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◆ GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
◆ WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
◆ HUMANITARIAN ACTION



From left, UN Resident Coordinator Najat Rochdi, UN Women Regional Director Diana Ofwona, Prime Minister Philemon Yang and Minister of Women Empowerment Marie Therese Abena Ondoua.

September 21, 2015: UN Women Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Ms. Diana Ofwona, has ended a three day high level visit, describing the country's progress in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as "a leap forward". She also extended her solidarity towards the population living in the Far North, North and Adamawa regions of Cameroon, affected by the humanitarian crisis caused by Boko Haram.

During her meeting with H.E Philemon Yang, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Republic of Cameroon, the Regional Director expressed UN Women's sincere gratitude for the strides Cameroon has made towards making gender equality a lived reality. "I am personally honored to sincerely laud your efforts in the country's progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women since my last visit to Cameroon in 2010", she said.

Ms. Ofwona highlighted the specific gender equality goal contained in the new post-2015 development framework, with targets – including on ending violence against women and enhancing women's economic opportunities – that are considerably more comprehensive than those contained in the Millennium Development Goals which will be replaced by the new framework. She also stressed the importance of Cameroon's participation in the UN *Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action*, to be held in New York on 27 September, in which member states are expected to make concrete pledges towards our common goal of achieving a Planet 50:50 by the year 2030, which the Prime Minister confirmed.

"Cameroon has made enormous progress in the area of women's participation in decision making, the promotion of human rights including those of women and the amelioration of the institutional framework in the area of gender.",
Ms. Ofwona remarked.

H.E Philemon Yang congratulated UN Women for supporting the Government of Cameroon towards attaining its vision of becoming an emerging nation by 2035.

Apart from an in-depth exchange with the Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), Ms. Ofwona also met with other high-level government officials including the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Commerce to discuss avenues to further strengthen the needs of women and girls being specifically taken into consideration in the planning and implementation of main projects, including infrastructure projects.

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She also took the opportunity to discuss with close to 100 female leaders and civil society representatives the opportunities and challenges of civil society and women's groups in the country. They equally started to exchange on future avenues of strengthening the collaboration between UN Women and civil society, a conversation that will be continued by the UN Women Country Representative Mr. Adama Moussa

Reinforcing cooperation ties with MINPROFF and encouraging female leaders

During a dinner hosted by the Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family, Pr. Marie Therese AbenaOndoua, the Minister highlighted the importance of the UN Women Country Office Cameroon to the Ministry. *"The elaboration of the National Gender Policy, the assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and*



Mr. Adama Moussa, Cameroon Country Representative (left), Ms. Diana Ofwona, Regional Director for West and Central Africa (middle), and Ms. Rachelle Mian, Regional Advisor on Gender and Humanitarian Action of UN Women (right), at the midterm review of the strategic framework of UN Women Cameroon.

Photo credit: J Fajong/UN Women

Platform for Action on the occasion of its 20th anniversary (Beijing+20), and the establishment of Support Centers for victims of gender-based violence in Douala and Yaoundé are examples of UN Women's support from which my Ministry has benefited", the Minister stated.

However, the Ministry's inadequate resources to meet the needs of women and girls, as well as the present terrorist threats and its adverse effects on women and girls, especially in the Far North Region of Cameroon still present major challenges, the Minister stressed.

New strategic orientations for the UN Women country office

During a working session to review the strategic priorities of UN Women in the country, Ms. Diana Ofwona stressed that UN Women's interventions in Cameroon will be hinged on the new post-2015 development framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), expected to be adopted by head of states during the next General Assembly of the United Nations.

Objectives of this universal and transformative agenda include ending all forms of discrimination and eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls, including harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making; and recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work. *"We are expected to translate these global goals into*

the context of Cameroon", Ms. Ofwona explained.

