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# NARRATIVE REPORT 2023



January 2023

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## List of abbreviations

<b>ABBREVIATION</b>	<b>FULL MEANING</b>
CAWAS	Cameroon Women In Action Society
UN	United Nations
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
CAMGEW	Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council
GBV	Gender Based Violence
SNWOT	Southwest And Northwest Task Force
CAGEAD	Centre For Advocacy, Gender Equality And Action For Development

## INFORMATION SHEET

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<p><b>Technical and financial partners</b></p>	<p>CDVA/PBFHope for the needy Association</p> <p>The Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family</p> <p>Ministry of Public Health</p> <p>Ministry of Social Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Women Affairs and the Family</p> <p>Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)</p> <p>Southwest And Northwest Task Force (SNWOT)</p> <p>Centre For Advocacy, Gender Equality And Action For Development (CAGEAD)</p> <p>Cameroon Women Peace Network</p>

## DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Cameroon Women in Action Society (CAWAS) is a non-profit organization authorized with N° 008/E.29/1111/VOL.8/APPB. It was created and is run by women, with a minority of male members (not exceeding 20% of the membership). The organization's main goal is to improve the livelihoods of Cameroonians and protect the environment for future generations. CAWAS is dedicated to promoting sustainable development and has a mission to combat poverty in all its forms, with a focus on enhancing the livelihoods of women, their children, and families.

The rural areas in the North West Region of Cameroon, where CAWAS is based, rely heavily on agriculture for survival, with women being the primary cultivators of food crops. Our vision is to promote gender balance and the emancipation of women and girls through the promotion of sustainable development.

Over the past few years, CAWAS has established itself as an organization committed to the welfare and empowerment of women, working children, and vulnerable individuals. To achieve these objectives, CAWAS has targeted orphanages, hospitals, prisons, handicap centers, and schools, and has organized training and workshops for women and girls. The organization has successfully trained over 500 women and almost 1000 girls. In addition, CAWAS has provided assistance and support to women, girls, and children in hospitals, offering dignity kits, basic necessities, and financial assistance to help cover their bills.

### Vision

To promote gender balance and empower women and girls for the advancement of sustainable development.

### Objectives

- To promote gender balance and empower women, we aim to organize seminars focused on addressing the challenges women face. These seminars will serve as a platform to discuss and advocate for gender equality, women's rights, and empowerment.
- Additionally, we are committed to promoting the accessibility of affordable, reliable, and sustainable modern technology for women. By ensuring that women have access to efficient and renewable technology, we can alleviate their hardships and enhance their opportunities for economic and social advancement.

- Furthermore, we seek to encourage women's participation in decision-making processes to foster greater accountability and transparency in society. Empowering women to take an active role in shaping policies and governance is crucial for creating a more inclusive and equitable society.
- In line with our commitment to supporting women and their families, we will work towards ensuring the availability of essential resources such as food, clean water, shelter, and education. By addressing these basic needs, we can contribute to the overall well-being and development of women, their children, and families.
- Moreover, our efforts will extend to providing livelihood opportunities for women and children, particularly those engaged in prostitution. By offering alternative sources of income and support, we aim to empower these individuals to lead dignified and sustainable lives.
- We also recognize the importance of sensitizing and supporting marginalized women and children, including those living with HIV/AIDS. Our initiatives will focus on providing education, healthcare, and social support to improve their quality of life and reduce stigma.
- In addition to these efforts, we are committed to supporting children in orphanages, recognizing the importance of providing care and opportunities for their well-being and development.
- Finally, we seek to encourage diversification in agriculture, economy, culture, and society. By promoting diverse opportunities and activities, we can create a more inclusive and resilient community for women and their families.

## Intervention domain

**Fighting against Gender Based Violence:** We have commitment to fighting against Gender-Based Violence and advocating for the rights of women and girls. At our core, we are dedicated to improving reproductive health and empowering women and the girl child.

**Advocacy on women and girls issues:** We actively engage in advocacy on women and girls' issues, amplifying their voices and championing their rights. Through our efforts, we strive to create a more equitable and just society, where every woman and girl can thrive without fear of violence or discrimination.

**Improving reproductive Health:** we are deeply invested in improving reproductive health, ensuring that women and girls have access to the resources and support they need to make informed decisions about their bodies and their futures. By providing education and resources, we aim to empower women and girls to take control of their reproductive health and overall well-being.

**Empowering women and girl child:** We believe that by investing in their potential, we can create a more prosperous and equitable society for all. Through mentorship, education, and support, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of female leaders and change-makers.

