

# SHUMAS



(MFORMI) NDZEREM STEPHEN NJODZEKA (1970–2025)

## IN THIS EDITION

- EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES
- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
- WASH ARTICLES
- TESTIMONIES
- ENVIRONMENT
- THE STORY
- FOOD SECURITY ARTICLES
- HEALTH AND NUTRITION
- PROTECTION

### STEPHEN NJODZEKA: THE MENTOR WHO SHAPED A GENERATION

The late Stephen Njodzeka, Director General of Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS), was a passionate mentor who helped shape hundreds of young professionals and community leaders in humanitarian and development work.

Through his humility, dedication, and love for teaching, he guided many to understand project management, community development, and humanitarian service. His mentorship strengthened not only individuals but also organizations across Cameroon.

Today, his legacy lives on through the many leaders and strong teams he nurtured, continuing the work he so deeply believed in.

Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) continues to stand as a beacon of hope for vulnerable communities across Cameroon. Inspired by the enduring legacy of our late Director General, Stephen Njodzeka, whose mentorship shaped hundreds of humanitarian professionals and community leaders, our work remains rooted in compassion, service, and empowerment. His passion for community development and humanitarian action continues to guide SHUMAS as we respond to urgent needs while building sustainable pathways for recovery and growth.

Our work is strengthened through the collaboration of committed partners and supporters who share our vision of transforming lives through humanitarian action and sustainable development. These partnerships enable SHUMAS to implement impactful programs that respond to the most pressing needs of communities affected by crisis, while promoting accountability, innovation, and long-term resilience.

Across crisis-affected regions, these collaborative efforts are restoring hope and opportunity. Accelerated learning programs are helping out-of-school and displaced children rebuild foundational literacy and numeracy skills and transition back into formal education. At the same time, investments in school infrastructure, community health services, nutrition programs, water supply systems, and agricultural initiatives are improving living conditions and strengthening the resilience of families and communities.

As we move forward, SHUMAS remains committed to protecting dignity, promoting inclusion, and empowering communities to shape their own future. Through strong partnerships, community engagement, and innovative solutions, we continue to support vulnerable populations in their journey from crisis toward stability, opportunity, and sustainable development.

## EDITORIAL

### Reigniting Hope: 150 Out-of-School Children Transition to Formal Education in Babessi

After years of crisis and school closures in the North West Region of Cameroon, 150 out-of-school children in Babessi transitioned into formal education on January 28, 2026 after completing a five-month Accelerated Education Program implemented by Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) in partnership with Building Schools for Africa (BSFA) using the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach. Learners moved from four Neighborhood Learning Corners; Ndokong 2, Up Mission, Mbaw 2, and Upper Mbezoh into private and denominational schools, after rebuilding foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

Each learner received report cards, school kits, and tuition fee coverage to support their transition.

**Impact:**

- 150 children reintegrated into formal schools .
- 4 learning corners accelerated learning within 5 months.
- Learners gained reading and numeracy skills .
- Teachers reported they were well-behaved and socially integrated
- Over 100 Parents trained and supported with Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and grants, helping families sustain children's education.



Transition ceremony in Babessi

### Restoring Hope and Education for Displaced Children in Galim

For many internally displaced children from Cameroon's North West and South West regions living in Galim, education had become a fading dream as poverty pushed families into survival, forcing children to work on farms instead of attending school. Over the past five months, Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) and Building Schools for Africa (BSFA) helped change that reality through an Accelerated Education Project implemented in four Neighborhood Learning Corners using the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach. On January 30, 2026, 150 learners proudly transitioned into formal schools after rebuilding their literacy and numeracy skills. Each child received report cards, school kits, uniforms, and tuition support, while parents were provided small business grants to help sustain their children's education. The ceremony celebrated not only academic progress but also renewed hope for families determined to reclaim their children's future through education.

**Impact of the Project:**

- 150 displaced children transitioned from Neighborhood Learning Corners into formal schools.
- Improved literacy and numeracy skills through the TaRL learning approach.
- School kits and uniforms provided to support learning.
- Tuition fees covered to ensure continued schooling.
- Facilitators trained and strengthened to support community learning.
- Local education authorities engaged to monitor integration into formal schools.



