

## 2011 Annual Report

### Goal and Objectives

The Year 2011 marked another significant milestone at Nascent Solutions, with thousands of women and youth in Cameroon, Uganda, and Zambia acquiring new skills for their wellbeing. The organization's objectives included:

- Improving the organizational capacity
- Improving the enrollment and participation in primary education
- Increasing the capacity of women for income generating activities
- Promoting human rights and prevention of gender based violence
- Improving the nutrition of malnourished children
- Increasing literacy and computer experience among rural women



### Increasing organizational capacity

Nascent initiated a field presence in one country, namely South Sudan and continued to build partnerships with local institutions and governments in its target countries. Nascent developed partnerships with the World Food Program and Plan International in Cameroon. Nascent's work force grew by 10% with six full time and 40 seasonal staff in the Cameroon field office. The organizations operations portfolio was increased by two sub-agreements with the World food program and Plan international.

### Accomplishments

#### USA

Head quarters staff intensified its search for new funding opportunities increased our effort in identifying partners and strengthening our internal capabilities. The staff participated in the International Food Aid Conference jointly organized by USAID and USDA.

#### *Internship Program*

Under our internship program, Nascent collaborated with Howard University school of Medical Sciences to engaged graduate students in its program development and

evaluations. The six (6) Howard University student interns worked in different capacities to support activities in research, commodity management and project monitoring.

## Cameroon

Nascent continued to collaborate the Ministry of Education and its local partners to implement the the USDA funded McGovern- Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition project comprising of preparing and serving school lunches to twenty-seven thousand five hundred and eighty-three (27,583) primary school children in ninety-two villages in Bui division of the North West province. Project trained an additional 360 teachers and over 4000 parents, and students in the use of improved gardening methods and the use of proper nutrition and sanitation practiced.



Nascent also completed the implementation of the 2010 International Food relief Partnership Program funded by USAID, which targeted 7,600 malnourished children aged 6 -24 months, in Bui and donga Mantung divisions of the North west province. In partnership with the World Food Program (WFP), Nascent improved the livelihoods of five hundred (500) refugees households from the Central African Republic and their hosts in the east region by distributing food aid and providing training in the use of improved farming and pastoral practices, the distribution improved seed for animal feed, constructing water points for the animals and fences to protect the crops.

With additional funding from the World Food Program, Nascent also launched a literacy program designed to provide opportunity for 1000 refugee women and their host counterparts the in the east region of Cameroon to acquire basic reading and writing skills. The program trained 20 peer educators who organize literacy activities three evening a week in four communities in the Kadei division to enable women learn to read and write.



Nascent conducted a needs' assessment on gender based violence in the refugee settlements and initiated a sensitization program designed to raise awareness on the ills of gender based violence among the refugee and host communities. Nascent continued to work with the Social Welfare department of the Diocese of Kumbo and the Women's Empowerment Institute of Cameroon (WEICAM) to identify victims of trafficking in persons in the North West Province and prevent the practice. Nascent continued its internship program by recruiting four interns from Buea and Dschang University, who assisted in collecting data on children benefiting from the International Food relief partnership program.

## **Zambia**

The women empowerment project - WEAVE -entered its third year of implementation. All the empowerment workers, nutrition and literacy volunteers were recruited and trained. All key components of the project were launched and very significant benchmarks attained. The second cohort of 40 empowerment workers was trained and with their magnanimous support, the project enrolled and additional 3,190 of the target 4000 women. The trained empowerment workers trained their peers in functional literacy, village banking and basic business skills. Before the close of the project year the women had collectively raised over 18 million Zambian Kwacha through the village banking scheme.



## Information and Communications Technology

One of the key components of the empowerment component of the project was the training rural women in basic computing skills. Program graduated the first cohort of twenty (20) women who received training in Microsoft (MS) Word, MS Excel and MS Power Point as well as introduction to the Internet and the World Wide Web.



## Literacy

The Weave women played a key role in the celebration of the World literacy day in Mpika district. WEAVE groups were given an award for presenting a best sketch. In picture below on the right, Empowerment Volunteer, Rosemary Panda, among others receives an award from, Dr John Phiri, Zambia Minister of Education.



## Nutrition

The nutrition program identified over 1200 undernourished children who were rehabilitated using the the PD Hearth program. With the support of the eighty (80) nutrition volunteers the program trained over 4000 women in the use of proper nutrition and sanitation practices. Program partnered with the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture to train the women on the use of improved gardening methods to grow local legumes rich in micronutrients to their children and families.



## Income Generating Activities

Equipped with new knowledge and skills in business development 177 women initiated income generating activities including the production and marketing of improved seeds, the production and retail of vegetables, the production and marketing of local beer, large scale harvesting, drying, packaging and marketing of nutritious caterpillars.





## Farming

With the Support of the WEAVE project Emeldah Moono, a member of the Lesa Afwa abayafwa women group under who lost her husband, the bread winner in 2005 has been able to assume full responsibility of their four children.

In 2011, Emeldah joined the “LesA Abayafwa” Through group dynamics and the vigorous group



led savings,

Emeldah got a loan of 100,000 Zambian Kwacha from her group, to purchase vegetable seedlings, pesticides and fertiliser. After selling some vegetables she paid back the loan and also bought onion seeds.

Emelda has planted 0.25 hectares and still has some seedlings on the nursery, in picture next to her, and the other area of the same size is stocked with vegetables (eggplant, rape, Chinese cabbage and tomatoes). The growing

and selling of vegetables for the purposes of raising money for the family was borne after she received trainings from WEAVE. Emeldah is able to fend for the family and send her children to school with little challenges.



## Combating gender Based Violence

Nascent teams in Cameroon and Zambia worked with local law enforcement officers to identify perpetrators of gender based violence for prosecutions and provided victims with with survival skills.

