



KNOWLEDGE FOR CHILDREN

CAMEROON

YEAR REPORT 2014



MOTTO: *ASSURING A BETTER LIFE*

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Summary

During the year 2014, Knowledge for Children has put emphasis on the Quality of Education Program. We did this because we see that Knowledge for Children has donated over 70.000 textbooks since 2005, but many children can still not read.

Schoolbook Program

No new schools have been added in 2014. Still 132 rural primary schools are in our program. This year, we donated 13,733 books to 84 schools. Over 20,000 pupils have benefitted from these books. During book drops, parents were sensitized on the importance of education and books. In general, turnout of parents was high during our activities.

In the field the eight voluntary Zonal Coordinators kept us up to date on developments at the schools.

Quality of Education

Our partner Shisasay has been very successful in supporting this program. Thanks to them, we received funding from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to work in this program for the next three years.

The first activity done under this grant, was the training of almost 700 teachers in October and November. Earlier in 2014, we organized our first reading competition in Kumbo. Reading tests were done in January and February and clearly showed the need for more capacity building for teachers.

Our Annual General Assembly in September was successful and brought PTA presidents and Head Teachers of almost all our schools as well as representatives of government and partner organisations together.

Health Program

Ten new Health Clubs were installed. The schools were selected based on excellent performance in the Schoolbook Program.

In 2014, Knowledge for Children began a new initiative within the Health Program entitled Healthy Hands and we were able to donate 60 hand-washing stations to 20 schools. All Health Clubs were also trained on germs and hand-washing.

Finally, World AIDS Day, on the 1st of December, was celebrated in Kumbo. With our partners Rural Development Foundation (RDF), Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH) and Shisong Hospital we had a successful day in the market of Kumbo.

Partner Programs

Together with partner organizations, we organized additional activities for some of our schools in the field of construction of classrooms, computer training and facilities, scholarships for underprivileged children and income generating activities for women groups.

Organizational Developments

This year, our Country Director Mr. Rolf Schipper left Knowledge for Children and Ms. Esly van Dam took over from him. In August, two new members of the Board of Directors were recruited, as well as an advisor to the board.

Résumé – Français

Au cours de l'année 2014, Knowledge for Children a mis un accent particulier sur le programme : 'Éducation de Qualité'. La raison de ceci est que malgré les 70.000 livres donnés depuis 2005 par l'organisation, plusieurs élèves ne savent toujours pas lire.

Programme-Livre Scolaire

Aucune nouvelle école n'a été ajoutée à ce programme en 2014 cependant, 132 écoles primaires rurales en bénéficient encore. Cette année, nous avons fait don de 13,733 livres à 84 écoles. Plus de 20,000 élèves ont bénéficié de ces livres. Au cours des différents dépôts des livres, les parents ont été sensibilisés sur l'importance de l'éducation et des livres. En général, le taux de participation des parents était élevé au cours de nos activités. Sur le terrain, les huit coordinateurs zonaux volontaires nous tenaient à jour du développement des écoles.

Programme Éducation de Qualité

Notre partenaire Shisasay a avec brio appuyé ce programme. Grâce à eux, nous avons reçu des fonds du Ministère Allemand des Affaires Étrangères, pour continuer de travailler à ce programme durant les trois prochaines années.

La première activité effectuée en vertu de cette subvention, a été la formation de près de 700 professeurs en octobre et novembre. Plus tôt en 2014, nous avons organisé notre premier concours de lecture à Kumbo. Des tests de lecture faits en janvier et février démontrent clairement, la nécessité de renforcer les capacités des enseignants.

Notre Assemblée Générale Annuelle de Septembre a mis ensemble aussi bien les directeurs et présidents de l'APE (association des parents d'élèves) de presque toutes nos écoles, que les représentants du gouvernement et des organisations partenaires. Ce fut un grand succès.

Programme Santé

Dix nouveaux Clubs Santé ont été installés; les écoles ont été sélectionnés à l'issue des excellentes performances enregistrées au programme Livre Scolaire.

En 2014, Knowledge for Children a mis sur pied une nouvelle initiative au sein du Programme Santé, intitulé "Healthy Hands" ("Mains saines"). Nous avons ainsi pu faire un don de 60 points de lavage de mains à 20 écoles. Tous les Clubs Santé ont également été formés sur les germes et le lavage des mains.

Pour finir, la Journée Mondiale du SIDA a été célébrée à Kumbo le 1^{er} Décembre. Nous avons eu une journée pleine de succès au marché de Kumbo avec nos différents partenaires notamment: Rural Development Foundation (RDF), Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH) and Shisong Hospital.

Programmes Partenaire

En collaboration avec les organisations partenaires, nous avons organisé des activités supplémentaires pour certaines de nos écoles, dans le domaine de la construction des salles de classe, de la formation à l'installation et à l'usage de l'outil informatique, des bourses d'études pour les enfants défavorisés et des activités génératrices de revenus pour les groupes de femmes.

Développement Organisationnel

Cette année, l'administrateur local de Knowledge for Children, M. Rolf Schipper a cédé sa place à Mme Esly Van Dam. En août, deux nouveaux membres du Conseil d'administration ont été recrutés, ainsi qu'un conseiller au Conseil d'administration.

Samenvatting – Nederlands

In 2014 heeft Knowledge for Children meer nadruk gelegd op het Kwaliteitsverbeterings Programma. We hebben dit gedaan omdat we hebben vastgesteld dat Knowledge for Children sinds 2005 meer dan 70.000 schoolboeken heeft gedoneerd, maar veel kinderen nog steeds niet kunnen lezen.

