

Schooling Youth Leaders on the Promotion of peace in Cameroon



A Project of the Cameroon Office of the Network of African Youths for Development!

Partner Organisations



Prepared in Yaounde, June 6th 2010

Name of training: Schooling Youth Leaders on the Promotion of peace in Cameroon

Applicant organization: Network of African Youths for Development – Cameroon

Abbreviation: NAYD–CAM

Country: Cameroon

Duration of project: 3days

Amount requested:

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Project Country and Location: Cameroon, Central Africa

1. Abstract

The opening statement of a recently released document by the International Crisis Centre states “Cameroon’s apparent stability in a turbulent region cannot be taken for granted”. This statement summarises the leitmotiv for this three day workshop. The Cameroon office of the Network of African Youths for Development believes there is need to

- Assess the understanding Cameroonian youths of conflicts in their country
- Assess what they see as their role/position and that of their respective organisations in the whole scene
- Strengthen their capacity to identify and management conflicts at different levels

During three days, 30 youths representing diverse youth led organisations in Cameroon shall discuss and find out for themselves whether they are active threats to peace, passive victims of conflict, or resilient survivors. This should lead to key skill in managing conflict in the Cameroon. This project will be implemented by the Cameroon office of the Network of African Youths for development, in collaboration with its network of youth leaders.

The total budget for implementing this project is ...

2. Problem statement

Almost a fifth of the world’s population is between the ages of 15 and 24; 85% of them reside in the developing world, where nearly all of the world’s current conflicts take place. Almost half of the world’s unemployed are youth (Ebata et. al. 2005: 4). Nearly half of all new HIV infections occur among youth. There are approximately 300,000 child soldiers in the world today, most of whom are adolescents (UNICEF 2002a: 5). According to official statistics, Cameroon’s population of about 19.5 million encompasses over 265 ethnic groups. Sporadic eruptions of interethnic violence are visible.

Two villages in the Mbessa and Oku area in northwestern Cameroon clashed on March 6, 2007 over a land dispute killing 62 persons, mostly elderly. Robert D. Kaplan has famously characterized male youth in urban West Africa as “out of school, unemployed, loose molecules in an unstable social fluid that threatened to ignite” (1996: 16). In Cameroon, in situations of conflict such as the 1991 widespread violence and the explosion of anger in February 2008 (largely led by youths) many see young people either as threats or victims, depending on the situations.

Many of Cameroon’s youths are unemployed or underemployed. A cross section of civil society youths are disillusioned with the government and have dismal prospects for the future. This state of things can only increase the fear of Cameroon deepening into conflict.

Marcel Fomotar in his essay "Cameroon's Culture Challenge" he points out that Cameroon with its hundreds of different ethnic groups and cultures, is consistently at risk of conflict. It further states that "At the national level, there are two official languages: English and French... more and intense efforts should be made to educate Cameroonians as a whole on the idea of culture with a special emphasis on tolerance and mutual respect". On June 3, 2008 experts meeting to mark the Global Week for Action Against Gun Violence warned that Cameroon remained in danger partly because the amount of guns circulating within civilians and partly because of the porous boundaries it shares with unstable countries like Chad, Central African Republic and Congo.

If we associate these with the fact that figures from Population Reference Bureau show that more than 40 percent of the population of Cameroon is 15yrs and above, it is clear that youths of Cameroon must know and be prepared for their roles in any eventual conflicts. Maximum effectiveness for youth programming can only be achieved if they are empowered as program decision-makers and given the confidence to deal with the many challenges of state like Cameroon.

3. Priority needs

The priority needs of the youths in this project include:

- Asses and know the impacts of conflicts (past and recent) in Cameroon
- Empower youths to know and be prepared for their role as conflict managers

4. The proposed approach

Many Cameroonian youths are born and brought up in this latent peace. It is very common to hear people sigh with resignation in the society, thereby absconing from their role as change makers. Any discussions among themselves to underline the different conflicts we have had in Cameroon, and the pending threats of future ones will be a great way to start raising awareness on the need for each and every youth to be an actor for peace. Also, a further chat with expert conflict manager will empower them on the key things to do or not to do in times of conflict.

Thus the workshop will be divided into two parts, one to encourage participants to discuss and develop personal opinions on the conflicts (past, present, future) in and around Cameroon. The second part will consist of an exchange with conflict management experts to further strengthen the capacities of these participants.

5. The implementing organisation

NAYD is a Network of African Youths for Development with over 400 members youth led organisations in more than 40 countries in Africa and beyond. NAYD is also represented in 17 African countries including Cameroon, Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Somalia, etc.

