



**IEDA Relief Report – Cameroon**

## **IEDA Relief and the UNHCR organize the planting of 110 trees for World Environment Day**

**Timangolo, East Cameroon**

**June 5, 2015**

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### **Summary**

The Timangolo site was chosen for the celebration of the 43rd World Environment Day on June 5, 2015. For this occasion, 110 trees were planted in the presence of official and traditional authorities, as well as both refugee and host populations. Everyone agreed to protect the environment and to use natural resources responsibly, according to the theme of the day:

**“Seven billion dreams. Only one planet. Use in moderation.”**

**The most notable quotation of the day:**

*“To die without having planted a tree is to have lived uselessly.”*



## **Introduction**

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The mass arrival of Central African refugees in Cameroon has strained the environment considerably. In Timangolo in particular, the cutting of firewood in the bush has devastated the natural environment, which was previously well adapted to the few inhabitants it had hosted. This degradation has been so visible that Timangolo was chosen as the location for the celebration of the 43rd World Environment Day. This year's theme was *“Seven million dreams. Only one planet. Use in moderation.”*

IEDA Relief, in charge of Community Service Operations at the Timangolo camp, has had a presence in East Cameroon since September 16, 2014, in a partnership with the UNHCR. In accordance with its community service responsibilities, IEDA Relief supports people with specific needs and at-risk children, leads activities in the prevention of Gender-Based Violence, provides legal assistance, offers temporary shelter, leads awareness campaigns, and promotes the use of renewable and alternative energy sources.

## **Preparation**

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On June 3, 2015, all of IEDA Relief's partners actively participated in a community investment activity, which initially consisted of cleaning the areas around the classrooms of the Timangolo site. Participants then dug holes to plant trees.

On June 4, a committee convened to select women for awards for regularly using improved stoves, having the cleanest shelters, using the cleanest “Boutérou” (exclusively reserved for the use of a male head of household), and using the cleanest blocks. The aim of the awards was to reward and encourage cleanliness and the use of improved stoves.

IEDA Relief led awareness campaigns and promoted the event in the three days leading up to the event.

## **Celebration Day**

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IEDA Relief, the UNHCR, CARE, Plan, AHA, UNICEF, First Response – International Medical Aid (PU-AMI), Action Against Hunger, ASSEJA, and the Sub-Prefect of the Kete neighborhood were present.

The ceremony began with the singing of Cameroon's national anthem by students of the public primary school in Timangolo.

Throughout the day and in general, many representatives conveyed a message that focused on environmental protection, the condemnation of water pollution, deforestation, the practice of brush fires, the condemnation of cutting bush wood for fires, the request from the HCR for refugee self-sufficiency through IGAs (Income-Generating Activities), as well as the promotion of the use of improved stoves.

The performance of a sketch illustrating the effectiveness of the improved stove as compared to the traditional wood-burning stove preceded the delivery of prizes to the award recipients selected by the committee. The prizes were distributed by a team of various partners (IEDA

Relief, PU-AMI, CARE, Action Against Hunger, and ACAFEJ) while many of the guests proceeded to the stage. All relating to cleanliness and nature, they were divided up as follows:

- The fifty women using improved stoves most effectively received the following: a mat, a solar lamp, and 2 bars of soap (300g each).
- The man with the cleanest Boutérou received a prize.
- The four-dozen people with the cleanest shelters received containers of detergent.
- Those with the cleanest blocks were given the following: a carton of soap and sacks of detergent.

Of these prizes, the mats and solar lamps were provided by the UNHCR, the soap by CARE, and the detergent by UN Women.

After the prizes were distributed, everyone moved to the tree-planting site. The Sub-Prefect of Kete planted the first tree and watered it. The partners then followed suit, followed by the refugees.

On this occasion, 110 trees were planted: 50 in the Timangolo camp, 10 in the village of Timangolo, 25 in Mbile, and 25 in Lolo.

**Photos of the event**



*The singing of the national anthem by the refugee children*



*Sketch about the improved stoves*



*Story presented by refugee children*



*Prizes were given to the refugees*



*110 trees were planted by officials, partners, and refugees*