Transition ceremony in Galim

### From Dilapidation to Dignity: Education Transformed at CBC Mbaw, Babessi

The 310 pupils of CBC Mbaw in Babessi Sub-division, including 92 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), have long studied under extremely difficult conditions, with only four dilapidated structures serving six classes, leaking roofs, and at times two classes sharing a single classroom. Responding to a request from the community, Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) in partnership with Building Schools for Africa (BSFA) conducted a feasibility study and launched an intervention that includes the construction of 3 modern classrooms, 1 office, and 1 store, alongside the provision of 27 benches, 3 teachers' tables, 3 chairs, and support to the school garden and environmental program.

**Impact:**

- The intervention directly benefits 310 pupils, including 92 IDPs, by reducing overcrowding and eliminating the need for two classes to share one room, thereby improving concentration and teaching effectiveness.
- Since the protocol agreement signed in January 2026, construction has progressed rapidly with industrial materials delivered, foundations laid, walls raised, and final chinking completed, putting the project on track for completion by March 2026 and ensuring a safer, more dignified, and conducive learning environment for pupils and teachers.



Situation before



Current State

### SHUMAS and BSFA Deliver Vital School Infrastructure to EP Bagam

Education at EP Bagam Group III Primary School in Cameroon's West Region has been revitalized through a partnership between Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) and Building Schools for Africa (BSFA). Once learning in a dilapidated community hall, 404 pupils, including 139 internally displaced children, now benefit from three new classrooms, an office, a store, a VIP gender-segregated toilet block, and essential school furniture. Officially handed over on September 20, 2025, the project has created a safer, healthier, and more conducive environment for learning.

#### Impact

- 3 classrooms, an office, and a store constructed
- VIP gender-segregated toilet block installed
- 27 benches, 3 teacher's tables, and 3 chairs provided
- 404 pupils supported, including 139 IDP learners
- Improved hygiene, attendance, and learning conditions
- School garden and environmental program strengthened



Handing over at EP Bagam

### Empowering Dreams: 38 Pupils Receive Scholarships Across Cameroon

For the 2025/2026 school year, SHUMAS awarded 38 scholarships (17 boys, 21 girls) to vulnerable children, mostly IDPs from the North West and South West regions, giving them a pathway to continue their education despite conflict.

**Impact:** ■ In February, four pupils at All Saints Bayelle Bilingual School received support, relieving families of school fees and motivating students to excel. ■ The SHUMAS Education team is monitored all 38 beneficiaries to ensure attendance, progress, and academic success during the year.



Scholarship beneficiaries in All Saint Bilingual Nursery and Primary School Bayelle

### SHUMAS Strengthening Education by Monitoring UNICEF-ECHO II

In February 2026, Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) continued its critical role as a Third-Party Monitor (TPM) for the UNICEF-ECHO II project, which supports Education, WASH, and Child Protection for children affected by the ongoing crisis in Northwest and Southwest Cameroon. Working with five implementing partners, SHUMAS monitored activities across 42 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) and 100 remediation centers in six divisions of the Northwest Region.

**Impact:** ■ During the month, SHUMAS oversaw the distribution of learning materials to approximately 18,000 pupils across 79 remediation centers and supported the Radio Education Program in 80 TLS. ■ Consistent monitoring ensures that out-of-school children receive high-quality education and humanitarian support, while promoting transparency and accountability in project implementation across the region



Monitoring construction of toilets



Monitoring distribution of learning materials for remediation



### SHUMAS and BSFA Deliver Vital School Infrastructure at CETIC Bilingue de Koupa-Menke

Education at CETIC Bilingue de Koupa-Menke in Cameroon's West Region has been strengthened through a partnership between Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS), Building Schools for Africa (BSFA), and the local community. Previously, 200+ students, including 79 internally displaced learners, studied in just two overcrowded classrooms serving ten technical departments. Today, the school benefits from three new classrooms, an office, a store, a VIP gender-segregated toilet block, and essential furniture, creating a safer and more dignified learning environment. The project was officially handed over on December 12, 2025.



