Your Water and Sanitation Partner

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 & 2022

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OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

SCHOOL DISINFECTION PROJECT

- 5 SCHOOLS DISINFECTED
- CREATING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR OVER 2500 STUDENTS AND PUPILS AS WELL AS 100 TEACHERS

CHAMPIONING INNOVATIVE AND REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

- INTRODUCING SUNFLOWER CULTIVATION IN THE WEST REGION OF CAMEROON
- ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE AND REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE THROUGH AQUAPONICS

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN INNOVATION AND PRACTICE

- INTRODUING THE ENGINEERING FOR PEOPLE DESIGN CHALLENGE

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HELPING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES REOPEN CLASSROOMS AFTER COVID-19

Disinfected 05 Primary school

In 2021, the world was facing an unprecedented challenge: schools were closed, classrooms stood empty, and millions of students were cut off from the education they desperately needed. For many children in vulnerable communities, distance learning was not an option. Lack of internet, quiet study spaces, and reliable devices meant that education had come to a standstill.

At RDWB, we knew that before students could return to the classroom, we had to address their fear. Fear of the virus, fear of the unknown. We had to show them that their safety was our priority.

And so, we launched the School Disinfection Program. We focused our efforts on two schools in the sub-urban areas of Yaounde : New Hope Academic Complex and Lycée Bilingue de Mbalngong. Our team worked tirelessly to disinfect every surface that students might touch,desks, chairs, doorknobs, light switches, and bookshelves. It wasn't just about wiping down surfaces; it was about creating a space where learning could once again thrive.

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Created a safe learning environment for:

2500 students and pupils;

100 teachers

The impact was profound. For students, returning to a sanitised classroom was more than just about safety, it was a sign that normalcy was returning, that they could sit with friends, ask questions in person, and feel the energy of shared learning. Teachers, who had struggled to connect through screens, could finally stand before their students again. And parents, worried about their children's safety, found comfort in knowing that their children were returning to a clean and secure environment.

In the end, the School Disinfection Program was not just about cleaning—it was about reclaiming education from the shadow of the pandemic, and ensuring that every student could return to a place of learning, friendship, and hope.

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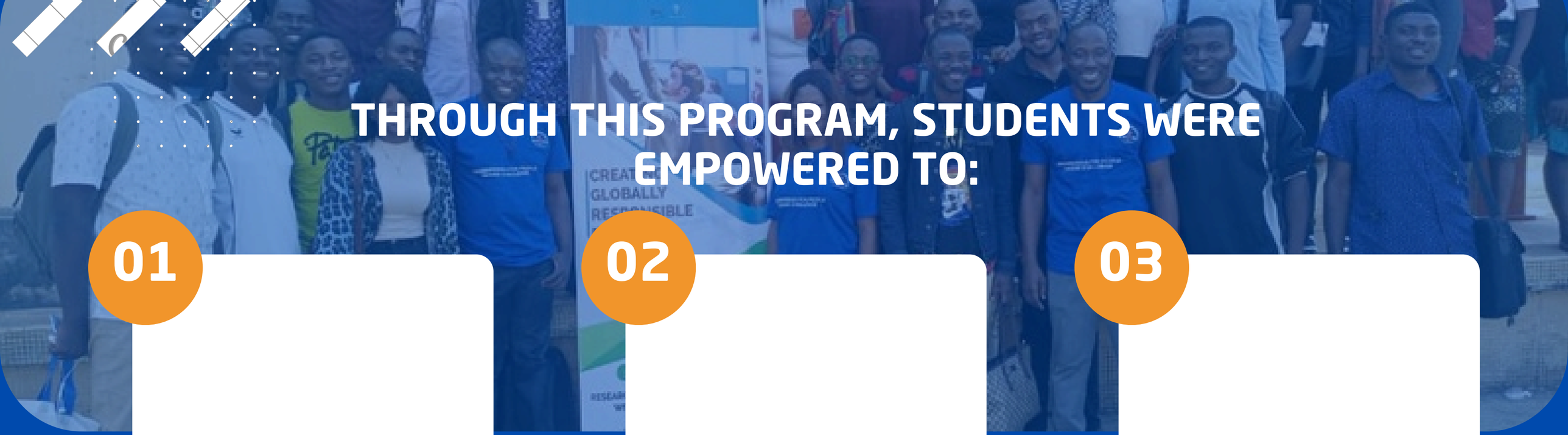
A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP BRINGS THE ENGINEERING FOR PEOPLE DESIGN CHALLENGE TO CAMEROON

