



Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWD)

Nacho Street Bamenda. Website; <http://cuapwdcenco.org>

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Email; cuapwd2008@gmail.com Tel (+237) 674170606, Facebook; CUAPWD

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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ABBREVIATIONS

CUAPWD – Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities
ICT – Information and Communication Technology
OPD – Organization of Persons with Disabilities
PEWIDCCUL – Persons with Disabilities Cooperative Credit Union Limited
PTA – Parents Teachers Associations
PWDs – Persons with Disabilities
VDA – Village Development Association
VSL – Village Savings and Loans

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2005 with 11 Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and officially registered in 2007, the Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities (CUAPWD) is an umbrella organization bringing together the organizations of persons with disabilities in the 34 Sub-divisions of the 7 Divisions in the North West Region of Cameroon.

CUAPWD consists of a solid network of 121 organizations of persons with disabilities all over the North West region of Cameroon and they are structured into Sub-divisional, and Divisional Units to represent the disability movement at these levels. The Divisional Units further meet together to constitute the General Assembly of the organization and this organ is charged with the duty of electing the Board Members. The Board of CUAPWD on its part formulates and defines policies which are implemented by a Coordination Team appointed by the Board.

CUAPWD has adopted Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) (WHO, 2010) as a holistic approach for the achievement of its goals and objectives. We are working to promote disability as a cross-cutting issue with activities targeting all ages, gender, race, etc. with a zero tolerance to discrimination of any form.

In line with our goal which is “**Work to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities**” and our vision which is “**Building disability inclusive communities where the rights and dignities of persons with disabilities are respected**”, since the creation of the CUAPWD we have successfully achieved progress in our works of advocacy and inclusion of persons with disabilities into development initiatives at the community and national level.

Over the years, CUAPWD has initiated and carried out projects which have had breakthroughs that have significantly improved on quality of the lives of people living with an impairment including, but not limited to:

1. Collaborate with health service providers to make services available, accessible and affordable to persons with disabilities.
2. Advocate for the increase enrolment of Persons with Disabilities to educational facilities as a response to the global target of Education for All. CUAPWD facilitates this process by collaborating with educational authorities and other stakeholders to train education human resource, provision of assistive technology and other education needs specific to Persons with Disabilities. This aims at removing barriers in the teaching-learning process as well as improve on the participation and performance of learners with disabilities at all levels, especially with end of course evaluations.
3. CUAPWD works to build the capacity of Persons with Disabilities to know and advocate for their rights towards an independent life. We empower leaders of Persons with Disabilities in their individual organizations and there is constant

training in organizational development, collaboration and networking, advocacy and lobbying for equal opportunities. All of these create a strong disability movement in the Northwest Region which is second to none in the country and the sub-region

4. Identify and refer persons with disabilities to vocational training centers for skill development and also organize workshops and seminars to build capacity in arts and craft, income generating activities, business management, and facilitate access to micro credit. There is a lot of emphasis on crop farming and animal rearing as a means to improve in food security of Persons with Disabilities and an alternative means of livelihood

5. Provide counseling on marriages, self-esteem, relationships and family sustainability.

6. CUAPWD equally works to build inclusive communities by advocating for the rights to infrastructural accessibility and to every development initiative. Also, CUAPWD collaborates with all development stakeholders to mainstream disability in all their endeavors and even in humanitarian interventions, given that our scope of intervention is currently under a socio-political crisis. It is worthy to note that we advocate and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in socio-cultural, sports and leisure activities.


7. CUAPWD pays keen attention to safeguarding issues and supports member organizations and other stakeholders to develop policies and strategies that defends the rights of children, women, adults and older persons with disabilities


In all, CUAPWD has recently adopted inclusive research as a solid way of finding and preserving data concerning persons with disabilities and also a way of presenting evidence to our work and other disability related activities.


This report gives a vivid description on how CUAPWD attained its objectives in 2021 notwithstanding the challenges that characterize our scope of work. It includes activities of the CBR Matrix (Health, Education, Livelihood, Empowerment and Social Inclusion), and other cross-cutting areas which builds into the work OF CUAPWD as will be discovered in the presentation below.

HEALTH

Objective:

 To collaborate with public Health authorities and health service providers to make available accessible and affordable healthcare to persons with disabilities.

 To Initiate or join mainstream campaigns promoting the prevention of health hazards which is a risk factor to complicated disabilities.

 To Sensitize PWDs and the public at large on the need to regular and proper health checks

Activities

1. CUAPWD in partnership with WHO distributed Assistive Devices to 214 (122 males/92 females) Persons with Disabilities throughout the North West region. The assistive devices distributed were as follows;

- ✓ Wheelchairs 16
- ✓ Elbow crutches 78
- ✓ Sun glasses 60
- ✓ White canes 60

Also, owing to CUAPWD's partnership with the CBCHS, sub-divisional and divisional chair-persons and women's representatives of CUAPWD were trained on inclusive eye care and proper ways of preventing the COVID19 pandemic and these trainings organised in two separate centres culminated in the screening and vaccination of almost all the participants.