Handing over in CETIC Bilingue de Koupa-Menke

#### Impact:

- 3 classrooms, an office, and a store constructed
- VIP gender-segregated toilet block built
- 27 benches, 3 teachers' tables, and 3 chairs provided
- 200+ students supported, including 79 IDP learners
- Improved learning conditions and hygiene
- Stronger community and PTA engagement for sustainability.

### From Farm to Classroom: Kinyuy's Journey to Education

For 12-year-old Kinyuy Beyongse of All Saints Bilingual Nursery and Primary School Bayelle, life was once defined by the rising sun and long hours on the farm, as conflict in the North West Region of Cameroon uprooted her family and stole their livelihoods. School felt out of reach due to the cost of tuition and registration, leaving her potential buried under years of labor.

Through the support of SHUMAS and Building Schools for Africa (BSFA), Kinyuy's school fees were fully covered, allowing her to return to the classroom. Today, she is studying with pens and notebooks in hand, determined to excel in her exams. Her story is a powerful reminder that with the right support, children affected by conflict can reclaim their education and build a brighter future..



Scholarship beneficiary

### A Parent's Hope: Charlotte Berinyuy on Education for My Children

"My name is Charlotte Berinyuy, and I am a displaced person from Kumbo, now living in Galim Sub-division. Life here has been incredibly challenging. My household often struggles to have even two meals a day, and my children and I had to work on other people's farms just to survive. Because of this, my children were out of school and missing basic education, and I feared their future was slipping away.

Thanks to the support of SHUMAS and its partners, my children now have the chance to return to school. Their tuition and learning materials are covered, and they have a safe, supportive environment to learn. I am filled with hope knowing that despite our hardships, my children can now thrive academically and build a brighter future."



Parent of a displaced Child in Galim

### SHUMAS Strengthening Education and Youth Support in Crisis-Affected Areas

SHUMAS and its partners continue to advance education in crisis-affected regions of Cameroon, ensuring children and youths have access to learning and support. Key interventions include science practical lessons in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics at Kumbo Public Science Laboratory, ICT training, and psychosocial support services for traumatized youths.

**Impact:** ■ In Kumbo Subdivision, 27 students (15 girls, 12 boys) benefited from hands-on science lessons. ■ 9 youths (5 females, 4 males) received ICT training, and 7 youths (4 males, 3 females) accessed psychosocial support. ■ These targeted programs help enhance learning, digital skills, and emotional well-being for children and young people affected by the socio-political crisis.



SHUMAS' Bui Science Laboratory



### SHUMAS using Ejumula Potatoes: Transforming Nutrition and Livelihoods in Cameroon

A total of 90,250 Ejumula potato cuttings were successfully nurtured and distributed to 14 communities; Santa Mbei, Njong, Bali, Mbengwi, Menteh, Ndzah, Big Babanki Baforkum, Bambili, Small Babanki, Sabga, Kungi, Binshua, Nkambe and 17 cooperatives. This initiative resulted in a total harvest of 19,330 kg, sold at an estimated 2,000 FCFA per bucket, providing income and boosting local economies.

The potatoes have improved community health thanks to their nutritional properties, including high vitamin C, fiber, antioxidants, and energy-providing carbohydrates. Buyers, both individuals and organizations, have used the potatoes to make a variety of products such as porridge, snacks, fries, and flour-based recipes, sharing positive feedback and photos of their quality. SHUMAS has also transformed Ejumula potatoes into flour and is preparing to scale up production to support broader nutrition-focused interventions across Cameroon.

**Impact:** ■ The Ejumula potato project has directly benefited 14 communities and 17 cooperatives, producing 19,330 kg of potatoes, which equals ~9,665 buckets sold, generating an estimated 19,330,000 FCFA. ■ These potatoes are providing nutritious food for thousands of community members, creating income opportunities for farmers, and supplying raw materials for local food products, strengthening food security, diets, and livelihoods across the region.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTNERS** to scale up production and processing in our Nutrition Humanitarian and Empowerment interventions in Cameroon.



