

PROJECT NO: 73318

TAX | NON-TAX

Cameroon



The Esther Project



Overview

Project Esther works to offer support services to young mothers and those who have experienced sexual abuse or exploitation. The project aims to biblically equip young women to develop self-esteem, confidence, and the capacity to build their lives on positive values while overcoming past experiences.

The Need

According to the United Nations, more than 55 per cent of women over 15-years-old in Cameroon have experienced physical violence. Twenty per cent of women report that their first sexual intercourse experience was against their will, especially those who had intercourse before they were 15-year sold (30 per cent). Teenage pregnancy is prevalent as many girls in Cameroon are victims of sexual abuse from a very young age. For fear of stigmatisation and reprisals, they become timid and remain silent. This trauma usually lasts a lifetime and there is a great need for internal healing, restoration, forgiveness, love and reconciliation.

Project Esther aims to offer various channels of support to such women to assist them in navigating challenges and achieving a better future for themselves and their children.

> 55%

of women over 15-years-old in Cameroon have experienced physical violence

20%

of women report that their first sexual intercourse experience was against their will

<h1>Goals</h1>	
<p>In 2023, the Esther project will offer rehabilitation services to at least 120 teenage mothers who are victims of sexual exploitation through training camps. This will include ministry that focuses on developing self- esteem and confidence, and recognising biblical values as a foundation for a restored and flourishing life.</p>	<p>The camps will offer counselling, spiritual retreats and spaces to share experiences and read the Bible together. Additionally, the project will offer practical support to assist young women to generate an income and help them regain financial independence.</p>
<p>An awareness campaign on the prevalence of sexual abuse will also be conducted for 1,000 adolescents in schools and churches.</p>	
<h2>Impact</h2>	<h2>Testimonies</h2>
<p>Overall, the Esther project aims to impact 1,500 people in 2023.</p> <p>The Impact will be measured by assessing the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants discover spiritual values and their own value through biblical teaching about their bodies and their rights. • Adolescents recognise sexual dangers and choose to lead their lives according to God’s values. • Young women receive access to rehabilitation services that help them recover from abuse and exploitation trauma. • Participants gain skills in business opportunities and income generation activities. • Participants become involved in church activities and reading the Bible. 	<p>“Before coming to Project Esther, I had a lot of anger in me, a hard bitterness. I was depressed and my thinking was just negative all the time. I discovered forgiveness. It’s good to forgive. We were taught how to let go and how to put our problems in front of God. My emotional trauma has been healed thanks to Project Esther.</p> <p>“(I also learnt) entrepreneurship. We learned how to make hand sanitiser, how to sew, how to make yoghurt, how to make sheets – all these things to show that women are talented enough and there are things we can do to set up our own enterprise.”</p> <p><i>Erline, 21 years old, attended a Project Esther camp in 2021</i></p> <p>“I decided to choose the right path of life, take care of my body... to stop despising others, because God created us all at his own image. So, falling in(to) the temptation of (looking down on) others is not good, for we are all special.”</p> <p><i>Mirabelle, 13 years old</i></p>
<h2>Prayer Needs</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for the girls and young women of Cameroon who have experienced abuse and exploitation, that they may find healing in the word of God. • Pray for a changing social environment and legal system that protects young and vulnerable women. • Thank God that this project is reaching the lives of hundreds of young women who need support. • Pray that former beneficiaries would begin training up new beneficiaries. 	

