



***Supporting
Orphans
and
Vulnerable
children:
Victims of
War in the
Anglophone
Cameroon
Region,
August
2021***

Reverend Sister
Immaculate Ndikefor
(FLP) Congregation
of Our Lady of the
Poor & Dr Carolyne
Tah, Agape Self
Sufficiency UK

AGAPE SELF SUFFICIENCY FOUNDATION CAMEROON REPORT

<http://agapeselfsufficiency.org/> Contact us info@agapeselfsufficiency.org

Table of Contents

1. Acknowledgement	2
2. Executive Summary	3
2.1. Examples of desperate cases awaiting support.	3
2.2. How do we raise funds?	6
2.3. Who is managing the programme?.....	6
2.4. How do we monitor and evaluate the programme?	6
2.5. How do we account for spend/report to supporters?	6
3. Introduction	7
4. Field visits	7
5. Setting up legal structures to support desperate children	10
6. Achievements	11
7. Key challenges	11
8. Immediate Needs	11
9. Next steps	11
10. Fundraising Target for 2021/22	12
10.1 Income Generation	12
10.2. Fundraising Activities	12
11. Risk Assessment	13
12. Monitoring and Evaluation	13

1. Acknowledgement

Agape Self Sufficiency UK wishes to acknowledge the contributions of partners and all staff in the field who have participated in the delivery of this programme.

Reverend Sister Immaculate Ndikefor, FLP, Congregation of the Franciscans of Our Lady of the Poor for the delivery of this programme on the ground and preparation of technical and financial report.

All donors in the UK, USA and Cameroon for their continuous support to this project. Special thanks go the following:

Sis Zou Evelyne Che (FLP) of the Franciscan congregation, Regional delegate Superior Cameroon region for releasing Sis Immaculate for service to orphans and abandoned children in Cameroon, Fathers Benedict and Emmanuel for their support and guidance, Pastor Nico for his support on the ground, Lekong Oguntade, Unice Mbuamuh, Louisa Nkohkoh, Mirabel Ade, John Forya, Gillian Fomba, Rose Formiyan, Portia Bediako, Stars Fuondjing, Innocent and Grace Fuhngwa, Divine Ndumu, Evelyne Tah-Oguntade, Mah Tah, Benny Tah, Bryan Tah and Joe Tah for their relentless support and standing orders to support systematic planning.

Above all I give thanks to the Almighty God, King of glory Jesus Christ our Saviour and the Holy Spirit for making this possible by opening the door of opportunity and causing people to volunteer their skills and resources to support orphans and abandoned children.

2. Executive Summary

The mission of Agape Self Sufficiency (ASSUF) is to advance the independence and productivity of displaced vulnerable dependent persons by showing unconditional practical love to all groups and empowering them with tools to fend for themselves. The name "Agape Self Sufficiency" underlines these key principles.

This report documents the project outline of Agape Self Sufficiency (ASSUF) 2020/21 activities, progress to date and future project plans.

2.1. Our achievements

Following visits to 14 villages in the anglophone war-torn areas in Cameroon to assess needs, ASSUF raised a total of £11,000 from friends and families to support orphans and vulnerable children who lost their parents during the war in the anglophone regions in Cameroon.

The Rev sister implementing this project on the ground was funded to visit the following remote villages to see the lives of orphans on the ground so that genuine cases in need can be identified for support. Rev Sister Immaculate visited **Banso, Santa Mbei, Awing, Bafut, Befang, Wum, Weh, Kumfutu, Esu, Mbvren, Romajaay, Bamkikaay, Mbohntong, Mbam Tasai, Mbam Ndzevru**. The level of need in these villages was huge. The rev sister used the entry criteria form provided by ASSUF to identify the most desperate cases for intervention.

A total of 92 vulnerable, abandoned and very poor children were identified and supported to attend school and improve their prospects in life. All supported children passed their examinations even though most of them missed the first term in school. ASSUF started this initiative in January 2020. We are now raising funds to pay fees for next year and if possible, support more orphans.

2.2 Key challenges

Apart from limited resources, other challenges included reluctance to accept orphans as tenants in houses, sufficient resources to provide supplementary education for children who have not gone to school for 4 years + to catch up with others in class, large scale farmland and good agricultural tools not available and managing orphans with challenging behaviour.

