



HADASSAH FOUNDATION (HASCON)

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**PREPARED BY:
HADASSAH FOUNDATION NGO**

DECEMBER 2022

FOREWORD

In 2022, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) identified that there were 3.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in Cameroon. According to OCHA, Cameroon accounts for almost 1 million internally displaced persons, mainly in the northwest, southwest, and far north. In the North-west and South-west, nearly all 366,000 IDPs were displaced due to the violence. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes that 22% of adults in conflict settings experience mental health conditions, and children who are internally displaced are also likely to have high levels of mental health issues. The increased prevalence of mental health issues and psychosocial problems in displaced communities is determined by the following:

- Past losses in their home place and adverse experiences during flight and in IDP settings
- Their current life conditions (economic/social difficulties, lack of assistance and protection, daily stressors).

Given all the conditions IDPs and the host population faced, HASCON has focused its work in 2022 on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Although several activities were carried out, most were in line with enhancing the emotional and psychological well-being of both IDPs and Host populations.

Created in 2018, HASCON's mission and vision revolve around enhancing people's well-being and building resilience to better deal with challenging life circumstances. To achieve its mission/vision, we offer psychosocial support and counseling, mental health support/education/advocacy, social and emotional learning education in schools, provide education on youth sexual and reproductive health, and human rights promotion as we work to fight gender-based violence, empower women and offer humanitarian assistance as need arises.

This year, we joined the GBV cluster (UNFPA), the Health Cluster, and the MHPSS working group in the Southwest region, which have significantly supported our work every step along the way in 2022. We appreciate all our partners, and I wish to tell my team, "Well done."



Mrs Ayuk Etongo (Executive Director)



ABOUT THE REPORT

This report provides an overview of Hadassah Foundation's work in the year 2022 in its head office in Buea (precisely in Bakweri town, opposite the executive hotel entrance). It shows the activities, projects, accomplishments, collaborations, and expenses for the year.



WHO WE ARE:

1.1 History of HASCON

Hadassah Foundation (HASCON) is a legally registered NGO (**Registration number 109/G.37/C84/VOL1/SASC**) operating in Buea, Cameroon, founded in 2018, inspired by the ongoing Anglophone crisis and the traumatic situations surrounding the lives of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Other than IDPs, the host communities also face an alarming rate of undesirable circumstances that surround many individuals (particularly orphans, teenage mothers, and youths) due to the increase in violence, poverty, drug abuse, and economic hardship as people are unable to achieve sustainable livelihood because of the ongoing crisis in Northwest and Southwest regions. NGO's head office is located in Buea South West Region. The NGO has experience in offering psychosocial support and counseling, humanitarian response/reach out, Health care (raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health/mental health issues), Human rights education/advocacy, Education (Social and Emotional Learning-SEL in schools), and also work in promoting Gender equality including GBV and Women empowerment.

1.2 HASCON VISION

Our vision is to enhance the well-being of individuals in our communities (especially teenagers, youths, orphans, vulnerable children, women, and Internally Displaced Persons) to improve the resilience of these individuals to maximize their potential. In pursuit of our vision, we offer Psychosocial support and counseling, Mental health support/education/advocacy, Social and emotional learning education in schools, provide education on youth sexual and reproductive health, Human proper promotion, work to enhance Gender equality/women empowerment and offer Humanitarian response.

1.3 NGO MISSION

To enhance people's well-being, build resilience to better deal with challenging situations, and strengthen community social cohesion.

1.4 OUR VALUES

Transparency, Accountability, Integrity, and Impartiality

1.5 HASCON WORKS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

- ❖ Psychosocial Support (PSS)
- ❖ Mental health support/education/advocacy
- ❖ Social and Emotional learning education in Schools
- ❖ Provide education on youth sexual and reproductive health
- ❖ Human rights promotion
- ❖ Gender Equality, GBV, and Women's Empowerment
- ❖ Humanitarian Response

1.6 GOVERNANCE AND HASCON ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

HASCON Cameroon has an experienced staff working to make the organization's activities successful. Coupled with their work experiences and educational abilities, our staff possesses unique qualities, including resilience, ethics, professionalism, creativity and innovation, excellent decision-making, analytical capabilities, ability to learn new skills, and excellent project management skills.