## Activity run down for the year 2023

### Fighting against Gender based Violence

#### Solidarity Visit and Support to Luc Menorah Foundation

The Luc Menorah Foundation, located at mile 90, is a heaven for over a hundred children, including orphans and those born with multiple disabilities. Recognizing the vulnerability of these children to gender-based violence (GBV), **CAWAS**, in collaboration with **Save the Community**, has undertaken a series of initiatives to support the foundation and raise awareness about GBV.

At the onset of 2023, CAWAS initiated its support by paying a solidarity visit to the Luc Menorah Foundation, accompanied by provisions and food items. This gesture was aimed at bolstering the ongoing construction project, which seeks to provide a comfortable and safe environment for the children.

#### Cordial Relationship and GBV Sensitization:





On the 10th of February, 2023, CAWAS, in partnership with Save the Community and other well-wishers, visited the Luc Menorah Foundation, and **Photos taken on the visit of CAWAS to Luc Menorah Foundation for GBV sensitization, 07/03/2023** day, the children were sensitized on gender-based violence, and educative slogans were prominently displayed throughout the center to empower the children to recognize and assert their rights, particularly with regard to their bodies.

### **Continued Support and Assistance:**

The commitment to combat GBV was further demonstrated on the 7th of March, 2023, during the lent period. CAWAS, with the generous support of a well-wisher, revisited the Luc Menorah Foundation, providing food items, toys, provisions, and financial assistance to further aid the construction project.

On the 30th of March, 2023, CAWAS reaffirmed its dedication to the cause by extending continued assistance to the Luc Menorah Foundation. This included the provision of food items, provisions, and a financial contribution to further support the ongoing construction project.

The collective efforts of CAWAS, in partnership with Save the Community and other well-wishers, have exemplified a steadfast commitment to combatting gender-based violence and supporting the vulnerable children of the Luc Menorah Foundation. Through ongoing support, sensitization efforts, and material contributions, we remain resolute in our mission to create a safe and nurturing environment for these children, free from the scourge of gender-based violence.

### **Improving reproductive Health**

The ongoing crisis in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon, known as the Anglophone Crisis, has significantly impacted the lives of the people, leading to instability, insecurity, displacements, and various social, economic, and political challenges. Women and girls, in particular, bear a heavy burden due to their vulnerability. This section highlights the efforts of CAWAS and the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA) to address the challenges faced by women and girls, particularly in the domain of menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

## MHM Training and Sanitary Pad Distribution:



Photos taken at Step-By-Step Bilingual College during MHM training 05/05/2023

On the 5th of May, 2023, CAWAS and the NWRA collaborated to provide financial, human, and material resources to conduct MHM training for girls in the crisis-affected regions. The initiative also involved the distribution of both reusable and disposable sanitary pads. This comprehensive effort led to the establishment of MHM secondary school clubs, aimed at educating and empowering girls to manage their menstruation safely and confidently.

## International Menstrual Hygiene Management Day:



In line with the theme for the year 2023. "Making menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030."

### Celebrating international menstrual hygiene management day, 2023

The visit was marked by the distribution of food items, provisions, clothes, and sanitary pads to the girls in the center, many of whom are internally displaced persons (IDPs), orphans, and those with special needs. Additionally, menstrual hygiene lessons were shared with the girls, aiming to dispel myths, challenge stigma, and promote healthy practices related to menstruation.

#### **Impact and Empowerment:**

The MHM initiatives undertaken by CAWAS and its partners have had a significant impact on the reproductive health and well-being of women and girls in the crisis-affected regions. By providing essential resources, education, and support, the initiative has empowered girls to manage their menstruation effectively, reducing the risk of diseases and addressing the challenges of accessing sanitary pads.