During the meeting, Ms. Ofwona, the interim Country Representative Mr. Adama Moussa, and the Regional Advisor on Gender and Humanitarian Action, Ms. Rachelle Mian, highlighted three key priorities for UN Women's efforts towards gender equality in Cameroon: eliminating gender-based violence, promoting economic empowerment of women and mainstreaming gender and the protection of women and girls into the humanitarian response. *"A solid partnership with the government, UN agencies and the private sector is key for the successful implementation of these strategic priorities",* Ms. Mian said.



Photo de famille après le Café Genre
photo credit : F Joseph /ONU Femmes

<La société est constituée d'une importante couche composée d'hommes et de femmes interagissant dans la même sphère humanitaire, alors on ne pourrait parler de promotion d'égalité de genre et autonomisation des femmes sans intégrer la participation effective et positive des hommes et des garçons en la faveur...>>, a indiqué Monsieur ADAMA MOUSSA, Représentant ONU Femmes Cameroun lors de la neuvième édition du CAFE GENRE (espace de réflexion de haut niveau sur des thèmes dynamiques et relatifs à l'avancement du genre au Cameroun) qui a eu lieu le 29 Octobre 2015 dans les locaux d'ONU Femmes Cameroun.

Cette conférence-débat était centrée sur le thème: << La contribution des hommes et des garçons à l'avancement de l'égalité de genre et l'autonomisation des femmes au Cameroun >>.

La présidence de cette conférence a été assurée par Monsieur le Représentant de Madame le Ministre de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille qui, dans son allocution, a salué l'initiative mise en œuvre par ONU Femmes et loué le soutien que cette agence porte incessamment au gouvernement du Cameroun.

Monsieur ADAMA MOUSSA, Représentant ONU Femmes au Cameroun a situé le contexte de réflexion en introduisant la thématique portant sur l'Egalité de genre : hommes/garçons comme agents de changement

La Représentante du Directeur Général de la CRTV, Madame MAMA CHARE a patagé avec l'assistance sur comment changer une organisation <<masculine>> en une organisation égalitaire en prenant le cas de la CRTV qui reste un modèle étatique à travers la restructuration de son organe exécutif en normmant les femmes à des postes hautement stratégiques.

Mr Jean Marc MBAFOR, Président du Conseil National de la Jeunesse au Cameroun a indiqué l'importance des Jeunes dans la construction de modèle égalitaire pour un changement transformatif.

Mme ADAKOU Apedoh, Présidente du Conseil Administratif du Groupe Technique des OSC sur le Genre et les politiques publiques a fait montre de l'implication des hommes et des garçons à la problématique de l'égalité de genre à travers des regards rétrospectif et prospectif de la société civile.

A la suite, il y a eu des et de discussions avec l'assistance composée de 25 jeunes filles et garçons ; 75 points focaux genre du gouvernement et des PTF et membres de la société civile. Ces échanges ont été modérés par le Professeur Emérite NOMMO ZANGA Marcelline, activiste du genre.



Mot de Bienvenue de Monsieur le Représentant a.i ONU Femmes au Cameroun
photo credit : F Joseph /ONU Femmes

A l'issue de ce CAFE GENRE, l'on note la ferme décision unanime de tous les intervenants et participants d'assurer sans relâche l'implication et la contribution effectives des hommes et des garçons à la promotion de l'égalité de genre et l'autonomisation des femmes.

Leaders of some 30 women civil society organizations (CSOs) working in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women have noted that working together will lead to a better and effective follow-up and advocacy of gender planning and budget tracking in Cameroon.



Technical Advisor number one at the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, Wespa Koukreo Maipa officially opens the workshop.
Photo credit: J Fajong/UN Women

Joint actions such as in the effective involvement and consideration of CSOs by the government in the elaboration and planning of budget, more training on advocacy and more sensitization of the administration on gender sensitive budgeting by CSOs etc. are some of the major recommendations adopted at the end of the four day capacity building workshop of CSOs on advocacy and follow-up of gender planning and tracking.

