



IRESOCO

Institute for Research,
Socio-Economic Development and
Communication

2020 :: :: :: :: ::
**ANNUAL
REPORT**





LIST OF ACRONYMS

- **AMCUID** : Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to fight Malaria for Long-term Impact
 - **CHW** : Community Health Worker
 - **CBI** : Community-Based Interventions
 - **COVID-19** : Corona Virus Disease-2019
 - **CSO** : Civil Society Organization
 - **DCSO** : District Civil Society Organization
 - **FGD** : Focus Group Discussions
 - **FP** : Family Planning
 - **FRR** : Found, Referred and Received
 - **GFNFM** : Global Fund's New Funding Model, Round 2
 - **HF** : Health Facilities
 - **HV** : Home Visits
 - **IRESCO** : Institute for Research, Socio-Economic Development and Communication
 - **KFC** : Kangaroo Foundation Cameroon
 - **KMM** : Kangaroo Mother Method
 - **LLINS** : Long-lasting Impregnated Mosquito Net
 - **MBS** : Malaria Behaviour Survey
 - **MCCCAM** : Malaria Consortium-Cameroon Coalition Against Malaria
 - **MICEI** : Magrabi Ico Cameroon Eye Institute
 - **MoPH** : Ministry of Public Health
 - **MU** : Management Unit
 - **NGO** : Non-governmental Organization
 - **NHSAP** : National Health Security Action Plan
 - **NMCP** : National Malaria Control Programme
 - **NPHO** : National Public Health Observatory
 - **OS** : Out of sight
 - **PDM** : Post Distribution Monitoring
 - **PLHIV** : People Living with HIV
 - **PNB/LBW** : Premature New-born/Low Birth Weight
 - **PNC** : Prenatal Consultation
 - **RDT** : Rapid Diagnostic Test
 - **RFS** : Regional Field Supervisor
 - **RTUF** : Ready To Use Food
 - **TAG** : Technical Advisory Group
 - **TB** : Tuberculosis
 - **TDDAP** : Africa Killer Disease Control Program
 - **UNS** : United Nations System
 - **WFP** : World Food Program
 - **WHO** : World Health Organization
- 
- 



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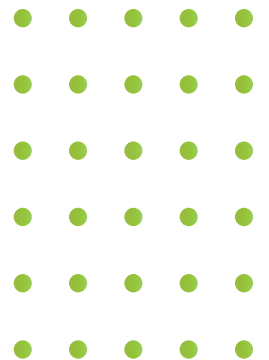
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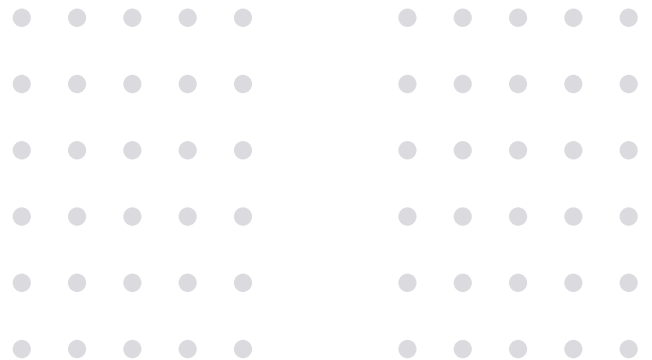


« In line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, IRESKO is engaged in the struggle to help the most underprivileged populations to access better living conditions ».



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WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR



Dear Readers,

2020 has been a memorable year for the whole world, marked by the rapid spread of COVID-19 and its health, economic and social consequences, not to mention all the challenges IRESCO had to face. Throughout the year, the implementation of routine activities, as well as grounds for new activities have thus been subjected to the dictatorship and constraints imposed by COVID-19.

At first glance, as the pandemic learning progressed, IRESCO's Coordination was made to take a set of actions aimed at protecting its human resources by providing them with protection kits (hand washing systems, hydro-alcoholic solutions, facial masks).

Then, IRESCO undertook to play its own part in the country's response to the pandemic, targeting disadvantaged communities with limited access to life-saving protection means and to information on the disease. An awareness raising and free protection kits distribution campaign was thus prepared and deployed in favour of populations from the West and South-West regions, as well as a primary school in Yaoundé.

Owing to the restriction and protection measures imposed by the COVID-19 disease, IRESCO's routine activities had to be substantially adjusted. As such, a Covid-19 aligned intervention protocol, strictly applied for all the activities of IRESCO was designed.

Thus, within the framework of independent verification mandates on behalf of the mother-kangaroo project or the Cataract Bond project, as well as the AMCUID project implemented by the IRESCO-PLAN-MCCAM consortium, the activities involving the participation of several people could be carried out in strict compliance with barrier measures, in order to minimize contamination risks of staff, external collaborators and beneficiaries of our interventions and services.

Overall, although 2020 was not an easy year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is worth noting that it was particularly gloomy because of the reluctance of partners to finance new activities or solicit our services. Consequently, in 2020, IRESCO could only record two (02) new minor mandates, the first with the WFP, to carry out the Evaluation Study of the effectiveness of the Support Program to the livelihoods of PLHIV who left the nutritional supplementation program, and the second, with GSMA, the global association of mobile operators, to carry out a technical due diligence of Cameroon start-ups preselected for a possible grant from the GSMA Innovation Fund.

As a result of this drop in the volume of activities recorded in 2020, IRESCO's cash position substantially reduced, resulting in a significant readjustment of its workforce from the perspectives of quantity and quality, in order to optimize our productivity and bring the payroll to an acceptable level, without having to cut wages. These decisions have been difficult, but they were necessary.

Despite the uncertainties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we hope that the 2021 outlook will be significantly better. The Coordination is resolved to better adapt to the new post COVID-19 world.

It is thus the occasion to extend my sincere gratitude to the dynamic team of IRESCO, sparing no efforts nor sacrifices to keep the target on our vision, our mandate and our missions.

We wish you good reading.

Gédéon YOMI



IRESKO IN A NUTSHELL

ABOUT US

Created in 1993, the Institute for Research, Socio-economic Development and Communication (IRESKO) is an initiative of a group of multidisciplinary researchers, revamped by a common interest in research and action in the field of economic and social development.

LEGAL STATUS

In accordance with Law No 99/014 of 22nd December 1999 governing non-governmental organizations, IRESKO was incorporated as a Non-Governmental, non-political and non-profit making Organization. Its Head Office is in Yaoundé, in Cameroon.

OUR VISION

IRESKO's vision is to be, in Africa, a reference and excellence centre in terms of research, technical assistance and actions geared towards the promotion of economic and social development.

OUR VALUES

- **Humanity** : The Other, our centre of interest;
- **Respect** : We value the rights and values of each individual;
- **Integrity** : We comply with norms, standards and values;
- **Commitment** : We put all our energy in our actions;
- **Excellence** : The best of us for high performance.

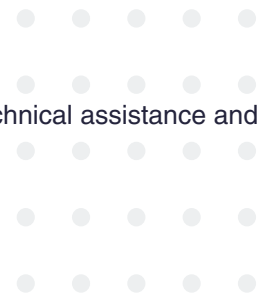
AREAS OF INTERVENTION

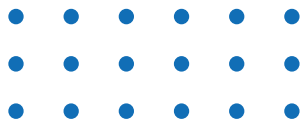
- Promotion of Health and Education;
- Community development;
- Operational research;
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

COORDINATION : Gédéon YOMI

STAFFING : 17 permanent staff and +100 external collaborators and temporary workers mobilized as need be.

2020 BUDGET : € 1,269,600





PARTNERSHIP: Grow together to achieve the same goals

▶ Institutional partners

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) - AMCUID Project: A rich and fruitful partnership



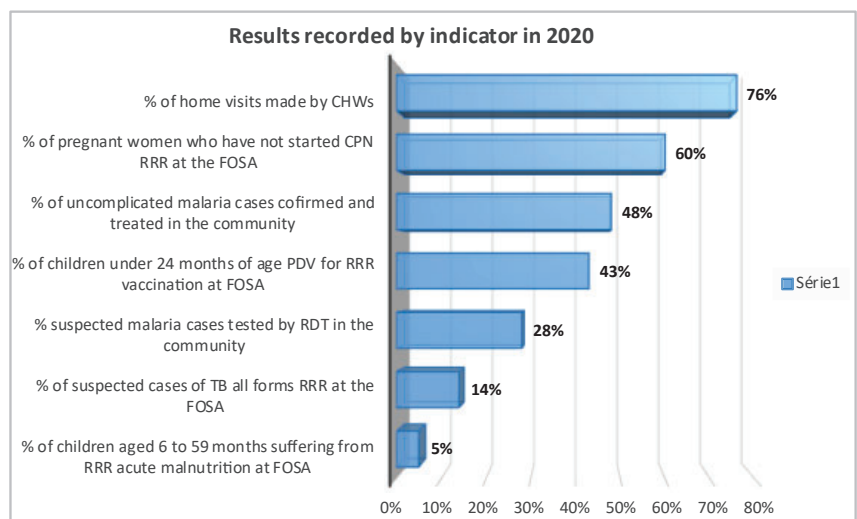
Descent into the field of CBI: Littoral

In 2020, IRESKO through the consortium **Plan-IRESKO-MCCCAM**, pursued its contribution to the implementation of Community-based interventions (CBI), as a Sub-Recipient of the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP). Funded by the Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, this project aims to prevent and manage simple illness cases within communities, with the support of community health workers.

As part of this project, IRESKO's mandate aimed at ensuring that at least 80% of the population adopts practices encouraging the promotion of healthy behaviours, the prevention and integrated management of diseases (Malaria, Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Malnutrition, Onchocerciasis, vaccine-preventable diseases, etc.), as well as the promotion of family planning at the level of communities, in particular in priority intervention regions: Littoral, West and South-West.

Since its participation in the project, IRESKO managed the technical and financial supervision of 19 civil society organizations. Concretely, it helped them build their financial management capacities; assisted in setting up an effective monitoring and evaluation system; gradually

improved the quality of their programmatic and financial data; capitalized on their coordination efforts and ensured together that the community's contribution is anchored in the health system. In this long-term process, IRESKO has trained actors, organized communication activities (educational talks and home visits) and organized coordination meetings at all levels. IRESKO also supervised the implementation of the activities carried out for 1,277 community health workers, in particular the prevention and management of simple cases of illness and the referral of serious cases to Health Facilities (HF). Thanks to these activities, the results displayed in the graph below have been recorded:





Key results achieved

- **221,221 home visits** (out of 290,160 planned) that contributed to save the lives of populations in critical situations;
- **126,892 suspected cases of malaria** underwent a parasitological test in the community (i.e. **29%** of all suspected cases tested);
- **101,268 confirmed cases of simple malaria** received first-line antimalarial treatment in the community (i.e. **50%** of confirmed cases recorded in the community);
- **6,602 pregnant women** referred and received at the FOSA for their first ANC (i.e. **61%** pregnant women received in ANC);
- **4,681 children under 24 months** lost from sight after vaccination found, referred and received at the health facility (i.e. **45%** children lost from sight after vaccination);
- **863 children aged 6 to 59 months** suffering from acute malnutrition identified, referred and received at the FOSA (i.e. **6%**);
- **1,228 suspected cases of tuberculosis** identified, referred and received at the health facility (i.e. a community contribution of **14%** of all reported cases of tuberculosis).



