



## **CHRI Update** **December 2024**

**Website:** [chrelief.org](http://chrelief.org)

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**Donate:** <https://www.chrelief.org/donate-now/>

Holiday greetings from the Cameroon Humanitarian Relief Initiative (CHRI)!

### **2024 Fundraiser**

On December 7th, CHRI hosted our 3rd annual Zoom fundraiser, a special event that allowed us to connect with our supporters and share the progress we have made over the past year. During the event, we provided valuable insights into the organization's work, highlighting key initiatives, milestones, and the impact we've had on the communities we serve. We also took the opportunity to showcase some of the incredible individuals and teams who have contributed to our success.

We are beyond grateful to all those who attended, participated, and generously donated during the fundraiser. Your support is vital to helping us continue our mission and expand our efforts in the coming year. If you were unable to join us or have not yet had the chance to contribute, [we kindly ask you to consider making a donation to CHRI](#). Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference and helps us further our cause. Thank you again for your ongoing support—together, we can achieve even more in the year ahead!

### **Upcoming Advocacy Event**

We are excited to be partnering once again with the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Institute for Human Rights on an advocacy and education webinar. On February 6, 2025, we will be co-hosting a panel discussion focused on the humanitarian crisis and conflict in Southern Cameroons. More info to come.

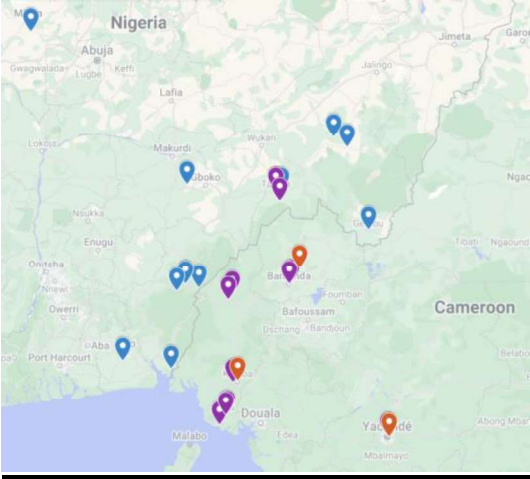
### **Updates on Cameroon**

As we enter the 8th year of the humanitarian crisis and armed conflict, the devastation continues to uproot, disrupt, and harm countless lives. Since the crisis began in late 2016, with violence escalating in 2017, the clash between state defense forces and non-state armed groups has wreaked havoc across the Southern Cameroons region. Despite ongoing calls for dialogue and peaceful resolution, the conflict persists. CHRI remains dedicated to delivering humanitarian aid and advocating for a peaceful and sustainable resolution. Our efforts include providing essential

food and non-food items, skills training, educational support, and medical care for those affected both in Cameroon and among refugees in Nigeria. Thanks to the [generosity of our donors](#), we have successfully raised and distributed over \$217,952.00 since 2018.

**Overview of CHRI Activities**

Since 2018, CHRI has brought humanitarian relief to over 10,000 refugees in Nigeria, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cameroon, and political prisoners in Cameroon. A variety of outreaches have occurred that have directly supported thousands of individuals impacted by the conflict in Southern Cameroons. Map key:(blue pin) outreaches in Nigeria; (purple pin) small grants in Cameroon and Nigeria; and (red pin) outreaches in Cameroon.



**Small Grant Project**

Since the beginning of 2022, CHRI has received over 170 applications for small grants. However, due to financial limitations, 13 applicants have received small grants thus far. Each grant provides up to \$1,000.00 to support projects that focus on advocacy for conflict resolution, relief for IDPs, and assistance for refugees. These projects, conducted in collaboration with CHRI, aim to deliver humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable populations in Southern Cameroons and Nigeria affected by the ongoing conflict.

Fall 2024 grant recipient 1: **Greater Love Sustainable Initiative (GLOSI)**



Project: The Purchase of Essential Library Books to Equip the Adagom 1, Adagom 3, and Okende Refugee Settlement Library to Vulnerable Refugee School Children

This project aims to improve the reading culture and educational opportunities for Southern Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria, focusing on the provision of textbooks and essential school supplies for vulnerable children. The project will address this gap by distributing relevant textbooks for academic subjects and will also support adult illiteracy programs. A mobile library will also be established to bring books directly to communities, encouraging reading and learning beyond traditional library spaces.

The initiative is designed to foster a sustainable culture of reading and learning, targeting not only children but also adult refugees. Ultimately, this project seeks to strengthen the educational infrastructure within the refugee settlements and contribute to long-term improvements in literacy and academic achievement among the Southern Cameroonian refugee community.

Fall 2024 grant recipient 2: **Life Changing Humanitarian Association (LCHA)**



Project: Bamenda Internally Displaced Persons Hygiene Products Manufacturing Initiative: Economic Empowerment for Visually Impaired Individuals (BIPMI)

This is an economic empowerment project aimed at improving the livelihoods of visually impaired IDPs in Bamenda, Cameroon. This project seeks to train 10 vulnerable individuals in the production of home care products such as powdered and liquid detergents. The visually

impaired IDPs, who are living in dire conditions without a stable income, face the compounded challenges of displacement and disability. The training will provide them with the necessary skills to achieve financial autonomy and improve their living standards.

