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Poverty reduction within communities vulnerable to child trafficking
through the promotion of decent work in Cameroon

**PROFILES OF FAMILIES VULNERABLE TO CHILD TRAFFICKING
WITHIN SOME MBOROROS COMMUNITIES IN THE **BALI,**
KUMBO AND WUM COUNCIL AREAS**

Survey Report

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MBORORO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF CAMEROON

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PREFACE

This report presents a final step in our survey which is within the context of the project *“poverty reduction within communities vulnerable to child trafficking through the promotion of decent work in Cameroon”*. The target population for this survey are the Mbororos and non Mbororos in some selected villages within the Kumbo, Bali and Wum councils areas assigned to MBOSCUDA North West Region.

While working in these communities, we developed themes and questions which were further investigated during Focus Group Discussions in the subsequent step of our research which entails actual Socio- Anthropological fieldwork, using the methods of participant observation, conversations with informants and visual documentation.

The following elaborations are based on the analysis of our field findings though worth mentioning here that the identified families do not makeup an exhaustive list of vulnerable families in each village considering the time frame given for this exercise at peak of farming/harvesting and rainy season. We are therefore suggesting that the survey should be a continuous process especially during the implementation of the project so as to identify those families that were left behind during the first stage of this research.

Also another major concern of MBOSCUDA was the low representation of the Mbororo population in most of the communities selected for this survey in all the three council areas. Few or no Mbororos constituted the population of some of these villages where the survey was carried out. Some communities did not contain Mbororo communities as perceived during the identification of target communities.

TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

- I- IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES.***
- II- AN ANALYSES OF FAMILY PROFILES***
- III- ECONOMIC AND HEALTH SITUATION OF FAMILIES***
- IV- ASPIRATION OF FAMILIES***
- V- OBERVATIONS***
- VI- DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED ON THE FIELD***
- VII- CONCLUSION***

INTRODUCTION

The concept of poverty is very old and therefore not a myth to any community though seen as a complex terminology which is interpreted differently by different people in different regions of the world.

According to the United Nations Development Program, poverty is a complex phenomenon which generally indicates insufficiency of resources and also limited access to possibilities of choice and opportunity which offers decent conditions of life to individuals “*Rapport sur le developpement humain, 1998 Yaoundé P.3*”. In the strategic document of poverty reduction, poverty is seen as “lack of material or financial resources to satisfy the essential needs of individuals (MINEPAT, DJRP, and 2000:9)”. the above definition fits very well within the rural communities of Africa and that of Cameroon where agriculture is seen as their only source of income. The questions we ask here is to know whether poverty can be measured. Is there any method of evaluating poverty in rural areas? The answers of these questions constitute the subsequent chapters of this report.

For a better understanding of this concept and to situate it within the African and Cameroonian context, it will be interesting to further sub divide poverty into two, absolute and relative poverty.

Absolute Poverty is seen as a situation where by individuals or family will not be able to have minimum resources to meet up with their basic needs like feeding, housing etc. while relative poverty is a situation where by individuals or families are able to meet up with their basic needs but have limited resources for a good standard of living.

Therefore this concept of poverty applies to all the countries considered as the Heavily Poor Indebted Countries (HPIC). Cameroon being one of those countries in the Central African sub- regions whose economy especially that of the rural population is solely dependent on agriculture could not be left aside. About 80% of Cameroonians living in the rural areas depend largely on subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing therefore, constitute the areas considered as poor and vulnerable to child trafficking. Many reasons could be advanced as to why these rural communities which are solely living on subsistence farming are considered as poor and vulnerable to child trafficking. This was equally observed during our survey as general characteristics of the rural areas. The level of education within these communities is very low thus don't permit individuals from getting remunerable jobs. Also there is little support form the government whereby the rural people are left for themselves couple with their poor technology of production. Most of the rural areas especially in the North West Region are enclave with poor transport network linking them to towns thus making access and support to these communities very difficult.

Some of the questions we will attempt to answer in this report are whether child trafficking is seen as a myth or a reality within the assigned zones and also whether children are given away because of poverty or other reasons?

I- IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARY COMMUNITIES

Within the context of the project “poverty reduction within communities vulnerable to child trafficking through the promotion of decent work in Cameroon” three council areas namely Kumbo, Bali and Wum council areas were selected as beneficiaries of these project. Also communities were selected within each council area considered as areas of or vulnerable to child trafficking.

MBOSCUDA as a key implementing partner was assigned to carry out the survey in all the three council areas so as to address the needs and interest of the Mbororo community within a limited time frame which could not permit the team to better exploit the communities. In Kumbo four communities namely Mbanzeng, Tadu, Kingomen and Meluf were identified and assigned for the survey with each community having its own specificities different from the others. Tadu is a purely Moslem community made up of the Mbororos and the Nso people who were converts to Islam. Subsistence agriculture and animal rearing constitutes their principal activities. A total number of 43 vulnerable families to child trafficking were identified alongside orphans and disables who are considered as vulnerable to child trafficking.

<i>SN</i>	<i>COMMUNITY</i>	<i>MBOROROS</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>NON MBOROROS</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
1	TADU	12	28.6	30	71.4	<i>42</i>
2	KINGOMEN	12	27.3	32	72.7	<i>44</i>
3	MBAMZENG	07	53.8	06	46.2	<i>13</i>
4	MELUF	-	0	18	100	<i>18</i>
TOTAL		31		86		<i>117</i>

Total percentage of mbororos reached in Kumbo council area =26.5%

Total percentage of non mbororos reached in Kumbo council area =73.5%

Following the analyses of the above table, 12 out of the 42 identified families in Tadu community constituted the Mbororo population of Tadu. Kingomen is one of the most remote areas within the Kumbo Council and mostly inhabited by the Nso people. The main activity of the inhabitants of kingomen is farming with very few of them engaged in petty trading. Within the 44 identified vulnerable families, 12 constituted the Mbororo population.

The number of non Mbororo families identified in Mbandzeng was 6 constituted of the Nso people. The main reason behind this was the unwillingness of the non Moslems people to participate in this exercise saying that their farming activity is much more of their priority at the moment rather than the survey.

Meluf is a village located just around Kumbo central and constituted the non Mbororo population where 18 families were identified.

What is important to note here is that our focus was to identify the vulnerable children such as orphans, victims of HIV/AIDS, other health problems and disables in each village thus constituting the second chapter of this report

In Wum council area the survey was successfully carried out in three communities namely Waindo (upper Ukpwa), Aguli and Bangwe. It was impossible to carry the exercise in Atue community because of a land dispute within the community which led to the arrest and detention of many people, thus making the area not safe for any investigations. Waindo is a purely Mbororo resettlement camp of the victims of lake Nyos disaster with a population of about 502 persons. Majority of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture. 38 vulnerable families were identified with about 20 orphans and disables as seen below.

<i>SN</i>	<i>COMMUNITY</i>	<i>MBOROROS</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>NON MBOROROS</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
1	WAINDO	38	100	-	-	38
2	BANGWE	-		30	100	30
3	AGULI	-		19	100	19
4	ATUE	-		-	-	-
TOTAL		38		49		87

Total percentage of mbororos reached in Wum council area =43.7%

Total percentage of non mbororos reached in Wum council area =56.3%

Bangwe and Aguli are purely non Mbororo settlements but considered as areas for seasonal grazing especially during the dry season. 30 families were identified in Bangwe and 19 in Aguli giving a total of 49. It is worth noting here also that vulnerable and epileptic cases were identified in both villages which will be added to the individual profiles.

