

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

“Women’s Fisheries Project” - Cameroon

We are thrilled this month to be together supporting the inspiring work of the **Women Poverty Eradication Centre (WOPEC) in Cameroon**, a not for profit civil society organisation committed to empowering women in rural areas to develop sustainable livelihoods in order to work their way out of poverty.

Background

As in many other African countries, women residing in the rural areas of Cameroon live in abject poverty and are disempowered. WOPEC Cameroon was hence started 9 years ago by a group of dynamic, local women in an attempt to move towards sustainable development for women living in rural areas. They carry out projects and activities aimed at the economic empowerment of rural women to achieve poverty alleviation and to enable them to realise their full potentials. Currently, they support skill and micro enterprise development, awareness-raising campaigns on the legal rights of women and the empowerment of young women through building leadership (see their website at www.freetocharities.org.uk/wopec).

High Five Club Support:

Together this month we are assisting WOPEC in building and installing an environmentally friendly fish drying facility for the BACUDA Women’s Group at Akwa, Kombo Abedimo Sub Division in the Bakassi region of Cameroon.



The fisherwomen there currently use basic methods of fish drying (the sun, smoking) which greatly impedes their access to market with sufficient quantities of quality fish to make a sustainable living, as they incur huge fish losses.

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The new fish drying facility we are assisting the fisherwomen with is a modern furnace that will allow them to dry 50kg of fresh fish per batch and will hence vastly improve the quality and quantity of fish they have available for sale. Drying is one of the main methods of preservation of the quality of fish in Africa, and this new, modern furnace means that fish that otherwise would have perished and been thrown away using traditional drying methods will be saved. This will significantly increase the fisherwomen's sales and hence improve their income. The new facility will also conform to basic modern standards of safety and packaging.



The overall aim is to reduce poverty by improving livelihoods for the fisherwomen in this rural community. 20 fisherwomen of BACUDA will benefit directly from the new facility, with indirect beneficiaries estimated at over 200 comprising children, women and orphans.

Mrs Eveline Zia Ndong, WOPEC's CEO will head up a Project Management Team of 5 local stakeholders to deliver the new facility, which will also be co-sponsored by the Ministry of Women Empowerment & The Family for the Bakassi region, Mundemba Council, Kombo-Abedimo Council and WOPEC itself.

The cost in total is £2,065, with High Five Club contributing £600 through monthly membership fees. We will email photos of the new drying facility and the women selling their fish on completion of the project.

For further information on this initiative contact Dr Cheryl Mvula on Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk