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PLAN INTERNATIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION OF CAMEROON, 1996-2021

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In
memory of my father Samuel Ndumabi

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ABSTRACT

Founded in 1937, Plan International is a development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Since 1996, Plan International has worked with over 1200 communities, in the Centre, North West, East, Adamawa, North, Littoral and South West Regions of Cameroon. It should be recalled that children are human beings below the age of 18 years. They are unique and privileged since they are a vulnerable group of human beings. Children have human rights such as the rights to education, health and a standard of living. These rights have to be respected and protected. However, in spite of the enchanting working of Plan International in Cameroon in general and the South West Region in particular, children, youths, the female folk, rights keep on being violated; their access to protection, equality, inclusive education, gender equality and health services continue to be a nightmare. Works nothing is the fact that the ideas that animated children's right movement developed after the WWII. In the South West Region of Cameroon, children were often victims of bad treatment, negative social and cultural practices, sexual abuses, war victims and all forms of economic hazardous exploitation. As such this study examines the different areas of human rights violation and exposes the role played by Plan International in protecting the rights of the vulnerable in the South West Region. Based on the primary and secondary sources used and the thematic method applied, we came to the conclusion that vulnerable groups like children, girls, women and even the elderly continue to be victims of human rights violation in the South West Region of Cameroon. Moreover, thanks to the involvement of Plan International in the Region, the rights of those vulnerable groups are gradually protected and restored.

RESUME

Fondée en 1937, Plan International est une organisation humanitaire et de développement qui fait progresser les droits des enfants et l'égalité pour les filles. Depuis 1996, Plan International travaille avec plus de 1200 communes, dans le Centre, le Nord-Ouest, l'Est, l'Adamaoua, le Nord, le Littoral et le Sud Régions de l'Ouest du Cameroun. Il convient de rappeler que les enfants sont des êtres humains en dessous de l'âge de 18ans. Ils sont uniques et privilégiés puisqu'ils sont un groupe vulnérable d'êtres humains. Les enfants ont des droits humains tels que le droit à l'éducation, à la santé et à un niveau de vie. Ces les droits doivent être respectés et protégés. le fonctionnement de Plan International au Cameroun en général et dans la Région du Sud-Ouest en particulier, enfants, jeunes, les femmes, les droits continuent d'être violés ; leur accès à la protection, à l'égalité, à l'inclusion l'éducation, l'égalité des sexes et les services de santé continuent d'être un cauchemar.. Dans la Sud – Ouest Région du Cameroun, les enfants étaient souvent victimes de mauvais traitement, les pratiques sociales et culturelles négatives, les abus sexuels, les victimes de guerre et toutes les formes d'exploitation économique dangereuse. En tant que telle, cette étude examine les différents domaines des droits de l'homme violation et expose le rôle joué par Plan International Cameroun dans la protection des droits des vulnérable dans la région du Sud-Ouest. Ainsi cet est base sur les sources primaires et secondaires privilèges chronologique et thématique ont été utilisés. Nous sommes arrivés à la conclusion que les groupes vulnérables comme les enfants, les filles, les femmes et même les personnes âgées continuent d'être victimes de violations des droits de l'homme dans le Sud-Ouest Région du Cameroun. De plus, grâce à l'implication de Plan International Cameroun dans la Région, les droits de ces groupes vulnérables sont progressivement protégés et restaurés.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
NAFI	The National Agency for Financial Investigation
BIR	Rapid Intervention Battalion
CAPEC	Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women.
CEFM	Child Early and Force Marriage
CFA	Africa Financial Community
CONAC	National Anti-Corruption Commission
CRC	Convention of the Right of a Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organization
CTCITP	Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman Treatment and Punishment
CV	Curriculum Vitae
GDCI	General Directorate of Counter Intelligence
DGSN	General Delegation of National Security
ENAM	National School of Administration and Magistracy
FFCI	Frontline Fighters for Citizen Interest
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HRW	Human Right Watch
ICCPR:	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICPPEC	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforce Disappearance
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrants and Members Families
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
SWR	South West Region
ISIS-WA	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-West Africa

LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
NCC	National Communication Council
NCHRF	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom.
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PIC	Plan International Cameroon
NGP	National Government Programmed
NHRDCA	Network of Human Right Defender in Central Africa
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNHCFR	United Nations High Commission for Refugee
UNHDR	United Nations Human Development Report
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WWII	Second World War

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Working in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas, Plan International aims to reach as many children as possible, particularly those who are excluded or marginalised with high quality programs that deliver long lasting benefits and providing life-saving humanitarian assistance, protection and education.

Plan International Cameroon is an International Child Centred Community Development Organisation with no religious, political or government affiliation working in Cameroon since 1996¹. Plan International Cameroon is also an organisation whose primary concerns is on Children Right, Safety, wellbeing and has in its interest to create save environments for children with more attention paid on their protection. Plan International Cameroon has five key words based on Education, Livelihood, Health, Habitat, and Building Relationship which are all concern with children's protection. This goes in line with the work of Lovet².

Talking on early marriage and early child birth, Green revealed that, early marriage and early child birth in Cameroon resulted from the fact that most parents in Cameroon (South West Region) are happy with their children getting marriage early because they see it loving and protective³. Similarly, on this, J.Jeremy also founded that early marriage and early child birth are global problems that cut across countries, cultures, religion, and ethnicities, mostly practice in centuries past and is till practiced. Also, Louise is of the opinion that, the problem of early marriage and child birth are as a result of inequality and discrimination, that oblige us to investigate on the activities that violate children rights and possible mechanism to resolve those problems⁴.

Nonetheless, this inwardly violated the rights of children because as a human being, we have the rights to decide on our own and equally evaluate ourselves. However, human rights violation is not recurrent issue in Cameroon despite the provision of the catalogue of the

¹[Http://www. Africa work.com](http://www.Africa-work.com), p. 55, consulted on 10/12/2020 at 11h30.

²L. Ekwen, "Protection of children's rights in Cameroon", Master thesis in Public Law and Constitutional Law, University of Buea, 2017, p. 118.

³M. C. Green et al, *Reglion, Law and security in Africa*, African Sun Media, 2018, p. 359.

⁴L. Wetherridge, *Child marriage in west African and Cameroon*, 2014, p. 20

⁵ The universal declaration of human rights adopted and proclaimed by the general assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁵, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the African Charter on Human People's Rights and the preamble of law number 96/06 of 18th January 1972 of the Cameroon Constitution proclaimed the violation of human rights in Cameroon. This violation can be assaults, arbitrary arrests unlawful detention, denial of rights to freedom of speech and press, harassment of journalists by the forces of law and order. Generally, people suffer from violations whereas women and girls suffer extra abuses such as female genital mutilation, rape, sex tourism, sexual exploitation and slavery. Thus, this study goes a long way to affirm that Cameroon (South West Region) is not a Paris of human rights violations. Nonetheless, International Organization like Plan International Cameroon saw that there was a need for humanitarian assistance in the world and she came with an idea to create a humanitarian organization today called Plan International⁶

Besides, Plan International was founded as earlier said in 1937 during the Spanish civil war by two British journalists, John Langdon Davies and Eric Muggeridge⁷ and the aim of the organisation was to provide food, accommodation and education to children whose lives had been disrupted in 1930. Plan International was founded as foster parents plan for children in Spain and in 1940, during the outbreak of the First World War, the organisation became known as Foster Parents Plan for war⁸ They spent some time working in England helping displaced children from all over Europe. After the war, Plan International extended her aid to children in France, Belgium, Italy, The Netherlands, Germany, Greece, Poland, Czechoslovakia and China. In 1950 as Europe recovered, Plan International gradually moved out of these countries and opened new programs in less developed countries. It became "Foster Parents Plan International, so as to reflect the goals of bringing lasting change to the lives of children in need. From 1960, Foster Parents extended its works to countries in South America and Asia. In 1962, U.S first lady Jacqueline Kennedy was honorary chairwoman during Plan's silver jubilee⁹.

From, 1970-1974, the global name became Plan International in which programs were now spanned in South America, Asia, and Africa. By 1980, Belgium, Germany, Japan, and UK joined Canada, the U.S, Australia and the Netherlands as donor countries. Plan International was recognised by the United Nations Economic and Social Council

⁶ <http://www.planinternational.org>, consulted 11/12/2020.

⁷ J.E.Muggerde, Langdon,Davies, Muggeride, The foundation of Plan International , Canada,1937.

⁸ Foster Parents plan Cameroon Canada,2021,p.1.

⁹ <http://www.planinternational.org>, consulted on 11/12/2020.

(UNESCO)⁷. In the, 1990s, Plan International offices open in France, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, and the Republic of Korea. In Cameroon, Plan International is present in seven (8) regions which are the (Far North, Adamawa, North West, South West, Littoral and the Centre Region, since 1996 and it has 1200 communities all over the country. In 2000, the name Plan International evolved and a unified global identity was created to help make the organisation more easily recognised around the world¹⁰.

According to Njoke¹¹, illustrated that Plan International (PI) have been working with the government for the past 25 years in Cameroon. Again, Plan International collaborate with government Ministries, United Nations (UN) Agencies, International NGOs, Civil Societies Organisations and Community base Organisation and Local partners. This study examines the role played by Plan International in fighting against human right violation in the South West Region of Cameroon.

Reason for the Study

The choice of this subject begins with an observation or initiative made by NGOs who are out to investigate on the question of human rights problems and vulnerable in Africa in general and in Cameroon in particular. Indeed, the 21st century has made NGOs essential partners for a better assistance to poor and needy and the vulnerable populations that are affected by crisis or conflicts in developing countries development (PVD). This was the case of the Communities in the South West Region where the local populations live in extreme poverty due on-going Anglophone crisis in the North West and South West Region of Cameroon. In addition to these human rights issues, most people suffered great and they have being come vulnerable and some refugees due human rights violation in this Region. However, the outcome of the crisis has cause many young girls to abandon schools for early marriages. They are exposed to early pregnancies while young boys whose age varies between 15 and 21 years engage in the consumption of narcotics¹².

Moreover, this investigation on human rights violations in the South West Region by Plan International with partners stimulated the choice of this subject, because not only resolving the issue of human rights violations that is essential, but its has to also target the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and community projects in terms of

¹⁰ <http://www.planinternational.org>. consulted 12/12/2020.

¹¹ S. M. Njoke, "The role of European non-governmental organization (NGO) in the development and democratization of Cameroon: Challenges and prospects", Master thesis in Political Science, Linkoping University, Department of management and Engeering, 2007, p.37.

¹² Plan International Report activities South West Region 2015,p.5.

infrastructure and construction of drinking water supplies to the rehabilitation of school toilets, but also for school supplies and teaching materials given to pupils and teachers, community water supply, carryout vaccination campaign. In this context, these NGOs organized campaign and sensitization that concern population such as diseases transmitted infections (STDs) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that undermine the youth of the Communities in South West Region. Also, the choice of this subject is justified here by the humanist impulse that the NGOs bring to the most disadvantaged populations, especially young people. *International level Cameroon* also puts the well - being of Man at the center of its action. These NGOs promote and protect human rights, they protection of children's rights. In addition, the initiative made at level of the Communities in South West Region of Cameroon is that NGOs like Plan International are well welcomed by local population. Indeed, NGOs have a series of advantages additional support alongside government and other aid organizations when it comes to intervening in issues like conflicts. They are effective and less expensive in services they provide. They seem to express more sensitivity in the poorest and most vulnerable populations. These humanitarian volunteers have shown their ability to support the organization of grassroots communities and they are better equipped to promote the popular participation necessary for local development. Indeed, faced with the failures of the State to manage the economy, NGOs have developed on the basis local by taking over the solidarity sector. They allow the sharing of resources of a group of voluntary individuals for the well-being of deprived populations of the Communities of the South West Region of Cameroon. As a result, they are local organizations insofar as where they are closest to the population. Apart from the fact that these NGOs intervened in human rights issues mentioned above, they also offered humanitarian assistance to the local population and most individuals benefit from the gifts or donations, offered by *Plan International Cameroon*. Thus, the choice of subject also justified by observable results in the fight against human rights violations and human rights problem in the South West Region such as cholera endemic, malaria, malnutrition, gender base violence,covid-19,hunger, infant mortality and so many others which are rampant in the Communities of the South West Region ¹³.

Finally, dealing with this subject is to bring another apprehension of NGOs, on the national and international scene. Then to hammer and strengthen the synergy and action that exists between local authorities and NGOs for the development of their territories. To this end, we call on the scientific community not only historians, but also sociologists,

¹³ Plan International report in South West, 2009,p.20.

anthropologists and philosophers to give a social dimension to NGOs. It is taking into account that we have found a formulation for what was going to be our subject: “Plan International and human rights violations in the South West Region of Cameroon, 1996-2021.

Scope and Delimitation

The scope and delimitation of the field of the study involves justifying the chronological limits as well as the space that covered by this work.

Chronological delimitation

Covering a period of 25 years, this work sets in motion the actions of Plan international Cameroon from 1996 to 2021 is based on two timelines. Terminal date, the year 1996, corresponds to the date of signature of the headquarters agreement between the British NGO PIC and the State of Cameroon. This signature comes six after the opening of the Cameroon to multi-party systems and freedom of association. Specifically, it relies on the national educational policy of Cameroon where the State with more need of aid towards these development partners in order to establish its national education policy. This agreement siege is also a sigh of relief for Cameroon to find funding for the development of children's education¹⁴.

Finally, the year 2021, defined as the upper chronological limit, was chosen in a holistic perspective of history, that is, taking into account both time (long term), because being on the verge of the celebration of its seventy-two years of existence in 2021. It seemed interesting to study a period of life of this institution non-governmental that is 72 years in the world and 25 years in Cameroon (1996-2021) and space (taking into account the facts of society as a whole). So Plan international Cameroon has 7 Program Units dispatched within 7/10 in Cameroon. As a result, PIC has adopted numerous missions aimed at protecting and promotion of children's rights as well as the socio-economic integration of rural women. In addition, the year 2021 was marked by the global Coronavirus pandemic where the Cameroon needed more aid from development partners in order to protect her population. Also, 2021 is important in the history of humanitarian assistance to South West Region of Cameroon because the ongoing socio-political crisis experience a major slow down due to some concessions done by the government. Example the holding of the major national dialogue and the given of the special status to the North-west and South-west Region of Cameroon.

¹⁴ Lire le rapport d'International Crisis Group, n°160, 2010, p.10.

Finally, it is a question of making an NGO a history of internationalized social facts, linked here to development issues. Ultimately, the claim to any exhaustiveness in the historical inventory of actions undertaken and implemented by Plan international Cameroon in curbing human rights problems in the South West Region and development projects as a whole. Thus, this study is aimed at identifying the different areas of human rights violations and the role play by Plan International in protecting the rights of vulnerable carried out in the period concerned. In particular, role that has a historical significance significant for protecting and promoting human rights and that of children and women in the Communities of the South West Region of Cameroon.

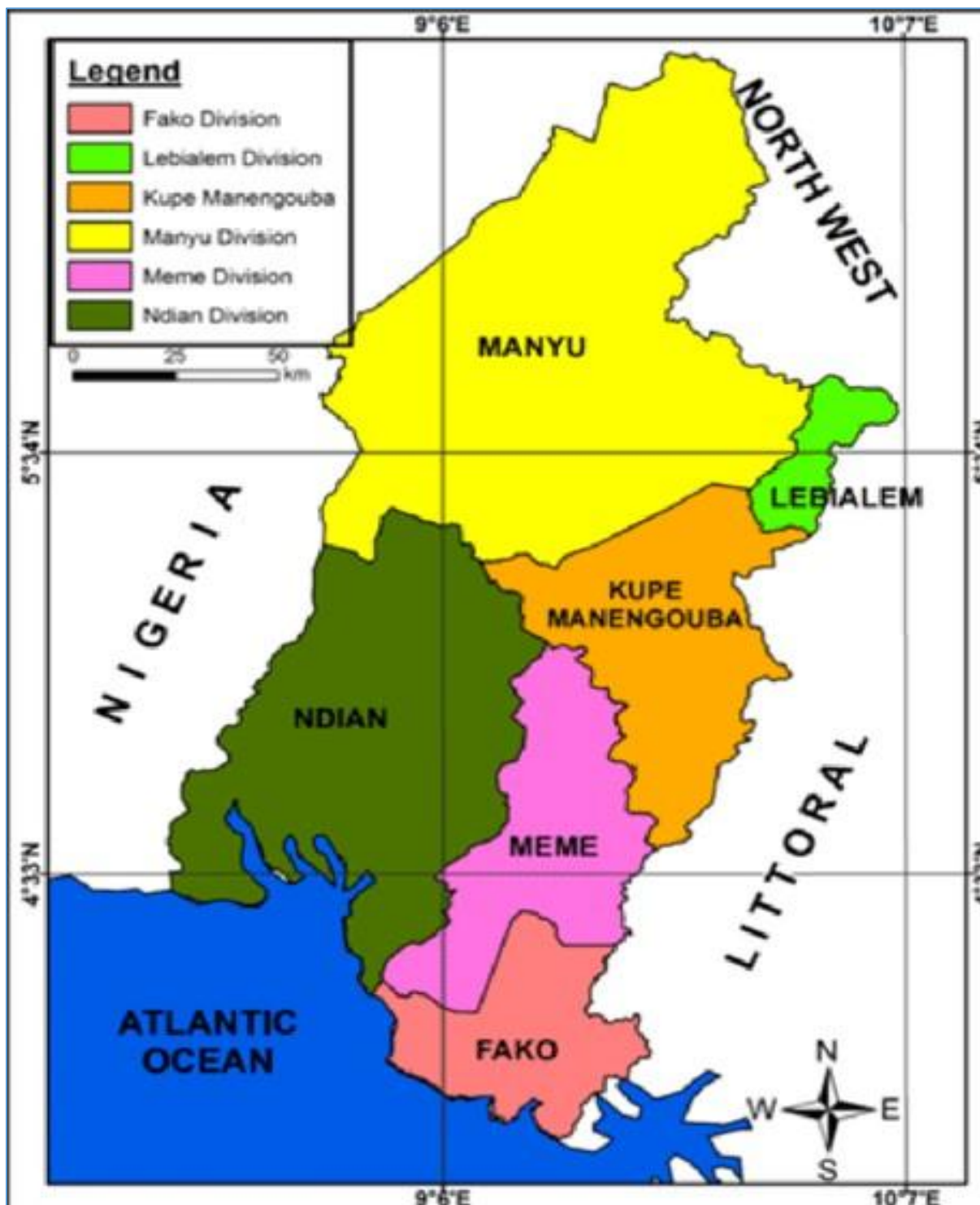
Spatial delimitation

Cameroon is a country in Central Africa located at the bottom of the Gulf of Guinea. Her surface is approximately 475442 km² with a population which borders the 27744989 inhabitants¹⁵. The South West Region is one of the ten region in Cameroon with its administrative capital in Buea. As from 2015, its population was 1,533,320. It is one of the English-speaking region in Cameroon, however, this region has six division that is Fako, Manyu, Meme, Lebialem, Ndian, and Koupe Manengouba which equally has subdivision each govern by senior divisional officer and sub divisional officer elected and appointed. This region has touristic side in the heart of Fako division and Kupe Manengouba division, touristic side like Mount Cameroon which is found in Buea, the botanic garden and sea store and even soneral at the Limbe Municipality, Mount Kupe, lake Manengouba found in Bangem subdivision and so many others. Again, this region has some geographical boundaries which borders some cities and countries, in the North the SWR is border by the North West Region, in the East it is border by the Littoral Region, while in the West it is border by Nigeria and in the southern hemisphere is border by Equatorial Guinee and Gabon. Nonetheless, this region have 54 villages and so many ethnic groups among which the major ones are Bakweri, Bakossi, Bangwa, Bakundu, Bayangi, Bafaw, etc that which have rich cultures make up the region. It also has a longitude 9° North and a latitude of 5° East with an average temperature of 25°C regularly very year.¹⁶

¹⁵ J.C. Olivry, *Fleuves et rivières du Cameroun*, Paris, MSESSES+ORSTOM, 1986, P.3.

¹⁶ [Http://www. Wikipedia . org](http://www.Wikipedia.org) consulted on August 25, 2022.

Map 1: The map of the South West Region showing the six Divisions where Plan International carry out its activities



Source: Adapted from www.researchgate.net realized by Yvette Ndumabi on Monday 12 July 2022.

In this phase of this work the researcher has examined the historical background of PIC of the work and the context of the creation of PIC, in this study; we identified different categories of NGOs and Human rights in the world, the structures and functions of Plan not leaving out its missions and objectives of its areas of interventions. In addition we talk on the historical presentation of the South West Region. However, our chapter one has shown us how PIC came in to existence by its founders and the name late change to foster parent plan to what it is today and how it help children during the Spanish civil war. None the less, we also mentioned the involvement of PIC to others countries and how it is operating smoothly through its missions and others

Conceptual Framework

For a better reading and understanding of this work on Plan International Cameroon, we deemed it necessary and imperative to explain some key concepts. In this case, we shall define the following terms: Plan International, Community, Humanitarianism, Human Rights, and Violations.

Plan International

Plan International is an international humanitarian child-centered community development organization with no denominational, political or governmental affiliation of any kind .Plan International's vision is of a world in which all children can fully thrive and achieve within societies respectful of human rights and dignity¹⁷.

Community

It can be defined as a local public community made up of people who share a certain number of rights, duties and interests. According to law no.7423 of December 5, 1974 on communal organization in Cameroon, the commune can be considered as a decentralized public authority and a legal person under public law. This law is enhanced by that of 2004 in its (Article 4), which considers that local authorities are legal persons under public law. They enjoy administrative autonomy. and finance for the management of regional and local interests. As such, the local authority council territorial authorities have the mission of promoting the economic, social, health, educational, cultural and sporting development of these communities³⁸. It manages local affairs under the supervision of the State with a view to the economic and cultural development of its populations³⁹. In Cameroon we

¹⁷ *Plan International ,Bureau regional de Plan International en Afrique de l'ouest, premiere editin, 2007,troisieme de couverture.*

distinguishes two types of municipalities: the urban municipality is one whose territorial jurisdiction is reduced to an urbanized agglomeration¹⁸.

Humanitarianism

According to the Cambridge Advance Learners Dictionary, humanitarian is defined as a person who is involved in or connected with improving people's lives and reducing suffering. In the same vein, the school dictionary three defines it as being the general welfare of humanity, a person who devotes himself to the welfare of humanity. From the above definition, we can therefore in our understanding define humanitarianism as any aid or any form of assistance given to vulnerable children especially girls by the PLC and its collaboration to relief them out of bondage. These aides have different forms: shelter, education, health, materials, food, and protection. It can also refer to as an active belief in the value of human life, whereby human practice benevolent treatment and provide assistance to other humans, in order to better humanity for moral, altruistic and logical reason. In fact, it is the philosophical belief in movement toward the improvement of human race in a variety of areas used to describe a wide number of activities relating specifically to human welfare

Human Rights

Fundamental human right have been defined by black's law dictionary as rights derive from a natural or fundamental law they are those very import and legal entitlements which human being possess and enjoy. These rights constitute the very essence of human existence, which include the right to life and property thus any violation of such rights is a deride of human existence. Human right basic more guarantees that people in all countries and culture allegedly have simply because they are people of note of human rights as the term is universally used are those right which every human being is entitled to enjoyed and to have them protected these rights are enshrined in revolutionary documents like the declaration of independence and the bill of rights in America (1689) universal declaration of human rights (December 1948) as well as the African charter on human and people rights. These revolutionary documents have three principles which run through.

Universal inherence: meaning each human being has rights which are not conferred but are inherent by virtue of their humanity alone.

¹⁸Law N° 2004/017 of July 22, 2004, promulgated by the president of the republic Paul Biya.

Inalienability: meaning they cannot be deprived of these rights by their own act or those of another rule of law meaning just law must be applied consistently, neutrally, impartially and taking into consideration just procedures.

To ensure that these principle are efficiently applied states have employed written constitutions in which these rights are entrenched In the case of Cameroon the preamble of the constitutions of 2nd June 1972 as revised by law N°96106 of 18th January 1996 and its subsequent amendment by law N° 2008001of 14th April 2008 is very instrumental given that if ratified international conventions relating to human right article 65 of the Cameroon constitution reinforces the strength of the preamble given that it says that it is part and parcel of the constitution.

J.Henry¹⁹, in his book entitled *Freedom and the Court Civil Rights and Liberties in the United States*, defines human rights as a basic moral guarantee that human beings in all nations and cultures allegedly have simply because they are people. Therefore, Human Rights can be understood as, those rights which everybody on earth is obliged to enjoy and be protected. These rights are derived from revolutionary documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights in America (1689), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 1948), and the people's rights. These documents protect and guarantee the principles of human rights.

Yuoufu²⁰ said that defining human right can be a little trickish. However, there is something in alienable to human rights are rights inherent to all human beings. once they are deprived of such, it results to violations and disrespect to their being. However, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights put it simple. It's says that human rights are morals principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behaviour and are regularly protected as legal rights in municipal and international law. To this charter everyone born in this world has the rights that must be protected by the law. According to the UN 30 basic human rights are recognised around the world. As a human, they have rights to life, sex, education, and freedom among others. There are so many human rights organisations around the world, despite their existence people's rights are still being violated and disrespected. According to Mr Yuoufu the government and other duty, bearers are under an obligation to respect, protect

¹⁹ J.A. Henry and B.A. Perry, *Freedom and the Court Civil : Rights and Liberties in the United States*, University of Kansas, USA, 8th edition, 1982 , p. 15.

²⁰ Yuoufu Oumarou, 31 years, Human Rights Officer of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission South West Region, 21 July 2022.

and fulfil human rights which form the basis for legal entitlement and remedies in case of non-fulfilment. He continues laying emphasis on the Anglophone crisis or conflict were there have been many arbitrary detained persons other killed and some refugees not for their own making, it is however, spurring that the UN which is the guarantor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in most cases is silent when people's rights are been violated. Again, he continues to illustrate that organ fighting for the protection of human rights have documented since 2016-2020 by some report of the Cameroon Human rights Commission.

Objectives of the Study

This study is carried out to achieve the following objectives. There exist both a general as well as a specific objective of this work

Main objective

The main objective of this work is to examine the protection of the rights of the vulnerable group by PI in the SWR of Cameroon.

Specific objective

The specific objective of this work shall include amongst other things as follow

- To examine the legal bases of the role of PI in the protection of the rights of the vulnerable persons in the South West Region
- Identify the different areas and cases of human violation in Cameroon (South West Region).
- Assess the achievements of Plan International Cameroon in promoting and enhancing human rights.
- Identify and analyse the difficulties encountered by Plan International in the South West Region of Cameroon in her missions and bring forward perspectives as response to the latter.

Literature Review

A lot has been written on human rights violation in Cameroon and humanitarian services of Plan International, but few are those researchers and scholars who focused their study on humanitarian actions in the South West Region. The Discipline of Human Rights expose and treat most major human rights violation in the world. We are going to review some works that are directly or indirectly related to our study.

Brenda F.N.²¹ in *School dropout of girls and impact on the promotion of gender* her book she made mention of the fact that school dropout of young girls is mostly centred on domestic choice, early marriage, early child birth, girls sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation. She equally goes further to enumerate some NGOs who work in collaboration to see this evil practice eradicated on the girl child, by educating the girls. Thus, institution like Plan International, AFHADEY have organised programmes on humanitarian projects in 2010 for over three years and her objective was to see how to increase the school level of girls to 3500 girls in the *briqueterie* neighbourhood in Yaounde. Our focus here is that, Plan International should not only base her project on the girls, but it should be equal. However, the work of Brenda will be helpful to us since it deals with girls' literacy.

Enonchong²² in *Cameroon Constitution Law, Federalism in mixed common law and civil law system*, he presented the historical evolution of the German protectorate set up in 1886 to the Federated States of West and East Cameroon showing how civil liberties and constitutional guarantees of human rights activities evolved in 1961 in the Federal Republic of Cameroon. He also brought forth the various institutions concerned with the latter in West Cameroon like the High Court Jurisdiction to investigate that citizens were well treated and their rights did prevail. This book also brings out the existence of human rights since Reunification of Cameroon in 1961 and how institutions in West Cameroon like the West Cameroon High Court put it into practice. Our major concern and interest here therefore is to show how Plan International has contributed to ensure citizens' rights and how freedoms are guaranteed in Cameroon in general and the South West Region in particular.

Green M²³, in *Religion, Law and security in Africa*, the researcher stipulated that the problem of an increasing in early child birth can be justified by early marriages in Cameroon for most parents in Cameroon sent their female children early in marriage with little or no education, that resort to early child birth. He further coined the fact that early marriages and early child birth is a global phenomenon across countries, cultures, religion, and ethnics in which that was practice. The researchers reiterated the fact that though it remains a common practise in the rural areas of Cameroon, statistic shows that about 46% of girls get marry before the age of 18 and they are socially neglected with little or no quality education, low

²¹B. N. Fonkem, "School dropout of young girls and its impact on the Promotion of gender", Master dissertation in Sociology, University of Yaounde I, December 2015, p. 6.

²² H. N.A. Enonchong, *Cameroon Constitutional Law, Federalism in the Mixed Common Law and Civil Law System*, Centre d'édition et de production de manuels et d'auxiliaires de l'enseignement, Yaoundé, 1967.

²³ Green, *Religion, Law and security in Africa...*, p. 359.

self-esteem, low skills, opportunities and personal development. Hence, girls are trap in the vicious cycle of ignorance, poverty and infectious diseases. Our contribution here show case the fact that NGOs, the government and other stakeholders should sensitize parent on the ills of early marriages and child birth.