This same exercise was conducted in four villages in Bali council area namely, Njigong III, Njigong IV, Kopping and Mbufong. The exercise not successful as in the other council areas for several reasons. Bali is considered as a semi urban area composed of people with different mentality. Most of the people consider themselves as not vulnerable and therefore do not see the need for such an exercise in their villages. Also some of the counsellors considered as resource persons are more interested with money rather than the development of their areas thus rendering the exercise very difficult leading to the low number of families identified as seen from the table below

<i>SN</i>	<i>COMMUNITY</i>	<i>MBOROROS</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>NON MBOROROS</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
1	NJIGONG III AND IV	02	8.3	22	91.7	24
2	MBUFONG AND KOPPING	06	37.5	10	62.5	16
3	TOTAL	08		32		40

Total percentage of mbororos reached in Bali council area =20%

Total percentage of non mbororos reached in Bali council area =80%

In Njigong III and Njigong IV only 02 Mbororo families were identified as to 22 families from the non Mbororo communities making a total of 24 families. 06 Mbororo families were identified in Kopping with zero Mbororos in Mbufong as to 16 families of the non Mbororos making a total of 16 families. The total number of family heads reached in all the three council areas is **244 of which 31.6% are Mbororos and 68.4% are non Mbororos**

II-AN ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL PROFILES

This chapter is a brief analysis of individual profiles in the different communities based on those identified as disables, HIV/AIDS patience as well as orphans who considered as liable to child trafficking. A total of 242 families were identified orphans, disables, widows and HIV/AIDS patience. This chapter constitutes an annex of the report because of its bulk but the tables below are useful for a better understanding of the analyses and cases identified in the different council areas.

1). KUMBO COUNCIL AREA

<i>COMMUNITY</i>	<i>NO. OF FAMILY HEADS</i>	<i>MBOROROS</i>	<i>NON MBOROROS</i>
<i>kINGOMEN</i>			
Matrimonial status	44	12	32
Married	28	12	16
Single	10	-	10
Divorced	1	-	1
Widow	4	-	4
Sex			
Males	27	12	15
Females	17	-	17
Religion			
Moslem	16	12	4
Christian	26	-	26
Educational level			
None	10	-	10
Primary	24	02	22
Secondary	01	01	-
University	-	-	-
Others (Coranic studies)	09	-	09
Main occupation			
farmer	24	-	24
Trader	01	-	01
Grazer	12	12	-
Unemployed	05	-	05
Tailor	01	-	01
Carpenter	01	-	01

Children living elsewhere			
Males	14	03	11
Females	07	01	06
COMMUNITY	NO. OF FAMILY HEADS	MBOROROS	NON MBOROROS
BAMNDZENG	13	07	06
Matrimonial status			
Married	12	07	05
Single	1	-	1
Divorced	-	-	-
Widow	-	-	-
Sex			
Males	13	07	06
Females	-	-	-
Religion			
Moslem	11	08	03
Christian	02	-	02
Educational level			
None	10	06	04
Primary	03	01	02
Secondary	-	-	-
University	-	-	-
Others (Coranic studies)	-	-	-
Main occupation			
farmer	06	01	05
Trader	01	-	01
Grazer	03	03	-
Unemployed	04	01	03
Mechanic	01	-	01
Children living elsewhere			
Males	02	02	-
Females	09	01	08
COMMUNITY	NO. OF FAMILY HEADS	MBOROROS	NON MBOROROS
MELUF	18	-	18

Matrimonial status			
Married	09	-	09
Single	1	-	1
Divorced	02	-	02
Widow	06		06
Sex			
Males	09	-	09
Females	09	-	09
Religion			
Moslem	06	06	-
Christian	12	-	12
Educational level			
None	06	02	04
Primary	10	01	09
Secondary	02		-
University			
Others (Coranic studies)			
Main occupation			
farmer	13	02	11
Trader			
Grazer			
Unemployed	1		1
Others	2		2
Children living elsewhere			
Males	3		3
Females	1		1
COMMUNITY	NO. OF FAMILY HEADS	MBOROROS	NON MBOROROS
TADU	42	-	30
Matrimonial status			
Married	31	07	24
Single	05	-	05
Divorced	02	01	001
Widow	03	02	01
Sex			
Males	34	07	27