Above all, walking away from desperate children seeking help because of lack of resources is the most challenging part of this project.

2.2.1 Examples of desperate cases awaiting support

We have very limited resources, so we are not able to support all the cases identified. Examples of cases awaiting help are outlined below.

Case 1



Iduo Mua born into a family of 8 children has lost both parents. They were all left to fend for themselves. Desperate, abandoned and highly motivated to study and get out of this misery, she started looking for anything to do to survive. She had an accident, burned by hot oil, while trying to fry puff balls which she thought she could sell to make a living. None of her siblings is viable enough to take care of them. She has been driven for fee in the school where she was. In two years, she has moved in three schools since she would be driven for fee everywhere. Her elder sister became pregnant and delivered but without proper care, the baby passed away.

Case 2



Bern Abel Kum, 15 years, desperate abandoned youth living in this home. In 2017, he was in form 1 in GTHS Weh when his dad & mum were tied at home, dragged together to the bush and shot dead. Their main home got burnt, just opposite this dilapidated house where he's been living. The cross in the picture stands over his father and mums' graves. He is too sad, quiet and depressed to express himself. He is not able to go to school as he cannot afford the fees and books.

Case 3



These are all orphans who heard the Reverend sister was in their village to identify orphans who need help. They are waiting to see sister and ask for help. They have no parent. What's sad with this group is that the little girl with bare feet & dark pullover (14 years) is presently 4 months' pregnant. A guy in the neighbourhood has been abusing her. She desperately needs care & a follow up health wise to enable her to deliver the baby. She hasn't even been aware of her condition.

Case 4

Ndoh Dieu Voluntia Eghem and Ndoh Odette Ekei are siblings. They come from one of the villages of Wum known as Ngouh which is basically characterised by our poor local farming. They lost their parents three years ago when the Fulanis invaded the area in the night and killed a good number of villagers and equally burned houses. Their parents were all killed. The Fulanis intend to occupy the entire area for their animals. Both children have attempted to attend primary and secondary school but with outstanding fees they cannot carry on.

Case 5



Meh Thierry 15 years, Meh Brandon 14 years, orphans living with their grandparents. They saw their house burnt to Ashes with their own parents inside in 2019. Their grand mum is pleading with the Reverend sister the second in the picture from the left to at least take the younger of the two orphans and help. The grand parents in the picture do not have the resources to send the children to school.

2.3 How do we raise funds?

We are currently funded through voluntary one off/regular donations from friends and family. Our fund-raising target to cover school fees, move children from locations without schools to safe location with schools, medical bills and feeding is estimated to be around £21000. We are constantly looking for fundraising support to help more children on the list. We need to raise enough money to sponsor two groups of children – **group 1 children living in villages without schools and require accommodation in areas with school to receive education; group 2 children living in areas with functioning schools but cannot afford fees.** More details on income and expenditure can be found in the full report.

2.3.1 Using Agriculture to support Orphans

A total of £1500 was raised by ASSUF to implement agricultural projects to support the running of the orphanage. The pictures below from the orphanage demonstrates current projects. Table birds provide food and resources to buy other food products that we do not cultivate. We are now raising more funds to expand the projects and support the programme to become self-sufficient.



2.4. Who is managing the programme?

ASSUF is managed by a group of volunteers in the UK and implemented on the ground by Rev sister Immaculate from the Franciscan congregation dedicated to the poor. Sr Immaculate is supported by other volunteers including medical doctors, Pastor and Priests.

2.5. How do we monitor and evaluate the programme?

ASSUF is committed to delivering a data driven service. Our evaluation plan is proportionate to the limited resources available. We currently collect very detailed monitoring data on demographic profile, needs, aspirations, gaps, spend etc at the start of the intervention and at regular monthly intervals to assess progress and identify challenges/lessons/good practice for future planning. This data is supplemented with qualitative data obtained through feedback and focus group sessions to triangulate findings and provide context. We hope to carry out a longitudinal study to assess sustainability of outcomes when we have more funding.

2.6. How do we account for spend/report to supporters?

ASSUF is regular audited by an external auditor. Monitoring and reporting of income, expenses and overall cash flow is key to the successful running of this programme. Monthly reports on income/spend/plans are presented to the project board for evaluation and approval. Accounts are audited for publication on the website below.

<http://agapeselfsufficiency.org/>.

A more detailed report is available on request.