CHW NJIMONGNI Josué - AS Malantouen - DS Malantouen: WEST

As part of the latest LLIN mass distribution campaign (MDC), IRESCO

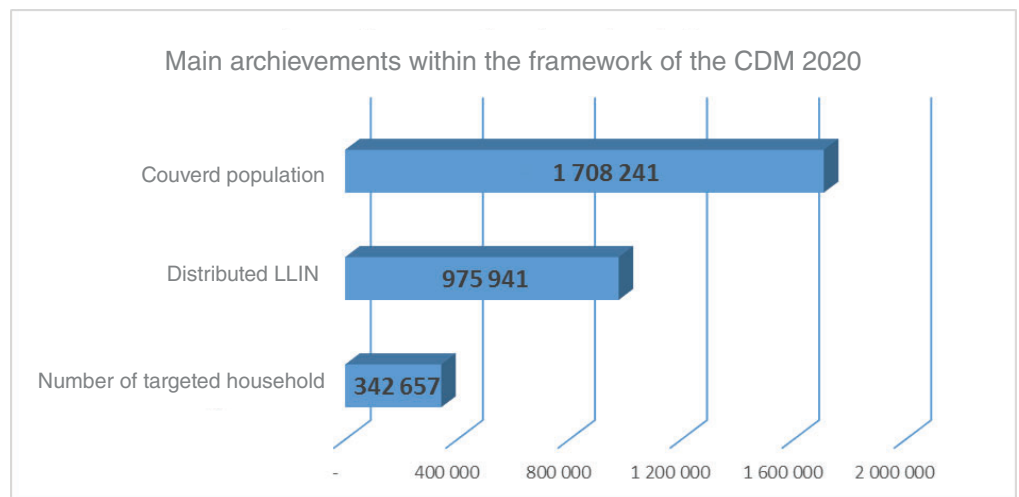
has trained for the Littoral region, 2,235 field agents and 1,982 distribution agents, with a view to better equip them respectively in household counting and the distribution of Long-lasting Impregnated Mosquito Nets (LLINs).

The last MDC itself ended-up giving the following results:

- **342,657 households** targeted during the campaign;
- **975,941 LLINs** distributed;
- **1,708,241 persons protected** in the general population, of which **69,125** internally displaced persons.



Working session at the CMA of BONAMIKANO





Collaboration with International Organizations: World Food Program

IRESKO collaborates with the **World Food Program (WFP)** for the realisation of a number of surveys and studies like the **Post-Distribution Monitoring Survey (PDM)**. The PDM is a survey that aims to assess the safe and effective access to food and other assistance amenities by households in targeted regions. It is worth noting that assistance to populations is a response from the WFP to the massive influx of refugees and the displacement of populations affected by security crises in Nigeria and CAR. As such, the WFP undertook, since 2014, the implementation of two major regional emergency operations, involving other countries of the region (RCA, Tchad, Niger, RDC & Congo).

The aim of the PDM is thus to provide the WFP and its various partners (Government, NGOs, Donors, etc.) with relevant information on the implementation of General Distribution activities (Food and Cash-Based Transfer Modalities) in the Adamawa, East, Far North, North, North-West and South-West regions.



Whereas the WFP usually plans a PDM on a quarterly basis, i.e. 4 PDM per year, the outbreak in 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the monitoring-evaluation team to readjust its monitoring plan in order to adapt. It is against this backdrop that the first two rounds of this exercise were conducted remotely by a service provider other than IRESKO. With the softening of health restrictions imposed by the pandemic from the fourth quarter of 2020, the WFP decided that the last round for the year 2020 be conducted physically under the supervision of IRESKO.

Conducted in November 2020 in the Far North, Adamawa, North, East, North-West and South-West regions, this survey:



For the qualitative aspect, a total of 52 focus groups out of 52 expected were constituted.

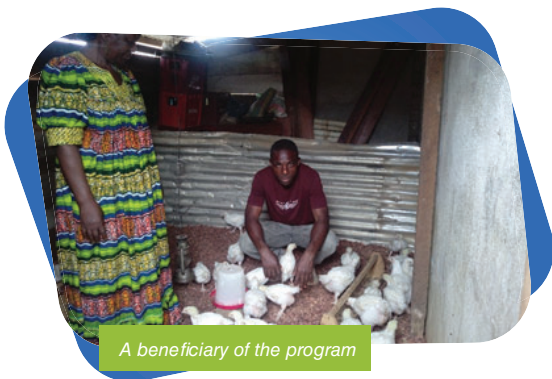


Assessment study of the effectiveness of the livelihood support program for PLHIV who have left the nutritional supplementation program

In 2020, IRESKO carried out on behalf of the WFP, the **Assessment study of the effectiveness of the livelihood support program for PLHIV who have left the nutritional supplementation program**, in the East and Adamawa regions. Implemented by the WFP, this program aimed to contribute to the reduction of the impact of HIV on supported beneficiaries by improving their living conditions (income, empowerment, self-esteem), their diet (balanced diet, food security, nutritional status), their access to care and their health situation (monitoring, adherence). After two (02) years of implementation, it became necessary to assess the program, from the program management point of view. The assessment involved a survey on the perception of the level of ownership by populations of the WFP service offer in households and communities, especially for nutritional supplements.