Females	08	03	05
Religion			
Moslem	37	10	27
Christian	05	-	05
Educational level			
None	20	05	15
Primary	16	03	13
Secondary	05	01	04
University	-	-	-
Others (Coranic studies)	01	01	-
Main occupation			
farmer	27	01	26
Trader	02	02	-
Grazer	04	04	-
Unemployed	07	03	04
Drivers	02	-	02
Athlet	01	-	01
Brick layer	01	-	01
Children living elsewhere			
Males	11	04	07
Females	13	06	07

2). WUM COUNCIL AREA

<i>COMMUNITY</i>	<i>NO. OF FAMILY HEADS</i>	<i>MBOROROS</i>	<i>NON MBOROROS</i>
WAINDO	38	38	-
Matrimonial status			
Married	37	37	-
Single			
Divorced	-	-	-
Widow	01	01	-
Sex			
Males	37	37	-
Females	01	01	-
Religion			
Moslem	38	38	-
Christian	-	-	-
Educational level			
None	24	24	-
Primary	06	06	-
Secondary	06	06	-
University			
Others (Coranic studies)			
Main occupation			
farmer	31	31	-
Trader	03	03	-
Grazer	01	01	-
Unemployed	01	01	-
teacher	01	01	-
Children living elsewhere			
Males	00	-	-
Females	00	-	-

COMMUNITY	NO. OF FAMILY HEADS	MBOROROS	NON MBOROROS
AGULI	19		19
Matrimonial status			
Married	11		11
Single	1		
Divorced	5	-	2
Widow	2		2
Sex			
Males	11		11
Females	08		08
Religion			
Moslem	-	-	-
Christian	19	-	19
Educational level			
None	08		08
Primary	09		09
Secondary	02		02
University			
Others (Coranic studies)			
Main occupation			
farmer	16		16
Trader	-	-	-
Grazer	-	-	-
Unemployed	03		03
teacher	-	-	-
Children living elsewhere			
Males	09	-	09
Females	07	-	07

COMMUNITY	NO. OF FAMILY HEADS	MBOROROS	NON MBOROROS
BANGWE	30	-	30
Matrimonial status			
Married	14		14
Single	02		14
Divorced	04	-	04
Widow	10	-	10
Sex			
Males	15	-	15
Females	15	-	15
Religion			
Moslem	-	-	-
Christian	30	-	30
Educational level			
None	15		15
Primary	15		15
Secondary			
University			
Others (Coranic studies)			
Main occupation			
farmer	26		26
Trader			
Grazer			
Unemployed	02		02
Others	02		02
Children living elsewhere			
Males	25	-	25
Females	14	-	14

3. BALI COUNCIL AREA

COMMUNITY	NO. OF FAMILY HEADS	MBOROROS	NON MBOROROS
MBUFONG AND KOPPING	16	6	10
Matrimonial status			
Married	10	4	6
Single	2	1	1
Divorced	-	-	-
Widow	04	01	03
Widowers	02	01	01
Sex			
Males	12	05	07
Females	04	01	03
Religion			
Moslem	38	38	-
Christian	-	-	-
Educational level			
None	08	05	03
Primary	08	01	07
Secondary	-	-	-
University	-	-	-
Others (Coranic studies)	-	-	-
Children living elsewhere			
Males	01	01	-
Females	02	01	01
NJOGONG 3&NJIGONG 4	NO. OF FAMILY HEADS	MBOROROS	NON MBOROROS
	24		
Matrimonial status			
Married	06	02	04
Single	10	-	10
Divorced	01	-	01
Widow	06	03	03
Widowers	02	-	
Sex			
Males	10	01	09

Females	14	04	10
Religion			
Moslem	09	04	05
Christian	15	-	15
Educational level			
None	04	02	01
Primary	09		09
Secondary	06	-	06
University	01		01
Others (Coranic studies)	04	04	-
Main occupation			
farmer	03	01	02
Trader	05	01	04
Grazer	-	-	-
Unemployed	15	02	13
Traditional doctor	01	01	-
Children living elsewhere			
Males	14	06	08
Females	06	02	04