Schoolboek Programma

Aan dit programma zijn geen nieuwe scholen toegevoegd in 2014. We werken nog steeds met 132 basisscholen op het platteland van Kameroen. Dit jaar hebben we 13.733 boeken gedoneerd aan 84 scholen. Meer dan 20.000 leerlingen hebben hiervan geprofiteerd. Tijdens de boek donaties hebben we ouders geïnformeerd over het belang van onderwijs en boeken. In het algemeen zijn de meeste ouders aanwezig tijdens onze activiteiten.

Acht coördinatoren in het veld hebben als vrijwilliger bijgedragen en ons op de hoogte gehouden van de ontwikkelingen in de scholen.

Kwaliteitsverbeterings Programma

In dit programma ontvangen we veel steun van onze partner Shisasay. Dankzij hen ontvangen we voor de komende drie jaar financiële steun van het Duitse Ministerie van Buitenlandse zaken.

De eerste activiteit die we met deze steun hebben gedaan, was het trainen van bijna 700 leerkrachten in oktober en november. Eerder in 2014 hebben we onze eerste leeswedstrijd georganiseerd in Kumbo. In januari en februari hebben we leestesten afgenomen, waaruit duidelijk bleek dat we de leerkrachten verder moeten trainen.

Onze jaarvergadering in september was een succes en werd bijgewoond door de voorzitters van de ouderraden en directeuren van onze scholen. Ook de overheid en partner organisaties waren deze dag aanwezig.

Gezondheids Programma

Tien nieuwe Gezondheids Clubs zijn gestart in 2014. De scholen waar we dit doen, werden gekozen op basis van hun succes in het schoolboek programma.

In 2014 zijn we begonnen met een nieuw initiatief in het gezondheidsprogramma, getitelde Gezonde Handen. We hebben 60 handenwas-systemen geschonken aan 20 scholen. Alle Gezondheid Clubs hebben geleerd over bacteriën en het belang van handen wassen.

Tot slot hebben we op 1 december Wereld AIDS Dag gevierd in Kumbo. Samen met onze partners Rural Development Foundation (RDF), Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH) en Shisong Hospital hadden we een succesvolle dag op de markt van Kumbo.

Partner Programma's

Samen met onze partners hebben we aanvullende activiteiten georganiseerd in een aantal scholen zoals het bouwen van klaslokalen, ICT projecten, beurzen voor kansarme kinderen en activiteiten voor vrouwengroepen gericht op het vergroten van hun inkomsten.

Organisationele ontwikkelingen

Dit jaar heeft onze country director Rolf Schipper Knowledge for Children verlaten. Hij is opgevolgd door Esly van Dam. In augustus hebben we twee nieuwe bestuursleden gevonden en daarnaast een adviseur voor het bestuur.

Introduction

The year 2014 has been a special year for Knowledge for Children. Much emphasis was put on the training of teachers to improve the reading skills of the pupils in the 132 rural primary schools we work with. We trained 680 teachers in less than six weeks.

Staff members, volunteers and interns have worked hard to improve all our programs. The Health Program has gone through some major changes and the monitoring procedures have been improved. More and more schools graduate from the Schoolbook Program, enabling them to benefit from other activities of Knowledge for Children. The fact that many schools graduate, also means that many communities have successfully contributed to the program for five years. We appreciate all the effort of the parents as we know it is not always easy for them to contribute to the program.

A major change in the office is that our Country Director Mr. Rolf Schipper has left Knowledge for Children after almost 2 years. His position has been taken over by the first female director, Ms. Esly van Dam.

We created a lot of new partnerships in 2014. The proverb says; *If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.* We believe that in working together with our partners, we can impact even more on the lives of the rural pupils in Cameroon.

In this report, you can read more about our work in 2014. We are very grateful to our supporters, our donors, our volunteers and staff. Thanks to all of you, Knowledge for Children could grow further in 2014. We hope that this report shows our successes, but also motivates us to do even more. Together with our supporters and partners, we are sure our successes in 2015 will be bigger than ever!

Kumbo, Cameroon, February 2015

Esly van Dam
Country Director



Schoolbook Program

The year 2014 is the ninth year of the existence of Knowledge for Children Cameroon and the Schoolbook Program in particular. This year the donation of books to schools, impact assessment, community participation with the help of zonal coordinators has continued to be enormous. 41 schools have already graduated from the Schoolbook Program this year, and many more continue to graduate. In that light, Knowledge for Children will continue to work with them more in advisory roles but the schools will continue raising funds to purchase their books and/or to replace torn and worn out ones. Many schools continue to apply to join the program. No schools were added to the program this year. In 2014, Knowledge for Children concentrated on training the teachers to properly use the books.

School Situation

As it stands, 41 schools have already graduated from the Schoolbook Program, 21 are in the fifth year meaning Knowledge for Children will no longer donate books to these schools. Projections therefore show that with everything being equal, Knowledge for Children will be donating books to only 46 schools by the beginning of 2016.

Graduated schools	41
Fifth year schools	21
Fourth Year Schools	24
Third Year Schools	29
Second Year Schools	17
First Year Schools	0

Book donations

In 2014, Knowledge for Children bought 13,733 books to 84 schools, touching the lives of over 20,000 school children in rural schools spread across the North West and Adamawa Regions of Cameroon. The registry of books in the schools has been raised to more than seventy thousand books.

Community participation

Parents continued in 2014 to massively attend book donations. The number generally increased because in the preceding year, we enforced a penalty to any community that showed low turnout. We had insisted on massive turnout because this served as an opportunity for us to meet the all the stakeholders of education in the community.

This is also a moment for us, Knowledge for Children, to educate the parents and teachers on a number of issues. These include among other things: the importance of education to the child, the importance of books to the education of the child, the importance of parental involvement in the child’s education, proper handling of books and teacher/parent relationships towards the education of their children.