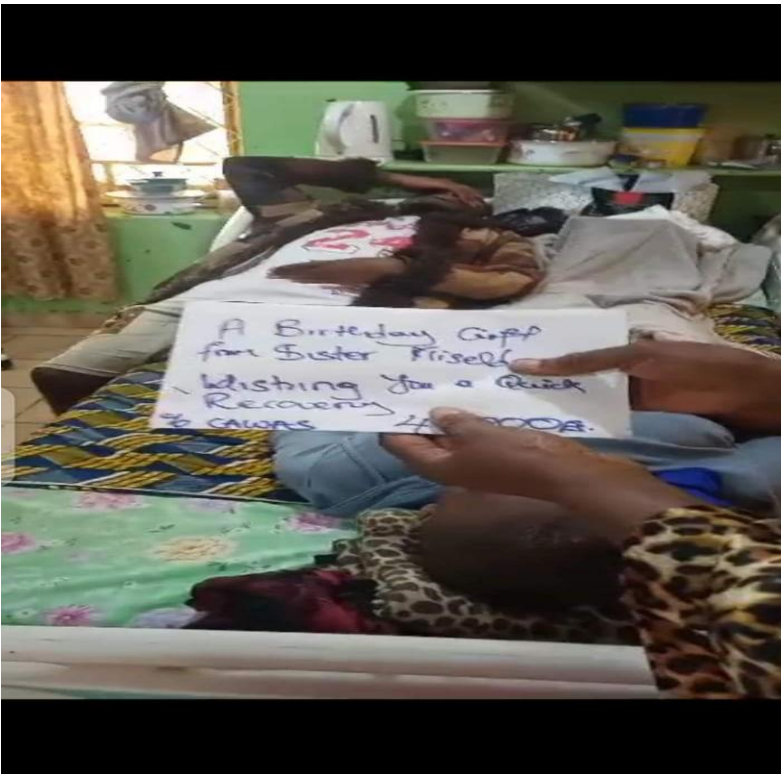
The efforts of CAWAS and the NWRA in improving reproductive health, particularly in the domain of menstrual hygiene management, have been instrumental in addressing the unique challenges faced by women and girls in crisis-affected regions. By promoting education, empowerment, and access to essential resources, the initiative has contributed to the broader goal of making menstruation a normal and healthy aspect of life for all women and girls by 2030.

#### C- Empowering women and girl child

Throughout the year 2023, the Cameroon Women's Association for Sustainable Empowerment (CAWAS) has undertaken various initiatives aimed at empowering vulnerable women and children, particularly in the North West Region of Cameroon. These efforts have focused on

providing financial assistance, educational support, and promoting peace and security, in alignment with the organization's commitment to empowering women and the girl child.

### Financial Assistance to Vulnerable Women:



Financial support to vulnerable women during celebration of the day of the African Woman,

On the 2nd of August 2023, CAWAS celebrated the Day of the African Woman by offering financial assistance to several vulnerable women in the community. The beneficiaries included a young lady battling cancer, a single mother living with a disability, an internally displaced woman with

children, a survivor of a brutal attack, and other women facing challenging circumstances. Each recipient was provided with financial support to alleviate their immediate financial burdens.

**Back to School Campaign:**



**CAWAS assisting vulnerable children with back to School materials, 05/08/2023**

On the 5th of September, CAWAS conducted a back-to-school campaign, providing school bags, books, pens, and learning materials to children and girls living with disabilities at the Luc Menorah Foundation. The initiative aimed to ensure that children with disabilities have access to quality education and the necessary resources to pursue their academic aspirations. Additionally, the

beneficiaries were sensitized on the importance of education and encouraged to pursue their studies despite any challenges they may face.

### **Supporting Local Communities:**

On the 21st of September, CAWAS, in partnership with Save the Community, provided financial support and back-to-school materials to the Abangoh Good Shepherd Home. The support was accompanied by messages of peace and the importance of education, emphasizing the organization's commitment to uplifting local communities and promoting educational opportunities for children.

### **Participation in Workshops:**



Workshop on localization of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Oct, 2023

CAWAS also participated in a workshop organized by Comagend Cameroon in partnership with GNWP and Global Women’s Issues on UNSC 1325. The workshop focused on the localization of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security in the Bali community of the North West Region. The workshop provided insight into the four pillars of UNSCR 1325, including participation and emphasized the importance of women's involvement in peace and security efforts.

### **Empowerment and Relief Activities:**





End year festivity support to the vulnerable by CAWAS, 2023

celebrations and gifts for widows, a party at the Good Shepherd Home, support for women living with disabilities, and a New Year party at the Luc Menorah Foundation and the children's ward of the Bamenda Regional Hospital. These initiatives aimed to provide relief, joy, and support to vulnerable women, children, and families during the holiday season.

Throughout 2023, CAWAS has demonstrated a strong commitment to empowering women and the girl child by providing financial assistance, educational support, and promoting peace and security in local communities. The organization's efforts have had a meaningful impact on the lives of vulnerable women and children, emphasizing the importance of empowerment, education, and community support in creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the narrative report presented above highlight the diverse and impactful activities undertaken by the Cameroon Women in Action Society (CAWAS) throughout the year 2023. From educational initiatives and peacebuilding efforts to advocacy for women and girls' rights, CAWAS demonstrated a steadfast commitment to empowering women and promoting gender equality in local communities.