A transformative new partnership introduced the Engineering for People Design Challenge (EPDC) to Cameroon. In collaboration with Engineers Without Borders UK (EWB, UK) and Engineers Without Borders South Africa (EWB SA), RDWB launched this global competition at École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques et de l'Industrie (ENSAI). This initiative aimed to provide students with hands-on, real-world experience while encouraging them to design solutions that had a lasting impact on communities facing significant challenges.

The partnership, formalised in August 2021, provided an exciting platform for engineering students to explore the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of their designs. The challenge was more than a test of technical skill; it was an opportunity to consider the broader implications of engineering work on society, culture, and the environment.

The launch event at ENSAI Ngaoundere in Cameroon was a proof to the program's global reach and its commitment to fostering diverse perspectives. By bringing together students from different backgrounds, the challenge created a collaborative environment where innovation flourished. It served as a powerful reminder that engineering's greatest potential lay in its ability to improve lives and create a more equitable and sustainable world for everyone. For young engineers, this was an opportunity to build a better future.



THROUGH THIS PROGRAM, STUDENTS WERE EMPOWERED TO:

01

Engage with global challenges

02

Develop a globally responsible mindset

03

Gain practical experience in sustainable development.

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The **EPDC** was the first of its kind in Cameroon, bringing together students from various disciplines to collaborate on engineering solutions. This initiative not only enriched their academic experience but also equipped them with the professional skills needed to address the world's most pressing issues.

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RDWB SEEDS SUNFLOWER FARMING REVOLUTION IN CAMEROON'S WEST REGION

At RDWB, we believe in transforming communities by sharing knowledge and expertise. Recently, we launched an exciting initiative to revolutionise sunflower farming in Cameroon's North West Region. This project commenced with an extensive study to investigate the potential for expanding sunflower production in the region, with a focus on small-scale farmers.

We began by listening to the farmers themselves. We conducted interviews across the Boyo, Bui, and Mezam Divisions, gathering insights into their farming practices, the challenges they face, and their hopes for the future. Armed with this understanding, we set up field trials, testing different sunflower varieties to see how they would perform in the local climate. Our research aimed to find the best planting dates and identify the most suitable varieties, ensuring farmers could maximise their yield and profitability.

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The findings were encouraging: several sunflower varieties thrived, and the farmers were eager to adopt this new crop. In March 2022, we introduced the sunflower farming initiative in Baham (precisely in Kaffo and Ngoungwa) a village in the Western Region, where it quickly gained traction. More than 20 farmers embraced the program, planting sunflowers and benefiting from the robust growth and promising yields.

Beyond the economic benefits, sunflowers offer significant environmental advantages. They improve soil health, attract pollinators, and require fewer intensive farming practices than many other crops. Furthermore, sunflower oil is a healthy cooking oil rich in unsaturated fats and vitamin E. The seeds also provide a nutritious food source, while the plant's residue can serve as livestock fodder.

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PROJECT IMPACT

20 farmers embraced sunflower cultivation

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COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY: RDWB LAUNCHES AQUAPONICS FARMING PROJECT TO SUPPORT DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CAMEROON

The **EPDC** was the first of its kind in Cameroon, bringing together students from various disciplines to collaborate on engineering solutions. This initiative not only enriched their academic experience but also equippThe year 2016 marked a pivotal moment for many in Cameroon. As instability spread through rural areas, families were forced to abandon their ancestral lands in search of safety, heading to cities like Yaounde and Douala. It was a painful and uncertain journey, leaving behind everything familiar in hopes of rebuilding their lives.

