now.





,Spreading Health nurses deployed to serve in their communities

#### SHUMAS' SAFE SHELTER FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a pervasive and devastating issue that affects individuals, families, and communities worldwide. In Cameroon, SHUMAS Safe Shelter is providing a beacon of hope for survivors of GBV, offering a confidential, inclusive, and supportive sanctuary for those seeking refuge. SHUMAS Safe Shelter understands that leaving an abusive situation can be a daunting and difficult process. That's why they provide a comprehensive range of services designed to support survivors every step of the way. These services include Confidential and inclusive shelter, Comprehensive care and case management, Support and counseling for survivors of GBV. SHUMAS Safe Shelter wants survivors of GBV to know that they are not alone. The organization is committed to providing a supportive and non-judgmental space for individuals to share their experiences, receive support, and begin the process of healing and rebuilding.









### SHUMAS AWARDED HUMANITARIAN/CLIMATE EXCELLENT AWARD

SHUMAS and WFP's THIMO project has benefited 6,435 crisis-affected individuals in the North-West Region, achieving: 22 assets created, 54 hectares of community farms established, 5 warehouses, 10 fishponds, and 7 culverts constructed. The PULCCA FFA project generated 1,721,500 FCFA in revenue, improved food security for participating households and provided monthly cash transfers of 29,000 FCFA for 6 months to beneficiaries. The benefiting communities are Kungi, Nkambe, Sabga, Menteh, Santa, Baforkum, Mbengwi and Bali.





Champions in Nature Protection, Water Ecology
Management, Forest and Wetland Conservation.

IT IS A WELL EARNED AWARD.

CUM 2024 Wetland
Restoration Dev't
Initiative AWARD

NED AWARD.

Congratulations!!!



# COME VEV ACTIVITIES FOR FEDRIARY

SOME KEY ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY		
EDUCATION	Activity	Results
Neighbourhood Learning Corner     Project Babessi and Galim. ( Building     Schools for Africa)	- Implementation of teaching at the right level classes in 7 communities.	Minimum of 260 out-of-school children trained for free in literacy and numeracy. At the end of their training, they are transitioned to formal schools where they receive free didactic materials and their fees are paid.
2. ECHO II Educational Project in 6 Divisions of the North West Region. (UNICEF)	- Oversight of teaching and learning supervisors(TLSs).	Temporary Learning Spaces created in 6 Divisions of the North West Region as a response to multiple school drop outs due to the crisis in the NW and SW regions of Cameroon.
3. Catholic School Moh Construction Project. (Building Schools for Africa)	- Completion of school construction in Moh, Nkambe Subdivision.	100+ pupils to benefit from standard classrooms as part of child protection and in line with SDG 4.
HEALTH AND NUTRITION	Activity	Results
1. UNICEF Nutrition Project in the Far North.	- Conduction of baseline assessment and start of project implementation.	Significantly curb malnutrition in children between 6 - 59 months in the Far North Region of Cameroon.
2. Spreading Health Pro Project in the North West Region.	- Meeting with spreading health students.	Over 100 community nurses trained and redeployed to their communities to improve health care in crisis stricken North West Region.
WASH	Activity	Results
1. WASH Distribution Project in Health Facilities in the NWR.	- Distribution of WASH kits to 2 Health facilities in Bafut and Santa.	Health Facilities in 7 Divisions receive standard WASH kits as a response to the fight against Covid-19 and other WASH related diseases.
FOOD SECURITY	Activity	Results
WFP Emergency Project to Combat     Food Crisis in the NWR / Food For Asset     For Resilience (FFA) .	- Handing over of assets (Culverts, Warehouses, Fishponds and Community Farms) to 9 communities and harvesting of Fish.	5435+ persons in 9 communities of the crisis stricken NWR receive sustainable agriculture assets to mitigate food insecurity and improve on their livelihoods.
WFP Emergency Project to Combat Food Crisis in the NWR / Small Agricultural Market Support(SAMS	- Follow up of Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and handing over of NFI's to cooperatives.	28 cooperatives equiped with capacity building and provided with crops, farming imputs and breeding techniques to improve production as a response to food insecurity in the crisis stricken NWR.
3. WFP Emergency Project to Combat Food Crisis in the NWR / Nutrition.	- Screenings for Malnutrition, home visits, and positive deviance sessions.	1000+ screened, 500+ persons received nutritious diets and 3000+ sensitized with nutrition sensitive messages.
	OUR PARTNERS	













# **SOME SUCCESS STORIES / TESTIMONIES**

My name is Mbah, lead farmer of Unity is Strength Cooperative. I'd like to express heartfelt gratitude to SHUMAS and WFP for introducing the PULCCA project to our community. This initiative has transformed our farming practices and lives.