Participants at the workshop which was organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women and the CSOs task force on gender and public policies in Cameroon commonly known by its French acronym as GTOG, from 29 September to 2 October 2015 in Mbalmayo also recommended the institution of a system of restitution within GTOG, and the SCOs, as well as a formal partnership between UN Women and GTOG. The women CSOs also took the firm commitment to henceforth, work in synergy within their thematic areas to facilitate dissemination, and follow-up recommendations at all levels.

Officially opening the workshop, the Technical Advisor number one at the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, Wespa Koukreo Maipa, hailed UN Women and GTOG, stating that the initiative falls in line with the habitual calls from the country's president for parliament to take gender into consideration when planning, preparing and drawing up annual budgets.

"Strong partnership between a government, its partners and civil society organisations, is a pivot to the success of all sectors of the country, because sustainable development can only be achieved through the pooling of different synergies and combined actions", Maipa said.

The country interim Representative of UN Women, Adama Moussa, who co-chaired the opening of the workshop stressed that the understanding of budget planning is primordial for everyone interested in gender budget responsiveness.

"The budget is not an end result but it is only part of a long process. Gender budgeting starts from households, goes through the public and private sector", he pointed out.

Participants from More Women in Politics, Horizon Femmes, ACDEV, FESADE, Afrique Justice, CRADIF and other CSOs, were drilled on topics such as: gender in development, causes and effects of gender inequality, planning and budget, gender sensitive planning and budgeting tools, analysis and integration of gender in budget and planning, strategies for budgeting and planning advocacy, budget tracking, amongst others.



Femmes commerçantes en travaux de groupe.

Photo credits : D Fon/UN Women

70 femmes commerçantes originaires des régions frontalières du Cameroun, Tchad, Congo et Guinée équatoriale peuvent maintenant élaborer un Business Plan. Elles ont aussi une meilleure compréhension sur un certains nombre de textes légaux relatifs au commerce transfrontalier et aussi l'esprit d'entrepreneuriat dans son ensemble.

Ce sont là quelques-uns des résultats enregistrés à la fin d'un atelier de formation des femmes commerçantes sur la gestion des affaires, l'entrepreneuriat et la législation dans le commerce transfrontalier, récemment organisé par ONU Femmes Cameroun à Kye-Ossi.

Parlant de l'atelier de formation qui a eu lieu du 30 Juin au 1 Juillet 2015, la chargée de programme en charge de l'autonomisation des femmes et de la gouvernance-Paulette Beat, dit que la formation vise à doter au moins 50 femmes qui sont engagées dans le commerce transfrontalier avec des outils pertinents afin de mieux améliorer leur compétence en gestion d'entreprise et aussi d'aug-

mentation de leur revenus. Elle a ajoutée que la formation qui est parrainée par le Ministère du commerce du Cameroun, dans le cadre d'un programme de soutien pour les femmes impliquées dans le commerce transfrontalier informel, (PAFICIT) est en droite ligne avec le plan stratégique d'ONU Femmes, il s'agit de stimuler l'autonomisation des femmes et le statut économique des groupes vulnérables ainsi que leurs conditions de vie.

Pendant deux jours donc, les participantes à travers des présentations en plénière, des travaux de groupe et des discussions interactives ont été formées sur la façon d'élaborer et de rédiger : un Business Plan ; des documents juridiques sur le commerce transfrontalier ainsi que des stratégies sur la façon de booster leur moral et d'améliorer le niveau d'exécution de leurs entreprises existantes.

Menstrua hygiene management in Cameroon: Results of study unveiled.



UN Women Explain MHM to public in « MHM Laboratory »
Photo credit: F Joseph/UN Women

A new joint study by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) reveals that women and girls in Cameroon's Bamoungoum and Kye-Ossi regions lack access to clean water, private spaces and functioning toilet facilities to manage their menstruation with safety and dignity.