Book donations also give parents the opportunity to express their fears, doubts and challenges. There were instances where parents had set a levy that was too little to run for the expected duration of the project, or parents who thought Knowledge for Children was selling books to the school or when parents did not know how to prioritize and pay for the book levy in their school. It was also a moment for the members of the external services of the Ministry of Basic Education to meet all the stakeholders of basic education in the community. During this encounter, the representatives of the ministry also had a moment to clarify the population on some pertinent misunderstandings. For instance parents believe that since education is free therefore they do not have to buy books for their children.

In general, the parents were very enthusiastic during the book donations and promised to do their best to pay their contributions to the school administration on time, so that the school percentage will be bought.

We cannot lose sight of the other end of the continuum whereby in some communities, though few in number, parents did not come out at all or were too few. We had set a standard that the head count of parents should be at least a third of the school enrolment. When (not enough) parents didn't show up, it was generally due to laxities on the part of the Head Teacher or the PTA president.

We have taken note of this sad eventuality and have set up a leadership training which will go underway in 2015 to make the PTA Presidents and Head Teachers to be more proactive. Nevertheless, in such scenarios, the books were taken back to the office and when the community agreed on a possible date, the book team would return. Books were therefore never donated without the participation of the community. Equally, those communities were fined 5,000FRS.



Pupil showing a new book

Graduated Schools and Exit strategy

By December 31st, 2014, 41 schools have already graduated from the Schoolbook Program. To be a graduated school, Knowledge for Children must have donated books for five times and the school on their part must have bought books also five times (or for the new program, Knowledge for Children must have donated books three times and the school must have bought books three times). Upon graduation, schools are given a certificate of completion and this is usually during the Annual General Assembly. These schools have become partner schools to Knowledge for Children.

Knowledge for Children will no longer be donating books to these schools. Nevertheless, these school communities will continue to raise money to purchase books in a bid to sustain the schoolbooks. This is so because the books in the school may wear out, got destroyed or new books may be introduced. Knowledge for Children had already developed a three year exit strategy for these schools during which Knowledge for Children continues to stay in contact with these graduated schools and monitors them, trains the teachers, runs other programs in the school.

In these years we ensure that books are still bought, and books donated in the past are properly used and well-taken care of. Given that the exit strategy demands some financial responsibilities on the part of the school communities, they are explained what it means right from the day of the first visit so that it does not meet them by surprise. As the years go by, during each book donation they are reminded.

The exit strategy goes thus: after the fifth year or the third year (for the new program) schools will continue to purchase books to replace damaged books or just to increase the registry of books in the event of an increase in enrolment. What is clear is that upon graduation, they will no longer receive books from Knowledge for Children though they will still be partner schools of Knowledge for Children. Given that they are partner schools, the coordinators will still visit the schools for book controls, for PTA meetings and for interventions as the case may be. The schools will also still be invited for trainings whether for the PTA, the Head Teacher for the entire teaching staff of the school.

None of the forty-one schools have bought books for a sixth year and we continue to urge them to do that. Analysis of the attitude for the communities after completion shows that the amount the community has to spend on books in the fifth year is already quite high. They are able to raise those funds, but if they are to continue raising that amount of money for books in the years after, it will be hard for them to collect money for anything else in the schools. Meanwhile, schools might be in need of other things, like renovation or construction of classrooms, repairs, additional teachers, purchase of computers, and so forth. To make it possible for the communities to spend money on other needs for the school, a lower amount for books purchase in the years after completion of the program is advised. That is, at least half of the amount (50%) will be spent on the purchase of books while the other percentage will be used for other purposes of the school if need be.

When schools complete their fifth year, they can also apply for compensatory programs, these includes school renovation and construction, income generating activities, computer programs and scholarship programs. These programs have already been piloted and they have proven to be feasible in the communities.

New schools

In 2014, no schools were added to the Schoolbook Program. The spread of schools stands as follows

Division	Number of Schools
Bui	69
Donga Mantung	34
Boyo	5
Mezam	6
Menchum	3
Ngoketunjia	10
Mayo Banyo (Adamawa Region)	5
TOTAL	132

A closer look may reveal that the highest number of schools is localised in Bui Division, but this is not uniform as seen below. Nkum has 29 schools, Kumbo Central has 19 schools, Jakiri has 10 schools, Mbven has 07 schools, Oku has 02 schools and Noni has 02 schools. This means that there are still many schools in Noni, Oku and Mbven that are still in dire need of our assistance even as we nurse the hopes of expanding to other divisions and regions.

Nursery schools

When primary schools have the same PTA with the nursery school, we include books for the nursery school in our donation to the school. Only teacher copies are donated because nursery school books are work books and if donated to schools, the children will need to write in them and the preceding year will still not have books to use.

Coordinators

Our zonal coordinators served as the liaison person between Knowledge for Children and the school communities. Their roles and responsibilities were well spelled out and they all sent in their monitoring and evaluation checklist in June to close the academic year and in October to begin the academic year. In 2014, there were 8 coordinators who controlled eight zones. The ninth zone was controlled from the office. We had four coordinators’ meetings.

During the mid-year, we evaluated our coordinators and a job description and contract were signed. From our evaluation, the coordinators that were assiduous were congratulated and those that were lagging behind were called to order. The coordinator for Bamenda has been called for duties out of the zone and it will practically be difficult for him to keep coordinating the zone from out of the zone. Considering the vastness of Bamenda Zone, by the end of 2014 we were looking at having a number of assistant coordinators in this zone who will report to him. This method could also be applicable in other zones especially where the coordinator for some reason, health, age, other duties or otherwise, may make it impossible for him/her to carry out the expected duties.

Book Selection

The books we donated were generally divided into three categories. In the first phase of the program schools received books on Sound and Word building and English. In the second phase they received French and Mathematics and in the third phase other subjects, like geography, history and computer science. Schools were advised to stick to that order and that has gone very smoothly. Books were generally bought strictly through the Knowledge for Children office as instructed. This was so that we could control the book standard.