3. Introduction

The Core objects of the Agape Self Sufficiency are:

- 1 To prevent or relief poverty or financial hardship specifically but not excluded in Nigeria and Cameroon.
- 2 To assist in the provision of education, training and healthcare projects
- 3 To support individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self sufficient

Context

Within the framework of supporting the victims and families of the current Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, Agape Self Sufficiency (ASSUF) Foundation Cameroon embarked their efforts and funds in the education and empowerment of orphans, desperate, underprivileged children in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. The vision of ASSUF Foundation Cameroon is to help the vulnerable and displaced persons to regain their dignity and independence thus enabling them to become autonomous and self-sufficient.

ASSUF's vision is also part of the Charism of the Franciscans and at the centre of the Charism of all the followers of Christ, whose option and privilege are for the poorest of the poor. Sis Zou Evelyne Che (FLP) Regional delegate Superior Cameroon Franciscan Congregation was pleased to release Sis Immaculate for service to orphans and abandoned children in Cameroon. Sis Immaculate's passion for helping the poor, patience and diligence in managing the limited available funds has been key to realising the success of this programme on the ground in Cameroon.

4. Field visits

The projects sponsored by ASSUF Foundation during the academic year 2020 – 2021 began in November 2020 with the allocation of funds to reverend Sister Immaculate from the Franciscan congregation in Cameroon to visit remote villages in war affected areas to identify abandoned children with special attention paid to orphans whose parents were killed during the war. The goal has been to reach out to orphans, desperate, vulnerable kids in the interior villages, who have been deprived from schooling for the past four years due to the crisis. Children in remote villages will experience multiple disadvantages and their invisibility exposes them to more poverty, hunger, illiteracy and therefore more likely to join criminal gangs for survival.

The Reverend sister travelled to very 14 remote villages to locate these hidden victims of war and poverty as indicated in the table below.

Villages Visited

Division	Date	Villages visited	Remarks
Nezam	1 st - 7 th December 2020	Santa Mbei Awing Bafut	Many desperate children A few orphans schooling in Catholic schools, who are sponsored by some sisters but many left unattended due to lack of resources.
Menchum	8 th - 12 th December 2020	Befang Wum Weh Kumfutu Esu	Found many orphans who are displaced from neighboring villages in St. Martin de Porres Catholic School Wum. They could not afford a pencil nor fees. The Parish / School Manager, Fr Benedict Ndikum keeps them in the school, expecting help from benefactors.
Bui	15 th - 20 th December 2020	Mbvren Romajaay Bamkikaay Mbohntong Mbam Tasai Mbam Ndzevru	Bui division is the most critical, separatists do not allow schools to operate. This has led to mass displacement of children to Bamenda and beyond, where they could study safely, for parents who could afford the means. Many parents can not afford to move their children. Children are now 4 to 5 years behind in education. Those without parents are most vulnerable and desperate.



Kids from villages in Bui Division



Kumfutu village in Menchum



Rev sister, Head teacher and children in need

5. Setting up legal structures to support desperate children

From the identification of the target group, the next comprised setting up of social structures such as ASSUF Orphanage and ASSUF NGO. Having a home branch for these social structures is essential to facilitate charitable works with some legal backing on ground zero. We created Agape Self-Sufficiency Common Initiative Group (ASSUF C.I.G) for farming of foodstuffs at largescale production, in beans, maize, groundnuts, sweet potatoes to support the work of the orphanage. These projects comprise:

- ☞ Poultry Farming
- ☞ Rabbits Rearing
- ☞ Home gardening for green spices, vegetables
- ☞ Farming 2 Acres of Land to cultivate food crops

Table birds, Maize, sweet potatoes



Garden Eggs, Lettuce, Cabbage, Tomatoes



6. Achievements

- In 2020/21 raised a total of **£11,000** excluding volunteer time and expert support
- Supported 78 needy children in the war zone in Cameroon by raising money to pay school fees in Catholic school Kumfutu and Government school Zongefu in Wum
- Identified and sponsored a reverend sister to visit villages in war torn areas and locate desperate orphans for support
- Located 14 orphans and developed a programme of support that includes provision of education, moral support and accommodation
- Raised funds to support the payment of 1 year rent to start an orphanage that can accommodate more orphans
- Secured ongoing donations from six volunteers who have set up standing orders to support the running of the orphanage.