HASCON Organizational Chart



1.7 Our People



Ayuk Etongo
Founder/Executive Director
(Psychosocial Counselor)



Kim Akwo,
Assistant Director
(Human
Rights/GBV)



Patience Ashumbi,
Education & Training
Officer



Martha Ako
Gender Equality and Women
Empowerment Officer



Nji Fominyen
Psychosocial Counselor/
Project Manager



Tabi Bissong
Administrative/
Finance/ M & E
Officer



Rhonda Nformi
Child Protection/
Humanitarian Response
Officer

Description of Projects Realised in Line with HASCON'S Work

HASCON offered **psychosocial support** to youths at St. Glory Orphanage and Mountain Kids Orphanage Buea, where almost all the children were internally displaced, with a significant number of them in their teen years.

In the **healthcare area**, we educated and raised awareness about hygiene during puberty years and how it affects the mental health of IDP youths whom we were working with. In addition, other sessions were carried out on sex education, issues related to teenage pregnancy, STDs/STIs, and how it affects youth's mental health. Also, given the cholera outbreak in 2022 in the Southwest region of Cameroon, the Hadassah Foundation equally had a cholera sensitization at mile 16 and small Soppo Buea. During 2022, the organization prioritized mental health advocacy in the Buea and its environs. The mental health awareness session was conducted with Teachers (in schools like Bambino, St Joan, and Baptist High School) and students in Summerset, Kingston Comprehensive Secondary, Baptist High School, etc.).

On **Education** in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), we addressed the issues of anger management sessions, bullying, conflict resolution, and study skills with schools like Bambino Nursery and Primary School Great Soppo, St. Joan Nursery, and Primary School Great Soppo.

In our **Humanitarian work**, following the various cholera sessions we had in mile 16 and small Soppo Buea, we did humanitarian services such as giving drinking buckets, trash cans, hand sanitizers, detergents, washing soap (savon), and plastic bags to enhance hygiene and sanitation in these areas.

Our work on **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** entailed carrying out awareness-raising sessions with the people of Mile 16 and small Soppo Buea and a workshop with 30 persons made up of young girls, women, and men in the Blessing Hotel Mile 17 Buea.

In other activities, Hadassah handed two cash prize awards for best community projects (offering service to the community) to two of the Miss/Christian Cameroon contestants for 2022. The award of 100,000 FCFA, that is 50,000 francs each, was given to two contestants with the best community projects. The aim of providing these awards was based on our interest in promoting community service and reaching the most vulnerable as we advocate for an all-inclusive society. Furthermore, we celebrated our Christmas in partnership with the Creating a Smile Foundation by bringing together four orphanages for a Funfair at Alliance Franco Buea: Mountain Kids' Orphanage Bokwaongo,

Marian Mojoko Tiny supports orphans at St Glory Orphanage and Rhema Orphanage Mutengene.

1.8 Psychosocial Support (counseling intervention to IDP children/teenagers/youths at St. Glory and Mountain Kids orphanage)

Project Duration	March-May 2022/ June-August 2022
Donor	Self-Sponsored by Hadassah Foundation
Amount	61,500cfa FRS (including staff transportation & snacks during sessions)

1.9 Aim of the Project

- To offer Psychosocial support (PSS) and counseling services to traumatized IDP children (who have been rendered orphans due to the ongoing crisis in Southwest/Northwest Cameroon) living in St Glory Orphanage Molyko, Mountain Kids Orphanage, Buea South West Region.
- Develop activities to meet the psychological and social needs of the children.

2.0 Place of Implementation and How it was implemented (including Activities)

- ❖ The HASCON team conducted a needs assessment to identify the psychological and social needs of the IDP children at St. Glory Orphanage and Mountain Kid Orphanage
- ❖ From 14th March to May 31st, 2022, HASCON's staff worked with teenagers at St Glory Orphanage. Also, from 10th June to 26th August 2022, the team worked with children at Mountain Kids' Orphanage. Counseling sessions were carried out on a one-on-one basis with the teenagers as requested by the orphanage director due to issues of peer pressure and the behavioral changes that occur in the adolescence stage. One-on-one counseling sessions, as well as group counseling sessions (depending on the age group of the children), were held with the children to address their psychological and mental health needs, like depression, post-traumatic stress disorders, etc. With a brief evaluation, it was confirmed that IDP children are at risk of mental health issues and are a particularly vulnerable group.
- ❖ Social activities were also organized with the children to prevent isolation and support them in interacting with society. For instance, social interactive games were held in different sessions with the children.