80% of students considered their school latrines unclean and unusable, while a low level of knowledge on menstrual hygiene management in both the school and general sample was recorded. While over 80% of women and girls had heard about menstruation before menarche, 60% of them were scared during their first period.

These are some of the key results of the study titled **"Menstrual Hygiene Management: Behavior and Practices in Kye-Ossi and Bamoungoum, Cameroon"**, presented to government representatives, diplomatic corps and members of the civil society organizations in Yaounde on 3 November 2015 by UN Women and WSSCC.

Speaking during the presentation of results, the Representative of UN Women Cameroon Adama Moussa called on major stakeholders to appropriate Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in their respective domains.

"Ensuring safe and dignified hygiene management unlocks multiple benefits: Women and girls who are better informed can participate fully in society and the economy, leading fuller lives in terms of school, play, work and leisure", he stressed.

The Programme Coordinator of WSSCC Rockaya Aidara said one of the key recommendations of the study is for governments to clearly spell out menstrual hygiene management in national policy with budgets and with monitoring to match. *"Capacity to implement this policy is key together with services on the ground that women and girls can use with confidence",* Rockaya said.

While presenting the gender, hygiene and sanitation programme of UN Women, Mbarou Gassama, Regional Programme Coordinator for gender, hygiene and sanitation for the West and Central Africa office, said the study is the third in a series by UN Women and WSSCC under the joint Programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation in West and Central Africa, which is aimed at changing policies and behaviors in the region to improve women and girls' human right to water and sanitation.



An overview of the Gado refugee camp.
Photo credits: J Fajong, UN Wmen,

The workshop which was organized by UN Women in collaboration with UNHCR and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) was against the backdrop of rising fears over a possible outbreak of vaginal infection and reproductive health complications within female refugees.

Bertoua - Cameroon 2 October 2015. Field staff of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women (UN Women) and a plethora of other humanitarian experts working with female refugees from the Central African Republic in some seven refugee camps in East of Cameroon say they could be a possible outbreak of vaginal infections and reproductive health snag due to inadequate use of menstrual hygienic kits and poor knowledge of menstrual hygiene management by female refugees.

Mr Mohamadou BABA, assistant site manager of the Gado-Badgere refugee camp- located some 230 Km away from the East regional headquarters of Bertoua, and hosting over 24000 refugees from CAR - told Rockaya Aidara of WSSCC and UN Women staff who took off time from the workshop to visit the camp, that the poor use of menstrual hygienic kits particularly the menstrual pad by female refugees is pre-occupying. This was noted when for the first time the UNHCR included in its NFIs (nonfood items) menstrual pads. Mr Baba described the situation as “*disturbing and appalling*”.

He made a clarion call on humanitarian actors in refu-gee camps to harmonize and step up actions towards the better management of menstrual hygiene within the refugee community.

Another humanitarian actor at Gado, GBV Program supervisor of the International Medical Corps, Jessica Tete also indicated that the use of menstrual hygienic kits by female refugees in the camp is a call for concern. “*The refugee women here in Gado prefer using children’s diapers and napkins and pieces of cloths such as towels for their menstrual pads*”, Jessica explained. “*We noticed that when menstrual hygienic kits are distributed to female refugees by the Red Cross Federation, they use it as handkerchiefs, cleaning rags and others.... Only those who have had some basic education do come back to ask for more pads. Others don’t*”, she further explained.



Waste disposal at the Gado refugee camp
Photo credits: J Fajong, /UN Women,

Close to 30 humanitarian actors, including community workers, refugees who now hold leadership positions in the camps, civil society organizations and government personnel benefited from a four day training workshop on menstrual hygiene management jointly organized by UN Women and WSSCC from

29 September to 3 October 2015 in the East regional headquarters in Bertoua.



Regional Delegate of Women Empowerment and the Family officially opens workshop
Photo credits: J Fajong, /UN Wmen

Speaking during the opening ceremony which was also attended by the East Regional Delegate of the Ministry of Women's empowerment and the Family, UN Women Program Officer in charge of Economic empowerment and governance, Mme Paulette Beat SONQUE said the objective of the workshop is to provide humanitarian actors with the necessary tools for onward transmission to field social workers and other sensitization agents on menstrual hygiene.