Preparation of cuttings



Nkambe and Ndzah community farms



Harvesting in Big Babanki and Kedjom Kehtinguh



Packaging of SHUMAS's Ejumula Flour



Happy consumers share final products from SHUMAS's Ejumula Potatoes Flour

## **CALL FOR SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP**

SHUMAS is seeking strategic partners to scale up production and processing in our Nutrition, Humanitarian, and Empowerment programs in Cameroon, with a focus on Ejumula. Our initiatives aim to provide sustainable food solutions, support vulnerable communities, and empower local populations to build resilience and self-reliance. By partnering with us, you can contribute to transformative programs that create lasting impact, strengthen community livelihoods, and promote equitable access to nutrition and essential resources. For partnership inquiries, please contact us at [strategichumanitarianservices@gmail.com](mailto:strategichumanitarianservices@gmail.com) or via WhatsApp/phone: +237 672 52 33 41 | +237 679 85 20 90 | +237 677 77 56 30.

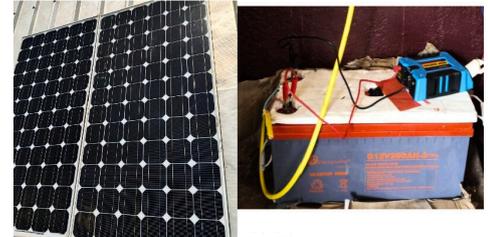
### SHUMAS Strengthens Rural Health Services Through the Dunja Wood Award 2025

Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS), in partnership with Spreading Health UK, successfully implemented the Dunja Wood Award 2025 across health facilities in Batibo, Ndop, and Nkambe Health Districts in the North West Region of Cameroon. The initiative supported four outstanding nurses to implement community-driven health solutions, including installation of solar energy systems and vaccine cold chains, extension of water supply with stand taps, provision of 15 patient benches, and delivery of key medical equipment such as adult and infant weighing scales and a glucometer.

The impact has been immediate and measurable. Health centers that previously struggled with power outages, lack of water, and inadequate patient space now deliver safer and more efficient services. Vaccination services that were previously conducted only once a month are now carried out weekly, cold chains are fully functional, night-time medical services are possible due to reliable lighting, and hundreds of patients especially mothers and children now access care in cleaner, safer, and more dignified conditions.



Construction of water tap in Nkom



Provision of solar system, Banessi



Provision of medical equipment to Kulabi IHC



Provision of Solar System and Cold Chain Lus IHC

### SHUMAS Expands Health Outreach in Ntaghang and Abangoh

SHUMAS recently delivered a targeted health outreach in the Ntaghang and Abangoh communities of Bamenda I Subdivision, reaching 350 households with essential health support. Families received 350 long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets to prevent malaria and 17,500 Aqua tabs, ensuring each household had 50 tablets for safe drinking water. The intervention reflects SHUMAS's commitment to addressing urgent community health risks with practical solutions that protect vulnerable families.

#### Key Impact:

- 350 households supported with mosquito nets to reduce malaria risk.
- 17,500 Aqua tabs distributed, providing safe drinking water for families.
- 376 children (6–59 months) screened for malnutrition, with only one case of Moderate Acute Malnutrition identified.
- 600 community members reached through sensitization on handwashing, malaria prevention, maternal and child care, family planning, and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF).
- 163 children dewormed with Albendazole to support healthy growth and development.

These integrated efforts continue to strengthen community health while empowering families with knowledge and preventive care.



Distribution in Abangoh



Distribution in Ntaghang



## SHUMAS Expands “Spreading Health” Impact in Rural Communities

Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) continues to transform rural healthcare in Cameroon through its Spreading Health Project, which has trained over 100 State Registered Nurses (SRN) to date. This year marked another milestone as three newly graduated nurses were deployed across the North West Region, bringing life-saving medical care to underserved communities and helping close the critical gap in health personnel in remote “health deserts.”

### Key Impact:

- 100+ State Registered Nurses trained through the Spreading Health Project.
- 3 newly graduated nurses deployed to underserved communities in the North West Region.
- 4 new nursing students sponsored into training for the current academic year.
- Students selected from 3 health districts, strengthening community-based healthcare solutions.

Through this cycle of training, deployment, and community empowerment, SHUMAS continues to strengthen rural health systems and bring quality care closer to the most vulnerable populations.