In a related development, the Coordinating Unit organised a one day sensitisation workshop on practical ways of managing social distancing between Persons with disabilities and their personal assistants. This workshop was equally aimed at demonstrating how best persons with disabilities can keep their mobility assistive devices free from the Corona virus. This one day sensitisation workshop brought together 15 [7 males and 8 females] persons with disabilities and 15 [7 males and 8 females] personal assistants and was supported by a joint venture between the Centre for Inclusive Studies [CIS] and Mission 21 in which participants gladly went home with diverse personal protective equipment as well as sensitisation materials in accessible formats.

To practically engage persons with disabilities in the fight against COVID19, regular media campaigns were held to educate persons with disabilities and the general public on inclusive methods preventing the pandemic. CUAPWD distributed face masks, hand gels, washing soap, sanitary detergents to 137 families hosting persons with disabilities in Ngoketunjia division in an activity supported by the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development EDID program of the CBCHS.

2. In commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, CUAPWD/CBCHS collaboration, 742 PWDs were screened and supported for consultation, laboratory tests and drugs worth 8000FCFA each person. This health campaign made available 7 Health Specialised health programs and sub-specialties including but not limited to eye care, physiotherapy, malaria, mental health, ear nose and throat, non-communicable diseases and women's health. It spanned out in all the divisions of the North West region apart from Donga-Mantung Division that was cut off due to increased tension of the socio-political crisis rocking our region.

Outcomes

1. The provision of the assistive devices has provided Persons with Disabilities an avenue to go about their activities independently and find opportunities for themselves.

2. The consultation and provision of drugs aided in checking possible health hazards as well as making PWDs and the public at large understand the benefits of regular health checks.

3. A good number of persons with disabilities, their families and health service providers now have increased knowledge on practical ways of organising health educative and screening campaigns and are becoming willing to collaborate with CUAPWD to advise them on such activities.

4. Persons with disabilities are trained on innovative methods of handling their mobility devices in order to prevent them from contracting the Corona virus or other contagious diseases.



Figure 1 Assistive Devices being assembled by CUAPWD and WHO Teams



Figure 2 Person with Disability being consulted by medic



Figure 3 Persons with Disabilities receiving medical check-up from Health Personnel

EDUCATION

Objectives:

- To establish collaboration with inclusive education stakeholders to ensure the respect of the educational rights and needs of children with disabilities.
- To build capacity in persons with disabilities in all works of life by first targeting their education needs which facilitate their training to better fit in to the current societal job demands.
- To Sensitize and motivate parents, local governments, civil society organizations and community leaders to promote the enrollment, inclusive teaching and learning of persons with disabilities in educational facilities.
- To promote non-formal education and adult literacy as a comprehensive approach to bridging the gap of delayed interventions.
- To support the provision and efficient use of inclusive educational technology in order to enhance full participation and improved performance both at facility and end of course evaluations.

Activities

In order to obtain sustainable results, CUAPWD conceived and launched a functional Education Program known as CUAPWD's Education Program (CEP) geared at handling the various educational objectives of the organization. Thanks to CEP, CUAPWD supported the Scholarship Service of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services in identifying 192 Persons with disabilities of school going age over the seven divisions of the region and these learners will soon receive cash and kind support to boast their schooling. This scholarship assistance is an annual process and will continue to gain close collaboration from CUAPWD.

Also, CEP provided School Material (school bags, books, pens, brail papers, braille slates, etc.) and some financial support to Learners with Disabilities from primary to higher education. The pilot of this program saw 34 (13 Females and 21 Males) Learners with Disability benefit from financial support worth 25,000FCFA each as a result of advocacy efforts made to North West Elites and some economic operators.

Outcome

Learners with disabilities and their families are supported to enrol and perform well in education and also to attain higher levels of education, which also opens up opportunities in the job market.

Community leaders and public authorities now see the need to assist needy learners with disabilities with the ever scarce and expensive demands of inclusive education and are showing strong interest in future ventures.

Many more persons with disabilities of school going age are encouraged to enrol in to educational programs in order to gain more opportunities in the society.

LIVELIHOOD

Objectives:

- Initiate or refer persons with disabilities to vocational training centers.
- To promote the inclusion of PWDs in activities geared towards the protection of the environment.
- To promote the concept of village savings and loans which is an ideal way of raising capital without external support
- To train PWDs on sustainable income generating activities and management of business undertakings

Activities

1. CUAPWD in collaboration with the Global Green Grant seeks to ensure that persons with disabilities in communities around the city of Bamenda who had been disproportionately affected by the ongoing Socio-political crisis form and continue with Village Savings and Loan Schemes (VSLs). These VSLs formed, have provided innovative methods of creating benefits for themselves, their families, and for the community through income generating activities, leadership, business management, gender and disability inclusion as a motivation to persons with disabilities who are engaged in tree planting and environmental protection. In effect, a total of 4 VSL groups were created in 2 of the 3 sub divisions in the city of Bamenda; having a total number of 92 members (43 women with disabilities, 24 men with disabilities, 6 female without disability, 19 youths).