Continuous training of team leaders at WFP premises



A beneficiary of the program

The data (quantitative and qualitative) for this assessment were collected in December 2020 by IRESKO, which previously supervised the training of 15 surveyors. The quantitative component targeted 640 households with people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Batouri, Bertoua, Bélabo, Garoua-Boulaï and Meiganga. In addition, for the qualitative component, 20 focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted. The objective of the survey was to describe the perception of the level of ownership by beneficiaries of WFP's service offer in households and communities, in particular for nutritional supplements and income-generating activities.

Verification of the implementation

Project: "CAMEROON CATARACT PERFORMANCE BOND": a valuable intervention assessment tool

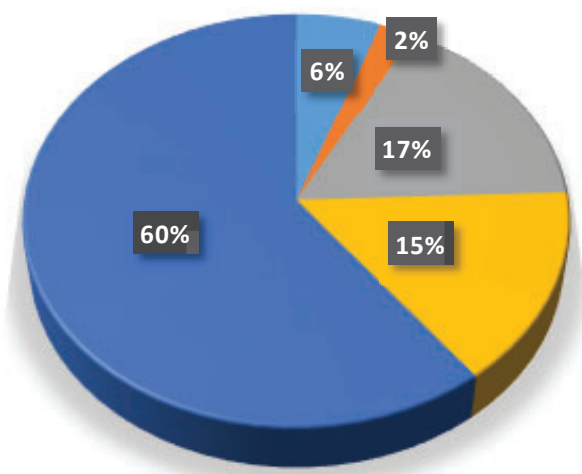
The project "**Cameroon Cataract Performance Bond**" aims to reduce the burden of preventable blindness in Central Africa through an innovative financing mechanism to improve the access to financings for cataract surgeries in Cameroon and the sub-region. During 2020, IRESKO pursued the implementation of its mandate under the said project, which included the qualitative and quantitative field verification of cataract surgeries performed by the Magribi Ico Cameroon Eye Institute (**MICEI**).

At the end of this mission, **1 496** surgeries in total were verified and validated, against **1 491** cases declared by the MICEI, thus good data quality with an accuracy of **99.7%**. Regarding the verification of the quality of the surgery, a total of **85%** (170/200) actually recovered a good vision acuity ($3/10^{\text{th}} < VA < 10/10$) against **81%** (162/200) declared by MICEI, thus a compliance of **95.3%**.



As for community verification aimed at determining the socio-economic level of patients to assess equality of access, interviews with beneficiaries of cataract surgery interventions were conducted through a selection method consisting of meeting respondents in the hospital 1 day after the intervention. A total of **217** interviews were conducted out of **300** planned. The results showed that less than ten percent (**7.8%**) of cataract patients surveyed belong to the two poorest quintiles (compared to the national population).

Distribution of beneficiaries by income quintile



■ 1st Quintile ■ 2nd Quintile ■ 3rd Quintile ■ 4th Quintile ■ 5th Quintile

In the field of income statistics, quintiles are used to determine how income is distributed among the population. To illustrate this, the population is first divided into five equal shares based on income level: the first quintile comprises the fifth of the population at the bottom of the income scale (i.e. the 20% of the population with the lowest income), the second quintile represents the next 20% (from 20% to 40%), etc; and the fifth quintile represents the 20% of the population with the highest income.

It should be noted that the target defined for the sample of respondents was not reached (217/300). This reflects one of the challenges faced by IRESCO team. In fact, due to COVID-19, patients were no longer admitted until December 2020. It was thus difficult to reach the monthly target (in two visits), which is 30 to 40 patients depending on the number of interventions performed.



MICEI Hospital



Project: “CAMEROON NEW BORN DEVELOPMENT IMPACT BOND”: The Kangaroo Mother Method and low weight new-born or premature children (2018-2020)

The project “**Cameroon New Born Development Impact Bond**” aims to save and improve the lives of children with low birth weight ($\leq 2,000\text{g}$) and premature babies (<37 weeks) in Cameroon. Although several methods exist to save these babies' lives, the Kangaroo Mother Method is an alternative service offer that easily satisfies the technical capacities of our hospitals and the financial means of parents. The KMM consists of continuous skin-to-skin contact between the mother and the new-born, while promoting breastfeeding, appropriate hospital discharge and a close follow-up. IRESCO's mandate was to study the capacity and quality of implementation of Kangaroo Mother programs/methods in the hospitals selected to implement this method on a pilot basis.