Communication

One problem we have faced over the years is that of communication. Our schools are found in rural areas where the postal and telephone services are unreachable. Even when they are within reach,



Book donation

the constant transfer of Head Teachers continue to cause a daunting task when we need to communicate with a school and get but connected to someone who had already been transferred from the school. To solve this problem, during the Annual General Assembly we collected the phone numbers of the Head Teachers and the PTA presidents, during the training, we collected the phone numbers of all the teachers of the school and during the Health Club installation we also add the phone number of the community Health Club coordinator. When we need information from a school, we send a text message to all the aforementioned in the school. With 500FRS CFA we have unlimited text

messages for 30days. This makes communication with schools much easier because at least one person in the listed group above will not be transferred from the school by the end of the year.

Some Challenges

- We see that book controls by coordinators are getting less efficient. We will try to motivate the voluntary coordinators more to improve on this situation.
- Most of our schools continue to phase out without replacement of new schools. Although we are concentrating on training of teachers, we could also gradually continue to replace some of the schools if funding permits.
- In several schools, we see a major drop in enrolment numbers. This has causes beyond our influence, for example when a new Catholic school is opened very close to the Government school and Catholic parents send their children to this school (sometimes under force of the Church, we heard cases where children dropped out because the pastor would not give them communion if they stay at Government school and parents can't afford Catholic school).

Quality of Education Program

In 2014, more emphasis was put on the Quality of Education Program. In October 2014, we got the confirmation that our German partner Shisasay will be able to financially support this program for three years through a grant of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We are very grateful for their support in this!

On the job coaching

In the first months of the year, a few schools were visited for on-the-job coaching. This was a follow up of the zonal teacher training workshops conducted at the start of the academic year. Unfortunately, our senior trainer has suffered from health problems which made it impossible for her to go out to the schools and coach teachers. This had a negative influence on the number of schools and the results reached in this program.

Teacher training

In October and November 2014, Knowledge for Children conducted teacher training workshops for all teachers of all our schools. In previous years, only a selection of teachers was trained and they were supposed to share their new knowledge with their colleagues. This approach turned out to have little success and therefore we changed the strategy and invited all teachers for the workshops in 2014.



Teacher presenting Sound and Word Building exercise

During 20 workshops, we trained 680 teachers of 127 Knowledge for Children schools (74 Government Schools, 20 Catholic Schools, 19 Presbyterian Schools, 10 Islamic Schools and 4 Baptist Schools). Four schools did not send teachers to the workshops. Seven teachers of other schools came to observe and join the training to

be able to share their knowledge with the other teachers in their schools. Remarkable is a lady who was sent through our partner organisation RDF and trained all teachers of her own school and neighbouring schools afterwards.

In the workshops, we paid attention to lesson planning and child centred methods, use of books in the classroom, sound and word building and evaluation techniques. Three freelance trainers supported the Knowledge for Children staff in conducting the training.

In 2015, we will follow up on the workshops through on the job coaching, for which we recruited a new trainer.

Annual General Assembly

In September 2014, Knowledge for Children kicked off the academic year 2014-2015 with the General Assembly. During this meeting, all Head Teachers and presidents of the Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) of all the 132 Knowledge for Children were invited. The vast majority of them were present during the meeting.

In presence of the Senior Divisional Officer (SDO) for Bui and representatives of various partner organisations, all guests were updated about the Knowledge for Children programs.



General Assembly, group discussions

Most attention was paid to proper collaboration between the Head Teacher and PTA. In many schools, we observe difficulties in this collaboration which leads to negative situations. PTA presidents were reminded to open a bank account. The Head Teachers were reminded that PTA money should be kept safe by the PTA and not by the Head Teachers.

One school where the Head Teacher and PTA work together very well presented their experiences. In this school, the collaboration is good what is leading to better results. The PTA and Head Teacher identify and solve challenges together, the Head Teachers makes sure the quality of education remains high and the PTA provides the facilities to make this possible.

Fair Education

In April, the team conducted training for teachers in Ndop. Our partner organisation Fair Education sent three of their staff members to the Knowledge for Children office to receive training about organisational management and topics like monitoring and evaluation and community participation. In the second stage of the project, our staff went to Bamessing (Ndop) to train 33 teachers of six schools with which Fair Education is working. Two groups received a workshop of one day on basic teaching skills.

Reading Test

As a way to measure impact of our programs we have adapted a reading test which is used to measure reading rates of pupils. A random sample was taken from 42 primary schools whereby in each school children were randomly selected from classes 2, 4 and 6. The reading ability of the children is still as low as an average of 10 words per minute. In class 2, pupils read an average of only 0.7 two-letter words per minute.

This baseline test helped us determine especially that we have to build the capacity of teachers to make sure the books are used effectively. Also, it enables us to measure change in the future. We intend to work with each school for a timeline of one year and then conduct a follow up test to observe if there has been any change in reading rates. Then after another year the last follow up test will be established. This last test should be able to show to us if the trainings given to teachers and books donated to the school really positively influenced the reading skills of pupils.

Reading Competition

Knowledge for Children wants to motivate teachers and help them in their process of teaching primary school children to read. Knowledge for Children also wants to motivate the children and let them experience that reading can be a lot of fun. That is why Knowledge for Children decided to organize a reading competition with some schools.

The schools that participated were schools in which Knowledge for Children had installed Reading Clubs, so the club members actually competed against each other. During March - April 2014 the first try-out of a reading competition was organized in Kumbo. Nine schools from around Kumbo participated in this competition.



Winners of the Reading Competition

Children, teachers and officials were enthusiastic about the concept. That is why Knowledge for Children is planning to organize more reading competitions in the future.

