

## Community Investment

**F**ighting malaria and empowering women: These were two major themes for the project's program of community contributions in 2009.

Launching a New Anti-Malaria Effort in Cameroon



In Binguéla, Cameroon, a gift 3,000 anti-malaria nets (top), educational demonstrations and skits along with singing and dancing (bottom left, middle and right) helped the project launch a comprehensive new malaria prevention program along the pipeline corridor. The project in Binguéla has been integrated into a three-year program planned to reach a population of 300,000 people with funding of \$1.5 million, a donation from the ExxonMobil Foundation.

### Malaria Prevention: Binguela Village Speaks

Malaria accounts for more than 40% of all visits to health facilities in Cameroon and more than 40% of all deaths.

Odile Ossogo, student, Binguela village: *“The problem is we do not have enough nets, and there are too many bugs. The disease is bad. We get a very bad fever and coughing and cannot go to school. It is good these people are here to share nets because we could not afford to buy them.”*



Odile Ngongo (right in orange), co-leader of village association, Binguela, shown with local physician accepting motorcycle donation: *“We have about 40 people in our association to work together to farm our fields and raise chickens and pork. We are here today to fight malaria. We are here to celebrate the arrival of malaria fighting material in Binguela. We thank the people from Antwerp and COTCO for coming to help us fight the mosquitoes that make us sick. When we are sick we cannot work, and we want to show we can learn to fight malaria here.”*



Workers at the ExxonMobil factory in Antwerp gathered donations for the Binguela project. A team came to Cameroon from Europe to attend the ceremony and provide hands on support in the field. Greta Faes (left, in orange) from the Antwerp team: *“We first identified malaria as a good cause, a way for us to make a difference and also a big priority around the world for ExxonMobil. We then discovered on the Internet that Cameroon has a big malaria problem so we started fundraising. Then, our previous plant manager was assigned here to COTCO in Cameroon. So that really made the connection to Cameroon for us. Our group is called HOPE\*A. For this mission, this trip, we will work in the village with the COTCO doctor distributing nets and teaching malaria prevention.”*



Dr. Paul Essomba (second from left), Occupational Health Manager at COTCO: *“The malaria program is part of our community involvement. Our pipeline comes by this village so we came here today to show solidarity in fighting malaria with education, malaria kits, mosquito nets. We are what we call a citizen company in Cameroon, so we must participate in the life of the country.”*

## Women in Management Training: Educating Women and Girls Initiative



Twenty six women from three countries met in Cameroon for a month (bottom left) to receive management training, funded by scholarships from the ExxonMobil Foundation Educating Women and Girls Initiative. The Global Women in Management program aims to mentor women so they can rise in their chosen careers, often not an easy thing to do for women in Africa. The training in Douala included classroom work (top) supported by workshops and role playing (bottom right). In addition to the month of group training, the course includes a year of one-on-one mentoring from assigned coaches. The sessions were produced by the international NGO CEDPA, the Centre for Development and Population Activities. Twenty of the participants came from Chad and Cameroon and the rest came from Equatorial Guinea.

## Women in Management training: Participant Experiences

Liliane Miaro, President and Owner, Tam-Tam, an advertising and employment business in N'Djaména, Chad: *“The role playing allowed us to share our working experiences in real life situations. As professionals, we do not have time for training in management and until now have had to make our own way. Now we have training in how organizations work, finance, how to control a budget and techniques for supervision. We received a full month of training in best practices and skill building. Women here do not have easy access to this kind of education. Giving women this opportunity makes a difference not just for one woman’s personal growth but also for her family and her community, a chain of positive force. Women are more than 50% of our population and are not able to take a role. That is like working with only one hand and if women are excluded, how can the country develop? Now I am better prepared to face challenges but also to take opportunities as our country develops. I am stronger. For this, I thank the ExxonMobil Foundation.”*



Appoline Moudalbaye, Training Director, Ministry of Social Affairs and Family, Chad: *“The course gave me new tools, a way of thinking about leadership and supervision. People think they know what it means to be a boss, but now I understand how to delegate and follow up on the work so I do not try to do it all myself. The training exercises helped us understand ways to do our work by building teams for example. We learned how to share information for coordinating the work and how to budget and to obtain funding. Now, we have a coach to follow us for the next year as we apply our lessons to the real world and gain practical knowledge. I want to see more engagement in helping Chadian women who traditionally do not have opportunities for literacy and who must overcome poverty. Here in Africa, most people live on less than a dollar a day and most of those poor people are women. If we don’t help them do better, how can we have a changed world? Thank you to ExxonMobil Foundation for promoting this kind of engagement for women. Changes can only be achieved through education.”*