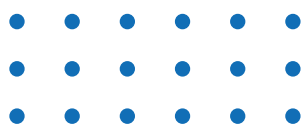
As part of its mandate, IRESCO's missions consisted in the verification of the results reported by hospitals and the validation of premium amounts claimed in return for the results obtained. In 2020, this activity was carried out remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Verifications covered the aspects below:

- **Checking the capacity of hospitals** to offer quality KMM services: evaluation of hospitals using a grid developed for this purpose, by video call;
- **Checking the number of new-borns** eligible, enrolled for the KMM: as reported by hospitals;
- **Checking the quality of a KMM service in the hospital** through recorded phone interviews with mothers / babysitters;
- **Checking the number of new-borns** enrolled in the KMM program who came back for the follow-up appointment at the 40th week with appropriate weight and nutrition.

At the end of these different actions, it emerged that the 09 hospitals surveyed were able to offer quality KMM services. In the various hospitals visited, **63.5%** (94/148) of PNB/LBW received quality KMM in 2020. These results represent a significant improvement of care given to children with low birth weight in our hospitals.



Interviews with mothers in the neonatology and KMC rooms at the Garoua regional hospital



FOCUS ON 2020 RESULTS

▶ Projects implemented in 2020

PROJECTS	AREAS COVERED:	NUMBER OF PARTNER INSTITUTIONS
« Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to fight Malaria for Long-term Impact » (AM-CUID) 2018-2020	South-west Littoral West	2 partenaires stratégiques (PLAN et MCCAM) 554 chefs d'aires de santé 19 Organisations de la société civile de district 38 Mairies 1277 Agents de santé communautaire
« Cameroon Cataract Performance Bond » (2018-2022)	Centre	1 partenaire stratégique (AEDES) 1 Hôpital régional (Magrabi Ico Eye Institute)
« Cameroon New Born Development Impact Bond » (2018-2020)	Centre Littoral Sud-Ouest Adamaoua Nord	3 partenaires stratégiques (Nutrition International, Kanguru Foundation Cameroon, Social Finance) 9 hôpitaux évalués (Laquintinie, HGOPY, HGOPED, HD Bonassama, HD Bafia, HR Garoua, HR Ngaoundéré, HP Ngaoundéré, HR Buéa)

▶ IRESCO contributes to the COVID-19 response: Community mobilization as a protective barrier against COVID-19 in communities not covered by traditional media

As the world struggles with one of the deadliest pandemics of the 21st century, several national strategies are put in place to limit the consequences of COVID-19. To deal with this major pandemic, IRESCO has developed a communication project to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in disadvantaged communities of the Centre, West and South-West regions. The objective of this communication campaign was to educate populations on the importance of adopting the measures prescribed by the WHO and repeated by the Cameroonian Government to stop the spread of COVID-19.



The populations of Fouban, Kumba and Yaoundé benefited from awareness days on the theme. In Fouban and Kumba, IRESCO invited the Mayors the districts concerned, religious authorities (Pastors, Imams and Elders in Church), representatives of various communities, so that they can relay the sensitization to their respective communities. The technical component of health information and education was led by the regional coordinators of IRESCO offices accompanied by COVID-19 focal points and coordinators of the DCSO CEPROSCON. The same regional coordinators of IRESCO offices ensured the logistical organization of the campaign in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations of the health districts concerned in the districts covered. The main articulations of the campaign included:

- Sensitization of target populations on the proper washing of hands and the maintenance of masks;
- Sensitization of target populations on the adoption of barrier measures against COVID-19;
- Free distribution of protection kits (alternative masks + hydro-alcoholic solutions + soap) to populations.



Free distribution of kits to vulnerable populations of Fouban



Awareness raising and delivery of kits to the populations of Kumba community



Finally, one of IRESCO's values being humanity, a team of the Institute strengthened the protection belt of students of the Bilingual School Group "JUNIORS" in Yaoundé, in the Centre region. The initiative aimed at providing support to the educational community through the distribution of masks and hydro-alcoholic solutions, in order to protect students, their families and teachers against COVID-19. Following the awareness raising on the adoption of barrier measures against COVID-19 (temperature control before access to the school compound, hand washing, disinfection of shoes, physical distancing) by representatives of IRESCO, the team proceeded with the distribution of protective equipment to all students, teachers, administrative staff and visitors present in school. The protection kit given to each student and teacher included protective masks and hydro-alcoholic solutions. In addition, IRESCO provided the school with boxes of soap to wash hands on the school campus.



IRESCO at GSB 'JUNIORS'

This initiative was highly appreciated by beneficiaries and local authorities, who particularly thanked IRESCO. IRESCO intends to pursue its mission of improving the living conditions of populations.





▶ Due Diligence for potential recipients of the GSMA Innovation Fund

In September 2020, IRESKO initiated a first collaboration with GSMA, the association of mobile operators representing nearly 800 mobile phone operators and manufacturers worldwide, with more than 300 companies in the broader digital technology ecosystem. This collaboration was part of the GSMA Innovation Fund, supporting innovative start-ups in the emerging markets of mobile technology. The Fund aims to support solutions intended to overcome one or several obstacles to the adoption of mobile Internet, laying emphasis on inclusion, innovation and scale, and leveraging the 10 years of experience of GSMA Mobile in the development of innovation fund management, on a wide range of topics.

Under this collaboration, IRESKO was mandated by GSMA to undertake a technical due diligence of the Cameroonian start-up shortlisted for a possible grant from the GSMA Innovation Fund. The purpose of the mission was to assess the shortlisted start-up based on its relevance to the scope of the Innovation Fund, the product or service provided, the ability of the organization to overcome obstacles to the adoption of the Internet, its ability to execute the project and to have an impact pursuant to the modalities of the Innovation Fund, and thereafter report to the GSMA Innovation Fund team, with recommendations to fund or not the shortlisted start-up/SME for the current cycle of the GSMA Innovation Fund.