2.1 Achievement

- HASCON was able to improve the children's well-being through Psychosocial support activities. Intervening in supporting the psychological, mental health, and social needs of the children has also added to enhancing their mental health generally. This has enabled the organization to add sustainable value to their work and advocate for an all-inclusive society.



HASCON staff at Mountain Kids orphanage, Buea (on one/ group counseling sessions)



HASCON staff at St. Glory orphanage, Buea (on one/ group counseling sessions)

2.3 Health Care (Sexual and Reproductive Health of Youths-STDs, HIV, Puberty, and Hygiene)

Project Duration	January to December 2022
Donor	Self-Sponsored by Hadassah Foundation
Amount	202,850cfa frs (includes staff transportation, snacks during sessions and sensitizations)

2.4 Aim of Project

- Empowering teenagers and children with life skills and educating them on living a healthy lifestyle is essential knowledge at the puberty stage of life.
- To reduce the risk of illnesses among the crisis-affected population through reproductive health awareness programs in our communities.

2.5 Implementation Activities

- ❖ HASCONs work in 2022 in health care focused on educating IDP children and adults. This project was aimed at providing them with knowledge and raising their awareness about how they could protect themselves and avoid

contracting the HIV virus and unplanned pregnancies. Sessions were held on hygiene during puberty and how it is related to their mental health. Also, sex education, issues related to teenage pregnancy and how it affects youth mental health, Venereal diseases (STIs, STDs and HIV/AIDS) were conducted at St Glory orphanage and Mountain Kids orphanage with IDP teenagers and youths. With the outbreak of cholera in the Southwest region in 2022, HASCON also did Cholera sensitization at mile 16 and small soppo Buea.

- ❖ HASCON also focuses on mental health as it offers psychosocial services and counseling to the people in need. As a result of the ongoing crisis in the North West and South west region and in partnership with Anxiety and Depression Association in America (ADAA), it is focused on sensitizing the public about the effects of mental illnesses and preventive measures. HASCON did sensitization in schools, communities, to different professional groups like models, as well as churches focusing on the most common mental illnesses like depression, anxiety, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders, and stress. We looked at the concept, the common symptoms, effects, types and preventive measures.

2.6 Achievement

- ❖ This activity reinforced our work in healthcare area. HASCON was successful in raising awareness about hygiene in puberty and relation to mental health, sex education, issues related to teenage pregnancy and how it affects youth mental health, Venereal diseases (STIs, STDs and HIV/AIDS) at St Glory orphanage and Mountain Kids orphanage with IDP teenagers and youths. We also did Cholera sensitization at mile 16 and small soppo Buea.
- ❖ HASCON successfully raised awareness on mental health in some schools like Summerset, Baptist high school, Kingston College, St Joan staff, Bambino staff. In addition, HASCON did workshops on mental health with some models of Glow Monat and Flocy Network, communities like mile 16, mile 17, small soppo all located in Buea and established a mental health club at summerset. The awareness raising or mental health sensitization sessions were done using the simplest form for understanding and possible preventive measures were given. It was a great achievement following the ongoing crisis which has affected a great number of people in the North West and South West regions in Cameroon. It is a one-year plan of sensitization with a target number of 3000 people but we have reached out to about 1394 persons between ages 9 – 18 years and 18+ since we started on 10th September 2022.



HASCON staffs at St. Glory orphanage, Buea



HASCON staffs at Mountain Kids orphanage, Buea



Mental health session at Kingston Comprehensive Secondary School, Buea



Mental health awareness session at Baptist High School, Buea



Mental health awareness session with the teachers of Bambino Nursery and Primary School, Buea



Mental health awareness session at Summerset Bilingual College, Buea



Mental health awareness session with Mr./Miss Christian Cameroon models at Mountain Hotel, Buea



Mental health session with Glowmonat ladies, models and UB students at Suage lounge, Buea



Mental health session with the staffs of St. Joan Nursery and Primary School, Buea



Mental health awareness session at the Glowmonat mask ball event

2.6 Education (Social and Emotional Learning)

Project Duration	February to June 2022
Donor	Self-Sponsored by Hadassah Foundation
Amount	18,700cfa frs (includes staff transportation during sessions)

2.8 Aim of Activity

- ❖ To raise awareness and educate school pupils in Bambino Nursery and Primary School Great Soppo Buea on conflict resolution and anger management issues which is becoming a growing problem in schools around Buea among children.
- ❖ To raise awareness and educate school pupils at St. Joan primary school Great Soppo Buea on anger management session, bullying, Conflict Resolution, Study skills and learning styles as well as review of sessions

2.9 Implementation Activities

HASCON carried out an educative session on anger management, bullying, Conflict Resolution, Study skills and learning styles from the 18th February 2022-25th March 2022 at St Joan nursery and primary school great soppo Buea. Also from the 27th May and 3rd June 2022 same afore mentioned sessions were done at the Bambino nursery and primary school great soppo Buea.

