“Cameroon, where a conflict between armed groups and security forces in the South-West and North-West, has left 1.3 million people in need of aid…” A report by REUTERS

Peace? As a victim of the socio-political conflict in Cameroon, restoration and reconstruction would ideally and ultimately be my satisfactory definition of peace. Restoration of a life that would never be the same after a war and reconstruction of a new home and community to which you might never return as an Internally Displaced Person (IDP). Food is the reconstruction tool in fighting food insecurity within this displaced population and building a new community, an “imagined community.”

Summary Of Project: G3 for Peace would be a rehabilitative sustainable agricultural project to support primarily, displaced women of the socio-political crisis, in Cameroon. These displaced women used agriculture as their main source of food and income to support their families. Forceful displacement from their homeland has contributed to lack of access to farmland, food insecurity, and insufficient income.

This project will be implemented in Yaoundé, the capital city of Cameroon which has received a massive internal displaced population. Besides considering peace as a form of physical rehabilitation this project would set up and sustain an imagined community comprised of these internally displaced women working on the same farmland, my project would focus on alleviating food insecurity and building this Imagined Community, but issues of women’s economic empowerment and poverty would be also addressed through the project’s implementation.

Background: It has been over five years since the Crisis in Cameroon broke out in the Anglophone regions of the country, resulting in over 6000 deaths and 1.3 million displaced people. Areas of mass displacement include Yaoundé and Douala. Like many other displaced populations, vital reconstruction was halted due to income cutbacks. In 2019, I set up an organization that provided necessities to displaced orphans of the crisis called “Let’s Help Cameroon.” This experience was life-changing and produced an obvious realization: Food is the most important necessity at this time, but it is so limited.

My journey to understand what measures to restore food security within this displaced population did not start now but started with “Let’s Help Cameroon.” As the son of a farmer, my dad’s love for the soil motivates me to consider the significance of agriculture. I learned how to use the soil to grow food and generate income using simple agricultural techniques to also preserve the soil. Many displaced Anglophone women, who used to rely heavily on their farmland, now reside in Yaoundé due to the impact of the Crisis. Farming is not only part of their cultural legacy, but now critical to provide stability for their survival and future.

Implementation: My project would be carried out in 8 weeks plus a 4-week advance preparation, done onsite and remotely respectively. The advance preparation will be done between the months of April and May and the project will commence in June.

The advance preparation would consist of acquiring the rented land, located in proximity to the targeted population of women we want to impact, based on a community partner’s database. The communities of both Soa and Nkolbissong are ideally situated and in proximity to these women. This land would be rented under the name of my partner organization RELUFA for two planting seasons.

Surveys on the location of displaced women and impacts of the crises on their lives and families would be carried out (Potential questions in Appendix). Sensitizing the community on the impacts of this

1 Imagined Community: A socially constructed community, imagined by the people who perceive themselves as part of a group; Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities, 6.
project would be done through flyers. Before the implementation to fortify the sensibility of imagined communities we will be creating within this locality and at the end a progress report will be made with reviews from impacted women and the entire community.

**Timeline For In-Person project Implementation**

**Week 1:** Create Imagined Communities of women and build connections through talks and the sharing of displacement stories.

**Week 2-3:** Providing a session on sustainable farming techniques which take into consideration agricultural methods to mitigate climate change and understanding the difference in soil between their displaced farmlands and original homeland farmland.

**Week 4:** Accessing the current farming tools, displaced women, and partner organization, RELUFA. Acquisition of farming tools and grains.

**Week 4-5:** Preparation of soils for planting season, which will consist of weeding and soil fertilization.

**Week 6-8:** Planting season for cash crops and food crops including: maize, beans, cassava and tomatoes.

**Week 8:** A community thanksgiving (reinforcing and fortifying this newly created imagined community, accessing the implementation of the project based on community reviews and draw out a sustainability continuation of project

**Results:** The intersectionality of this project highlights three main goals:

(1) Provide food and income for at least 10 displaced families.

(2) Improve the use of efficient sustainable practices and processes in the agricultural system.

(3) Create networking opportunities and rebuild a sense of imagined communities amongst this displaced population.

**Conclusion:** G3 for Peace is not just an agricultural project but a total reconstruction and readaptation from the devastating consequences of war. It would not only restore the physical components seized by the war, such as farmland and food, but also the mental and abstract sense of community friendliness by providing a network of interaction and the sharing of experiences.