7. Key challenges

- Difficulties relating to upfront payment of 1 year rent in Cameroon
- Accommodation Providers reluctant to accept many children in their houses as this may lead to wear and tear
- Challenges in raising sustainable funds to support the upkeep and education of orphans
- Difficulties relating to recruitment of a volunteer to run the resource centre to facilitate training of refugees in ICT
- Locating genuine cases. Some relatives deprive genuine orphans from ASSUF Orphanage and offer their own children disguised as the orphan
- Dealing with vulnerable Kids with no prior experience of discipline and lots of challenging behavioral issues
- Lack of large-scale farm land for crop cultivation and sustainable projects
- Completion of referral forms with families and age limits in the current war context
- Lack of funds to meet the needs of more children on queue
- Bureaucratic challenges and unscrupulous opportunists
- First experience for Rev Sister, Priest and Agape Self Sufficiency with many lessons

8. Immediate Needs

- Consistent support to ensure 1 year upfront rent available, fees, medical support and food not interrupted
- School fees to support children at home where possible/those in orphanage
- Additional support for children who have missed school for a long time
- An office equipped with office equipment such as laptop, printer, photocopier, file folder t
- Functional devices for stand-by power supply such as a generator or solar boards. Ensure maintenance & care of the devices, supply in fuel and lubricants
- Agricultural equipment: wheelbarrow, 15-litre sprayer and kitchen equipment: Moulinet & hand grinding machine

9. Next steps

- Prepare for the in-take of genuine orphans

- Budget for poultry farming project
- Prepare the home to welcome those coming in
- Budgeting for the incoming group

10. Fundraising Target for 2021/22

ASSUF's fund raising target for next year is 21k to cover the items below.

- 20 children from villages without schools living in the orphanage
- 100 children outside in the Orphanage where they can access schools

Item	Cost Estimate CFA	Pounds
Accommodation/bills/household items	2, 500,000	3,333.3
Generator/panels/bulbs	1.200,000	1,600
Feeding	1.300,000	1,733.3
Medicals	1,100,000	1,466.7
Education		
School fees, PTA fees, books	500,000	666.67
Equipment Technical school	650,000	866.67
Clothing and uniform	550,000	733.3
Transportation	200,000	266.67
School fees, books and technical support for poor children in war torn areas who can not afford to pay for education	1.600,000	2,105.27
Sustainability Projects		
Technical equipment /set up for those taking professional courses	1.150,000	1,734.3
Farming to support sustainability	300,000	394.7
Poultry project including treatment &feeding	600,000	800.00
Rabbits project including treatment and feeding	500,000	658.00
Farming	300,000	400.00
Allowance for sis + transport	850,000	1,118.42
Sub Total	13,300,000	17,877.3
Unbudgeted/unforeseen	2.300,000	3,066.6
Total	15,600,000	20,943.9

10.1 Income Generation

The main source of income generation is from friends, family, fundraising events, village groups, meeting associations, friendship groups, and WhatsApp groups

10.2. Fundraising Activities

The charity relies solely on contributions from its members and voluntary contributions. The charity does not employ any professional fundraising bodies.

11. Risk Assessment

The Trustees consider the key operational, financial and strategic risks that may have a bearing on the activities of the charity. Suitable management information is available to the Trustees on a regular basis to monitor these risks and allow any mitigating action to be taken to address them.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

ASSUF is committed to delivering data driven service. One of the main tasks of the reverence sister is to collect very detailed data on all new cases – background, profile, previous education, skills, interests, challenges, medical situation etc to inform planning and future assessments.

Data collected at the entry level of all participants include demographic characteristics, skills, gaps, aspirations and social background. This will provide benchmarks for assessing progress every 6 months and will help us monitor and evaluate the medium to long term outcomes for project participants.

Data collection methods include:

- regular collection of monitoring data on profile, needs, input, output and outcome;
- feedback sessions;
- focus group discussions;
- observations; and
- data triangulation to develop a more holistic understanding of outcomes and challenges for service planning/ dissemination of good practice and lessons.

Our monitoring and evaluation plan is practical and proportionate to the resources available to this project. When resources allow, longitudinal studies will be undertaken to assess the long- term impact of this programme

<http://agapeselfsufficiency.org/> Contact us info@agapeselfsufficiency.org