

Water for Cameroon (WfC) - Annual Report 2020

Funding and Expenditure:

Total income in 2020 was just over €25,700. We are grateful to our many supporters and partners who have contributed to the work by way of donations and by helping with fundraising. Due to the national restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to organise the usual fund-raising activities in Ireland, but have been encouraging our supporters to contribute through PayPal or direct to our bank. Approximately 60% of this income came from our partners and was designated for specified projects.

Expenditure in 2020 came to just over €31,400, of which €29,000 was forwarded to our independent consultant in Cameroon for specific well projects, health promotion, community development and humanitarian needs, as detailed below. Administration costs (bank charges, phone calls to Cameroon, website costs, insurance etc). were less than 8% of income.

Board / Directors activities in 2020

During 2020 the Board met 8 times, and held an AGM on 7th September. This was a rescheduled, virtual meeting due to the postponement of the AGM in March as a result of Covid-19 restrictions. However this enabled supporters of Water for Cameroon in Cameroon and America to participate for the first time given the online nature of the event.

The AGM provided the opportunity to mark our appreciation for Mick Toolan, who retired in 2020 as Programme Facilitator, having made 28 trips to Cameroon since 2009. We are very grateful to Mick for his faithful service in this period without which Water For Cameroon would not exist, and which has blessed thousands of Cameroonians with clean water and better health. We are also grateful that he continues to support the work while we search for someone to replace him.

Consideration and planning for a replacement Facilitator and of the way ahead was a consistent focus of board meetings and discussion throughout the year. These processes continue into 2021. (Note: We are happy to report and very encouraged by Victoria Johnston volunteering in March 2021 to take on communication with our supporters and the development of our fund-raising programme. More details in our 2021 report).

We are grateful to Paul Singleton for stepping into the role of Secretary to the Board, and we welcome Ronnie Morrison who has joined the Board as our new treasurer.

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

The war in both of these regions continues and very sadly shows no sign of ending anytime soon. Many families have been displaced, causing much hardship for those involved. Travel within these Regions has become more difficult and oftentimes dangerous, but we are so thankful that to a great extent our partners in Cameroon have been protected from serious loss.

Impact on our work:

Despite these difficulties, our Cameroonian Consultant and partners continue to oversee the construction of wells and other aspects of the work, with our financial support and regular contact with our Board and our (retired) facilitator.

Visits to Cameroon during 2020:

It has not been possible to arrange a visit from Ireland to Cameroon because of the travel restrictions during the pandemic.

Well construction:

Four wells were completed in 2020: at Bankim (where work started in 2019), Aduk, Ibu and Bambalang. Funding was provided for another well at Mankon, where work has commenced in 2021, and for the refurbishment of a well at Mesow.

WET Centre, Clinic and Shop:

Further work was done in the establishment of the premises owned by our Independent Consultant at Bamessing in the North West Region. These comprise

- A WET (Water Expertise and Training) centre where education and training for people on water and sanitation related issues is provided. The use of bio-sand filters is demonstrated and specific training is provided in construction and maintenance of these filters.
- A health clinic with provision for overnight care.
- A shop where a stock of quality pumps, pipes and various parts for pump repairs at fair prices are available to purchase.

Friends in the USA and in Canada, including the Rotary Club in Guelph, Ontario, provided funding for the completion of building work on the filter centre, the construction of male and female latrines and of a water tower which allows the water to be pumped from the well (which was dug in 2019) and stored at a raised level where it can be accessed by the local community at the entrance to the property.

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. We are extremely thankful and appreciative of Serophine for all of her work and efforts to keep the work of Water for Cameroon going through very difficult and challenging times. Serophine is a registered nurse and also holds a master's degree in public health. Again, we acknowledge the generosity of the Guelph Rotary Club who funded the provision of supplies (including PPE and ward dividers) for the clinic to address the Covid crisis and to facilitate training in prevention of the spread of the infection.

Partnership with Ripplezoo:

We were happy to arrange for our Consultant and well digger to assist Ripplezoo (an Irish non-profit organisation) by constructing a well and drainage trench at a hospital that Ripplezoo have been supporting in Batoufam, in the West Region of Cameroon. Ripplezoo provided all the funding for this work.

If anyone would like more details on any of the above, please visit our website at www.waterforcameroon.com or email info@waterforcameroon.com