

Activity 3.3.1

SELECTION OF SIX (06) RURAL PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS (COOPERATIVES AND CIGs) IN THE SOUTH WEST REGION TO RECEIVE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION IN THE SWR.

SUMMARY

PROJECT: UNDP Recovery Program

Pillar 3: Economy and Livelihood Annual Work Plan - 2021

Output 3: Support economic recovery, through short-term work opportunities, livelihoods development and market improvement

Activity :3.3.1: Support farmers groups (Cooperatives & C.I.G.s)

Budget :

FCFA 0

\$ 0

1. Context

The socio-political conflict in the Northwest and Southwest has caused large-scale damage, spurred a humanitarian crisis, and exacerbated existing social tensions. The affected populations (predominantly women and youths) who have been subject to humanitarian assistance since 2017 are now in need of more sustainable assistance to rebuild their lost assets, restore their livelihoods and strengthen their capacities to manage the impacts of the on-going crisis. In both regions, the crisis has resulted in widespread destruction of cultivated lands, greenhouses, livestock and poultry farms, water wells, irrigation networks and other productive agricultural assets. Food and vegetable production have seen a significant decline resulting in high food prices on the local market. As a consequence, households now spend significantly higher proportions of their income on food while food security is on steady decline.

The Government of Cameroon and UNDP collaborated in the formulation of the Presidential Plan for Reconstruction and Development (PPRD) of the North West (NW) and South West (SW) Regions. The PPRD feeds into the Government's efforts to resolve the current crisis. It is against this backdrop that UNDP has engaged in recovery activities in both regions. The objective of this plan is to strengthen institutions and processes that facilitate peacebuilding and resilience through the following three pillars:

- (i) Strengthening social cohesion
- (ii) Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure
- (iii) Revitalization of the local economy

The PPRD plan will be implemented in phases, and the first phase which is expected to cover two to three years will focus mainly on Recovery. This will complement and reinforce current humanitarian efforts by supporting the transition towards civilian-led recovery and social cohesion, economy, and livelihood revitalization, and ultimately the return to normalcy for the Anglophone regions. UNDP will focus in this first phase of the PPRD on the human, social, economy and livelihood aspects of recovery.

2. Justification

The damages to the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors, which accounts for over 50% of employment in both the NW/SW, have placed many people out of work. In both regions, abandoned farmland has increased by more than 200% (2017 to 2018). Overall agricultural production dropped by 51% between 2017 and 2019. This drop in production and productivity can also be associated to the drop in the economic activities of rural producer organisations, notably the farmers cooperatives and CIGs.

The agricultural sector (including fisheries and livestock) has a great potential during and after crises to re-animate the local economy, contribute to rural livelihoods, and create jobs. The major players in this sector are producers' organizations such as Cooperatives and CIGs. These formations help

smallholders to overcome various constraints to, input acquisition, commercialization and profitability which become exacerbated during crisis situations. Farmers' Cooperatives are usually constituted to reduce costs for farmers by pooling resources, supporting each other with various challenges, increasing visibility, and strengthening capacity to negotiate prices and markets. Cooperative farmers are found to use more productive inputs as they have better leverage access to fertilisers and seeds. They also have better access to extension services and greater technology adoption rate than non-members. In addition, in crisis situations there is greater trust in information received through the cooperative and information received by their customers.

With the on-going social unrest in the South West Region, many cooperatives have been failing to achieve their mandate in providing services to their members. This can be associated to the drastic drop-in economic activity resulting from financial and material constraints. Cooperatives are essential building blocks in the local economy and can help farmers (especially in crisis situations) to quickly recover from economic shock, regain their livelihood asset functions, cope better with the negative effects of the crisis and create short term work opportunities. It is so because members benefit from economies of scale, lowered costs puts/hired services, improve product, reduced market risks and higher profits.

In view of alleviating poverty and supporting economic recovery through short-term work opportunities, livelihoods development and market improvement, the recovery program has therefore envisaged to support 06 rural producer organizations (Cooperatives and CIGs) in the SW; One per division.

3. Main Objective:

The main objective of this intervention is to provide economic support to 06 Rural Producer Organizations in the SW to enable them to fulfil their mandate of improving the livelihoods of members, reducing poverty in rural communities (through employment generation), boosting food production and reanimating the countryside.

Specifically:

1. To identify and select 06 beneficiary farmer groups (COOPs / CIGs) basing on established vulnerability criteria.
2. To Identify their needs
3. To economically empower the beneficiaries in their agricultural specialization.

4. Methodology

The methodology with involve:

- a. Launch of call for proposals for interested cooperatives.
- b. Selection of beneficiaries by UNDP procurement process and/or PPRD data.
- c. Needs assessments.
- d. Procurement and supply of support items.

5. Expected Results

-Six (06) beneficiary Rural Producer Organizations are economically reinforced for livelihood development and job creation in all six divisions of the South west.

6. Selection of beneficiaries

Six (06) beneficiary RPOs will be selected by due UNDP procurement process or PPRD data starting with a launch of call for manifestation of interest. Selection will be done based on the table below.

Division	Eligible Municipality	Target COOP activity	Beneficiaries
Manyu	Eyumojock	Any	01
Lebialem	Alou	Any	01
Kupe Manenguba	All	Plantain & cocoyam	01
Fako	Muyuka	Cassava production/processing	01
Meme	Mbonge	Cocoa production/processing	01
Ndian	Ekondo-titi	Palm production /milling	01
TOTAL			06

7. Funding

The activity will be funded by UNDP Recovery Program.

8. Eligibility and selection criteria

Administrative criteria

- ✓ Trader's License /Cooperative certificate
- ✓ Certificate of Incorporation/ID,
- ✓ Bank attestation
- ✓ Location plan
- ✓ Rules of procedure and statutes
- ✓ With a legal status and have been in existence for at least 3 years.
- ✓ Must have as principal activity, the agricultural speculation for that municipality (see table above)

9. Beneficiaries

Six (06) gender-inclusive Rural Producer Organizations (Cooperatives and CIGs) based in the defined municipalities will be the direct beneficiaries of this first phase intervention. Indirect beneficiaries are households and the local commune.

10. Evaluation of bids

Technical criteria

- Minimum 5 years of relevant experience..... 10 pts
- Minimum 30 member registered in the local rural producer organization.....15 pts
- Proof of economic activity over the last 03 years..... 20 pts
- Must be based in the municipality of intervention..... 15 pts
- List of members approved by the local authorities..... 10 pts
- Pictures, activities reports over the last 03 years 20 pts
- local rural producer organization should have necessary logistical and financial capability required to perform the proposed service..... 10 pts