III-ECONOMIC AND HEALTH SITUATION OF FAMILIES

The economic and health situation of rural communities within the three council areas is analysed based on their productive capacities and access to social services like the school and the hospital. According to the World Bank criteria, any individual who is having an annual income of less than 35.000 FRS (50 Dollars) is living in absolute poverty. It was further stated that about 85% of such people are living in rural areas of developing countries where Cameroon could not be an exception. *Reference F. Chindji Kouleu in initiation a la Sociologie Rural Edition SAAGRAPH.*

Subsistence agriculture is the principal activity of all the communities within the three council areas with about 150 out of the 242 identified families being farmers constituting about 63%. The main crops cultivated in all the communities are maize, beans, coco yams and potatoes. Rice is mostly cultivated in Aguli and Bangwe villages in Wum council area.

How to relate the above theoretical criteria within the context and situation of the three Council areas will be based on educational, monetary, nutritional and material indicators so as to access the families' level of economic and health situation and its vulnerability to child trafficking.

Following the monetary indicator, all identified families depend very much on agriculture which constitutes their principal source of income. Very little have other sources of income and in all communities we were made to know that the minimum annual income per family head was 5.000FRS which is far below the world bank criteria thus an indication that some people within these areas are living in absolute poverty. It was very difficult with others to determine their annual income on the bases that all money they get comes from the sale of farm products which is mostly used to purchase family needs like Kerosene, palm oil etc.

Some of the farmers are members of Njangi association where they save little money so as to meet up with children's school needs and also have access to credit in case of sickness but majority could not save or borrow in any financial institutions because of their low level of income.

The general level of education in all the communities visited is generally low with only few parents who have been to primary school. Most of their children are going to school but usually drop out after the primary level. The reason advanced for this is financial limitation coupled with the fact that Secondary and high school is much more expensive. Therefore most of them drop out to support their parents in farm activities. Only few children succeed going to the secondary school and most of the time drop between form three and four.

Despite their limited sources of income, the highest expenditure was observed in the domain of health. The minimum expenditure per family head in the hospital is about 50.000FCFA far greater than the annual income of some of the families. Following the information gathered from these rural families, money used to cover hospital expenses are mostly gotten from loans and sales of farm products. Most of the loans are taken from

friends rather than family members and are interest free. Their reasons advanced for such interest free loans from friends are that there exist solidarity among them and that illnesses are considered as emergencies and the unforeseen where each family is a potential victim at any moment. Despite the free interest rate of most of these loans, they are accountable within a given time frame. In other communities loans are taken and interest is paid differently. For instance; in Aguli, 5000FCFA is borrowed and paid back with a bag of rice during harvest worth 15,000FCFA. In some njangi groups loans are given at an interest rate of 2.5%. The issue of interest on loans is completely detested by the Muslim communities. Some other families would not even go for loans because they do not know where to get money to pay back. The frequency of consultation ranges from 1-3 times per month for all the families in all the communities visited with malaria considered the most frequent illness in all the three council areas. Epileptic cases were equally noticed in all the council areas

In all the three council areas the houses of the communities are mostly the same. They are either made up of Mud, bricks or grass. Most of the houses are roofed with zinc but with little furniture, no electricity and Television for most of the families. Most family heads do not have mobile phones thus seeing it as an additional expenditure on the family income. What families consider as their emergency financial needs is in the domain of health, education and nutrition of the family. What was generally observed with the material needs of the vulnerable families is that their clothing and those of their kids were generally poor and often torn. Therefore what could be considered as the aspiration of such vulnerable communities constitutes the next chapter of this report. These tables help in answering the questions as to whether child trafficking is a myth or a reality and the reasons why children are displaced from one place to another. Also, they can act as a starting point to track child trafficking in these communities.

