

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT FOR CADA

An initiative that started in a one meter square box with mission to transform the mindsets of disadvantaged youths through life skill education, art training and social entrepreneurship skill development as a result of the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon, has now become a regenerative and trans-formative art school.

On the 08<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 to April 2023, with support of a grant of \$1000 USD, from the Pollination Project, Collective Arts Development Association(CADA), successfully implemented a pilot project titled” Youth and Visual Arts Activism for Social Change.” This project took place at a youth community center at Teken quarter,Nkwen Bamenda III sub division with sixteen disadvantaged youths which included school drop outs, drug addicts and the vulnerable between the ages 12-25 years old as project beneficiaries. Facilitated by visual and graphic artists, a youth counselor and a mental health expert from Collective Arts Development Association(CADA), for three months sixteen disadvantaged youths among them school drop outs and drug addicts, beneficiaries receives life skill education, practical and theoretical training in fine art(drawing and painting on canvas boards), graphic arts and design, which included screen printing and other commercial printing techniques.

During this period, we organized an outreach program at Government primary school, Teken quarter Nkwen, Bamenda III sub division where class six pupil receives lectures on the effects of substance use and intake of illegal drugs on their health, academics, families and society from facilitators and staffs of Collective Arts Development Association.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, with sixteen disadvantaged youths, all drug addicts, Collective Arts Development Association(CADA), organized an out reached workshop at Nkwasi quarter Nkwen,Bamenda III sub division. Where beneficiaries receives lectures on the negative effects of illegal drug use and sustainable preventive strategies. Discussions were in line with the theme of the 2023 World Drug Day which was **“People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention”**.

On September 2023, with grants from the Kanthari Foundation Switzerland, Collective Arts Development Association(CADA) was able to relocate from a one meter square box which served as our office and workshop space to a rented spacious and more convenient apartment. This apartment was partitioned by our beneficiaries to provide an art workshop space, office space and a hall where we carry on with our theoretical and practical workshop sessions, including a room for psychosocial support and counseling.

This grant has been a great stepping stone to our organization because it enabled us to acquire the basic material and financial resources to obtain some necessary tools and equipments for training such as laptops, a heat press, artist colors and brushes, canvas boards and other materials to enhance and professionalized our training workshops and sessions. With this grant, Collective Arts Development Association(CADA), launched a flagship project titled,“Empowering marginalized youths through life skill education, art training and Social entrepreneurship skill development”. A two-six months intensive training program were 30 disadvantaged youths(school drop outs and drug addicts) in crisis affected communities in Bamenda central the Northwest region of Cameroon receives theoretical and practical intensive training in life skill education,visual arts, graphic arts,crafts and social entrepreneurship with the goal to use arts and social entrepreneurship as a trans-formative tool to prevent and reduce the rapid rate of youth involvement in substance use,consumption of illegal drugs, abuse and crime. The first six months training cycle began in September of 2023, and facilitated by six staffs from Collective Arts Development Association(CADA), fifteen drug addicts and school drop outs receives skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, crafts, audio-visual and graphic arts and design. We do not only offer training in various artistic disciplines, but also teach vital skills for economic independence and social inclusion.

We also provide psychosocial support, mental health education and connect our beneficiaries to mental health experts when the need arises.

Despite the numerous lock downs and insecurity as a result of the Anglophone crisis in Bamenda, central the Northwest region of Cameroon, between the month of September and March 2023, we successfully graduated our first batch of ten disadvantaged youths being drug addicts and school drop outs. Ten out of fifteen beneficiaries who started the first six months training cycle in September 2023, finally graduated successfully on the 07<sup>th</sup> of March 2024. They were given attestations for successful completion of the first six months training cycle and seed funding to start up small social enterprise ventures to enable them gain financial independence, enhance their livelihood and to foster a positive attitude. Collective Arts Development Association(CADA), has set up a monitoring and mentoring committee to do a three months follow-up on these project beneficiaries as they establish and carry on with their ventures.

The next six months intensive training cycle with another fifteen disadvantaged youths will begin on the 08<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 and end on the 08<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.

On November 2023, we constructed an organic vegetable garden at CADA's would be campus at Abongfen, Babanki Tungoh, Tubah sub division, Northwest region Cameroon, were we cultivate organic cereals and vegetables for subsistence and commercial purposes. We also planted fruit trees like guavas,pear,mangoes and oranges.

We take this opportunity to once again express our enormous gratitude to the Pollination Project Team,well wishers, supporters and most especially to Kanthari Foundation Switzerland for the funds which enabled us to implement our pilot project and carry on with our flagship project.