

2022 CELEBRATION OF WORLD VALUES DAY [WVD] IN YAOUNDE – CAMEROON

Cameroon joins the world at large to promote the annual campaign to increase the awareness and practice of values around the world. Values have become a public debate in many communities' today. Discussions and importance of role play by values and the continuous need to exercise these qualities is a cry for every society. But the role in our lives and the importance of these values for our wellbeing are not always fully understood. Values are what matters in our lives, our communities and our environment.

The world values day celebration for 2022 was celebrated on the 20th of October but here in Cameroon we did the celebration on the 28th of October 2022 due to financial constraint and some delay. This celebration is gradually gaining ground in our community. Each year new ideas come up on how we have to reach out to the world in our own little way.

To mark this day we started with a march for values. We include cultural groups, handicap children (the lame, the blind and the dumb & deaf), the orphans etc, and other associations. The schools and some government representatives were also present. Some individuals also came in, just as observers and spectators. Below are schools and associations we were able to identify:

- The CRTV-Radio
- The Beba women
- The women for a change (WFAC)
- The ministry of social affairs
- Amasia bilingual complex
- Bostel schools
- Green hills academy complex
- English High School

The celebration was highlighted by a series of activities from the students and the pupils from the different schools. During this event values such as peace love, respect, cooperation, happiness, humility, care for the environment. environmental values, some cultural values etc. were presented



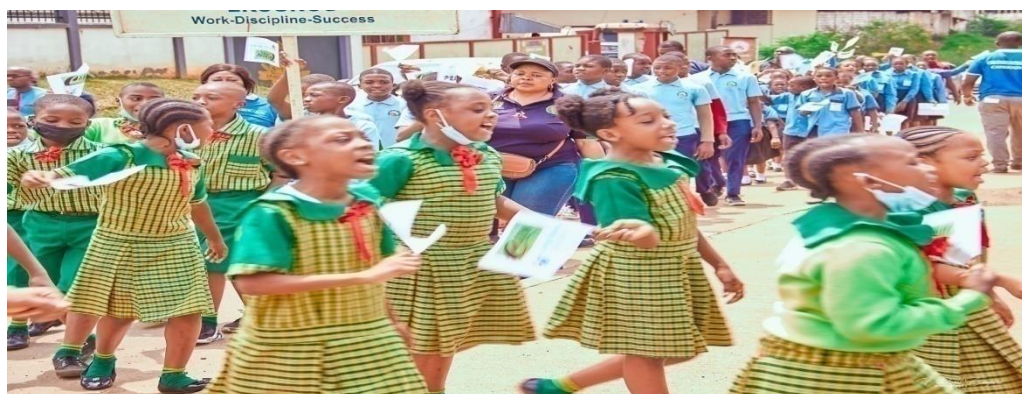
The celebration

This year in Cameroon we started up with a match for values, during which the participants held out flags carrying values, singing and marching along the street leading towards the Cameroon Cultural Centre. This public sensitization process was characterised by the different groups and schools, singing different songs carrying values messages.

This match pass was a very significant act, which interrupted vehicle from passing and attracted passersby to stop and seek to know what was happening. The demonstrators continued their singing and they marched right into the hall. Songs such as

-“We are one eeheee we are together we are one” brothers, sisters are we together” we are one.....

-“We have joy like a river, a river..... and so many other songs.



March for Values

The celebration continued in the hall with an opening prayer and the singing of the national anthem. This was immediately followed by an opening speech from the president of Caretakers Initiative Cameroon, Patricia Ndikum during which she welcomed all the invitees and thank them for respecting our invitation. After her speech a replay of the activities for last year celebrations was done.



Singing of the National Anthem by GHAC Students and Prayers by Pastor Edmond

After the prayers and the singing of the national anthem we had the opportunity to reach out to the president International of the association for Living Values Education International through Zoom. It was difficult for him to deliver his speech due to the very poor network. However, he made effort to greet the audience. Wishing them a happy 'WORLD VALUES DAY'



The Children greeting the President of ALIVE International by waving their Values flags



We continued with a presentation of a sketch by the children from the handicap centre titled “Je ne suis pas handicap”. During this sketch the lame and the dumb and deaf children were not left out. They did their best to make their presence to be felt.



A sketch presented by the Handicap children [je ne suis pas handicapper]

It was so interesting that in the sketch the dumb and deaf, the blind, the lame and the normal children all acted together. They break barriers that we are always building around us when we come across people in their situation. We were able to see Interconnectedness, togetherness, love, understanding, simplicity, humility, cooperation, Freedom. We also observe these qualities in their teachers.

After the sketch the Handicap centre continue with a ballet dance. Eventhough some could not hear but they were able to dance accordingly. They had the strength, were able to cooperate, understand and made it a day with us at the cultural centre.



