



**BIHNDUMLEM**  
**Humanitarian**  
Association of Peace and Hope

# BIHAPH 2023 YEARLY REPORT



FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023

## **INTRODUCTION**

BIHAPH executed 4 phases of 2 major projects and a couple of emergency humanitarian interventions in the course of the year. The two major projects were the CLFI-sponsored Peace project in Bamenda I, II and III and the GBV project sponsored by UNHCR in Wum and Bafmeng. BIHAPH also gave humanitarian assistance to some vulnerable persons and groups in Babanki, Menchum, and Mezam divisions. The organisation through her Hope Empowerment Centre trained more than 30 vulnerable girls and youths in tailoring and computer sciences, while needy children fed from the BIHAPH food scheme.

### **1. CFLI PEACE PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN BAMENDA I, II AND III**

BIHAPH used the first 3 months of the year to round up the CFLI Peace project in style. While community mobilisation, needs assessment and outreaches were carried out in the Mankon, Nkwen and Bamendankwe Fon palaces, the success story of a former referee from Bamendankwe who was abducted and beaten to near dead by separatist fighters stood out. His abductors demanded a ransom of 3 million francs forcing him to sell his land to raise the money. After his release, he could no longer take care of his family or send his children to school while relatives and friends left him on his own to die. While he was contemplating suicide, BIHAPH stepped in and he received PFA, money and domestic birds, equipment and feed to start life again.

Today he can take care of his family and feed his children with the money he makes from poetry.

The final activity of this project saw BIHAPH distribute farm kits and seeds to 10 CIGs in Bamenda I, II and III. The beneficiaries were overjoyed at the reception ceremony and have begun putting the equipment to work in a bid to reduce poverty; a major fallout of the crises in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon.

The second phase of the project kicked off in the second half of the year with the highlight being the trauma healing workshop organised for community leaders in Bamenda I, II and III. For three days, these leaders received healing from the traumatic experiences of the crisis in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. They were also trained to be healers in their various communities. One of the highlights of the training was the first hand testimony from survivors of the insurgences in Babanki. These women from Babanki went home healed, happier and refreshed after their traumatic experiences were countered by professional trauma healing techniques by facilitators.



Distribution of farm kits and seeds to CIGs in Bamenda I, II and III



Community mobilisation and needs assessment in Bamenda I, II and III



Donation to the referee



## 2. UNHCR GBV PROJECT IN WUM AND BAFMENG

BIHAPH from January to December 2023 successfully executed the third phase and fourth phases of the project, “Strengthening Community Response Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) In Wum Central and Bafmeng- Menchum Division.”

100 survivors of GBV received PSS and PFA and were effectively trained in Agriculture, Pastries, Tailoring, Marking and Décor. The survivors also received lessons in Citizenship, Entrepreneurship, Moral Instructions, sports and Menstrual Hygiene.

COMMUNITY	MAIN DOMAINS	ACTIVITY
Wum	Agriculture	Tilling applied organic manure and planting of maize and huckleberry. Transplanting the spices, watermelon and Irish potatoes Skills in spraying harvesting and sale
	Pastries	Baking of different cakes: Banana cake and plain cake with butter Mixing and frying of doughnuts chin-chin
	Decor	Decoration of chairs for official occasions. Finishing on table and chair décor Creating designs using the punching machine.
	Tailoring	Sewing of gowns , shirts, trousers, masks, caps etc.
	Marking	Snake and zigzag marking.
	Agriculture	Soil preparation. Preparing nurseries Weeding, watering and spraying of the nursery. Transplanting the spices Weeding and mulching Harvesting and sale

<b>Bafmeng</b>	Marking	Snake and zigzag marking
	Pastries	Making different kinds of cakes Frying of chin-chin Mixing and frying of puff rolls doughnuts
	Decor	Marking different stitches Making backrests Theory of interior decor Decoration of event venue, tables and chairs for official occasions and weddings.



Vocational Training in Wum and Bafmeng



The two phases of the project created and made use of strategic groups as follows:

- 2 Local Dialogue Structures representing the various structures of the community.
- 8 Gender clubs in schools in Wum and Bafmeng.
- 2 Male GBV Champions groups in Wum and Bafmeng.
- 2 groups of community health workers in Wum and Bafmeng.