Mobile Boxes

Three mobile boxes were given out to schools that did well in the reading competition. These boxes contain story books that are fun to read. The concept of the mobile boxes is to enhance the reading

culture amongst teachers and pupils in our schools. The boxes have gone round in all three schools before they came back to the office.

Some challenges

- An ongoing challenge in the Quality of Education program is the transfer of teachers. This means we often work with teachers for a year and after that they transfer to another school and we have to build the capacity of the new teachers from the start.
- We faced many difficulties in staffing for this program. Our senior trainer had to resign because of health issues and replacing her turned out to be difficult. We managed to find a new trainer, who assumed duty on 1st January, 2015.
- Another challenge is the number of untrained teachers in some schools. Some of these teachers can hardly speak English, what makes it very difficult to really work with them.

Health Program

The Knowledge for Children Health Team focused in 2014 on improving the Health Program. By introducing a new project design and monitoring and evaluation framework, the Health Team is able to better manage and monitor the overall program and individual clubs. The Health Team held three workshops with Health Club coordinators to teach and reinforce interactive teaching methods and how to best utilize resources like the Health Club manual and Knowledge for Children donated action readers. In September, we graduated 23 schools and installed ten new Health Clubs. On December 1, we celebrated World AIDS Day in Kumbo with our partners Rural Development Foundation (RDF), Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH), and Shisong Hospital.

Installation of New Health Clubs

The team installed ten new Health Clubs in schools selected based on previous superior performance in the Knowledge for Children Schoolbook Program. Each Health Club Installation Ceremony begins with an introduction of the Health Program and its origins. During the presentation, the Knowledge for Children Health Team describes the three main themes of the program – Malaria, HIV and AIDS, and Hygienic Diseases.



Sketch of Health Scouts

The pupils are introduced to the responsibilities, motto, and title of the Health Scouts. The Health Club then elects a President and Vice President through democratic voting. After the election, the Health Scouts are presented with their new materials – the HIV Action Readers. Each Health Club receives five copies of 12 different HIV Action Readers ranging in reading level, for a total of 60 donated books.

The HIV Action Readers not only provide stories on a variety of Health Club topics, but they also include lessons, activities, and discussion points for coordinators to use during club sessions.

Workshops and Working Sessions

The Knowledge for Children Health Team conducted several trainings for Health Club coordinators throughout 2014. During the beginning of the year, the Health Team visited each Health Club to conduct sessions on germs and hand-washing. The team demonstrated interactive teaching methods and games to engage the pupils, coordinators, teachers, and parents.

In October, the Health Team held a series of workshops for the current Health Club Coordinators. One teacher and the community coordinator for each school in the Health Program were invited to one workshop. In total, we held two workshops for 2nd and 3rd year schools (Ndu and Kumbo), and one workshop for new schools (Kumbo). The goals of the workshops included reiterating the Health Program goals, sharing monitoring and evaluation methods, and demonstrating interactive teaching strategies.

All three workshops included an introductory session on Ebola, what was by then a big issue in Cameroonian media. The session highlighted information on transmission, prevention, and treatment, as well as up-to-date statistics. The session also focused on how to pass on this relevant information on to Health Scouts and communities. Each of the three workshops additionally featured sessions on the importance of assertive communication of accurate information, particularly in relation to sexual reproductive health education. The Knowledge for Children Health Team used sketches to depict inefficient and passive teaching methods compared to effective and engaging teaching methods. The workshops for 2nd and 3rd year schools also included sessions on expanding the outreach of the Health Club through community events like World AIDS Day and World Malaria Day.

Project Design and M&E Framework

At the start of the year, the Health Team came together to create a new three-year project framework for the Health Program. The first year of the program begins with the installation of the Health Club. This consists of donation of the Health Club materials and the selection the school and community coordinators, Health Club members, the Health Club President and Vice President. The second year focuses on community outreach and magnifying the impact of the Health Club. In the third year, the Knowledge for Children team will take a step back from the primary schools so they may become more self-sufficient. Knowledge for Children will continue to conduct follow-up calls and general monitoring their programs. The Health Team will also hold the Alumni Network Youth Camp comprising of former Health Scouts in secondary schools. After the Youth Camp, there will be a workshop for the coordinators to enable them to organize youth camps and run club activities on their own. After the completion of this final workshop, the school will graduate from the Health Program.

As part of this new project framework, we have also developed an improved method of monitoring and evaluation. The evaluation of the Health Club activities for the first year will be based on two phases. The first phase will consist of testing the health-related knowledge of Health Club members and a random sampling of classes four to six at the beginning of the academic year. During the installation of the Health Club, the 20-question multiple-choice exam is given to these selected pupils. The second phase will be repeated testing of the Health Scouts and a random selection using the same exam at the end of each academic year. In the ten new Health Clubs, the overall Health Scout average was 7.0 out of 20 and the random sample average was 5.4 out of 20.

To help in the ongoing monitoring of the Health Club activities, each club is required to keep a diary designed by Knowledge for Children to help coordinators record weekly club activities. At the completion of each term, the school submits the completed diary to Knowledge for Children for review.

Healthy Hands

In 2014, Knowledge for Children began a new initiative within the Health Program entitled Healthy Hands and we were able to donate 60 hand-washing stations to 20 schools. In March of 2013, the Health Program introduced Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Activities during a club coordinator workshop. In that workshop, we taught the teachers the importance of hand-washing among school children. In 2014, our partners at GlobeMed were able to raise \$2,000 to expand our initial introduction into the Healthy Hands project.



Health Scout teaching hand-washing

As the first stage of the project, all 40 schools in the Health Program were visited during February and March and taught about germs and hand-washing. Knowledge for Children worked with the teachers to create student leadership that would organize the care and maintenance of the hand-washing systems for the school. Ultimately, the hand-washing stations would be the responsibility of the Health Club.

