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2010 IN SHUMAS CAMEROON: AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the course of the year 2010, SHUMAS through its programmes and projects initiated and executed several sustainable development activities in the North West and West Regions of Cameroon. Her key achievements can be summarized as follows:

- In partnership with Building Schools for Africa (UK) SHUMAS constructed 50 classrooms and 11 toilets in 13 village schools in Bui, Donga Mantung, Ngoketunjia, Mezam and Noun Division.
- 3 communities, Jem/ Veka’akui, Kouroum II and Baraki benefited from portable water through SHUMAS’ assistance in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Canada and Bafoussam.
- Significant boost in its renewable energy sector particularly at the Integrated Organic Farm in Kumbo, culminating in the introduction of solar energy, increasing the stability of clean energy supply in the center.
- Significant increase in collaboration, participation and networking with national and international partners such as Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) and German Development Service (DED).
- Training of rural poor in short and long center and village based courses on sustainable agriculture and renewable energy.
- Organization of a thanksgiving mass at its Head Office in August to celebrate its achievements with friends and well wishers.
- Kick off an Organizational Development (OD) process aimed at assessing SHUMAS’ strengths and weaknesses and making relevant suggestion for future improvements.
- Increased publicity of SHUMAS’ activities through local and national media.
- New structures have been built at our Biofarm such as the silage, the big and small dip for big and small ruminants, the staff quarters, additional guest houses, and a potatoes barn.
- 50 children were sponsored from primary to university level.
- 42 Women groups from poor rural communities in the North West and West Regions of Cameroon received loans at very low interest rates.
- 27 persons with disabilities are currently undergoing the second year of their training at our Vocational Rehabilitation Centre.
- SHUMAS received 2 students on internship from BUST (Bamenda University of Science and Technology) 3 students from the Higher Teachers’ Training Institution, Bambili, 2 Masters students from the university of Yaounde I, 1 student from National Polytechnic Bambui and 1 from the University of Buea.

Her weaknesses or difficulties were mainly:

- The constant difficulty to meet with management and running costs for the organization;
- The inability of some stakeholders to meet with locally agreed contributions especially in the schools construction projects due to high level of poverty.

For the future, SHUMAS intends to consolidate its strengths, address its weaknesses as much as possible and improve on new partnerships for sustainable development.
Editorial

Contributing Towards the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals in Cameroon

The United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP (UN Development Programme) Resident Representative in the Cameroon, Thierry Mertens, once mentioned that Cameroon could do better. Last year the Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Louis Paul Motaze indicated that for government, growth passes through sustainable development. Even though by all indications, Cameroon may not attain all the eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015, it is worth acknowledging Cameroon Government’s efforts towards attaining some of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 especially in the domains of education, women empowerment and agriculture. All the efforts of SHUMAS Cameroon are geared towards supporting government in attaining these goals in particular, and the well being of its citizens in general.

Access to primary school has improved, partly due to the government’s decision to eliminate fees in public school fees. In spite of this, primary school completion rate has remained low approximately 56%, indicating that only one out of two children entering primary school manages to successfully complete the cycle because of high rates of repetition (25%) and drop-out. Also, about 60% of students who complete primary school make a successful transition to secondary education. To this end, SHUMAS Cameroon through its scholarship and school construction programs, seeks to enable such children undertake a complete and effective educational cycle be it primary, secondary or university. This explains why over 500 underprivileged children have been sponsored by SHUMAS Cameroon since inception. Also, facilitating a conducive and comfortable learning and teaching environment is very important towards the attainment of proper education in Cameroon.

20 to 30 years ago, you could barely have one secondary school in one administrative Division, but today, the Government of Cameroon, conscious of the importance of education has embarked on the creation of at least a secondary school in all sub Divisional unit. In the case of primary education, at least there is at least one in almost all villages in the country and education is free at least as concerns the tuition in public schools. A lot of effort too is seen in many other areas. However at the level of infrastructure, it seems to be a big issue owing to the fact that Cameroon is one of the low resourced countries as many others in the south of the Sahara.

The government of Cameroon conscious of this has created an enabling environment through her policy of liberalization and democratization that has enhanced creation of NGOs to support government action. It is in this light that SHUMAS is on the accelerator to support government action from diverse angles toward the attainment of MDGs and the Growth and Employment and strategic Paper (GESP)

Sanitation system seems to have had little attention in many areas even in urban areas. Waste and sewage treatment and recycle techniques are non existent. These explain why several cases of sickness are recorded in this region particularly in the rural areas. Recently, Cameroon was stroke by the cholera epidemic that took away hundreds of lives. Even though the North West Region has not yet recorded any case of cholera, there is a probability that if nothing is done fast, this epidemic might reach the region and the consequence will be disastrous. SHUMAS has been doing a lot over the years to ensure that, poor rural communities stay free from water borne diseases.
Providing portable water to such communities has been one of our major activities. Many communities have potable water today thanks to SHUMAS Cameroon and many village schools have also been provided potable water thanks to our intervention.

The Declaration of the National Population Policy involves the responsibility of individuals and couples to guarantee, on the basis of their means, the future well being of any child they decide to have. This also involves the responsibility of the state and every citizen, with regards to the balanced development of the family, community, nation and humanity as a whole. As a development NGO, we consider ourselves committed to poor rural communities and persons in need. To this end, we have been able to execute and still continue to execute our projects aimed at fighting poverty in a participatory manner in underprivileged communities in Cameroon.

SHUMAS in the next couple of years shall continue to place more emphases on climate smart resilient agriculture that would not only guarantee food security but would go a long way to improve livelihoods while at the same time contributing to address the problems associated with climate change.

While many Countries are less likely to attain up to 20% of MDGs by 2015, Cameroon has set up an ambitious 2035 vision that is expected to transform Cameroon to an Emerging Economy by 2035, thanks to the GESP. SHUMAS more than ever before is proud to be part of this great vision both as permanent member of the Regional follow-up and technical committees for North West Region of the GESP and will leave no stone unturned to continue working in partnership with the Government of Cameroon. We are also committed to help many Development agencies, Local councils, church development organizations, VDOs etc to march unstopped towards this greater vision.

Stephen Njodzeka Ndzerem
(General coordinator)
SHUMAS-Cameroon
1.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION OF SHUMAS CAMEROON

SHUMAS is a non profit development NGO, with its Head office located at Nkwen Bamenda. The goal of the organization is to improve lives, reduce poverty and empower people in an integrated and sustainable manner. The organization’s scope of operation is Cameroon and its target is the rural population and the urban poor. Started in 1993 as an informal initiative and legalized in 1997, the organization has and continues to tackle development issues / needs in Cameroon.

The participative approach adopted by SHUMAS has yielded and continues to yield great positive results in the complex multi-problem context within which it operates.

