



YOUR WATER AND SANITATION PARTNER



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Prepared By.

**Research and
Development
Without Borders**



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CEO's Message



NGANG CHRISTIAN FRU
CEO and Founder

Dear Partners, Supporters, and Community Members,

As we reflect on another year of progress, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the journey we have shared together. At Research and Development Without Borders (RDWB), we remain driven by a simple but powerful belief: that sustainable change begins with communities, and is built through trust, shared knowledge, and unwavering commitment.

This year, our teams worked tirelessly to expand access to clean water, promote hygiene, strengthen food security, and build climate-resilient solutions where they are needed most. From remote villages to urban neighborhoods, our impact has been felt in households, schools, and health centers – thanks to the dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the resilience of the people we serve.

Integrity, accountability, and respect have guided every decision we've made. We take pride in staying true to our mission, owning our responsibilities, and ensuring that each voice – especially those at the margins – is heard and valued. These principles are not just words to us; they shape our programs, our culture, and our vision for the future.

As we look ahead, we are more determined than ever to deepen our impact, innovate with purpose, and scale what works. We invite you to walk this path with us – not only as observers, but as co-creators of a more just, healthy, and empowered world.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Warm regards,
Christian Ngang
Chief Executive Officer
Research and Development Without Borders (RDWB)



INTRODUCTION

Out of the estimated 2 billion people who lack access to safe drinking water globally, 8 million of them are Cameroonians. Conflict and climate remain some of the major factors which have been affecting access to water by populations in different angles of the country. In regions where access to water is not a problem, the quality of the water available is a threat to the lives and livelihoods of the local populations.

Amidst this humanitarian crisis, Research and Development Without Borders, RDWB has remained committed to facilitating access to water and equally ensuring that the quality of the water consumed by local populations is not life-threatening. Through several workshops on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage, HWTS and Drinking Water Quality Testing, DWQT as well as outreach programs which we organised within the course of the year, RDWB has strived to uplift the living conditions of people living in underserved communities across Cameroon.

Although our efforts have impacted the lives of several Cameroonians, we did not achieve this on our own. This year, we built partnerships as well as expanded existing ones. Through these partnerships with organisations such as the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technologies, CAWST, RDWB has continued to push for the realization of its vision of a Cameroon where every citizen has indiscriminate access to safe drinking water.

Notwithstanding the combined efforts of RDWB and its partners, there is an imbalance in the resources-to-needy population ratio. There are still millions of Cameroonians who are in dying need of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance. While we were able to obtain funding from some organisations and institutions, the funds remain inadequate to address the pressing needs of local populations around Cameroon.

For this reason, RDWB is laying down plans and frameworks to harness available human and material resources to enable the organisation to source funding from within. This will enable us to strike a balance in the resources-to-needy population ratio while equally reducing the vulnerability which comes with dependence on external actors for sustenance.



OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION

We are a Cameroonian non-profit dedicated to creating sustainable, community-driven solutions for global challenges like water and sanitation. By bridging the gap between research and practical applications, we empower communities to lead change



Vision

To provide low-cost water and sanitation solutions to vulnerable communities in Cameroon.

Mission

To empower communities with practical, action-driven research solutions that address critical water, sanitation, and food security challenges.

Core values



Integrity

We uphold honesty, transparency, and strong ethical principles in everything we do. We are committed to doing what is right, even when no one is watching. Our work is guided by truthfulness, consistency, and a deep sense of responsibility to the communities we serve and the commitments we make.



Accountability

We take ownership of our actions, decisions, and outcomes. We strive to be answerable to our stakeholders — especially the communities we support — by delivering on our promises, learning from our mistakes, and continuously improving how we serve and operate.



Respect

We treat every individual with dignity, fairness, and consideration. We value diverse perspectives, honor local knowledge, and foster inclusive environments where people feel heard, valued, and empowered. Our respect for people and the planet is at the heart of how we design and deliver our work..

Year in Review

TRAININGS IN WASH

Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage Workshops



Last year, we organised a total of 12 workshops on HWTS, with each having between 15-35 participants in attendance. The purpose of these workshops was to train community members, especially women and youths on effective ways that they can properly treat and safely preserve their drinking water at home. Through these workshops which we organised with the material and financial assistance of CAWST, our team was able to reach a total of approximately 215 persons within the course of 2013. Our workshops empowered participants with water knowledge thereby contributing to a reduction in the rate of water borne diseases like recorded in local health centres found in the targeted communities.

During the initiation of this project, we faced initial resistance from community members who were sceptical about the effectiveness of HWTS practices. We equally faced challenges with respect to behavioural change when it came to changing cultural beliefs and practices related to water usage.