3.0 Achievements

HASCON successfully carried out social and emotional learning (SEL) in two schools which included educating youths on the effects of anger, conflict and bullying on their academic performance and behavior and on various ways in which they can improve their study skills.



HASCON staff conducting social and emotional educative session at St Joan nursery and primary school Buea



HASCON staff conducting social and emotional educative session at Bambino nursery and primary school Buea.

3.1 Humanitarian Support

Project Duration	May to December 2022
Donor	Self-Sponsored by Hadassah Foundation
Amount	250,000cfa frs (includes staff transportation, snacks during sessions and sensitizations)

3.2 Aim of the Projects.

- ❖ It was aimed at sensitizing the population on how to prevent and control cholera transmission and other waterborne diseases.
- ❖ To promote preservation of clean drinking water as buckets with lids were distributed to the community members.

3.3 Implementation Activities

HASCON did Cholera sensitization with adults at mile 16 and small soppo to help prevent and reduce cholera by providing drinking buckets, trash can, hand sanitizers, detergents and plastic bags so as to enhance hygiene and sanitation of the people in these areas.

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3.3 Achievements

- ❖ HASCON donated hand sanitizers, buckets, trash cans to IDP women in the mile 16 community.





Drinking buckets, detergents, hand sanitizer, and a trash can distribution to mile 16 community.

3.4 Gender Based Violence

Project Duration	May to June 2022
Donor	Self-Sponsored by Hadassah Foundation
Amount	29,500cfa frs (includes staff transportation, snacks during sessions and sensitizations)

3.5 Aim of the Projects

This project aimed at raising awareness on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) to promote peace and reduce the rate of violence in the Buea community which is greatly affected by this on-going crisis.

3.6 Implementation Activities

Gender based violence is a major area in which we work at HASCON. Females and men were trained on the concept of gender-based violence, types, causes, contributing factors, and consequences of GBV. The participants were mostly university students, singles; women and men were present and a few workers.

3.7 Achievements Activities

The session was highly participatory through questions and answers, icebreakers, group work, and presentations. According to the pre-test conducted at the beginning of the session, most participants had below average, resulting in little understanding of the

topic. A post-test was conducted at the end of the session, and the last person was above average, resulting in a better understanding of the topic and at the end of the sessions, flyers, referral pathway were handed to them. Hadassah Foundation collaborated with community leaders and organizations like Flocy Network and Medical Foundation to realize this project at mile 17 and mile 16 respectively.



GBV workshop at Blessing hotel- Buea, in partnership with Flocy Network



GBV and cholera sensitization at Small soppo-Buea



GBV and cholera community awareness at mile 16, Buea

3.9 Other Activities

a) Award to best Community Project in Miss/Mr. Christian Cameroon 2022

HASCON handed two cash prize awards to two of the Miss/Mr. Christian Cameroon contestants for 2022. The award in the sum of 100,000 FCFA that is 50,000 francs each was given to two of the contestants with the best community projects. These projects showed service to the public and to humanity reason why it was chosen and the winners awarded. Our interest in this contest was to encourage community service that works to reach the most vulnerable in community and in enhancing the wellbeing of the general public and society at large. The award was handed over by HASCON staff to the winners **Arrey Brandon and Tawong Mabella** at mountain hotel were the finals took place.





HASCON staff at Mr./Miss Christian Cameroon 2022 award ceremony

b) Staff training with HASCON partner UNFPA



HASCON staff attended two days training workshop on mental health and psychosocial support on GBV in emergency on 19th and 20 October 2022 at Synod office Buea town which was organized by Action Against Hunger and GBV Protection Cluster



Staff attended a seminar on Enumerators to Collect GBV Data for the Voices of Cameroon at Parliamentary flat Buea on the 20th October 2022

c) HASCON joined in the mental health invasion: SECURE SCHOOLS at Summerset College on a Miss/Mr Christian Cameroon project.





d) Hadassah participated in the launching of 16 Days activism on GBV to end violence against women and the girl child.





e) HASCON participated in the World Humanitarian Day organized by UNFPA







HASCON successfully referred three girls to a safe shelter operated by the Baptist Service Church Health Services (CBCHS) Mutengene.



