



Rural Development  
Centre Cameroon

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# RUDEC Cameroon Newsletter

August / Sept 2016

## The School Year has Begun!

First of all, RUDEC and all the orphans in the orphan project would like to say a big thank you to all our supporters all over the world.

Thanks to your contributions, the children all have the necessary textbooks, pens and other stationery, school uniforms as well as exercise books. School begun again on the 5th of September.

Some of the children were especially active during the holiday season this summer and attended RUDEC summer school. We were joined for two and a half weeks by Canadian volunteer Luke who with our very own Odette did their best to freshen up the local young



bright minds. The children who diligently attended summer school were rewarded with shirts sent by donors. We would like to thank you once again!

Of course, our work is never complete. Our next agenda and the most pressing need for the orphans is getting used or new school bags. In this we are counting on the international RUDEC family!

Other material donations are also needed. Our annual Christmas Party is coming in December, where we will give the children soap, fish and rice as well as any other donations like clothes and shoes according to what we have to give.



## Newest Additions to the RUDEC Family

Our family here at RUDEC does not only consist of locals nor current volunteers, but everyone we have included in our projects and anyone who has ever supported us. We especially appreciate the time volunteers have put in to helping RUDEC grow.

We are currently hosting 4 volunteers from the GLEN-ASA program: Maia from Estonia and Susi, Zarah and Carolin from Germany, all will be leaving end of September. We are happy to announce 2 newcomers!

Chris from the UK is joining us as of the 13th of Sep-

tember, only to be followed by Anh from Australia on the 16th of October.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers into the family. See what other volunteer positions are open on RUDEC web page or follow us on Facebook!

## Empowering Single Mothers and Widows

RUDEC has been running a women's empowerment solidarity lending project since 2012. The aim of the project is easy: providing financial services to businesswomen, who would normally not access them.

The micro-credit is usually in the amount of 30 000 CAF for a cycle of 10 months and an interest rate of 10%, so instead of charity, loans are offered. It teaches financial responsibility as well as disciplines the women to save on a weekly basis. After an initial 2-month grace period, the loan is repaid in 5 instalments.

The loans are used to pay for big expenses and to grow the micro-businesses the recipients

own. As the businesses differ, so do the purposes of the loans. Some of the women use the money for big one time expenses like paying for rent of farm land and paying the workers. Other use the money to buy bulk, getting the product for a smaller price and therefore making more profit. The loan also serves as insurance—medical expenses and school fees could make ends meet very difficult for the women, but with the loan, no problem is too big.

GLEN-ASA volunteers Maia and Caro alongside with new RUDEC employee Faith, who has

replaced Shella, have been working on the micro-loan project since July.

Their aim besides systemizing the process has been interviewing the women to talk about their experiences and figure out what could be done better.

They learnt that RUDEC's project has had 33 individuals taking out 72 loans with just less than 2 million CAF given out. The success rate of the groups is at 100% of paying back their loans.



## GLEN Evaluation Project Coming to an End

RUDEC is happy to host GLEN volunteers Susi and Zarah from Germany. The aim of their project is to evaluate the cooperation between local Cameroonian NGO's and NGO's in Europe. There are around 20 GLEN partner organisations in Cameroon, one of them being RUDEC.

They just returned from a 4 week field study when they visited 17

out of the organisations. Yaonde is the favourite place they have visited.

However, Belo offers pleasures like the pancakes our cook Sam makes every second morning for breakfast and it is good being home.

Back in Belo, they are focusing on organising and hosting the

meeting of these 20 GLEN partner organisations on the 26-27th of September in Bamenda.



## RUDEC is Looking For an Online Volunteer

A more sustainable and less stressful way to support the orphans is one of the issues our team has been brainstorming over the past few months.

We have come to the conclusion that joining GlobalGiving

is something that will greatly benefit us. In order to become a member, a test of fundraising 5000\$ from at least 40 unique donors within one month. After that succeeds, we will have access to all their corporate sponsors.

The task is to register with GlobalGiving and getting all required documents up; create the project on the website; network to find donors.

Help us find the right person for this online volunteer position that will change RUDEC!





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### List of material needs for end of 2016:

- **School bags**
- **Toys**
- **Stationery**
- **Footballs and other sports equipment**
- **English or French books**

### Clothes for girls and boys from ages 3-17:

- **Shirts**
- **Pants**
- **Skirts**
- **Dresses**
- **Jackets**
- **Sports clothes**
- **Shoes**

**Thinking of  
Christmas!**

## Something Is a Bit Fishy

Diversifying our sources of income is a way of making sure that even when donations are low and volunteers are few, RUDEC will still be able to continue their important work in the community.

Besides our honey project developments, of which you can read below, RUDEC has also gotten our first inhabitants for the fish pond!

On the 6th of September, the first 9 fish were put in the pond that was ready for stock and 3 days later, we got tilapia and cap fish from Bamenda fish station.

That means RUDEC now has a fish pond as well as the piggery. We are looking for volunteer with aquacultural experience or education to come and help!



## What Could Bee\* More Delicious

RUDEC's beekeeping project is something that is very close to our director Joshua's heart. Did you know he started his career off as a beekeeper himself and still does the work for RUDEC now?

The project can be considered a success in many ways. RUDEC produces delicious honey, which keeps fattening up the volunteers and earning funds to finance our activities, mainly the orphan project.

Out of the 65 hives we have on 1,5 acre, 16 have been colonised.

Our current goal is to have 200 hives all up. That means we are still missing 135 hives. At 40€ per hive, that means we are still short 5400€ to reach full potential.

Many calculations have been made regarding the profits of the bee project. A previous volunteer named Cheuk Kin Tang suggested the bee keeping project could eventually replace relying on international donations and cover other operating costs of RUDEC completely. As the number of volunteers paying to



come and work with us has been in decline, an income to support RUDEC's daily operations is essential.

According to Cheuk's report, 200 more hives could bring in an annual profit of 4000€.

However, we are still missing capital to get the hives is difficult. In this we are leaning on the kind hearts of our donors and supporters to lead us to independence.

