



# Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation

*Dedicated to promoting peace, non-violence, social justice and sustainable development in Cameroon*



## **Background**

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation (LUKMEF) is an organization dedicated to promoting peace, non-violence, social justice and sustainable development in Cameroon. Founded in 1999, LUKMEF has successfully completed 23 projects assisting an estimated 10,000 people living in the South West and North West Regions of Cameroon.

## **Current Projects**

**Rice Project** – The Rice Project focuses on providing farmers in the Ngoketunjia Region the tools and knowledge on sustainable farming methods. Currently, poor infrastructure, high priced inputs and the lack of skilled labor debilitate the Region's growth. In collaboration with six local and international organizations, LUKMEF's Rice Project will assist 100 farmers, alleviating poverty and assisting in the community's long term and sustainable development.

**Affordable Building Project** - The Affordable Building Project is an income generating activity that LUKMEF is implementing to provide environmentally friendly and affordable building materials to people of all socio-economic backgrounds in Cameroon. With an increased demand on timber, deforestation is on the rise in Cameroon; therefore, LUKMEF has focused its efforts on an alternative building material for the safe and green construction of homes, hospitals/health centers, schools and community buildings. Additionally, the Affordable Building Project will ensure that LUKMEF has the financial capabilities to continue supporting invaluable projects across Cameroon.

**African Peace and Democratic Institute** – The African Peace and Democratic Institute (APDI) will specialize in generating global leaders in the area of economic and sustainable development. These experts will act as a mechanism to helping promote and establish long-term peace and development in Africa. In addition to training leaders and experts in the field, APDI will serve as an education and resource center for the surrounding community. APDI will be constructed using environmentally friendly building materials and will utilize solar energy technology for both heating/cooling and electricity. LUKMEF believes that APDI will become a beacon of positive economic and social growth and will additionally provide the infrastructure required to instill strong principles of democracy, transparency and accountability in the nation.

**Election Policing Project** – The Election Policing Project is focused on developing democratic principles, restoring voter confidence and providing the environment for free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections. LUKMEF's Election Policing Project is focused on two program areas. First, LUKMEF will create a credible election monitoring system, by partnering a network of civil society organizations and an election supervisory council with ELECAM. The Election Policing Project also aims to establish a Peace Advocacy Campaign to assist in pacifying politicians and other individuals that have become disenchanting and have lost confidence in Cameroon's political system. Working in partnership with civil society organizations, LUKMEF believes that the implementation of this Project will enable for greater transparency in Cameroon's 2011 election.

**Words Across the World Project** – The Words Across the World Project focuses on providing improved access to books and educational materials to individuals in Limbe and the surrounding community. In 2006, LUKMEF received a shipment of 800 books helping to establish one of Limbe’s first and only resource centers. The LUKMEF Resource Center provides people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds the ability to improve their reading skills and gain knowledge about various topics, including Politics, Health, Business Administration and Computers/Internet. Currently, the LUKMEF has received a donation of 1,400 additional books and are dedicated to raising funds to pay for their shipment from the United States.

**Orphan Project** – The Orphan Project will provide 250 orphans and vulnerable children access to proper medical care, nutrition, hygiene and education. Given poor government funding and limited private funding, orphanages across Cameroon suffer from inadequate budgets, leaving many children without basic necessities. The Orphanage Project will work to combat these problems by providing the basic infrastructure and the required trainings for each program area to be sustainable. Such infrastructure will include the construction of gardens and poultry farms to maintain a constant supply of food. The Project will be implemented in specific phases, mitigating the root of each problem, therefore guaranteeing long-term sustainability and success.

**HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Advocacy** – The HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Advocacy Project (HAMA) is focused on improving national policy and transparency on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. With increasing HIV/AIDS rates among women and young girls, LUKMEF believes that non-profit organizations must collectively work to reduce the spread of this deadly disease. HAMA will provide a transparent, non-biased assessment of Cameroon’s current national AIDS plan, Abuja +2 and UNGASS DoC and further expand efforts by training 250 NGOs on monitoring, research, communication and HIV/AIDS advocacy.