Purposed to, and practically obliged to promote development in its multidimensionality, SHUMAS focus in integrated sustainable rural development. To achieve this SHUMAS has a series of programs which enable it reach its target group through Education, Social welfare, Environmental Protection and Management, Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture and Women Empowerment.

More information on the organization can be obtained directly from its contacts or from its website (www.shumas-cameroon.org)

2.0 PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN 2010

2.1 IMPACTING EDUCATION

Education is a very vital instrument for the development and growth of every individual and community. It is true enough that others have succeeded before in some domains without basic education, but it can also be proven that these successes would have been perfected had some education been acquired. Primary education constitutes the foundation of an academic cycle. For nations to create a dynamic workforce and well-informed citizens able to compete and cooperate globally they should be willing and ready to open more school doors to the children for eventual economic and social prosperity. In 2010 SHUMAS through its educational programme has contributed considerably towards enabling the government of Cameroon achieve goal 2 of the UN Millennium Development Goals that aims to ensure universal primary education for children everywhere, boys and girls alike, to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Since the start of this program in 2003, SHUMAS has built over 32 toilets, 5 offices and over 400 modern classrooms equipped with more than 739 benches, 84 tables and 84 chairs in more than 50 Government, Catholic, Islamic, Presbyterian and Baptist village schools in the North, North West and West region of Cameroon. In 2010 SHUMAS in collaboration with its funding partner Building Schools for Africa (UK) constructed 13 dilapidating school buildings in the North West and West Regions:

1) I.P.S Vekovi, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 3 classrooms, 1 toilet, 27 benches, 3 teachers tables, 3 teachers chairs
provided **portable drinking water**, and a water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands,

2) C.B.C Bamdzeng, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 6 classrooms, 01 head teacher office, 1 toilet, 40 benches, 6 tables, 6 chairs and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

3) C.S Dzeng, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 7 classrooms, 01 head teacher office 1 toilet and 60 benches, 6 chairs, 6 tables, and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

4) I.P.S Bamali, Ngoketunjia Division, North West Region: refurbishing of 3 classrooms, donated 40 text books and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

5) C.S Mali, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 2 classrooms.

6) G.S Nkartsen, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 3 classrooms, 1 toilet and 27 benches, 3 tables, 3 chairs, and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

7) G.S Nseh Makop, Donga Mantung Division, North West Region: construction of 3 classrooms, 1 toilet, 27 benches, 3 tables, 3 chairs, 80 text books and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

8) I.P.S Dzeng, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 6 classrooms, 1 toilet, 1 office 40 benches, 6 teacher’s tables, 6 teacher’s chair, and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

9) G.S Mambain, Noun Division, West region construction of 3 classrooms, 1 toilet a well, 3 tables, 3 chairs, 27 benches provided portable drinking water.

10) G.S Ngali, Mezam Division, North West Region: construction of 3 classrooms, 1 toilet, 3 chairs, 3 tables and 27 benches.

11) G.T.C Mbah, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 3 classrooms, 1 toilet, 30 benches, 3 chairs, 3 tables and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

12) C.B.C Bamessing, Ngoketunjia Division, North West Region: construction of 3 classrooms, 27 benches, 3 tables and 3 chairs, 40 text books, and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.

13) I.P.S Bamdzeng, Bui Division, North West Region: construction of 6 classrooms, 1 toilet, 40 benches, 6 tables, 6 chairs and a mini water tank attached to the toilet for washing hands.
C.B.C Bamessing: Before

G.S Mambain: Before

I.P.S Vekovi: Before

I.P.S Dzeng: Before

After
C.S Dzeng: Before

G.T.C Mbah: Before

G.S Ngali: Before

G.S Nseh Makop: Before
As a sustainability strategy, SHUMAS assisted women groups with micro credits in all communities where the school was constructed as a motivation, to enable them maintain the structures.

SHUMAS has instituted the school environmental project in 12 out of the 13 newly constructed village schools. SHUMAS distributed 25 hoes, 25 lances, 5 watering canes and seeds to these schools to start up fully with the school gardening project, with the aim to inculcate in pupils the values and techniques of environmental management like tree planting and sustainable agriculture techniques. Proceeds from the farm will be used in employing more teachers or to buy school needs.

Still in the domain of education, SHUMAS awarded 50 scholarships to vulnerable and poor children from the primary to the university level.

**Difficulties Encountered in the School Construction Programme**

- Community inability to meet up with their own local contribution towards the construction of the school building on time. Most of these communities are very poor. Providing their own portion of building materials is usually very difficult for them. As a result, SHUMAS was forced to suspend some projects for a while until such communities are able to provide the required materials. Some communities are replaced with those which were able to acquire and assemble these local materials at the construction site.
Most of the communities are located in far off areas. The roads leading to these communities are in a deplorable state and all most impossible to use especially during the rainy season. Carrying out feasibility studies; monitoring and evaluation visits; and transporting building materials to the various communities is not an easy task. Usually when the roads are too bad especially during rainy season, SHUMAS is forced to wait until the dry season before supplying materials to these communities.

Usually, SHUMAS has so many school construction applications every year from several needy rural communities across the country. Due to our limited resources, it is practically impossible to assist a considerable number of these schools. In this wise SHUMAS could only assist 13 this year out of the 100 applications deposited at the Head Office.

**Future Plans of the Educational Programme**

1) For the year 2011 SHUMAS will be constructing a number of classrooms in village schools in the Northwest, Southwest and Northern Regions.

1) G.S Buh. Bui Division, North west Region  
2) Saint Joseph’s Catholic Comprehensive College, Lassin. Bui Division, North west Region  
3) C.S Idenau, Limbe Sub Division, South West Region.  
4) Ecole Publique de Ndewgava, Mogode, Extreme North Region  
5) L’école Catholique Maryo Darle, Adamawa Region  
6) P.S Bambui, Tubah Sub Division, North west Region  
7) Ecole Catholique Abang, Mvila Division, South Region  
8) Ecole Publique Ndengue, Mvila Division, South Region  
9) C.E.S Ebolowa, Mvila Division, South region  
10) Ecole Publique Egomba, Mvila Division, South Region  
11) Ecole Publique Zamakoe, Nyong et So’o Division, Center Region  
12) GTC Jakiri, Jakiri Sub Division, Bui Division, North west Region  
13) G.S. Ber, Jakiri Sub Division, Bui Division, North west Region  
14) G.S. Group II Nseh, Nkum Sub Division, Bui Division, North west Region  
15) G.N.S. Nseh, Nkum Sub Division, Bui Division, North west Region

2) We will be reaching out to more individual sponsors in the hope of sponsoring 60 children and more in 2011.

