2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering youth | Advancing Education | Cultivating Sustainability

Annual Report 2024

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About Lead Child Africa

Lead Child Africa (LCA), also known as the Lead Child Foundation, is a youth-led, purpose-driven nonprofit organization headquartered in Buea, Cameroon. Founded under the visionary leadership of Aleatanu Noela, whose lived experience as a survivor of sexual violence inspired a movement for change, the organization is dedicated to protecting, educating, and empowering vulnerable children and young people across Africa.

Existing since 2023 but formally recognized on **13 September 2024 with registration number 00001550/ARDA/JO6/SAJPA/APPB,** Lead Child Africa works through community-driven programs and strategic collaborations to create lasting impact. Our initiatives focus on providing access to education and vocational training that equip young people with essential life and job skills.

We empower women and girls mentally, emotionally, and economically through mentorship, mental health support, and entrepreneurship opportunities. We also deliver psychosocial support and mental health care to youths in distress, creating safe spaces for healing and growth.

Our work extends to facilitating access to healthcare services for underserved communities, promoting health equity, and championing environmental protection, leadership, and creativity through community campaigns, talent development, and civic engagement.

Our vision is rooted in the belief that when children are protected, inspired, and empowered, they can become the driving force for transformational change across Africa.

Foreword

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the very first annual report of Lead Child Africa. This report marks not only the close of a significant year but the beginning of an exciting journey for our organization. Formally registered on 13 September 2024, Lead Child Africa was born out of a personal story of resilience and the unshakable belief that children when protected, inspired, and empowered can shape a better future for us all.

In just a short time, we have begun translating vision into action: providing access to education and vocational training, supporting mental health and psychosocial well-being, empowering women and girls, and advocating for environmental stewardship and community leadership. Each of these achievements is the result of dedicated teamwork, strategic partnerships, and the trust of communities who have welcomed us into their lives.

This year's milestones are not merely statistics; they are stories of transformation, moments of hope restored, and futures reignited. They remind us that even in the face of adversity, change is possible when we stand together.

As you read through this report, I invite you to see not only what has been accomplished but also the possibilities ahead. Our work has only just begun, and with your continued support, we will reach more children, impact more communities, and lead the change we wish to see across Africa.

Aleatanu Noela
Founder & Executive Director
Lead Child Africa

"They remind us that even in the face of adversity, change is possible when we stand together"

Vision

To build a future where every child, youth, and woman is equipped with knowledge, skills, and resources to become a powerful agent of positive change.

Mission

To establish and nurture a dynamic platform that promotes active youth participation, using inclusive approaches to address pressing issues affecting children, youth, and women. Through collaboration, we empower individuals, amplify their voices, and support sustainable solutions for a better future.

GOAL AREAS

Lead Child Africa focuses on six interconnected areas: Education Access &Quality, Child Protection & Safeguarding, Gender Equality & Empowerment, Health & Well-being, Advocacy & Systems Strengthening, and Community Engagement & Resilience. These goals aim to prevent abuse, keep children safe, ensure inclusive education, challenge harmful gender norms, improve mental and physical health, influence child-friendly policies, and mobilize communities to protect and support childrenespecially in crisis-affected areas.

These areas operate as a network where each strengthens the other. Protection is reinforced by education, which keeps children safe and learning. Education becomes more impactful when it promotes gender equality, and equality thrives when health and well-being are prioritized. Strong health outcomes are supported by effective advocacy, which is rooted in engaged, resilient communities. By linking these areas, Lead Child Africa creates a holistic approach that safeguards children's rights, unlocks their potential, and sustains positive change even in the face of crises.

Goal Area 1

Education Access and Quality

Access to quality education remains a critical challenge in many communities affected by conflict and displacement in Cameroon. According to the UNICEF Cameroon Education Brief (2023), over 2 million children in the North-West and South-West regions are currently out of school due to ongoing insecurity, displacement, and economic hardship. This alarming figure underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and thrive. In response, Lead Child Africa intensified efforts to support education continuity and inclusion. Our annual Back to School Campaign successfully distributed school kits including uniforms, stationery, and learning materials to over 250 children from vulnerable and displaced households, helping reduce barriers to school enrollment and attendance.

We also partnered with local schools to run remedial classes for out-of-school and displaced children, integrating life skills and psychosocial support to address trauma and foster resilience. Through these initiatives, Lead Child Africa strives to bridge the education gap and keep children on the path to a brighter future.

Goal Area 2

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Lead Child Africa places the safety and well-being of children at the heart of its work by actively preventing and responding to all forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect, and violence. Among the most urgent concerns is sexual violence, including rape, which disproportionately affects children in conflict-affected and vulnerable communities (WHO, 2022).

To combat this, Lead Child Africa conducts extensive rape sensitization programs aimed at raising awareness about sexual violence, its consequences, and prevention strategies. These programs equip children, caregivers, teachers, and community members with the knowledge and tools to recognize, prevent, and report incidents of sexual abuse (UNICEF, 2023).

In addition, the organization runs school sensitization sessions that educate students and school staff about child rights, safeguarding policies, and how to create safe learning environments free from abuse and exploitation. These sessions empower children to understand their rights and encourage a culture of protection and respect within schools (Cameroon Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, 2024).

For survivors of sexual violence and other forms of abuse, Lead Child Africa provides access to psychosocial support, medical care, and legal assistance, helping them heal and reclaim their dignity.