"Our field workers discovered that refugee women did not appropriately use menstrual kits distributed to them, they used it for various reasons and that is what motivated us to organize this training" Paulette explained.

The participants were trained on the WSSCC 3 pillars approach: Breaking the silence, Hygienic management of menstruation, Safe reuse and disposal solutions. Rockaya Aidara explained how important it was to have a holistic approach including in a humanitarian

"There is definitely a willingness to prioritize when you are working in a crisis situation. However, suitable facilities are key to tackle sanitation, hygiene and health issues including in emergency situations. We know that all risks are exacerbated during this period. We would like to offer practical innovative and low cost solutions that can empower refugees as well as host communities."

During the training, participants learned about the need to understand menstrual hygiene management, in relation to education, sanitation and the environment. They were also drilled on the techniques of menstrual hygiene management, menstrual cycle but also the use of training kits on menstrual hygiene.

The workshop ended with participants drawing strategies and taking the firm commitment of sensitizing female refugees on how to better manage their menstrual cycles. Among them, was Olivia Boum, founder of Kamerpads, one of the rare Cameroonian company producing locally made reusable pads. Olivia expressed her interest to continue working with WSSCC and UN Women and teaching women refugees how to make their own material.



UN Women and WSSCC implement in West and Central Africa the Joint Programme on Gender, Hygiene and Sanitation aimed at changing policies in the region for the realization of women and girls' human right to water and sanitation.

UN Women Cameroon: Breaking reproductive health barriers in Local communities in the Far North of Cameroon.

Health experts say the number of pregnant women visiting hospitals has doubled and bad traditional practices on reproduction have been gradually abandoned as UN Women implements reproductive health strategies.



Nguizile Celine happily breastfeeds her baby
photo credits: J Fajong/UN Women

Maroua, Cameroon 18 October 2015: It is a hot Saturday afternoon at the Dougoi neighborhood of Maroua in the Far North of Cameroon, Mrs Nguizile Celine, a mother of five is breastfeeding her visibly bulky, active and healthy four month old baby as she alongside other nine women (belonging to an association- Liberated Christian Women in Action (LCWA)), wait for the start of an evaluation meeting with UN Women.

While smiling, Celine attributes the apparent good health of her last two babies to a training she received on reproductive health organized in 2014 by UN Women. She further declares that she has noted a lucid difference in the physical appearances and health situations of her first three children compared to the last two. *"I never use to go for medical check-up with my first three children, I used to feed them with food and water immediately after birth and they were not vaccinated. But since I attended the training, I understood the need to regularly go for medical check-up when pregnant, vaccinate my children and only feed them with breast milk until they are six months"* Celine confessed.

Mrs Nguizile Celine, has not only been sensitized on the need to understand her reproductive health, she like many other women

have been trained as trainers by UN Women. They are meeting to evaluate their actions in the field.

The founder of LCWA, Nkwain Florence said UN Women has helped them to break barriers on reproductive health and has provided them with assistance. *"We were helped with soya beans, ground-nuts, red millet and trained on how to transform soya beans into powder for children's pap which is used in feeding malnourished children. Un Women also gave us refrigerators, pots, basins and other utensils to better transform and preserve our food"*, Florence stated.

According to Flora Tchachoua, a Gender Expert coordinating the H4+ project at UN Women in Maroua, *"close to 300 women and girls have been trained as trainers and sensitized on the need to adopt new ways of reproductive health"*.

