

Project title: Business skills empowerment for 50 single mothers in Balikumbat

Project Summary

CAEPA Cameroon intends to continue its empowerment programme for divorced teenage mothers with business skills trainings on book keeping, finance management and leadership. They also intend to provide these single mothers with start-up capital to run small businesses and also equip their vocational training center to accommodate more single mothers to learn catering and tailoring skills.

\$25 will buy a bag of flour for a single mother to start a restaurant

\$50 will buy a gallon of oil for a single mother to start a restaurant

\$100 will provide start-up capital for a single mother

\$200 will buy a sewing machine for a vocational training center

\$500 will buy a zig zag machine for vocational training center

\$1000 will set up a catering and tailoring workshop for a single mother

Girls in Balikumbat communities are victims of forced and early marriages. Due to this practice given that most of them are forced into marriage as early as 9 years of age with nothing to offer leaves them frustrated, socially neglected with little education, low self-esteem and left with no skills and opportunities for personal development. Consequently these girls are trapped in the vicious cycle of ignorance, poverty and diseases. CAEPA will provide them with business skills, start-up capital and a vocational training center to empower them with skills in catering and tailoring

Skills acquisition in tailoring and catering, self esteem, book keeping and finance management and provision of start-up capital will lead to women emancipation thus greater capacity to exercise their rights and improved opportunities for social and economic development.

This project targets 50 single mothers with skills that will help them rise out of poverty and provide for their families, educate their children and take care of their medical bills.

As a young girl growing in our neighbourhood like many others who did not have the opportunity of attending school not because our parents did not have the means but because we as girls were being prepared for marriage? I was raised by my mother to take care of the house so that I will be a good house wife in future. As I developed breasts and started to menstruate I was handed to marriage at the age of 15 years. The reason was not because I want it but because my father wanted to cement his age old relationship with his friend. I was handed over to my husband and we started living together as a family with no legal document attesting to the marriage. We depended on agriculture for survival. We have 3 kids who are all in the primary school. As days went by my husband started demanding for another child. I rejected his proposal and from that point onwards we were always having issues. He will beat me often as long as I rejected his proposal. He went on to bring another wife. They treated me and my children as outcast. I decided to take my children and sought refuge in my father's compound. I had to do contract work for other women to bring up my children. It was not easy until I came in contact with Community Agriculture and Environmental Protection Association a not for profit organizations that help wipe my tears. They enrolled me into their business and leadership training programme where I was taught on building my self esteem, how to run and manage a small business in terms of book keeping and finance management. They also gave me start-up capital to start a small restaurant. Today my business has grown; I have bought a plot and constructed a small apartment for me and my children. I am able to send them to school without depending on external help. I can pay my hospital bills for myself and children and also support my