Through the Farmer's Field School (FFS), we gained valuable knowledge on optimal planting distances, organic manure, and pesticide production. We also learned effective post-harvest management techniques to minimize losses.

As a result, we've achieved impressive yields of sweet potatoes, huckleberries, and beans. We're proud to supply these crops to the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) program, facilitated by SHUMAS and WFP.

Additionally, the VSLA component has empowered our cooperative members to save money, pay school fees, settle bills, and establish businesses.

We're thankful for the positive impact on our community, including increased peace and membership growth. We look forward to future opportunities.

I fled my village in the Northwest Region to Galim due to the crisis. Tragically, unidentified men burned our house and brutally injured my father, with his two legs cut off.

Despite this traumatic experience, I'm grateful to SHUMAS and Building Schools for Africa for reviving my dream of education. The Neighborhood Learning Corner Project has given me a second chance to attend school.

I appreciate the generous donation of free books, pens, and pencils, which has eased my academic journey. Thank you, SHUMAS and Building Schools for Africa, for your support and kindness.

My name is Yaki Mbongkeshery, and I'm 33 years old, living with a household of 8 members in Salama group 2. Life was incredibly challenging; we struggled to survive, feed our family, and pay school fees. We often relied on neighbors for food.

However, thanks to SHUMAS and MANOS UNIDAS, our lives have transformed. They've taught me sheep-keeping and farming skills, provided two sheep for breeding, and given us seeds for various crops, including carrots, cabbage, corn, beans, and black huckleberries.

Additionally, I've received basic literacy and numeracy training, enabling me to manage our household's income and expenses.

I'm deeply grateful for their support. May their noble work continue to uplift the lives of the less fortunate.







# SOME SUCCESS STORIES / TESTIMONIES

My name is Limnyuy Kelly, and I'm an internally displaced person (IDP) from Buea, Southwest region, currently residing in Mbelem, mile 6 Nkwen, Bamenda.

As an expectant mother with a 2-year-old child, life has been challenging. However, I'm deeply grateful to SHUMAS for the generous donation of essential items, including Blankets, Diapers, Baby dresses, Mosquito net and Baby lotion.

These gifts will significantly ease my preparation for the new baby. Thank you, SHUMAS, for your kindness and support. I pray that your organization continues to bless and assist other pregnant women in need.

In the midst of Cameroon's prolonged socio-political crisis, the plight of out-of-school children has often been overlooked. Diana, an eleven-year-old from a crisis-affected family, is one such child. Forced to drop out of school at seven, Diana struggled with basic reading and calculations.

Organizations like SHUMAS and Street Child have emerged as beacons of hope, bridging the gap in access to quality education for vulnerable children like Diana. A temporary learning space was established in the Nchingong community of Babessi, providing a lifeline for children who had fallen through the cracks.

Diana's journey is a testament to education's transformative power. Enrolling in the temporary learning space, she mastered literacy and numeracy foundations. With perseverance and dedicated support, Diana transitioned from non-formal to formal education, showcasing her resilience and determination.

Diana is one of 806 out-of-school children in Babessi who have benefited from SHUMAS and Street Child's provision of essential learning materials. These resources have opened doors to a brighter future, equipping children with tools to thrive academically and beyond.

The initiative's impact is evident in the beneficiaries' heartfelt video testimonies and songs of appreciation. Their smiles, once dimmed by uncertainty, now shine brightly, testifying to education's transformative power and the support of organizations like SHUMAS and Street Child.

In Babessi, a subdivision marked by resilience and hope, Diana's journey stands as a beacon of light, illuminating a path of opportunity and empowerment for the next generation.

Collaborative efforts and a shared commitment to inclusive education can rewrite the narrative for out-of-school children, paving the way for a brighter tomorrow. Together, we can make a difference.





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