

# REPORT ON 2020 CHRISTMAS –NEW YEAR BASKETBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT CAMPS

## Background

**Basketball for Development (BBfD)** is a non-profit organization based in Germany that promotes basketball as a core instrument to contribute to basic education, social integration, nature conservation and health education. This initiative has been ongoing in Cameroon since 2010 leading to improvement of social integration of the underprivileged and children from precarious social background. BBfD supports the improvement of sports infrastructure, notably the construction of basketball courts in schools of violence sensitive and underprivileged areas.

**RUDEC Germany e.V.** was founded in 2010 to promote health and education of orphaned children in Cameroon. Along with partner organisation, Rural Development Centre (RUDEC) in Cameroon they realize projects to support the local community. RUDEC Germany e.V. acquires donations for the projects and provides information about local work accomplishments, the partner organisation as well as the communities. RUDEC envisions a Cameroon where the underprivileged are free from various social ills. They partner with local communities to ignite passion and creative solutions to solve problems through sustainable livelihoods programs.

**Pro Climate International (PCI)** is a Cameroonian NGO working to protect the environment and support sustainable development. It uses sport and theatre to sensitive the youth about various environmental and health issues. We contribute to climate protection through the dissemination of improved cook stoves in households in other to reduce the fuel-wood consumption and the quantity of toxic smoke inhaled by women and girls during cooking using the traditional “three stones” fireplaces.

## The Children Basketball Programme



The 2020 Basketball for Development Children Programme took place on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at the Youth Multipurpose Center Buea-Town from 9 am to 12 noon. The Camp brought together more than 60 kids aged between 5 and 15 years with the majority of them coming from St. Augustine’s orphanage, St. Glory orphanage and Mountain Kids orphanage. Internally displaced children and children from single parents were also amongst the participants.

The main objective was to use basketball as a tool to teach and sensitize kids about health issues, environmental protection and general behaviour in the society.

Covid-19 protective measures associated with cleanliness and hygiene was a serious topic discussed with children. Cleaning up of the basketball court before and after the program was performed by children under the supervision of Matute, the trainer, and volunteers from PCI. The camp started with warm-up exercises comprising of ball handling (travelling, carrying and double dribbling). The kids were later shared into four teams for a fair play basketball match. During the match, special attention was paid to the compliance of the rules of basketball and the whistle was blown when there is a violation. The children learnt how to dribble and protect the ball, keep control over the ball, shoot, catch and rebound, develop communication strategies among each other, pay attention to what somebody is saying and to be attentive. Team spirit, fair play, the strengthening cooperate feeling amongst kids as well as having fun together were taught to children using the basketballs.

Bringing a smile on the faces of kids during the Christmas period was an exciting task during this camp. It should be recalled that since 2016, the security situation in Buea and many other towns and villages of the South West and North West regions of Cameroon has deteriorated due to an armed conflict between the separatists and government forces which has claimed more than 3000 lives. Many schools had closed and families displaced at the search of a safer environment. Since the beginning of 2020, the security situation is improving but remains tense. It was with a lot of enthusiasm that we organized this basketball camp which ended with a meal and a drink for each child and the distribution of Christmas gifts donated by Basketball for Development and RUDEC Germany e.V.

Way forward: Peace is slowly returning to Buea and its surroundings and schools have reopened at least in the major towns of the region. It would be great to offer a basketball for development training session once a week to children aged between 7 and 14.

The trainer recommended acquiring two mini-basketball goals which can be found in specialized sports shops in Buea or Douala in order to offer a better basketball for development training experience to kids.

## The Wheelchair Basketball Programme



The Wheelchair Basketball program took place on Friday, 15th January 2021 from 9 AM – 12 Noon at the Youth Multipurpose Centre Buea-Town. This program brought together 13 physically challenged persons from Buea and its environs. This program aimed to promote social cohesion amongst physically challenged persons and instil hope and a sense of belonging amongst them.

The program was supervised by coach Matute and volunteers from Pro Climate international. It began with a warm-up exercises such as stretching, ball handling, keeping control of the ball, dribbling, shooting and catch of rebound. After the warm-up exercises, the physically challenged persons played a match of *Green jersey vs Black jersey*. This match that had intermittent water breaks focused on fair play and lasted for 45 minutes. The physically challenged persons closed up the Wheelchair program with a fellowship meal and drinks.

Way forward: The participants pleaded to having at least one basketball for development training session every week. This will really help them improve on their performance and strengthen interaction among them and others. The December/January session can be organized as a final session to close up the activities of the year.

The wheels of 14 chairs have expired and need to be replaced. They can be purchased in Douala and installed by the technician at the Associated Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped (ARCH) in Buea.

A Whatsapp group was created by the participants to stay in touch and discuss how they can further organize themselves as a group and encourage others physically challenged persons to join their basketball for development team.