



## **Helps International (HINT) & EWB-UK Research**

### **Project Proposal: Enabling Safe Water Supply**

#### **Full description of Problem:**

Only 20% of the inhabitants of Buea (a rural community with about 100,000 inhabitants) have access to pipe-borne water in their homes. The rest of the people rely on a nearby stream/spring called Ndongo and on public taps that are often so unreliable as most of the time, either there is no water or the tap flows so slowly that it could take up to 3-4 hours to get just a bucket of water. The piped water is only available about 60% of the time so that even those with pipe-borne water at homes still depend on Ndongo. This also causes water shortage in the community.

Ndongo stream/spring is only about 1-2km away from most of the inhabitants. The inhabitants bathe in Ndongo, fetch water for drinking and cooking from Ndongo, wash their dresses in Ndongo and sometimes the butchers empty cow dung in Ndongo. Because of this water-borne diseases are common in Buea, especially among children. The good thing is that Ndongo flows non-stop throughout the year.

#### **How the local community will use the proposed solution:**

- The local community could get clean water right from the source. Just the thought of a continuous supply of clean water to the community is very exciting.
- The water could also be piped and brought closer to the people.
- Clean drinking water for the people of Buea
- Consequent reduction in the spread of water-borne diseases
- Community members trained to maintain the equipment will also provide some kind of employment.
- Contributions from the community to maintain equipment.

#### **Estimate of the economic benefit anticipated and plans for training of the local community:**

- Community members trained to maintain the equipment will also provide some kind of employment.
- Contributions from the community to maintain equipment.

**Full description of the local situation:**

HINT has been working in the Buea community for close to 5 years now and has gained the reputation of the people through other community projects like the Community Education Library, IT Centre, micro-loans to deserving female entrepreneurs, educational support to orphans and vulnerable children. Through these programs, HINT has built strong relationships with local chiefs, and the local government. Therefore the support of the local population in the project is strongly guaranteed.

Buea, the Provincial capital of the South West Province of Cameroon, is a rural community in which only about 20% of the inhabitants have access to pipe-borne water in their homes which is not always available. So, the realisation of this project will bring joy to thousands.

Security is very good and there is a General Hospital available.

**Full description of relevant infrastructure available locally:**

Buea is located just at the foot of the beautiful Mount Cameroon, about 4000m high. Only the main road through the town is tarred. all the roads in the quarters are not tarred. It may also be important to know that Buea has the only English University in the Cameroon - University of Buea - with about 10,000 students.

Electricity is available but is also not very reliable.

**Useful background reading or resources:**

See Helps International Website: <http://www.hintononline.org>

General Information: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buea>

Culture and People: <http://www.bakweri.org/>

**Organisation Contact Details**

Name of Organisation	Helps International
Contact	tinshu@hintononline.org
Web site	<a href="http://www.hintononline.org">http://www.hintononline.org</a>

Background information      Helps International (HINT) is a community development NGO situated in Buea, Cameroon whose mission is to improve the social and economic well-being and health of the poor and under privileged in our society through education, skill development and job creation. We seek to accomplish this mission in the communities in which we work through four main areas which include access and training on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), enabling poor children to still have a good education, improving the health of the poor and helping to reduce the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, empowering poor adults through micro credits and training, and helping with community development projects such as clean drinking water and electricity.

Background information      HINT consists of 3 Full-time staff and currently 4 volunteers. Organization was founded in 2002 and officially registered with the government of Cameroon in 2003.

They have the following experience:

1. An IT Centre that provides training to communities members and has already trained over 1200 people since establishment in 2005.
2. A Community Education Library that provides textbooks to children from poor homes.
3. Several Campaigns within the community aimed at educating the population about HIV/AIDS and training HIV Educators.
4. A medical outreach in nearby Ekona that reached over 3000 people with education and information on HIV and hygiene and provided free medication to over 800 people.