As a result of the advocacy efforts of the Coordinating Unit, 103 mostly internally displaced persons with disabilities received training in life stock rearing and market gardening aimed at boasting food security for these needy persons. This assistance came from the Food and Agricultural Organization and at the end of the training, 67 (23 females and 44 males) internally displaced persons with disabilities were each given 120000 worth of capital to start up their own farms.

In order to increase access to micro credits by persons with disabilities, the Coordinating Unit initiated a micro loan scheme with the Persons with disabilities Cooperative credit union [PEWIDCCUL] and through this move, 41 persons with disabilities gained access to micro loans ranging from 5000 to 50000 FCFA to either begin or boast their income generating sources. This scheme is very much welcome by its beneficiaries owing to the fact that recipients must undergo training in entrepreneurship and basic book keeping and for this reason, the rate of loan return is very encouraging. However, there is need for more funds to beef-up this product which is new to our region.

Further-more, the coordinating unit took care of the bills of 7 women with disabilities who were trained in modern techniques of producing designer bags, shoes and dresses. This training was organised by the Bamenda women's empowerment centre in partnership with an expert sister centre in West Africa. At the end of this exercise, these women with disabilities were contracted by another civil society organization to further train 28 more internally displaced women with disabilities. While hoping that all 28 women ultimately acquire fine skills in this new fashion of dress making, the United Youth's Organization (UYO) came in to support 7 girls and women with disabilities with start-up kits for arts and craft worth 50000 each and all 7 beneficiaries appreciate the move to boost their income sources and a consequent improvement on their standard of living.

Impact

The target population have been able to independently raise financial capital via the VSL groups

Inhabitants in The city of Bamenda are now educated on inclusive environmental protection techniques and the trees planted in public and private spaces shall serve as shelter, food and medicine, and above all protect the city of Bamenda from degradation. This will equally beautify the city and give a strong voice to persons with disabilities as a valuable stakeholder in development.

Also, this has help to reduce the rate of dependency on the Coordinating Unit by her member organizations since many were trained on income generating activities and are now able to participate in the VSLs.

There is increased access to micro credit by persons with disabilities as they gain knowledge and skills in business management and basic financial book keeping.



Figure 4 Persons with Disabilities being educated on ways of Tree Planting and environmental protection



Figure 5 Tree Planting by Visually Impaired Woman



Figure 6 Field volunteers introducing the green grant project and the concept of VSLs to persons with disabilities in the Bamenda 2 subdivision. Sign language interpreter helping the Hearing Impaired have clear understanding of the project and its activities

EMPOWERMENT

Objectives:

- To Build Capacities of Persons with Disabilities in Right-Based Approaches by availing them with legal instruments available to protect and promote the rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- To facilitate access to National Disability Cards with the aim of promoting and protecting the rights of PWDs in benefiting from public and other relevant services
- To promote a strong disability movement across the North West Region that avail themselves with existing framework and strategies to militate for their advocacy drive towards disability inclusion.

Activities

The emergency humanitarian crisis in which the region finds itself has disproportionately disregarded the rights of persons with disabilities. This explains why the Coordinating Unit in 2021 established a protection office in order to handle these objectives. Alongside acting on issues in Safeguarding, child protection and Gender Mainstreaming, it also takes measures to empower Persons with Disabilities in their rights which gives them a voice of their own to advocate for the promotion

and protection of the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in community and national life. This comes on the heels of the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [UNCRPD] by Cameroon to add to the already existing legal framework defending the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

It is from this background that the Coordinating Unit is affiliated to the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms and the National Freedoms Observatory. Both institutions have the mandate to investigate, classify and report cases of gross violations of human rights and CUAPWD prides herself as the only Organization of Persons with disabilities with the huge task to advise these institutions on inclusion matters.

The Coordinating Unit is equally member of the North West observatory for cultural diversity where a lot of emphasis is laid on intercultural dialogue with the Mbororos. CUAPWD's interest here is to bridge the gap that exist between other communities and the Mbororos in disability awareness and inclusion.

This office has also provided sensitization and facilitation of the acquisition and use of the National Disability cards. During the period of 2021, the protection office of CUAPWD facilitated the production of 553 National Disability Cards across the region. This is the outcome of the initiation of one stop shops of service related to the production of this card. Here, CUAPWD liaised with the public health officials, civil protection authorities and the ministry of social affairs who agreed to move their offices to the communities. It is worthy to note that this activity is highly applauded by persons with disabilities and their families and are calling on CUAPWD to organise more of such activities especially at this moment of crisis where the services are completely close down.

Also, in order to acknowledge and encourage the actions of those who are making a difference in the life and wellbeing of Persons with Disabilities, 26 (7 Female and 19 Males) PWDs were awarded certificates and also provided with cash and kind resources worth 30,000FCFA each, to empower them. This award of excellence to persons with disabilities was the maiden edition of an annual process undertaken by CUAPWD in Partnership with World Echoes Media Group and Kiki News and Disability Forum. Other officials and institutions were equally awarded for their devotion to disability inclusive development.

Impact

1.

