



PROJECT BRIEF

PROJECT TITLE: POWER CLINIC & BOREHOLE FOR BLIND KIDS IN CAMEROON.

Project Brief.

The Rehabilitation Institute for the Blind (RIB) Buea, commonly known as the Bulu Blind Center for over 30 years has been home to hundreds of blind children in Cameroon. The center which rehabilitates blind trainees for eventual reintegration into the society is made up a health center (clinic), an ICT center, an arts and guild unit, a poultry farm and educational blocks. Located at the banks of a river (River Ndongu) in Buea, the center has for years depended on water for cleaning and drinking from the river Ndongu. Unfortunately, this has been challenging as on many occasions, some trainees have been rescued from drowning while trying to fetch water in the absence of their guardians. The river Ndongu has been the main source of water in the entire Bolifamba community which is also home to the Buea School for the Deaf. Though only recently, a water borehole was built in the center, constant power outages and high cost of maintenance and electricity bills means 5 days in week, the center is without electricity. This forces the blind trainees to continue using the river Ndongu as a source of water which is dangerous and unhealthy. In the same vein the health center which serves not just the blind kids but the entire bolifamba community is unable to provide full services or store vaccines and certain drugs. The same applies to the poultry farm, arts and guild unit and ICT units. Like many institutions for the underprivileged, the center relies on partnerships and donations for sustainability. A reliable power solution is needed to render all the units fully functional and make the center sustainable in the long run.

Challenges Faced by the Center

The trainees of RIB face the following challenges which this project hopes to redress.

- a) Unsteady access to clean drinking water. Fetching water from a running river has proven to be dangerous and untreated posing typhoid and cholera risks to the trainees and the community
- b) High cost of running the diesel generator leaves the center without electricity most often 5 out of 7 days in a week.
- c) Absence of a constant supply of electricity limits the functioning of the health unit as most vaccines needing refrigeration either get bad or are not bought at all. This puts the healthcare of the trainees below standard. The community bears extra burden having to take patients far away to the Regional Hospital Buea
- d) Difficulties and high cost of running the poultry farm which serves as a source of nutrition, livelihood and vocational training and income generation for the center due to inconsistent supply of electricity to keep the birds warm. Birds often die or are sold earlier than planned due to the high cost of electricity to warm the birds daily.
- e) The center is generally not self sustaining relying on donations and grants which are hard to come by.



Project Deliverables

The main objective for the project is to provide constant access to safe clean drinking water and health services for the trainees of RIB in particular and the inhabitants of Bolifamba in general. In order to boost the sustainability of the project and the center as a whole, the following deliverables shall be achieved at the end of the project

- a) A 10kw solar mini grid system to power the borehole, health center, the arts and guild unit, the ICT unit, poultry farm and two street lights to improve security for the community
- b) A slight rehabilitation of the existing borehole to connect it to the installed solar mini grid.

Project Impact

At completion, the project will have the following impact on the Center and the community;

1. Uninterrupted access to safe and clean portable drinking water for over 40 kids and entire community and eliminating the dangers of fetching water from the river and contracting diseases such as typhoid and cholera.
2. Supply of clean and reliable electricity to the health unit of the center. The unit will now be able to store refrigerated vaccines which was not the case due to constant power outages thereby improving the health of the kids and community residents.
3. Supply of electricity to the poultry farm which will greatly reduce the cost of production and keep the birds warm. The poultry farms serves as a source of food supplement, income generation and vocational training for the children.
4. The street lights will improve security for inhabitants of the community living around the center especially those using the poorly lit path and bridge over the river at night.
5. Reduction in carbon emission will contribute to combating climate change
6. Thanks to income generation from the poultry farm and health units, the center will become self sustaining.
7. Better training and education of the trainees through its arts and guild unit and ICT center thereby improving the chances of reintegration into the society.

