

Buea Community Library Project

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Title	Buea Community Library
Region, Country	South West Province, Cameroon
Name of implementing organisation	Helps International (HINT), Cameroon
Thematic Area	Education

Total Cost of project	9,595,000 CFA (US\$ 18,962.45)
Contribution from HINT & the Community, and other private donations.	2,080,000 (US\$ 4110.67)
Total Amount to Raise	7,515,000 CFA (US\$ 14,851.78)

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2. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

Every school year a primary school child needs 5-10 school text books and workbooks. Textbooks are very expensive and many families cannot afford to buy these books for each child, each year given the large family size in Cameroon which is about 6 coupled with poverty and the low income earned by most parents.

The result of this is that learning becomes difficult for the children and teachers alike as the children are unable to complete their home work and fall behind in class.

For the past two years Helps International has been trying to help school children with school supplies especially text books. About 50 children have been helped so far. This means that year-in-year-out, we have to keep buying the same books for new children. Instead a central library can be set up where children borrow books and use within the school year and then return the books at the end of the school year so that other children can also use the same books!

Following the results of a research conducted in the Bonduma community by an international volunteer from London, it was discovered that the lack of text books is a major handicap to the education of most children. It also makes teaching difficult for the teacher.

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3. PROPOSED SOLUTION

Helps International proposes opening a community library which will hold a large selection of school textbooks so that families are able to borrow them on a year by year basis. This will mean that a child can borrow all or most of the textbooks required each school year; then at the end of the year return them and borrow the textbooks required for the next year and so on.

This will give thousands of local school children free access to school textbooks required. The government schools lists will be targeted in order to ensure that the poorest children's needs are catered for. This will save the families money that can then be used for food, clothing, health care, etc, thereby improving the living conditions of both parents and children.

Provision of books to children will surely improve their level of understanding as well as ease learning for the children and the teachers. Student test/exam marks will surely improve.

We will begin with class 6 in the primary school for the 2007/2008 academic year and hope to buy books for the other classes over the years as well as increase the number of books for each class to help more children.

4. PROJECT OUTPUTS

No.	Textbook	Class	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
1	Senior Primary English	6	300	4,500	1,350,000
2	Mathematics in Practice	6	300	4,500	1,350,000
3	J'apprends le Français	6	300	3,000	900,000
4	Senior Primary Science	6	300	3,000	900,000
5	Senior Primary Geography	6	300	3,000	900,000
6	A new History for Cameroon	6	300	3,000	900,000
7	Senior Primary Home Economics	6	300	2,500	750,000
8	Citizenship for Cameroon	6	300	2,500	750,000
	Total		2400		7,800,000

The library will stock 3300 books comprising 8 different subjects for class 6. We will stock 300 copies of each book meaning that between 400-600 class 6 children will be helped through the library with each child receiving 4-6 books. The parents will be required to provide the remaining few and inexpensive books including the workbooks.

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5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Project Activities and Timelines

Please name the main activities involved at each stage /phase of the project

Oct-Nov 2006

Research needs of children in Bonduma/Buea

Dec 2006

Visit 3 local schools to get reading lists and inform teachers of project. Most of the 400 children will be selected from these schools.

Jan – Mar 2007

Form a committee of teachers from local schools to help guide the library, advertise it within their schools and make decisions.

Apr – Aug 2007

Contact book publishers for production

Print books, set up shelves and record system for book lending.

Sept 2007

Open library making books available for the 2007/2008 school year.

- Associated risks

Are there any risks of the project not taking place after the funding has been provided? If yes how do you intend to manage them?

Loss or non-return of books - Parents will be asked to pay a small deposit (about 50% of the cost price of the book) when borrowing books. The deposit will be returned when the books are equally returned. If a book is lost then the parents will be asked to cover the cost price of the book.

Damage to books – There will be a general wear and tear of books. These will be replaced by money raised within Helps International.

Booklists may change over the years but the contents often will be basically the same. The new booklist introduced for the 2006/2007 school year will last for at least 10 years.

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- Sustainability

How will the project be sustained

Once all the books are bought for the library there will be no long term financial requirements. Books can be replaced due to wear and tear as required and will be paid for by Helps International.

Staffing requirements are low as the library will only be very busy at the start of each school year. The library will also be open to the general public to be used to study. Members of the public will be expected to pay an annual contribution which will be used for day-to-day running of the library. There will be 1 librarian employed to overlook the day-to-day running and cleanliness of the library. This will be a member of the local community.

In the future, once the school library is developed, we hope to increase our stock of books. Offering vocational text books so adults can learn about a trade.

There will be a continuous benefit and use of the library. As book lists change HINT will replace books as they are able to. The committee will inform Helps International in advance of any changes.

6. MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

How will the project be monitored?

By providing text books to children, the project will make learning easier for children as well as improve their test/exam results. The exam/test marks of 30 class 2 pupils (10 from each of the three pilot schools we are working with) who have 1 or 2 textbooks will be recorded before we give them the text books. Then again at the end of the school year after they have received and used the text books from our library. This will help us see how exactly, the availability of text books can improve children's education.

Records will be kept showing how many children are borrowing books from the library. Each year the Library Committee will meet and evaluate the use of the library and arrange future plans.

7. BUDGET

A. Income

Source	Amount (CFA)	Amount (US\$)	Remark
Helps International (HINT)	1,080,000	2,134.39	Already raised
Private donations	1,000,000	1,976.28	About 500,000 already raised by HINT supporters in England & USA
Amount to Raise	7,515,000	14,851.78	
TOTAL	9,595,000	18,962.45	

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B. Expenditure for one year of operation

Expenditure Category	Item	Unit Cost (F CFA)	Total Cost (F CFA)
Personnel	1 Librarian/Project Manager/per month	70 000	840,000
Accommodation & Subsistence	Rents for buildings (per month)	40 000	480,000
Capital Items	2400 Books	3 250	7,800,000
	Shelves x 5	30 000	150,000
	20 chairs	30 000	180,000
	6 table	7 000	140,000
Monitoring and Evaluation	Record Books x 2	2 500	5,000
Total			9,595,000

8. BENEFICIARY AND/OR APPLICANT CONTRIBUTION

Helps International will pay the monthly rent and the salary of the librarian. Total in the first year 1 080 000.

Helps International will continue to purchase books for the library so each year the number of children helped will increase.

9. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Over the last 2 years Helps International has donated books to over 50 local children for use at school.

The need for a Community library was identified by 2 British volunteers currently serving with Helps International. It was then decided that a library will be set up to help many more children.

Once the initial books are bought the project can continue for many years helping 1000's of local children without the need for large financial input.

There are many orphans in Bonduma, where the families struggle to feed and clothe the children. With the library these families can get all the school books required for these children at no cost to them; giving the children a better education and better chance in life.

It will be the first project of its kind in Buea and probably the South West Province or maybe Cameroon.

Most of all, the project will be managed by a library committee made up of teachers from some of the local schools as well as some parents in the community, with Helps International as a facilitator.