- ✓ Persons with Disabilities and their families have acquired knowledge on the importance of the National Disability Card and when and how to use them
- ✓ Many more Persons with Disabilities are able to benefit from social services available in public structures and other civil society organizations
- ✓ There is also a reduced security risk to PWDs in our crisis context as National Disability Cards can be used as supplementary Identification documents

and even the non -State fighters and the defence and security forces are increasingly gaining knowledge in its relevance.

2. Persons with Disabilities who received awards of excellence are strengthened to do more in favour of disability inclusion and are now serving as mentors to other persons with disabilities and their families.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Objectives

- To advocate for the inclusive participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting, leisure and socio-cultural activities both at community and national events.
- To initiate or collaborate with other stakeholders the organisation of competitions that will promote social inclusion.
- To build capacities of relevant actors to develop the urge to plan and implement activities involving persons with disabilities who are talented and gifted in different domains.

Activities

In order to promote the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, CUAPWD assisted 11 women with disabilities to take part in a cultural festival organised by the Bamenda III council. This took place at the palace of the Nkwen Fondom and these persons with disabilities exhibited their talents in fashion parade and craftsmanship. It is worthy to note that this event remains memorable in the lives of persons with disabilities because their participation was intentionally planned for and special accommodation was equally reserved to include persons with disabilities.

On the other hand, 13 persons with disabilities participated in the maiden edition of the Red Feather award organised by a civil society organization in collaboration with the North West regional house of assembly. As a result, 1 male and 1 female with disability came out victorious in their spheres of competence returning home with prizes in cash and kind and a place to participate in the national competition to be organized in 2022.

In addition, a woman with disability was the regional best in arts and craft during a regional craft festival jointly implemented by the ministries of agriculture and culture. Also, CUAPWD identified and supported a growing talent in athletics and after emerging first in a regional competition, this male with a visual impairment came back home with a Gold Medal in Shot-put from a the National Competition organized by the Ministry of Sports and Physical education and he is currently taking part in selection test that is qualifying athletes for the upcoming Paralympics.

Outcome

- Both public and private sector actors are giving attention to inclusive approaches in organizing events over the region.
- For reasons of previous successes of other persons with disabilities, more and more persons with are now boasting their self-esteem to participate in mainstream events.



COMMUNICATION

Objectives

- Inform: Clearly communicate messages to stakeholders.
- Educate: Educating the community on issues around PWDs and why they have to get involved. Alongside educating her beneficiaries (PWDs) on how they can live better lives.
- Advocate: Communicating proposals to policy that will make living better for PWDs
- This communication will be channelled both to policy makers and to the general public.
- Engage: Tailoring the communication to give the audience ways to either share (carry the message forward) and or to join her work.

Activities

CUAPWD has put in place a Communication Unit to better carry out the above objectives.

In a bid to make this unit strong and efficient, CUAPWD in collaboration with the socio-economic empowerment of persons with disabilities SEEPD program of the CBCHS and the Partnership for Inclusive Research and Learning, PIRL Project organized capacity workshops in internal and external communication and also contracted 2 consultant organizations to train the management of CUAPWD on how to establish a communication strategy for the organization. These agents were equally commissioned with the task to develop and launch a functional and accessible Website and train a designated staff on how to update and manage the platform and other relevant social media handles. It is from this background that the PIRL project supported the online training of one cuapwd staff in website development and management. Hence, CUAPWD now possess and run a functional and accessible website, important social media handles and above has a strategy and man power to effectively and efficiently communicate.

It is important to note that there was increase in radio sensitisation due to the establishment of the communication unit and CUAPWD entered in partnership agreements with 2 media organs (World Echoes media group and Kiki News and Disability forum) in order to inform and educate the general public on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities with a lot of attention placed on disability and inclusive development.

Finally, CUAPWD is currently working on the development of accessible information and sensitisation gadgets like brochures and calendars for greater visibility in the community.

Impact

- This has led to the proliferation of the image and name of the organization to persons with disabilities, the public and potential partners in the area of disability and inclusive development. .
- Staff capacity has been strengthened via the training on contemporary strategies for organizational communication, both internally and externally.
- A functional and accessible website for CUAPWD is put in place with link to different social media handles which translates the communication strategy in to the practical realities of the time.



Figure 7 CUAPWD Staff being trained by consultant on Online and Digital Communication

HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH

Objectives

- Mitigating the effects of the Anglophone Crisis and COVID-19 pandemic on PWDs
- Mitigating the effects of the Socio Political Crisis and COVID 19 on families and communities hosting Persons with Disabilities

Activities

- This program falls under the category of Humanitarian Intervention, given the current context of the Region that our activities are based in. In this context, CUAPWD has been able to carry out need assessments of Persons with Disabilities with reference to the crisis and or the pandemic. Through this 389 (197 Male and 192 Female) with disabilities and their families received household equipment, sanitary and shelter kits. Added to this, 100 families hosting PWDs in Ngoketunjia were assisted with food and non-food items worth 25 000FCFA each.
- As an on-going endeavour, CUAPWD continues to advocate with both national and international humanitarian actors to revise their strategies for undertaking emergency humanitarian responds which until now does not target the particular needs of persons with disabilities in crisis moments. It is from this background that the Coordinating Unit improved on its participation in humanitarian cluster

coordination meetings and this participation has significantly changed the working relationship between CUAPWD and other humanitarian agencies.