They were trained and given the mandate to do restitution of the trainings. Together with the project team, the expected number of 8,000 persons were reached and effectively sensitised on the 6 types of GBV. BIHAPH also successfully celebrate the Day of the African Child and 16 days activism against GBV in Wum and Bafmeng, raising awareness on GBV, SEA and child protection. In addition to trainings and sensitisation, BIHAPH had a couple of Conference Case Managements, and follow up of the various structures.

#### Summary data for sensitization on GBV

month	No of groups	No. of men	No. of women	No. of boys	No. of girls	Total
January	5	46	87	23	47	203
February	12	236	337	112	149	834
March	14	297	476	251	395	1419
April	14	114	227	105	148	644
May	06	139	201	73	116	529
June	6	6	159	20	22	207
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>3,786</b>



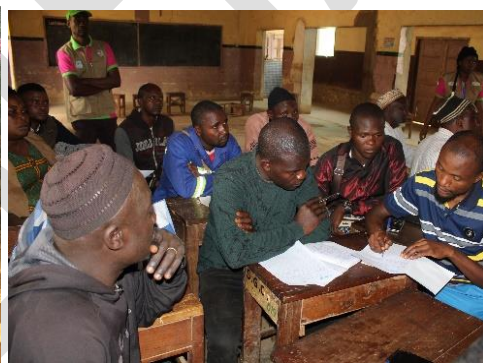
Sensitisation in Wum and Bafmeng



FGD with Fons, Queen Mothers and Notables in Wum and Bafmeng



Celebration of the Day of African Child in Wum



GBV Champions in Wum and Bafmeng



Gender Clubs in Wum and Bafmeng





Some Social and Cultural Groups in Wum and Bafmeng with changed constitutions



LDS members in Wum and Bafmeng



16 Days Activism in Wum and Bafmeng



Conference Case Management



Training of Health Workers in Wum and Bafmeng

BIHAPH staff in the course of the project had 3 training courses from UNHCR, 1 induction meeting and 2 trainings on the use of the kobocollect tool to collect data for cash assistance for shelter and protection.

At the end of the third phase of the project, BIHAPH received a multifunctional team from the United Nations. The team from the UN had a two-day evaluation and needs assessment with members of the community and left satisfied.



Capacity Building Workshops with UNHCR



UN Multifunctional team visit to Wum

Thanks to UNHCR over 500 households benefitted from cash for shelter and/or protection in the year 2023. The cash received by community members ranged from 49,000 - 102,000 Frs. Some of the beneficiaries have given feedback to BIHAPH reporting that the money was used for their children's school fees, feeding, WASH and to start up small businesses etc.

### **3. BIHAPH'S SPECIAL TRAINING OF 4 FULANI GIRLS IN WUM**

As a response to BIHAPH's appeal for support to vulnerable Fulani girls who are at risk of Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, BIHAPH was able to find a partner who has opted to train 4 Fulani girls in tailoring, pastries, soap and body lotion production. The 4 girls who are currently being trained are expected to receive start-up kits at the end of their training. Two of the selected girls who have not been consistent will be replaced in January if they fail to become consistent.



#### 4. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND RELIEF TO GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

BIHAPH and her partners reached out with humanitarian aid to a vulnerable IDP in Wum called Lilian. The 23-year-old and her 5 kids under her care lived in deplorable conditions. The house they lived in was porous and empty. They sat on stones and slept on the floor.

A video depicting her condition was shared with BIHAPH and immediate action was taken. Lilian and her household received 2 mattresses and a modern bed for a start. She and her household expressed profound gratitude to BIHAPH and her partners for the gifts.



Picture of house taken during needs assessment



BIHAPH Intervention

BIHAPH and her partners also brought relief items of mattresses, rice and laundry soap to IDPs from Big Babanki and Belo spread across Bamenda III. They fled because of escalating violence in the area following the invasion by security forces.

Many of them barely have a meal per day, with as many as 10 persons living in one house with a single bed, while the rest sleep on the cold hard floors.

A total of 12 households were assisted and 10 additional families were registered at the distribution site.

These families expressed profound gratitude to BIHAPH and partners for the relief which they say will go a long way to improve on their current state of being.



Happy IDPs receive relief items from BIHAPH staff

In a bid to encourage local women from Ketcha to return to their farms after brokering relative Peace between Fulani herdsmen and Aghem people, BIHAPH donated farm kits and seeds to them. Many of these local women have since returned to their farms.



