



Eugénie visits one of the beneficiaries and guides Premières Urgences in the IGA projet led by IEDA Relief.

IEDA Relief Cameroon Highlight Report

Eugénie: a humanitarian worker that is part of the community.

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Summary

Eugénie Ngonu, Team Leader of Community Service in the Eastern Region at IEDA Relief, shares her story with us while working in humanitarian with female beneficiaries of the income-generating activity project. Devoted woman, she performs her role in humanitarian with great passion and continues to provide sustainable solutions to the most vulnerable.



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A story of effort and love for the fellow man

Humanitarian heroes (or heroines) show their love for people in difficulty who need their support, and seek to improve their living conditions. Indeed, Eugenie would like to consider herself as such.

The year 2015 was in a whole, an exceptional year for Eugenie as a Community Services Assistant on the refugee site of Mbile in the region of the East in Cameroon. Eugenie was responsible for the IGAs (Income Generating Activities) project with IEDA Relief, which was once led by the partners UN Women and IRD on the different refugee sites.

“The various meetings with potential beneficiaries helped me understand their expectations and the best strategy to meet the ever-constant needs,” states Eugenie. “After this initial evaluation, I developed a strategy to carry out this activity in the regions of the East and Adamawa and proceeded to the identification of beneficiaries, which was conducted jointly with partners. Once completed, I developed training modules on technical sales and savings. This training was held in the coordinated refugee sites of Lolo, Mbile, Timangolo and Ngarisingo, and was designed to enable women to acquire the necessary basics to choose an area of work and especially on how to make a good number of customers.”

The training taught them how to get to know the market and manage funds, their role in savings, suitable places and appropriate services where to accumulate their savings and the impact of *merry-go-rounds* when running an IGA. Great was her joy to see that many of them, who had no prior knowledge on how to make savings, were able to receive training on this matter.

“I performed monitoring and evaluation in this project to make sure to have a real impact on the beneficiary women and to provide them with sustainable solutions.”

*- Eugénie, Team Leader
Community Services at IEDA
Relief, Office of East Region,
Cameroon.*

providing them with sustainable solutions. I also organized counseling sessions during the week, where some of these women stated having been able to diversify their food menus, taking care of the seriously ill and elderly who were under their care, and looking after their children and pregnant daughters-in-law. To sum up, these activities contributed to their

“It was while working with IEDA Relief that I realized that I was integrated into this community and that my desire was to empower these women to become self-sufficient and be able to contribute to their household expenses”.

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The project continued with the distribution of starter kits to IGA beneficiaries. We need to underline that the kits were provided according to the beneficiaries’ choice of the activity, which included the processing of peanuts, the production of soap or flour, and the embroidery of sheets and tablecloths. In addition to this, beneficiaries also received cash funds worth 23,000 FCFA, which allowed some of them to buy the machines for transforming peanut paste. Others used this working capital to diversify the products of their counters.

“As the person responsible for this project, I performed monitoring and evaluation to make sure to have a real impact on the beneficiary women and that we were

household expenses and helped them to become self-sufficient, which significantly improved their living conditions.”

Eugenie was congratulated by the mothers involved in this project and by the community as a whole for the work accomplished. “That’s when I realized that I was integrated into this community and that my desire was to empower these women to become self-sufficient and be able to contribute to their household expenses and beyond,” she declares. “This is why I think of myself as a humanitarian heroine, because I worked with love and selflessness. My experience demonstrates the love and desire for the work well done and in the interest of beneficiaries, always working with colleagues from different backgrounds and areas of expertise.”

The Story in Images



Eugénie monitors the IGA of one of the beneficiaries.



Eugénie leads a counseling session with beneficiaries.