

Water for Cameroon (WfC) - Annual Report 2019

Tribute to Jerry Ohs

On Monday January 7th 2019 our friend Jerry Ohs went to be with the Lord following a period of sickness. He first came to Cameroon in November 2009 and regularly teamed up with our facilitator on his visits there. We will miss our friend and colleague.

Jerry was a wonderful man, a loving person with a mind that was wired for engineering problems. Water for Cameroon Ireland will continue to use the JO-1 Bio Sand filter mould that Jerry designed and is currently in use in Cameroon and other places.

Following his death, his family and friends sent a very generous donation to WfC which funded the installation of a solar panel at the new Clinic, and some work with filters. At the end of 2019, there was still €3900 from this gift held by WfC.

Funding and Expenditure:

Total income in 2019 was just over €31,700. We are grateful to our many supporters and partners who have supported the work by way of donations and helping with fundraising activities. The fundraising events organised by friends in Ireland in 2019 were a Ladies 10k run / walk and a BBQ. A total of €6155 was raised from these two events.

Expenditure in 2019 came to €27,400, of which €13,800 was forwarded to our independent consultants in Cameroon for specific well projects, €1400 was forwarded in relation to specifically dedicated gifts, €3340 funded our facilitator's costs for two visits to the region, and €7500 was spent on these visits on well-digging, filter making, health promotion, and community development and humanitarian needs. Administration costs (bank charges, phone calls to Cameroon, website costs etc). were less than 5% of income.

The political situation in North-West and South West Regions of Cameroon:

The war in both of these regions continues and shows no sign of ending anytime soon. Many families are displaced causing much hardship for those involved. Travel within these Regions has become more difficult and sometimes dangerous.

Impact on our work:

The Independent Cameroonian partners continue to oversee the construction of wells and other aspects of the work, with our financial support and regular contact with our facilitator. Invitations have been received to assist with water and sanitation issues in villages in the Central and West Regions. These regions are not affected by the war.

Visits to Cameroon during year:

The WfC program facilitator visited Cameroon in April/May for 30 days and again in November/December for 31 days. The visit reports are available at

www.waterforcameroon.com

Well construction:

A total of four wells were constructed in 2019

- one in the village of Mbingo 2
- one in the village of Bamessing - (at the new Clinic)
- one in the village Ngambe – Tikar- (Manso)
- one in the village Bafut (Manhra)

New WET Centre:

The new WET (Water Expertise and Training) centre has opened in the quarter of Mafu 1 in the village of Bamessing in the North West Region.

This will provide education and training for people on water and sanitation related issues.

The Ndop shop:

The new shop is now fully operational. It's based in the new clinic and WET centre in Bamessing village. A stock of quality pumps, pipes and various parts for pump repairs at fair prices are available to purchase.

Bio Sand Filters:

A BSF construction retraining course took place at the Bamessing WET centre in December 2019. Further training in the construction and instillation of BSF for Cameroonian persons will take place as required.

Health Promotion:

Health promotion is an important part of the work of Water for Cameroon. This work is conducted under the leadership of a Cameroonian independent health consultant, Ms Serophine Veyufambom. Serophine is a registered nurse and also holds a master's degree in public health.

Cameroon Medical:

Cameroon Medical partners with WfC. During 2019, Cameroon Medical assisted many individuals and families to have access to medical treatment that they would not otherwise have been able to afford.