Aside from challenges encountered at the initial phase of the trainings, we equally experienced some difficulties after the execution of the workshops. These were largely centred around monitoring and evaluating the long-term adoption of HWTS practices by participants. In addition to this, our team also found it difficult to accurately measure the health impacts of the HWTS workshops in targeted communities..

Having observed that these post-execution challenges were most likely linked to insufficient man power and resources, we have decided to adopt the TOT (Training of Trainers) approach when it comes to mobilizing participants for our workshops. By so doing, we hope to amplify the impact of our activities and broaden our reach while at the same time making provisions for easier monitoring and evaluation of participant implementation of HWTS practices after the workshops.



▲ TRAININGS IN WASH

💧 Drinking Water Quality Testing (DWQT) Workshops



In November 2023, our team, still in partnership with CAWST, organised a 5-day workshop on DWQT. While members of our team constituted a greater percentage of the participants, we equally had 3 persons working with the water maintenance team at the Mbankomo Council, Yaoundé.

Knowledge in DWQT complements knowledge in HWTs. During this training, the participants were drilled on other qualities of drinking water that transcended the physical attributes of safe drinking water. The most popular definition of safe drinking water to the lay man is; “Good drinking water has no colour, smell, nor taste.” However, DWQT reveals that even clear, tasteless and odourless water could contain life-threatening pathogens or high and unhealthy mineral concentration.

Having acquired this knowledge, our team seeks to train more persons on DWQT.





BRINGING TOGETHER COMMUNITY WORKERS FOR A SHARED LEARNING EXPERIENCE



In April, we had the privilege of co-facilitating a transformative 4-day (18-21 April 2025) training on Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) in partnership with the Centre for Affordable Water Solutions (CAWST), a renowned Canadian-based non-profit organization dedicated to improving global water access. This dynamic workshop brought together representatives from 14 diverse organizations, including both international and local NGOs, as well as community development groups, all united by a common goal: to improve access to clean, safe water for communities in need.

Throughout the training, participants not only gained hands-on knowledge and practical skills in various HWTS methods, but also delved deeply into the multi-barrier approach—a holistic, evidence-based framework that addresses water safety from multiple angles, ensuring long-term, sustainable impact. From learning how to implement simple, affordable water treatment techniques to understanding the critical role of safe water storage in preventing contamination, the training empowered attendees to drive positive change in their respective communities.



“Yes, the training was a great one. I leave this training equipped to support the community in selecting the best option for Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS).”

Budzi Divine Ngeh



By the end of the training, the energy in the room was electric with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment. Participants left equipped not only with technical knowledge but with the confidence to implement and advocate for effective, low-cost water treatment solutions.

With 5 RDWB Co-facilitators and 2CAWST facilitators

we trained 28 people

From 14 organisations

OUR IMPACT



Oliver, CAWST facilitator delivering a session during the HWTS workshop

"It is very important for every household in the world to be able to get access to safe water with some autonomous means..."

Oliver Denis

CAPACITY BUILDING WITHIN THE TEAM

In as much as RDWB is dedicated to the empowerment of vulnerable populations in underserved communities, we are equally keen on the professional development of our staff. We understand that for us to create significant impact within target communities, members of our team need to be constantly trained and well prepared before engaging with community members. For this reason, we take capacity building activities very serious at RDWB.



Within the course of last year, 6 members of our team were validated by CAWST as independent facilitators. This validation implies that these six persons have the competency and the ability to carry out trainings on HWTS. This was a significant milestone for the individuals validated and the entire team at RDWB. Having certified HWTS trainers within our team will enable us to organise more workshops and to empower more vulnerable people with water knowledge.

In addition to this, we have been organising practice sessions for facilitators before each workshop. These practice sessions served as mock presentations for the facilitators. These workshops gave members of our team the opportunity to correct any errors and to polish their presentations ahead of time. Through these, we make delivered top-notch trainings to participants. Judging from the efficiency of these practice sessions, we intend to make them a culture for our organisation in the future





BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE: IAIN BARBER'S STORY

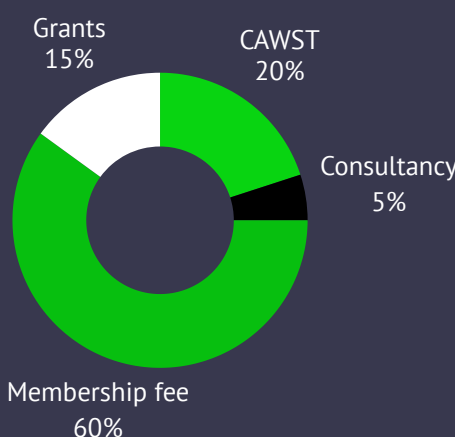


I had the pleasure of collaboratively working with RDWB on my MSc thesis that was exploring the gendered vulnerabilities of rural farmers of the Baham region, and how this affected their capabilities to adapt to climate change. The project collected qualitative data in the form of interviews to understand the 'why' factor of climate change vulnerabilities, where the RDWB team solely facilitated and collected the data for the project. Additionally, the RDWB team were involved in transcribing, translating, and collaboratively playing a part in the data analysis. Throughout the whole thesis project, it was a complete collaboration between myself and RDWB, who were constantly showcasing their vast experience and knowledge of the subject and suggesting ideas that made the project excel. I had the pleasure of being in continuous discussions with both Christian and Semi, who both showed sheer determination and resilience to make this project successful, aligning with RDWB's commitment to combating climate change. I could not recommend the team at RDWB enough for any project's climate change related and our trusted relationship will continue for future collaborations. - Iain Barber, MSc Sustainable Development, University of St. Andrews



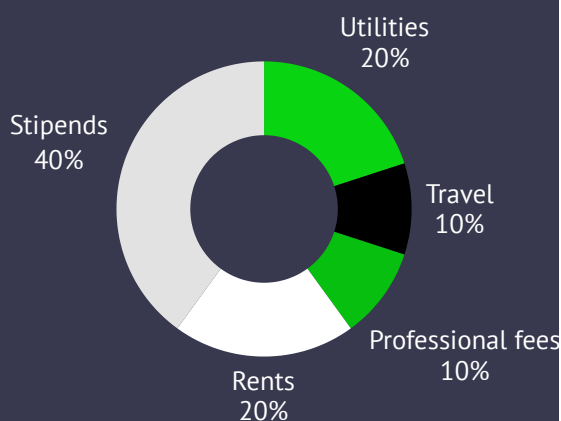
Financial Insights

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\$ 30,000

Total Revenue



\$ 5000

Total Expense



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS

Throughout the course of 2023, our activities were mostly centred around training members of the community on water safety. These trainings were largely dependent on the financial intervention of CAWST. However, in the coming year, we intend to diversify our activities while staying true to our vision



In line with this, we are making plans to establish a water laboratory in the economic capital of Cameroon, (Doula). Thanks to the equipment donated to us by the University of Glasgow, the project shall most likely be launched by 2024.

Through this lab, RDWB shall be able to conduct several water quality analyses such as; physio-chemical parameter analysis and micro-biological parameter analysis. The results from these tests will enable us make informed recommendations to communities and propose solutions for the enhancement of health.



Our Best Team



Obi Eban Ruth

Project Assistant

Project assistant and an Environmental Sociologist. She is an enthusiastic data collector and analyst, passionate about food security in the world and precisely amongst vulnerable communities she enjoys carrying out humanitarian activities to impact vulnerable groups and communities.



PRECIOUS CHENGWA

project Assistant

WASH and Water Quality Project Assistant at RDWB /Certified HWTS Facilitator Environmental Engineer by training who is motivated by aspects of sustainability, climate change and environmental activism.



Roberto Ayuni

Data Analyst

Social Media and Content Development
Data Analyst | Humanitarian | BusinessAnalyst | Business Intelligence Specialist. He helps organisations achieve growth through data-driven solutions.

Our Best Team



CHANTAL NYUYKIVIDZEM

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Chantal creates content for the organisation's social media and equally manages these pages. She also handles media relations and branding for the organisation.



SEMI ALPHONSIUS

Project Coordinator

Semi is an Instructional Designer, adult trainer, and agricultural development professional who helps the organisation create impact through the design and implementation of engaging needs-based training content and projects



DR AMBE EMMANUEL CHEO

Advisory Board

Dr Cheo is an Associate Academic Officer at United Nations University in Bonn, Germany, where he is contributing to research, capacity building and outreach activities, particularly in water management and climate action. He has a broad interest in Hydrology and his expertise is particularly relevant to the African context where he has worked for several years.



AWASOM CHARLES NDE

Advisory Board

Awasom Charles Nde, Cameroonian, 63 is a surgeon and International Health Consultant, currently teaching surgery and anatomy at the Catholic University, Bamenda. Previously he served government as a surgeon and hospital director. He studied medicine at Ibadan, surgery in Nairobi, and short courses in Heidelberg and Tel Aviv.





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Thank You