This year, Educational programme benefited from the assistance and collaboration of its partner, Building Schools for Africa (UK) to raise funds for all 13 village schools. This organization was represented by the chairlady Marianne Johnson who was in Cameroon at the end of the year to hand over these projects to the communities. It equally benefited from the partnership of several individuals who worked with SHUMAS Cameroon as
international volunteers in sponsoring a good number of hardworking Cameroonian children from very poor homes.

2.2 IMPACTING WATER, HEALTH AND SANITATION

Water is an important source for livelihood. Man needs water for almost 80% of his activities. Cameroon is blessed with abundant water, from sources like streams, rivers, springs, rain, lakes and from the ocean. The government of Cameroon has done much to assure portable water in Cameroon. But unfortunately the rural population which constitutes over 60% of the total population benefits very little from this effort. Access to potable water is one of the major targets of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper. It is hoped that the rate of access to potable water should be increased from 50% to 75% by 203. This will mean huge investments in order to curb existing quality deficiencies and improve storage and treatment capacities. In this domain SHUMAS has been contributing tremendously towards realizing this vision by 2035. Through the water, health and sanitation programme SHUMAS aims at improving rural access to portable water. This specifically entails; providing clean portable water in at least 25 rural communities of Cameroon by the end of 2011; ensuring good management of the water and Building sufficient stand taps as needed by the community.

Since 2008 SHUMAS have realized: 9 communities water projects under the support of 3 –H Water Projects of Canadian Rotary club International. These include inter-alia:

▪ Kongir community water supply project (phase one).
▪ Tonguh community water supply project (phase one).
▪ Tobin New lay out community water point.
▪ Sarkong community water project. (phase one).
▪ Ngulu community water supply project. (phase one).
▪ Bamdzeng (Fulani community/BIOFARM) water supply. (phase one).
▪ Jem / Veka-akui community water project (phase 1).
▪ Kourom II community water project phase I.
▪ Baraki community water supply project phase I.

During the year 2010, SHUMAS Cameroon provided portable water to 3 rural communities; Jem/ Veka’akui (1 stand tap, 1 collection chamber and 1.25km of pipeline net work) , Kourome II (2 stand taps, 1.3km of pipe line net work) and Baraki (1 tap, 1.7km of pipeline net work) through PHASE II of the ROTARY 3H 63360 project.

Construction of the storage tank at the villages of Sarkong and Kongir is currently going on. The will be completed in January 2011.
A) Community Water Supply:

Kouroum II Community, Noun Division, West Region

Baraki Community, Donga Mantung Division, North West Region

Jem/Veka’akui Communities, Bui Division, North West Region

B) Schools Water Supply

As an addition to the activities of the SHUMAS Educational Programme, SHUMAS supplies water to most of the schools it had constructed and is to construct. In 2010, SHUMAS provided water to two village schools in the West and North West Region:

✓ G.S Mambain (a well)
✓ G.S Mbande (a well)
✓ C.S Bamali (school tap) Ngoketunjia Division N.W Region: 2009
✓ G.S Boju Njap (school tap) Donga Mantung Division N.W Region: 2009
✓ G.S Achialam (school tap) Boyo Division N.W Region: 2009
✓ G.S Njinikejem (school tap) Boyo Division, N.W Region: 2009
✓ I.P.S Bamali (school tap) Njoketunjia Division, N.W Region: 2009
✓ G.S Nkanchi (school tap) Donga Mantung Division, N.W Region: 2009
✓ G.S. Mbande (school well) Bui Division, N.W Region: 2010

❖ More than 15 schools have access to good drinking water.
❖ Over 30 village schools constructed by SHUMAS have good toilet facilities and are currently using it.

SHUMAS has equally provided water tanks to encourage the washing of hands after using the toilet. With the recent cholera epidemic in Cameroon, proper sanitation in our schools is very important and obligatory. In this wise, SHUMAS found it imperative to ensure that all the schools constructed by SHUMAS do not face such health calamities. These children in turn, teach their parents back at home on proper hygiene i.e. washing of hands after using the toilet.

Children washing their hands

C) Community Health:
The internationally agreed framework of 8 goals has 18 targets to complement the progress towards these Millennium Development Goals. Target 17 which falls under Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goal “Develop a global partnership for development” encourages cooperation with pharmaceutical companies to provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries. Bringing this to the Cameroonian context, the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper visualizes a higher life expectancy rate in Cameroon by 2035 which should stand at 70 years up from the current 50 years. This will mean reducing the overall mortality rate.
To this effect, SHUMAS’ operates a health project known as the Spreading Health Project with the objective of improving the health status for those living in poor peasant communities which lack these basic health facilities and thereby record a higher death rate. In this wise, SHUMAS trains at least five nurses yearly to serve after training in their respective community health clinics. SHUMAS equally seeks to provide access to better health care to the rural population and to create professional training opportunity for the unprivileged

- SHUMAS sponsored 7 representatives from 7 rural communities in Cameroon at in St. Louis higher institute of health and 3 other from 3 communities at the St Jude Higher Institute of Health Sciences in Bamenda. These candidates will after their training go back to their communities and work in the health centre for at least 3 years.

*Current Benefitting students at CAPITOL Higher Institute of Health Sciences*

- SHUMAS is currently sponsoring 4 assistant nurses at Capitol Higher Institute of Health Sciences and 2 state registered nurses at the Saint Elizabeth Catholic Hospital, Shisong. 3 students graduated as assistant nurses from Saint Jude Higher Institute of Health Sciences and have all 3 students have returned to their communities to work at the health centre.

- At our model clinic at Bamdzeng in Bui Division, outreach programmes to the villages of Dzeng, Kingomen, Tabah, Kinchuriwun and I.P.S Kingomen were organised. Also, regular consultation is effective. 41 rural Communities benefited from our health talks.

*SHUMAS Model Clinic, Biofarm, Kumbo*
❖ 1 local health centre was assisted with 20 beds, 20 mattress, 42 bed sheets, 1 delivery bed, 1 microscope, 1 health bike, and drugs for the pharmacy and reagents for the laboratory.

Medical facilities Donated to the Vekovi Health Centre by SHUMAS Cameroon in collaboration with Michael and Rachael Holgate based in the U.K

❖ 3 students have graduated from Saint Jude Institute and 13 are currently undergoing studies in CAPITOL, Shisong and Saint Louis Institute. 2 former graduates are currently working in different rural village health centres like the Batibo Community in Momo Division, improving the health situation in these villages.
PROBLEMS FACED SO FAR IN THE REALIZATION OF THE PROJECT:

- Price fluctuation in our local market of building and plumbing materials.
- Bad road from Ndop to Kumbo and from Kumbo to Nkambe and to other areas. This equally makes the outreach programme difficult.
- Some students did not validate all their courses on time thus warranting a longer than planned sponsorship.
- Sudden climate changes such as prolonged rainfall disturbed hinder a smooth progress of work.
- Most communities supplied with water still need storage tanks.
- Inadequate protection of some water catchments.
❖ Insufficient quantity of water to supply the whole community especially in the dry season.
❖ Inadequate means of communication. This made monitoring difficult for SHUMAS.