This forced migration brought with it a series of challenges. Population densities surged, and the cost of fresh food increased, making it increasingly difficult for displaced families, especially women and girls, to feed themselves. In response to this growing crisis, Research and Development Without Borders (RDWB) launched the Aquaponics Farming Project, a climate-smart farming technique that combines fish farming and crop cultivation. This innovative approach was designed to address food insecurity, lower farming costs, and provide a sustainable source of income.

The goals of the project were:

01

Make nutritious food accessible to everyone,

by reducing farming costs.

02

Create a source of income

for displaced women and girls, offering them the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

03

Cultivate high-value vegetables

like cucumbers, broccoli, and cauliflower, to enrich diets.

04

Protect the environment

by eliminating the need for artificial fertilisers.

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The first phase was a resounding success. RDWB trained over 15 young women and girls, many of whom were displaced persons, teaching them the skills to run their own aquaponics systems. These trainees grew a variety of vegetables and raised over 50 fish, turning a simple concept into a lifeline. We also helped them access markets for their produce, ensuring their hard work translated into stable income. Due to this impact, His Excellency the British High Commissioner for Cameroon paid a visit to the RDWB aquaponic farm and related vegetable farms on the 22nd October 2021.

However, due to a lack of funding, the project was paused in 2023. But the mission is far from over. Our goal now is to help these trainees establish their own independent aquaponics farms, providing them with the tools to support their families and achieve food security on their own. While it's an ambitious undertaking, we are determined. Because this is about creating a future where every person has access to healthy food and the opportunity to thrive.

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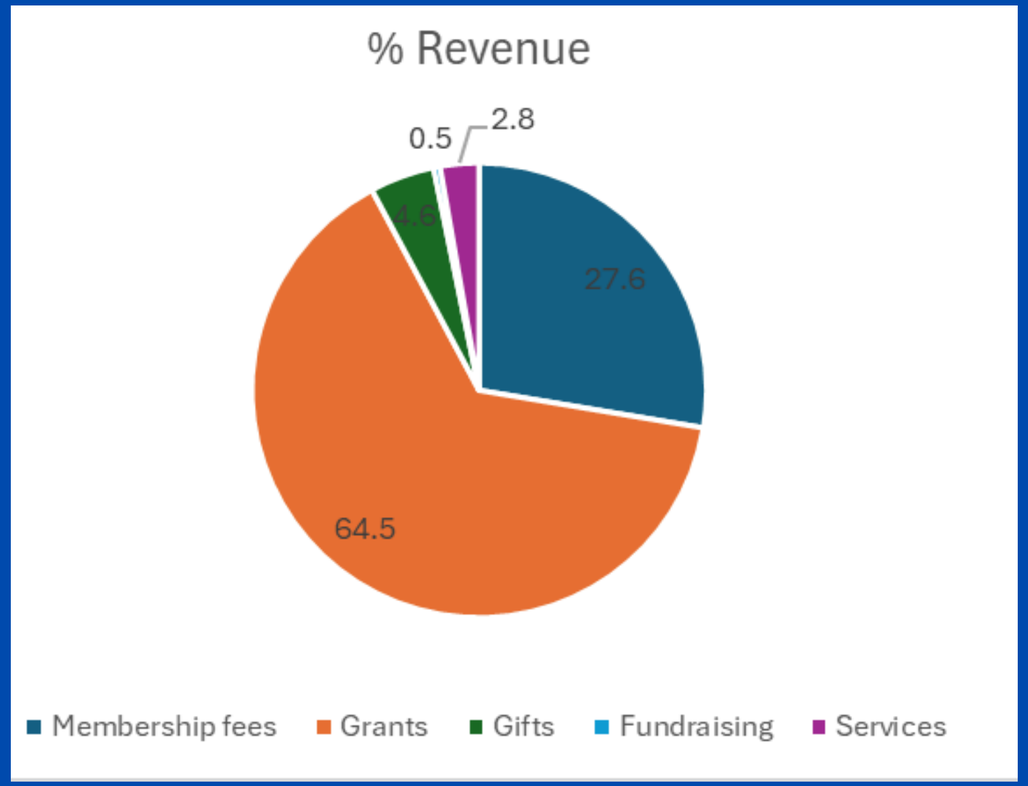
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue Streams



