



Boosting livelihoods, food and nutrition security through egg production in crisis affected communities in the South West and North West regions of Cameroon.

Promoting egg production for better nutrition and better life for crisis-hit communities in Cameroon

Context

The fast-deteriorating situation in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon and subsequent displacement has led to growing levels of food insecurity and a higher prevalence of negative coping mechanisms adopted by affected populations. To reduce risks and vulnerability of households and communities, FAO is implementing the emergency livelihood and nutrition support to the vulnerable population in the crisis affected communities in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon. This project aims at improving the food security of beneficiaries through the production of eggs/nutrition-sensitive poultry farming, organic oyster mushrooms and vegetable gardens for domestic consumption as well as the sale on the market.

Challenges

- Increase in price of inputs due to the war in Ukraine war for example, the price of 1 sheet of corrugated aluminum zinc of 1mx3m increased from 6 000 XAF to 10 000XAF.
- Delay in implementation of certain activities due to security reason (access restriction).
- The activities are much appreciated in the field by the supported households. FAO is looking for more funds to scale up and phase out.

Concept

Provide agricultural inputs and training on urban poultry farming production itineraries to kick start production.



BETTER LIFE



BETTER NUTRITION

Geographic coverage:

- Cameroon, South West and North West regions

Partners:

- United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF)
- Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)
- Center for rural action (CEFORA)
- Caritas Bamenda
- J2D Afrique

Target group :

- 8,184 beneficiaries, including 2,880 women, 1,592 men, 3, 712 children, and 623 persons with disabilities

Gender and nutrition:

- Approximately 60% of beneficiaries are women and young girls and 10% people with disabilities. These measures will allow access, availability of highly nutritious products such as eggs, which are an excellent source of protein. They contain all nine essential amino acids, and both the white and yolk are rich in vitamin B2 (riboflavin), vitamin B12, vitamin D, selenium and iodine.

Methodological approach

Training in urban poultry farming, agricultural inputs and tools were provided to vulnerable populations (internally displaced persons, host communities, persons with disabilities, and returnees) in order to enable them to provide a source of food and income in a very short timeframe as well as refresher sessions to maximize their use and value. Training participants were provided with complete urban farming production itineraries using Agrihandi techniques and poultry units were constructed. Four training of trainers were organized. FAO signed letters of agreement with three local implementing partners (Caritas Bamenda, CEFORA and J2D Afrique).

Impacts and return on investissement

- The eggs are sold in the local markets as well as consumed by the family to improve their nutritional status. The activity became an alternative source of revenue for the communities where the average market price of a tray of 30 eggs ranges from 2,000 to 2,500 XAF in the North West and South West regions.
- With an average investment of 229,500 XAF per household, the family can produce an average net income of approximately 274,500 XAF per year.

Sustainability and Replicability

This activity required small land of approximately 4m² beside the house and it is friendly for urban and peri-urban citizens. A cage or a poultry house is made up of locally available construction materials namely poles/bamboos, wire mesh, cement, corrugated aluminum zinc, nails, boards, etc. as well as other material easily available in the local markets such as feeders, sawdust, feed, veterinary drugs and drinkers. Community technicians and the technical staff from the government, together with local NGO partners, were involved in the project to foster sustainability.

For a successful egg production activity, we must consider important factors such as, distance to the market, availability of good quality water, wind direction, topography, possibility of expansion, feed source, light and protection from predators, when selecting a site to establish a mini poultry unit.

One mini egg production unit require approximately 4m² of surface and small investment in capital. The birds (18 weeks old hens) are kept in cages or poultry houses with a stocking capacity of 5-6 birds/m². The family provide the labor.

For the mini egg production unit, 20-23 hens of 18 week old are distributed to each household. The egg harvesting will continue for 52 weeks or more depending on the feed, temperature, fresh water, dry litter and clean environment.



“ I am married with two children, I left my area in 2018-2019 when the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon was at its peak, I then lost everything. When the FAO project came, I received 24 fowls, 5 sheets of zinc, merge, feeders and drinkers, bags of cement, bags of feed with drugs. They also gave us good knowledge on how to handle my poultry farm.

My first picking was 2 eggs and it has rapidly grown to 24, I was very happy. I also prepare boiled eggs which is very delicious and nutritious. I am selling a tray of eggs from 2000 to 2200 XAF depending on the sizes. I am very grateful to FAO again, because they have really helped me a lot. Now I can have money to take care of my children, to pay my rent and to even feed the entire family.”

NJeni Melissa, Internally displaced person and project beneficiary from Mbongue-Maromba.

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