Spreading Health student serving at Njinkwa Urban IHC

## SHUMAS Launches Phase II of Health and Nutrition Initiative in Logone and Chari

Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS), in partnership with UNICEF, has officially launched the second phase of its Health and Nutrition Initiative in Logone and Chari. The month began with an intensive refresher training in Maroua for project staff and Community Health Workers, strengthening their skills in screening, supervision, and reporting systems. The initiative is set to expand life-saving nutrition services in Kousséri, Mada, and Gouffey while equipping communities with the knowledge needed to improve child and maternal health.

### Key Impact:

- 21,275 children (6–59 months) screened for malnutrition across target communities.
- 638 cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition identified and referred for appropriate treatment.
- 2,283 children received micronutrient powder to address micronutrient deficiencies.
- 696 pregnant women supported with iron and folic acid supplements to improve maternal and newborn health.
- 3,620 sensitization sessions conducted on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.
- 26 supervision visits carried out to promote proper breastfeeding and kangaroo mother care in health facilities.
- 78 cooking demonstrations organized to promote nutritious “5-star meals” using local foods.
- 30 adolescent girls trained in Mada on menstrual hygiene and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.



SHUMAS team en route to Ngodeni for screening



Consolidation of screening data in Kousséri

## IOM and SHUMAS Bring WASH Relief to Santa through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

Through the generous support of the People of Japan, IOM in partnership with SHUMAS successfully implemented a transformative water supply project in Santa to improve sustainable access to safe drinking water. The project involved the construction of a 20-cubic-meter water tank, a protected and fenced catchment area covering 2,827.4 m<sup>2</sup>, three collection chambers, and a two-kilometer pipeline network supplying water to four strategically located stand taps. This infrastructure now serves over 2,000 people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), host community members, returnees, pregnant and lactating women, and children. To ensure sustainability, SHUMAS established and trained a Water Management Committee and provided a maintenance toolkit to enable the community to manage and maintain the system independently. The intervention also integrated a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), through which 227 vulnerable households received WASH kits alongside community sensitization on handwashing and proper hygiene practices.

### Impact:

- Safe and reliable water access restored for over 2,000 people in Santa.
- 227 vulnerable households supported with essential WASH kits.
- Improved hygiene awareness through community sensitization on handwashing and sanitation practices.
- Community ownership strengthened through the establishment and training of a Water Management Committee.
- Sustainable water management ensured through the provision of maintenance tools and skills for local upkeep.



Provision of water Tank, Collection Chamber and Community Tap



Sensitization on WASH and Distribution of kits

Handing Over ceremony

## A New Dawn of Clean Water in Santa

"I am happy to be alive to witness a day like this," shared a grateful resident of Santa during the commissioning of the new water system. For many years, communities in Santa struggled with the severe lack of potable water. Families, especially women and children often walked long distances to streams and unsafe sources just to fetch water for daily use. During the dry season, the situation became even more difficult, with long queues, limited supply, and constant concerns about waterborne diseases affecting the health and wellbeing of households.

Through the support of the International Organization for Migration and the dedicated implementation of Strategic Humanitarian Services, this long-standing challenge is now being addressed. The newly constructed water system is not only providing safe and reliable drinking water to the community but has also been designed to be sustainable for decades. With strong community involvement and durable infrastructure in place, residents now have the assurance that clean water will be available for the next 30 to 50 years.



Santa Community Member

Beyond improving access to water, the project is transforming daily life. Women and children will spend less time searching for water and more time on education, livelihoods, and family wellbeing. Health risks linked to contaminated water will significantly reduce, and the dignity of the community is restored. What was once a daily struggle has now become a symbol of hope, resilience, and the power of partnership in restoring essential services to vulnerable communities.

**UNFPA & SHUMAS: Men Influencers Leading the Charge Against GBV in the NWR**

In the hills of Kumbo and Nkum, male influencers, supported by UNFPA and SHUMAS, are redefining masculinity, replacing outdated dominance with radical respect. Traditional and youth leaders are breaking the silence around gender-based violence (GBV), using their influence to ensure women walk without fear. In Widikum and Batibo, these men have become frontline defenders, leading community dialogues, advocacy with traditional leaders to change harmful cultural practices, awareness campaigns, mentorship for young boys, mediation in GBV cases, and supporting economic empowerment initiatives for women.