**Future Plans of the Programme**
❖ Next year, we hope to train 5 more students from other communities in need
❖ Graduate at least 4 state register nurses and 4 assistance nurses
❖ Provide portable water to at least 6 communities through PHASE III of the ROTARY 3H 63360 project.
❖ Provide portable water to many more village schools and construct storage tanks.

The Water, Health and Sanitation programme benefited from the collaboration of its partners, The Rotary Club of Canada /Bafoussam, the spreading health in UK, Aidcamps volunteer Mike and Rachel all from the UK and the village health committee. They participated in raising funds for all water projects; and for sponsoring the beneficiaries from poor communities during the school year 2009/2010. The Rotary Club of Bafoussam was represented by the president, Mr. Fokoua Theodore, during one of the hand over ceremonies of a water project in Foumban at Kouroum II (West Region)

2.3 **IMPACTING SOCIAL WELFARE**

Nora Ellen Groce and Jean Francois Trani of Leonard Cheshire of the Centre for Disability and Inclusive Development, University College London indicated that nowhere in the Millennium Development Goals are individuals with disabilities explicitly cited. This lack of attention to persons with disabilities is a striking oversight, particularly in light of the World Bank’s findings that while persons with disabilities make up 10% of the world’s population, they make up 20% of the world’s poor. Even if persons with disabilities are not explicitly cited in the Millennium Development Goals they are implicitly included in each of the 8 Goals and the accompanying 18 Targets and Indicators.

According to Nora and Jean, the key to ensuring that persons with disability benefit from the MDGs is to systematically identify the factors that currently block their inclusion in programs and policies based on the MDGs. Inclusion of persons with disabilities in any and all development efforts is therefore an act of enlightened self-interest on the part of all who work on global, national and community level development projects and health efforts.

In the social welfare programme, SHUMAS seeks to equip and empower persons with disabilities with skills for a fulfilling life and effective participation in development. SHUMAS has a Vocational Rehabilitation Centre created in 2009 that trains such persons in 7 workshops: Sewing, Knitting, Jewelry, Traditional embroidery, Cane weaving, Shoemending/ making and Hairdressing. Through this workshop SHUMAS intends to enable persons with disabilities develop self confident and be actively involved in economic development and decision making in their various communities.
This first batch consists of 27 trainees who are all persons with disabilities and 7 trainers, 5 of whom are persons with disabilities. Upon graduation by mid 2011, the trainees shall be given start up capital to initiate their own economic activities.

Trainees at the Vocational Rehabilitation Center

In an attempt to ensure financial sustainability for the centre, an exhibition and sales shop for hand crafts is currently operating at the SHUMAS Head Office in Mile 6 Nkwen, Bamenda.

SHUMAS Exhibition Centre

SHUMAS has facilitated the processing and acquisition of Disability cards for 14 persons with disabilities, and equally acquired 3 tricycles for 3 persons with disabilities.
On the 13th and 14th of December 2010, SHUMAS Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, participated in the tricycle and blind football games, and singing competition commemorating the international day of persons with disabilities under the theme “Keeping the Promise: Integrating Disabilities into the Millennium Development Goal by 2015 and beyond”

Another major area of intervention in this domain is the Jennet Clark Foundation, mental
health clinic in Bonaberi-Douala, Cameroon. The objective of this centre is to improve on the welfare of people with mental disabilities through health care.

In the course of the year, SHUMAS constructed a modern toilet facility at the clinic. As a result, there has been a considerable increase in the number of visitors to the clinic, and patients are being admitted at the clinic for follow up and treatment.

**Difficulties Encountered in the Social Welfare Programme**

- It has not been easy for our trainees to come to the centre. Most of them are poor and live very far away from the centre. They cannot afford transportation to the centre and have to trek or ride on tricycles which are very dangerous on our highways. The reason is the lack of an appropriate means of transportation.
- Some trainees have dropped out due to lack of accommodation and feeding.
The running cost of the centre is very high and not fully covered.

One of the hard working trainees fell into the cold hands of death in December 2010. This has been a great shock to the entire organization. May Perpetua’s soul rest in perfect peace

Future Plans for the Social Welfare Programme

In order to widen the accessibility to the centre for persons with disabilities in further rural communities, and who cannot afford lodging in Bamenda or know anyone to live with in Bamenda, the following actions are perceived for the near future;

- Construction of a dormitory for trainees and equipping of dormitory.
- Construction and equipping of a kitchen/restaurant.
- Micro-credit unit to assist poor disable persons set up business.
- Minibus for transportation of disables and official occasions.
- Increase of number of trainees to 30 per year from the second batch.
- Improve the pharmaceutical services from the Model Clinic in Douala, by creating at least one pharmacy in each region.
- Construct a larger center in Douala that can accommodate as many people with mental disabilities.
- Apply for Government subvention.

The Social Welfare programme benefited from the assistance of its partners, The Rotary Club of Bafoussam, the Rotary Club of Canada, and other individual national and international volunteers. They were very active in providing funds, materials and gifts for the clinic and the centre. The Rotary Club of Bafoussam and the Rotary Club of Canada paid a visit to the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre to follow-up the activities at the centre and identify other areas of need for future intervention if need be.

2.4 IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT

In current trends of environmental degradation, future deforestation for agriculture, unsustainable soil exploitation with the use of chemical, excessive carbon / green gas emission has been produced through increasing farming and industrial activities. These seemingly live sustaining activities are ecological destabilizing. Global warming or better still climate change is increasingly becoming an experienced reality in both rural and urban communities. Most especially, farmers are experiencing a progressive drop of yields and desertification. Goal 7 “Ensure Environmental Sustainability” of the Millennium Development Goal aims at integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverses the loss of environmental resources. Desert encroachment in the northern region of Cameroon is already causing damages and is hampering social development in the region. This necessitates that Cameroon will have to devise appropriate strategies to address other threats such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, air and ocean pollution, storage of household refuse,
industrial disasters, oil slicks, degradation of water resources, soil degradation, volcanic activity, poison gas emanations, landslides, rock slides and floods.
To contribute to sustainable environmental management in Cameroon and by extension the world, SHUMAS has designed a participative environmental protection and management scheme.

SHUMAS runs a **school environmental programme** that is out to promote sustainable environmental management through a practical education of pupils and enhance rural primary education by seeking income sources to compensate some educational needs. It therefore targets environmental protection and management by training pupils on suitable farming and tree nursing and planting techniques.