Jean-Paul Pougala²⁴, is more skeptical and harsh on so-called humanitarian or development. He denounces the espionage carried out by these non-governmental organizations in Africa. He also believes that they are more governmental, because they are mostly funded by the US Congress 100%. It is more relevant when one remembers that these NGOs were at the origin of the conviction of former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo. These NGOs such *AmnestyInternational* applies respect for human rights only in Africa and not on other continents, like America, which marches on Human Rights. The killing of African American George Floyd on May 25, 2020, is an example. In addition to these specialists in development, we called on other expertise such as journalists and senior AfDB officials.

Médar Tsala Buni²⁵, makes a socio-political analysis of Cameroon on the crisis economy of 1986. He starts from two reasons: the first he puts an emphasis on agricultural production of this period which was reduced by the discovery of oil from 1978. This had led to the modification of the productive forces and of the public authorities. There was a drastic drop in GDP of 6.3 per year. The second reason, and the fall in world raw materials. What justifies the aid requested by Cameroon from international institutions, such as IFAD and FAO, to reboot agricultural production in Cameroon? Even if the author does not clearly present the sources, financing of international aid, he nevertheless remains satisfied with the advantages obtained by the rural women in the western region who have had a real impact on the agricultural income of the country. From the foregoing, it appears that several works have addressed certain aspects of our theme. But these works, theses, memoirs and articles are limited to presenting for some the evolution legal and political as well as the changes of NGOs and for others the instruments of domination that paved the way for neocolonialism. Our subject traces the development actions of NGOs, goes back to what the others have said previously, but goes more into another context by presenting the different achievements of Plan International Cameroon. Then show the value of cooperation decentralized in the search for well-being for populations.

²⁴ J.C.Sahanda, *les systeme des organisations internationales et non gouvernementales Emergence d'un driot*, 2010, pp.5-16.

²⁵ M. Tsala Mbaye, " *L'aide internationale au développement du secteur agricole au Cameroun de 1972 à 2013 : le cas du FIDA et de la FAO*", *Mémoire de master en histoire des relations internationales*, Université Yaoundé I, 2015.

Henry J²⁶, in *Freedom and the court civil rights and liberties*, author examined basic human rights freedom as key democratic principles for good governance in society such as: freedom of speech, movement and press are contingent upon prior censorship. This is actually noticed in our society today as people are deprived of their rights inwardly. The universal declaration of human rights article 3 and 26 stipulate the fact that everyone has right to be educated and equally the fact that everyone has the rights to life and liberty and security.

Goucha and Crowley²⁷, in their work dwelled on the concept of Rethinking human security and its influence in the international law. They portray civil society association and more especially NGOs which are concerned with human security. They go ahead to reiterate the importance between the rights to education and human security. Our study here is geared at presenting and assessing the contribution of Plan International Cameroon, with emphasis on the numerous efforts put in place to curb human rights violations and some challenges faced by the organisation.

Laqueur²⁸ in *Anthologie des droits de l'homme*, the writer identified the different conception of philosophers such as John Locke, Montesquieu, Emmanuel Kant, Jean Jacques Rousseau and John Stuart Mill who in their research made individuals to be aware that human rights are necessary. He equally throws more light on the revolutionary text like the French declaration and the rights of the citizens, which identifies the fight against human rights violation and freedom as well as diplomatic intervention and protection of the minorities in the various talks. He equally coined the place of human rights in international relations, espousing Marxism criticism and also international agreements. My contribution here is out to show case how Plan International Cameroon has succeeded to promote the fight against human rights and also her humanitarian gestures in the South West Region of Cameroon. Rubin's book will also be beneficial on our study especially as concerns the rights of man or citizens.

Emmanuel Yenkong Sobseh²⁹ in his work illustrated the concept of human rights, its pertinence and eminence to our society. He laid more emphasis on the rights of the girl child, women, elderly people, disabilities, indigenou group of people, refugees, and displace persons by bring out important documents that promote their rights. He goes further to show

²⁶ Henry and B.A. Perry, *Freedom and the Court Civil*.

²⁷ M. Goucha and J. Crowley, *Rethinking Human Security*, UNESCO, Blackwell publishing house Ltd, 2008.

²⁸ W. Laqueur et al, *Anthologie des droits de l'homme*, New York, New American Library, 1989.

²⁹ E. Y. Sobseh, *Rethinking Citizen, Politics and Governance in Cameroon*, Bamenda, Global Press, 2012.

how state institutions and laws enacted in Cameroon constitution ensure the respect of people's rights. In addition, the researcher, equally identifies the action aimed at directing priority investment to the less privilege and improve in areas to have access in improving health, education, nutrition, protection which most NGOs help in providing these actions to the less privilege or vulnerable victims. Here, our study aims to throw more light to the path played by Plan International Cameroon in promoting, improving and protecting humanitarian services on child protection, health, girl child education, water and sanitation and so on, in their area of study.

The discipline of human rights high lights major human rights instruments which ensure the human rights protection worldwide it emphasises the rights and obligations of civil servants in Cameroon not leaving it elaborates the right to marry the right the unborn the right to privacy and the inevitable role and the police force in an establish community or state. It cities texts that promoted these rights and how the Cameroon penal code punishes defaulters. My contribution will be to show the role plan international play .in the south west region as a human rights activities they are ready to receive complaints on human rights violations channelled of their offices and follow up procedures for redress the activities of plan international reduce or even wide out the rate at which people rights are violated³⁰

Catherine labe Enu³¹ in parental influence and its impact and dropout child Takemanda court area in Akwaya sub division present the girl child in the Takemanda court area as vulnerable marginalised and under privileged resulting to parental influent on the girl child drop ait from school she goes ahead to recommend that government NGOs, elites parents the international community and other stakeholders of education should put in place legislative financial and material resources to help stop this practice which is detrimental to the girl child. This study is similar to our work in that it child. This study is similar to our work in that fight for the right to education of the girl child which is the second generation right which everyone I should possess.

Louise W³²,in *Child marriage in west Africa and Cameroon*, he identifies the impact of early marriages and early child birth as inequality and discrimination which have negative consequences

³⁰ A. N.T.Mbu, *The Discipline of Human Rights*, Buea, publishing and production centre for Teaching and Research, January 1984.

³¹ Catherine Labe Enu, "Parentl influence and its impact on dropout child in Takemadanda court Area in Akwaya sub-division", post Diploma Dissertation in Sciences of Education (DIPPENII), Department of Science of Education Higher Teacher Training College, University of Yaounde I, June, 2011.

³² Wetheridge, *Child marriage in west African and Cameroon*, 2014.

mostly on the girl child. They are exposed early birth of children, as such, their educational future and dignity are tempered with. He equally portrays those six programmes were held to tackle the issue of early marriages and early child birth such, programmes are girl's education and empowerment, child rights and protections, sexual and productive health, community awareness raising mobilisation and economic livelihood including skills training need to be taken in-to consideration. His work is relevant and useful to our study because, it gives a panoramic view of inequality faced by the girl child at the early stage of her life with the sequel accrued to it. This will therefore help us assess the efforts of PIC on the matter. The different scientific works reviewed above which are directly or indirectly related to our study will go a long way in enriching our study.

Keming David,³³ in "The United Nation High Commission for Refugees in Cameroon A historical investigation 1982-2011". He enumerated the fact that the phenomenon for refugees in the world is as old as humanity and has often produce conflict of opinion or violence among people and countries for example we can site in the bible how conflict erupted between the two sons of Isaac, Esau and Jacob deceive his brother and took his birth rights, which is an aspect of human rights violation as illustrated in his thesis . furthermore, he pointed the fact in relation to violence, the proliferation of wars in the world has caused disastrous ramification on human. such wars can be grouped into intra and inter states wars like the WWI that commence in 1914 to 1918 and WWII that started in 1939 to 194. These conflicts precipitated the displacement of person, disruption of people freedom. However, the researcher further intimated that in article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights everyone has the right to seek and enjoy asylum and in article 13 of the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees specifies that countries should be impose penalties on individual coming directly from the territory where there to life and freedom are threatened. Again, the researcher enumerated the fact that some the IDPs that is internally displaced persons are mostly mistake for refugees. These IDPs are people who fleet their homes during crisis or natural and human occurrences across the recognised borders and these IDPs undergo deplorable conditions who how profit for humanitarian assistance from NGOs and HCR urged the government of the states where IDPs person were found to fulfil the responsibilities by offering them protection with other international community assistance to countries affected by IDPs. The victims of lake Nyos gas disaster and those of Mount Cameroon eruption in 2000these IDPs always fleet from armed conflict human rights violations and the host of others example in Cameroon in the North West Region (Widikum) 2012 IDPs are real and the

³³ D.N. Keming, "The United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Cameroon: A historical investigation from 1982-2011", A PHD thesis submitted for the defence in the University of Yaounde I at the History Department in the History of International Relations July 2016.

recent ongoing Anglophone crisis where IDPs from the North West and South West Region found refuge in the Region of Littoral, Centre and other Regions. IDPs legally remain under the protection of their own government even if the government might be the cause of their flight. As citizens, IDPs retain all the rights and protection under both human rights and international law. Therefore, our research will be limited on IDPs and how the government and other humanitarian communities or institutions have helped in resolving the problem of refugees, IDPs who were affected by crisis or conflicts.

Rachel³⁴ in “Women in the History of Bali Chamba in Cameroon”, she defined conflict as a process of incompatibility between two parties which can be either about interest, needs, aims. She said that conflict situation is discords which are natural phenomenon. Conflict can also be an element of solidarity and unity amongst a group of people or enemy. She equally illustrates that that conflict manifestation of the solidarity that is in human to the opposing group, considering the selfish and destructive tendencies of the group to humanity. The causes of conflict can be seen in the social, political, economic and cultural aspect in the Bamenda grass field. This work is of great relevance to our study as it has pinpointed the process of conflict in humanity how its of interest and aims to the part concern.

Primus Fonkeng³⁵, in “United Nations influence on Cameroon and Nigeria Relations 1949-2006”. He illustrated that, Africa as a whole began to make significant economic and political progress in recent years and part of the continent in the world progress remained threatened by conflicts and he further pointed that there was no higher goal for the United Nations, no deeper commitment and no greater ambitions that prevent armed conflicts, he mentioned that the prevention of conflict begins or ends with the promotion of human rights security and human development . he equally retreated the fact that conflict Africa pose a major problem to the United Nations effort to ensure global peace, prosperity and human rights at all. Although the United Nations was intended to deal with inter-state conflict, it was required to respond to intra-state instability and conflict. these types of conflicts enumerated above, are those conflicts that result to killing not only soldiers but also civilian and even

³⁴ N.K.T. Rachel, “Women in the History of the Bali Chamba o Cameroon, ca.1830-1958, with focus on Balikumbat and BaliNgonga”, BA thesis submitted for fulfilment of the requirement for the award of at the Department History , History of International Relations, University of Yaounde I.

³⁵ F. Primus, “United Nations influence on Cameroon-Nigeria Relations1949-2006”, :A historical investigation PHD thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of requirement for the award of a doctoral of Philosophy Degree in history, University of Yaounde I, History Department, History of International Relations, Yaounde, August, 2012.

ethnic groups however, this work is of great important to our study as it bring out some ways or mechanism in conflict resolution which is also a way to violate human rights during conflicts

Statement of Problem

The problem is to pose a problem and know how to solve it. Thus, she can define as a coherent whole in the form of a text, constructed from a question or a few main questions. This set is highlighted by Pinto and Grawitz in these terms: "The problematic is the field of theoretical knowledge in which one poses the exact problem of his proposition and of the concepts required to pose them". In other words, the problem is like a scientific art which allows problems to be clearly and simply elaborated. So the development of rural populations is the prerogative of decentralized territorial communities. The municipality can seek the contribution of development partners such as NGOs like Plan International. Therefore, Plan international Cameroon is an example of NGO who deal with developmental projects and equally intervened in human rights problem and equally help in curbing this human rights issues that is rampant in the South West Region of Cameroon.

In Cameroon in general and the SWR of in particular, Vulnerable groups such as children, women, girls, elderly persons, disabled and refugees most often than not are subjected to massive violations of their inalienable rights. The principal concern of this study is to ascertain the height of Human rights protection of the vulnerable groups by Plan International. Hence, this work will draw an appraisal in both its violations and laws regulating it both national and international. Also, various difficulties faced in implanting human rights decision to protect the underdogs in our society. Added will be various problem and solutions. In view of the foregoing of our analysis, the central question is: To what extent is the right of women and children safeguarded in Cameroon in general and South West in particular?, To what extent has the legislative and judiciary uphold the principle of women's rights and children rights in Cameroon and what mechanisms has been used by the Cameroon government to enforce the rights of women?, What determines child's labour?, What effect does it have on the rights of children in Cameroon? And main research questions: What is the role of Plan International Cameroon in the protection of the right of the vulnerable in the SWR of Cameroon? What are the legal bases of the role of PIC in the protection of rights of vulnerable during crisis? What are the activities of PIC in specific towards the protection of rights of vulnerable persons (children and adolescent youths) in the SWR during crisis? What are the challenges faced by PI in the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons during crisis? What is the way forward to the protection of the rights of the vulnerable? Finally all these questions seem necessary to us in order to better seize the activities that Plan international Cameroon.

Main Research Question

- What is the role of Plan International Cameroon in the protection of the right of the vulnerable in the SWR of Cameroon?
- What are the legal bases of the role of PIC in the protection of rights of vulnerable during crisis?
- What are the activities of PIC in specific towards the protection of rights of vulnerable persons (children and adolescent youths) in the SWR during crisis?
- What are the challenges faced by PI in the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons during crisis?
- What is the way forward to the protection of the rights of the vulnerable?

Significance of the study

Scientifically, this study is a modest contribution to Cameroon's historiography on the role of PIC in an attempt to promote and enhance human rights in the world and specifically in Cameroon. The work will also serve as bank of data available for future researchers who wish to embark on studying the activities or contribution of PIC in the domain.

Also, the study is of great significance because, it shall provide a solid background to both national and foreign international Non-Governmental Organizations (N.G.O) like: governments and more importantly political agencies like the National Democratic Institute (N. D. I), Transparency International (T.I) and Human Right Watch (H.R.W) who promote peace and sovereignty via the recognition of legitimate leadership. More, the stud will also help and guide the Cameroon Human Right Institution and every the Cameroon government in drafting out their policies on the defence of human rights and freedom in Cameroon.

Sources and Methodology

Pinto and Gawitz define methodology as “ A set of operations intellectual means by which a discipline seeks to attain the truths it pursues, and demonstrates³⁶ ". Thus, the methodology adopted in the context of this documentary research, the collection of field data, analysis and processing of said data.

³⁶ Pinto and M.Grawitz., *Research methodologies in the social sciences*, Paris 4th Ed, Dalloz, 1971, pp, 288-289.

Data collection

Primary sources used here were archival materials, letters, reports, speeches, memoranda, correspondence and minutes of meetings from private and public. It was complemented with oral interviews of informants during our field work. These archival materials came from the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX), Ministry of Scientific Research and that of Plan International Cameroon (PIC). As far as secondary sources are concerned, we made use of articles, books, dissertations, theses and magazines. Much time was devoted to consult both published and unpublished secondary sources which handled aspects directly linked or associated to the work.

We obtained secondary sources from public and private libraries, research and academic centres like the central library of the University of Yaounde I, the libraries of the department of History, the *Cercle Histoire- Geographie-Archaeologie* of the University of Yaounde I, University of Buea and that of the Higher Teacher Training College in Yaounde (ATTC). The vacuum in data acquisition from both primary and secondary sources urged us to visit internet sites such as Google and Wikipedia to download, complement and field in the vacuum which rendered the completion of this study possible. It was after exploring both archival repositories and documentation centres that we were able to scheme some questionnaires for our interviews.

The methodology of the study follows the normal techniques of historical writing prescribed by research norms of the University of Yaounde I. The methodology began with data collection from various complementary sources, to data analyses which carefully scrutinizes the information obtained from diverse sources to that of data interpretation where a critical and objective interpretation is made on the data before any valid conclusion is made. Interviews were conducted with informants who were directly or indirectly connected to the study in question.

Data analysis

As far as writing method is concern, we opted for both
 Qualitative research: It allowed us to understand the social phenomenon that Plan International aimed at which is for developmental projects.

Quantitative: this approach allow us to illustrate the figures through table in order to better understand the historical facts of Plan International.

Chronological and thematic approaches: which reconciles and offers a perfect and harmonious leeway for finding and reading of the developments and sequential evolutions of the subject in time and Space.

Problems encountered

Compiling data is not an easy task but a long tedious duty giving the planetary sanitary situation of covid-19 pandemic those crispers the world daily activities. Documentation centres and institutions are almost all closed, few are those which open and give access to researcher to carry on research. Still in the same vain, some targeted informants to whom prior data on the subject was to be collected due to this same sanitary situation are reticent and unwilling to receive us. Again, at level of the field, some informer refused to give out information concerning the activities of plan international and others NGO. Even act the level of the Organisation some workers are afraid to express themselves due to the effect of the Anglophone crisis that has real rampant our society. However, individuals in the various communities are afraid to give out information because they think that the researcher will give their names to the government for having been informers of the conflict and they have a lot of fear in them due to the experiences they have in the on-going crisis that has cause so many human violations in the Region. That is why carryout research in the South West Region was not an easy task. This greatly hampers and frustrates the research study.

Also, some documents collected from some informants on the subject just like those of PIC were most often in a decaying state, they were not well kept, sometime moisture, with some pages missing and even tired. Another significant difficulty faced was, the lengthy procedure used to obtain an authorization from administrative authorities. These were extra burden to the already complicated sanitary situation which did not help facilities the access to data. Despite these difficulties, we made use of diplomacy, patience and the solicitation or assistance of certain personalities which went a long way in curbing or containing these difficulties.

Organization of Work

The work begins with a general introduction and ends with a general conclusion; each chapter begins with an introduction and also ends with a conclusion. The chapter also gives stipulate definitions of terms and provides the sequence in which the study is organized. It ends with a summary of the main aspects covered.

Chapter one focuses on the historical background of Plan International, origin, aims missions, structural organization, evolution and some human rights NGOs equally the historical presentation of the South West Region of Cameroon.

Chapter two discusses the Human Rights Violation in Cameroon, It pinpoints the various abuses suffered by people in the area of study presenting the different instances and instruments in charge of protecting and promoting human right in Cameroon, the different area of human right violation in the South West Region.

Chapter three is devoted to assess the impact or efforts made by Plan International in the various domains to promote and enhance human rights in the South West Region of Cameroon, in the socio-cultural and economic aspect.

Chapter four dwells on the difficulties encountered by Plan International to achieve their gold mission of promoting human rights in the South West Region of Cameroon. It also stands out to bring forward some recommendations to curb the problems faced by Plan International.

CHAPTER ONE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PLAN INTERNATIONAL CAMEROON

Plan International is a non-governmental NGO which have two faces, its works both at the humanitarian field and development. This chapter aims to present a panorama of the history of Plan International laying emphasis on the circumstances of its outbreak or evolution of Plan International in the world, the bass creators of PIC or historical evolution of the NGO, then the categorization of the NGO, finally, we present the different structures.

Plan International Cameroon was an independent and developed non-profit making humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls, rural women and non-profit making organisation that was out to promote humanitarian actions in the world in general and in Cameroon in particular. Plan International Cameroon has no religious, political or governmental affiliation and it is one of the oldest NGOs in the world which have existed for more than 80 years in over 71 countries³⁷.

Plan International Cameroon as we earlier said is an independent organisation which arrived Cameroon in 1996 and is present in eight Regions of the country namely: the Far North, Adamaoua, West, North West, East, South West, Littoral and Centre Regions³⁸. Plan International Cameroon started her humanitarian activities in Cameroon on September 1996, after signing a protocol agreement with the Cameroon government. It has over 1200 communities in the country and had reached about 25.254 children that were enrolled in their programs with 19.565 individual sponsors supporting developmental projects³⁹.

Historically, it should be recalled that PI was founded in 1937 during the Spanish civil war by British journalist John Langdon-Davies and aid worker Eric Muggeridge⁴⁰. The organisation was founded with the aim to provide food, accommodation and education to children whose lives had been disrupted in 1930, PI came into existence as a foster parents plan for children in Spain. In 1940, during the WWII, the organisation became known as "Foster Parents Plan for war children"⁴¹ and work in England, helping displaced children from

³⁷ <http://www.plan-international.org> consulted 15/12/2020.

³⁸ <http://en.n.Wikipedia.org> consulted on 15/12/2020.

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ J.E.Longdon-Davies,Muggeride, The founders of plan international, 1937.

⁴¹Foster parent plan international,Canada ,2021,p.1.

all over Europe. After the war, PI extended aid to children in France, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Greece, and briefly in Poland, Czechoslovakia and China. In 1950, as Europe recovered, PI gradually moved out of these countries and opened new programs in less developed countries. It became Foster Parents Plan Inc, to reflect the goals of bringing lasting change to the lives of children in need. In 1960s, Foster Parent extended its works to countries in South America and Asia and in 1961, U.S first lady Jacqueline Kennedy was honorary chairwoman during plan's silver Jubilee⁴². In 1970-1974, the global name became Plan International as program now spanned in South America, Asia and Africa. In 1980, Belgium, Germany, Japan and the U.K joined Canada, U.S.A., Australia and the Netherlands as donors' countries. PI was recognised by the United Nations Economic⁴³ and Social Council (UNESCO). In 1990s, PI offices were opened in France, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and the Republic of Korea and in 2000, the name PI evolved and a united global identity was created to help make organisation more easily recognised around the world⁴⁴. And in 2012, Plan International launched a new international global strategy 2012-2022 which places an added emphasis on working on with girls.

I. Context of the creation

The world geopolitics of 1936, was dramatic and particular in the time during which different ideologies coexisted the embellishment of the Popular Front and the Spanish republicans mingle with, the rise of nationalisms not only in Spain but the rest of the world. Thus, this warlike situation heralded an alarm bell to a social crisis that has erupted Spain into unprecedented chaos, for people especially children.

1. The beginning of Plan International's humanitarian action

All humanitarian work is born of human suffering. Thus, PI is not exception this rule. It is in this surgery that the civil war broke out in Spain in 1936, between the Spanish republican government and the *Fente popular*⁴⁵, from that moment, an insurrection military and nationalist burst, led by Francisco Franco, thus benefiting from the aid determining factor of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, clashes between groups revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries. Despite the support of international brigades (3,500 volunteers from 50 nations), the defeat of the Republicans at the establishment of the dictatorship of Francisco

⁴² <http://www.Plan international.org> consulted 16/12/2020.

⁴³ <http://en.n.Wikipedia.org> consulted on 18 /12/ 2020 .

⁴⁴ <http://en.n.Wikipedia.org> consulted on 19/12/2020.

⁴⁵ <http://www. mondo-diplomatque fr> Spanish war, 1936-1939, p.1.

Franco, we realized here that, there were mass destruction of prosperities and civilian killed. It occurred during the German air raids, launched relentlessly the populations. This Spanish Civil War had obstructed social life. There were vamp and races towards abuse, the ban on moving in the streets without permits; illnesses resulting to lack of medication and unsanitary conditions; the hunger that the *Spaniards* cannot satisfy. In the same order

The idea of separation from loved ones as a consequence of the evacuations, inexplicable disappearances of the dead⁴⁶. All this was the daily life of Spanish children during the horrible summer of 1936. During the armed conflict, children were in extreme vulnerability. The adults had been direct war victims in 1937. Also, more than 36000 children under the age of 14 lost their lives, about 30% of the Spain children were killed that year and majority death was recorded in the Spain country, which led to childhood diseases. In addition Spanish children were privileged targets of war propaganda⁴⁷. This civil war had multiplied more than 11000 refugees who walk in the station and the in Spain and majority of them were young orphans. Among them, were an unassisted little boy named José, whom Langdon-Davies makes acquaintance having a note in hand written by his father: "his name is José, I am his father when Santander falls, I will be shot. I beg whoever finds my son to take care of him for me. Thus, overwhelmed by this meeting, Langdon-Davis decides to move on to the action and founded Foster Parents Plan for children in Spain to help children whose existence had been shattered by the war. However, Spanish children were privileged targets of the propaganda of this war⁴⁸. Children were not just a means for both sides to obtain support at the international level but, they were also, heir to the principles ideologies for which we fought on the battle field. Indeed, to protect its children against the Franco troops, the republican government decided to send children out of Spain. The objective being to feed the children/refugees and ensure the continuity of their schooling, whether either in colonies building for this purpose. This was put in place March 1937, which was set up on August 28 in the same year. Many countries offered to welcome the Spanish children, but the most welcoming were France, Belgium, England, Russia, Mexico, and Switzerland. The departures and settlements of children in the host countries were always preceded by major propaganda and slogans such as "Help the children of Spain⁴⁹ or save Spanish childhood"

⁴⁶ Ibid, pp. 68-69.

⁴⁷ Colloque international "Enfance violence exil", Université d'Amiens(CHSSC), Décembre 2011, comme intervenant Blaise Pascal-Clermont-Fernand, p.2.

⁴⁸ Plan international Canada, 2021, p.1.

⁴⁹ Terme utilise pour mobiliser la communauté internationale et des ames de bonne volonté, enfin de venir en aide aux orphelin et enfant victim de guerre en Espagne sous la dictature du geneerale Franco. Lire la Thèse de

which had a very strong impact throughout the world. They created an emotional consensus in favor of these evacuations which thus became evidence of the international aid received by the Spanish Republic. In addition, colonies hosts had as obligation to give Spanish children a Spanish education, Spanish by Spaniards to make sure that they remain Spaniard⁵⁰

2. The Founder Plan International

Humanism has always existed, but the world conflicts that hit the 1800 led to an increase in the number of organizations, as seen in our today's world. They are either people of good character and good will, or charitable organizations. It is in thislike that the British John Éric Langdon-Davies, journalist and trained reporter and American humanitarian Eric Murrige, who covered the Spanish Civil War, decide in Biarritz to form an NGO based on "sponsorship" of children. Thus, this organization could contribute to the protection of war orphans. Furthermore, given the importance of IP activities in the world, she had introduced the American first lady Jacqueline Kennedy as honorary president in 1963, during her silver jubilee⁵¹. In addition, in 1974, the name Plan International (PI) was adopted, the programs spanning all continents. During the 1980s, several countries joined the global humanism of PI. Belgium, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom become donor countries. Subsequently, the United States and Australia also entered as donor countries to Plan International. Currently, PI is run by a Swedish woman Mrs. Anne-Brigitte Albrechtsen who is the Managing Director. To make the image of Plan International attractive in the world, it has several high personalities who are able persons who have knowledge for the rights of the child⁵². They are sometimes the artists like American Angelina Jolie, Leonardo Dicarpillo, Madonna members of the royal family Prince Henry, actor Brad Pitt and wife of former US President Michelle Obama More, the football world also supports PI in these activities both on the humanitarian field, like Kadidiatou Star Dianstriker of PSG and the blue of France, is committed with the NGO PI to make change mentalities and encourage girls to assert themselves on the sports fields, as in daily life. All these high personalities of various functions are qualified humanitarian personalities because they work to improve the conditions of vulnerable children around the world. This surge of solidarity had been mobilized following the meeting of a war orphan. John Eric Langdon-Davies, was not only

Doctorat en histoire de Célia Keren »L'évacuation et l'accueil des enfants Espagnols d' une mobilisation transnationale (1936-1940) », Paris, L'EHSS,2014,p.5.

⁵⁰ C.Keren, "Négocier l' aide humanitaire: Les évacuations d' enfants esponsols la France pendant la guerre civile », *Revue d'histoire de l' enfance « irrégulier »*, 2013,n° 15 ,pp .167-183.

⁵¹ <http://www.plan-international.org>. consulted on 22/12/2020.

⁵² Ibid

founder of the NGO PI, he was also a writer who narrated, his experience life in the fields of war with the soldiers.

3. The extension of Plan International around the world

Men adapt to life's situations, in a world that is in perpetual mutation. It is within this framework that the Langdon-Davies organization ended up spread almost all over the world. During World War II, from Foster Parents Plan for War children ⁵³. He had 1939 to 1945 PI had taken the name of "first worked in Great Britain to help child victims of the conflict. After the war, PI had taken over the management of France; Belgium; Italy ; Netherlands ; Germany ; Poland and Czechoslovakia. With the aim of bringing assistance to children and soldiers who were victims of the atrocities of war, then in China from 1950 to 1960⁵⁴. After participating in the reconstruction of Europe, the humanitarian workers of PI withdrew gradually from these countries. From that moment, the new programs of Plan International move towards less developed countries, thus becoming " *Foster Parents Plan*". Following this change, Foster Parents of Canada in 1968⁵⁵ . During these changes, the name Plan International had been adopted in 1974, its programs extended to all continents. This is how she was recognized officially by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Furthermore, Map international opened programs in Africa in 1970, in Ethiopia, Mali, Sudan and Sierra Leone sponsors more than 51,600 children in the three continents. From now on PI, is reconfigured into a humanitarian an NGO⁵⁶ solidarity, depending on the activities whether they act on the scale of a country or internationally, are today, in many areas and specific actions.

II. The international and national creative bases of plan international

The notion of human solidarity has evolved from the divine right to love and help the next. It is evolving exponentially in the world, in view of the multiple sources starting religious considerations. Thus, the Vetch century, was dominated by the primate of the church, it dominated all political institutions, it was organized into charitable associations, to come and help the needy. More felt, international law sets in motion the international cooperation, a rigorous analysis of international solidarity, makes it possible to make a sociological study of these foundations.

⁵³ *Foster families for child victims of war*

⁵⁴ Partnership of plan international Cameroon with communes evaluation meetings , June 28, 2011.

⁵⁵ Canada sponsorship plan report 1968, 2018, p.3.