**Impact:**

- Increased reporting of GBV cases as communities feel safer
- Positive shifts in cultural attitudes, with traditional leaders endorsing gender equality
- Stronger community support networks for survivors of GBV
- Empowerment of women and girls through social and economic allyship
- Sustainable cultural change, embedding positive masculinity and respect for women into local norms



**GBV Men Influencers in Batibo and Widikum on Sensitization campaigns**

**Architects of Change: Redefining Manhood in Abangoh and Ntaghang**

In Abangoh and Ntaghang, SHUMAS and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are transforming adolescent boys through the SAFE Program. Young men engage in life-skills sessions to explore respect, gender equality, and emotional intelligence, learning that true leadership means protecting and respecting others. The program turns participants into active role models, laying the groundwork for safer, more inclusive communities.

**Impact:**

- Over 50 boys empowered with respect, gender equality, and life skills
  - From observers to role models in their communities
  - Improved decision-making and emotional intelligence
  - Stronger, healthier relationships in families and neighborhoods
  - Culture of safety and inclusion promoted
- Long-term community transformation as values carry into adulthood



**Boys Safe Abangoh and Ntaghang**

**SHUMAS & IRC Empowering Girls in Abangoh and Ntaghang**

In Abangoh and Ntaghang, SHUMAS and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are empowering adolescent girls through the "Girls Shine" initiative. The program provides safe spaces where girls learn about their rights, GBV prevention, and life skills, while receiving psychosocial support to feel protected, heard, and valued.

**Impact:**

- Over 50 girls empowered with knowledge of rights and GBV prevention
- Leadership and confidence built for informed decision-making
- Safe spaces created for psychosocial support and learning
- Caregivers and local leaders engaged to strengthen community support
- Collective resilience strengthened, amplifying young women's voices
- Graduates become beacons of hope, driving positive social change and safer, equitable communities



**Girls Shine, Abangoh and Ntagham**

### IRC Delegation Visits SHUMAS to Strengthen Collaboration in Mezam Division

A delegation from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), led by the Director of Programs for Central Africa, recently visited SHUMAS Head Office in Mile 6 Njwen, Bamenda to review the ongoing ES304: "Improving the Lives of Crisis-Affected People in Mezam Division" project implemented by SHUMAS at Abangoh and Ntanghang. The visit also provided an opportunity to explore further collaboration, including capacity-building initiatives, with or without funding. IRC shared insights from their strategic plan, and both organizations affirmed a cordial partnership with project objectives being successfully met.

#### Key Interventions Under ES304

- Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to 425 vulnerable households in Abangoh, Ntanghang, Tingoh, and Santa to meet emergency basic needs.
- Business grants for 175 beneficiaries to support income-generating activities and strengthen livelihoods.
- Financial inclusion initiatives through 6 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs).
- Agricultural and livelihood support to 5 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to bolster community resilience.
- Reinforced partnership between IRC, SHUMAS, and local communities to improve the lives of crisis-affected populations across Mezam Division.



### Testimony: A Life Transformed by IRC and SHUMAS in Ntanghang

I am an IDP from Njinkwa in the Momo Division. When the crisis started in NOSO, life was unbearable. We couldn't feed ourselves, go to school, or even visit the market. Gunshots became an everyday fear, sometimes so intense that we couldn't open our doors. Poverty crept in, and eventually, our home was burnt, forcing us to flee on foot to Bamenda, where we first settled in Housa Quarter. We survived by begging and often slept in the open. Later, we moved to Ntanghang, where we met SHUMAS and IRC. They completely changed our lives. First, they gave us 60,000 FCFA for food twice and we are expecting another round. Most importantly, they provided me with 105,000 FCFA to restart my business. I had tried running a store before, but it had become empty and a burden. Today, my store is thriving, making a weekly profit of 5,000–7,000 FCFA, and I can restock regularly. From going days without food, my family now eats three times a day.

Beyond material support, I have also attended both group therapy sessions and private PSS sessions offered by SHUMAS and IRC. These sessions have helped me heal from traumas I have been carrying for more than seven years a victory that means the world to me. I also save with the VSLA and plan to take a loan soon to expand my business, as demand is high. I have become more relevant in my family.