Created in 2007 in Cameroon, NAYD's main goal is to give African youths working for a positive change in their respective countries, a meeting point. Through NAYD, they meet,

know one another, share experiences, work together and most especially, support one another.

This workshop is the first National activity of NAYD Cameroon. However, the different member organisations in Cameroon consistently carry out diverse activities related to health, human rights, etc. We are counting on the quality database that these different member organisations can garner to have a successful and efficient event.

6. Target group

The target group of this training workshop is youths, especially youths involved in Youth-Led-Development. NAYD Cameroon is expecting 30 youths involved in Youth Led Development in Cameroon. Youth is defined in NAYD as any person below the age of 35 years old.

This is because these youths have already identified the need to work for change in their communities. We believe they can be the best persons to train as they will not only trickle the knowledge down to the other members of their team, they are also well placed to use their position to impact positively in a conflict-threatened area.

7. Project implementation

Activity Plan: The training workshop is to be implemented within three days. The facilitators will be (this can change) **Dr. NSOH Christopher, conflict management expert and Lecturer**, Department of Political Sciences, University of Soa and **Dr. LUKONG Alban, Jurist/Lecturer** in the Department of Law, University of Soa. The detail programme is as follows.

➤ DAY ONE (4hrs)

1. Introduction

7. A1 Arrival/Presentation of participants and workshop coordinators

7. A2 opening remarks of NAYD officials, explaining the goal of the training and what is expected of everyone involved.

7. A3 Discussion: ***Understanding youth, Understanding conflict***. All participants discuss on how they define youth / peace. An expert will help them retain the essential.

2h30mins break

7. A4 Discussion among participants on ***the youth-peace-conflict dynamics***

7. A5 Focus on impact of conflict to women, children and the vulnerable

7. A6 What traditional ways of resolving conflict exist in Cameroon? What do the participants think of these approaches? End of Day I

➤ **DAY 2 (4hrs)**

7. B1 Case studies of African countries that have been in conflict and implications.

7. B2 Intra & Interpersonal Conflict Negotiation Techniques (Self-awareness, Communication, Negotiation, Mediation).

7. B3 Behaviours used in negotiation (Attack, Evade, Inform, Open, Unite)

2h30mins break (Lunch)

7. B4 Mediation (***Types of third-party mediation, the mediation process, Functions of a good mediator, Mediation role-play case studies***)

7. B5 Each youth presents his/her organization and how it can be affected by any conflict.

End of Day II.

➤ **DAY 3(4hrs)**

7. C1 ***Techniques for resolving group conflict*** (Group building, Team building and cooperation)

7. C2 **Conflict Negotiation Skills for Youth** (accommodation, avoidance, competition, collaboration)

7. C3 Groups break up to identify what issues in Cameroon youths and solutions do they propose to them.

2h30mins break (Lunch)

7. C4 Group leaders present the essential of their reports

7. C5 Reading of general report of the training by NAYD officials Presentation of the way forward for youths in civil society and signing of report by all participants. End of Day III, and end of training.

8. Resource Plan

	Items	Unit	Cost	Funding Source
1.	Hall renting	1	300.000frs	OPEN
2.	Communication – event moderator	1	150.000frs	OPEN
3.	Printing and photocopying		50.000frs	OPEN
4.	Per diem Conflict Experts	2	300.000frs	OPEN
5.	NAYD Staff	6	Volunteers	NAYD Cam
6.	Lodging of 30 youths		600.000frs	OPEN
7.	Feeding 30 youths		450.000frs	OPEN
8.	Documentation (take home package)		150.000frs	OPEN
9.	Hiring of beamer	1	30.000frs	OPEN
10	Miscelanous		50.000frs	OPEN
TOTAL			2.080.000frs	

9. Monitoring and evaluation

The resolution document produced at the end of the workshop will outline future activities to be carried out by the youths and NAYD international to promote peace among youth activists. Each three month after the workshop, NAYD Cameroon bureau executives will conduct meetings and debates with the youths activities to evaluate how much of the resolutions are being kept.

Also, NAYD Cameroon is working with a locally registered NGO, **Consultancies for Health Organistaions**, which carries out research and activities related to peace building. They will scientifically evaluate the youths and how much peace keeping have they stuck six month after the workshop, and propose the way forward to NAYD Cameroon.

Annexes

- *NAYD registration document*
- *A sample Copy of INSPIRE*
- *Copy of Administrative bureau of NAYD Cameroon*