Elisabeth Mekougou Obama, program manager for CODA CARITAS, Archdiocese of Douala: *“I have 26 groups of women, with 5 to 8 people, very poor people. A big part of the Global Women in Management training was how to manage groups of people. I learned that I must know when to be a leader, a manager and a supervisor. These groups need help with how to deal with money as a group, how to implement financial controls. The solution in helping them is not to tell them exactly what to do but to inspire them to move forward by developing their own solutions. In the management training we also learned how to share ideas from all our different cross cultures and jobs. We worked as women together and were strong in this way. I have brought home the knowledge so, by sharing what I learned, many more women will be helped. A good, good congratulations to ExxonMobil Foundation for thinking about Francophone women. The Foundation visited us, worked with us, shared with us, cared about us. The training helped me see my future. It inspired me to continue my studies for a PhD in social development.”*



### Economic Empowerment for Women: Year One of Three

In its first year, the Initiative for Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs has achieved its goal of funding micro-credit and training projects for twenty women's cooperatives in the Doba and Bebedjia areas. The initiative, being implemented by the international NGO Africare, has been funded for three years by a \$1.5 million donation from the ExxonMobil Foundation. The goal is to reach 100 women's cooperatives with assistance that will raise their incomes by 80%.

Hubert Nguelbet, Africare manager of initiative, based in Doba: *"It is early, only our first year. But we know the signs are already good. We see this program as a model. Now we see improvement in the group management in the cooperatives. They use the bank for example and other good business practices. Most importantly, the women are in charge of their cooperatives. They are empowered."*



### Economic Empowerment of Women: Pig Farm Cooperative Gets a Restaurant



The women of Restaurant Tonaye (left) in Doba began with a pig farm and, with the training and financing of the initiative, have just opened a restaurant and shop for sausage and other pork products.

Odile Memdigadé (right), President, Restaurant Tonaye: *"Here in Chad we are poor and our husbands do not make so much money. For that reason we get together in a group so everyone can profit. It is our tradition in Chad. Even though we are in a big town, Doba, we all come from villages. That is our way in the villages, to work together. It is working here for us to be in a group. By coming together we were able to make this application for help. We received restaurant training and instruction in making sausage and other pork products. So now we have a new business, this restaurant. We started by raising pigs and now we have made our own market for our products. That's why this women's empowerment program is a good action by ExxonMobil Foundation and Africare. Our eyes are opened to possibilities. We are very happy about this work and tell everyone that women are making good business."*

## Economic Empowerment of Women: Two Market Gardens



Two river side market garden cooperatives, Loteinkor Jardiniere (top left) and Al Sabour Djemil (bottom right), say they have vastly improved their incomes with the support of the initiative.

Bara Toudjimadji (top right), President, Loteinkor Jardiniere: *“We have been here for six years. We are doing much better now that we have this help. We now have a water pump, seeds and training. Before, we would go to the market carrying our vegetables on our heads and on foot. Now, we have a cart and we go to the market four or five times a week, more than double the old times.”*

Achta Ndodoubeu (bottom right), President, Al Sabour Djemil: *“We were working here before, but now with this help we are very satisfied. We have 14 women in our group, and we have benefited very much financially. We pay for household needs, food, clothing and even school for our children. We are stronger and our families are stronger.”*



## Economic Empowerment of Women: Clothing and Grain Grinding

Joelle-Elodia Guiba (foreground right), Vice President, clothing cooperative: *“We have twelve women in this clothing business. Women just by ourselves can do nothing in Chad. So we came together in 2004, and we have been able to do much more by working together. With more money our families are much better off. And now, with the empowerment program for women, we have training that has helped us grow our business even more. We have more work, and we have managed our income to improve the business. We also received from the grant program four more machines, the generator and fittings for our shop. The program also provided money to allow us to take orders in advance and build up our stock of things to sell. Even more important, we received training that has helped us make more products to take to market such as men’s clothes, embroidery, soap and lotion.”*



Anne Ngonyom (bottom left), President, Adou Madji grain grinders (bottom right): *“We went into business here five years ago. All of us were very poor, but as women we were not united. We realized by working together we could solve our problem. We all work together to meet our challenges so we are stronger as a group than separately. And we chose a mill for a business, because it means a less difficult life for many women who must cook, get water and work the fields. We grind sorghum, manioc, rice and millet. Things have already gone better with training in managing business, saving money to invest in our business. And we have a better mill.”*