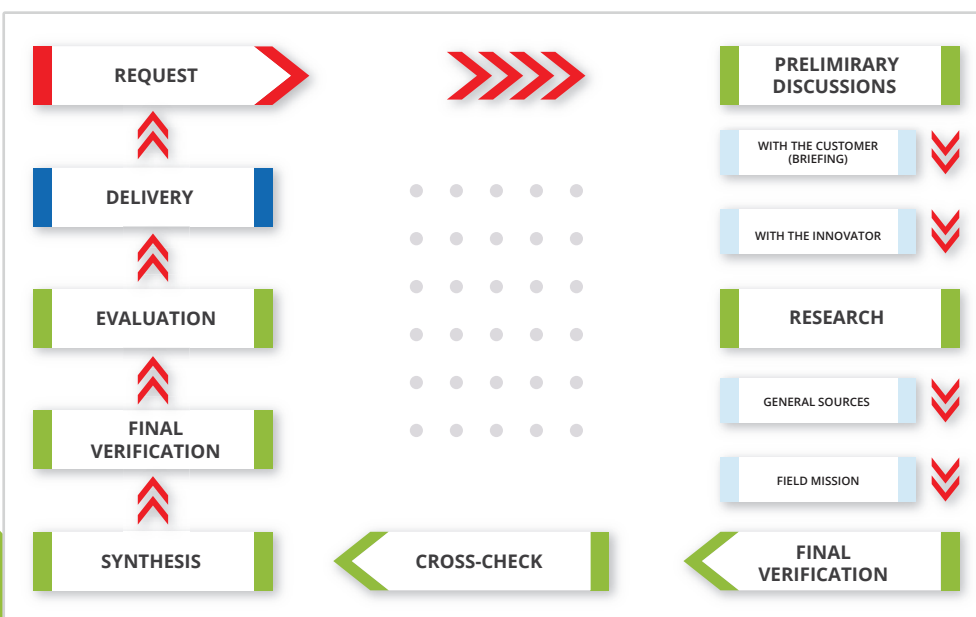


One of the beneficiaries of the PEA-Jeunes project

Under this mandate, IRESKO assessed the following aspects of the shortlisted start-up:

- The perception of potential customers and the degree of adoption of the services offered;
- The degree of functionality of the services offered and the appreciation of potential customers;
- Governance performance, staff qualifications and partnership;
- Potential risks and their management.

It was carried out following the below approach:



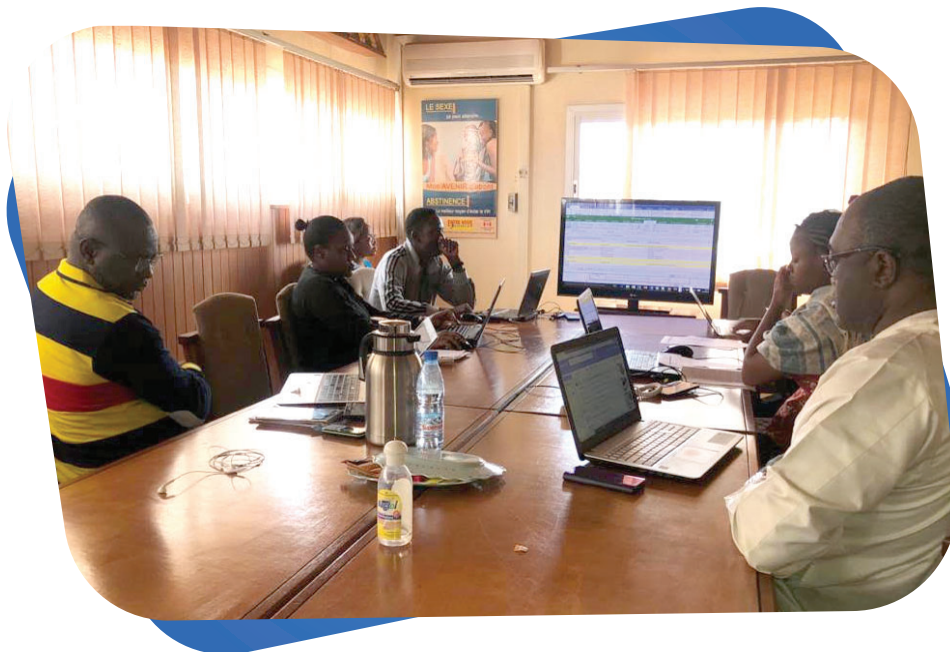
The mission started by a briefing meeting with the sponsor (GSMA), followed by a kick-off/preliminary data collection meeting with the start-up under evaluation. Data collection continued with the potential customers of the start-up in the Centre, Littoral and South regions, targeting Yaoundé, Bafia, Douala, Nkongsamba, Ebolowa and Kribi.



LESSONS LEARNED FROM ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2020

To ensure an optimal and efficient implementation of projects and programs: the challenge of the breakdown of resources and the risk of demotivation of actors

The MoPH - AMCUID Project: A rich and fruitful partnership



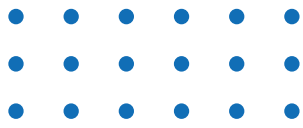
The implementation of projects relies on a fundamental principle concerning the disbursement of financial resources: after the signing of the collaboration agreement, the implementing agency receives a first advance payment to launch the activities according to the agreed schedule in the convention.

