

Drinking water and COVID-19 prevention in Yaoundé, Cameroon



By LifeTime Projects

Drinking water and environmental awareness in the orphanage “La Maison des Enfants” and COVID-19 preventive activities in Yaoundé, Cameroon

CONTEXT

Our project “Drinking water and environmental awareness for the orphanage La Maison des Enfants” aims to contribute to the children’s living conditions in Yaoundé. This project has taken a particular turn in view of **the global health crisis**. The construction of a well to ensure permanent **access to clean drinking water for the children**, has become urgent to enable the children to respect **hygiene measures** and barrier gestures.

This orphanage welcomes **22 young people between 3 and 17 years old**, which are all attending school. The centre takes in young people who **are victims of exclusion or social injustice**. It has currently no permanent access to water and children have to walk more than **40 minutes** to fetch water, which prevents them to do their homework correctly and to have free time.

In addition to this initial project, **COVID-19 preventive activities** have been added, which aims to **provide hygiene kits** within the 5 orphanages and 4 youth centres, partners of LifeTime Projects in Yaoundé, but also to carry out **awareness-raising actions** within the orphanages and centres in the neighbourhoods in Yaoundé.

THE PROJECT

The main objective of this project is **to ensure a permanent source of clean drinking water** for the orphanage to reduce water and **hygiene-related diseases** in particular. The construction of the well will also ensure a source of water for the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

Besides, as in all its projects, LifeTime Projects gives a great importance **to raising environmental awareness among youth**. Thus, awareness-raising activities on environmental themes are planned while respecting all necessary hygiene precautions.



COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY

In view of the urgency of the situation, LifeTime Projects has launched a programme to **distribute individual hygiene kits**, including soaps, masks and gel, to children in orphanages and **general disinfection kits** for the establishments with which our charity works in Yaoundé. The programme also includes **awareness-raising activities on health risks** in the neighbourhoods around the orphanages.

Indeed, it is important that people who are in daily contact with children are also made aware of preventive practices and behaviours. As most of the orphanages are located in very underprivileged areas of the city, we have therefore decided to carry out an **awareness campaign** that will reach the **inhabitants of the neighbourhood**, the shops, but also the schools and markets where the children regularly go to make purchases, so that the action will have a greater impact in the short and long term.

Thanks to these actions against COVID-19, **12 200 inhabitants of Yaoundé** participate in awareness actions on barrier gestures and integrate hygiene measures as reflexes and have easier access to soaps and masks provided in the neighbourhoods. Among them, **200 children** and supervisors of the **5 orphanages** and **4 youth centres** in Yaoundé receive complete hygiene kits (mask, soap, gel) per person as well as disinfectants for the common areas.