⁵⁶ After the reconstruction of Europe Plan International had oriented its activities and actions towards the DCs particularly Africa and South America .See Plan info, special anniversary issue, May 2012, nà 43,p.3.

1. The sociological, political and legal foundations of Plan International

The humanitarian aid given in our today's society by NGOs that originate in the nature of man. Some had been motivated by religious faith⁵⁷ and in human civilization.

Conceived as a biblical given, in order to free the oppressed. While, scientific and technical progress had reached the saturation threshold in the West. This is how the Europeans penetrated into Africa, to bring to the "natives" the so-called "benefits of science to the countries of the South"⁵⁸.

Faced with the multiple problems and difficulties to which poor countries are confronted with diseases called: epidemics; pandemics; starvation; Natural disasters. The international solidarity through NGOs and other international institutions have always use common sense. Thus in the month of December 2019, the whole world was struck by a Covid-19 pandemic. We then witnessed an all-out mobilization to come to assistance to vulnerable populations in countries lacking in sanitary materials⁵⁹.

The question of well-being expressed by religious people goes beyond the understanding of Holy Scriptures and also affects politics, which is an excellence guarantor and guardian of the well-being of the society. It is in this context that, US President Harry Truman addressing Congress in 1949 gave his first inaugural speech from his second term in the White House saying "Man being the link in society, but suffers from several ailments that undermine his existence"⁶⁰. It is in this logic that the international coalition mobilizes resources to reduce the suffering of man, hence the relevance of this Betsi adage "*sgoula mot ane ngoul a monyan*"⁶¹". Also, PI being a transnational player, it enjoys international legal status to regulate its impact around the world. This legal-institutional status allows it to draw inspiration from certain international conventions and treaties. In order to preserve human rights without discrimination of race or social rank: We engage in a bold program and use our advanced scientific and industrial know-how to promote the improvement of life and economic growth in underdeveloped regions. More than half of the population of the world

⁵⁷The speech of king Lepold II of Belgium in 1883 in Congo addressing the population.

⁵⁸ Kipling Rudyard, "The white man's burden: the United States and the Philippine Island", in McClure's Magazine vol.12, n°4, 1899, p.290.

⁵⁹ Donations of protective equipments, fight against Covid-19, by Cameroon's development partners: WHO;UNDP; Plan International Cameroon, European Union the Alibaba Foundation.

⁶⁰ G.Rist, *Le Développement .Histoire d' une croyance occidentale*, Paris, Press de sciences po, 1996, pp.11-120.

⁶¹ *Proverbe Béti qui signifie " ensemble l'homme est fort grace à ses frères " cf. Jeanne-Francoise Vincent .*

live in conditions bordering on misery (...) Their poverty constitutes a handicap threat, both to the local and also to the most prosperous regions⁶².

2. International legal framework

Among the international legal documents, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), proclaimed on December 10, 1948⁶³, is the first legal instrument to universal value. It thus proclaims the human rights applicable by all and for all. Its primary objective is respect for the person and their dignity through "respect universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. Article 20 of this declaration states that: "(...) everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. that cannot be forced to belong to an association. However, it remains optional depending on countries and their governments. The UDHR is a fundamental legal support for freedoms generally and particularly. As a result, this legal first-rate remains a source of inspiration for the NGO Plan International. In the same order of other document international organizations had been recognized for freedom of association and the protection of the rights particularly on the protection of children, of which Plan International is a fervent defender through her founder Langdon Davies.

3. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The UDHR being only a basic declaration obeying a principle of two pacts International standards had been adopted since December 16, 1966, to make its substance more rigid and binding. Thus one relates to economic, social and cultural rights and the other to political rights. It regulates development activities and whose application took effect on March 23, 1976⁶⁴. This pact was inserted in the texts of the OAU, the African Charter of rights of man and peoples of 1981. In its 1st chapter, article 2nd stipulates that:

Everyone has the right to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in the this Charter without distinction of any kind, including race, ethnicity, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion of national or social origin, wealth, birth or any other status"⁶⁵. Cameroon has also committed to Africa-wide to guarantee freedom of association through the ratification of the charter of Human and Peoples' Rights

⁶² Rist, *Le Développement .Histoire d' une croyance*, pp .118-120.

⁶³ UN General Assembly, New York resolutions 271A(III), p.5.

⁶⁴ United Nations, International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, adopted and opened for signature by the General Assembly in its resolutions 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966.

⁶⁵ The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, adopted by the 18th conference of chiefs of State and Government in Nairobi, Kenya, June 1981, article 10, P.3.

(ratified in 1989) which enshrines it in its article 10. In addition, the recognition of NGOs is visible within the EU with the convention European Union of 1986 on the recognition of the legal personality of organizations international non-governmental organizations. She signed in Strasbourg on April 24, in her article 2: “the personality and legal capacity of an NGO as acquired in the part where its registered office is located are automatically recognized in the other parts”.

The requirements for NGOs are that, they must have a non-profit of international utility; have been constituted by an instrument governed by the domestic law of a Contracting State; carrying out effective activities in at least two States; its registered office in a State

Contracting Party and its real seat in that State or in another Contracting State⁶⁶. This convention entered into force on 1 January 1991, its general principle is that the law which governs the personality and legal capacity of NGOs is the law of the State where the seat indicated by the constitutive act of the NGO. This implies, according to some, that “the NGO will have in all the Contracting States the same capacities and the same legal personality as that obtained in the State where its headquarters are located⁶⁷”.

4. International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989.

This international convention on the rights of the child in its article 5 states that: States Parties shall respect the responsibility, right and duty of parents or, where appropriate, members of the extended family or community, such as provided by local custom, guardians or other persons legally responsible for child to give to this in a manner consistent with the development of its abilities, guidance and advice appropriate to the exercise of his rights under this convention.⁶⁸ In addition, this convention goes further by condemning with the last energy exploitation and other abuse towards children. During the same year this convention had been ratified by Plan International on 20 November⁶⁹. It is the same spirit African countries have set up a legal mechanism for the supervision of children: the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990. Here the child is considered as a vulnerable human being, victim of all forms of discrimination and

⁶⁶ The European Secretary General, European Convention on the recognition of the legal personality of the international non-governmental organisation, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 1986, p.1.

⁶⁷ H.R. Foe Ambara, “Etat des lieux de l’œuvre des ONG internationales dans la région centre du Cameroun » de 1960 à 2010, *Mémoire en Droit et science politique, pour l’obtention du Master II, Yaoundé l’Institut des Relations Extérieures* 2013, pp.30-32.

⁶⁸ Concluded at New York on November 20, 1989. Approved by the Federal Assembly on December 13, 1996, instrument of ratification deposited by Switzerland on February 24, 1997.

⁶⁹ Plan International ratifies the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is thus committed promoting the well-being of children, focusing on education, health and other exploitations on children.

exploitation. From this In fact, it needs protection supervised by the institutions. It is for this reason that the African Union (AU), had drawn up the African Charter on the Rights of the Child, which summarizes the privileges that a child should enjoy within a State, a family. This relayed in article 11, which stipulates: child has the right to education. Thus in accordance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular of those who are set out in the provisions of the various African human rights instruments and of peoples, and in international declarations and conventions on human rights⁷⁰. These values are upheld by Plan International in the protection and child well-being.

5. Association regime and Yaounde Convention

The “*Regime d'Association*” was put place in 1957 in the territories under its domination. Thus, in 1963 and 1969, the convention were signed by 18 African states and 6 European countries, in the 1st and 2nd Yaounde Convention, agreements were gear towards financial cooperation, technical and commercial, mainly in the economic infrastructure sectors and social. These are government cooperation agreements that make no mention of collaboration with NGOs, just like the *Lomé* Conventions which expired in 2000, giving way to a new form of partnership enshrined in the Cotonou Agreement⁸⁷. Despite the feats achieved in cooperation, it had to be recognized that the ACP-EU partnership could be more effective and should adapt to a situation geostrategic modified by the end of the cold war. The Cotonou⁷¹ Agreement enshrines the perof non-state actors in the development process. So that NGOs can take place in good conditions, it is necessary above all that the legal framework of the host country is favourable to them, hence the development of the legal framework in which these organizations operate in Cameroon⁷². The doctrinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations are respect for the rights of the man. It is in this logic that States, regional organizations; under regional authorities, civil society and NGOs had ratified the legal instruments for the human protection. This had the immediate consequence of promoting solidarity international.

6. Nationally

In Cameroon, the regulatory framework for NGOs is the result of a slow evolution, the State totalitarian who in the past limited the scope of action and exercised tight political control and reduced on all of their activity. Prior to independence, human rights agencies,

⁷⁰ African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1990, p.7.

⁷¹ Yaounde II Convention and the Association of Overseas Territories on the EEC, p.18.

⁷² European Commission Document on the Cotonou Convention, Luxembourg, European Union, P;21.

and peasant organizations present in Cameroon and governed by the law of colonies or the French law of 1901 on associations had very little activity structured. Law No. 67/LF/19 of June 19, 1967: legal framework subject to the State regime

The legal framework for the exercise of human right institutions resulted from an evolution indolent, it was governed by law n°67-LF-19 of June 12, 1967 on the organization of freedoms of association and stipulated that any organization wishing to have a legal status in Cameroon should not only be declared by its members, but also be recognized and approved by public authorities. As consequence, Basile Kenmogne retreated that: “the procedure provided by law did not give the possibility to peasant associations to freedom, only Western NGOs. Having substantial financial resources and qualified personnel and especially enjoying the moral guarantee of their country of origin could easily have authorizations to exercise”⁷³. As a result, this law was supplemented by law n°90/053 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association. Thus, the first imprint which serves as the basis for this legislation is the constitutional guarantee of the freedom of association.

In effect, it is stated in the preamble of the Constitution Cameroonian that: “freedom of association is guaranteed under the conditions established by law”, and this at two levels: on the one hand, inspired by the UDHR and the African Charter of Human Rights man and peoples at the level of its preamble, on the other hand, despite the applicability direct freedom of association from the preamble of the constitution, the latter has expressly enshrined in these terms: “freedom of communication, freedom of expression, freedom of association (...)”. They are guaranteed under the conditions set by law.

This, the law of 1990 on the freedoms of association gives “the faculty to create a association, to join it or not to join it. It acknowledges to any natural person or moral throughout the national territory (...). However, it should be noted that the Government Cameroonians, faced with the economic crisis since 1980, has the capacity to create a civil society⁷⁴ certainly embryonic, but very active in the defence of economic rights and social, and under the effect of political demands, adopted in 1990 this law which supplemented with that of 1967 without ceding some of its prerogatives to the company civil. Here, to ease the political climate, the Cameroonian Government had promulgated the law n°90/053 of December 19, 1990, thus favouring the opening of several groups within civil society.⁹⁰

⁷³ B.Kenmogné, *La Politique Camerounaies d' ONG*, pp.22-25.

⁷⁴ Law N° 90/053 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of association in Cameroon article 1.

However, the laws of 1967 and 1990 evoke effectively the rights of association and the freedoms of association without any mention of “NGO”. Although the 1990 law subjects associations to declaration or permission, it can be seen as a 'democratic victory'. Because, more liberal, considering the declaration as authorization for deployment in the field before the approval of NGOs. Public authorities. It is for this reason that Law No. 99/014 of 22 December 1999 recognizes the importance of NGOs. In fact, this law of 1999 clarifies the concept, the typology as well as its organization and operation. It governs the creation, exercise of their activities (article 1), without being restrictive on access to NGO status. more, it also gives the possibility of creating a impersonal NGO. This new legal framework should enable NGOs to maintain better relations with the State by thus leaving the possibility of devoting themselves entirely to their development projects.

However, several indications suggest that the State continues to keep control on these organizations (Article 3). The foreign associations to which the authorization is refused or withdrawn must immediately cease their activities and proceed with the liquidation of their assets within three months from the date of notification of the decision⁷⁵.

The conclusion that emerges is that the legislator has precisely defined the areas of intervention in which NGO promoters can become involved. Nevertheless, the legal framework for NGOs in Cameroon is completed by decree n° 2001/150/PM of 03 May 2001, on the organization and functioning of the Technical Commission in charge of the study of requests for approval and the follow-up of the activities of Non-Governmental Organizations, associations. In addition, the Cameroonian State contains the instruments institutions of international non-governmental organizations which enable associations to exercise and to truly deploy themselves finally, that these accompany them in the daily.

7. State support structures for NGOs

The Technical Commission Responsible for studying applications for approval and monitoring of the activities of Non-Governmental Organizations had been created by Law No. 99/014 of December 22, 1990. It is made up of 15 statutory members, four of whom come from civil society, notably the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, the Islamic religion and the NGO. It is also important to point out the permanent presence of a representative of the Presidency of the Republic within this Commission whose organization and operation derive from implementing decree no. 2001/150 of 3 May 2001. Under the terms

⁷⁵ Law N° 99/011 of July 20,1999, amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law N°90/05 of December 1990 on freedom of associations

of this decree, the Technical Commission has the following missions: the technical study of the requests approval; the examination of the financial accounts and the inventory statement of movable property and NGO buildings; monitoring the activities of NGOs in order to ensure the proper use of grants from legal and public law entities; monitoring the activities of NGOs with a view to proposing to MINATD the sanctions applicable to them.⁷⁶

III. The Categorization of NGOs

Current global changes are mostly driven by NGOs, in the purpose of promoting a better life for the people. This results in multiple interventions made by NGOs in all areas of human life: humanitarian; defence of human rights; environment and development.

1. Humanitarian and Human Rights Defense NGOs

Humanitarian NGOs intervene in socio-political crisis and hunger in a countries, while rights NGOs carry out its actions in the protection of populations against abuses committed by States and governments.

2. Humanitarian NGOs

The human being is considered the greatest wealth. It is in this context NGOs place humanitarian action at the center of their concerns. Among those we can cite: the International Red Cross (CRI), Doctors of the World (MDM), Doctor

Without Borders (MSF), American Refuges Committee (ARC), Caritas International (CI), Committee International Red Cross (CIR), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRCR), *Oxford Famine Commetee For Famine Relief (OXFAM)* etc.

3. Human rights NGOs

Since 1948, with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international law has grown. Thus, human rights NGOs participate in the development of standards, which they then use they are weapons in the service of rights of *man*. *As such, we can list:* Human Rights Watch (HRW), Amnesty International (AI), Human Rights Center, The Children's Defence Fund, International Crisis Group, Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Network of human rights defenders humans in Central Africa, etc. These NGOs campaign for the defence of rights human, they provide legal assistance to victims of

⁷⁶ Document produit par Dieudonné Kimaka, PCA du Movement Internationa contre la pauvreté en Afrique Cameroun MIPACAM, et member de la commission technique chargé de l' etudedes demandes d' argrément et du suivi des ONG, Avril 2009,P.8.

wars and to prisoners “political” they behave like pressure groups for states and governments of the world.

Plan international’s Territorial Architecture Cameroon

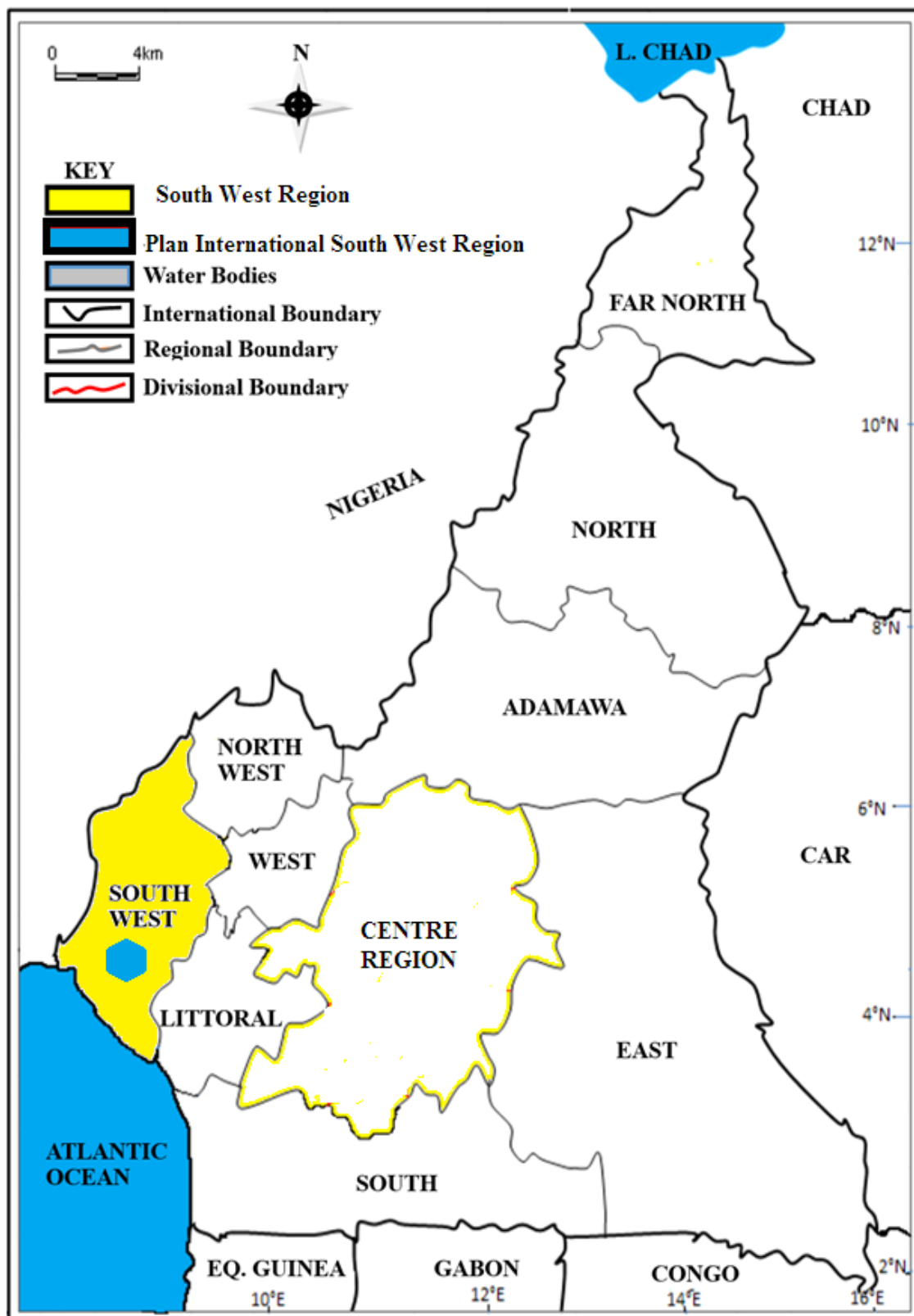
According to the constitution of January 18, 1996, Cameroon has ten regions administrative, fifty-eight departments and three hundred and sixty districts. This during PIC activities do not cover the entire Cameroonian territory. The following lines better describe the establishment of this NGO⁷⁷.

1. Regional framework of PIC

First, the regional organization of the NGO PIC obeys according to the needs requested by the populations through the communes. It is in this logic that Plan international is represented in some Cameroonian regions. In fact, the teams PIC carried out surveys and prospecting in its areas. Therefore, the map of Cameroon above shows this arrangement.

⁷⁷ Decree N^o.2008/376 of November 12,2008, on the administrative organisation of the Republic of Cameroon.

Map 2: The Map of the Republic of Cameroon Locating the main office of Plan International in the South West Region



Source: Adapted from the Atlas of the United Republic of Cameroon, Edition *Jeanne Afrique*, 1980, p.2, realised by Ndumabi Yvette.

Then, the presence of PIC in six regions is justified, following the study carried out on these regions in 2006. The survey focused on the state of children's rights in Cameroon. Since the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on January 11 1997. Thus, the report was clear that the protection of the children did not reach a level satisfactory in terms of raising awareness of the dangers to children. Otherwise, this intervention of PIC also resides, by numerous internal socio-political crises external, terrorist attacks of which Cameroon and its neighbors are victims. Thus, these multiple crises have caused the massive displacement of populations within the country and the refugees. It is within this framework that the NGO PI set up the program units Regional (UPR) to be close to the populations. These UPRs have post office box contact numbers⁷⁸. The following table illustrates the different regions as well as the UPRs.

Table 1: PIC NGO Regional Program Unit

Regions	Programs Unite	Contacts	Po Boxes
Adamawa	Ngaoundere	(+237)2222541	
Centre	Biteng	(+237)222245458	2523
East	Bertoua	(+237)222242291	589
Far North	Maroua	(+237)222291350	462
North	Garoua	(+237)222271615	401
North West	Bamenda	(+237)233363596	187
South West	Buea	(+237)233363591	

Source: The general director of Plan international from Bastos Yaounde.

The above table represents the Regions and program unit of Plan International and its development in the national territory of Cameroon.

It is in this legal context that the municipalities have requested the assistance of PIC. In Indeed, the several stages have been freed before the validation of their municipality in this decentralized cooperation. Firstly, the municipalities submit a request for partnership to the unit coordinator of the PIC activity program and the latter is responsible to transmit it to the level of the national direction for study of the city concerned. Then, PIC and the municipal administrators carry out several working sessions. In which the municipalities and the presidents of the municipal councils on the knowledge of PI and the presentation of the partnership.

⁷⁸ Plan international Annual Report, 2009,p.8./Law N⁰2019/024 of December 24,2019, on the general code of decentralised territorial communities , article 6 and 10, p.3.

2. Selection of communes by development projects

The NGO PIC wants to be decentralized; it brings an innovation on the conduct of development processes. This is justified by the research project for an action participative of the decentralized territorial communities as well as the populations beneficiaries. This method is a bottom-up policy applied by PIC, insofar as the aspirations of the villagers are formulated by themselves and then transferred to the level of the municipal authorities then handed over to the representatives of PIC. The involvement of populations in the development project seems to be a sustainable solution for development, because when one is not a victim of the blows of poverty the means and the mechanisms put in place are always out of phase with the reality. It's for This is why PIC goes into the field in order to sympathize with the populations.

In addition, the working sessions focus on the collection of data collected on the field by municipal officials and PIC volunteers. These field agents provide information on the evaluation of the rate of schooling of children, the integration of young girls in rural areas. It is also the opportunity for PIC to know the real needs of the populations of the municipalities. In addition, local authorities decentralized offices and the community agents carry out the implementation of the communities of sponsorship before the selection of its municipalities. It is in this perspective that cooperation can be envisaged between the municipality and PIC

3. PIC Operation and Deployment

The organization chart of an organization or a company is a bet won on the missions assigned by employer. It facilitates the understanding of an NGO, or any other it then structures the clarity and precision concerning the different interlocutors and the roles that each of them plays.

4. Operation of PIC

Plan International is a decentralized NGO. Indeed, the UPRs are represented in all the regions where the communes have made anointing of his services in Cameroon. This is how, that there are UPRs in all regions to coordinate its activities in the field.

This provision allows this philanthropist to be close to populations beneficiaries of PIC services and support. In fact, the UPRs are relay agents between community agents and national management. Their mission is to lead the PIC activities in the countryside while the decentralized territorial communities house the premises of PIC. The municipal administrators at the head of the municipalities of the department and district are responsible for controlling

and supervising the projects of developments for communities. This territorialisation of PIC allows it to respond more quickly to the needs of populations⁷⁹ .

5. Geographical deployment of PIC in the field

The deployment of the UPRs allow PIC to better control and manage the projects of development implemented by PIC and the Communes. The role of the UPRs is to distribute donations from PIC at the level of the Communes. Indeed, PIC preceded to the creation of the points focal points in all the town halls where it carries out these activities; these focal points are responsible for what concerns them to make more dynamic the action of PIC, under the control of the Communes. The focal points are responsible for establishing communities of sponsorships and children's villages in rural areas. This system allows the UPR to be informed about the activities carried out by the focal points in the field, because they are in direct contact with the populations. Through this geographical deployment of PIC on the triangle gives it an acceptability and adhesion of the populations who feel more and more valued in the search for their own development.

6. PIC's strategic axes

PIC's community development focuses on priority areas among these include inclusive education, empowerment of women. It's around these themes that PIC engages with the decentralized territorial communities which are the conductors of community development, by their proximity to the populations. This explained by the various projects implemented by PIC in order to get populations out of precariousness, they offer local populations, in particular children. Through the process of groups or communities constitute the fundamental means of intervention of PIC For the development.

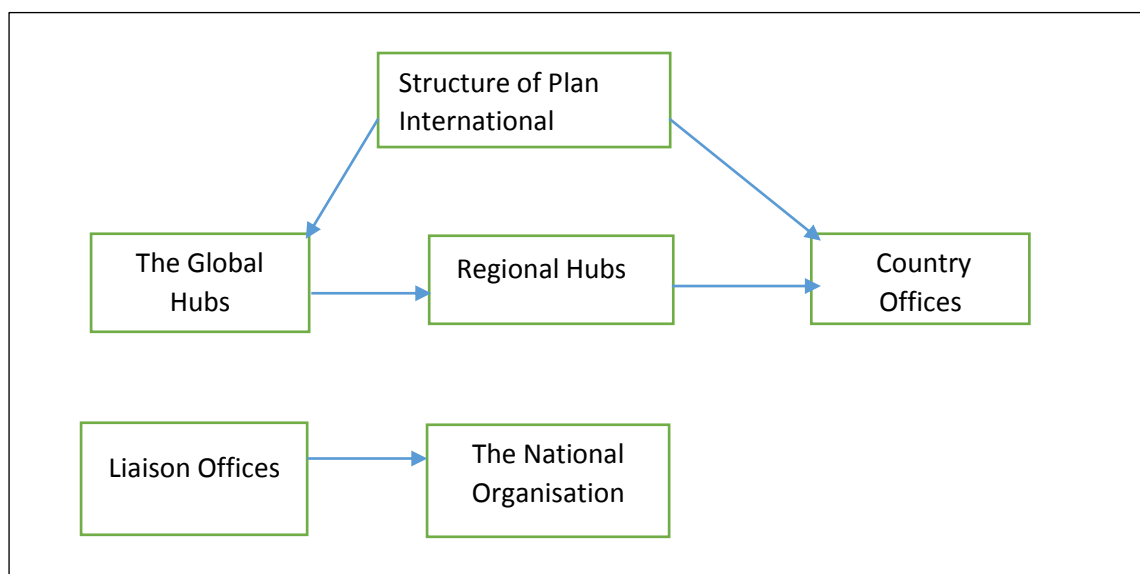
Through the priority axes of PIC, development is no longer a discourse theoretical but rather practical. PIC applies a closer to the bottom approach, more participatory, where PIC development “experts” become facilitators who work with the poor instead of asserting their position as knowledge holders. For these actors development should not be a “universal given”. But the sum of knowledge accumulated at the local level, in order to establish a respectful and adopt participatory practices. This way of proceeding of PIC allows the gradual empowerment of populations, because it gives them the possibility of determining development goals, problems and solutions. Thus, for PIC participation and empowerment have therefore become essential elements in the establishment of a transformative form of

⁷⁹ Partnership meeting held by plan international on june 28, 2011, p.7.

development, from below⁸⁰.

At the end of the course on the genesis, the foundations, the regional structuring, the categorization of NGOs, the membership of decentralized territorial communities as well as, the operation and deployment of PI, in the world and in Cameroon, we revisited the circumstances which had motivated the founders of PI, to visit in detail the political and legal sociological supports in which PI draws inspiration in order to carry out its charitable activities around the world. To also provide the elements which show that international cooperation is not only the prerogative of nation-states. They can count from the advent of NGOs on bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In the extent to which Non-Governmental Organizations can respond effectively to their needs. They have the ability to mobilize national and international opinion on regent situations of which the developing countries are victims. It is important to explore the framework of the decentralized cooperation of PIC with municipalities.

Diagram 1: the structure and functioning of PIC



The structures of Plan International Cameroon of its various departments that is the legal heads.

Source: Adapted by Author on the 25/2020.

⁸⁰ G.Marcou, *La decentralisation et la democratie locale dans e monde*, paris, Unites cites et gouvernement locaux unis, 2008,p.35.

IV. Structural Organization

The organisational structure of Plan International consists of five key components, the global hub, regional hubs, country office and its program unit, liaison offices, members national organisations.

1. The Global Hub

The global hub of Plan international is located in the United Kingdom and their leadership team includes regional directors and are base in the global hub. The global hub provides leadership, alignment and services to field operators, and support national organisations. The role of the global hub is likely for coordinating and supporting members organisations and other offices⁸¹.

2. Regional hubs

Plan International has four regional hubs in the world namely; Americas located in Panama, for Asia pacific is located in Bangkok for the Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa is located in Nairobi and one of the West and Central Africa located in Senegal. The regional hub coordinate and support the works of each country office within its region, providing leadership and technical expertise. The regional hub is led by a regional director, are branch offices of the organisation and do not separate governance structure.

3. Country offices

The country of Plan International, is led by the country director who is responsible for all programme operations within the country. Most country offices are branch offices of Plan International INC. with no separate governance structure. they are line managed by the regional hubs. Within each country where they operate, they have programme units that manage and implement their programmes on the ground. They work directly with children and communities and work directly with partner organisations. They are most often located in communities where programs are implemented and an integral part of the country office structure.

4. Liaison offices

Plan International have four liaison offices, in Geneva, New York, Addis Ababa and Brussels. They provide a platform to strengthen their partnership with international bodies, negotiations with key discision makers and promoting the rights of children globally.

⁸¹ <http://www.planinternational.org> consulted 3/5.2020.