HASCON had an international intern from Michigan State University

4.0 Hadassah Foundations Christmas with Orphans (FUNFAIR 26th November 2022)

Christmas is when we develop a feeling of love, warmth, and security, and no one is exempted. Every year since our existence, we organize a Christmas with orphans, reaching out to them during the festive season, putting a smile on their faces, and letting them know they are not forgotten.

This year, we celebrated our Christmas in partnership with *Creating a Smile Foundation* by bringing together four orphanages: Mountain Kids Orphanage Bokwaongo, Marian Mojoko Small Soppo, orphans St Glory Orphanage, Rhema Orphanage Mutengene. We have been working with IDP children of Mountain Kids and St. Glory Orphanage for the past months. Below are our expenditures and some pictures of the event.

Budget for the project: Expenditure for HASCONs Christmas with Orphans

Area of expense	Amount (FCFA)
Renting of venue	40,000
Gifts (cups and pencil bags)	84,000
Prizes for games(toys)	17,500
Drinks (assorted drinks)	21,150
Water (Supermont)	5,250
Food	35,000
Renting of playhouse	20,000
Disposable cups	1,500
Parceling paper and ribbon for gifts	4,800
Water bought for the swimming pool	5,000
Stickers	17,000
Plastics wrappings	4,000
Sacs for Sac race game	1,500
Drinks for the game	5,600
Drinks for funfair eve	2,700

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Eggs for egg race game	1,000
Printing of certificate of participation for volunteers	11,700
Transportation of orphans to and from their respective orphanages	35,700
Transportation of items from the office to Alliance Franco	1,500
Roll-up for Hadassah	36,000
Total	350,900







Hadassah Foundation in partnership with Creating A Smile Foundation Christmas with Orphans (Mountain kids orphanage, Marian Mojoko Foundation, St. Glory orphanage and Rhema Grace orphanage) 26th November, 2022.

4.1 Concluding Note of 2022 Activities:

It is always said it takes a village to raise a child and that education in itself promotes and improves well-being as it is the goal of HADASSAH FOUNDATION, which is all about

Sharing lives and enhancing well-being. To invest in a child's future is to invest in growing up healthy minds. Children, IDPs, women, and teenagers are the primary victims of the current crisis (most vulnerable) and are faced with displacement and a lack of healthcare, education, and mental health services. The above activities portray a need for more activities to help grow and assist the needy population. We realized the lack of role in schools and orphanages in attending to these children's emotional and psychological needs, thereby showing a need for creating more awareness of the importance of tending to these needs because, in turn, it affects their behavior and academic performance.

With all the activities, we realized many IDP children and host population youths needed more attention given to them, like counseling and education sessions, plays to get them to relax from traumatic experiences, invisible depression, and anxiety, and creating hygiene and sanitation awareness. All this was successful due to everyone's cooperation and the systematic gathering of information for better well-being, even as the days went by.

4.2 Way forward from 2022 to 2023

With all said above, one major challenge was the difficulty of offering livelihood support for the victims and survivors of GBV, whose case we handled. Although their reports are private and not mentioned in this overall annual report for 2022, we attended to a significant number of women who were victims who experienced GBV (our reports with UNFPA-GBV subcluster Buea, Southwest Cameroon). After offering psychosocial support and counseling, we realized to reduce the risk of them being vulnerable to experiencing GBV, they need livelihood support. So, we plan to seek ways to offer livelihood support to these women.

In addition, there is a need for more sensitization on the mental health of teenagers and sex education to be done in other orphanages and the communities at large, as this education will help them better their day-to-day lives. Added to this, there is a need for counseling sessions with teenagers, realizing that some of them were IDPs, which may

have led them to experience stress, trauma, depression, and anxiety. There is a need for sessions on sex education at schools as we noticed most parents do not take the time to educate their children at home, leading to many teenage pregnancies, trauma, depression, and sexually transmitted diseases. Finally, we realized that there is a need for sessions on the effects of drug abuse with teenagers in orphanages, modeling industries, schools, and communities, as many are ignorant of the present and aftereffects both mentally and health-wise.