The Baleh dance

After the handicap centre, the GHAC students came up with a sketch on “peace” and the environment. During this act the students were able to bring out the different values which if all are expressed there will be peace, and the different elements of the environment which if well taken care of, there will be good health, avoidance of floats, landslide, littering, dirty gutters, potholes, dustbins etc. Some of the values they highlighted through the sketch were peace, love, care for the environment, the rivers and oceans, respect, Responsibility, simplicity, humility, Tolerance, Unity and Cooperation. They also reflected on natural elements and disaster such as water and floats, Hills and Landslides, bushes, trees, potholes and dustbins breeding mosquitoes etc. They related all these to the hazards happening around our different environment. In their conclusion they made us to understand that if all these climate change issues are taken into consideration, and are taken care of, we are going to live a peaceful life in safety and be free from diseases.



A sketch on environmental values



Presenting elements of the Environment

Bostel School came up with a baleh dance during which the children presented very wonderful skills. Some of the values we identify in their dance were cooperation, strength, happiness, freedom etc. The Bostel children also presented a sketch on environmental littering, during which they demonstrated how important it is for everyone to be responsible in keeping the environment clean. Showing how important it is for us to learn how to uphold our environmental values.



The baleh dance from Bostel



Bostel pupils acting a sketch on littering of the Environment

The Pupils of green hills academic complex came up with a typical traditional instrumental dance. The young men with their traditional instrument were able to play the instrumentals without offering a word, and the dancers were able to understand the music of the instruments and danced accordingly. We saw the young dancers excising alot of strength, understanding, cooperation, humility, simplicity etc. The dancers also came in with peace; the plant they carry signifies peace. It is called the peace plant. From their dressing you can see the way they have beautify themselves in the traditional way so as to be loved, expressing happiness, oneness and solidarity.





They dance, passing on their message through the different styles

The pupils of green hills academic complex came up again to express how they live their values through different professions such as a teacher, a nurse, a doctor , a journalist etc.



Teacher



Farmer



Doctor



Journalist



Lawyer

AMASIA Bilingual Complex came up with a typical cultural Juju dance from the northwest region of Cameroon. From their attire one can tell the weight or how rich this culture can be, the seriousness of the group and how far they have gone into the culture. I remember I approached them when they were preparing to come in for the dance; they did not want me to come closer to their hiding or dressing room. This shows the secret and sacredness of this culture. From their dance steps and behaviour we can read the message and the values they were transmitting. On observing we were able to pick out the following values, Gentleness, togetherness, strength, humility, Responsibility, Respect, sincerity, Cooperation and happiness. These values are some of the cultural values that are practice in most areas of the northwest region of Cameroon.



The JUJU dance done by AMASIA Students

We had some reactions from some of the invitees from the Ministries and other associations.



Min social affairs

DM GHAC

EHS/Beba women

Rep WFAC

CNRPH

They all appreciated the event and wish to participate next year. The handicap boy said they are so happy when they come out like this because they don't always have such opportunity to go out or attend such events

At the end of the celebration, some rainbow booklets and brochures were distributed to the various guests.

IMPACTS

This first activity that everybody was involved in was the match pass. All the invitees were excited to take part. Some of them designed their own tracks without our Knowledge. However, the values flags we designed were distributed to everyone, even those who brought their articles were anxious to discover their new values from the flags. They marched waving their values flags, making the public to know that something is happening. For the past years we always do this celebration inside the hall but this time around we went out and pull the attention of the public.

- It was so interesting that we overheard some of the teachers and leaders of associations planning how they will ameliorate their activities next year.
- Some express their gratitude and how much they are learning more about values from the children' activity.
- The pupil alongside with the students were so happy to the point that some of them didn't bother about the school opinion, they planned on their own how they are going to display next year.
- A student from the handicap centre had to express his feelings, saying that the event was a great and wonderful experience for them, that while on stage they were able to show their talents to the whole world and that they don't have such opportunity to go out and meet with others, so they say they are very happy.
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DIFFICULTIES

Planning and organising such an activity needs time and funding on time to make it happen. Delay of fund did not help us even though we had to push the date ahead. Most of the invitees complained and some couldn't respect the new date due to their own commitments.

Due to lack of funding we couldn't realise the workshops we planned to carry out in the different regions. It was really bad that we were unable to secure funding even from our government and from other organisations in our country

WAY FORWARD

This celebration is gradually gaining grounds and it is creating impacts in schools and in our community. Building awareness in schools, in associations, in the public and the community as a whole through this celebration will go a long way to insert and maintain values in the future.

Workshops in schools, associations and groups in the community on values education continues as far as we can have some support for materials, snacks, sensitisation and transport fare for Educators.

The project is continuous, we are looking forward to realise the planned field trainings [TTE] in the centre, northwest, southwest and littoral regions of Cameroon if we can have some funding.

We are also looking towards the 2023 world values day preparation which starts now. That is we have to continue with activities in the field sensitising and organising workshops, building ideas about the next world values day ,expecting funding as early as possible, giving room for everyone and every association to prepare as well as they could, while planning so that we can all realise the project in a more better way.