PROFILES OF CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Community	No.	Name of child	Occupation	Age	Reasons for leaving home			Aspiration of minors
					Economic	Social	Others	
Bangwe	1	Nju Gaus	Un employed	18	X			Go to school
	2	Che Elvis	Un employed	18	X			Go to school
	3	Belinda Beh	Un employed	16	X			
	4	Nday Sidony	Um employed	18	X			
	5	Prince Will	Un employed	08		X		
	6	Kum Luis Kacha	Trader	13	X			Generate money and continue school
	7	Kum Nelson	Does jobs	15	X			Acquire money to further education
	8	Kum Asidor	Kid	03	X			

		Amoum						
9	Mbong Rylindis	Student	15					
10	Felicita Beh	Farmer	14		X			
11	Luis Nji	Student	16			X		
12	Lunord Nang	Student	13	X				
13	Enocent Ajonga	Pupil	10	X				
14	Divine Fang	Un employed	18	X				Learn driving
15	Proper Kum Fang	Un employed	14		X			
16	Kum Clinton	Un employed	10		X			Continue school

Community	No.	Name of child	Occupation	Age	Reasons for leaving home			Aspiration of minors
					Economic	Social	Others	
Tadu	1	Tetin Jacantha	Un employed	14	X			
	2	Maimuna Oumarou	Un employed	20	X			
	3	Habubakar Oumar	Un employed	30	X			
	4	Abdulahi Oumarou			X			
	5	Abdul Kadiri	Un employed	25	X			
	6	Hadiza Bakari	Pupil	09				Continue school
	7	Wirgham Hassan	Kid	07		X		Go to school
	8	Abdurahman Yusufu	Pupil	07		X		Stay with relative
	9	Hayatu Yusufa	Un employed	15		X		Go to school
	10	Hawa Diphon	Pupil	08		X		Go to school
	11	Ibrahim Nuyke	Un employed	19	X			Complete school
	12	Abdulahi	Un employed	19	X			
	13	Njosi Sherifatu	Trader	18	X			Do business
	14	Jalilo Mbinka	Un employed	17				
	15	Nuhu Mbinka	Un employed	19	X			Shaving
	16	Madinatou	Un employed	10		X		
	17	Salamatou Wikiy	Un employed	10	X			Learn tailoring

	18	Zihadatou		08		X		
	19	Habibou Oumarou		07		X		Go to school
	20	Ramatou Usmanu	12	12		X		Education

Community	No	Names of children	Age	Occupation	Reasons for leaving home			Aspirations of minors
					Economic	Social	Other	
Waindou	1	Jibrilla Sale	11	Pupil	X			Wanting to return home and stay with parents
	2	Muhammadou Haruna	19	Arabic studies		X		Wants to study
	3	Dawda Usmanu	10	Pupil			X	Wants to go to school
	4	Munira Adamu	05	Unemployed	X			Wants to go to school but no means

Community	No	Names of children	Age	Occupation	Reasons for leaving home			Aspirations of minors
					Economic	Social	Other	
Bamndzeng	1	Hidayatou	02	Unemployed		X		
	2	Mwini Manu	17	Learning a trade	X			Continue learning a trade or Tailoring
	3	Huseina Berinnuy	20	Housewife		X		
	4	Faanka	10	Unemployed		X		Go to school
	5	Valerie Bimela	15	Unemployed	X			Learn a trade

Community	No	Names of children	Age	Occupation	Reasons for leaving home			Aspirations of minors
					Economic	Social	Other	
Meluf	1	Nafissatou	18	Househelp	X			Learn a trade
	2	Ivone Nsagha	13	Sewing	X			Wants to do business
	3	Anabel Limnuy	13	Unemployed		X		Wants to go back to school
	4	Giliane Lamnteng	15	House help	X			Wants to continue education
	5	Emmanuel Tardzennuy	10	Unemployed	X			Wants to learn Driving

Community	No	Names of children	Age	Occupation	Reasons for leaving home			Aspirations of minors
					Economic	Social	Other	
Aguli	1	Ofe Simon	15	Unemployed		X		Continue his education
	2	Awah Chantal	10	Unemployed		X		Continue Education
	3	Issa Lilian	7	Unemployed		X		Continue Education
	4	Meray Kumbong	18	Unemployed	X			Learn a trade
	5	Mbong Ichu	16	Unemployed	X			Continue Education
	6	Ufoh Ichu	12	Unemployed	X			Continue Education
	7	Wambong Marcel	15	Unemployed	X			Do Business
	8	Wambong Irene	13	Unemployed	X			Learn Tailoring
	9	Kaka Carine	18	Unemployed	X			Learn Hair dressing
	10	Yelang Chantal	03	Unemployed			X	Go to school
	11	Ekeh Paul	17	Unemployed		X		Continue School
	12	Joel Ale	08	Unemployed		X		Continue School
	13	Bang Jefroy Rene	19	Unemployed	X			Continue Education
	14	Banclarkson Beng	04	Unemployed		X		Continue Education