For the second stage of our project, Knowledge for Children revisited 22 of the schools in April and May to donate 66 hand-washing stations. Unfortunately, two of the schools did not receive stations because they were unprepared. However, 60 stations were successfully donated to 20 schools. At

the donations, the Health Team taught parents about germs and hand-washing and the Health Scouts presented their educational songs and sketches. The PTA president and parents also committed to providing soap for the stations each year. The parents responded enthusiastically and in some schools certain parents pledged water buckets, cases of soap, and money to support the project.

GlobeMed Partnership

In 2013, the Knowledge for Children Health Team established a new partnership with GlobeMed at Morgan State University in the United States. In June 2014, four interns from GlobeMed spent three weeks with Knowledge for Children in Cameroon and visited five of our schools. As part of their school visits, they inspected the use of the hand-washing stations and participated in the donation of 2 hand-washing stations. They were also able to see the challenges of reaching the schools on bad roads and how Knowledge for Children addresses poor parent support. At each of the schools visited, the interns conducted interviews with parents and staff about their challenges and what they hope for the children. They also interviewed the Alumni Network at two schools and shared their experiences with volunteering and civic engagement.

World AIDS Day

For World AIDS Day 2014, Knowledge for Children focused on the Kumbo community. December 1 fell on Market Day in Kumbo, so the team took advantage of the population who would be around town that day. Knowledge for Children partnered with Rural Development Foundation (RDF), Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH), and Shisong Hospital to coordinate a march pass throughout Kumbo to end in the market. Knowledge for Children invited the Health Scouts from G.S. Shisong and G.S. Kiyam to participate in the march pass and perform songs, sketches, and poems in the market area. Health Scouts also encouraged community members to get tested at the temporary testing centre run by volunteer lab technicians and counsellors from BBH and Shisong Hospital. Approximately 200 people were tested throughout the day and condoms were distributed to those who participated in the testing campaign.



Health Scouts during World AIDS Day

Partner- and Pilot projects

Besides the main programs as described before, Knowledge for Children also runs a couple of small programs. These programs are often conducted in partnership with organisations in Europe. They function as incentives for schools that have graduated from the Schoolbook Program.

Income Generation Activities Program

Communities actively contribute money to the Knowledge for Children programs in the schools. To enable people to contribute the amount required, we started a pilot project for Income Generating Activities for women’s groups in 2013.

In an effort to evaluate this pilot program and determine its strategy for the future, Knowledge for Children has spent the first half of the year doing monitoring and evaluation of the initial three women’s groups from G.S. Tadu, G.S.Sakir and G.S. Nkween.

Throughout our evaluation it has become clear that there were challenges that served as impediments to the program’s progress. Challenges included issues with communication, difficulties in linking this pilot to Knowledge for Children main programs, and lack of capital on the part of the women’s groups.

To overcome the challenge of communication with the groups we have point persons, mostly teachers from the attached schools to act as our liaison between the group and school. Also for the issue of linking this program, Knowledge for Children is considering either having the groups who produce soap to make it for their schools hand-washing system, so as to link the IGA Program with the Health

Program. There is a challenge for the women to come up with the capital needed to take the skills they gained from the IGA Program and turn them into a real business.

Despite these challenges G.S. Sakir and G.S. Tadu have shown real potential. Both groups demonstrated the ability to produce the agreed materials and are motivated and willing to put potential profits back into Knowledge for Children programs in their schools. However they face difficulties in finding the capital to produce on bigger scale and to sell the product they make.

There has not yet been direct follow-up for G.S. Nkween due to miscommunication and lack of



Workshop soap making

enthusiasm. However there has been some follow-up calls in which Knowledge for Children learned they have not been producing savon and do not agree to our terms for linking this IGA Program to other Knowledge for Children programs.

For the last half of this year we focused on the two schools that are committed and will look to add more potential schools for this upcoming year. We will take the lessons learned to improve this program so that our ultimate goal to enhance the sustainability of our community members so they can continue to support their children’s education.

Our new approach for 2015 will be to invite all of our schools to participate in Income Generation Activity workshops where they will be trained on various IGAs and participate in business classes. For these workshops will we train women from our pilot schools to be the trainers. By empowering these women to be more financially self -sufficient through these income generating activities this goal can be realized.

Education Sponsorship Program (ESP)

The contract to run the Education Sponsorship Program by Knowledge for Children was concluded with Shisasay late March 2014. At the conclusion of the contract, Shisasay had 101 beneficiaries in 17 schools within Jakiri, Kumbo Central and Nkum sub divisions.

We were able to add 19 more beneficiaries in five of Knowledge for Children schools. More over, all beneficiaries recieved some didactic materials (pens, pencil, rulers and pencil sharpeners) for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Two working sessions were carried out with the guardians and the beneficiaries, that is, the home visits and the evaluation meeetings.

The home visits were aimed at re-evaluating the vulnerability of the beneficiaries as well as the



determination and the commitment of the guardians towards their success in the next academic year. This was done in the month of September.

We also organized evaluation meetings in December which in most cases were done with the presence of the Head Teachers. This was geared at helping those present (guardians, Head Teachers and beneficiaries) to improve on the academic performance of the beneficiaries in their subsequent exams. We were able to establish a phone directory of most guardians and students to ease coordination.

In a bid to forster the coordination of the program, the administration of the various schools were sensitized about the ESP and most of them are now involved in doing follow ups with the performance of the beneficiaries in their schools. More still, we were able to synergise with most of the NGOs working on ESP as well to avoid double sponsorship and improve on our modes of operations.

The main challenge faced so far is the poor perfomance of many beneficiaries. This is caused partly by the lack of trained and experienced teachers in most rural schools as well as the high illiteracy rate amongst the guardians and thus lack of support on the part of the beneficiaries at home.