By strengthening community awareness, school-based protection mechanisms, and survivor support systems, Lead Child Africa fosters safe spaces where children can thrive free from harm.

CP response in Muea

CP response in Miselele

CP Response in Idenau

CP Response in Yaounde

CP Response in Yaounde

CP Response in Yaounde 2

CP Response in Yaounde

Goal Area 3

Gender Equality & Empowerment

Lead Child Africa is committed to promoting gender equality by challenging harmful stereotypes and advocating for equal opportunities for girls and boys. In many communities affected by conflict and displacement, girls face significant barriers to education, leadership, and personal development, often due to deeply rooted cultural norms and stigma (UN Women, 2023).

The organization focuses on empowering young people to overcome these barriers by fostering attitudes of respect, inclusion, and equality. Efforts include community dialogues and educational activities that encourage positive gender norms, promote bodily autonomy, and support the rights of all children to live free from discrimination and violence (Plan International, 2022).

By nurturing confidence and agency among girls and boys, Lead Child Africa helps cultivate a generation of leaders who champion dignity, equality, and resilience in their communities.

Skills acquisition training in buea

Menstratraul hygiene month

SRHR response Ndongo Camp

Skills acquisition in Buea

Goal Area 4

Health & Welbeing

Lead Child Africa recognizes that children's ability to learn, grow, and thrive is closely linked to their physical, mental, and emotional health. In conflict-affected and vulnerable communities, children often face heightened risks of malnutrition, poor menstrual health, limited access to healthcare, and untreated psychological trauma (WHO, 2023).

The organization works to advance child health by promoting nutrition, hygiene, psychosocial support, and access to basic healthcare services. This includes creating awareness on mental health, supporting safe water and sanitation practices, and encouraging open discussions on sensitive health topics such as sexual and reproductive health (UNICEF, 2023). Special emphasis is placed on equipping children and caregivers with accurate information and life skills to make informed health decisions and build resilience.

By addressing both the physical and psychosocial needs of children, Lead Child Africa contributes to nurturing healthier, more confident, and well-supported young people capable of reaching their full potential.

Talk on SRHR and personal hygiene

cholera/flood response

Promoting Mental health through sports

Promoting Mental health through sports

Promoting Mental health through sports

Promoting Mental health through sports

Promoting Mental health through sports

Goals Area 6

Community Engagements and Resilience

Lead Child Africa believes that lasting change for children is only possible when families and communities are actively involved in their protection and development. In crisis-affected areas, strong community engagement builds trust, encourages collective responsibility, and ensures that solutions are locally owned and sustainable (UNICEF, 2022).

The organization works to mobilize parents, traditional leaders, religious figures, youth groups, and local institutions to create safe, supportive environments for children. This involves strengthening community structures, raising awareness of child rights, and building local capacity to respond effectively during emergencies. By encouraging inclusive participation and dialogue, communities become better equipped to address risks, safeguard children, and recover from crises (UNDRR, 2023).

Through this approach, Lead Child Africa fosters resilience enabling communities not only to withstand shocks but to emerge stronger, more united, and better prepared to support the next generation.

Community engagement with schools and radio stations

Community engagement with youth groups and Bike riders union

Community engagement with Women and IDPs

LEAD CHILD AFRICA EXPENDITURE FOR 2024

Our expenditure during the reporting period was primarily directed towards implementing program activities, operational costs, and ensuring the smooth delivery of our initiatives. A significant portion of these funds supported educational outreach, community sensitization, capacity building, and emergency response efforts.

Most of our financial resources came from contributions by family and friends, as well as donations from partners and small grants from supportive institutions. These contributions have been invaluable in sustaining our work, especially in the absence of large-scale funding. We remain deeply grateful for the trust and generosity shown by our supporters, whose commitment enables us to reach more beneficiaries and create meaningful impact in our target communities.

LEAD CHILD EXPENDITURE FOR 2024	
GOAL AREA	
EDUCATION ACCESS AND QUALITY	30%
Child Protection & Safeguarding,	30%
Gender Equality & Empowerment	10%
Health & Well-being, Advocacy	10%
Community Engagement & Resilience.	20%
TOTAL	100%

2024 financial report (lead Child Africa) is attached

LEAD CHILD AFRICA

EMPOWERING FUTURES..

To every child caught in the chaos of conflict those who fall asleep to the sound of fear, who wake each day wondering if their dreams still matter Lead Child Africa sees you. We see the light in your eyes, even when the world tries to dim it. We hear the quiet courage in your voice, even when your words are heavy with worry.

You are not forgotten. You are not invisible. Your future is still worth fighting for.

We will keep showing up for you in the classrooms that still stand, in the safe spaces we create, in the moments where hope feels too far away. We will speak your names, guard your dignity, and fight for your right to learn, laugh, and grow without fear.

Hold on to the small flicker inside you. We are holding it with you. And together, we will keep that flame alive until it lights the path to your tomorrow

"Until every child is free to dream again, we will not stop."

OUR RESOURCE CONTRIBUTION PARTNERS

African Union

HOBET
HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Gracious Gifters FOUNDATION

wemlafrika

ZEFA
ZOTA ELIZABETH FOSSUNGU ASSOCIATION

LIFAFA RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Redefining and Promoting Research

BLISSFUL HEARTS FOUNDATION
Making The World A Better Place

Resource Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development
RCESD

HOPE IN PINK FOUNDATION
Empowering resilience, Enriching lives

WANDA'S LEGACY

Safe Haven