I have become more relevant in my family. As a Fulani woman, I have broken tradition by contributing to the household whenever needed. I am deeply grateful to IRC and SHUMAS for not only helping us survive but empowering me to rebuild my life, heal, and take charge of my destiny.



Before



After

# THE STORY

## A Story of Courage – Protecting Amina

In a small village in northern Cameroon, Amina, a bright and ambitious 16-year-old girl, loved going to school. She dreamed of becoming a nurse one day to help children in her community. One afternoon, an older man from a nearby town began pressuring Amina to leave school and marry him.

At first, Amina felt scared and unsure, thinking that no one could help her. She even considered leaving school quietly, but her heart told her that her dreams and safety were important. Instead of remaining silent, Amina confided in her mother. Together, they reached out to the local women’s support group, a trusted community network that assisted girls facing similar pressures. The group immediately listened to her, reassured her, and explained her rights. They guided Amina and her mother through reporting her case to the local protection committee, which included community leaders, teachers, and social workers.

The village soon organized community meetings where men, women, and young people discussed the dangers of child marriage and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). They learned about girls’ rights, the importance of education, and how the entire community could work together to protect children. Amina’s story became a powerful example, encouraging other girls and families to speak up when facing threats to their safety.

Through the protection network, Amina was able to continue school safely. The older man faced community accountability measures, and support services helped ensure he could not harm other girls. Amina also participated in awareness sessions with her peers, teaching them about their rights, health, and ways to seek help. With her dreams intact, she studied hard and eventually became a model for courage and resilience in her village.

**Amina's Story: Standing Against GBV**  
Every Girl Deserves Safety and Education!

**1. The Problem**  
Leave school and marry me!  
No! I want to study.

**2. Seeking Help**  
Mother, I am scared!  
Don't worry, let's go to the Women's Group.

**3. Reporting the Case**  
We will help you!  
Protection Worker

**4. Community Action**  
SAY NO TO GBV!  
Respect Girls' Rights!

**5. Justice & Support**  
This is wrong! She is safe now.

**6. Amina's Success**  
I will become a Nurse!

**Lessons Learned**  
Speak Up! Seek Help! Stay Strong! Girls' Rights Matter! Community Support!

**1. What challenge did Amina face?**

An older man pressured her to leave school and marry him against her will.

**2. Who did Amina turn to for help?**

She spoke to her mother and a local women’s support group.

**3. What actions did the community take?**

Community leaders, teachers, and social workers held meetings to discuss girls’ rights, GBV prevention, and the importance of education.

**4. What was the outcome for Amina?**

She stayed in school safely, continued her education, and became a role model for courage in her community.

**5. What lesson can we learn from Amina’s story?**

Speaking up, seeking help, and involving the community can protect girls and prevent GBV.

**6. Why is community support important in GBV cases?**

It ensures survivors are safe, offenders are held accountable, and awareness is raised to prevent further violence.

## OUR PARTNERS



# Important Notice from SHUMAS: Upholding Humanitarian Integrity

SHUMAS is fully committed to maintaining the highest standards of humanitarian principles, in alignment with the guidelines set by the United Nations. Central to our work is the policy of “Do No Harm”, which guides every intervention we undertake. Our mission is to provide support, relief, and empowerment to vulnerable communities without causing harm, exploiting individuals, or perpetuating inequality.

We would like to alert the public that anyone claiming to represent SHUMAS and requesting financial contributions, material goods, or any form of compensation in exchange for our services is acting fraudulently. Such actions go directly against our core values, ethical standards, and humanitarian principles.

To verify the authenticity of a SHUMAS representative, or to report any suspicious activity, please contact us immediately through our official channels:

✉ Email: [strategichumanitarianservices@gmail.com](mailto:strategichumanitarianservices@gmail.com)

☎ Phone/WhatsApp: +237 672 52 33 41 | +237 679 85 20 90 | +237 677 77 56 30

## CONTRIBUTORS

Kifeh Melvis

Yenyuy Lilian

Verla Erasmous

Muyama Bertila

Tabifor Emmanuel

Wirkom Christabelle

## EDITORS

Henry Asaba

Omer Tawong

Berinyuy Gisela

Sama Paltiel Yeti

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Agwetang Divine Fongang

## MANAGING EDITOR

Mrs. Billian Nyuykighan