5. National organization

As a member of Plan International, Incs highest discussion making body is the members' Assembly, the national organization play the key role in the governance of the organization. The national organization are also responsible for fundraising and perform a vital role in development, education and advocacy in their jurisdictions. In addition, the national organizations work together with Plan International, Inc to ensure the effective management and implementation of major grant- funded projects. the national organizations. The national organization are accountable to their donors through their national regulators and directly through their individual's feedback mechanisms. They appoint delegates to sit on the members' assembly, the highest discussion making authority, national organizations are managed by their own national director who is accountable to their individual governing bodies for their operations.⁸²

Functioning

Plan International strive for just the world and advance children's rights and equality for girls. The first function of PLC is that, they empowered children, young people and communities to make vital changes that tackle the root causes of discrimination against girls in Cameroon exclusion and vulnerability. Plan drive changes in practice and policy at the local national and global levels through our reach, experience and knowledge of the realities children face.

PIC, organised a workshop on the vulnerability of children during crises and disasters in Cameroon in the South West Region on 13th October 2011 to mark the international day for the child.

Objective, Missions and Strategies

1. Aims and missions

Plan International Cameroon had many aims which were diverse and varied for they acted in the domain of health, education, security and alimentation. In fact, it was out to promote human rights and wellbeing in general in all aspects.

⁸² [http://www. plan international .org](http://www.planinternational.org) consulted 3/5.2020.

In the domain of education, Plan International Cameroon promoted children's education and, in that matter, sponsored about Cameroon in the domain of education promoted children's education and, in that matter, sponsored about millions of children to school who suffered from abject poverty⁸³. It worked with more than 3500,000 families and their communities each year. Also, still in this projects, more than 25, 254 children were enrolled and 19,564 individuals were sponsored supporting these developmental projects⁸⁴. Still in this domain, Plan International Cameroon also promoted child protection laying more emphasis on child empowerment via education, via seminar, meetings and other form of sensitizing campaigns. The girl child was given priority as to what concerns education, she was encouraged and given equal chances like the male sex.

In the domain of health, Plan International Cameroon was also imperative. They did much in order to improve health conditions all over the country where they had a base. By trying to improve health conditions, it laid more emphasis on sanitary requires such as: the provision of water points or public taps and public toilets. It also did well to educate children and communities on sexuality and diseases like HIV and others via educative teaching through seminars. Plan International Cameroon also organised sensitization and vaccination campaigns to fight diseases like cholera, typhoid, yellow fever and many others. Plan International Cameroon in trying to promote health provided some health centres, hospital and dispensaries with health equipment and some drugs via aids. It also helps empower and reinforce the medical know-how of medical personnel by sending its experts to teach them via seminars and conferences.

2. Strategies

Plan International designed strategies in order to improve the welfare of children especially the girl child. This strategy was schemed on three main focal articulations: deliver greater impact for vulnerable children, especially girls, influence greater change at local and global levels and transform girls' lives.

3. Deliver greater impact for vulnerable children, especially girls.

To deliver a greater impact for vulnerable children meant to: working where violations of children's rights and inequality for girls are the greatest, being transparent and accountable to those we work with, working with men, women, boys and girls to advance the girls' rights

⁸³<http://en.n.Wikipedia.org> consulted on 6 August 202 0.

⁸⁴Ibid.

movement, putting gender equality and girls' empowerment at the heart of every new programme and becoming the world's leading girls' rights organization.

4. Influence greater change at local and global levels.

Plan International also aimed at making the girl child stand a better chance at both the local and global level, established the following strategies: collaborate with others to drive policy change and investment in children's rights and equality for girls and support communities to hold governments to account.

5. Transform girls' lives

This transformation programmes will focus on enabling vulnerable and excluded children to learn, lead, decide and thrive, across our six main areas of work.

6. Learn

This had as purpose to enable them succeed in life and work. By so doing, Plan International hope to ensure that: governments invest in all children completing secondary education, children in conflict and emergency settings, and especially girls, are educated in safety and young people have the skills and opportunities to work and manage money.

7. Lead

Leading here had as aim to enable them engage in activism on issues that affect them in order to ensure: children and young people have a stronger voice, decision-makers build ways for them to voice their opinions and governments establish and enforce laws that advance their rights to speak out.

8. Decide

To decide here meant that, girls should have control over their own lives and bodies in order to ensure: communities eliminate harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation, governments act for adolescent sexual health and rights, young people get quality sexual health services and sex education and young people play an active role in preventing sexual violence in emergencies.

9. Thrive

Strive had as objective to ensure that vulnerable and excluded children grow up cared for and free from violence and fear. By so doing they shall receive the following: early

childhood care they need to be healthy, educated and protected and governments, communities and families work to end violence and change the beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that cause girl's harm.

In this phase of this work the researcher has examined the historical background of PIC of the work and the context of the creation of PIC, in this study; we identified different categories of NGOs and Human rights in the world, the structures and functions of Plan not leaving out its missions and objectives of its areas of interventions. In addition we talk on the historical presentation of the South West Region. However, our chapter one has shown us how PIC came in to existence by its founders and the name late change to foster parent plan to what it is today and how it help children during the Spanish civil war. None the less, we also mentioned the involvement of PIC to others countries and how it is operating smoothly through its missions and others.

CHAPTER 2

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION OF CAMEROON

Human rights violation is becoming more and more a normal phenomenon in the South West Region. The rights of children, the girl child and the vulnerable are constantly violated. Chapter two therefore, begin by presenting the areas of human rights violation in the South West Region. Then, it will also briefly present some instrument, conventions, and laws governing the fight against human rights violation world wide which are strictly respected by Plan International in carrying out its activities in the South West Region.

I. Historical Origins of Human Rights

Before the aspect of human rights was been laid down in international and national documented constitutions, people were interested to the polices of ownership, justices and the care of each other as seen through cultural practices and oral traditions. The basic rights and responsibilities which people lived by. This includes the right to food, water and Golden rules which is centred in our homes, entities and states. The urge and ability of people to do the things at the right time was an enabling factor to the rise of human rights. An attempt made by the societies to document rights and responsibilities data dates as far back in the 4.000 years to the Babylonian code of Hammurabi⁸⁵. That is, the 10 commandments as said in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible, which is considered as an important book of what is known as pre-history of human rights. Again, Analects of Confucius, Koran and the Hindu Vedas⁸⁶, which addressed the five oldest written sources at questioned people, duties; rights and responsibilities in the 18th century⁸⁷.

Great philosophers in the 17th century had different ideology of the historical founding of human rights. The natural law philosophers of the social contract coined that people's should be preserve and protected⁸⁸. People who embraced the social contract surrendered their

⁸⁵ The founding text of the first Babylonian Empire which dates around 1730 BC and a compilation of 282 articles which set rules of tribunals, family and trade right.

⁸⁶ Record of words, acts and discussions of the central Chinese thinkers and philosopher Confucius and his disciples;

⁸⁷ The founding text of the first Babylonian Empire which dates around 1730 BC and a compilation of 282 articles which set rules of tribunals, family and trade right.

⁸⁸ Records of words, acts and discussion central Chinese thinkers and philosophers Confucius and his principles.

right to a sovereign leader who in turn guarantee that their rights are protected and this fall on John Lock that, the state was a better place to protect its citizens of the rights to life, liberty and estate⁸⁹.

Human rights were unavoidably contrasty before WWII. Documents such the Bill of Rights, United State Constitution and the French Declaration of Human Rights of Citizens were written as archival materials talk on the equality, right of citizens and liberty due participation in political affairs of their communities through voting. After the end of the Second World War, the United Nations included in her charter the promotion of the spectrum of human rights which all people are entitled, regardless to whom they are and where they live. The commission of human rights was created by the United Nations in 1946, led by Eleanor Roosevelt⁹⁰ who drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was the first ever affirm document of human rights adopted in 1948 and had on it the legal right to life, liberty, security as well as board rang of political, economic, social and cultural rights⁹¹.

Human rights apply to the principle of equality of all before the law without distinction, based on their colour, origin, age, languages, sex⁹². This fall within three categories of rights, civil and political rights sometime called first generation rights that arose in the 18th century and reflected the idea of individual freedom with respect to the state⁹³. These rights include: freedom of movement, prohibition of torture, prohibition of slavery, right to fair trial, right to life, liberty and security of person, freedom of speech and religion, freedom of association and assembly and the right to vote⁹⁴. However, the first and second generation of human rights is made up of social, economic, and cultural rights, developed during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The main economic, social and cultural rights here were the family and marriage rights⁹⁵. Which were: right to trade unions, right to the standard of living and food, right to health care, right to education which includes the right of parent to decide where their

⁸⁹ Samuel A.penda "The protection of the rigts of the aucced in criminal trials :The case of Anlophone Cameroon",DEA Disertation in law, University of Yaounde II Soa,2003,pp,8-9.

⁹⁰ Window of President Franklin Roosevelt who ruled the US between 1932 to 1945.

⁹¹ Albert .A.A., Samah, *Introducing Nations Building and Human Rights in Colleges and Institutions of higher learning in Cameroon*, Yaounde, mama press Yaounde, 2010,p. 139.

⁹² Article2 of UDHR

⁹³ Article 3-15 and 17-21 of the UDHR

⁹⁴ Keba Mbaye, *Les Droits del 'homme en Afrique*, paris, imperimerie floch 2002, pp. 201-206.

⁹⁵ Article 16 and 22-29 of the UDHR

children should attend school, the right to participate in cultural rites and social life of the state. With the coming of the first, second generation of right comes the third generation known as solidarity rights which started existing around 1980's. The solidarity rights existed thanks to the coming together of some group of individuals by the means of international cooperation aimed at the formation of a community such rights are: self-determination, to peace, to sanitation and hygiene (clean environment) and the right to sustainable development⁹⁶. The above rights are seen as a vital item of the Cameroonian society encouraged by its inclusion of the national constitution.

When French Cameroon got her independence in 1960, she adopted a constitution. The following period 1st October 1961, the people of Southern Cameroons got their independence, reunified with French Cameroon and adopted the Federal constitution under the umbrella of the Referendum which later came up in 1972 with a new constitution in which human rights values were consecrated in Cameroon. This acted as a prologue to the constitution within a tie legal system⁹⁷. The revision of the 1972 constitution which was provided for it in Law N^o96/06 of 18th January 1996 in its article, 65, which was also part of the preamble of the constitution, that constitute human rights revised to be part and parcel of the constitution and this contributed to the creation of NGOs in Africa in general and Cameroon in particular⁹⁸.

II. Factors inherent in an expression of human rights violation in Cameroon

Human rights are coherent sets of universal and fundamental legal principles that apply to both individuals and peoples⁹⁹. These rights face a plethora of threats based mainly on poverty, corruption and social injustices.

1. Poverty as a source of frustration in society leading to human rights violation

Cameroon, like other African countries, has at times in her history experienced an increase in the number of complaints from the population. They are demanding a better life and a reconsideration of the cost of basic commodities by the state. Indeed, these events have a common denominator which is the increase in of some basic commodities prices (fuel, rice,

⁹⁶ Article 28-29 of the UDHR/ Mohammed Bedjaoui, international law: Achievements and Prospects,p1055.

⁹⁷ Sobseh, *Rethinking citizens, politics and governance in Cameroon*, pp, 112 - 113.
Article 2 of the UDHR.

Article 3-15 and 17-21 of the UDHR.

⁹⁸ Y. Emmanuel Sobseh, *Rethinking citizens, politics and governance in Cameroon*,pp,112-113.

⁹⁹K. Mbaye, *Les droits de l'homme en Afrique*, Paris, A. Pedone, 2^e édition, 2002, p. 35.

soap, oil, bread). In Cameroon, it is described as "four crises in one"¹⁰⁰. With the economic situation still very much an evidence in Cameroon and the quality of financial and material health in households, it is a real challenge for people on modest incomes to be able to afford these products. This undoubtedly leads to a violation of human rights when one observes the wave of consequences that this generates. This is the place to note in this very weak financial dimension, the abandonment of school by children, youth unemployment, the depravity of morals and especially the recrudescence of diseases as well as hunger. Hunger here is most often seen in the inability of families to afford a meal each day. This makes malnutrition among children flourish.

Children are forced to eat low-cost meals without vitamins to avoid starvation. Without a doubt, the poor are the group most exposed to various human rights violations. In this respect, the so-called minority populations do not always have the same margin of prerogatives as the so-called majority. If we focus on the case of the pygmies in Cameroon, it is clear that the employment market for this category is still somewhat closed. This ethnic group have limited or no access to basic services, resources and have difficulty enjoying their rights to education, health or decent housing simply because they do not have the means. As for the labour market, it has some specificities in terms of its functioning and disparities. As the labour market is seen to be preserved for 'mature men', young people often struggle to enter it, often because they lack the means and sometimes even the networks that have built their nests in these areas.

Moreover, after the devaluation of salaries in Cameroon in 1993, left many civil servants in relative poverty. One only has to look at the minimum wage, which has been 23,000 francs for over 30 years¹⁰¹. It is with this very low income that the population has to manage exponential inflation while monetary erosion removes all value from its income which is continually falling. This means that in the absence of a job, even a precarious one, the family sinks into misery. This atmosphere does not guarantee a glimmer of hope for young people with university degree and professional qualifications, who find it difficult to come across a dignified job and sometimes have to fall back on professional activities that have no affinity with the training and skills acquired at the grassroots. Many after their studies have to take up a career in the informal sector in order to earn their daily bread and try to provide for the various needs of the family. It is in this context that talents are destroyed,

¹⁰⁰J. B. Sipa, *Pouvoir d'achat: quatre crises en une* », *Le messager* du 16 mai 2008.

¹⁰¹Ibid.

dreams shattered. There is inevitably brain drain. Sometimes, these young people come to dream of being great bandits, because "that was the most honourable path" in their eyes¹⁰². The reason is simple: in the public sector, passing an administrative competition exam is a feat because the number of places is small compared to the number of graduates, and when the written exam is over, many fail the oral exams. The orals feature a battle of the networks and at the moment, the system of sponsoring the children of dinosaurs is taking hold. Those who cannot benefit from this system succeed with great difficulty most of the time.

The public sector has a very low employment rate. In the private sector (4.7%), recruitment is based on sponsorship requirements. It is necessary to have a family member in the company in order to hope that the application will be considered by the employer. The latter filters recruitment by only letting through its close relatives or those close to its employees. Also, the high tax burden is not likely to encourage hiring. Faced with such a reality, young people who lack the funds to be self-employed have to turn to the precarious jobs available to them¹⁰³. The informal sector, with 90.4% of employed workers, including 55.2% in the agricultural sector, provides the young people with the most economic integration. Moreover, 69.3% of workers are underemployed and earn less than 23,000 francs per month for 40 hours of work per week. According to Cameroonian statistics, 78.2% of working women are in this situation, compared to 60.7% of men, while overall underemployment affects 75.8% of working people. As a result, the social security mechanism is alien to them, as the public social programmes (lack of registration with the National Social Security Fund). Apart from this specificity of the labour market, there are also disparities. Women are rarely found in lucrative and administrative positions. They occupy positions with a low rate compared to men. As the statistics of the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and the Family show, at our fingertips are women ministers, deputies, mayors or directors of large companies. This is an obstacle to their full participation in political and public life and, by so doing, limits their access to decision-making. Also, access to credit for women is not easy. The vast majority of women are concentrated in the informal sector or in precarious work (gathering, field work). Women who have found jobs in the private sector are frustrated in terms of salary treatment. They receive lower wages than men. Yet women make a considerable contribution to the household. They have always been

¹⁰² Guy Parfait Songue, "j'ai vu la pauvreté détruire".

¹⁰³ *Les travaux précaires regroupent ici les travaux champêtres, la vente à la sauvette, les travaux d'aide maçon, de commerciaux temporaires, de vendeurs de ticket de loterie, de gardien de nuit.*

effective in managing child-rearing issues and maintaining moral authority in the family¹⁰⁴. Clearly, the underprivileged and vulnerable sections of society see their rights regularly flouted despite state action to counter this problem. The poor have limited or no access to basic social services.

The right to education, health care or decent housing is sometimes inadequate due to lack of resources. In terms of health, the distance of health centres from rural areas does not favour the care of the poor. These poor people have to travel long distances to get treatment. Some of them prefer to self-medicate, which is to be avoided. Self-medication does not meet the principle of prior diagnosis. And even when a diagnosis is made in due form, the dosage of the treatment is not always 100 per cent respected. Hence the need to meet a medical professional for better care. The problem of access to education is acute in the Far North Region of Cameroon. Many young girls, due to early marriages and the backward mentality of their parents, do not have the chance to go far with their studies. Parents are concerned about finding a suitor for their daughters and prefer to send them off for marriage. Hence, sacrificing their studies. In the same vein, Muslim custom has often relegated the young girl to the background in society, making her a housewife whose main concern is to work at home and manage the education of her children. In such a context, parents are more likely to send boys to school and leave girls without schooling. In addition to this, there is also a very high rate of people living with HIV/AIDS in other regions such as the East Region of Cameroon. This does not facilitate the school pilgrimage of these people. Furthermore, young girls who have contracted early pregnancies are left to fend for themselves.

As far as housing is concerned, it is known that no household can meet its basic needs unless it has available financial resources. But with a salary below the minimum wage¹⁰⁵, it seems difficult to bear the cost of renting, which generally amounts to 10,000 francs (for a studio apartment), while there are other expenses that the head of the family has to meet or face. In these conditions, the inhabitants prefer the promiscuity of a less expensive flat. The latter is found in swampy areas, full of mosquitoes. The consequences are: unhealthy conditions, insecurity, delinquency, prostitution and disease. As the statistics reveal, 69% live in poor conditions¹⁰⁶. Like poverty, corruption remains an obstacle to the effective respect of

¹⁰⁴<http://Cameroon.link.net>.

¹⁰⁵*Le SMIG au Cameroun qui se chiffrait à 23000F au connu une faible revalorisation et est aujourd'hui estimé à 36000F.*

¹⁰⁶*Document de stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté.*

human rights. Poor prisoners' rights are regularly violated during their stay in prison. They are exposed to many diseases, eat very poorly and have a rather precarious lifestyle.

Diseases and even epidemics are caused by overcrowding, the poor condition of the cells with very few air vents and the lack of sleeping facilities for prisoners who have to sleep on the floor. This is what prompted one prisoner to point out that: every day and night there are fights, do you know with whom? The cockroaches, the mosquitoes and especially the rat-mice who never give us a moment's rest. Usually, the mice gnaw on our toes or fingers. We live in promiscuity, dirt! The water stagnates in the prison and allows mosquitoes to multiply. We suffer from everything here! We don't eat! We are sick! We don't breathe well! Look at the state of the prisoners who hang around in the yard! Some of them are naked and others are dressed like mad people with torn and dirty clothes. How can we not get sick! We mix with the sick. Look at the almost naked boys lying on the ground or on the cement! Their thinness is impressive isn't it! Bodies covered in sores! Phagedenic ulcers due to scabies. This ubiquitous scabies that pushes every patient to scratch himself to the point of blood, is the super infection¹⁰⁷.

As far as food is concerned, hygienic conditions are not respected during cooking. The quantity of food is largely insufficient compared to the number of prisoners. There is a kind of non-variation of meals. In the Douala prison, there are only two foods in the prison ration, namely rice and corn chav¹⁰⁸. It is the prison administration that must ensure that prisoners are well fed¹⁰⁹. The prisoners' food is supposed to contain sufficient nutrients as well as available drinking water to ensure the health of the prisoner. But this is not always respected. Hygiene is poorly ensured because of the untimely cutting of water. We also note the scarcity of accessories for personal hygiene such as soap. All of these goes a long way to show the level of human rights violations in the South West Region of Cameroon.

¹⁰⁷J. Kamanda, " *Les conditions de détention au Cameroun de 1960 à nos jours : cas des prisons centrales de Yaoundé et Douala* ", *Mémoire de Maîtrise en Histoire, Université de Yaoundé I*, p. 75.

¹⁰⁸Repas fait à base de maïs bouilli avec du haricot et qu'on fait frire avec de l'huile rouge.

¹⁰⁹*Haut-commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme (HCDH) : les droits de l'homme et les prisons, guide du formateur aux droits de l'homme à l'intention du personnel pénitentiaire, Nations Unies, New York, 2005, pp. 55-56.*

2. Corruption as a stimulus to bad human practices leading to human rights violation

Corruption is the violation of the duties of probity, fidelity and impartiality required in the exercise of a public office, to the detriment of the user. Corruption occurs when an individual is bribed not to do his or her job (or to do it) by means of offers, promises, gifts, or presents. Furthermore, corruption occurs when an individual pays the complacency of a professional to honestly perform his or her professional duties or to refrain from doing his or her job. They represent a real regressive force in the development pattern of a society. Indeed, those who indulge in this practice unscrupulously violate human rights. In the public services, it is well known that terms such as 'wet the beard', 'give the fuel' to obtain a service. Cameroonian legislation has decided that public services should be free of charge, but unfortunately, this is not yet the case. This prevents Cameroonians of modest means from enjoying their rights to public services. Some clerks and senior government officials have turned corruption into a means of rounding up their salaries at the end of the month and of illicit enrichment. In this context, many users are simply dismissed or ignored by crooked state agents¹¹⁰.

Hospitals have dilapidated buildings and are poorly equipped, lacking the technical facilities needed for optimal patient care, and roads are rarely repaired. Schools are in a pitiful state with chronic shortages of benches. Public contracts are partially or not at all carried out by the service provider who has received financial support. The service provider uses the money for other personal purposes because he has no fear of being held accountable. All these problems plunge the population into a situation of survival where access to primary services becomes a real obstacle course. In prison environments, corruption is also present and usually takes place between prisoners and jailers or between jailers and visitors. It was during commercial activities within the prisons that the infiltration of prohibited objects took place. These objects consisted of Indian hemp, mobile phones and sometimes weapons¹¹¹. These infiltrations took place with the complicity of prison guards who could not resist a five hundred francs¹¹². This illicit activity can only increase the rate of violence in prisons and inevitably lead to the violation of the rights of prisoners who are entitled to protection which cannot be guaranteed in these conditions.

¹¹⁰ Anonym, Corruption in Cameroon, p.90.

¹¹¹ Kamanda, " Les conditions de détention ... ", p. 113.

¹¹² Ibid.

Famous detention centres such as the Kondengui Central Prison are experiencing the wind of corruption through the discrimination of inmates. There are inmates from the bourgeois class who were mostly imprisoned after embezzlement scandals and inmates without a 'heavy CV' as is often said. Prisoners from the bourgeois class are treated in better conditions than the poor, in return for money that they hand over to the prison staff on duty to benefit from the latter's largesse. To describe this discrimination against prisoners, ACAT-Littoral underlines that: Apart from the cells reserved for prisoners who have assumed high functions in the political or economic life of the country in which improvements have been made, the other Cameroonian prisoners do not benefit from the minimum required. Already overcrowded in their cells, the latter live in extremely precarious conditions conducive to the spread of various diseases. Taking a daily bath is a feat due to the lack of sufficient drinking water. The waste water drainage channels are no longer functional (...) the cells are therefore a breeding ground for all types of insects and small mammal rodents (mice, rats, wasps, etc.)¹¹³.

The worrying progress of corruption has motivated the public authorities on the need to stop the haemorrhage of embezzlement so that the funds used for socio-economic prosperity are well channelled to this end. It was also a question of putting out of action those who are thirsty for easy gain. It is in this context that Operation Sparrow hawk was set up and has led to the incarceration of many senior government officials since its launch. The birth of this operation can be traced back to 21 February 2006 when the first arrests were made. The status of the arrested personalities speaks volumes about the scope of the measure: a former minister, two former directors' general of state companies, all from the ruling party and who had just been dismissed from their positions.

Apart from Operation Sparrow hawk, several institutions have been created. These include the National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC), the National Agency for Financial Investigation (ANIF) and the Superior State Audit (CSE), which was reorganised by decree n°2005/374¹¹⁴. CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) are also involved in this fight. They are called upon to: participate in the promotion of an active and demanding citizenship, in various advocacy actions and in raising awareness against the dangers of this scourge, to be a force for proposals, to develop expertise, and to exercise watch and warning functions¹¹⁵. In the same vein, the ministerial cells have joined this dynamic of blocking corruption since

¹¹³APD: ACAT-Littoral, *Rapport sur la situation des prisons au Cameroun, Décebre 2011*.

¹¹⁴La CONAC est né des cendres de l'observatoire de lutte contre la corruption. Elle a été créée par décret n°2005/088 portant organisation et fonctionnement de la Commission nationale anti-corruption.

¹¹⁵O. Nguini., *Plaidoyer pour un Cameroun sans corruption*, Paris, l'Harmattan, p.142.

2001. They must ensure the effective implementation of anti-corruption measures prescribed to the ministries in the framework of the governmental anti-corruption plan, carry out any mission related to the prevention and repression of corruption, and promote ethics and the respect of good governance standards within the ministries¹¹⁶.

The ministerial cells are placed under the authority of the ministers. Chaired by a ministry inspector general, they have eight members, four of whom are from the Ministry Territorial Administration and four from civil society or NGOs (Civil Society Organisations). They have proved to be effective due to the absence of a single founding text giving them a central role within the institutional system and freeing them from the strong influence of the minister, on whom they are dependent in every respect. In the same strategy, the PNG (National Governance Programme) was also set up. This programme came into being in 1995 and was prescribed by the president of the Republic to meet the challenges of globalisation and the globalisation of economies. The NGP also has a section in its prerogatives dedicated to the fight against corruption. In this respect, its action plan is based on: the implementation of a system of transparency and responsibility that can reduce opportunities and possibilities for corruption, the conduct of a vast education and moralisation campaign, the establishment of mechanisms for identifying, preventing and punishing corruption, the adoption of specific legislation to punish corruption at the penal level, the participation of citizens from the private sector and civil society in the fight against corruption alongside the public authorities.

The Ministry of Justice does not escape this regalia mission of fighting corruption in Cameroon. It ensures the functioning of the courts and the discipline of magistrates, clerks and civil servants under its authority. The latter is particularly responsible for monitoring the activity of the public prosecutor's office in repressive and non-repressive matters. It has a Directorate of Criminal Affairs and Pardons which is responsible for monitoring the activity of the Public Prosecutor's Office in repressive matters, international cooperation in the areas of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, extradition and monitoring transfers.

The Head of State once said in response to the problem of corruption: “¹¹⁷For years, we have been making sustained efforts to fight against the corruption that is corroding certain sectors of our society”. At my request, the government has defined a strategy to combat this scourge, but it must be admitted that it is slow to bear fruit. We are therefore going to

¹¹⁶Ibid, p. 94.

intensify our action, because it is not tolerable that the selfishness of a few continues to harm the general interest and our credibility abroad¹¹⁸. This shows the State's determination to break the chain of corruption that is still present in the administrations.

The President of the Republic also declared that: "We now have an institutional apparatus capable of tracking down corruption in all its forms. The National Anti-Corruption Commission, the National Financial Investigation Agency, and the multiple procurement commissions all have an essential mission in the service of this national cause¹¹⁹. White-collar criminals need not worry. Corruption does not kill a state on a socio-economic level. It is suicidal because it does not allow for the building of a solid society based on the value of the individual. Individuals are born equal in law in a society where social functions are different, and where society offers each of its members, through the training structures, an equal chance to access roles and titles, through personal effort. Corruption substitutes itself for personal effort, it undermines the social principle of equality of opportunity, and it also makes a mockery of the role attributed to the educational structure as such. It makes light of the fundamental capital of the individual personality, which is consolidated and enriched by training. It gives everyone access to any job and leaves it to chance to make the necessary adaptations 'on the job' for the smooth functioning of social life.

It should be recognised, however, that several difficulties hinder the repression of corruption and its extraction from Cameroonian society. The first difficulty lies at the level of proof. The briber and the bribe-taker do not usually take the time to sit down and discuss a set of things related to their bribery or to make a written decision to explain what they are going to do. On the contrary, the exchange of a sum of money by a user for a service provided by a public official is done with extreme speed. The official who has to produce requires a reward or monetary motivation to do so or to perform an act that is not within his or her prerogatives. In contrast to the open-air corruption experienced on the roads, which is sufficiently blatant, this type of corruption is usually carried out with great discretion¹²⁰.

The second difficulty lies in the intensity of the penalty for corruption. This raises the question of the relevance of such a strategy. Because of their status in society, the corruptors and the corrupted are not always bothered by sanctions commensurate with the threat. If an

¹¹⁸*Extrait du discours de fin d'année du chef de l'Etat, le 31 Décembre 2003.*

¹¹⁹*Discours d'ouverture et de politique générale du président Paul Biya au troisième congrès extraordinaire du RDPC, le 21 Juillet 2006.*

¹²⁰Anonym, *Corruption in Cameroon*, p.90.

actor receives billions of dollars to facilitate the awarding of a contract for the construction of a road to a company, it is not a fine of 2,000,000 and 10 years of imprisonment (of which it is not certain, thanks to the money from corruption, that he will spend all of them behind bars if he goes) that will hold him back. Corruption, despite the fight against it, is not something that can be extirpated so easily and quickly from the mores¹²¹. It is a deep problem of mentalities and civic education just like the social injustices that rot the daily life of many Cameroonians. aforementioned audit chamber is operational.

3. Social injustices as a vehicle for the silencing of human rights and freedoms

Every society is confronted with bad social practices. From this stems a range of human rights abuses. Social injustices affect several categories of groups of people in society. Minorities, girls, people with disabilities and the poor are the most affected. Indeed, in our society religious and ethnic minorities are often marginalised by the powers that be. This state of affairs creates all sorts of frustrations and at the same time, a timid expression of their rights and freedoms. Pygmies and Bororo as minority groups are considered respectively as people who can only live in the state of nature and also as those who cannot get a long education because of their characteristics as nomads and actors very involved in the conduct of cattle breeding activities. Because of this marginalisation framed by prejudice, minorities very rarely get a long school education.

Moreover, traditional conceptions place the Bororo woman in the condition of a housewife who has no place in certain activities such as political praxis. She must obtain her husband's agreement to enter political circles and not suffer the wrath of other men who will see this initiative as an intolerable fault if she does not have her husband's agreement. As a result, the young girl is often sent to marry in a military manner, to the detriment of her schooling. These groups also find it very difficult to get a job in the civil service because of the considerations that are made about them.