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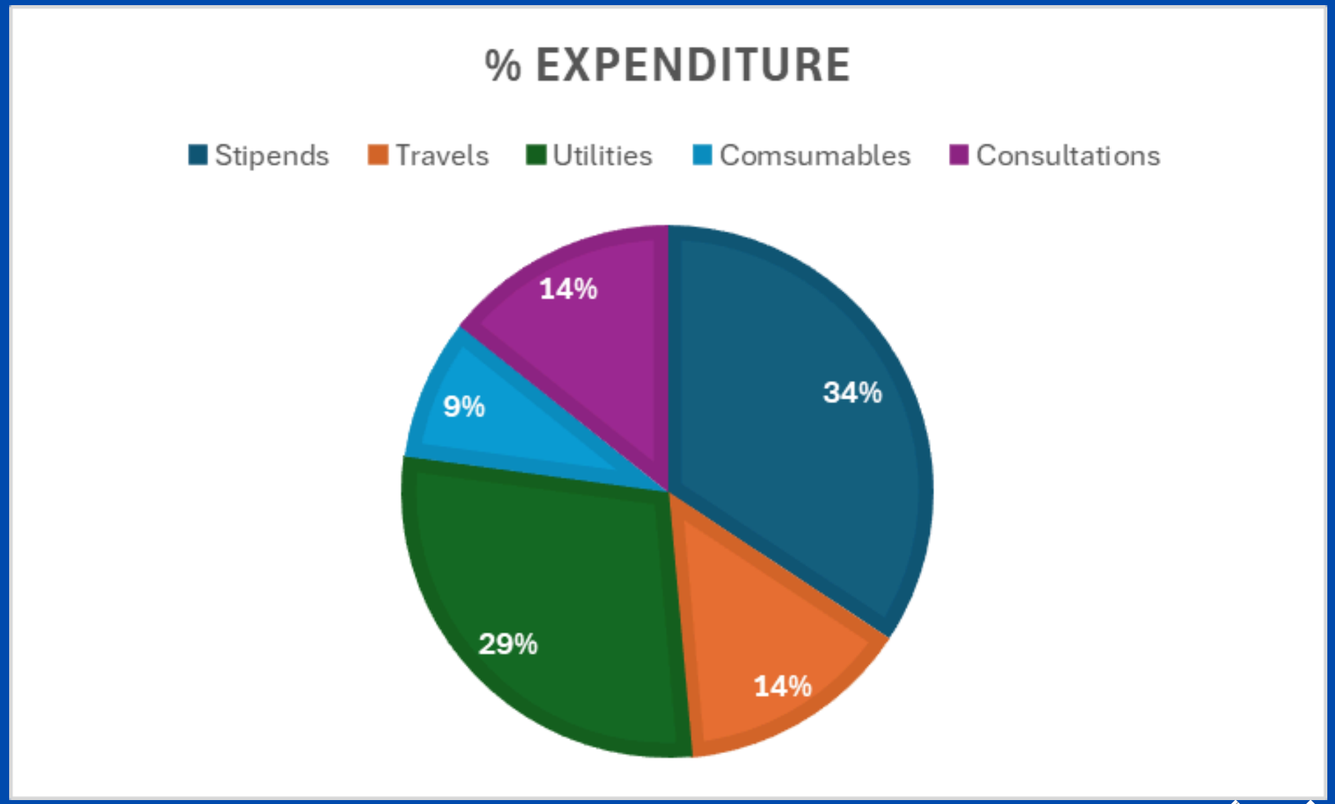
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Expenses



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CONTACT US

info@rdwb.org

+237675679050

Yaoundé, Cameroon