In addition, the Unit intervened to assist 27 internally displaced persons with disabilities in non-budgeted assistance but saw it as an opportunity to improve on the educational and health emergency needs of these person. Thanks to these sporadic interventions, children of internally displaced persons with disabilities registered for end of course evaluations, transportation to return to host communities, support to establish civil status documentation, emergency shelter facilities and lots more.

Impact

The quality of life of PWDs and their family members were improved upon thanks to this support and they have gained knowledge on how to keep safe in the socio-political crisis and most especially the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Figure 8 Persons with Disabilities in Ngoketunjia Division presented with Humanitarian Aid of Food and Non-food items

RESEARCH

Objectives

- Promote mutual understanding of Disability Related issues by strengthening joint studies on theories, systems, policies and practices in this milieu. It can also provide consultation and advice for other organizations and major stakeholders in areas surrounding disability.
- Improve and enhance that welfare and build livelihood resilience for the IDPs.
- Galvanising persons with diverse impairments and involving them into the PIRL Research Project

Activities

The Coordinating Unit of Associations of Persons with Disabilities regards research as the most effective way of inspiring evidence based approaches to handling disability and inclusion. Worthy to note is that, the opportunities provided by research has not been given the attention it deserves and this is particularly so in the field of disability and inclusion in our context. Again, it is important to highlight that this area remains a virgin ground for local and international studies. It is from this perspective that CUAPWD entered in to partnership with the PIRL project to enhance her learning in this domain. The organization is represented in the steering committee of the project and several persons with disabilities from the network have benefited from a litany of trainings, webinars, team meetings to share notes on disability and inclusive research. The experience gathered from the PIRL and other research activities over the years; the constant trooping in of students and other development actors to seek information and advice in the field of disability, has created an opportunity for CUAPWD to put in place a service to systematically organize this exchange. Hence, in collaboration with the PIRL project, the Coordinating Unit is currently exploring ways of setting up a research department for the organization

So far, there has been continuous provision of technical assistance in the field of disability inclusive research which came in the form of ELIED (Enhancing livelihood resilience of protracted internally displaced persons), a Bournemouth global challenges research funded project by the Bournemouth University. This was an academic research project that targeted to improve and enhance that welfare and build livelihood resilience for the IDPs.

CUAPWD partnered with Dr Bang Henry the coordinator of the project, to carry out a research survey for IDP persons with disabilities in the region who have been affected by the Anglophone crisis. That was collected for 209 IDP persons with disabilities in all the 7 divisions of the North West region

Also, CUAPWD played a leading role in getting to know how easy or difficult volunteers and field workers of the DIHA project in the region find their way on the field and what reasonable accommodation is required to enhance their full participation in achieving expected results. This this survey will inform the project coordination on what measures to be considered in order to improve on the work and

experience of the 22 persons with disabilities rendering services to the communities of the region for the DIHA project of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services.

Impact

- The partnership with the PIRL Project has aided CUAPWD through the following ways and more
 - ✓ Setting up of a Research Team for CUAPWD
 - ✓ Supporting the Unit with a computer to help with data input and overall research
 - ✓ Continuous provision of technical assistance in the field of disability inclusive research
 - ✓ Representatives of CUAPWD in this partnership have gained skills in technology through webinars and institutes, organized by the PIRL.
- The ELIED project provided CUAPWD with good accreditation which could provide an avenue for future and potential partnerships and funding. It also built the capacity of CUAPWD in data collection and interpretation

CAPACITY BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING OF SYSTEMS.

Following the reorganization process of the disability landscape of the North West Region that culminated in the putting in place of sub-divisional, divisional and central coordination of CUAPWD, there was need for the governance and management organs of the network to be properly schooled on their roles and responsibilities in the new dispensation. Hence, with strong support from the CBCHS, an assessment was conducted to identify administrative and human resource gaps and a plan was drawn on how to close the gaps.

In effect, 35 divisional leaders and 5 staff members were trained in several thematic areas such as advocacy, project cycle management, financial accountability, existing legal framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the relevance of communication and lots more. This was immediately followed by the development and adoption of:

- An administrative policy and procedures
- Revision of the finance policy and putting in place of a finance procedure
- The revision of the safeguarding policy
- The inclusion policy
- A five year strategic plan
- An advocacy strategy
- A communication strategy

In order to understand these rich technical capacity of the organisation, a two day training workshop was organised for the board members and management team of

CUAPWD. Staff equally received training on many other areas including but not limited to: humanitarian interventions, inclusive cash transfers, security tips, health and safety, do no harm principle, gender based violence, human rights investigation and reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and this has gone a long way to improve on the quality of results achieved in 2021.