Summer 2024 grant recipient 1: **Hope and Rehabilitation Organization (HaRO) Cameroon.**



Project: Women with Purpose

This initiative, held throughout May in Yaoundé, brought together 10 internally displaced single mothers for a comprehensive training program. The training sessions covered a range of topics, including trauma healing, family planning, and practical skills in commercial food production. Additionally, 5 of the participants received startup capital to support their entrepreneurial ventures.

As single mothers, participants face the heavy burden of loss and trauma, worsened by the ongoing conflict in Southern Cameroons. A trauma healing session provided tools for recovery, emphasizing community and faith-based support. The family planning training provided essential tools for informed reproductive health decisions, particularly for displaced women in vulnerable situations. Practical food production training enabled participants to start their own businesses, fostering self-reliance and confidence. Post-training follow-up showed significant progress, with many successfully running pastry businesses, expanding their offerings, and increasing their customer base. Participants expressed gratitude for the training, noting improved confidence and financial independence.



Summer 2024 grant recipient 2: **Women in Action against Gender-Based Violence (WAG Cameroon).**



Project: Saving Crisis-Affected Pregnant Women and Girls in Need

This project aimed to increase pregnant single women and girls' access to essential healthcare services throughout pregnancy and during birth. Cameroon experiences a maternal mortality of 438 deaths per 100,000 live births, which is much higher than the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (70 deaths or less per 100,000 live births).

This project provided Ante Natal Clinic support, mamma kits (mother and baby preparation), delivery kit fees, and medical bills for seven women who have been impacted by the continuing conflict.

Here are a few brief summaries of three of the project's beneficiaries:



A is an orphan from Bamenda. Her mother was HIV positive, and A was HIV positive at birth. When A was 2, her mother passed away. A lived with her aunt, a single mother of 3, and adhered to HIV treatment. They sold prepared food items. Unfortunately, in November 2023 A was raped by a customer. Fearing the situation, she didn't inform her aunt until she started experiencing intermittent fevers. WACameroon provided mental health support and support for Ante Natal Clinic to save the baby from vertical transmission of HIV, beginning in April 2024. A successfully delivered preterm caesarian section in July 2024.



M is an 18-year-old orphan IDP and is the primary caregiver for 4 siblings in Bamenda. They ran away from their home village in January 2024 because she was raped by a member of the Non-State Armed Group. In Bamenda, they have limited options for income. Primarily, her brother does menial jobs for neighbors. WACameroon supported M's Ante Natal Clinic, tests, and medications throughout her pregnancy. She successfully delivered her baby in August 2024. She expressed her heart felt gratitude to WACameroon and CHRI for their support to her and her family.



AJ, is an 18-year-old single mother of two. In April 2024, when she was 3 months pregnant, her partner was mistaken as a member of a Non-State Armed Group and was shot and killed. Following his death, her in-laws expelled her from their home. AJ, an orphan, only had her elderly grandmother to turn to for support. AJ learned about WACameroon during a sensitization event in November, just as she was about to give birth. The organization provided immediate support, including psychological support and a Mama Kit. She gave birth to her baby soon after. AJ expressed deep gratitude for the timely support, saying, "You have removed the shame of giving birth without basic clothing." She thanked CHRI for their love and hoped the organization could help more people in similar situations.

**Other CHRI small projects awardees** include the Cameroon Association of Media Professionals (CAMP), NSO Cultural and Development Association, the Tertiary Sisters of Saint Francis (TSSF), African Girls, Authentique Memorial Empowerment Foundation (AMEF), Royalty World, the Catholic Education Secretariat (CES), Diocese of Buea and the Egbekaw Farmers' Cooperative. To support further projects, [donate here](#).

### **Prison Outreach**

We have successfully completed 142 prison outreach. Every 2 weeks, we deliver essential food items to detainees in Yaoundé, who are being held without trial in relation to the conflict. Thanks to [your generous support](#), we aim to continue providing assistance to these individuals.



“On behalf of the hundreds of Southern Cameroons prisoners of conscience incarcerated (past and present) in Yaoundé we say THANK YOU for your continuous support in food and basic necessities. CHRI has gone through the odds and adversity of the political environment in Cameroon to provide regular food support to us and for that, we extend our huge gratitude.”  
(Letter from the spokesperson for prisoners to CHRI, Spring 2024)

## **How to Donate**

As an organization fully dependent on donations to fulfill our mission, CHRI depends on your generous support to make a meaningful impact. We respectfully and sincerely ask for your financial contribution to help us continue providing vital advocacy and humanitarian assistance. All donated funds directly support the victims affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis and conflict in Southern Cameroons. Here is how to donate:

-Website: <https://www.chrelief.org/donate-now/>

-Paypal direct to: [info@chrelief.org](mailto:info@chrelief.org)

-Cash App: \$thechri2018

-Mailed check:

Cameroon Humanitarian Relief Initiative  
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Fairfax, VA, 22032.

## **Contact**

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Mailchimp Newsletter: [http://eepurl.com/hj\\_FCL](http://eepurl.com/hj_FCL)

THANK YOU for your continued support.

With deep gratitude,

The Cameroon Humanitarian Relief Initiative team



About CHRI: CHRI is a registered US 501(c)(3) non-profit whose goals are to bring emergency humanitarian relief to those affected by the crisis and armed conflict in Southern Cameroons (including refugees in Nigeria, internally displaced persons in Cameroon, and political prisoners in Cameroon) and to strongly advocate for a speedy resolution of the crisis and the stop of the senseless loss of lives.