Proceeds of the school farm and tree nursery will eventually be used for the payment of one more teacher in the school and purchase of didactic materials for pupils' education. 15 different schools are engaged in crop farming and tree nursing, and planting. Impact assessments have been carried out in all 15 schools and over 12 schools are actively promoting environmental issues in schools in different ways such as tree nurseries and vegetable gardens.

Lessons on environmental protection and management are delivered in the participating schools to facilitate comprehension and adoption of the project concept accompanied with a written quiz to test the pupils’ level of comprehension. A total of 1450 pupils from 15 schools in Bui, Ngohketunjia and Boyo Administrative Divisions and the North Region are participating in the project. From SHUMAS’ general evaluation in 2009, 70% of pupils had a mastery of the concepts and their application.

In 2010,
- SHUMAS has instituted the school environmental project in 8 newly constructed village schools. SHUMAS distributed 25 hoes, 25 lances, 5 watering canes and seeds to these schools to start up fully with the school gardening project.
- 12 schools are operating organic school farms and gardens.
- 12 schools have environmental clubs.
- Vekovi community is involved in tree planting to fight climate change.
At the level of the SHUMAS Integrated Organic Farm in Kumbo, more than 9 species of environmentally friendly trees are being nursed at the nursery of 15,000 seedlings occupying an area of 500 square meters. These trees include *Calliandra, Acacia, Maesopsis, Karapa, Jacaranda, Prunus Africana, Vocanga, Cacia Spectabilis* etc.
Difficulties Encountered in the Environmental Protection and Management Programme

❖ Some schools started farming late; as such they could not maximize the cultivation of seasonal crops.

❖ Some school gardens are invaded by stray animals around the village. The crops are destroyed and at the end of the day, the school can not harvest enough crops for sale to generate income for didactic materials, for the payment of teachers etc. Affected schools are however seeking local solutions such as fencing and peer monitoring.

❖ The dry season in posing a serious problem to these young plants. It is sometimes very difficult to get water for the plants and pupils or participants will have to trek long distances to fetch water for the garden. Where there is lack of sufficient water for these plants, they will dry up and waste away.

❖ Communities are being cautioned through follow up visits to manage such problems sustainably for example through timely planting and choice of crops. Only schools with water can be involved in gardening.

Future Plans for the Programme

❖ The trees at the nursery will be planted at the Biofarm to boost Agro forestry and combat climate change. Most of them will be used for practices like Alley Cropping, contour Planting Bee farming, Forage for animals, Green Manure etc.
❖ Some will go for reforestation and the protection of water catchments in the Biofarm.
❖ Some of these trees shall be planted merely for beautifying the Biofarm
❖ Others will be sent to schools for the school environmental projects.

In 2010, the Environmental Protection and Management Programme benefited and continuous to benefit from the presence and participation of two Masters students from the University of Yaounde I, Mr. Emmanuel Wirsiy and Tondi Makembe Victorine Giselle who are researching on interesting issues amongst which is a comparative analysis of the impact of Biogas slurry versus other sources of manure on vegetable production and Impact of Eucalyptus trees on the soil and crop cultivation in Kumbo.
2.5 IMPACTING AGRICULTURE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Cameroon has an estimated population of 20 million people. The female sex represents more than 52% of the total population. A greater number of women live in the rural areas which represents 3/4 of the total population. Women in Cameroon, especially the rural women are looked upon as second class citizens. In the rural areas this conception is worst as they hold strong to their cultural believes which limits the rural woman from fully exploiting her potentials. Through the women empowerment programme SHUMAS seeks to empower women through sustainable economic programs, and enhance women's knowledge through capacity building activities and sponsoring underprivileged girls.

In most developing countries, gender inequality is a major obstacle to meeting the MDG targets. In fact, achieving the goals will be impossible without closing the gaps between women and men in terms of capacities, access to resources and opportunities, and vulnerability to violence and conflict.

Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals “Promote gender equality and empower women” seeks to promote gender equality and empower women around the world. UNDP's aim was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015 and four indicators are used to measure progress towards the goal:

- the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education;
- the ratio of literate women to men in the 15- to 24-year-old age group;
- the share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector; and
- the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments.

To enable Cameroon reach this goal, through the Micro credit scheme that has as objectives to improve women's access to micro-credits at low interest rates; to promote the local building of micro-credit funds; and to build the capacity of rural women in management and leadership skills for future self development, SHUMAS is currently working with more than 40 women groups in rural communities in the West and North West Regions.

During the general evaluation meeting at the Biofarm in Kumbo, in October 2010, SHUMAS increased the loans of some hardworking and dynamic women groups by 25,000FCFA and 50,000 FCFA. The least amount of money given out to the women was 100,000FCFA meanwhile, the highest amount of money received was 600,000FCFA.

❖ 42 Future in Our Hands Women group with average size of 25 members have access to micro credit loans at very low interest rate.
❖ 40 women received training on income generating activities: omo production, body lotion production etc.
❖ 7 out of 11 staffs working at the SHUMAS Head Office are women.
❖ 8 out of 13 trained nurses are women.
❖ 30 out of the over 50 children receiving scholarships are girls.
Difficulties Encountered in the Women Empowerment Programme

- The main difficulty faced has been the problem of communication. Groups that are found in areas with poor access to networks delay in receiving information.
- Follow up is also difficult in places with poor access roads and inadequate financial resources.
- Some groups are slow in understanding how to use savings books and loan forms. However, constant explanations and follow up have helped solve this problem.
- Funds available are small compared to the number of groups in need.

Future Plans for the Programme

- We intend to expand the micro-credit scheme to other non-benefiting women groups if resources are available.
- We also intend to continue to increase the capital of existing benefiting groups that are succeeding.

During the general evaluation meeting at the Biofarm, Nia Dickett a VSO Volunteer working with SHUMAS Cameroon as an organizational development adviser for one year, assisted our team in distributing the loans, and sensitizing the women on management and leadership techniques and skills.

2.5.1 INTERGRATED ORGANIC FARMING TRAINING AND DEMONSTRATION CENTRE (BIOFARM)
INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a very essential element in our world today. One of the major objectives of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper is to control the problem of food crisis and make Cameroon a bread winner to other countries in Central Africa. In this wise, it has identified the need to intensify forestry, agro pastoral and fishing activities and restructure and rural world for more professionalization. This is the reason why farmers are now referred to as rural entrepreneurs because they are job creators and not job seeker as was the case before. Considering the fact that over 75% of the Cameroonian population is involved in agriculture, and approximately 70% are composed of women and the youths majority of whom resident in rural areas, it is imperative that a sustainable solution is found to their agricultural problems. With the coming of climate change the farming calendar has been altered and drought periods extended. This has resulted to considerably drop in farm yields. This situation is worsened by the increase in prices of agrochemicals, which area not only unaffordable by famers but is environmentally unfriendly. All these have intensified poverty and hardship for small scale farmers. The conference on climate change at Copenhagen on the 11th of March 2011) it was remarked that recent droughts and floods have contributed to increases in food prices. These are pushing millions more people into poverty and hunger.

