

Title of Project: *Promoting Peace Awareness amongst Youths in Cameroon*

Country where the project took place: Cameroon

Sponsoring College: Future Generations Graduate School

Student's Home Country: Cameroon

Student's College: Future Generations Graduate School

UWC attended (if applicable): None

Project blog or website address, if applicable: www.facebook.com/cameroon-youth-partnership

SECTION ONE

The project had as goals; to spread the value of peace among youths. To increase the awareness of young people on the values of peace in Cameroon, to provide young people with alternative sources of information that can help them make informed choices on how to develop themselves in order to be better citizens and refrain from violent conduct. Lastly, the project aimed increasing their knowledge on Civic education, human rights and the rule of law.

The project was entirely funded by the Davis Projects for Peace, through the Future Generations Graduate School, West Virginia and was executed under youth focused organization led by the project supervisor; The Cameroon Youth partnership, abbreviated as CAYOP.

The project trainers were: Nshing Jonathan Tim, Justin Tebid Babila, Jane Frances Mufua and Sheik Wiyahnyuy. The project assistants were Ntumsi Raymond Mukong and Nicolas Ngam.

The project received authorization from the Regional Delegation of Secondary Education for the North West Region of Cameroon on April 21st 2015 and training effectively started on 08-09/05/2015 in Government Technical High School Nkambe with 24 students and 15 parents. Training took place in Government Secondary School Tenkon on 27/05/2015. Twenty-six students and 18 parents were trained. Training took place at Government Bilingual High School Mbengwi on 18/05/2015 with 22 students and 02 parents in attendance. Training took place at Acha Baptist College Belo on 22/05/2015 with 20 students and 21 parents. Training took place in Government Secondary School Bangshie on 01/06/2015, with 23 students and 14 parents. On 15/05/2015, in the Islamic High School Kumbo, 26 students and 16 parents were trained, though training was previewed for just ten parents. Training took place in Government Technical High School Wum on 27/05/2015 with 22 students and 23 parents trained.

In total, 163 students (23 more) were trained and 109 of parents (39 more) were trained, though it was previewed that 140 students and 70 parents were to be trained. They were trained on the following modules: Conflict prevention/resolution and peacebuilding in a school environment, Negotiations, Religious (Islamic) fundamentalism, Civic education/duties of individual to the community.

On the final day that is 06/06/2015, 28 students took part, representing their different schools in the Peace Quiz and the Songs for Peace completion, whereas 09 school officials turned accompanied the participating students.

Shortcoming/budgetary constraints:

- The non cooperation of some local school authorities.
- Shortage of T-shirts/caps because we had more students than anticipated.
- Many more students and parents brought in by the schools, than initially anticipated (only twenty students and ten parents were previewed for training per school)

With regards to the Peace Quiz, GSS Tenkon came first, GBHS Mbengwi: second and GTHS Wum came in the third position, while the other four schools received consolatory prizes.

The *Songs for peace* competition had all the seven contending schools and the winner was GSS Bangshie, second place: ABC Belo and third place: GSS Tenkon. The other four schools received consolatory prizes.

The schools/students received consolatory and cash prizes ranging from \$20-\$100 in the Songs for Peace Competition and the Peace Quiz in the different schools.

Monitoring and Evaluation: There were three mid-term project meetings and an end of project evaluation meeting. The project output was achieved, that is project participants learned what is peace/peacebuilding is all about in their schools. The outcome will be known in a post-project evaluation in six months time after the end of the project that is by December 2015 to know whether peace clubs and a peace network have been created in these schools.

Project Impact/Sustainability: There was the creation of a network of peace ambassadors in the different schools to operate as the other school clubs do, though they expect financial support from the Cameroon Youth partnership. The parents too vowed to spread the values of peace with the other members of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), who did not have the opportunity to attend the training.

SECTION TWO:

Peace is the sense of well-being and the freedom from fear, want and persecution. Peace does not only refer to the absence of war but the presence of justice and personal safety.

The project that we carried out was not only out to preach peace but to make students and parents understand that peace is achievable and that everyone can be a peacebuilder. In the short term, the project taught the participants how to use conflict management techniques in the school milieu in order to maintain peace and in the long run, to make peacebuilding a culture, that is for school authorities to implemented some conflict management techniques such as the use of dialogue, negotiations, mediation among others in order to ensure the wellbeing and safety of students.

This project has made me to realize that fundamentally, the human being is born with the virtue to do good, but that environmental influences may end up shaping one's ideas, values and beliefs in a direction that is potentially dangerous for society. However, what I have gathered from this project is that everyone can be a peacebuilder in their own little way as evidenced below by the testimony of a student of the Islamic High School Kumbo who took part in the project:

"My name is Foka Aliyu Bakat Fonyuy and I have the honor and privilege to talk to you... We want to really move on with the peace club... The class prefects can allow those who had the privilege to attend this meeting to talk to classmates about peace, actually not only talking about peace but doing the practical work of peace. At school, we will also advise students that when they go home, they should transmit the message to the quarters around, the youths [and] their [parents] at home".

Here are some of the pictures of me engaging some students and parents of three of the seven selected secondary schools that took part in the peacebuilding awareness campaign in the North West Region of Cameroon.



Engaging students in **Government Technical High School Nkambe** in the Donga-Mantung Division on Peacebuilding in the school milieu.



Posing for a photo with selected students of **Islamic High School Kumbo** in the Bui Division after a training workshop.



Engaging parents at **Acha Baptist College Belo** in the Boyo Division on conflict management techniques to enable them be able to minimize conflicts with their children.