As a proposed solution, we advised the teachers to group the pupils in clusters; with each group having at least one intelligent pupil to help the others. These groups are expected to meet at least twice every week.

Regarding the parents, they were advised to at least make sure the children are studying at least one hour every day. As of those in KforC schools the children should sign out books home and study especially using the sound and word building books. Also, parents should get assistance from the secondary schools students living in the same house with those in the primary school as well as from neighbours.

Secondly, there is the issue of drop outs. This for the most part has to do with the lack of motivation by guardians of some beneficiaries. In such cases, the children see no need to go to school especially as the guardian will not care. During the working sessions we emphasised on the prime place occupied by education in the lives of the children and that of their community as a whole.

Also, most of the beneficiaries do not have school bags, uniform and shoes. To this, we ask parents to try their best in providing these for the children hoping to be able to assist them do this in the future.

Computer Project

In July and August (during school holidays), Knowledge for Children organized computer training for teachers of schools benefiting from our programs. This training session was organized with our ICT partner Spring Board who was in charge of the trainings. Nine teachers registered and were trained on eight weeks basic computer skills. These training of the trainer sessions are aimed at giving teachers basic skills so that they can be able to transfer the knowledge to the pupils effectively.

During our Annual General Assembly we shortlisted two schools that sent their teachers in for the training sessions to benefit from computer donations. PS Roberta and GS Banten each received 2 laptops. These donations were made based on the contract signed between Knowledge for Children and the school spelling out the terms of the donation. The schools contributed a sum of 100,000 FRS each before the donation as part of their co-investment.

We started making plans of operating a computer training centre for our schools around Tatum, but this will only happen if there is funding. If this centre happens Afoni Children of Hope Foundation will be in charge of running it. This centre will serve as a training ground for our schools in Nkum zone.

Construction Project

In partnership with LiveBuild, we constructed three classrooms, office of the Head Teacher and library at GS Mbah this year. This in addition to the three classrooms earlier renovated in 2013 makes GS Mbah a complete school as far as infrastructure is concerned (six standard sized classrooms, office and library).

In GS Nkeng, still in partnership with LiveBuild, we renovated six classrooms and constructed the school library, office of the Head Teacher and one new classroom to accommodate part of the nursery section. These buildings will officially be handed over to the community in 2015.

In both schools, the communities contributed the most needed local material and unskilled labour to carry out these projects.

To ensure the buildings are well maintained, we organized and conducted workshops on the maintenance of school buildings in both GS Nkeng and Mbah. Parents and teachers participated well and at the end of each workshop, we came out with the roles of parents, teachers and pupils in the maintenance of school buildings.

In 2015, we intend to extend this partnership project to GS Ntisaw to construct four classrooms and the school library.



Community members in Nkeng working in the school

Community Leadership Project

In order to ensure and involve communities in the sustainability of our project, we have been designing a project which is aimed at building capacity of community members who can champion the leadership committee in their various communities.

This project will work towards transforming communities from reactive to proactive by working to strengthen the capacity of the PTA and enhancing their participation in our programs. The pilot project will be starting in early 2015.

Partnerships

Above, you have already read about our very successful partnerships with Shisasay, LiveBuild, Spring Board, GlobeMed, Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH) and Shisong Hospital. Other major partners of Knowledge for Children in 2014 were:

Rural Development Foundation (RDF)

A major partner within Kumbo is Rural Development Foundation (RDF). Together with this grass-root organisation of Mbororo people, we celebrated World AIDS Day in Kumbo. RDF also sent a teacher to the teacher training workshops and she successfully stepped her knowledge down to eleven teachers of neighbouring but remote schools.

RDF is the organizer of the Kumbo Horse Race, a major event in Kumbo. The Country Director of Knowledge for Children was invited to deliver a speech on the importance of education, especially for girls.

Besides this, Knowledge for Children supported the event by offering logistic support, staff volunteering during the event and the donation of footballs as prizes for the football tournament.

That this prize was very much appreciated is clearly shown by a team captain who got the football, travelled back to his village and found out he was so happy with his football that he forgot to bring his horses back.



The Chairman of Knowledge for Children donating a prize during Kumbo Horse Race

Early Childhood Development Cameroon (ECDC)

Knowledge for Children is a member of the Early Childhood Development Network Cameroon (ECDC). This network consists of 22 members (December 2014) all over Cameroon who advocate for a holistic approach to early childhood (birth to 08 years old) development.

In September 2014 the network was officially presented in Yaoundé. The Program Manager and Country Director of Knowledge for Children were invited to deliver a speech on the importance of quality early childhood education.

Together with RDF, we organized a sensitization meeting for other organisations in the North West Region to enable them to also join ECDC. This has led to new partnerships from which we will benefit in 2015 and beyond.

As one of the most active members in ECDC, Knowledge for Children benefits especially of the network of ECDC with other international organisations. The Country Director is chosen as the Regional Representative of ECDC in the North West Region. Together with other ECDC members we have been working on project proposals focussing on literacy education for children in nursery schools as well as in class one and two. We hope to be able to execute a few in 2015.

PeaceCorps

Also in 2014, Knowledge for Children has highly benefitted from the services of PeaceCorps volunteers. We have two placements for volunteers in our organisation. Our staff also benefits from the training programs PeaceCorps is offering.

Himalaya Institute Kumbo

The Himalaya Institute in Kumbo has been a partner to Knowledge for Children for many years. During our Annual General Assembly, the institute donated books for the Reading Clubs of Knowledge for Children. For various trainings, we were also able to use their facilities.

Chalice

Another long term partner is Chalice, who also donated materials during our Annual General Assembly. Chalice is also one of our partners in the Scholarship Program. As they work on a similar project, we work closely together to make sure we are not paying school fees for the same children.