To contribute towards alleviating poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability, SHUMAS-Cameroon has established an Integrated sustainable agricultural program(organic farming, integrated livestock management, Aquaculture) that trains farming community leaders and unemployed youths. The training is divided into two sessions. Long course that last from (October to August) and short courses that last from 1 day to 1 month depending on the course.

➢ For the academic year 2010/2011 (long term course: 10months) the centre received the third batch of 32 participants who come from different villages (Melim, Bafut etc) and west regions of the country. This year, 9 participants came from the West Region of Cameroon.

Participants at the training and demonstration centre

➢ Two staff quarters of 10 apartments have been constructed at the centre for key staff members together with 10 kitchens for meals service.
❖ The centre held its very first P.T.A meeting on the 27th of November 2010. This meeting was attended by 14 parents from 3 different divisions.

❖ The centre equally hosted two general evaluation meetings of FIOH (launching of the 5th and 6th phase of FIOH) in March and October.
❖ Two short courses were organised on pig production (May) and renewable energy (July)

❖ A 16 room student house has been constructed and equipped. 10 students on internships, 19 international volunteers and 82 participants for short courses have already used the structures. 2 staff residences of 5 apartments each with 10 kitchens have been constructed and are being used by 10 key staffs..

❖ During the official tour of the new S.D.O of Bui Division, Mr. Bernard. N. he paid a 3 hours visit to the Biofarm with an entourage of at least 45 persons comprising all the Delegates, Mayors, Commissioners and other dignitaries in the Division.

❖ Over 500 farmers who received training are using composting and green maturing to improve on the soil fertility and increase crop yields.

❖ 30 ex-participants of the first batch for the centre based 10 month course have been offered micro loans ranging from 375 000 frs- 400 000 frs each for the implementation of self-identified projects. The loans are used on 4 key projects including (integrated) beef production, pig production,
poultry keep and the production of annual crops and vegetables. 75% of beneficiaries have started repaying their loans, respecting set instalments. The pilot farms established by beneficiaries are acting as training and demonstration farms in their different communities.

Challenges:
❖ Insufficient electricity at the farm hinders appropriate functioning of the centre, and slows progress on some training programs such as computer lessons as well as documentation.
❖ Bad roads to the centre
❖ Our Agricultural programme is a pro poor programme and majority of beneficiaries cannot contribute substantially to the training.
❖ Environmental awareness amongst the poor in Cameroon is still a challenge.
❖ There is almost an inexistent market for organic products in Cameroon
❖ Access to improved seeds is still a big problem even for trained farmers
❖ Livestock feed supply for farmers is not constant, imbalance or too expensive
❖ Difficulty to pay staff during months not covered by project funds
❖ Stray animals and unidentified persons access the centre from all directions due to the lack of a fence.

Future Plans:
❖ Continue to test and apply renewable energy technologies.
❖ Seek collaboration with partners (including local communities) for upgrading the quality of the roads leading to the centre.
❖ We intend to build a sustainability strategy by increasing income generating activities in the short run (e.g. through Bee farming, economic analysis of different production units), and offering diploma courses in the long run with the support of Cameroon’s Ministry of employment and vocational training.
❖ Promote eco literacy programmes in rural and urban communities
❖ Support the creating of the network for organic farming
❖ Establishment of eco shops that promote organic products
❖ Establish seed and feed production units to serve farmers
❖ Follow up files at the ministry of Agriculture to obtain a special status while waiting for a new text on private agricultural institutions
- Reinforce life fencing activities around the Biofarm

2.5.1.1 **The Crop Section**

- This year we started implementing production in large scale for demonstration and sales to enhance sustainability. Vegetables such as carrots, cabbage, green beans etc were successfully cultivated.
- Wheat was tested and proved to be very productive at the Biofarm.
- Experimentation of slurry and different organic manures on the farms is currently being undertaken with the help of Master degree students from Yaoundé University.
- An experimentation site was created at the centre for future interns and research purposes at the Biofarm.
- Maize, beans and potatoes were also produced for sale, food and animal feed
- 2 tons of potatoes seed was produced and the first set of potatoes seeds was stored at the new farm potatoes barn. 50 women and youths were trained on potatoes seed multiplication. In addition, 2.5 tons of maize was also produced on-farm.

![Potatoes Barn](image)

**Challenges:**
- The dry season has come along with the problem of insufficient water for the farms. However with improvements in irrigation and watershed protection, these problems will be solved in the future
- Securing a stable market niche for organic products is still a big challenge for this section.
- Operating production units in a training centre has not been sufficiently done on an economic basis, considering that the centre is in an experimental phase.
Future Plans:
❖ Extending water from a bigger and constant source to the plots.
❖ The crop unit shall be separated into two section: Crops for Demonstration (for training) and Crops for production (centre sustainability)
❖ SHUMAS intends to create Eco stands across the country to encourage organic product consumption.
❖ A more detailed economic analysis for professionalization of production to be done in 2011.

Vegetable Plots at the Biofarm

2.5.1.2 The Animal Section

❖ Later in the year, the Biofarm commenced the production of table birds which has been quite successful. So far, five batches of birds have been brooded. 7000 broiler birds and layers were brooded and given to local farmers.
Day old chicks

- Veterinary clinic was constructed and equipped with the essential drugs. The neighbours are using this service.

Veterinary Clinic

- The Silo was constructed for fermentation of fodder to be given to animals in the dry season. 2 tons of corn silage has been produced from corn stalks. The silage machine and other equipment were bought for this unit.

Graining mills for animal feed and the silage production

- 50 farmers were trained on pig production and received each a 2 months female piglet. One piglet will be passed on to the next set of farmers in the future to enhance sustainability of this farmer-support program.
The construction of two dips (small and large ruminants). 150 cattle have been dipped. Sensitization on the clinic is ongoing and farmers are expected to increase their use of the facilities in the future.

The Animal Dip

- The animal unit head developed good marketing strategies which have been very fruitful in terms of sustainability of the unit and the centre as a whole.
- The nearby Fulani Community was trained on pasture improvement.

Challenges:

The challenges faced in the Biofarm in this section are normal, taking into consideration the short (3 years) experience of the centre. Basically they include:

- Unprecedented climate effects on livestock such as broilers, layers and rabbits.
- Quails not producing eggs due to the excessive cold in the area, in spite of heating efforts.
- High and fluctuating prices of animal feed.