Community	No.	Name of child	Occupation	Age	Reasons for leaving home			Aspiration of minors
					Economic	Social	Others	
Njington 3 & 4	1	Njingom Ilyasu	Un employed	15	X			Medical doctor
	2	Mairo	Un employed	15		X		
	3	Mairamou Lami	Un employed	18	X			Teach English
	4	Muhamadou Tukur	Okada rider	18	X			
	5	Umarou Amadou		15	X			Driving
	6	Emmail Monela	Un employed	20	X			
	7	Edwin Ndongoh	Un employed	15		X		Decoration and brick apprentice
	8	Loveline Bosung	Un employed	11			X	School
	9	Jabosung Bamarice	Un employed				X	
	10	Ganbobga Buss	Un employed	12			X	school
	11	Nyamdi Ransom	Un employed	16			X	School
	12	Jamina Adamu	Un employed					Learn computer

Community	No.	Name of child	Occupation	Age	Reasons for leaving home			Aspiration of minors
					Economic	Social	Others	
Mbufong & kopping	1	Mbonge Solnage	Un employed	12		X		
	2	Dobgima Geofry	Un employed	19		X		Wood works

IV-ASPIRATION OF FAMILIES

The aspirations of the identified families varies from one community to another though one observation made was the fact that the over all aspirations for all the communities are the same. As earlier mentioned in the introduction about 85% of these rural communities depend on subsistence agriculture and livestock rearing therefore linking their aspirations to these activities was not a mistake for these communities.

Majority of the farmers and other individuals wish to have their own business rather than working for individuals but what differs is the type of individual's businesses these farmers wish to engage in. The Women alongside other men wish to be engaged in *Bayam sellam* business. Most of the Mbororos wish to do livestock trading with few cases identified where individuals wished to carry poultry farming. The amount request for such activities ranges from 10.000FRCFA to 5.000.000FCFA

It was made clear to us that the means of production already available was land where the chosen activities could be carried out. The aspiration of identified children differs from those of the parents. Most of the children wish to continue with their education though raising fears of financial difficulties which may lead to school drop out. Others who are not going to school wish to become seamstresses and tailors, auto mechanic as well as driving. The children and adults did not advocate for any amount for such training but wish to be supported and enrolled into these vocational institutions for training. No cultural barrier was advanced for both the parents and the identified children as an obstacle for such activities both for the Mbororo and the non Mbororo communities.

V-OBSERVATIONS

Our observations are inclined both towards the level of poverty and general issues alleged in the communities we visited (Bali, Kumbo and Wum council areas). These observations have been placed under different themes to facilitate comprehension.

Nutrition

The nutritional intake of most villagers is poor. In most communities, we saw children with swollen stomachs (kwashiorkor) indicating poor nutrition. In some areas food is plenty but the appropriate quantity and quality of food substances are not taken.

Education

Family planning

Family planning in rural areas appears to be poor or inexistent. It becomes more visible in the most desperate homes where girls tend to give birth to many children out of wet luck and these children are often abandoned to their grand mothers. It is still not clear how they manage to sustain these children given their physical strength and finances.

Level of education

The literacy level in communities is very low. The majority of educated people have are those having the FSLC. Others who attempt to further their education often drop at the secondary level because of lack of sponsors

Nature of the population (stratification) aging

The population pyramid as observed in these communities' shows that a greater population is made up of the aged group because of rural exodus which drastically reduces the labour force. This incidence leads to poverty and vulnerability. Widows and orphans make the most vulnerable group in the communities

Economy

The lack of sufficient financial services to serve the population is a major setback to development in the communities.