On her part, central coordination sends out circular letters to educate the sub-divisional and divisional unit on responsibilities and have started with the organization of smaller training sessions for the units at different levels. The task ahead is to continue with capacity development of all who matter in seeing that CUAPWD grows to a unique voice representing the views and aspirations of the disability movement in favour of disability inclusion.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUB-DIVISIONS AND DIVISIONS

S N	ACTIVITY	CHALLENGE S	IMPLEMENTIN G OPD	SUB-DIVISIO N	DIVISION
1	Formed 8 new Associations of Persons with disabilities in 8 different villages.	Limited funds to support transportation and logistics		Fundong Sub-division	Boyo
2	Facilitated in the establishment of 406 Birth Certificates			Fundong Sub-division	Boyo
3	Identified and advocated for the registration and provision of school needs to 150 persons with disabilities of school going age	Limited funds to sustainably support the learners with disabilities		Fundong Sub-division	Boyo
4	Officially registered 2 Association with Disabilities	Some groups are not well structured to have proper recognition		Fundong	Boyo
5	Carried out capacity trainings in aspects of	Lack of space and limited financial resources	The Associations for the Welfare of Albinos, AWA	Bamenda III	Mezam

	project management, livelihood and entrepreneur skills of which a total of 20 persons with and without disability have benefited.				
6	Aided in the gradual rehabilitation of 3 persons with disabilities	Unwillingness of the beneficiaries to continue with the treatment, coupled with lack of medical facilities to cure skin cancer	The Associations for the Welfare of Albinos, AWA	Bamenda III	Mezam
7	Organized a sport tournament with Think Big Amputee Group	Limited funds to carry more of such activities	The Associations for the Welfare of Albinos, AWA	Bamenda III	Mezam

SUMMARY REPORT 2021

SN	DOMAIN	ACTIVITIES 2021	OUTCOME
1	Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CUAPWD in partnership with WHO carried out the distribution of Assistive Devices to 214 Persons with Disabilities throughout the North West region. 2. CUAPWD's, sub-divisional and divisional chair-persons and women's representatives were trained on inclusive eye care and proper ways of preventing the COVID19 pandemic which culminated in the screening and vaccination of almost all the participants. 3. The Coordinating Unit organized a one day sensitization workshop on practical ways of managing social distancing between Persons with disabilities and their personal assistants. 15 Persons with Disabilities and their Personal Assistants took active part in 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of the assistive devices has provided Persons with Disabilities an avenue to go about their activities independently and find opportunities for themselves. 2. The consultation and provision of drugs aided in checking possible health hazards as well as making PWDs and the public at large understand the benefits of regular health checks 3. A good number of persons with disabilities, their families and health service providers now have increased knowledge on practical

		<p>this workshop</p> <p>4. In the fight against COVID19, regular media campaigns were held to educate persons with disabilities and the general public on inclusive methods preventing the pandemic</p> <p>5. In commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, CUAPWD collaboration with CBCHS, organized health campaigns, 742 PWDs were screened and supported with subsidized laboratory screening and medication.</p>	<p>ways of organizing health educative and screening campaigns</p> <p>4. Persons with disabilities are trained on innovative methods of handling their mobility devices in order to prevent them from contracting the COVID-19</p>
2	Education	<p>1. In order to obtain sustainable results, CUAPWD conceived and launched a functional Education Program known as CUAPWD's Education Program (CEP) geared at handling the various educational objectives of the organization</p> <p>2. With this program in place there was the circulation of applications for scholarships in all units of CUAPWD in the region. The scholarship forms are currently with the Scholarship Service CBCHS and selected beneficiaries will soon receive the awards both in cash and kind.</p> <p>3. Also, through CEP, 34 (13 Females and 21 Males) Learners with Disabilities benefited from this support worth 25,000FCFA each to support their schooling for the academic year 2021/2022.</p>	<p>1. Learners with disabilities and their families are supported to enroll and perform well in education and also to attain higher levels of education, which also opens up opportunities in the job market</p> <p>2. Community leaders and public authorities now see the need to assist needy learners with disabilities with the ever scarce and expensive demands of inclusive education</p>
3	Livelihood	<p>1. CUAPWD in collaboration with the Global Green Grant formed and continued Village Savings and Loan Schemes (VSLs). Through this, a total of 4 VSL groups were created in 2 out of the 3 sub divisions in Bamenda City, having a total number of 92 members.</p> <p>2. Through Advocacy efforts of the Coordinating Unit to the FAO, 103 mostly internally displaced persons with disabilities received training in life stock raring and market gardening the end of the training, 67 (23 females and 44 males) IDP persons with disabilities were each given 120000 worth of capital to start up their own farms</p> <p>3. The Coordinating Unit initiated a micro loan scheme with the Persons with disabilities Cooperative credit union</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The target population have been able to sustain themselves financially via the VSL groups - The city of Bamenda is now educated on inclusive environmental protection. This equally beautifies the city and gives a strong voice to PWDs in the city. - This also helped reduce over dependency of member associations of the Coordinating unit as many were trained on income generating activities