The interim Representative of UN Women Cameroon Adama Mousa, explained that In April 2014, UN Women set up an office in Maroua, capital of the far north region of Cameroon to touch base with communities and strengthen their capacities in improving reproductive health and the fight against HIV/AIDS. He described as "huge", successes recorded in accelerating progress in maternal, new-born and child health in Maroua, thanks to the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

By J Fajong, UN Women



La Ci est une jeune fille handicapée âgée de 18 ans qui a été violée en RCA dans le chemin d'asile. Ce viol avait abouti à une grossesse suivi d'un avortement. Dans le pays d'Asile, elle a encore fait l'objet d'un viol par un inconnu qui est entré chez elle à l'absence de son père qui était à l'hôpital de Batouri à 70 km de Mbilé domicile de la survivante. La personne est revenue deux mois plus tard pour poser le même acte. Ne pouvant pas se défendre au regard de son handicap (handicapé moteur), elle s'est laissée aller et cette situation malencontreuse a abouti à une grossesse.



La survivante qui a su développer une capacité de résilience à nul autre pareil, avec le soutien psychosocial, affectif permanent, les références médicales et le suivi de la grossesse notamment, le suivi de la régularité des O4 CPNs, les aides ponctuelles du personnel ONU Femmes et de son partenaire ACAFEJ a donné naissance aujourd'hui à une fille née par césarienne, il y a deux semaines à l'hôpital Régional de Bertoua (à 95km du bureau terrain et de 165 km du domicile de la survivante). L'opération s'est passée dans très bonnes conditions.

la proposition actuelle qui se situe dans la continuité de la prise en charge est la mise à la disposition de cette survivante double d'un handicap moteur, une chaise roulante pour faciliter son déplacement. En termes d'activités économiques, nous lui avons demandé de réfléchir mûrement sur les activités qu'elle voudrait bien mener pour se prendre en charge ainsi que sa fille.



si l'accouchement s'est bien passé, sans problème de santé pour la mère et l'enfant, il faut signaler que celui-ci est né prématuré et est actuellement dans la couveuse. La survivante a reçu un kit de AHA et IEDA et il en manque d'autres choses dont nous ferons l'état de lieu très rapidement.

autres choses, elle était accompagnée par la présidente des femmes qui voudrait déjà rentrer pourtant l'enfant est encore dans la couveuse. Rappelons que la survivante n'a pas de maman ni d'accompagnateur familial. Seul son père vit et n'est pas à ses côtés en ce moment. C'est une situation alarmante.

le véritable défi reste à ce jour l'identification d'une famille d'accueil et son enfant, elle est vraiment inquiète car dit-elle. "étant seule, il m'était difficile de m'occuper de moi-même, que ferais-je avec mon enfant?"

Salomon MFOUAPON

Psychologist-Social Worker

Field officer UN Women,





1 FEMME SUR 3
EST CONFRONTÉE
À LA VIOLENCE AU COURS
DE SA VIE.

#16jours
#orangetheworld



Une adolescente a
aujourd'hui **1/3 de moins**
de risque de subir
une excision
qu'il y a **30 ans.**

#16jours
#orangetheworld



4,5 millions de personnes
sont victimes d'exploitation
sexuelle. 98% d'entre elles
sont des femmes et des filles.

#16jours
#orangetheworld



Dans certains pays, jusqu'à un
tiers des jeunes filles déclarent
que leur première expérience
sexuelle leur a été imposée.

#16jours
#orangetheworld



What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals, otherwise known as the [Global Goals](#), build on the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015. The MDGs, adopted in 2000, aimed at an array of issues that included slashing poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and access to water and sanitation. Enormous progress has been made on the MDGs, showing the value of a unifying agenda underpinned by goals and targets. Despite this success, the indignity of poverty has not been ended for all.

The new SDGs, and the broader sustainability agenda, go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark noted: "This agreement marks an important milestone in putting our world on an inclusive and sustainable course. If we all work together, we have a chance of meeting citizens' aspirations for peace, prosperity, and wellbeing, and to preserve our planet."

The SDGs will now finish the job of the MDGs, and ensure that no one is left behind.