

## **Water is Life: my story of Yokadouma, East Cameroon**

My being in the East of Cameroon, opened my eyes to a number of problems encountered by the local population. Some of these problems include poor health conditions, high level of illiteracy and acute shortage of potable water. It is worth noting that water is a basic necessity. The lack of water occasioned other water related diseases like cholera and typhoid. These have been a big challenge to the local community that is already facing other existential and educational problems. This kept me worried especially in the school setup where I exercise my mission as a Consecrated woman. It sooner became clear to me that I had to find a solution myself. I recalled these words of the Lord “*Give them yourselves something to eat*”. In line with this, I made use of my knowledge on grant-writing acquired at African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) Administrative Track of 2015 and came up with a project proposal for a borehole and a system that pumps the water. The prime objective of the project was to reduce water borne diseases in the neighbourhood, assure proper sanitation in the school and the environment and provide portable drinking water to the immediate local population. The project equally aimed at teaching local population on how to care for water and make it potable for consumption. Today, we are happy that the borehole and a system to pump the water are functional. Furthermore, we are pleased that water is available and serving the local population, with the learners in our school being the direct beneficiaries. In fact the direct beneficiaries of the project are estimated to about eight hundred (800) including women and children from the school and its immediate surroundings.

The visibility of this water project include:

- Improved source of water as the population can now drink clean water
- Reduced diseases of water borne
- Improved services offered to school and to the local population
- Provision of water for cleaning of hands and combating the COVID 19
- Gradual reduction of infant mortality
- Increased sustainability of families as less income will be spent on health

SR YVETTE SAM (SUSC)