



changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

School Sanitation, Cameroon



Nelson Mandela once said that “Education is the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the world”. At High Five Club we share this view, and many of our initiatives focus on improving the educational environment for the rural poor living in wildlife areas of Africa.

We were recently approached by a community self-help organisation called **Rural Development & Care Cameroon (RUDECCAM)** for support in improving sanitation for a rural community in Njinjou. With a population of 240 people including 72 school children (51 girls and 19 boys), Njinjou has a community primary school whose toilets are already full and dilapidated. The inhabitants of this community practice subsistence agriculture and keep free ranging domestic animals notably pigs. The poor nature of the school toilet and no safe water supply in the community lead to a cholera epidemic in the community in February 2018. Unfortunately, the population ignorantly accused the practice of witchcraft to be at the origin of the epidemic while school pupils were victims, with two children losing their lives.

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time



The scenario described above becomes more complicated with the unfortunate birth of the socio-political tension that is currently rocking the two Anglophone regions of Cameroon and whose major consequence has been the slowdown, if not the closedown, of educational activities in these English speaking regions. This has made several families in Ediki, an Anglophone town in the southwest region, to send their children to the community school in Njinjou as it is a neighboring and brotherly community situated in the littoral region where the socio-political climate is calm. This unexpected influx has not only added more pressure on the toilets, but has created the problem of learning space and congestion in the school.

In order to tackle the root cause of the cholera issue, RUDECCAM undertook a community sensitization and awareness campaign on the possible causes of cholera. After much sensitisation and clarification, the poor state of the toilets was identified by the community as the root causes of the cholera outbreak, contrary to their initial belief of witchcraft. They agreed as a community to improve sanitation at the school for the 70 pupils and 4 teachers.

High Five Club Support: The community itself initiated this project and provided the unskilled manual labour needed to dig the hole (4m long, 1m wide and 12m deep) for the construction of a gender sensitive pit latrine block for the school, comprising 4 separate

cubicles. They also provided local materials (planks and river sand). The school pupils committed themselves to fetch water from a nearby stream for mixing the cement.

High Five Club member, with a top up from our long-term education supporter Roffey Homes, provided a grant of £1,026 to purchase the materials needed to construct the toilets. RUDECCAM provided £1,000 for the skilled labour.

The toilets are now complete - a healthy sanitation system has been provided for the pupils and teachers which has greatly enhanced the learning environment for all. Critically, the risk of another cholera outbreak has been greatly reduced in this community.

For more information contact cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk



HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time