Ketcha Women receive farm kits and seeds from BIHAPH CEO

## 5. BIHAPH FEEDING SCHEME

BIHAPH through her feeding scheme continued to feed needy children in Wum with over 12 children benefitting in the first half of the year. BIHAPH also did hospital visitations and made home supplies for some GBV survivors in Wum.



BIHAPH Feeding needy children

The BIHAPH Hope Empowerment Center launched in the first half of this year at one time accommodated 55 vulnerable girls and youths (30 in tailoring and 24 in computer studies). The center is meeting its objectives of training young girls and youths as a means of protecting them against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.



Inauguration of BIHEC



Trainees at BIHEC



Back to school Campaign 2023

## 8. SPECIAL TRAINING

BIHAPH organized a special supplementary training for rural girls/women in Wum and Bafmeng. More than 60 girls/women were trained on the production of pastries, body lotion and different types of soap.

The purpose of the training done by Grace Vision was to economically empower rural girls/women as a means to fight poverty which is a major driver of GBV in Wum and Bafmeng.



SPECIAL TRAINING IN WUM AND BAFMENG

## 9. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CARO AND FAMILY

BIHAPH had two humanitarian interventions in the lives of Caro and members of their family. The first one being food distribution with items such as rice, soya beans, and crayfish and the second the supply of medications for sickle cell, which is course and expected to run for 1 year thanks to the support of ASIPPCAM. Thanks to these interventions, the health of Caro who is a person living with sickle cell is at an all-time high, while the nutrition of her family has been improved.



Humanitarian intervention to Caro and family



## **10. BIHAPH CHRISTMAS PACKAGES TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN, QUEEN MOTHERS, AND TRADITIONAL RULERS**

30 Children under the BIHAPH feeding scheme have received brand new Christmas dresses and Christmas packages. This is to ensure that do not feel abandoned or inferior among their peers this Christmas. Two parents selected by a needs assessment went home with brand-new mobile phones.

50 Community leaders comprising of Queen mothers, Regents and Fons in Wum and Bafmeng and BIHAPH staff also returned home with symbolic packages comprising of Rice, Oil, Maggi, Tomatoes and salt, while in addition to this many of them also received financial token.



BIHAPH Celebrating Christmas with Vulnerable Children



BIHAPH celebrating Christmas with Queen Mothers and Traditional Rulers



BIHAPH celebrates Christmas with Staff

## 11. BIHAPH END OF YEAR MEETING

The management of BIHAPH has thanked all 25 BIHAPH project and non-project staff as well as the 7 Auxiliary staff of 2023 for their commitment, resilience and effectiveness in the despatch of their duties within the year. This was in an onsite/online end-of-year meeting recently in Bamenda. The top 3 best staff of the year went home with significant cash prizes and a certificate of recognition while every staff of 2023 was issued a certificate of service.



## **CHALLENGES**

- Poor roads between project sites in Wum and Bafmeng and high cost of transportation incurred by staff even when they travelled at the invitation of partners and the organization.
- More vulnerable persons in the community than BIHAPH projects can contain.
- Security concerns are marked by constant lockdowns imposed by separatists.
- The feeding scheme was not consistent due to a lack of Funds.
- Two staff prematurely left the team disgruntled before the end of phase 3 of the project.
- Staff are not very comfortable in the house that they are paying for in Wum, due to lack of amenities like water, solar and modern toilets. The house is also overcrowded and sometimes uninspirational since staff have to work all day together and return to see the same faces.
- Some BIHAPH volunteers are making work difficult for staff by using BIHAPH paid services for free and without the knowledge of the staff in charge.
- Delayed payment of staff salary due to delay from partners has also been a major challenge to staff who went for over 3 months without a salary.
- The relationship between BIHAPH and the Wum council has become very parasitic which is going a long way to slow down the work at BIHEC due to several debts.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Source for more areas of funding and partnerships to accommodate more survivors and vulnerable persons.
- Source for more funds for the BIHAPH feeding scheme.
- Only deal with the Wum council on a payment-before-service basis.
- The housing situation of staff should be looked into.

## **CONCLUSION**

The year 2023 was full of activities that produced outstanding results. BIHAPH successfully managed 4 phases of 2 projects i.e. CFLI Peace Project and the UNHCR GBV Project. BIHAPH had other humanitarian interventions that either provided shelter or protection to the most vulnerable. Judging by the results, it is fair to say 2023 was a successful year.