Future Plans:

- Offering veterinary services to neighbouring farmers and communities.
- Focus shall be laid more on piglets’ production rather than fattening in the pig section. More females shall be brought into all sections to increase boost reproduction in animal sections such as cattle, small ruminants and piggery.
- SHUMAS plans to construct a new (separate) poultry house for broilers.
- Gradually build a larger stock of pigs from own breeding stock.
- Provide a breeding stock and an incubator for the hatching of day old birds.
- Acquire a mower for clearing.
2.5.1.3 The Renewable Energy Unit

❖ SHUMAS has organised one short course on the Wind Turbine precisely on construction and installation. This course was organised in July and it was attended by 8 participants from local communities. The training was facilitated by project staff, Ernest Aroke and Mr. Joe Milo from Buea.
❖ There has been several works done in the course of the year to repair and maintain the already existing Wind Turbines at the Farm, from which experience is being built.

❖ With the coming of the staff quarters at the farm, electricity was extended to the male staff quarters.
❖ The 31 participants at the Training and Demonstration Centre received training on the Biogas precisely, producing the biogas, bottling and using the biogas at the domestic level.

❖ The renewable energy personnel at the Biofarm, received a one week training on Solar panel construction and installation, from a specialist from Britain who came in later in the year. 2 solar panels constructed are currently supplying energy for 3 buildings in the centre.
Challenges:
- 2 Wind Turbines were stroke and destroyed by lightning mid 2010. Repairs were durable and very costly. However because this technology is useful for future clean energy supply, we are interested in looking for sustainable solutions.
- Energy is still insufficient for the entire centre.
- Renewable energy is still in the experimental phase. However sections for which we have developed sufficient experience (e.g. Biogas) cannot be easily disseminated to beneficiaries due to lack of financial and logistic support.

Future Plans:
- SHUMAS plans to reinforce solar energy at Biofarm.
- Extend the solar energy programme to some village schools.
- Propel water up the hill to the Biofarm using a solar pump.
- Intensify training on the renewable energy programme at the training and demonstration centre.
- Establish reliable partnerships for clean energy propagation in rural areas of Cameroon.

In 2010, the Biofarm benefited from the services of many volunteers in different domains. Anne, Daniel and David from Canada spent one month at the Biofarm assisting in administrative matters especially at the Integrated Training and Demonstration Centre. Mr. David developed a marketing plan for the center’s products. Sharon Haxton a VSO volunteer who was equally present at the Biofarm between the months of September and December worked as an organizational development adviser; and in collaboration with the teaching staff, assisted in the training of the participants particularly, in English Language. A big thank you also goes to Kate and Jarlath from Ireland were actively involved in the training process especially at the level of computer literacy, and developed fliers for all the units and the Biofarm as a whole. Norman Phipps equally
enabled our centre to exploit a new and natural source of electricity (solar energy). The centre also lodged 6 Dutch citizens for two days.

2.5.1.4 **Irrigation**

**Achievements**
- 2 water tanks of 2 cubic meter capacity and one water catchment constructed
- Irrigation water extended on the farm with 1.5 km of pipeline and 7 sprinklers
- Doubling of area on irrigation for the production of vegetable crops like carrots, cabbages, leaks, tomatoes and huckleberry.

**Future Plans**
- Extend the area under irrigation and the volume of available water.
- Propel water up the hill to the Biofarm using a solar pump.
- Adopt renewable energy sources to support the irrigation scheme.

2.5.1.5 **Center based trainings**

The 7 participants who completed the last 10 months course are back in their villages practising some of the techniques learnt and improve their lives and those of other community members.

32 trainees (20% women) are currently undertaking the new 10 month course in the centre.

5428 persons have benefitted directly and indirectly from short courses offered in the centre such as sustainable seed production, agro forestry, utilization of slurry, renewable energy, pig production, broiler production and waste management.

3.0 **VOLUNTEERING IN SHUMAS CAMEROON**

SHUMAS is a non profit development NGO. The organisation depends to a large extent on funding from charities, friends and stakeholders for the materialisation of her humanitarian projects. So far the organisation is project dependent and has no source of funding for running cost, including staff salaries. In order to close the gap created by the inadequacy of funding SHUMAS since creation has worked with hundreds of local and international volunteers

The lack of funding for salaries is handicapping SHUMAS from effectively fulfilling its mission of livelihood improvement for the rural population and the urban poor. This is because she either is unable to pay the adequate number of staff and for a period of time sufficient for the fulfilment of its mission.
The main objective of the volunteering is to help young and older persons gain and share useful experiences in the sphere of development, as well as support the organization to attain its objectives. Volunteerism thus:

- Provides a channel for development minded persons to invest their resources
- Provide experience and capacity building opportunities for school graduates
- Reduces running cost for the organisation which so far is not covered

In 2010 Volunteering Positions were occupied in SHUMAS Cameroon:

**Social Rehabilitation Center**

- Teacher/tutor for English and/or Financial Literacy
- **Program Coordinator**
  - Coordinating all training workshops
- Magrate coordinating activities at the vocational training and vocational center
  - Supervising trainers and trainees
  - Responsible for financial transactions, reporting expenses and profits
  - In collaboration with marketing officer, ensure that the products are marketed
  - Represent social rehabilitation center during public events, international day for people with disabilities
  - Participate in project proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment

- **Trader**
  - Coordinate training workshops
  - Plan and implement specific training objectives and activities for the workshops
  - Facilitate the practical learning of trainees in order to gain skills necessary to eventually start their small businesses
  - Market products and build clientele base in specific product
- Assess the needs of the workshop, provide progress reports of trainees; submit requests for materials and costs when materials are needed; submit financial reports to Program Coordinator

- **Capacity Builder**
  - Builds capacity of trainers

- Experience with working with people with disabilities
- Provide workshops for trainers to build skills and better work with trainees
- Facilitate management process at the Centre and head office

**Biofarm**

- **Teacher** (depends on course outline and need for subjects)
- **Agricultural experts**
  - Assist in crop units or animal units or renewable energy units (solar power, biogas, etc.)
  - Capacity Builder
  - Work with the management to increase skill level, management skills, and marketing of biofarm products. Participate in project proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment
School Construction project

Participated in feasibility studies, implementation, project proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation of projects and impact assessment.

Women’s Microcredit Program

- **Capacity Builder**
  - Assess the needs of the women’s microcredit groups
  - Develop and facilitate training/workshops to meet those specific needs
  - Monitor and evaluate the activities and impact of the loans on women’s lives, modify program and activities as needed to ensure effectiveness
  - Assist Program Manager to identify new women’s groups to involve in the microcredit scheme

  - Develop criteria for selection and training

- **Microcredit Expert**
  - Assess the loan structure
  - Provide recommendations for strengthening and diversifying loan products
  - Assessing program impact on women and communities
To encourage individual and group contribution towards development and the assistance of those in need, SHUMAS since creation has been working hand in glove with external institutions be it civil, government or private institutions.