ASML 30 for Change

A special partnership in 2014 was with ASML, a company in the Netherlands. This company celebrate its 30th anniversary and asked their staff to suggest projects in developing countries to support. Thanks to our project ambassador Mr. Ramasubramanian Kottumakulal Jaganatharaja we were able to apply for this funding and we are happy that we were selected to receive a grant.

Other partners

Other partner organisations with which we worked in 2014 include:

- Afoni Children of Hope Foundation
- Agbetsi International
- Artikel 1 Overijssel
- Baptist Education Secretary, North West Region
- Benekin Foundation
- Catholic Education Secretary, North West Region
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Yaoundé
- Congregation of Sisters of Notre Dame
- Cordaid Foundation
- Councils and Sub-Divisional Administrations
- Divisional Administrations
- Divisional Delegations of Basic Education in the North West Region
- Dutch Honorary Consul in Cameroon, Mr. Martin Abega
- Fontys Hogeschool Tilburg
- Gelissen Belastingadviseurs Enschede
- Global Giving
- In Service Training Program (ISTP) of the Presbyterian Church
- Islamic Education Secretary, North West Region
- Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven
- Local Education Group
- Medisch Spectrum Twente
- Ministry of Basic Education, Cameroon
- Plan International, Cameroon
- Presbyterian Education Secretary, North West Region
- Regional Delegation of Basic Education for the North West Region
- St. Augustine Professional Senegalese Tailoring Academy
- Sensata Technologies, the Netherlands
- SNV
- Teacher Training Colleges, especially ITTC and GTTC Kumbo
- Turing Foundation
- UNICEF
- Wilde Ganzen Foundation



We are very grateful for all the support we got from our partners and hope to be able to continue our collaboration in 2015.

Staff and administration

Employees

In 2014, the following people were working with Knowledge for Children:

Name	Position	Period
Mr. Rolf Schipper	Country Director	Jan-April
Ms. Esly van Dam	Country Director	April-Dec
Mr. Maimo Divine Suinyuy	Finance Manager	Jan-Dec
Mrs. Fonyuy Mary Yahm	Quality of Education Coordinator	Jan-Jun
Mr. Losha Mark Chaffee	Program Manager	Jan-Dec
Mr. Ngek Elajah Ngum	Program Manager	Jan-Dec
Mr. Dzelaflen Fidelix	Program Assistant	Jan-Dec
Mr. Abass Sahabu Wiysanyuy	Program Assistant	March-Dec
Ms. Mbiybe Ceroline Nsolilon	Trainer	Nov-Dec

Volunteers and Interns

Name	Period
Ms. Shannon Clawson	Jan-Nov
Ms. Bridget Patton	Jan-Dec
Ms. Caitlin O'Donnel	Aug-Dec
Ms. Els Nicolai	Jan-April
Ms. Emilie Bernard	Nov-Dec
Mr. Abass Sahabu Wiysanyuy	Jan-March
Ms. Adeline Buka Linjo	Jan-March
Ms. Nsani Praxidis Jengkuo	April-June
Ms. Fonlon Glory Kibong	April-Dec
Sr. Lucie Mekoulou Me-Zambo	Oct-Dec
Mr. Bongasov Brian Afoni	Sept-Dec

Board of Directors

In 2014, we have worked hard to increase the number of board members. Two new board members have been recruited and we found an advisor in the person of mr. Marten Nyar. In 2014, the Board of Directors consisted of the following people:

Name	Function	Period
Mr. Maimo Jacobs Shinyuy	Chairman	Jan-Dec
Mr. Wirkom Fidelis	Vice-Chairman	Jan-Dec
Mr. Njobati Frederick Fondzenyu	Chief Financial Officer	Aug-Dec
Mr. Kimah Constantine Bimela	Secretary	Aug-Dec
Mr. Marten Nyar	Advisor to the Board	Aug-Dec

Zonal Coordinators

All our zonal coordinators are volunteers.

Name	Zone	Period
Mr. Tamfu John Ngwa	Donga Mantung I	Jan-Dec
Mr. Ngwayi Ephesians Ngeh	Donga Mantung II	Jan-Dec
Mrs Njombu Margaret Kinyuy	Nkum I	Jan-Dec
Mr. Njodzeka William Ngoran	Nkum II	Jan-Dec
Mrs. Ndze Odilia Suila	Kumbo I	Jan-Dec
Mr. Lukong Claude Joseph Tardzenyuy	Kumbo II	Jan-Dec
Mr. Fai Ernest Kinenla	Jakiri	Jan-Dec
Mr. Mbuh Njough Chrysogonus	Bamenda	Jan-Dec

Equipment

Internet remains a problem. We decided to get internet keys to connect but often the connection is very slow and it is difficult to even send emails.

Thunder hit the power supply of the office, causing major break down in the printer. We had to change it and buy a new printer/copier. A small colour printer has been purchased to limit the costs of colour prints.

In September 2014, we decided to sell the Toyota Hilux. This car was good to reach remote schools, but very expensive in maintenance as well as in fuel consumption. As almost all Knowledge for Children schools are accessible by our Toyota Tercel 4 wheel drive, we decided to sell the expensive Hilux and buy a second Toyota Tercel 4wheel drive vehicle.

We got several laptops donated in 2014 which are used very well by our staff. Other laptops have been donated to two schools.

Bags

To increase income for Knowledge for Children, we started selling bags made out of African fabric. So far we sold bags in the Netherlands and in the US. Both turned out to be very successful and it is a good way for Knowledge for Children to promote our work abroad and raise extra income.

The bags are produced by St. Augustine Professional Senegalese Tailoring Academy. In this way, we also support the education of the students of this centre.