		<p>[PEWIDCCUL] and through this move, 41 persons with disabilities gained access to micro loans ranging from 5000 to 50000 FCFA to either begin or boost their income generating sources</p> <p>4. The coordinating unit sponsored 7 women with disabilities who were trained in modern techniques of producing designer bags, shoes and dresses. This was in collaboration with the Bamenda Women Empowerment Centre and a sister institution from West Africa</p>	
4	Empowerment	<p>1. The establishment of the Protection Department in the Coordinating Unit to provide sensitization and facilitation of the, production, acquiring, and use of the National Disability card.</p> <p>2. In order to acknowledge and encourage the actions those who are making a difference in the life and wellbeing Persons with Disabilities, 26 PWDs were awarded certificates of excellence and also provided with cash and kind resources worth 30,000FCFA each, to economically empower them. This is thanks to a collaboration between CUAPWD and World Echoes Media Group/ Kiki News and Disability Forum</p>	<p>3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Persons with Disabilities and their families have acquired knowledge on the importance of the National Disability Card and when and how to use them ✓ Many more Persons with Disabilities are able to benefit from social services available in public and some private structures ✓ There is also a reduced security risk to PWDs in our context as National Disability Cards can be used as supplementary National Identity Cards in some cases. There growing knowledge of the importance of this document the security forces and non-state actors. <p>4. Persons with Disabilities who are role models are strengthened to do more in favor of disability inclusion</p>
5	Social Inclusion	<p>1. CUAPWD assisted 11 women with disabilities to take part in a cultural festival organised by the Bamenda III council. This took place at the palace of the Nkwen Fondom and these persons with disabilities exhibited their talents in fashion parade and craftsmanship</p> <p>2. 13 persons with disabilities participated in the maiden edition of the Red</p>	<p>1. Both public and private sector actors are giving attention to inclusive approaches in organizing events over the region</p> <p>2. For reasons of previous successes of other persons with disabilities, more and more persons with are now boosting their self-esteem to participate in mainstream events.</p>

		<p>Feather award. As a result, 1 male and 1 female with disability came out victorious in their spheres of competence returning home with prizes in cash and kind and earning a place to participate in the national competition to be organized in 2022.</p> <p>3. Finally, a woman with disability was the regional best in arts and craft during a regional craft festival jointly implemented by the ministries of agriculture and culture</p>	
6	Communication	<p>1. CUAPWD established a Communication Unit, to carry out the set objectives and issues related to disability inclusion</p> <p>2. CUAPWD in collaboration with CBCHS and PIRL Project organized capacity trainings in internal and external communication and contracted some consultant organizations to train the management of CUAPWD, develop a functional and accessible Website alongside Social Media handles of the organization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This has led to the proliferation of the image and name of the organization to the public and potential partners as well. - The management have also built the capacity via the trainings, on basic organizational communication, both internal and external
7	Humanitarian Outreach	<p>1. 389 Persons with Disabilities and their families received household equipment, sanitary and shelter kits. Added to this, 100 families hosting PWDs in Ngoketunjia Division were assisted with food and non-food items, Personal Protective Equipment worth 25 000FCFA each</p> <p>2. As an on-going endeavor, CUAPWD continues to advocate with both national and international humanitarian actors to revise their strategies for undertaking emergency humanitarian response</p> <p>3. The Unit intervened to assist 27 internally displaced persons with disabilities in non-budgeted assistance but saw it as an opportunity to improve on their educational and health emergency need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The quality of life of PWDs and their family members were improved upon thanks to these supports and they have gained knowledge in how to keep safe in the socio-political crisis and most especially the COVID-19 Pandemic
8	Research	<p>1. In collaboration with the PIRL Project, CUAPWD has been able to kick-off the process of establishing a Research Department that will better implement the set objectives</p> <p>2. There has been continuous provision of technical assistance in the field of disability inclusive research which came in the form of ELIED (Enhancing livelihood resilience of</p>	<p>1. The partnership with the PIRL Project has aided CUAPWD through the following ways and more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Considering the Setting up of a Research council and Department in charge of research at CUAPWD ✓ Supporting the Unit with a

		<p>protracted internally displaced persons), in collaboration with the Bournemouth University of UK.</p> <p>3. CUAPWD played a leading role in getting to know how easy or difficult volunteers and field workers of the DIHA project in the region find their way on the field and what reasonable accommodation is required to enhance their full participation in achieving expected results</p>	<p>computer to help with data input and overall research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continuous provision of technical assistance in the field of disability inclusive research ✓ Representatives of CUAPWD in this partnership have gained skills in technology through webinars and institutes, organized by the PIRL. <p>2. The ELIED project provided CUAPWD with good accreditation which could provide an avenue for future and potential partnerships and funding. It also built the capacity of CUAPWD in data collection and interpretation</p>
10	Capacity Building and System Strengthening	<p>1. 35 divisional leaders and 5 staff members were trained in several thematic areas such as advocacy, project cycle management, financial accountability, and existing legal framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the relevance of communication and lots more</p> <p>2. In order to understand these rich technical capacity of the organization, a two day training workshop was organized for the board members and coordination team of CUAPWD. Staff equally received training on many other areas including but not limited to: humanitarian interventions, inclusive cash transfers, security tips, health and safety, do no harm principle, gender based violence, human rights investigation and reporting, and monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>3. On her part, central coordination sends out circular letters to educate the sub-divisional and divisional unit on their responsibilities and have started with the organization of smaller training sessions for the units at different levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CUAPWD Leaders and management have gained skills in basic organizational functioning. - There is increased knowledge by the various units on the layout of the entire CUAPWD network

