

JWF Fund 2023 – Project Outline

Improving sanitation and access to safe and clean drinking water in indigenous Mbororo community

- Local partner: Support Humanity Cameroon (SUHUCAM)
- Project site: Upper Manjom Quarter, Bamunkumbit Village, Ngoketunjia Division, Northwest Region, Cameroon
- Project expense: \$2,236.29 (JWF Fund: \$1,500, implementing organization: \$736.29)
- Beneficiaries: 1,000 people (200 men, 350 women, 450 children)
- Background: The community of Mbororo in Bamunkumbit consists predominantly of herdsman. This area was once a rich biodiversity hotspot. However, due to climate change, bush fires, and uncontrolled cutting of trees, many water sources have either disappeared, been degraded, or have become polluted with animal encroachment. Some 1000 people, mostly women and children, were facing water scarcity, with teenagers forced to trek 3km in the dry season for clean drinking water. This had resulted in an increase in water-related illness, including typhoid, diarrhea and dysentery. School children had to spend time searching for water, thereby showing up late for school, which was negatively affecting their performance.

【Before】



Mbororo families fetching drinking water

【During】



Community members at the site

【After】



Handing over to Ardo and other leaders

- Details of the project:
Holding a meeting to explain the project objectives to the community; two awareness-raising sessions on proper hygiene, sanitation and other topics; construction of a protective storage water catchment of at least 4000 liters, with at least 2 flowing outlets; planting of at least 50 water-providing trees around the water catchment area; creating and training a water management committee.

JWF Fund 2023 – Results of Follow-up Observations

Improving sanitation and access to safe and clean drinking water in indigenous Mbororo community

【Current situation】

- Date of follow-up visit was November 4, 2025. The taps were functioning as planned. Over 30 women were using water from the harnessed source for home gardening in the dry season. This has increased household income, improved nutrition and empowering the women. The taps and catchment have suffered some damage but have been repaired.
- The beneficiaries were using the facilities properly, but since these were the first standing taps in the community, they unexpectedly generated a lot of excitement among the children, resulting in damage to the taps within the first three months of installation. Children have reportedly damaged the taps three times in one year.
- The facility is managed by a water management committee with seven members, headed by Mr. Abdou Ibrahim under the supervision of the Mankong Cultural and Development Association(MCDA). The committee organizes community clean-up campaigns around the catchment areas and collaborates with the MCDA on technical maintenance. They also educate grazers not to encroach, in order to prevent pollution. A financial costs are covered by the MCDA.

【Changes】

- There has been noticeable mindset change within the community regarding hand washing since our education on sanitation. The people, including children, are now more conscious of hand washing. In addition, 2 in 3 households now prefer to fetch water daily instead of collecting it less frequently and storing it for long periods in containers.
- Ms. Habibah Manou has confirmed that her children no longer suffer from frequent water-related illnesses as was the case before construction of the facility. She however stated that children below three are highly affected by water related illnesses. Though statistics were not provided, the Baptist health unit confirmed that cases of water related diseases from Manjom quarter have drastically fallen over the past year.

【Other points】

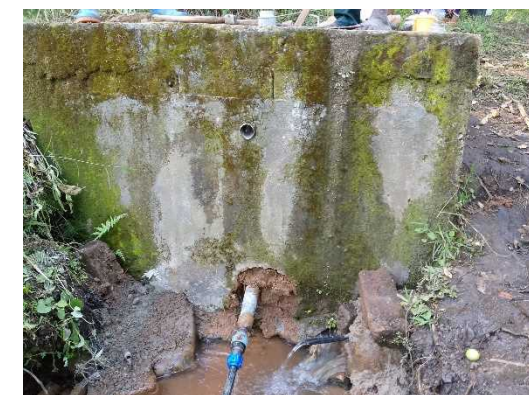
- SUHUCUM have not constructed any WASH facilities since this project. However, they are currently implementing a project to restore watersheds and catchment areas in order to enhance sustainable water access for communities.
- Limited resources remain the greatest challenge we are facing. Through the JWF grants, SUHUCUM has been able to provide access to clean and safe drinking water to thousands of women and children, reducing vulnerability to water-related diseases. This grant is evidence that with collaboration and resources, everyone around the world can have access to safe portable water.



Current state of the taps



Ms. Habibah Manou, a nursing mother, fetching water



Water catchment showing overflowing water

JWF Fund 2023 – Results of Follow-up Observations

Improving sanitation and access to safe and clean drinking water to indigenous Mbororo community

Voices of the beneficiaries (Excerpts)



Mr. Ardo Aliyu, 58 years old, town chief of the project area

Ardo Aliyou, the community leader, states that many more people are increasingly conscious of hand washing today in the community. This was often overlooked before the facility was constructed. Clean water is increasingly available now even in the dry season. Most people now fetch water daily for household use. This has reduced the rate of water related illnesses in the community. He said that the tap water is helping many people already and it would be good to extend the water supply to nearby communities. The conditions in many households have improved, and they have seen changes in their income. While these changes are not very significant yet, and not quantified, Mr. Ardo Aliyou said that money previously used to pay hospital bills is now used for improving nutrition and catering to family needs.



Mr. Adbou Ibrahim, 32 years old, chair of the facilities management committee

Four of the seven water management committee members are dedicated and participate regularly in meetings. They mobilize and engage the community in clean-ups around the catchment area. They also report any damage to authorities and support local technicians during maintenance. One committee member, Abdou is specifically in charge of controlling cattle and sheep encroachment. The committee members and the community provide labor, while all financial cost are covered by MCDA. The facility has been repaired three times. The repairs have been minor. However, it has been observed that the water catchment floods during the rainy season. In August 2025, at the peak of the rainy season, the supply pipes were damaged and later repaired by the community.



Group interview with community members



Ms. Habibah Manou, 45 years old, a user of the facilities

“I use the facility daily. I feel so happy. This is the first water facility of this kind in this community, and everyone is happy about it. The first time there was a problem with the water at the facility, we remained for two weeks without water from it, and it was very difficult time for us. We have since been teaching the young children to take care of the facility. I encourage my children to wash their hands. I also ensure that all the water we drink is now fetched from the tap. Yes, my family is the closest one to the taps. It has benefited us a lot. We don’t go to the hospital frequently anymore, and my husband now has money to buy more food and clothes for the family.”