Young girls find it difficult to study technical subjects like men and sometimes even to work in these subjects without being looked upon with guilt by society. Unable to find a decent job in relation to the training they have acquired, they resign themselves to doing odd jobs. In this context, it is difficult to ask a young girl to become what her mother or many other people of the same sex around her have not been. Throughout her socialisation, she has

¹²¹Ibid, p.157.

internalised the models of women proposed by society. Generally speaking, mothers define themselves as housewives, devoted to their families, and this "most likely fate" is internalised by their daughters, leading them, with a few exceptions, to be docile and serious students who abandon their studies when they marry. People with disabilities are also exposed to social injustices.

The economic consequences of unemployment of people with disabilities are as pathetic as they are deplorable. They range from the stigma and prejudice that prevent the use of human resources with disabilities in the inherent circuit of human production, to the difficulty of achieving the objectives of development and poverty in our country. The Growth and Employment Strategy Paper in this framework identifies two factors as determinants of poverty:

The size of the household, since whatever the age or sex of the individual, his or her presence in the household contributes to lower welfare within the household. Households have an average of 6 persons and non-poor households have an average of 3 persons.

4. Educational attainment

The fact that 63.5% of disabled people live with their parents or with a third party and that 71.6% live on wealth that they do not produce, in addition to their offspring, sufficiently illustrates these factors of poverty. In Cameroon, more than 70% of disabled graduates are unemployed. Among them, those who are lucky enough to get a job work in the informal sector. They are shoemakers, upholsterers, car washers, call boxers and pushers¹²². These unquestionably precarious jobs will never free them from need, on the contrary, instead of contributing to the development of their countries and families, they pull them backwards. This is why, according to Maria Veronica Reina, development is simply blocked where policies for the management, integration and promotion of disability are non-existent or ineffective. For this defender of the rights of people with disabilities, who make up more than 10% of the population of developing countries, as long as they do not have access to school, as long as they do not have access to professional and wealth-producing activities, as long as they do not represent burdens for the family unit and their friends... development will not be achieved, poverty reduction will not be possible¹²³.

¹²²Ibid., p.52.

¹²³Alougou, " *Représentations sociales de ...* ", p. 52.

The stigmatisation of people with disabilities is not only detrimental to their rights, but also to the entire national economy. In this respect, legal provisions have been made to regulate the employment of people with disabilities at the international and national levels. At the international level, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Cameroon is a signatory, stipulates in article 27, paragraph 1, which deals with work and employment, that States Parties shall recognise the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others, including the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities¹²⁴.

They shall promote the exercise of vocational activities, including for those who have suffered from a disability during the course of their employment, by taking appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to enable such persons with disabilities to have effective access to vocational, technical and professional guidance programmes, job placement services and vocational and continuing training services, to promote opportunities for the integration and advancement of persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding and obtaining employment, maintaining employment and returning to employment, to promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, organising groups and setting up businesses¹²⁵.

Also, to provide employment for people with disabilities in the public sector, to promote the employment of people with disabilities in the private sector by developing appropriate policies, including where appropriate affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures, and to facilitate the movement of people with disabilities to their place of work by making appropriate accommodations.

At the national level, in Law No. 2010/002 of 13 April 2010 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities in Cameroon, Chapter 4, which deals with the socio-economic integration of persons with disabilities, stipulates in Article 27, paragraph 2 that the State shall encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the various bodies of social and political life, and specifies in paragraph 3 that this socio-economic integration includes access to a professional activity. However, Article 2, paragraph 1 of Law No. 92/007 of 17 August 1992, on the Labour Code, stipulates that the right to work is a fundamental right for

¹²⁴ Alougou, " *Représentations sociales de ...* ", p. 52.

¹²⁵ *Ibid*, p.52.

all citizens. The State must put in place all the actions to help them find a job and keep it when they have obtained it. However, paragraph 2 of the law states that work is a national right for every adult and able-bodied citizen, which raises the question of whether the legislator's word able-bodied is not unfavourable to people with disabilities. This ambiguity, as well as other aspects, would not be beneficial to the socio-professional integration of the disabled person.

A. Determining mechanisms for the State and civil society in safeguarding and promoting human rights

The State is the guarantor of collective well-being. In this context, its role is preponderant in the animation of socio-economic development and the protection of the citizen. It cannot protect the latter with the other entities without taking into account the aspect of his rights. As human rights are not always respected, the State must take all necessary and legal measures to promote the development of people.

1. The fight against poverty and the promotion of gender by the Cameroonian State

Cameroon has been plunged for decades in a state of economic stagnation. This is totally unacceptable for a State that wants to ensure the rehabilitation of its economic fabric by putting the population at the centre of its priorities. The increase in salary incomes is likely to activate growth through the revival of internal consumption. Thus, since the Cameroonian civil service remains the main provider of jobs, it will make it possible, especially in the case of a substantial increase on a moral and social level, to nullify the argument of the impecuniousness of civil servants as the fundamental leaven of corruption in the public service¹²⁶. The fight against precarious living conditions and indigence must be pursued.

The ministry in charge of trade must always ensure that approved market prices are respected by sending control missions to all commercial outlets so that the population is not unfairly squeezed by traders. The state must ensure that textbook prices are respected and harmonised throughout the country.

The ministries in charge of the education sector must strengthen measures to facilitate and encourage access to good quality training for poor youth. Through the new information

¹²⁶Anonym, Corruption in Cameroon, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Yaounde, p. 205.

and communication technologies, the State must capitalise on these tools by strengthening the training of young people in school to improve the creation of wealth and new jobs. Training in this sector, which is still very costly, must be subsidised so that all those who do not have the means and want to train can benefit. However, the State must firmly ensure the regulation of this sector, which is plagued by numerous deviances, so that the training of these young people is not perverted and tainted by many evils. These deviances are prostitution, cybercrime, tribalism and occult practices, among others. The teaching staff should benefit from better working conditions so that they can focus on the missions assigned to them and not on the quest for a better life.

Furthermore, the state must promote wealth creation through the stimulation of the entrepreneurial spirit among young people. This requires the setting up of practical training programmes in entrepreneurship in all schools, starting from the grassroots level. Young people who are trained from an early age in business creation, obtain solid skills and become seasoned entrepreneurs capable of innovating in a sufficiently tough and competitive context.

The State must ensure that the businesses that emerge do not sink into oblivion, which can lead to the cessation of activities and the loss of jobs for many Cameroonians. It is not just a question of giving a helping hand to these companies, but more than that, of offering training and retraining programmes to company managers in their field of operation. This will be a guarantee of competence and performance for the latter, who most of the time are untrained. The ministries responsible for supervising enterprises must have strong policies for supporting and monitoring newly created enterprises. Access to health care, which is still a source of discouragement for many Cameroonians who want to be treated, deserves special attention from the State. This has been done with the universal health coverage project piloted by the Ministry of Public Health.

All the necessary means must be deployed by the State so that this project succeeds and Cameroonians can be treated at consensual costs taking into account the low standard of living of most of them. The Ministry in charge of housing issues must mobilise all its partners to provide housing for the poor. The state must also open vocational training centres and psychiatric wards in hospitals to provide good care for young people who have gone down the path of delinquency by abandoning their studies. This measure will be beneficial because it will prevent the armed gangs that carry out terrorist activities from recruiting these young people and turning them into patriots. The informal sector must also be given greater attention

by the state. The actors in this sector need to be organised in trade unions and associations so that they can protect their interests and denounce violations of the rights of individual members. The centres for artisanal works are a good example of this. The actors of this sector must be able to benefit from financial aid from the State so that they can afford training to guarantee them a better future in a sector of activity that is still very precarious¹²⁷. Farmers must also receive state subsidies to boost their agricultural activities by purchasing fertilisers, working equipment and space to grow crops.

The state must also regularly ensure that the roads are in good condition to ensure the safe transport of food from the fields to the towns and avoid foodstuffs perishing on the way. By doing so, the state will enable the actors in this sector to earn a better living and consumers will be protected from the inflation of products on the market, which traders often justify by the poor state of the roads and the cost of transport. In addition, the state should intensify the training of young people in the agricultural sector and encourage agricultural entrepreneurship by providing subsidies to farmers. As agriculture is a major provider of employment in Cameroon, the state should find more mechanisms to encourage investment in this sector. Gender promotion should also be a priority for the state. Since the dawn of time, women have suffered numerous violations of their rights in the allocation of major portfolios in the public service. To date, the country has no woman governor out of 10 personal representatives of the Head of State, 2 women prefects out of 58, and very few women are at the head of the ministries of sovereignty and technical ministries. This low representation of women is not conducive to a better expression of women's capacities to manage and to put themselves resolutely at the service of the nation.

Women should no longer be considered as the "weaker sex". They have shown patriotism, dedication and commitment whenever they have had to win the confidence of political decision-makers through appointments. Women should also be encouraged to become more involved in politics so that they have more opportunities to demonstrate their skills and knowledge to their male peers. This commitment will ensure that women are more likely to be invited to the decision-making table of nations and no longer side-lined. The government must commit to making sports activities more accessible to women from ethnic minorities, to promoting the presence of women in the governing body of the body and the media coverage of women's competitions. This is part of the roadmap for the promotion of

¹²⁷*Le secteur informel est suffisamment encore mal organisé et très peu productif. Tous ceux qui s'y trouvent ont de la peine à sécuriser leurs activités et non pour la plupart pas de formations.*

gender equality. There is also a need to strengthen the popularisation of women's competitions in order to erase differences and remove considerations that distort women's characteristics.

The Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), Wilfried Lemke, said: "Sport is a great leveller and a very effective tool to ensure inclusion. It can certainly level the playing field. If we look at the evolution of the regulatory and institutional framework, societal practices and mentalities in Cameroon, we can see that efforts are being made by the government and several forces of the nation for a good integration of women in the management of public affairs¹²⁸. To this effect, we can refer to the constitution of 18 January 1996 which enshrines gender equality. These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Maputo Protocol of 2003. All of this ushered in several legislative and regulatory texts devoted to the promotion of women. At the governmental level, the policy for the advancement of women has resulted in the creation of a ministry responsible for the advancement of women and the family by Decree No. 2004/320 of 8 December 2004. This ministry is responsible for the integration and civil valorisation of women in Cameroonian society.

In this regard, it is responsible for the elaboration and implementation of measures relating to the respect of the rights of Cameroonian women in society, the elimination of all discrimination against women and the increase of guarantees of equality in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. It is also responsible for the implementation of the national policy on the family. In this respect, its main tasks are to study and submit to the government the conditions for the creation of a family. In fact, the State must, in the process of promoting women, reduce poverty among women¹²⁹, strengthen women's capacities, improve their living conditions, promote their rights and duties and guarantee equity between men and women by popularising the approach in all areas of life. To achieve this, a series of actions should be taken into account: promotion of women's entrepreneurship and self-employment among women, improving the circulation of useful information among women, promoting better working conditions and reducing the hardship for women at work and continuing actions for the education of non-formal women through the creation and development of centres for the advancement of women. The State is called upon to take all

¹²⁸*Extrait du discours du Conseiller spécial du Secrétaire Général de l'ONU pour le sport au service du développement et de la paix lors de l'ouverture des jeux paralympiques, 2012.*

¹²⁹*La réduction de la pauvreté en milieu féminin implique la création des emplois pour les femmes démunies, la stimulation et l'encouragement de l'entreprenariat féminin, la formation des femmes du secteur privé pour une meilleure capitalisation de leurs activités.*

measures to ensure the effective inclusion of women in the various public services and their full development in society.

2. Humanisation of the prison environment by the State for the improvement and protection of prisoners' rights

Cameroon's prisons are still considered, rightly or wrongly, to be places of misery because of the harsh living conditions in these places. As an international actor, Cameroon has ratified several international texts on the promotion and protection of human rights on both the moral and physical levels. This commitment is ratified at the national level by Law No. 2004/016 of 22 July 2004 establishing the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF). It is an independent institution that carries out missions of control, observation, dialogue, promotion and safeguarding of human rights¹³⁰. As such, it must be able to carry out this mission without any obstacles, through its directors, who are deployed in the company of a prosecutor in penitentiary establishments to ensure that prisoners' rights are respected. The State must ensure that it is not disturbed in any way in this deployment by punishing those who contravene this measure. The reports drawn up by the aforementioned commission and submitted to the high attention of the personalities must be carefully studied and taken into account in the strategies for redesigning the prisons¹³¹.

The state must strengthen its policy of expanding prison environments to avoid overcrowding, which is the cause of many cases of death, violence against prisoners and illness. The state can also review the quality of the food distributed to prisoners by increasing the budget for this. But also by sending control missions made up of experts (doctors, nutritionists) to draw up reports on the shortcomings observed in the quality and quantity of food distributed to prisoners. These representatives must benefit from the collaboration of those in charge of managing detention centres (*régisseurs*) in the prisons in order to produce reports that are based solely on the usual verifications and observations and are not out of step with reality. Amnesty International in its 2011 report noted that prisons and other places of detention were overcrowded and conditions were such that prisoners' lives were often at risk. In many cases, prisoners were not receiving medical care or food, or were poorly cared for or undernourished (...) Food, water and medicine were in short supply¹³². On a completely

¹³⁰Kamanda, " Les conditions de détention ", p. 121.

¹³¹*Les personnalités qui reçoivent les rapports de la CNDHL sont : le président de la république, le président du sénat et le président de l'assemblée nationale. La commission fait aussi une communication médiatique pour informer l'opinion publique sur l'état des lieux des droits de l'homme au Cameroun.*

¹³²Amnesty International, Rapport 2011, p. 64.

different note, prison staff should be trained in mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts between prisoners, which is often the cause of much physical harm to prisoners.

Prison administrators should only resort to "legitimate violence" when all other measures to ease tensions and negotiate have been exhausted without producing the desired effects. These prison officials, through the officials in charge of discipline, must constantly ensure that the cells are ventilated and kept clean. Failure to comply with this measure is a vector for numerous diseases and epidemics that are fatal for prisoners, sometimes due to negligence in medical care. In addition, the administrative authorities, prison inspectors, public prosecutors and magistrates responsible for public action should ensure that prisons are equipped with the minimum requirements for the well-being of detainees (sleeping equipment) and refer to the State in the event of serious breaches observed that are detrimental to the rights of detainees. The state must also consider upgrading the salaries of prison staff so that they do not give in to attempts at corruption that led to the insertion of prohibited objects in prisons and cells¹³³. With the number of detainees constantly increasing, the State must also strengthen the penitentiary staff by training more people to ensure better monitoring and socialisation of detainees.

3. Better awareness of civil society regarding Human Rights

Civil society is a group of organisations and citizen movements that are supposed to represent the real country, as opposed to the political class¹³⁴. In Cameroon, its advent dates back two decades, more precisely from the time of the political transition. Its emergence is therefore concomitant with the movement of democratic demands that began in Cameroon and elsewhere in Africa at the end of the 1980s¹³⁵. As the torchbearer of ethics in society and promoter of human rights, civil society must focus its missions at several levels. It is necessary to call on the personalities of the academic world to strengthen and encourage research in the field of human rights. These educators must equip the younger generation with knowledge of human rights issues and their many challenges. Civil society should campaign to urge the government to fund human rights research and to open up more forums for negotiation and expression of human rights defenders.

¹³³*Ces objets regroupent les armes à feu, les couteaux, les ciseaux, le chanvre indien, le téléphone portable.*

¹³⁴J.Gatsi, *La société civile au Cameroun*, Presses Universitaires d'Afrique, Avril 2006, p. 6.

¹³⁵N.B.Noel, *Femmes et parlementarisme au Cameroun de 1992 A 2011, Mémoire de Maîtrise en Histoire, Université de Yaoundé I*, 2012, p. 31.

Also, this civil society must campaign for greater inclusion of women in peaceful conflict resolution activities so that the physical integrity of children is preserved. Because of their protective nature, women have always made youth the reason for their many struggles in the restoration of peace. Civil society must, through outreach activities, engage young people in denouncing and preventing armed rebellion movements which are the birthplaces of terrorism. Terrorist movements in Central Africa have chosen children as guinea pigs for kamikaze missions. Young people must say no to these apostles of chaos and devote themselves to the preservation of peace and the harmonious development of their cities.

III. Areas of human rights violation in the South West Region

1. Arbitrary deprivation of life and other unlawful killings

Crisis has caused a lot of arbitrary deprivation of life of persons and others in the South West Region. However, the military of Defence through the secretariat of state in charge of the National Gendarmerie is responsible for investigating whether killings attributed to the security forces, including Police perpetrated killings are justifiable. None the less, in January 10, the Buea based non-governmental organisation like PI reported that that soldier's carryout an offensive raid in Mautu a village in the Muyuka subdivision of the SWR. Killing at least nine civilians, including children and women. Again, the SWR base NGOs like PIC and others identified the decades of Tarkang Anyi Roger age 20, Tambe Daniel, Shey Keisa 6 years, Obengwa David age 22, Egoshi Lucas age 25, Takang Burno age 22, Ndakam Pascal age 22, Tambe Ann age 50, and Ngoto Valentine Akama age 32 are examples. The minister of Défense spokesperson Cyrille Serge Atonfact Guemo, acknowledgein January 11, to motorised infantry Battalion conducted a preventive operation against terrorist position in Mautu in the Muyuka subdivision of the SWR where human rights are extremely violated.¹³⁶

In addition, in the early February, the separatist fighters carry out attack on the Essoh Atah village in the Lebialem division of the SWR killing four civilians including three traditional rulers namely chief Benedict Fomin, chief Simon Forzizong, and chief Fauleasouh. According to some NGOs like PIC and others identified that the separatist group lead by Oliver Lekeaka also known as " Field Marshall" stoned Essoh Atah village, pulled the chiefs from their houses and shot and killed them at the market square before dumping their bodies near a river. It is however mentioned that the separatist accused the chiefs for refusing to hand over proceeds from the sale of cocoa for the 2020-2021season, and organising schools in the

¹³⁶ Cameroon Human Rights Report 2021, pp 2-22.

community. Here, we can see that children were denied access to education in the Lebialem division which off course is violating children's rights in the division.¹³⁷

Again, in Ekondo- Titi subdivision in the SWR, 6 divisional delegates were killed in the month of June by the separatist fighters this has caused panic in the area as divisional delegate are affirmed to be sent in the subdivision

2. Torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Although the constitution and law prohibit such practices, there were reports that security force members and the separatist fighters' tortures or other wide abused citizens sexually. Human rights NGO like PIC and others documented serve cases in which the security forces and the separatist fighters severely mistreated the civilians and others, all these causes mental and emotional trauma. NGO like PIC and others investigated that, the separatist fighters sexually assaulted women and girls who inflicted with diseases and the same time some of them get pregnant for un non father. However, these girls who were sexually assaulted were force to leave schools especially in the division of Meme, Fako Manyu and Lebialem which human right violation were aggravated.¹³⁸

3. Arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence

Although the constitution and law prohibit arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence these rights were subject to restriction in the state and law permitted the police to entre home during daylight hours without warrants only if pursuing a person suspected or seen committing a crime but police and gendarmes abused civilians in the SWR doing research without warrants examples in the Buea, Mutengene, Muea, Mile-16, Mile-14 and Molyko in the SWR there were several cases of arbitrary arrest and detention of persons by the security forces in the late month of August 2020. However, in the act we noticed 24 years old was arrested in Molyko by the military forces after having giving his ID card and he sequent ask to pay 50000frs to secure his release. The intervention of NGO like PIC has greatly eradicated societal killings through sensitization and others.¹³⁹

¹³⁷. Cameroon Human Rights Report 2021, pp.2-22.

¹³⁸ Ibid, pp. 2-22

¹³⁹ Ibid, pp. 2-22

4. Child soldiers and violation of children's rights

The government did not recruit children or used child soldiers but in the on-going Anglophone crisis, children are been force to be soldiers by the so called separatist in the division of Fako, Meme, Lebialem and Manyu in the SWR. Again, the violation children rights in the meme division in kumba were children assassinated at the Mother Theresa Bilingual Academy on October 28, 2020, by unidentified non gun men living their families in deep pains and trauma and equally the killing of a 5-year-old child by a police officer because her refuse to pay 500frs as don to the police officer. However, these children are denied or deprived of their rights to freedom of speech, press, participation, and right to education, their right to medication, and movement among others. In addition, Plan International through its intervention and its mission on children's rights, child protection and child education has made its possible best to see that these children affected by crisis in the SWR are given their so rights to have equality education, participation and others which has strengthened its activities on human rights issues in the region.¹⁴⁰

5. Right to health

Many individuals have been denied access to health care in the on-going crisis reason being that many hospitals have been shot down or destroyed by the separatist groups for example the kumba district hospital, the mamfe district hospital which more 85000 people were denied access to health care among others in the SWR. And this made some medical doctors to live the areas for their safety. However, PIC through its aid in the division and subdivision in the region around the Fako, Meme, Manyu, Ndian, and Lebialem ensure that the population have access to good health by providing them with the necessity of medication in the local communities. Example during the outbreak of covid -19 and cholera disease PIC gave out medical aid or assistant to the local population of Limbe, Tiko, Mutengene, Muyuka, Kumba, Ekondo-Titi and equally some district hospital in the Fako division recieved medical equipment like WAST kits, mosquito nets, drugs and others for the prevention of these diseases. However, little or no activities effort had been carryout by PIC in the Kupe Manegouba division and subdivision¹⁴¹.

¹⁴⁰ Plan International report, 2021, pp. 2-22

¹⁴¹ Ibid, pp. 2-22

A. Plan International and the Socio-Political Crisis in the South West Region of Cameroon

The situation in the SWR of Cameroon remained tense with continued violence and targeted attacks against the civilian population, as well as health and education providers. The region has been engulfed in crisis in 2016, which started as a low-scale insurgency. Non-state Armed Groups (NSAGs) have mobilised, in part, against Cameroon's education system by forcing schools to close and attacking students, teachers, and education facilities, which is a grave violation against children in the SWR. The confrontation between the military and NSAGs have led to frequent roadblocks, ghost towns, disproportionate attacks and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. In this time without a visible mediation effort, the NSAGs have also split into numerous factions making the conflict even more complex. Civilians are caught in the crossfire. At the end of 2021, armed violence had killed around 4000 people in the SWR since fighting began in 2016.¹⁴²

Protection remains a major concern as civilians continue to be arbitrarily arrested, assaulted, abducted for ransom, and denied access to basic services. The conflict has caused the displacement of an estimated over half a million IDPs in the SWR of Cameroon and triggered some 77,000 Cameroonians to cross the border and register as refugees in Nigeria. The crisis in the SWR of Cameroon has engendered a large number of attacks on healthcare, with health workers and patients threatened, abducted, injured or killed, as well as medical infrastructures damaged or destroyed. The most recent attack happened on June 10th where the separatist fighters burned down the district hospital in Mamfe in SWR, depriving many people of access to healthcare.¹⁴³

A critical component of the SW crisis is education. On the one hand, it is significantly affected by the crisis, but on the other hand, strikes over education issues have been a catalyst for the conflict. NSAGs continue to enforce a boycott on education in SWR, which kept hundreds of schools closed and affected over 700,000 school age children in between 2020-2021.

The UN has also verified and confirmed 20 attacks on schools in 2020, which took place in the SWR. The NSAGs continue to abduct, kill, harass, threaten, or harm school students and staff at, or on the way to or from, school in the SWR. These actions have

¹⁴² Plan International, "Neglected crisis, Advocacy Brief", Lindsey-Hutchison, July 12,2022.

¹⁴³ Ibid, July 12,2022.

negatively affected learning as it caused fear among teachers and students, which led to absences and dropouts. A study by Plan International found both male and female adolescents in the SWR fear attending school due to military presence near facilities, which heightened risks of arbitrary arrest and detention, sexual violence, and crossfire¹⁴⁴.

According to Plan International, girls especially face significant risk of gender base violence and sexual violence, including rape; when Plan International ask girls in SWR of Cameroon how they would describe their safety and protection priorities, they answered with security, peace and ceasefire.¹⁴⁵

A. The Major International Specialised Instrument of Human Rights in the World

The United Nations treaties of human rights are at the helm of the international system for the fight against human rights violation. each of these treaties have expertise which are bodies that monitor, implement treaty provision of their states some of these treaties were adopted by optional protocols¹⁴⁶ which are dealing with specific issues. However, for human rights to be effective, it is worth noted that it should be guided by the instrument such as conventions and agreements. Human rights instrument contributes in elaborating facts that the respect of human rights and human rights dignity is the foundation of freedom, peace and justice on the world. Over centuries pass, human rights mechanisms and instruments have been developed to ensure the importance of human rights and human rights violations. The human rights instruments have been aimed to build global partnership for human rights, prevent human rights violation, promotions of human rights, democracy and development in the world¹⁴⁷.

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The fight against human rights violations have been the major preoccupation of the United Nations (UN) since its birth in 1945. This vision of the UN encourages her to come up with important international documents whose article talk of the right of people called UDHR. The constitution that was issued in 1945¹⁴⁸ by the United Nations was in line with the 7 founding of Franklin Roosevelt. The declaration called for freedom which included freedom of press, speech, religion and the right to basic need from the above text, we notice that

¹⁴⁴ Plan International, "Neglected crisis, Advocacy Brief", Lindsey-Hutchison, 12 July,2022.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.,

¹⁴⁶ An optional protocol to a treaty is an instrument that establishes additional rights and obligation to a treaty

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.ohchr.org>, consulted on 20/07/2021 at 17h46.

¹⁴⁸ J. K. Rourke, *International politics on the world stage*, 11th editions, New York, McGraw-Hills, 2007, p. 455.

freedom was seen everywhere. The Atlantic charter of 1945¹⁴⁹ was seen as a founding text for the UDHR portrayed by the UN.

2. The International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

The ICCPR was seen under the umbrella of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was created in 1948 and entered into force on 23 of March 1976. The convention contains two optional protocols. The first optional protocol created an individual complaints mechanism whereby individual member states can submit complaints known as communications, to be revisited by the human rights committee and the second optional protocol abolishes the death penalty¹⁵⁰.

3. The International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

The ICESCR is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1996 which came into existence on 3 January 1976. The ICESCR brings together states to work towards the granting of the economic, social and cultural rights to individual¹⁵¹.

4. The convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The CEDAW is an international convention adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The CEDAW was described as an international Bill of Rights for Women that came into force on 3 September 1981. This convention was ratified in Cameroon in 1988 according to law N° 88/1993 of 15/7/1988. Discrimination of women is seen here as any distinction, exclusion, and restrictions made on the basis of sex which has the effect in recognition, enjoyment by women irrespective of their marital status, on the equality of women and men of human rights and fundamental freedom in political, economic, social, cultural and other domains¹⁵². The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted optional protocol of CEDAW. The protocol included a procedure through which individuals women or groups can denounce national violations of CEDAW to CEDAW's committee of experts¹⁵³.

¹⁴⁹ United Nations, *United Nation and Human Right 1945 to 1995*, pp. 3-4.

¹⁵⁰ M. Bedjaoui and H. Thierry, *Avenir du droit international*, pp. 1361-1366.

¹⁵¹ Mohammed Bedjaoui, *international law*, pp 1061-1066.

¹⁵² Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, *Femme Camerooniase Adulation et Marginalisation, Yaounde, L'imprimerie saagraph 1998*, p.13.

¹⁵³ J.K. Rourke, *International Politics on the World Stage*, p. 460

5. The convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman Treatment and Punishment

The UN convention against torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment is an international instrument of human rights aimed at preventing torture in the world. This convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1984. This agreement was adopted on the of 26th June 1987. The convention on the torture and cruel in human treatment was put in place on December 18th 2002 intuited by UN and it's came into force on 22nd June 2006¹⁵⁴.

6. The convention of the Rights of a Child(CRC)

The CRC is an international agreement stating the political, social, economic and cultural rights for children. The UN General Assembly accepted to adopt the agreement into the international law on 20th November 1989 and it came into force on the 2nd September 1990. The convention had two applicable optional protocol adopted by the UN General Assembly in May 2000, which was signed and ratify by states who are concerned¹⁵⁵.

7. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrants and Member Families (ICRMW).

The ICRMW came into existence on July 1st 2003. The agreement constitutes a comprehensive international treaty regarding the protection of migrant's workers' rights. It's recognised the connection between migrants and human rights and its serve as a guide to migrant's rights to each country in the world¹⁵⁶.

8. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

This agreement is an optional protocol that was adopted in December 13, 2006 at the United Nations headquarters, New York and it was signed on 30th May 2007. It entered into force on 3rd May 2008. The agreement was intended as a human rights instrument in order to ensure social development and it adopt a board categorization of persons with disabilities and reaffirm that all persons with disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedom .The optional protocol allowed the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to receive and communicates with individuals and groups of persons subjected to

¹⁵⁴ Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin, *Anothologie des Droits de l' home, nouveau horizons* New York, New America Library 1989,p.354.

¹⁵⁵ Keba Mbaye, *les droits de l' home en Afrique*, pp 120-122.

¹⁵⁶ J.K. Rourke, *International Politics on the World stage*, p.468.

it jurisdiction who claim to be victim of the violation by the state party from the provision of the convention¹⁵⁷.

9. The International convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance

The agreement is an international human rights instrument of the United Nations which was intended to prevent forced disappearance. The book was recognised by United Nations General Assembly on 20th of December 2006 and signed on 6th of February 2007. This book is not yet established and is only recognised when ratified by 20 states¹⁵⁸.

10. African Charter on Human and People's Rights

At the regional level, human rights instrument like African Charter on Human and People's Rights is highly protected by human rights. This is seen at the level, such rights like the rights to health, education and work in article 15,16 and 17 of the African charter in recognition of the modern value of human rights. Cameroon took upon herself the duty to ratify international conventions and treaties as well as incorporate them in its supreme law, the constitution¹⁵⁹.

11. Human Rights Instruments Ratified by Cameroon

When a country ratifies an agreement, it assumes a legal obligation to implement the rights recognised in that treaty. But signing is the first thing because recognition of rights in the paper is not enough or sufficient to guarantee that they will be enjoyed in practice. So, the country takes upon her, an additional obligation to submit regular reports to the monitoring committee set up under that treaty on how rights are being implemented. This system of human rights monitoring is in most of the UN human rights treaties. To meet their obligation, states must submit an initial report usually within a year after the ratification (with exception in the case of the CRC which is two to three years) and periodically, in accordance with the provision of the treaty (which is usually four to five years). Also, the government reports, the treaty bodies may receive information of a country's human rights situation from other sources including non-governmental organisations, United Nations Agencies and other international organisations, academic institutions and the press. The fact that a country is not

¹⁵⁷ Kale Mbaye, *les droits de l'homme en Afrique*, pp.120-122.

¹⁵⁸ Keba Mbaye, *les droits de l'homme en Afrique*, pp.120,122.

¹⁵⁹ Penda, "The Protection of the Rights of the Accused in Criminal Trials: The Case of Anglophone Cameroon", p. 11.

an island, is an encouraging reason for Cameroon which has ratified countless international human rights instrument and this has gone a long way to influence human rights environment in Cameroon.

B. General Instrument on Human Rights

The first recognised document on human rights was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the continental level. There were other human rights instruments like the African Charter on Human and People's Rights as well as African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) had different conventions signed in this domain like that on Force Labour Convention, which laid emphasis on the rights of workers. This was adopted in 1930 and was ratified in Cameroon on June 7, 1960. The ILO abolition of Force Labour Convention 1957(N°105) was ratified on 3rd September 1962. The ILO freedom of association and protection of the right to organise convention of 1948, (N° 87) was ratified on June 7, 1960. The ILO rights to organise collective bargaining convention in 1941, (N°98) was finally ratified on September 3rd 1962. The ILO equal remuneration convention to benefit workers was adopted in 1951, (N°100) and ratified on May 15, 1970. The ILO discrimination (base on employment and occupation) convention signed in 1958, (N°111) and was later ratified on 15, May 1988. The ILO Convention of Minimum Age for Admission to Employment of 1973(N°138) was ratified on April 14, 1998. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Racial Discrimination was ratified on 24th June 1971.

The Convention against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was ratified by Decree N°971079 of 25, April 1997. The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid was ratified on November 1st 1976. The convention of the Non- Applicability of Statutory Limitation to War Crimes against Humanity was signed on October 6, 1972. The convention relating to the status of the refugees was put in place by states succession on 23, June 1961¹⁶⁰. The supplementary convention on the abolition of slavery and slave trade.

¹⁶⁰ Rourk, *International politics on the world stage*, pp 468-471.

1. Human Rights Instrument Specific for Women and Girls

The convention for the suppression of the Traffic in Person and the Exploitation on the Prostitution of others and the convention of the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women was ratified on August 30, 1994. It protected the rights of women against all sort of violence. The convention on the Rights of the Child was signed on September 27, 1990 and ratified on January 11, 1993. The international convention on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol was ratified on June 27, 1990. And the international convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 27 June 1984. It is worth noting that law N°96/06 of 18 January 1996 amended the constitution of June 2, 1972. Vested human rights with genuine constitutional status by incorporating into its preamble certain provisions of the universal declaration of human rights. The African Charter on Human and People's Rights and other relating international treaties and conventions ratified. In Cameroon, judicial and administrative authorities with jurisdiction affecting human rights are the Ministry of Territorial Administration which has specific responsibility for civil liberties and the Ministry of Justice under the constitution, the judiciary is independent¹⁶¹.

2. The constitution

Constitution referred to grand norm of the land from which all other legal instruments derive their source and validity. The constitution is instrumental in guaranteeing and promoting human rights in Cameroon¹⁶². The constitution is the highest law of the land and its outline provision which all citizen including the head of state must follow. Constitution ensures that the rights of the citizen in a country are not violated and must be protected. However, institutions are put in place to check the government from abuses of rights of its citizen¹⁶³. However, such elements are seen in the preamble of the constitution example, we the right to life, education, ownership, disposal of property, justice and vote. These rights listed above are taken in the preamble of the constitution and have achieved a binding force by virtue of article 65 which posts. The preamble shall be part and parcel of the constitution¹⁶⁴. Based on the judicial nature and value of the constitution, it remains an undeniable reality that the constitution provides adequate safeguard the respect of human rights in Cameroon. At the institutional level, the revisit constitution of 18 January 1996 in a bid protects and fight

¹⁶¹ Mohammed Bedjaoui, *international law : achievements and prospects*, pp, 1105-1023.

¹⁶² Ibid, pp, 1105-1023.

¹⁶³ A. Bernard Muna, "Cameroon and the challenges of the 21st century", Yaounde, Tama book, 1993, p,33.

¹⁶⁴ Article 65 of the Cameroon constitution which was revised in 1996 and amended in 2008.

against human rights violations which clearly established the powers between the three arms of the government which are legislature, executive and judiciary¹⁶⁵ and also some country criminal procedure code that were put into practice such penal code, criminal procedure code just to name a few.

3. Penal Code of Cameroon

The Penal Code is pro-human right active as it acts as a helping hand in regulating anti-social conduct between citizens. In addition, the penal code contains substantive criminal law which aimed at forewarning preventing punishing and rehabilitating potential offenders and the various circumstances under which punishment may lie. As exciting such human rights protection in Cameroon, the penal code is instrumental in sections as see below.

The penal code instigate that all persons shall be subject to the law¹⁶⁶. This provision clearly strengthens the fact that all human beings, no matter their religion, sex, race color are born equal. As such, any discrimination against a particular individual in relation to the application of criminal law shall be amount to the branch to this law, to this effect, attract punishment to the defaulter. This goes a long way to ensure that the rights of citizens are strictly respected.

Again, the rights to life have been reinforce by this code in article 337 as it punishes any woman who intentionally decide to take away the life of a child and such punishment as said in the code acts as deterrence to potential perpetrators of offence of abortion which is a grave breach to the rights to life. Assault on women with child as per article 338 infanticide according to article 340 are prohibit by this code as inhuman acts. This code does not tolerate any killings of one person by another which portrays in what is called murder and capital murder article 277-281 also tend credence to the protection of human rights violations¹⁶⁷.

The rights to own property are guarantee and protected by the penal code in article 316, as it restricts and punishes all unauthorized forms of property destruction and it also condemn all forms of protect proprietary, theft and right against undue interference.

¹⁶⁵ Article 5-42 of the Cameroon constitution

¹⁶⁶ Article 1 of the Cameroon Penal Code, Yaounde, L'imprimerie nationale 2001, pp, 3.

¹⁶⁷ Article 318-320 of the penal code, Yaounde, L'imprimerie Nationale, 2001, pp 311-313.

4. The Criminal Procedure Code

The criminal procedure code¹⁶⁸ (C P C) is considered as an incarnation of human rights instruments such as UDHR, the United Nations Charter on Human Rights and People Rights as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. As such, the CPC has been known in Cameroon by jurists as human rights code. The justification for this lies in the fact that the criminal procedure code advocates for and guarantee the respect of human rights. However, the limitations of human rights in this code can be seen in the following respect: the fact that crimes cannot be done by abstract person but by physical and moral persons, the criminal procedure code shell out rules under which defaulters can be investigated upon and punished by law. This code stands as a fundamental attempt to guard excesses and ensures that justice is obtain.

5. The Civil Code of Cameroon

The civil code deals with the legislation which touch on the status, civil rights obligations, and the generalities to the peaceful eco-existence of Cameroonians. Thus, fight against human rights violations and also ensure a greater degree of protection. This hypothesis reiterates or reaffirmed the fact that the civil code advocates for the protection of human rights violations in Cameroon the civil code guarantee human rights as it compels a judge in all circumstances to give, and to redress the party seeking for justices. The right to justices as provided by the UDHR is a compulsory legal instrument respected in this code. according article 4 which state that “ Any judge who shall be refuse pronounce judgment on the matter brought before him on the pretext of silent of the, shall be guilty for denial of justice and punished on the basis of the article. Thus, judgment is set to remain silent on the pretext on any point, if he does so, then he would be held responsible for denial of justices and punishable by law. The obligation of judges by article 4 compels them not only to pronounce judgments but equally ensures justices. Furthermore, even where no law exist, judges are expected to intelligently used their of conscience. To this effect it is evident the civil code of Cameroon portrays a protective the fight against human rights violation.

IV. The Main Bodies that Promote and Protect Human Rights in Cameroon

The national human rights instrument that fight against human rights violations in Cameroon are human rights institutins put in place by the state to ensure that her instruments serve its citizens. These institutions are set to attain to vulnerable population include: the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom, the Cameroon Judicial system.

¹⁶⁸ Instituted by law Number 2005/007of July 2005 which enter into force on the 1 January 2007.

1. The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom

The national assembly in 1990 adopted bills which were enacted and published in the official gazette of the Republic of Cameroon called Special Liberties. The law was aimed at setting up the National Committee on Human Rights and Freedom¹⁶⁹. The human rights institution, which was created in 1990 remained ineffective until February 1992 when Dr Solomon Nfor Gwei became its pioneer chair person as well as other members were appointed to provide a proper running of the commission¹⁷⁰. Later in 2006, the human rights committee was reorganised into the commission. The commission, with headquarter in Yaounde, confer article 1(3) of Decree N^o 90/14559 and is an independent body with legal status and financial autonomy according to article (2).

The NCHRF was aimed at receiving all denunciation relating to human rights violation conducting enquiries and carrying necessary investigation on this matter. All reports of the NCHRF shall be sent to the president of the republic before it is published. However, it has as duty to popularise human rights and freedom, an aspect towards which people have a lukewarm attitude. We are all born with human rights but many of us are not aware of it. Consequently, education awareness and a vigilant media have such a crucial role to play. The human rights commission has even more important role to play in the fight against human rights violations in Cameroon¹⁷¹.

When the commission created, the organisation of its personnel represented all domain of the society namely: A neutral person shall be chairman, 3 representatives of the government, 1 of whom shall come from the Ministry of Justice, 2 representatives from the Supreme Court who shall be members of the branch, 1 representative of each political party represented at the National Assembly, 4 representatives of religious denominations existing in the state, 2 representatives of the Bar, 2 lecturers in law, 3 Journalists from both the public and private sectors, 1 representative of the economic and social council, 2 representatives of the women organisations¹⁷², and 1 representative of the local authorities.

The NCHRF indulged in popularising human rights and educating citizens on their rights as seen in the numerous workshops and seminars organised. The commission at

¹⁶⁹ P. Boubou, *Vos Droits face a la torture et aux arrestation arbitaire, club informatique du Cameroun*, 1997, p.44.

¹⁷⁰ Born Free Number 016 of April –June 2009, p.3.

¹⁷¹ The International Council of Human Rights Policy, *Human Rights Standards, Learning from Experience*, Switzerland, ATAR Roto press, SA, 2006, p.33.

¹⁷² Decree Number 90/1459 of 8 November 1990 to established the NCHRF.

intervals organises seminars on human rights protections for administrative police and military authorities in all the regions of Cameroon¹⁷³. The commission have upon human rights education activities by providing almost 1000 copies of the manual of human rights education of which about 600 were in French and 400 in English. The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in collaboration with the commission has made available teachers guide for the manual on human rights education in both official languages¹⁷⁴.

The commission spreads human rights instruments with the aim to popularised human rights principles. This can be seen through her work plan which includes listening to informing and directing the public on human rights issues, training interns, hosting radio broadcasting like Tribune de droits et des libertés, producing journal like “Born Free” and draft development projects Regional branches go further to carry field investigation in regions to have good knowledge of the state of human rights in the regions concerned .The commission work hand in glove with also the civil society organisation like local NGOs by giving them technical assistance, participating in seminars and organising workshops with Associations registered under her human rights directory, inviting them to write articles in the NCHRF periodical “Born Free” .

NGOs affiliated to the NCHRF have the opportunity to receive financial(helping out with logistics and technical assistance in the form of documentation , expertise ,participation in activities organised by NCHRF)to foster their activities in various areas of intervention . However, for NGOs to be affiliated to NCHRF, it must fulfill the following terms :an administrative reference, which may be for example be a letter of Agreement or a Declaration Letter; a copy of its status; a list of members of the Executive Bureau with their addresses attached to a complete address of the organisation, which includes its post box, telephone and fax number and e-mail address , an attestation of localisation signed by the competent authority and the most recent annual or semester report of the organisation's activities

The NCHRF is one of those human rights institutions whose doors are open to receive all victims of human rights abuse or their close ones in case their rights are violated .The NCHRF receive an average of 500 petitions yearly, once received the commission, the victim can lay his or her complaint in writing daily signed by the adviser, with this ,the commission opens an investigation concerning the case of the victim as well as makes arrangement to

¹⁷³ Prime Minister’s Office, Memorandum on Human Rights in Cameroon, Yaounde, imprimerie Nationale November 1999, p.14.

¹⁷⁴ NCHRF, “ 2008 Annual Report”, Messie press , Yaounde,p.25.

address the case to competent authorities, if it is not within her area of jurisdiction as that it can be properly taken care of. These authorities include gendarmes or judicial police officers, when it comes to criminal cases.

The Commission as a national human rights institution is affiliated to the international committee that coordinates all national human rights institutions worldwide. This committee had in 2006 ensured that statutes of the national rights institutions should strictly follow the Paris principles of which NCHRF was one of the first African countries to adhere to. As a result, members who have been appointed, lack of sufficient funds to help her carry on her activities and failure to publish an annual report to her NCHRF in 2006 was classified under category B, as an observer. As an observer in the international scene she has very little or no contribution to make.

The Judicial System of Cameroon

The Cameroon judicial system is bilateral in nature, owing to the colonisation of Cameroon by the British and the French. Such colonisation and administration of Cameroon by these countries led Cameroon into two legal systems of administration that is the French legal system applicable in Francophone Cameroon and the English legal system applicable in Anglophone Cameroon. With the reunification of Cameroon, there have also been attempts towards rapprochement so as to eliminate such bilateral federation of the Cameroon legal system and ensure uniformity of its laws. The effect of such a joint legal administration has greatly helped in the strengthening of the Cameroon judicial system as it now exists. As is the case with Cameroon, like every other judicial system, there should be a balance between safeguarding social peace and order and equally respecting human freedom. This goes a long way to explain that.

It is the judiciary that makes the existence of the rule of law in any democratic nation. It is by upholding the rule of the law that ensures that a person is not subject to arbitrary decision by the executive. The rule ensures that the laws are supreme, the dignity of man is respected, and a provision made for the legitimate rights of the people. In democracy, the rule of law restrains the power of the government by putting institutions on it thereby ensuring personal rights¹⁷⁵.

The declaration of the Cameroon judicial system has been given the opportunity for each sub-division to be entitled to a court of first instance, each division has a High Court

¹⁷⁵B.A.Muna, *Cameroon the challenges of the 21st century*, Yaounde, Tema books, 1993, pp. 67-68.

each Region with a court of appeal. This decentralisation has greatly help in bring justics closer to the population where the right of the citizens are respected. The Cameroon judicial system has as one of its ruberies to better justics jurisprudence which is *stricto senso casé* law acts as an additional machnism enable judges better dispense justice. This is due to the fact that its gives unto judges the latitude to inter from previous judgement and decide on recent cases without any restrictions.this has greatly enhance considency in the justice system thus, a better guarantee to persons seeking for justics.it has also created a rich reservoir from which judges cannot be heard to remain silent where the law is silent

Again, the judicial system of Cameroon has been subjected into overhauding machnism such as to make a personnelof justice abreast of the norms and prevent the miscarriage of justice. This is seen in the frquentsiminers organised. The most illustative of all these is the adopted of *l'organisation pour l' Harmination en Afrique du Droit des Affaires* (OHADA) treaty and the *creation of Ecole Regionale Superieuré de Magistrature* (ERSUMA) in Porto-Novo Beninas one of its main organ. This organs has as specific objectives to recycle ,retain and magistrates with the law? This has highly enhance justice in Cameroon as it has led to a greater extent as its renders fair judgement to the victim concerned.

Also, in every society the judicial system make be equal inoder to renders peace and security by ensuring the rights of the citizens. The organistation and structure of the Cameroon judicial system is therfore an indication of the degree of human rights. That is from the organisational stand piont, we have court of frist instance and court of appeal andjuridiction, we can identify from the structural stad point, the existence of four different order, to wit the administration order, judicial order, customary order¹⁷⁶. This is an added advantage that lies in the relation of human right problems in Cameroon.

Chapter two presented and analyzed the different areas of human rights violation in the South West Region of Cameroon. It also briefly presented some international instruments, conventions and laws governing human rights violation which Plan International adhere to and do respect in the course of carrying out its activities in the South West Region.

¹⁷⁶ Law Number 2006/015 of 29 December 2006 on the Judicial Organisation of Cameroon.

CHAPTER THREE

IMPACT OR EFFORTS MADE BY PLAN INTERNATIONAL CAMEROON IN CURBING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION

Plan International since 2016 through its activities has greatly help in the protection of the rights of the vulnerable population in the South West Region. The rights of children, the girl child and adolescents have been greatly improved. Chapter three therefore, examine the impact or role played by Plan International in protecting or curbing human rights violation in the South West Region.

I. Socio-cultural impact: Health Domain

The socio-cultural impact concern the improvement of the living environment of the population, provision of sanitary kits, training of personnel, sensitization of the population, organising vaccination campaign to prevent diseases, education of children, provision of public taps in schools, hygiene and sanitation, provide food, protection of children rights, promote the participation of child etc. All these are elaborated below.

1. Provision of sanitary kits

Plan International Cameroon on September 09th, 2020 represented by Mm.Adama Garba, Plan Cameroon coordinator for South West Region offered 2540 sanitary gadgets: buckets, soaps, hand sanitizers, javel and among many other things to the Mayor of the Buea council Mr Mbelle Moki Charles to share to the local population of the area in order to fight Covid-19 and other hydric diseases like cholera and typhoid. However, at the level of the South West Region of Cameroon, PIC equally offered sanitary kits like soaps, hand sanitizers, javel and among others were distributed to the Fako Division central hospitals and at the local communities like Limbe, Buea, Tiko, Muea, Mutengene etc, almost 6780 sanitary kits were distributed in the area during the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic, cholera outbreak¹⁷⁷.

In addition, in order to protect the population of the South West Region of Cameroon , Plan International have given the local communities with buget, soap to wash their hands to

¹⁷⁷ A Report from Plan International Buea,2020.

fight against the pandemic covid-19 which breakout in 2019. This photo below will elaborate for confirmation.

Plate 1: The provision of some sanitary kits to the Fako Division of the South West Region



Source: Archivefrom Plan International Buea.

Plate 1 expose some sanitary material assistance Plan Cameroon offered to the communities of the Fako Division in the South West Region, which mostly included buckets and soaps and many other items, which could help improve on their daily sanitary conditions

2. Training of health personnel

Plan International carry out 5 days training from the 28th July to August 1st 2020 in Buea with 25 participants 11 women and 14 men respecting covid-19 preventive measures, drawn from 10 child protection partner organisation in the South West Region. The training provided the partners organisation with the knowledge, skills and competencies to provide effective case management support services to vulnerable children including child survivor of Gender Base Violence and those at risk of abuse and exploitation. This was the first series of training organised by Plan International in the South West Region planned over the next 11 months targeting child protection as well as the social work force of the Regional Delegation of Social Affair's and Women's Empowerment and Family. In Buea and Limbe Subdivision in the South West Region. Plan International provided psychological support 77 children 35boys and 42 girls displace during the SW/NW crisis

3. Organize vaccination campaigns for the prevention of disease

The outbreak of covid-19 and the recent cholera diseases compel with the on-going Anglophone crisis that has been a treat to our country and the affected region, it has cause

great human rights violation in Cameroon especially in the Anglophone Regions. However, due to the crisis it has called the attention of many NGOs to carry out their activities in the affected zones. NGO like Plan International, Cameroon Human Rights Commission and others have greatly intervened in the South West Region of Cameroon through their activities in areas like Buea, Muyuka, Tiko, Muea, Limbe, Bomaka, Tole, Yoke, kumba, Manyu and many others. Socially, in the domain of health, Plan International over 30210 children were screened with in the South West Region in health districts services used fixed and mobile outreach strategies to vaccinate children in hard reach in Fako, Meme and Manyu Divisions in the South West Region. Again, 1404 children under the 5 years old were vaccinated against measles, 460 against tuberculosis, 832 against polio¹⁷⁸. Also, 231 IDPs and host children were treated for malaria and 593 households, 310 IDPs received mosquito nets still in the South West Region, 4 health Districts of Buea, Limbe, Muyuka and Tiko received mosquito nets from Plan International and 2375 infants under 11 months old received a catch-up vaccine against the preventable diseases, 1187 children received. 1523 children receive vitamin A supplementation 477 children received pentavalent, 683 pregnant women received missed routine vaccine TD2 plus and 106 pregnant women received catch-up for intermittent preventive treatment.

Supplementary immunization activities would be carried out in the region before the end of this year for satisfactory vaccination coverage against child violations, however, our work has gone further to laid more emphasis

4. Hygiene and Sanitation

Mr Aseh Lucas the quarter head of chief of Bomaka-Buea said the NGO Plan International distributed WAST kits in the communities of the South West Region and more than 10000 individuals from Fako, Meme, Manyu do received this kits from Plan International. Again, he discussed that Plan International reach out and conduct sanitation and hygiene promotion session in the South West Region in division like Fako, Manyu, Meme, Ndian and others and 37000 individuals were reach out. Plan International for instance is working to reduce water related diseases among crisis affected persons in the South West Region through the rehabilitation of water sources and creation of water management committee in the communities to promote ownership and sustainability. Some of these communities that have benefited from such services include, Tole, Muea, Bitingui, Muyuka,

¹⁷⁸ Report from Plan International Buea, 2020.

Yoke, Idenau, Bowaingo, Bomaka.¹⁷⁹ The image below explained the level of sanitation that PIC help the various community affected by the Anglophone crisis. Communities that benefited from this are listed above and the tap is situated at Bomaka chief street. Figure: 7 A gift of a forage pile born water from PIC to the population of Bomaka-Buea Chief Street.

A forage water came at a moment to the population of Bomaka suffered from water crisis and also they did not have good portable drinking water consumption. This of forage has help to combat dangerous diseases in the community such as cholera, typhoid and others. Thus, water is life, it is for this reason that this forage was of great benefit to the community.

Figure 1: A gift of a forage pile born water from PIC to the population of Bomaka-Buea



Source: Adapted by author, 12/07/2022.

Community covid-19 wash station

Plan International, with support from UNICEF installed 250 communal hand washing stations in Fako and Ekondo Titi. The hand washing stations in were expected to benefit 12500 people, more than 116000 people were reach through covid-19 sensitization session.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁹ Interview with Mr Aseh Lucas, on the 12th July, 2022.

¹⁸⁰ Plan International report

Plan International has given a tack of water and javel to the communities of Ekonodo-Titi to protect or prevent the population against covid-19.

Figure 2: Covid-19 washing stations gifts by PIC to the communities of the Fako division and Ekondo Titi.



Source: archive of Plan International, in Buea.

II. In domain of education

Another major action of Plan International Cameroon can be seen in the domain of education. Plan International Cameroon on the under the theme: *Avenir resilience II* Project in collaboration with the state government represented by the Delegation from the Ministry of Social Affair on August 22th, 2019 heal a meeting to discuss on the children affected by crisis who can afford to go to school , in the meeting, they donated or offered didactic materials. Again, Plan International promote education in the South West Region of Cameroon by collaborating with the Ministry of both Basic and Secondary Education by providing school materials like school bags, books, pens, rulers, and also awarding scholarship to pupils and students who were affected by the on-going Anglophone crisis, .Plan Cameroon also urged teachers to focus, acquire new teaching skills and adapt to new Information and Communication Technology tools in order to give the best of them for more probing results. Other NGO like the Cameroon Human Rights Commission also promote education in the South West Region and they distributed school materials during back-to-school program, they

give out school materials to children who are affected by the on-going crisis and she equally help to fight for the right of education of children.¹⁸¹

Since 2016, Plan International in partnership with the Hausa women's Association for development is carrying a project to support young girls' education in the various communities in the South West Region. In this light we observe that girl's education in the South West Region and in the communities has greatly improved. Also, Plan International and its partners decided to start phase 2 by extending the project to the Fako Districts in the South West Region¹⁸².

Genders has been involved in all aspect of their project. Indeed, in Africa, girls usually impeded by socio-cultural and economic constraints, have more limited access to the educational system in comparison with boys. It is for this reason why our work will identify the activities of plan International in educational domain promotes individuals economic, social and cultural rights to gain the knowledge and skills required to build up the future girls. An important work of awareness raising among boys and men of the community has also been made, as they play a leading role in the their activities which has also contributed in the fight of human rights abuses due to the up and down and current situation of our nation. Again, Plan International Cameroon in partnership with the Fulani Women's Association for Development are carrying a lot of project to support girls' education in the Fako division. In the Regional Delegation of Social Affair and Women's Empowerment and Family, in Buea and Limbe Subdivision, Fako Division and Plan International provided psychological support to 77 children 35 boys with 42 girls displaced due to the human rights violation in the South West Region in 2020.¹⁸³

These material assistances from Plan Cameroon and Cameroon Human Right Commission would be illustrate on the following pictures.

¹⁸¹ Plan International report,2020.

¹⁸² Plan International report,2020.

¹⁸³ Ibid.,

Plate 2: The provision of both material and sanitary kits to the, Fako Division and other NGO.



Source: archives of PIC Buea, 10/08/2021.

These pictures give an appraisal of the numerous achievements of Plan Cameroon in the domain of education. Figure 3 presents books from Plan Cameroon meant for pupils given to both pupils and teachers. Figure 4 shows a teacher receiving a kit from an agent of Plan Cameroon. On figure 5 we can observe the pupil from GBPS Bokuagwuo lining up and ready to receive those material kits from Plan Cameroon.

1. Provision of public taps in Schools

The actions of Plan Cameroon in the educational domain can be observed in its provision of public taps in schools. Plan Cameroon realised that in most schools in Yaounde, little or no tap is usually existing and by so doing, both pupils and academic personnel are unable to observe appropriate sanitary rules: cannot wash their hands before eating, after being to the toilets, or clean their classes and above all lack water to drink. As a result, both the pupils and academic staff are exposed to numerous diseases like: typhoid, cholera, dysentery and most currently to Covid-19. The provision of such public taps in schools help to prevent and fight such diseases.¹⁸⁴

Figure 3: A Public Tap constructed by Plan Cameroon in Buea



Source: Archive of PIC Buea,

¹⁸⁴ Plan International report, 2019.

Figure 3 present one of the many provision of public taps constructed in some primary school in Fako division by Plan Cameroon as a strategy to prevent and fight diseases and to improve the working and living condition of both pupils and teachers in schools. From the above analyses, we can conclude that the actions of Plan Cameroon in the domain of education were effective and satisfactory even though much more need to be done.

III. Nutritional Domain

A healthy diet throughout life promotes healthy pregnancy outcomes, supports normal growth, development and ageing, helps to maintain a healthy body weight, and reduces the risk of chronic disease leading to overall health and well-being.

1. Provision of food aids

Plan International and other NGOs assist most vulnerable IDPs and host community households in Meme, Fako and Ndian Division in the South West Region to meet with their basic food and nutritional needs by providing monthly unconditional food vouchers for three months. Each household is provided with a monthly food voucher which covers about 60% of the minimum expenditure food basket of a household. However, this is an on-going project of Plan International that started in 2019.¹⁸⁵

2. Human Rights and Security

All human being are born free and equal dignity and rights. It is for this reason that PIC protects children rights in the North West and South West Region.

3. Protection of Children's Rights.

Child protection is the central matrix of PIC's action. This is the reason for which it is committed to ensuring the well-being of children and upholding the Convention international law on the rights of the child. Indeed, children who live in areas rural areas are victims of several injustices on a daily basis. These are of a security nature; sanitary etc. however,It is joy that permit children to happy before the coming of Plan International.

¹⁸⁵ Plan International Report Buea, 2019.

Plate 3: The protection of children rights and distribution of playing stools



Source: Archive of Plan International, Buea.

4. Violation of children's rights

The attack in schools which are meant to provide a safe learning environment for children are now a grave violation of children rights in situation of armed conflict. The United Nations Secretary General has now deemed Cameroon situation a called for concern through the UN Security Council Children and Armed Conflict mandate which carries significant implications for perpetrators of grave violations against children in conflict. However, the sad incident that happened on the 24th October 2020, at the Mother Francisca Bilingual Academy in Kumba, in the South West Region of Cameroon that left a member of promising young children dead and wounded on a Saturday morning. Plan International action on children rights believe that, children are to grow up and become citizens who can contribute to build a just and equal world. This incident was seen as a cold-blooded act of terror directed against children and this was strongly condemn has been outrageous and unacceptable by plan international and others international bodies¹⁸⁶.

¹⁸⁶ Plan International Report 2020.

5. The Project on the promotion of the right to participation of the child

The protection of the Rights of the Child is a reason for living at Plan International Cameroon insofar as the rights of the child are not respected in Cameroon. This is why PIC invests all its energies in promoting and guaranteeing the rights of the child especially those who are vulnerable. In addition, PIC makes a net contribution to children. In the bipartite agreement with the Municipality of Fako division, it will finance the purchase of the registers of acts for the center of civil status financed up to 100,000 FCFA. Next, as part of this agreement provides for the creation of the Management Committee of the Establishments Schoolchildren (COGES), around 100,000 FCFA¹⁸⁷. These figures are summarized in the following table.