On the basis of a periodic cycle (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly or semi-annually), the use of funds must be justified in order to receive a new disbursement to cover the needs of the following period. This operating cycle is reproduced until the end of the project. When the cycle is not

carried out according to the implementation plan, there is an impact on the expected targets. For example, this was the case with the AMCUID project, 2018-2020, financed by the Global Fund through the MoPH: the first disbursement arrived 06 months after the signing of the agreement between the MoPH and the PLAN-MCCAM-IRESO consortium. This delay resulted in:

- A delay in the implementation plan;
- Low budgetary consumption;
- A reduction in expected results;
- A demotivation of CHWs who were to receive a monthly premium: premium paid throughout the implementation with a delay of 03 to 06 months.

To deal with this type of situation, it is imperative that as soon as the project agreement is signed, the funds are made available according to the deadlines prescribed in the agreement and the disbursement plan, and that these funds be justified in accordance with the procedures in force so as to facilitate a new disbursement. This allows the disbursement plan to operate effectively for better project implementation.



IRESKO PRESENT IN MAJOR STRATEGIC MEETINGS

▶ Member of the malaria thematic research group.

IRESKO is a member of the technical advisory group for the study entitled "Breaking down barriers to accessing effective antimalarial treatment among conflict-affected communities in the South West and North West regions"

Funded by the 5% Initiative and implemented by the NGO Reach Out, this study aims at providing a response to the enormous challenges faced by communities in the North-West and South-West regions to access appropriate treatment against malaria and other common diseases, due to a disruption in the provision of health care caused by armed conflicts linked to secessionist movements in these two regions.

The goal of this three-year research, which will be conducted in partnership with Malaria Consortium and KASAFRO, is to improve access to effective malaria case management in these conflict-affected communities. Within the framework of this study, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was set up, IRESKO being a member. The Technical Advisory Group for this study is a team of experts in program management and research on malaria, created to provide external and technical advice to improve upon the quality of research, and to assist in the effective dissemination of research results.

The purpose of this group is to ensure a standard quality of formative research through a support to the development of a formative research proposal with special emphasis on the articulation of this research with other ongoing studies, such as the Malaria Behavior Survey (MBS) and the studies on the NMCP malaria mailboxes; to ensure the complementarity of studies and non-duplication. IRESKO was called upon to be a member of this technical group considering its expertise in studies relating to access to healthcare.





▶ IRESKO contributed to the monitoring and evaluation plan of the Cameroon national health security action plan (PANSS), 2020-2024

IRESKO is a member of the technical advisory group for the study entitled "Breaking down barriers to access to effective antimalarial treatment among conflict-affected communities in the South West and Littoral regions"

IRESKO contributed to the validation of the monitoring and evaluation plan of the Cameroon national health security action plan (PANSS), for the 2020-2024 period. Indeed, identified by the TDDAP (Program to fight against fatal diseases in Africa) as a partner of choice in terms of health security, according to the "One Health" approach, particularly in terms of social and community mobilization and community monitoring, IRESKO was invited to take part in the brainstorming workshop preceding the finalization and validation of the PANSS monitoring and evaluation plan. This workshop was held from July 1-3, 2020 in Mbalmayo. During the said workshop, the representative of IRESKO was the facilitator of one of the working groups set up to make substantive and formal amendments to the monitoring and evaluation plan. The finalization of the document continued in a select committee at the National Public Health Observatory (ONSP) from July 4 to 5, with the participation of the same IRESKO representative.

It should be noted that the "One Health" approach adopted for the PANSS aims to collectively strengthen the capacity to face all dangers and all emergency situations in the country. It should equally be noted that these emergency situations and threats to health, exacerbated by the recent epidemics of Ebola, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS-CoV), Zika and the current COVID-19 pandemic, have exerted a strong pressure not only on health services, but also on society in general.



IRESCO: a reservoir of projects in the pipeline / opportunities

▶ In search of resources to finance projects to fight against violence in schools in Cameroon (Summary: context, problematic, objectives, experimental area, budget)



IRESCO, which is a center of reference and excellence in research, technical assistance and actions for the promotion of economic and social development, has also extended the reflection on worrisome social phenomena, including violence in school settings. It is an already existing phenomenon that has infiltrated Cameroonian schools over the years. This is the reason why the IRESCO research team set up a project to "fight against violence in schools". The said project aims to reduce by 2022, the phenomenon of violence in schools in the cities of Buea, Douala, Garoua and Yaoundé. The project focusses on an intervention to raise awareness, detect and report cases of violence. It offers a range of actions to awaken, raise awareness, control and deal with cases of violence occurring in schools.

The reflection on the project was done in association with the educational staff, the heads of Parents-Teachers Associations (PTA) and teachers' unions who came together to refine ideas. In this vein, those of renowned secondary schools such as: the Bilingual Secondary School of Mendong and the TEGZAGON Institute of Yaoundé willingly joined us in our reflection. The search for funding is underway and we hope to soon find a financial partner who, like us, believes that violence, whatever be the form, must disappear from schools.