In 2010, SHUMAS participated in a series of meeting and workshops organised by government institutions and partner organisations. SHUMAS has benefited from several capacity building workshops such as the Organisational Development Process organised by VSO Cameroon and the Pre Water Forum organised by NWADO. Active partnership was also established with the German Development Service, DED. SHUMAS was part of a two day consultation meeting on the elaboration of the Integrated Financing Strategy (IFS) for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Cameroon organized by the regional delegation of the Environment and Protection of Nature.

SHUMAS Cameroon was represented at the JERSI exhibition at Ayaba Hotel last September under the renewable energy domain (Biogas and Wind Turbine) where SHUMAS emerged in third out of five participants.

SHUMAS was also able to solidify ties with MINPAT by forwarding a detailed document on the activities of the organization since inception to this ministry in order to establish concrete and sincere grounds on which future collaboration between both parties can be effected.

In the domain of social welfare, SHUMAS was part of the annual general meeting of the Bamenda coordinating centre for studies in disability and rehabilitation held on Saturday the 17th of July 2010 at its office premises in Ntarikon. SHUMAS was equally actively involved in preparations for the celebration of the International Day for disables under the theme “Integrating Disabilities into the Millennium Development Goal by 2015.

One of our project staffs in currently taking an online training course on Agro forestry with Trees for the Future in USA. One project officer completed a post graduate diploma course on Development leadership in Canada, while SHUMAS was represented at the Global conference on agriculture, food security and climate change, in the Netherlands by the Project coordinator, Madam Billian. The General coordinator attended in conference on Environmental leadership in the USA.

Several other workshops and meetings were attended by SHUMAS Cameroon in the 2010 for the sake of partnership and networking.

Intensive networking was developed with key media organs at the national level such as CRTV (Cameroon Radio and Television) and Cameroon Tribune, at the regional level such as Foundation Radio, Radio Hot Coco, Horizon Television, Republican Television Network, Afrique Nouvelle, Cameroon Post, The Eden Newspaper and The Vanguard Newspaper; and at the local level such as Helen/Kriss Radio and Television.

During the year 2010 SHUMAS worked in collaboration with councils, church based organizations, other NGOS and various government department.
5.0 CHALLENGES FACED AND THE WAY FORWARD

5.1 Challenges of the Organization

Considering the fact that SHUMAS operates through 6 major programmes, the difficulties faced by the organisation tend to differ depending on the nature of project or programme. However, the major challenges faced by the organization include the low literacy level of beneficiaries. For instance in the women empowerment where SHUMAS works directly with rural women groups, some of the women find it difficult to use correctly, the loan application form and record registers. Nevertheless, this is being sorted out, starting through workshops and general evaluation meetings and interactive capacity building programmes with the target group.

The great distance and particularly the nature of roads to target group communities coupled with inadequate financial support for field activities renders monitoring and evaluation difficult and costly. Bad roads leading to the various communities contribute towards retarding projects and damaging vehicles which are expensive to maintain and repair.

SHUMAS depends on a minimal budget on a yearly basis to execute projects and pay its staff members which are regarded as volunteers because they only receive a token as allowance and not salaries. In consequence to this financial problem SHUMAS realise on external support and contributions through partners and sponsors in and out of Cameroon.

5.2 Future Plans of the Organization

In view of the fact that, SHUMAS is involved in very sensitive and time consuming activities in all its programmes, 2011 will notably be a year of expansion for SHUMAS Cameroon in all its activities. In this wise SHUMAS will:

1. Continue in its 6 axes of intervention while extending its activities as much as possible
2. Reinforce its income generating capacities.
3. Offer more short courses on integrated organic farming fields.
4. Improve on monitoring and evaluation and volunteer policies (e.g. annual action, operational plans, detailed and precise job descriptions and specific ways of supporting or donating)
5. Increase networking and new partnerships for concrete and effective rural development in Cameroon.
On a general note, SHUMAS is very satisfied with the marvellous work she has been able to do, in collaboration with partners and other stakeholders for the development of the poor in Cameroon. In spite of persistent problems such as lack of a running cost, sub optimal participation from few local communities, difficulties to access target groups bad road and faulty communication, SHUMAS is now determined more than ever before to continue its efforts to support the Cameroon government to fight poverty and hunger and to attain the Millenuim Development Goals. With the constant support of a few, but serous partners, and with the relentless efforts of her staff, the organization seems prepared to face the many challenges abounding development work. We also hope that the collaboration of media organs, government institutions and local communities will continue to provide the organization with the impetus needed to stay in this rather difficult domain of development. But above all, we are confident that current achievements will be consolidation over generations, considering the high level of involvement of all stakeholders in the integrated development projects promoted by SHUMAS Cameroon. The Head of State, H.E. Paul Biya’s recent visit to the North West Region has rekindled new hopes for a brighter future for all Cameroonians. We look enthusiastically towards the 2011 not only because it will be time to take stock of how promises have been fulfilled, or how they are impacting the poor, but also because 2011 is a critical year for Cameroonian politics as it will contain a new Presidential election. But even more, it will be just 4 years to go, for us to access our achievement of Millennium Development Goals. SHUMAS Cameroon is determined to continue its efforts towards assuring a better future for Cameroonians, irrespective of origin, religion or political affiliation.
Appendix1: Papal Recognition of SHUMAS’ Humanitarian Services

SHUMAS CAMEROON RECEIVES PAPAL PATRONAGE

The Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI sends Apostolic Blessings to Stephen and Billian Njodzeka and Invokes an Abundance of Heavenly Favors and Continued Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Appendix 2: SHUMAS’ Partners in 2010

➢ AID CAMP International (UK)
➢ ARI (Japan)
➢ DED (Germany)
➢ Future in Our Hands (UK)
➢ MANOS UNIDAS (Spain)
➢ New BioLab (USA)
➢ MIVA Switzerland
➢ VSO Cameroon
➢ North West Development Association- NWADO
➢ CAMSO
➢ The Councils of Kumbo, Nkambe, Ndu, Bamenda III
➢ The Delegation of Social Affairs
➢ The Delegation of Women Empowerment
➢ The Delegation of Environment and Protection of nature
➢ The Delegation of Agriculture
➢ The Delegation of Water and Mineral Resources
➢ The Delegation of Regional Planning and Development

Appendix 3: List of International Volunteers in SHUMAS Cameroon for 2010

➢ Anne Dance, Canada
➢ Clare Homfray, UK
➢ Daniel Barendregt, Canada
➢ David , Canada
➢ Kate, Ireland
➢ Jarlath, Ireland
➢ Lorenz Ullein
➢ Margret Welsch, Germany
➢ Marianne Johnson, UK
➢ Michael Holgate, UK
➢ Nia Dickett, USA
➢ Norman Phipps, UK
➢ Rachael Holgate, UK
➢ Sharon Haxton, USA