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Socio-Political Crisis

Persons with Disabilities have disproportionately suffered from the effects of the Anglophone crisis and things are even made worse by the fact that the prevalence of acquired disability is on a steady rise, but very limited services are available to take care of the ever demanding situation of Persons with Disabilities.

CUAPWD will shall continue to advocate to the state, Civil Society Organizations and International Humanitarian actors to consciously make efforts towards the inclusion of PWD in their planning and executing of emergency response.

Insignificant attention to Disability Inclusive Targeting

Only a very small percentage of development and humanitarian actors target the specific needs of PWDs and has therefore left a suffering disability population to fend for themselves. There is no relationship between availability and accessibility of these devices and maintenance services are almost in-existent. Decentralized institutions who have the power to provide these devices hardly consult competent services and usually provide a wrong device to the wrong beneficiaries

Inadequate Funding

Due to the limited funds, some activities and projects are either put on hold or cannot be expanded to other units in divisions further away from the regional headquarter.

It is a similar difficulty with getting a good number of quality human resource to cover the work demands of the entire region.

The Central Coordination pledge to continue exploring better ways of attracting both local and international funders, while making good use of the already existing partners. Member organizations of CUAPWD are encouraged to make contributions in order to support the units at the sub-divisional and divisional levels.

System Functioning

The systematic and institutional functioning and set-up of CUAPWD is still not properly understood by most of its members and other partners.

There is need for more trainings to build the capacity of the units of the organization and better inform the partners on the governance and administrative functioning of the Coordinating Unit.

Limited Logistics

- I. CUAPWD puts in a lot of financial resources on rents and maintenance of a temporal structure. There is need for a permanent site that will enhance good working conditions for the staff, member organizations and the general public
- II. The insufficient availability of computers, office furniture, and other work tools is a major drawback to the smooth and timely functioning of the organization. We strongly appeal to partners, funders and well-wishers to consider on improving the quality of work by making available modern and accessible work tools.
- III. *The non-availability of a transport facility:* The work of the Coordinating Unit spans around the entire region and beyond and good

results should not be expected on a strong reliance on a sole mode of public transportation. The availability of a transport facility is of great importance and urgent to the huge responsibility that lies in coordinating the activities of 121 OPDs across the 34 sub-divisions of the North West region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the CBCHS through for the mentorship role they play in holding the hand of CUAPWD especially in this difficult moment. The SEEPD Program and the EDID Program of the CBCHS with very visionary managers and devoted staff remain a great force behind our success and we are not taking this for granted.

Also, we are so thankful to the ministry of social affairs for always being ready to support us even when their hands are tired by the present context. They are every present to give very valuable technical support which has gone a long way to let us attain our goal and objectives.

We equally applaud the efforts of other institutions and organizations like the National commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, the PIRL project, the Global Green Grant, and many others for electing to work with CUAPWD in order to improve on the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

In all, the member organizations of CUAPWD, leaders at the sub-divisional and the divisional units and the board give the coordinating team reasons to move on and this is a strength that is much admired by other organizations within and out of the region. It is important to highlight the great sacrifices made by a young, dynamic and very devoted staff and volunteer body who have pledged to remain focused in achieving the mission behind CUAPWD's mandate. Their ingenuity have brought significant growth to the entire disability movement of the region

CONCLUSION

The complete overall of the disability landscape across the North West region has gone a very long way to give a voice to persons with disabilities and a strong movement to advocate for their rights. CUAPWD remains committed in seeing that the resources invested so far to build this strong movement yield good fruits which will be enjoyed by persons with disabilities, their families and the community at large and will certainly contribute to the development. We have been enormously supported by very few hands to go this far but we see a growing interest of lots more institutions and individuals towards disability inclusion and this a huge opportunity to explore in order to attain a society of equal opportunities for all.

Our plan of action for 2022 considers working with everyone who matters in influencing policy change and who is ready to collaborate with the disability movement for the promotion of disability inclusive development.

The socio-political crisis has disproportionately affected the disability family of the region and beyond but there is no choice than to stand up to defend the rights of the most vulnerable group of persons in our country and the entire world. Our plea is for many more hands to come on board this moving train and there will be no regret to

your contribution to a world where each one has a part to play. Disability inclusive development is the most reliable way to go and there is no turning back for according to our motto, “*Nothing Without Us*”, persons with disabilities are part of human life and an enabling environment should be created for their full and meaningful participation. The goal of every institution is to create opportunities that are friendly to all and that is our watch word.

Signed

**General Coordinator
Fru Chick Sama**