▶ Mobilizing the community against neglected tropical diseases



Since 2019, IRESCO has undertaken to reflect on strategies to mobilize communities against Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The year 2020 saw the development of a project related to this theme, which particularly focuses on lymphatic filariasis. The said project is based on a continuum of care for lymphatic filariasis or elephantiasis case management. This is precisely about prevention and care activities declined in awareness campaigns, medical care and particularly restorative surgeries accompanied with psychosocial care services for people with disabilities or still affected. IRESCO is looking for partners who can support the implementation of the above project.

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▶ Train communities to deal with malnutrition in children aged 0 to 5

In order to contribute to the fight against malnutrition in underprivileged areas of Cameroon, IRESCO is initiating a project aiming at strengthening the capacities of communities to detect and handling cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children from 0 to 5. The target of this project is to contribute to the reduction of infant mortality linked to malnutrition.

The project itself, based on a community and participatory approach, is structured around four axes:

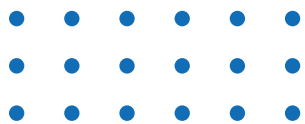
- Mapping of regions and localities with a high prevalence of child malnutrition for better targeting of intervention sites;
- Prevention of malnutrition by improving the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the general population in terms of health and nutrition (preventive actions);
- Capacity building of communities in the diagnosis of acute malnutrition (moderate or severe);
- Capacity building of communities to manufacture ready to use foods (RTUF) kits such as plumpy nuts, etc.).

The project equally has as objective to refer cases of severe acute malnutrition to health structures and therapeutic or outpatient nutritional centers in particular, for more adequate treatment.



MALNUTRITION





RESOURCES: Funds mobilized in 2020

Along the year 2020, IRESCO operated with a budget of € 1,269,600 to finance its interventions and other services.

In the field of intervention projects, the Global Fund, through the Ministry of Public Health, contributed 92% to the funding of IRESCO activities in 2020. This funding was intended for the implementation of the AMCUID project "Achieve and Maintain Universal Coverage of Interventions to fight Malaria for Long-term Impact"

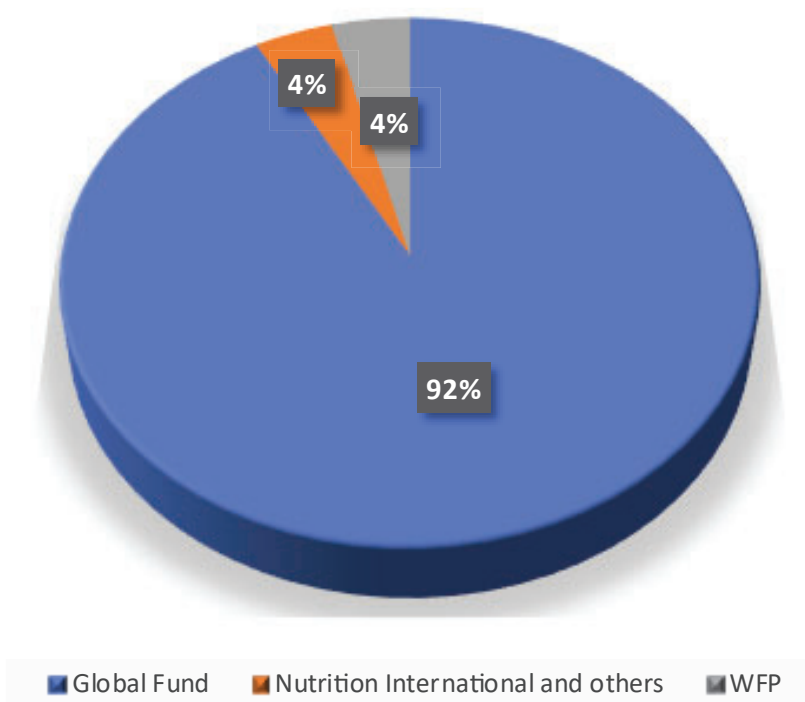


In terms of studies and surveys, IRESCO spent 4% of its budget provided by the World Food Program (WFP); on the Round 3 data collection for post-distribution monitoring and evaluation of food security in the Far North, Adamaoua and East Regions of Cameroon.

The other 4% was allocated to the Institute by Nutrition International for the development and finalization of a verification framework for the results reported under the "Cameroon Newborn Development Impact" project; by JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY for the realization of the Malaria Behavior Survey (MBS) - Cameroon in the North and Far North regions, by ACMS for the data quality audit of the program for access to reproductive health services, by GSMA to conduct technical due diligence on innovative start-ups in the mobile technology sector.

► Distribution of IRESCO 2020 resources

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING RECEIVED IN 2020 BY PARTNER



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In nearly three decades devoted to improving the living conditions of Cameroonian populations, the range of partners has kept on expanding. Much appreciation is given to the confidence of Government authorities of the Republic of Cameroon continually renewed toward IRESO, through:



Ministry of Public Health



Ministry of Secondary Education



Ministry of Basic Education



Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development

A great thanks to the growing number of international organizations acknowledging IRESO's technical and partnership potential. In particular, we would like to thank those organizations which have entrusted several mandates to IRESO.



Profound gratitude for the immeasurable support of international non-governmental organizations and assimilation bodies.



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Grand Challenges Canada
Grands Défis Canada

Without forgetting our sister associations we are moving together with towards the same objectives. Many thanks.



CAMNAFAW



FESADE



RENATA



World Food Programme



THANK YOU!



Le sexe ça
peut attendre

Mon **avenir** d'abord...

IRESCO








ENTRE NOUS
Jeunes





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