Table 2: The Project on the promotion of the right to participation of the child

Categories	Activities	Amount in FCFA
Child protection	Purchase of deed register for civil status centre and financial support for making judgement	1 000 000
Promoting of the right to child protection	Training in forum equipment and government and children	1 000 000
	Training of the COGES and the protection committee of the child	1 000 000
	Project monitoring and evaluation	240 000
Total protection and participation		3 210 000

Source: Plan International South West Region

The table above represent the sum of finance that Plan International have given to schools in the South West Region for scholarship.

6. The “Plan for Girl” Project

The “Plan for Girl” project launched by the NGO Plan International Cameroon aims to promote the participation of young girls and children from the Community of the SWR in their own future. It is within this framework that PIC, in collaboration with the Community, has set up set up a steering committee to respond to the school integration of young people

¹⁸⁷ Lire le protocole d'accord de Partenariat pour la gestion des projets avec la commune, mai 2011, (article 2 and 10), pp. 1-3.

and children. Thus, this project concerns young girls who are around 16 to 17 years old. Through the relays communities PIC provides them with tools for the facilitation and awareness of these girls. Because the development of a community also involves education. It is thus the cornerstone on which rests the perspectives and job opportunity of the future. Those who are deprived of education in their childhood have often struggle to find a job as an adult. They are also included in their own family see in society and in their society¹⁸⁸.

This “Plan for Girl” project is more beneficial for girls living in rural areas; education provides an opportunity to maximize the resources available to them, whether by improving productivity of their production. PIC's inclusive policy for young girls and children allows this layer of society to be less exposed to sexual exploitation. They are also; less exposed to trafficking and run less risk of being infected with HIV ¹⁸⁹

7. Support in the field of sexuality education in schools

Sexuality education in schools is one of PIC's actions in the area rural. It is for this reason that the training modules are offered in the primary and secondary schools in the municipality of the SWR. Indeed, PIC through community health workers, criss-cross the various school campuses to raise awareness and mobilize young boys on the one hand and young girls on the other on the dangers stemming from early and uncontrolled sexuality. PIC, also contributes to community school caravans on the problems of voluntary or provoked interruption of an unwanted pregnancy of young girls. These pregnancy termination practices are developed in school circles his last years in Cameroon in particular in the countryside following an educational deficiency and the care of the young girl¹⁹⁰. Thereby, PIC provides moral support for these girls who are sometimes neglected and stigmatized by their comrade and sometimes dropped out of school in favour of early marriages. This situation but also, young girls in a situation of vulnerability to early sexual intercourse and 157 multiple sexual partnerships which are aggravating factors of exposure to pregnancies desired. Faced with the lack of sex education, PIC provides more ethical input on sexual practice in schools. As a result, PIC supports girls and their families in the education and hygiene of the young girl. It also strengthens the governance of the sector education, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and structures parent teachers. In addition, at the community and school level PIC employs rights-based social accountability tools and approaches, such as charts

¹⁸⁸ Plan International 21st annual campaign monitoring report, “Because I am a girl child, 2014, P.30;

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.,

¹⁹⁰ *L' appui dans le domaine l' education a la sexualité en milieu scolaire*,P ;,6.

community dashboard and participatory budget tracking to support monitoring led by young people on education policy, implementation and delivery services. This aims to promote social improvements on the girl in her community. And to reduce provoked marriages of girls, gender-based violence in general, PIC invests heavily in young girls¹⁹¹.

8. The “Empowerment” of Adolescent Girls

PIC's action is based on the well-being of populations, in particular on the protection of the child and the integration of the young girl. It is in this sense that PIC is increasing its activities in the field to improve the situation of girls within the community in the SWR. To throughout, raising awareness on early pregnancies, STIs and HIV/AIDS, even more on the schooling of young girls in the countryside. This has the immediate effect of drastic reduction in teenage pregnancies in secondary and primary schools in the villages. Here, the awareness caravans and the education of young girls in the houses or hut education than in youth demonstrations like the cultural days. We note the awareness campaigns for housewives relating to family planning. The latter relate mainly to the affirmation of their identity and greater self-confidence. Indeed, throughout these talks educational and community activities the caravanners gradually acquired skills and new knowledge. Public speaking and expression, affirmation of a growing leadership, the feeling of belonging to a community and a society are 213 Plan international, international day of the girl child “Because I am a girl” organized by the PIC focal point in the SWR, 11 October 2012. These awareness campaigns based on the development of the young girl and the education of the house had repercussions concrete actions in the lives of adolescent girls, including better control of their health and sexuality.

A. Impact on child marriage

The impacts of child marriage are physical, psychological and emotional, as well as social and economic. Girls who are married as children are unlikely to be in school, are often treated as adult women and are generally burdened with the roles and responsibilities of adults – regardless of their age. For example, those girls who were already married reported a number of challenges, ranging from a lack of financial and emotional support, as well as a lack of support with childcare and household chores. These additional responsibilities meant that 84.2% of respondents reported that they no longer had time to enjoy an education. Girls who are married young are also more likely to become pregnant early and be subject to

¹⁹¹ Plan International 21st annual report campaign monitoring “Because I am a girl child”,2014, p.30.

violence and abuse, with potentially life-threatening consequences. Action carry by Plan in the SWR to eliminate child marriage must involve strong commitment and concerted action by stakeholders at international, regional, national, community, family and individual. Given its multiple causes and consequences, ending child marriage will require a multi-sector and coordinated approach to prevention and response. Implementation of legislation, consistent with international human rights standards, must be supported by awareness-raising campaigns that, among other things, seek to promote gender equality and change negative social, traditional and religious norms and practices that give rise to child marriage. This requires collaboration and partnership between relevant government departments (such as education and health care), law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, child protection services, human rights bodies, women's groups, community-based organisations, community, religious and traditional leaders, civil society organisations and communities. However, Child marriage is a serious violation of human rights. It infringes the rights and principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): the best interests of the child; non-discrimination; survival, health and development; protection from violence, abuse and exploitation; education; and full participation in family, cultural and social life – including participation in decisions that affect one's right¹⁹²s.

IV. Economic Impact

Within the framework where the population is faced by life or death, local organisation in the Fako division has to come together or collaborate with community workers of PIC. In view of enabling them to be able to response effectively to the population need or effectively to the need of the local population. Thus, the local community NGOs has matter mastering of the field, the assistant brought by PIC to victims of the Anglophone crisis in the South West Region will best extended to the vulnerable population. However, it is in the LCO capacity to establish dialogue so that peace can reign in the region, and this would encourage the local community agents of PIC or this can also favour the intervention of local community workers to work peacefully.

On the other hand, the local population has a leading role to play in the delivering of donations and infrastructures put in place by PIC. Since they are beneficiaries it is in their responsibilities to protect local workers of PIC. The population equally has the responsibility or capacity of linking solidarity chain which unites Plan International in order to attended

¹⁹² Plan International, INC. Submission of the report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Preventing and Eliminating Child, Early and Force Marriage, Geneva, December, 2013.

population who are affected by crisis in the SW/NW Regions. Order wise, the population is linking bridges between the local community's workers of PIC and the state. In order to combine effort, for poverty reduction within these crisis affected areas, because peace is the only source of development within a locality or a country. The humanitarian action and the development of PIC have to be the aim of the population. Consequently, when development ideologies where peace can attained through possible result within the regions affected by crisis.

1. Support for the initiation of women's entrepreneurial dynamics

Local entrepreneurship is the spearhead of local women's development. It's for this is why PIC supports the efforts made by the village populations for their well-being. Indeed, PIC encourages Common Initiative Groups (CIGs), by communication and awareness-raising on development-related topics. Because the GICs are means of grouping people who live in the same space. PIC contributes thus to the construction of collective dynamics of development actors by sharing the same space. Its goal is to create resources for women which are the engine of development. It is in this logic that the group's community savings schemes are created in the villages to relieve the suffering of populations. These groups are therefore vectors of endogenous development. Thus, the community development of PIC is situated within the framework of the development endogenous, by focusing on the local dynamics generated by the initiative of local actors, thus developing endogenous strategies. In addition, PIC participates in the coherence of female social entrepreneurship community. Because its actions respond to the initiatives formulated by the populations of the basis, which they know. Consistency by sharing the same ethnicity, the same place housing, collective interests, common identity of a profession¹⁹³.

The actions social coherence posed by PIC towards the village populations are also perceived as an improvement in community social peace. Indeed, the grouping of people in a joint initiative program allows participants to have a spirit of local solidarity. Here, only the collective interest takes precedence, to the detriment of individual gain. By elsewhere, PIC subsidizes 50% of community projects initiated by the populations themselves. Same PIC participates in the reproduction of community dynamism, which thus promotes the reduction of rural poverty. 163 in Fako community is a community radio station in the municipality of Fako division, serving all actions aimed at the development of the district of Buea. It is also

¹⁹³ Tinasa Rezafindrazaka, C. Fourcade, *l' entrepreneurial collectif: un outil du développement territorial*, *paris Revue d' economic regionale et cerbaine*, 2016, pp.1017-1042.

the spokesperson for the children of this locality, because it makes educational programs available to children¹⁹⁴. The photo below explained to us the aspect of women entrepreneurial skills in the community of Mautu-Muyuka were Madam Nlongu Eliberth was supported by Plan International with the sum of 75000frs to begin a start-up business cafe terrier in her neighbourhood. This was because she lost her husband who let her 4children in the on-going crisis. This aspect of Plan International was a great favour for her¹⁹⁵.

Figure 4: A gift of 75000 FRS to madam Eliberth by Plan International



Source: Adapted by Author, 14/07/2022.

2. Project to stop covid-19 pandemic

The outbreak of the global pandemic that did not leave partners social and development of the different Regions in Cameroon. PIC took in to consideration the commendable initiatives to reduce the community spread of this disease. Thereby, several significant actions have been carried out by PIC in the Commune of South West Region. PIC volunteers were out to sensitize the population of the danger of the pandemic especially to the communities in the South West Region. This is because, community health remains in its mostly in traditional medicine. It is for this reason that this partner makes an additional contribution to deprived populations on whom the State has turned its back. This control equipment consists of a box of soap, burget, callons, canisters with a tap kits for washing hand for the population of Tiko, Mutegene Limbe, Muyuka, Kumba and Buea in the community of the Fako, Meme and Manyu division. As a result, the photographed image brings more reality and relevance to PIC's work to put local populations to work the shelter of this global

¹⁹⁴ Develtere, Bénédicte Fonteneau, *société civile ONG tiers secteur mouvement sociale et economic soie :cneption au nord,pertinence au sud, Canada Katholieke University leuvel, 2009, p. ? 15.*

¹⁹⁵ Interview with Nlongu Elizerth of Mautu-Muyuka on the 14 of July 2022.

health.¹⁹⁶ Show the distribution of WAST kits for cholera disease and covid-19 kits to vulnerable population of Tiko, Mutegene, Limbe, Buea and kumba in the South West Region.

Plate 4: Distribution of Covid-19 response materials in some towns in the South West Region by PIC.



Source: archive of Plan International Buea.

3. Provision of electricity in the local communities

The Anglophone crisis has caused many people and communities to live in darkness due to destruction of properties and many others. It is due this reason that Plan International and others NGOs took into consideration to provide electricity to communities who's transformer were destroyed in the ongoing crisis by supplying them with solar electricity. Communities that benefited from this were Mautu, Muyuka, Yoke, Mamu and others received more 18 installed solar electricity that give light to these communities in the Muyuka subdivision in the South West Region.

¹⁹⁶ Plan International Project for covid19 sensitization in the South West Region

Figure 5: A gift of solar electricity to Communities of the Muyuka subdivision by Plan International



Source: Adapted by Author, 14/07/2022.

Chapter three dwells on the impact or role played by Plan International in the protection of human rights of the vulnerable population in the South West Region of Cameroon. However, the politics of Plan International has help in the protection of children. It is for this reason that this chapter is based on the actions or interventions put by Plan International Cameroon in the protection of children, elderly, old people, youths and their communities. Also the project of forage construction in the communities such Bomaka, Muyuka, Tiko, Muea and others gave happiness to the communities which was also priority for children.

CHAPTER FOUR

CHALLENGES FACED BY PLAN INTERNATIONAL CAMEROON IN RESOLVING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Human rights struggle on the South West Region of Cameroon is not something that is less serious in our today's Cameroon. That is why NGOs like Plan International have intervened in all its efforts, but due to some obstacles it faced some difficulties or had challenges in its intervention. Most of these challenges are at the level of the government, stakeholders, the target population which made things difficult for PIC to successfully carry out its activities. However, due to this obstacle or challenges some recommendations were proposed.

I. Internal Challenges

1. Challenges faced by Plan International Cameroon

The socio-political problems in Cameroon including the South -West Region had been a called for concern since independence in 1960 and 1961. The crisis that erupted in 2016 in the South -West and North -West Regions prompting security clampdown in the South-West Region or violence shifted into armed conflicts with the proliferation of non-state armed groups and deployment of military forces to the regions making some NGOs like Plan International faced difficulties in carrying out some of its activities. This problem has led to multiple civilian casualties and continues to have serious consequence on livelihoods and living conditions of the affected populations especially in the South-West Region at large. Places like Malende, Muyuka, Muea, Mile16, Ekona and among others human rights violations have highly increased and still ongoing. The security situation in Cameroon in general and South West Region in particular remain volatile with frequent roadblocks, confrontations between the non-state armed group and the state military, “ghost town” days in discriminate killing of civilian, and looting and destruction of property allegedly perpetrated by both parties. As a consequence, Plan International sometimes is unable to reach many people in need especially in the rural areas whose rights has been violated due to the crisis. The population access to health, education, water and sanitation shelter and protection are severely limited, and women and children are disproportionately affected¹⁹⁷

¹⁹⁷ An interview with Mr Chammango Blaise Aime, Rapporteur of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission South West Region, age, 40, 21/07/ 2022.

Also, the response to the violation of human rights and loss of life in 2017 where National, International, Humanitarian NGOs like Plan International, Cameroon Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Commission etc were reporting that security had greatly impeded humanitarian supplies to affected communities and families who fled out of the two Regions. However, OCHA further stated that majority of the IDPs are women and children vulnerability is increasing, and humanitarian response provided so far does not meet the identified needs¹⁹⁸.

Plan International access to persons in need in the South-West Region continue to be a challenge as their humanitarian cargo has been destroyed or blocked by both parties to the conflict. Plan International is at increasing level of risk when providing assistance to the IDPs and other affected persons in crisis. Arms groups abducted ten workers of two UN implementing partners in Tubah subdivision (Bambui, Bambili axis). The same groups delayed many others in this Region temporarily seizing humanitarian vehicles.¹⁹⁹

In addition, Plan International in 2020, provided hand washing materials, face mask and sensitization against covid-19, Plan International continue to face difficulties of insufficient funding to implement WASH response plan. According to Plan International, to date, only 2% funding has been received for the WASH Cluster 2020 HRP projects. To this effect, implementations of activities is taking into more consideration because the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic that is also a consequence to human rights situations in the South-West Region.

The Covid-19 outbreak has introduced major challenges in areas of program delivery, needs assessment, and do no harm approaches of Plan International. In response in resolving human rights violations in the South-West Region adopted a covid-19 strategy and established new partnerships to ensure that lifesaving and protection in intervention are sustained whilst managing the pandemic response and securing the safety of aid delivery for beneficiaries²⁰⁰.

Plan International equally faced the problem of insufficient staff in the South -West Region who can run the NGOs smoothly. Local NGOs in particular face the problem of remuneration, this was accompanied by power working condition and an unacceptable level of security of its personnel. These workers who often gave the best of their service to ensure that the activities of NGOs were successful in their various domains of intervention.

Furthermore, the cultural of the people was that could not undermine in the process of doing the work of human rights defenders in the South West Region. A good example was the practice of polygamy which was getting married to more than two wives, highly practiced in the South West Region. This practice was disadvantageous to those who indulged in it because the end result was having many children whose parents could hardly sponsor. With such situation, those children were sent to wealthier families in big cities like Bamenda, Yaounde, Buea and Douala as house maids. As a consequence, they are deprived of their rights to education. Some of these children aged between 11 and 18 a period during which they should have registered and attended at least secondary school. Back at these where their children work, they are often molested. In addition, some parents with numerous children encourage child labour whereby dubious people used it as a means to make money at the detriment of these children. Some of these people presented themselves as intermediaries who could help these children succeed in future like going aboard and getting a job when sort sided parents handed their children to these people they were sold to foreigners and parents lost contact with their children.²⁰¹

Again, in Cameroon, a large number of human NGOs are seen as part of the opposition in the face of the government whom people considered as the principal human rights violators through her agents like forces of law and orders, impartiality is therefore an undeniable tool that NGOs should use. An aspect of human rights problem which is constantly talked of in Cameroon is corruption which NGOs find it difficult or even impossible to intervene. 9 out of every 10 Cameroonian are very corrupt be it in the public or private sectors. This renders the matter more complicated in that NGOs cannot intervene to ensure that article 66 of the Cameroon constitution is implemented and results made known to citizens.

The embezzlement of public funds violates the rights of citizens who by right should have access to these funds. Corruption practices have increased the level of unemployment and crime wave, leaving the society in secure for its citizens especially as regards freedom of movement. NGOs face difficulties in fighting against corruption. This was due to the fact that corruption is a societal and moral barrier to development. Awareness is done through informing and educating the population on the necessity to stop the practice. But this has failed to yield the desired effect in that NGOs act as a watch dog and whistle-blower against

²⁰¹ An interview with Chamango Blaise Aime, Rapporteur of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission of the South West Region, age, 40, 21 of July , 2022.

any act of corruption. Sensitization does not suffice because Cameroonians are adamant to mere words that are not accompanied by stringent action. Even in case where people are judged and found guilty. Citizens do not have information on how the misdirected funds could be retrieved. Most Cameroonians view corruption as a normal national activity and characteristics. Furthermore, some NGOs too are very corrupt, so can hardly tackle corruption with objectivity.²⁰²

Most complaints filed in by the people of the South West Region at the seat of the NGOs in general and PI in particular always have some in sufficient information. Where information is lacking too much time and money is needed to solve the problem which may require numerous visits to the scene of the problem. Most seminars and campaigns organised by NGOs to sensitise the people on human rights issues are often not effective. This was in the fact that people in enclave communities were ignorant of their rights and freedoms. These people do not really understand human rights issues even though they are widely talked about, they lack communication network like radio in the suburbs. This draws one to the fact that some people become aware of human rights issues only when they have attained a higher level of education. Given that human rights education in school and colleges in Cameroon is still been taught only in pilot school and most children are not very familiar with their rights and how they can be protected.²⁰³

Also, NGOs face difficulties in terms of the population's awareness on children and people's rights. Plan International for example faces this problem given that many people in the communities in which it's intervened are ignorant of the existence of children rights. Due to inaccessibility to information, these children do not even know that they have rights, talk less of defending them. Even though the Cameroon government ratified the CRC, many people pay little or no attention to it. An NGO like plan is not primary actor to initiate children's rights. As a secondary actor Plan is out to create awareness and encourage the implementation of the CRC; these difficulties are faced due to ignorance among some people consequently, a lot of time and funds are required to effectively and efficiently carry out their activities.²⁰⁴

Again, state policies at times do not permit private infrastructures to construct as desired. This is the case of private infrastructures constructed which are not adoptable to

²⁰² An interview with Mr. Njome Ekeke Mathias, the Regional Secretary of the Cameroon Human Right Commission South West Region, Buea, Age, 43years, on 21 of July 2022.

²⁰³ Ibid

²⁰⁴ Ibid

handicaps or people with special needs. People with special needs are inspired but they do not have access to an infrastructure they become frustrated.

None the less, people who indulge in human rights activities as defenders or monitors as well as their families risk facing economic hardship which could have a direct impact on their involvement in human rights activities. This economic hardship may result to little or no income, loss or destruction of property which could be personal or belonging to the organisation loss contracts or work opportunities.

2. External Challenges

a. Challenges faced by PIC in child marriage

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that marriage should take place between spouses of “full age” and with the “free and full” consent of both parties. While the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) does not specify a minimum age for marriage, the CRC Committee has recommended that “States Parties review and, where necessary, reform their legislation and practice to increase the minimum age for marriage with and without parental consent to 18 years, for both boys and girls”.¹⁸ While acknowledging children’s evolving capacities and their right to participate in decisions that affect their lives, Plan International believes that it is in the best interest of the child to establish 18 as the minimum legal age for marriage, with or without parental consent. This will help ensure that they are able to give their free and full consent to marry and have the necessary maturity (physical, psychological and emotional) to enter into marriage. This is consistent with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which also requires States Parties to prohibit child marriage and to adopt legislation that sets the minimum age of marriage at 18.

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Legislation that allows for a lower minimum age of marriage is inconsistent with the CRC’s principles and standards. In many countries, however, the minimum age for marriage (particularly for marriages with parental consent) is lower for girls than for boys. As of 2010, girls under the age of 18 were allowed to marry with parental consent in 146 countries. Girls under the age of 15 were allowed to marry with parental consent in 52 countries. In contrast, boys were legally allowed to marry with parental consent under the age of 18 in 105 countries; and in just 23 countries under the age of 15. Among 10 of the countries with highest rates of child marriage, five have laws allowing girls to marry at an earlier age than

²⁰⁵ Plan International, INC. Submission of the report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Preventing and Eliminating Child, Early and Force Marriage, Geneva, December, 2013.

boys. For example, in Niger as well as in the SWR of Cameroon, where 75 per cent of 20 to 24-year old women were married by the age of 18, the law allows girls to marry at 15 while boys must be 18 – either with or without parental consent. Legislation that allows for a lower minimum age for girls is inconsistent with the CRC’s principles and standards, and specifically the general principle of non-discrimination. Unequal legislation governing the minimum age for marriage effectively enshrines gender inequality within law, contributing to an institutional and social acceptance of child marriage.²⁰⁶

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has consistently raised this as a matter of concern in its concluding observations to States Parties and has stressed the need to increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 for both boys and girls. Plan International believes that governments should take immediate steps to strengthen and implement laws governing the minimum age for marriage in line with international human rights standards.

Legal protection alone will not eliminate the practice of child marriage, enacting and enforcing national legislation that prohibits the practice provides a necessary platform for successful interventions. Plan International believes that, in order to support the effective implementation and enforcement of national legislation and related policies, national governments should strengthen the capacity and training of key institutions and officials, including the judiciary, child protection services, law enforcement officers and other policy-makers and service providers. Comprehensive, strong, sustainable and adequately resourced national child protection systems should be established and strengthened in order to prevent and respond to violence, including child marriage, in all settings. Any enforcement of legislation should be consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure the centrality of the best interests of the child.

b. Promote, protect and fulfil the right to education

All girls and boys have a right to a quality education one that does not reinforce gender stereotypes, is relevant to their needs and aspirations, and promotes gender equality and human rights. For girls in particular, a quality education can help them to have more autonomy in choosing a partner and to make free and informed decisions about marriage and sexual and reproductive health. Getting and keeping girls in school, and ensuring they receive a quality primary and secondary education is one of the best ways to foster later consensual marriage. Despite this, girls often face particular challenges in accessing and completing a

¹⁹⁴Plan International, INC. Submission of the report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Preventing and Eliminating Child, Early and Force Marriage, Geneva, December, 2013.

quality education. In low-income countries, only 50 per cent of girls are enrolled in lower-secondary school and 39 per cent enrol in secondary school. However, Plan International believes that governments should redouble efforts to identify and address the barriers that boys and girls face in accessing and completing a quality primary and secondary education. This should include targeted policy measures to remove all direct and indirect barriers to education, ensuring that all children, without discrimination of any kind, including those living in remote or disadvantaged areas, are able to safely access a quality education, and prioritising child protection measures aimed at addressing obstacles to education such as child marriage, gender-based violence and child labour.²⁰⁷

1. Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Boys and girls in many parts of the world have little knowledge or information about family planning, contraception, or HIV prevention and treatment, due to a lack of accessible, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and services. In some countries, laws prohibit children from accessing sexual and reproductive health services without parental or spousal consent until they reach the age of 18, thus denying adolescents access to those services. Where girls do have knowledge of sexual and reproductive health services, their age and sex often present barriers to accessing them due to social stigma and age-inappropriate provision. Early pregnancy is linked to child marriage as one of its causes and one of its most dangerous consequences. Research conducted by Plan South Sudan found that early pregnancy frequently leads to marriage. At the same time, there is often huge pressure on girls to have children very early on in a marriage. Every year, nearly 13.7 million 15-19 year old girls in the developing world give birth while married.⁴⁶ 32. Girls who become pregnant at a young age face higher risks of maternal mortality and morbidity. Pregnancy during the first years after puberty increases the risk of miscarriage, obstructed labour, postpartum haemorrhage, pregnancy-related hypertension and lifelong debilitating conditions such as obstetric fistula.⁴⁸ Complications in pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of mortality for girls aged 15 to 19 in developing countries.²⁰⁸

Marriage and pregnancy are also some of the key factors forcing girls to leave school. Furthermore, girls who are married at a young age are especially vulnerable to sexual and reproductive ill health, with potentially life-threatening consequences. Their age and lack of education, combined with their status and lack of autonomy and decision-making power

²⁰⁷ Plan International, INC. Submission of the report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Preventing and Eliminating Child, Early and Force Marriage, Geneva, December, 2013.

²⁰⁸ Ibid

within the home and in the marital relationship, can mean that girls who are married early are more likely to experience violence, abuse and forced sexual relations.

They are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections (including HIV), and have reduced levels of sexual and reproductive health.^{51 34} Plan International believes that all girls and boys should be able to receive quality, comprehensive, age-appropriate SRHR education, enabling them to make informed decisions about their health and fully realise their sexual and reproductive rights. ⁵² Young girls and boys, including married and unmarried adolescents, should have equal and universal access to comprehensive, age-appropriate and quality SRHR information and services, free from stigma, discrimination and coercion. This should include access to information on, and services for, menstrual hygiene, family planning and contraception, perinatal care.

II. Proposed Solution

1. Proposed solutions to difficulties faced by Plan International Cameroon

The State: Some government officials act obstacles or hindrance to the smooth functioning of the activities of Plan International.

Organisations due to their completions at the field may contribute to the poor execution of the activities of plan International for instance those rival or partner organisation may blackmail the institution by saying negative things about PLC. The non-collaboration of PLC with some stakeholders, Cameron Ministries dealing with children affairs and the vulnerable organisation, the civil societies may help in slowing down of PLC, by so doing, Plan Cameroon finds it difficult to attain most of its objectives

The state should ensure that all girls are able to access and complete quality primary and secondary education. All girls should be able to receive a quality education that promotes non-discrimination, gender equality and human rights in a safe and supportive environment. This also requires measures to ensure that schools are safe and free of violence, including gender-based violence, that there are programmes in place to support children who drop-out of school to return, and that all children are protected against violence on the way to and from school.

Non-governmental Organisations and Civil Societies: Non-government organisation should adopt a comprehensive UN General Assembly resolution that addresses child marriage as a human rights violation and includes a call to end to child marriage and solutions to end

the practice. Withdraw reservations made to international human rights instruments that are pertinent to child marriage.

Create a child rights division within non-governmental organisation with adequate financial and human resources to ensure that all aspects of child rights issues are adequately addressed. Also, civil society organisations should actively monitor States' implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and other relevant human rights mechanisms in regard to child marriage and remind States of their obligations²⁰⁹.

Stakeholders: Stakeholders should encourage the participation of children and young people in decisions affecting them. Girls and boys should be engaged as key participants in ending child marriage. Opportunities should be created to allow them to make their voices heard and be key agents of change within their communities.

Furthermore, stakeholders should engage and mobilise parents, teachers and community leaders. Awareness-raising activities should promote education and dialogue to change social norms and attitudes that perpetuate child marriage. Programmes should also promote the role that men and boys can play in ending child marriage and other harmful practices²¹⁰.

Increase funding and prioritise child protection, including efforts to prevent and respond to child marriage and gender-based violence, in humanitarian responses. Child protection should be included in first phase response and all interventions must be accessible to, and appropriate for, adolescent girls.

Population: Plan International times found it difficult to meet the target population of those who are in need. At time, to effectively control the vulnerable population especially the street children, IDPs, Refugee, vulnerable population and the host of others is a called for concern. Example the cases of children affected by crisis who are vulnerable. However, if the crisis is prolonged till date, it is because the local authorities are not were to be found. Consequently, the population are abandoned to their fate. The chiefs whose chiefdom has fled to protect themselves to the detriment of their populations who are killed and mistreated. However, the chiefs have had the confident of the population for their safety, which means that PIC humanitarian aid has difficulties in reaching the population victims of the crisis. In addition, community organisations are no longer functional because of the flight of local

²⁰⁹ Adapted by author, 12/08/2021.

²¹⁰ Ibid, 12/08/2021.

leaders, and yet these must be a trait-union between the chiefs, the population, PIC volunteers, and even the government to facilitate the distribution of PIC humanitarian on the ground to reduce the effects of the crisis²¹¹.