The limited source of income to people makes them unable to secure savings for the rainy days.

One thing is evident; almost all villagers rely on farming / grazing as their main economic activity but they do not most often consider the quantity of food they harvest and or the number of animals they have as synonymous to wealth.

The complication to financial access is that Muslims do not take loans that entail interest and also poor people (non Muslims inclusive) are against loaning with interest because it rather adds their burden than helping them.

In Mbororo setups, family members tend to be substantial asset than in non Mbororo communities and so would often provide in terms of needs

Infrastructure

In some areas where harvest is remarkable, farm products can hardly be evacuated to the markets because of poor farm to market roads. Coupled with this, lack of storage facilities tends to discourage production of perishable goods that are equally highly solicited in markets.

Hardly do farmers have access to farm inputs to improve on their yields

Others

Traditional means of communication are still very much used in some communities to easily mobilise people

Working with people in the interior and enclave communities is much easier than working with the semi urban people who tend to be very difficult to convince

Some council personnel are very much money minded and too bureaucratic thus making it difficult to work with them

It is a difficult task not to raise expectations during a survey like this one most especially when the objective has to be explained. We also discovered that a lot of expectations were already raised in the field about the project probably during the orientation meetings.

Most communities given to us did not have Mbororos whereas they were supposed to have as indicated during the last meeting with ILO and the other executing partners . People in the rural areas are very welcoming and always want to give you something in return

We were also privileged to see a traditional story building built in 1939 in the Mbufong Palace which is still in use today and is a historical monument.

Some villages (Bamzeng in Kumbo council area, Aguli, Bangwe and Windu in Wum council area, are really facing adept water problems. In such villages, water borne diseases were recurrent.

VI-DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN THE FIELD

The process of the survey was quiet an interesting experience and learning process. But that not withstanding in every successful process there are always loopholes along the way; some expected and others not

1. Working with some resource persons was difficult because their expectations were high in terms of remunerations
2. The intensity of rains impeded movement in some areas as roads became impassable making work extremely difficult. We got stocked at various points spending hours just like in this picture.



3. Language was a barrier as many people in the community did not understand even Pidgin. Thus there is a possibility that some valuable information gets missing during translation
4. Some organisations based in the field were not all that collaborative making mobilisation a little bit difficult
5. The vast and dispersed nature of some communities made it difficult to reach all the needy people
6. The time frame given to do the exercise was too short and needed people to work under a lot of pressure and stress which might also affect the quality of work
7. The fact that other organisations have been doing similar surveys without any positive results after wards made people hesitant to provide needed information
8. In some communities like Bamndzeng, the non Muslim community members prefer their farm work to participating in the survey. Also the people of Bali in general are too proud to a fault and would not accept the existence of any vulnerable children and extremely poor families in their communities. Most often, we were not allowed to administer questionnaires in some quarters for such reasons. In kingomen, some individuals commented that NGOs are fond of extracting information from people and never coming back to execute

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the some of the challenges faced in the field, we would advocate that:

- A survey should be done to address the need of the Mbororo people to a greater extent
- Enough time should be accorded next time for such an exercise
- MBOSCUA should also be consulted in the identification of beneficiary communities because they would be better placed to spot Mbororo communities
- This program should actually be implemented to stop the suspicions people are raising about NGOs extracting information and not doing anything in return

CONCLUSION

The concept of poverty as understood in literature and on the field findings is a complex phenomenon which varies from society to society in the way it is perceived and interpreted by people. It is generally accepted in all societies as limited resources to satisfy individual needs. But the differences on the concept surface very much on how much resources are needed to satisfy such needs at different levels of the society and also the way they are measured. What seems clear is the fact that poverty does not apply only to rural communities but is a world wide concept which manifest in different ways but affects the rural population more than any other communities for several reasons. They depend very much on subsistence agriculture and animal rearing coupled with their low level of education which does not permit them to make better use of the natural resources at their disposal, thus making them vulnerable not only to relative but also to absolute poverty.

ANNEX TO CHAPTER II