Financial problems: Plan International put in much of its finances on women project at the GLC, and encourages auto employment to women in crisis. Also, it will favour them for the fulfilment of their various communities in the region. However, PIC found difficult to finance some its activities smoothly in her area of intervention on children protection, gender base violence, education of the girl child, human right issues and so many others especially in rural areas. PIC in other countries for example Island in December 2019, had problem of insufficient funds to carry out its activities because there were insufficient economic growth and increase its United Nations Development Index ranking. The UNHDI is a statistical index that includes information such as Life expectancy, years if education and real income, high levels of a country's lifespan, educational level and gross national income correspond with HDI. Unlike in the SWR the livelihood of children who are affected by crisis remain in poor conditions²¹²

Incompetence Local administrators : Indeed, that the humanitarian works of PIC is more effective in the SWR. PIC must multiply and intensify collaboration with relevant Ministries such as, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Secondary Education, the Ministry of Basic Education, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family. These can assist PIC in the delivery of donations to population affected by crisis. In the same vein, PIC must work in symbiosis with community-based associations that are directly linked with the village population. Thus, the involvement of the populations in the development projects of PIC will allow the population to learn how to solve their own problems. The collaboration between the departments of Cameroonian government, the population and community agents of PIC will promote the self-management of the project by the population.

Correction and embezzlement of funds made available to Plan Cameroon to run its activities. Here, in order for PIC to carry out its activities safely or effectively, it has to create a body or a specific organ that will be in charge of finances and equally monitoring its workers who are always cute in the act of correction and embezzlement of funds that are set up for activities example children's education, pregnant women, trainings of personnel among others. However, PIC is equally encouraged to send monitoring agents at field to investigate

²¹¹ Adapted by author, 14/08/2021.

²¹² Ibid, 14/08/2021.

whether some of the activities were been carry out as instructed. They should also make sure there should no discrimination at the field level when given out humanitarian aid to the vulnerable population. They should equally have confidence to whoever is in charge finances concerning its different projects²¹³.

Other partner developmental organisations: Due to competition in the field contribute in the poor execution of the activities of Plan Cameroon. For instance, those rival or partner organisations may blackmail, say negative things about Plan International.

The collaboration of Plan International with some stakeholders (Cameroons Ministries dealing with children affairs and vulnerable, NGOs and Civil Societies), help in slowing down the activities of Plan Cameroon. By so doing, Plan Cameroon finds it difficult to attain most of it set objectives. However, for PIC to effectively carry out its different projects and activities,

To PIC: There is no denying that, the contribution of NGOs such as PIC in the fight against poverty in the world, especially in rural areas. But, we could issue the caveats in its activities to make it more dynamic and sustainable in the future at the level of local populations, this involves: promoting local skills, the visibility of actions, governance and ethics.²¹⁴

To promote local skills Consideration of local know-how is one of the key conditions for success development projects in a locality. PIC must give the possibility to the local staff with a job profile so they can move into leadership positions, such as national director. However, we note that the strategic positions are rarely occupied by nationals, only expatriates keep control of the positions prestigious in NGOs. Therefore, funding allocated to an organization does not are not directly devoted to the target audience but rather to foreigners who work for the organization.

In addition, human resources are under-exploited or poorly enumerated. Thus, it is proposed that NGOs reorganize their human resources: has. The need to reduce foreign staff instead of locals In Cameroon, foreign personnel occupying high positions within NGOs enjoy various privileges, opportunities and advantages provided by the State which are offered to them in internal, in particular on international status, or at the level of the hierarchical position. We have the charges such as housing, security, children's schooling,

²¹³ Adapted by author, 14/08/2021.

²¹⁴ Ibid, 14/08/2021

water and electricity bills, and other charges fall to the NGO. At first glance, we can deduce that this support on the one hand by the State and on the other by PIC is minimal for this last. In view of these expenses, it is necessary to gradually reduce this allocation to the staff to enable NGOs to achieve their goals. Encourage the profession of local volunteering within PIC many young people are passionate about the profession of volunteering, which PIC recommends to make their significant contribution to their charities. In the same idea, they would like to acquire adequate skills and experience professional²¹⁵.

They can also promote volunteering in their community or work in the said NGOs as a volunteer or employee. Through this plea, we suggest that PIC puts in place genuine volunteering policies with a view to enhancing this body of profession to local skills. Volunteering can be a solution to reducing the youth unemployment in Cameroon, particularly in rural areas, as does the youth ministry.

In addition, community volunteering makes it possible to popularize and to intensify the humanist values with the populations aiming in a space in which the problems will be solved in a democratic way, in other words meaning exclusion. Strengthening grassroots community organizations, Traditional organizations, whether male, female or mixed, have become aware of development programs in improving their living conditions life. Whether it takes the form of a tontine of family economic interest groupings or cultural organizations, charitable or denominational development associations, the objective, even the aim is to find a way to improve their living conditions²¹⁶.

Despite of all these efforts made which have an impact of their considerable social action at the level of the rural population who are sometimes underestimated or ignored by some NGOs by the lack of data and reports prepared by the leaders. Therefore, we suggest that PIC cooperate more and more with leaders in programs and projects of development in which they invest. In addition, build their capacity to better identify convergence activity and the problems of general interest which may arise therefrom; improve their ability to design and manage programs.

Practical experience that can be capitalized on and multiplied within the community. - The infrastructure management and maintenance committee are made up of representative members, supposed to be the real players in the sustainability of the infrastructures. As such,

²¹⁵ Adapted by author, 14/08/2021.

²¹⁶ Ibid, 14/08/2021

we must offer them technical training in maintenance, on the one hand the municipal administrators and on the other hand, the leaders of the CBOs who are the beneficiaries par excellence of the said development projects.

Sustainability through income-generating activities The strategy for the sustainability of poverty reduction activities is based on the involvement of grassroots communities, the capacity building of beneficiaries and the choice of mutual finance institutions for the intermediation of services local financial institutions like the VSLAs or GVEC (village savings group community). Because these organisms also integrate all the mechanisms support for actors in the long term: organizational support, promotion of the potential of actors, communication for behaviour change, research inter-village alliances and partnerships²³⁸. Furthermore, the involvement of women in profitable activities is paramount. Indeed, the success of a development program community goes through women²¹⁷.

Women have a dynamic mobilizing force popular. e. **Monitoring and evaluation of development programs** In order to ensure that the gender dimension is taken into account in an appropriate manner throughout the life cycle of a program. It must also be integrated into the plan of monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring is the process of evaluating the progress of a program as it is implemented, an activity that helps to assess a program. Evaluation, carried out internally or externally, is the process of determine whether or not the outcome of a program has achieved its goals and objectives. Both processes inform decision-making, allow for determine whether a program has achieved its objectives and therefore help to achieve them. Successful and versatile gender monitoring and evaluation requires disaggregated data by gender are incorporated into program design. A sensitive follow-up process can highlight barriers to gender mainstreaming and help identify opportunities appropriate measures. Significant progress towards achieving the goals may of a program have been reached by men or women, but it will be important to know the reasons so that compensatory adjustments can be made during the implementation of the program.

For transparent management of financial resources It most often concerns the management of information during the development of the project. It is desirable that the exact information be given to whom it may concern at the appropriate time. the compliance with the rules and procedures in force in terms of decision-making by involving the Rural

²¹⁷ Adapted by author, 13/0/2022

woman, whatever her social status, remains essential (one person = one voice in vote, comply with procurement procedures, set up a committee of monitoring of the process of drawing up municipal projects).

This transparency information management reduces cases of corruption and embezzlement of projects population development and accountability. It is preferable for Communes to set up a mechanism for the transparency of the use of resources at assign to the project to create support from the populations for the project. This transparency tool will perhaps be managed by the members of a GIC, under the control of the General Secretariat of the town hall, elected by the populations and not the one appointed or assigned by the central State.

The urgency of fairness in the choice of projects the choice of municipal projects to be developed must take account of the balance between the towns. For example, water and other project groups distributed in communities namely Bomaka, Muea, Bowangou, and many other received the distribution, the ethnicity of the municipal administrator which must take precedence over the others. populations of a communal district having the same rights and duties, it is essential for municipalities to distribute equitably (in time and space) between villages (however small) donations from NGOs and municipal projects in develop and implement, taking into account the crucial needs to be resolved for each village²¹⁸.

No village should be privileged or prejudiced. Everyone should benefit from the achievements NGOs like PIC and the Community. Because, the village remains a hollow of living together and of solidarity in Cameroon in order to block the way to tribalism and ethnicity. At the end of the analysis of the fourth part which concerned the limits of the action of NGOs in particular PIC in the Communities of the SWR and the prospects for a better community development, we can establish an assessment on three points: the first articulation noted that state institutions hinder the deployment of activities of NGOs on the national territory, and reduces the action of NGOs in terms of development.

The second articulation showed that the orthodoxy according to which the decentralized local authorities are also sometimes at the origin of the failure of the work NGOs in Cameroon, insofar as local elected officials lack training and corruption that plagues the leaders of the Community, the obvious case is that of the communities of the SWR where the development projects of PIC dedicated to the protection of children are diverted for

²¹⁸ Adapted by author, 14/07/2022

specific purposes. We also note the weight of tradition and the past colonialism that make people uncooperative with NGO staff.

The third articulation related to the perspectives of the action of the NGOs, thus, we expressed the grievances towards the State on the facilitation of the approvals to the NGOs wishing to work for the well-being of vulnerable populations at the local level. This will allow a good collaboration between NGOs and the various state structures responsible for supervising NGOs. In the same vein, local elected officials are called upon here to use efficiency of donations and projects intended for the populations, and to involve the rural populations in the management of development projects, in particular through a good education and a good public communication.

III. Recommendations

1. Recommendations to PIC concerning child marriage

Advocating for legal and public policy measures aimed at eliminating child marriage, including changing the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys.

Reducing the social pressure that motivates families to practice child marriage by promoting attitude and behaviour change among men and women.

Working with community-based child protection mechanisms to intervene where girls are at risk of marriage and to respond to rights abuses among married girls and young women.

Building girls' leadership skills through empowerment and capacity building, including through life skills education and peer educator training, to increase their active participation in society. Supporting community leaders and community organisations to design, implement and support local advocacy activities that promote child rights and raise awareness about the negative effects of child marriage.

Promoting the strengthening of civil registration systems, with a focus on universal birth registration, civil servant training in the implementation of legislation prohibiting child marriage, and policy-based advocacy to close loopholes in marriage registration.

Working with governments, schools, community and traditional leaders and family members to increase the numbers of girls who enrol, stay, progress and complete a quality basic education.

2. Proposed resolutions as regard to the Socio-Political Crisis

- ✓ Call all parties for an immediate ceasefire and to respect their international obligations to protect children from harm.

- ✓ Members States should advocate for Cameroon's government to take a more peaceful approach to resolve these crises by opening genuine talks with separatist leaders.
- ✓ Members States should significantly increase active international support for peace talks, encourage inclusive dialogue, and often funding for talks and for an independent mediator.
- ✓ Emphasize the need for a multi-pronged approach and to work with creativity within and with existing representations such as the African Union, UN Agencies, Plan International, and other partners.
- ✓ Call on the belligerents to address persistent threats to the health and safety of health workers and patients²¹⁹.

At the end of the analysis of chapter four, which focuses on the challenges faced by PIC in resolving human rights violations in the South West Region and the possible solution or prospects for the better sensitization and development of the communities, we can establish an assessment that; irrespective of the role played by Plan International in curbing human rights violations, there still some challenges faced by the NGO in its areas of intervention.

²¹⁹ Adapted by author, 21/07/2022

GENERAL CONCLUSION

This study set out to examine the role played by PIC in the SWR in protecting human rights violation; Plan International which is a humanitarian NGO has as major objective to protect the rights of vulnerable population; in Cameroon in general and South West Region in particular, Plan International began its activities in 1996. Since then, Plan International Cameroon has left no stone unturned in seeing into it that the right of children, girls, women and the underprivileged are protected and respected. Through its activities in the six divisions of the South West Region and with collaboration of the population, Plan International Cameroon has greatly helped in the protection of the rights of the vulnerable masses.

Our study was divided into four chapters, including a general introduction and a general conclusion. Chapter one of the study presents a historical background of Plan International in Cameroon. Chapter two examines the various areas of human rights violations in the South West Region. Emphasis is also laid on the instrument used in fighting human rights violation. Chapter three looks at the impact or better still role played by Plan International in protecting human rights violation in the South West Region. Finally, chapter four focuses on the difficulties or challenges faced by Plan International Cameroon in the South West Region in protecting the vulnerable population. We end the chapter with some proposed solutions which if adopted will go a long way in protecting human rights violations in the South West Region.

In terms of the impact of Plan International Cameroon in the South West Region, we realized that, at the socio-cultural level, we observed the provision of sanitary kits, provision of public taps in schools, provision of public taps in local communities for hygiene and sanitation, organising vaccination campaigns for the prevention of disease in the South West Region which were beneficial to the local population or displaced persons and also children affected by crisis. However, all the above listed in the health domain show that PIC intervened in order to eradicate diseases like cholera that is rampant around the Fako division and malaria epidemic which is widespread in our society. Equally, PIC through its cultural activities on promoting children's rights, child protection, child participation and its project of "Because I am a girl child" in the South West Region among others had persuaded young girls in the different rural communities in the region to go back to school in a conducive condition though affected by crisis. These restorative actions by PIC to local communities or to individuals who have fled from their homes due to the on-going crisis, vulnerable, IDPs and refugees now have hope concerning the children especially girls. In addition, scholarship is given to these

children by PIC for the not be lukewarm among their mates and PIC help in the sensitization children for them to have quality education and also make to be aware for their future especially girls because the NGO has contributed in raising awareness especially to young people who are lacking behind because the NGO believe that children are left out of which they are the future of our tomorrow society which was an important gesture.

At the economic level, PIC helps to promote women entrepreneurial skills in rural areas or women who are affected by crisis. Also, PIC contributes to the improvement of living conditions to rural women and their empowerment. Moreover, women entrepreneurial skills in business are an advantage insofar as financial strength is concerned which can resolve their emergency problems smoothly. These women with the business skills are self-employed or they are bosses on their own. Nonetheless, the shape of the NGO and the value system improves the family situation is favourable be it individually, collectively, directly and indirectly in a sustainable atmosphere. It would be favourable or desirable for PIC to collaborate with the state authorities, target population, stakeholders and equally international institutions for it's to achieve its interventional goals in its activities on human rights promotion.

This cry from the heart also goes against NGOs, in particularly Plan International Cameroon; we observed the local expertise were not taking into consideration because to proceed this way cannot be one of the causes related to the failure of resolving human rights issues. The local population felt excluded from all projects dedicated to them. Only intellectual elites' authorities are associated to participate in community project. These discriminatory practices amplify left out, and often people are not aware of the community project which is made. As a result, the involvement or awareness of the population in community's projects alongside Plan International is essential in the complete protection of the vulnerable population as regard human rights violation in the South West Region of Cameroon.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1:

QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMITTED TO NGO PLAN INTERNATIONAL

1. When did the NGO Plan International arrived the South West Region?
2. What where or are the objectives of Plan International in the South West Region?
3. Which areas do Plan International mostly intervened?
4. Which were the major areas of Human Rights Violations do Plan International intervened in the South West Region?
5. What were the strategies used by Plan International to intervened in resolving Human Rights Violations in the South West Region?
6. What were the major difficulties faced by the NGO in carrying out its activities in the South West Region in resolving Human Rights Violations?
7. What were economic and cultural impacts of the activities of Plan International in resolving Human Rights Violations in the
8. South West Region?
9. What were the major problems Faced by the NGO in carryout its activities in the South West Region regarding to Human Rights Violations?
10. How can the human rights situations be defined in the South West Region?
11. What are the different functions of the Plan International?

APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

Chapter one

- 1) When did Plan International arrived the South West Region?
- 2) What where or are the objectives of Plan International in the South West Region?
- 3) Who are the target population of Plan International in the South West Region?
- 4) Which areas do Plan International mostly intervened?
- 5) What are the different structures of Plan International?
- 6) What are the objectives of Plan International?
- 7) What are the different functions of Plan International?

Chapter two

- 1) When Plan International did started its activities in the South West Region of Cameroon?
- 2) Who were the main administrators of Plan International at the beginning?
- 3) How did Plan International collaborate with the government in carrying out its activities?
- 4) Which were the major areas of Human Rights Violations that Plan International intervened in the South West Region?
- 5) What were the method, means and strategies used by Plan International to intervene in resolving Human Rights Violations in the South West Region of Cameroon?
- 6) Which Divisions or Areas of the South West Region did Plan International carry out its activities in resolving Human Rights Violations?
- 7) What were the reactions of the population of the South West Region regarding or concerning the activities of Plan International in resolving Human Rights Violation?
- 8) What were the major difficulties faced by Plan International in carrying out its activities in the South West Region in resolving Human Rights Violations?
- 9) When Plan International was moved successful in carry out its activities in the South West Region?

Chapter three

- 1) What were the political impacts of the activities of Plan International in resolving Human Rights Violations in the South West Region?
- 2) What were the economic impacts of the activities of Plan International in resolving Human Rights Violations in the South West Region?
- 3) What were the socio-cultural impacts of the Plan International in resolving Human Rights Violation in the South West Region?

Chapter four

- 1) What were the major problems faced by Plan International in carrying out its activities in the South West Region regarding to Human Rights Violations?
- 2) Has Plan International overcome the difficulties that surround their activities in resolving Human Rights Violations in the South West Region of Cameroon?
- 3) Has Human Rights Violations improved in our today's society?

APENDIX:3 PLAN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

PLAN
INTERNATIONAL

Plan International Cameroon




**WE STRIVE FOR A JUST
WORLD THAT ADVANCES
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
AND EQUALITY FOR GIRLS**

**NOUS ŒUVRONS POUR
UN MONDE JUSTE QUI FAIT
PROGRESSER LES DROITS
DES ENFANTS ET L'ÉGALITÉ
POUR LES FILLES**



**WE HAVE
100 MILLION REASONS
TO ACT FOR GIRLS
SO THAT THEY CAN LEARN,
LEAD, DECIDE AND THRIVE**

**NOUS AVONS
100 MILLIONS DE RAISONS
D'AGIR POUR LES FILLES
AFIN QU'ELLES PUISSENT
APPRENDRE, DÉVELOPPER
LEUR LEADERSHIP, DECIDER
ET S'ÉPANOUIR**

NOTE BOOK

Sources: Archive from Plan International Buea Cameroon

APPENDIX 4: A PROJECT OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN CONFLICT AND COVID-19

LISTEN TO US



Adolescent Girls in North West South West Cameroon on Conflict and COVID-19

This report is the result of a multi-sectoral needs assessment exercise focusing on the rights and needs of adolescents living in the North West South West area of Cameroon, where conflict and COVID-19 combine to undermine their security at all levels and threaten their education and their health. The assessment employed a range of innovative techniques and participatory tools¹ to capture young people's opinions and experiences and concentrated in particular on the lives and experiences of adolescent girls who are mothers, pregnant, or married: giving them the space to voice their concerns and opinions. Listening to adolescent girls and young women living in this complex crisis situation emphasises the importance of a multi-sectoral approach. Life is not lived in silos and in NWSW Cameroon, conflict and COVID-19 affect everything.

KEY FINDINGS

1. WE ARE ALL AFRAID.
 Adolescent girls and boys report being afraid of going to school and health centres due to the military presence: they fear being recruited by armed gangs, being victims of random arrest, harassment, stray bullets, and more attacks on schools. They fear sexual violence and adolescent girls reported: *"rape due to the crisis where someone points a gun at your head and does whatever he likes."*² Families struggle to feed themselves and older girls take on exploitative work, engage in harmful sexual activity and in some cases are forced to marry early in order to alleviate the pressure on family incomes: *"sometimes you work in a man's farm and before he pays, he will want to sleep with you."*

90%

OF RESPONDENTS MENTIONED LACK OF BASIC INCOME AS A PUSH FACTOR FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.



2. EDUCATION IS ALL-IMPORTANT.
 Adolescents understand that continuing to learn whether at school, in community centres or taking part in vocational training, is the only way to protect their future.

"We would have loved to go to school, but now that schools are not functional here, we would like to learn trades or handwork. We need centres for vocational training... to train and empower us on profitable gardening, animal farming and doing small-small businesses."

Girls, 15-17, taking part in the visioning exercise.

BACKGROUND

The North West and South West regions of Cameroon have been engulfed in crisis since late 2016. Approximately 3,000 civilians have been killed, and the violence has forced nearly three-quarters of a million people to flee their homes, with over 60,000 refugees now in Nigeria.² It is estimated that three million people, from a population of five million, have been affected by the conflict.³ Education has been a key battle ground and many schools in the NWSW regions have been closed since the war began: early in 2021 under 30% of schools in the area were operational.⁴ The impact of the fighting, coupled for the last year with the COVID-19 pandemic, has meant that an estimated 1,033,000 children have been deprived of an education.⁵

"Most of us [used to] finish school. Now we face serious challenges to go to school because of the war. Most girls now drop out because of unwanted pregnancy, poverty of the parents, insecurity of sexual abuse and outbreak of attacks from armed groups."

Girl Empowerment Star Findings

¹ <https://plan-international.org/publications/adolescent-programming-toolkit>

² OCHA Cameroon Situation Report – 26 January 2021 <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/cameroon/>

³ Thematic Report ACAPS 19 February 2021

⁴ Cameroon: The education crisis in the Northwest and Southwest. Thematic Report ACAPS 19 February 2021

⁵ NWSW Education Cluster April 2020

⁶ Plan International ensured, in all cases of SGBV disclosure or imminent protection concerns that cases were being handled appropriately by organisations present in the community

75% OF ADOLESCENT MOTHERS, PREGNANT AND MARRIED GIRLS PREFERRED COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRES THAT OFFER NON-FORMAL EDUCATION TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES.



Adolescent girls and boys recognise that pregnancy and young motherhood are barriers to continuing education and they support the return to school for those in that situation. They know that many parents are not supportive of girls' education and in times of economic hardship prefer their daughters to marry and become someone else's responsibility. *"Some are forced by their parents to marry early because their in-law is a rich man."* Above all, what stands out, loud and clear from the research is that, despite the challenges they face, girls and young women continue to have high aspirations.

An overwhelming majority of adolescent girls taking part in the visioning exercise prioritised professional careers.

3. EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS

with information and advice, particularly about sexual and reproductive health and rights, is crucial. They were quite clear that without knowledge and access to health resources they will never be able to realise their aspirations. Apart from professional help and support from nurses, doctors and health clinics, adolescent girls also talk about the need for more parental guidance. It was recognised that parents need support: they need accurate information about sex and sexuality and about available health services – and the ability to communicate this – in order to pass it on to their children. Empowering adolescent girls emotionally and with concrete information needs to go hand in hand with a recognition of how much they want emancipation, financial independence and self-determination:

"I would like to go to OIC Buea and learn how to cook well so I can get a job in a hotel or open my own restaurant."

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Underlying the broad focus on education – safe schools, vocational training, information about sexual and reproductive health and rights, campaigns, parental training and dialogue – adolescent girls emphasised the overall importance of peace: with peace incomes will improve, schools will open and opportunities emerge. Not too late, it is to be hoped, for the aspirations of this generation of adolescent girls to be realised.

The recommendations that follow, from Plan International, based on consultation with adolescent girls, are addressed to the Government of Cameroon, to United Nations member states and to humanitarian actors and donors. They must work together to promote peace, freedom from fear, access to education and empowerment, in particular for adolescent girls who are mothers, pregnant or married.

- **Support** genuine efforts for a peaceful solution to the crisis and commit to inclusive peacebuilding initiatives at all levels, that include the representation and active participation of adolescent girls and young women.
- **Declare and maintain** a ceasefire in NWSW Cameroon and ensure safe access to affected areas and populations in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.
- **Increase** efforts to reduce violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against adolescent girls: addressing the root causes through awareness raising with families and communities. Ensure quality SGBV response services are available and safely accessible to all adolescent girls and young women.
- **Reinforce** concrete measures to prevent attacks on educational facilities, students, and teachers recognising and addressing the gender-related dimensions of attacks on education.
- **Take** all necessary measures to address barriers to education for out of school adolescent girls and boys, in particular adolescent mothers and pregnant girls. Strengthen the capacities of community learning centres to provide safe, flexible and relevant non-formal learning opportunities, including life skills, comprehensive sexuality education, vocational training and accelerated education.
- **Address** the economic drivers of sexual exploitation, child marriage and child labour, by promoting food security and livelihoods for families, as well as vocational training, income generating activities and decent work for (older) adolescents and young mothers; empowering adolescents with life skills, information and access to services.

2

Source: Plan International report on adolescent girls on the North West and South West Region of Cameroon on conflicts and covid -19

APPENDIX 5: ATTESTATION FOR RESEARCH

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

PAIX-TRAVAIL-PATRIE

UNIVERSITÉ DE YAOUNDÉ I

FACULTE DES ARTS, LETTRES ET
SCIENCES HUMAINES

DEPARTEMENT D'HISTOIRE



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

PEACE-WORK-FATHERLAND

THE UNIVERSITY OF YAOUNDE I

FACULTY OF ARTS, LETTERS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Siège : Bâtiment Annexe FALSH-UYI, à côté AUF

ATTESTATION DE RECHERCHE

Je soussigné, professeur **Edouard BOKAGNE BETOBO**, Chef de Département d'Histoire de la Faculté des Arts, Lettres et Sciences Humaines de l'Université de Yaoundé I, atteste que l'étudiante **NDUMABI Yvette**, matricule **15R955**, est inscrite en Master II dans le dit Département, option Histoire des Relations Internationales. Elle mène, sous la direction du **Dr JABIRU MOHAMMADOU** (Chargé de Cours), un travail de recherche universitaire sur le thème : *«Plan International and Human Rights Violations in the South West Region of Cameroon (1996 - 2020)»*.

Nous la recommandons aux responsables des administrations, des Centres de documentations, d'Archives et toutes autres Institutions nationales ou internationales, en vue de lui faciliter la recherche.

En foi de quoi, la présente attestation lui est délivrée pour servir et valoir ce que de droit.

12 AOUT 2020

Fait à Yaoundé le.....



Le Chef de Département

Bokagne Betobo Edouard
Maître de Conférences

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2	Anong Slyvia Acha	38	Female	Seamstress	Ekona	13/07/2022
3	Aseh Lucas	52	Male	Accountant	Bomaka-Buea	12/07/2020
4	Ako Judith Bessong	27	Female	Hairdresser	Bomaka-Buea	12/07/2022
5	Anich Martha	48	Female	Farmer	Bomaka-Buea	12/07/2022
6	Auch Monica	90	Female	Farmer	Bomaka-Buea	12/07/2022
7	Ajabi Dania	35	Female	Farmer	Muna-Buea	14/07/2022
8	Ayugo Ernest	42	Male	Entrepreneur	Muyuka	15/07/2022
9	Ako Usher	42	Male	Farmer	Muyuka	15/07/2022
10	Ako Nelson	48	Male	Businessman	Muyuka	15/07/2022
11	Anogu James	23	Male	Farmer	Muyuka	15/07/2022
12	Aniga Vivine	48	Female	Farmer	Muyuka	15/07/2022
13	Aniga Valentine	39	Male	Businessman	Muyuka	15/07/2022
14	Atuya Charles	60	Male	Businessman	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
15	Atuya Prica	52	Female	Businesswoman	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
16	Atuya Charles	60	Male	Businessman	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
17	Atuya Prica	52	Female	Businesswoman	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
18	Andong Austine	35	Male	Farmer	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
19	Andong Patient	80	Female	Farmer	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
20	Andong Lucas	75	Male	Farmer	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
21	Aba Busine	40	Male	Businessman	Mutengene	23/07/2022
22	Nkehmbeng Ernest	31	Male	Student	Buea	4/12/2020
23	Neba Lawrence Che	42	Male	Public Relation Communication Specialist of Plan International Cameroon	Yaounde	12/09/2020
24	Ngute Abia	55	Male	Magistrate	Yaounde	10/09/2020
25	Ngangnjoh Maimuna	35	Female	President of Let's Do It Cameroon	Yaounde	24/08/2020
26	Nkeh Mary	40	Female	Farmer	Ekona	13/07/2022
27	Nkuba Henry	40	Male	Businessman	Tiko	20/07/2022
28	Ngata Eliberth	65	Female	Businesswoman	Tiko	20/07/2022
29	Ngata Eylven	40	Female	Businesswoman	Tiko	20/07/2022
30	Nlongu Eliberth	49	Female	Entrepreneur	Muyuka	15/07/2022
31	Mama Rose	56	Female	Farmer	Muea-Buea	14/07/2022
32	Mukoko Mary	63	Female	Entrepreneur	Muna-Buea	14/07/2022
33	Mr Njome Ekeke Mathia	43	Male	The Regional Secretary of C.H.R.C,Buea S.W.R	Buea	21/07/2022
34	Chizie Andrew	94	Male	Farmer	Bomaka-Buea	12/07/2022

35	Chamango Blaise Aime	40	Male	Rapporteur of the C.H.R.C. S.W.R	Buea	21/07/2022
36	Enjawie Walters	51	Male	Businessman	Mautu-Muyuka	16/07/2022
37	Endumabi Ricky	39	Male	Businessman	Buea	19/07/2022
38	Emmanuel Nchia	43	male	UN Human Rights Accountant/ Volunteer	Limbe	26/07/2022
39	Meaka Queenta	25	Female	Hairdresser	Ekona	13/07/2022
40	Tetuh Milldnd	23	Female	Student	Bomaka-Buea	12/07/2022
41	Taku Veronica	44	Female	Farmer	Muyuka	15/07/2022
42	Tata Pamela	33	Male	Businesswoman	Buea	19/07/2022
43	Primus Fonkeng	43	Male	Associate Professor University of Buea	Buea	19/07/2022
44	Samfor Costand	29	Female	Farmer	Mutengene	23/07/2022
45	Samfor Glady	33	Female	Farmer	Mutengene	23/07/2022
46	Vufensi	43	Female	Entrepreneur	Ekona	13/07/2022
47	Wilson Kum	54	Male	Farmer	Muea-Buea	14/07/2022
48	Yuoufu Oumarou	31	Male	Human Rights Officer of C.H.R.C	Buea	21/07/2022

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