



Resource & Training Center **Banyo, Cameroon, AFRICA**

Training & Demonstrations in Appropriate Technology and Public Health Education



ORGANIZATION

World Transformational Ministries (WTM)

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PERFORMANCE PERIOD

1 Year Construction and Set-Up; Indefinite Operation

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST

\$77,500

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The primary goal of the *Banyo Resource & Training Center* is to reach the Unreached by providing simultaneous access to technology and Gospel materials to meet physical, spiritual and social needs of the underprivileged. People groups such as the Fulbe, also known as the Fulani, of Cameroon lack access to the most basic of needs and are desperate for resources to overcome a daily struggle simply to survive in many remote towns like Banyo, Cameroon. It is WTM's mission to provide for the needs of those who need it most through sustainable, transformational development.



WATER WELL DRILLING IS ONE EXAMPLE OF THE SKILLS THAT WILL BE TAUGHT AT THE CENTER

BACKGROUND

WTM has prior experience in this region of the world where efforts were undertaken to establish the first such center in 2008. The building used at the time was previously constructed to launch a local radio station to broadcast the Gospel in the local language, Fulfulde. Difficulties in obtaining the necessary permissions and license delayed the project and provided an opportunity to use the building in the interim to “test” the resource center model.

The small-scale model was a great success. However, plans are now moving forward to use the building for its intended purpose creating a need for a new location to transfer the existing center and expand in the areas that proved to be the most effective in providing for the needs of the local population's goals, resources and knowledge. The *Banyo Resource & Training Center* would be both a continuation and expansion of this effort.

The Adamawa Region of Cameroon, where Banyo is situated, is considered the least developed of the ten provinces. Although numerous people groups occupy the area, the Fulbe, or Fulani, are the dominant people in this locality and much of the Adamawa region. Traditionally Muslim nomadic cattle herders, the Fulbe lifestyle has been gradually evolving into a more sedentary way of life that is now dominated by agriculture and commerce.

Many Fulbe families, however, have been lost in the waves of change and find themselves struggling to survive as the metamorphosis from nomads to farmers or business owners has left many without the skills required to adapt to a changing world. This desperate need has opened a door to providing for a physical and spiritual void that has been created for those searching to

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fill their stomachs and souls with substance. There is an outcry to decrease their hunger and increase their hope. WTM is ideally positioned with their experience amongst this people group and the resource center concept to build bridges of love through demonstration and proclamation of the Gospel in this town of approximately 15,000 Muslim inhabitants and many small villages scattered throughout the surrounding “bush”.

Resource & Training Center Model

The general philosophy behind the center is to provide a centralized location where the local population can obtain resources, training and continued support in both their physical and spiritual lives. The center serves as a non-threatening environment to explore truth while learning useful vocational skills. Gospel materials are available in various forms inside the center, including video, literature and cassettes, and can be studied in the privacy of the building. This is especially important in a region where persecution for even exploring another faith is very real and dangerous.

Besides demonstration and instruction, the center also provides the necessary tools and materials to implement the training received. Through microfinancing programs, small loans, and direct purchase of materials, individuals and families can be empowered to take control of their well-being and lives.

Research in the area has identified appropriate technologies that are sustainable and beneficial in that region. These include the following:

- Beekeeping with top bar beehives
- Small-scale agroforestry & edible landscaping
- Hand dug and drilled wells

- Vegetable gardens via drip irrigation and improved farming techniques
- Small-scale animal husbandry
- Biogas methane digesters
- Solar thermal water heating
- Solar power for electricity
- Rainwater catchment
- Biosand filters & fuel-efficient cook stoves



Small-scale poultry production with the “agric” chicken provides an excellent microfinance opportunity

Construction and Project Timing

The *Banyo Resource & Training Center* would be built on an existing plot of land owned by World Transformational Ministries. The building features would include a concrete slab foundation, a mixture of sun-dried mud and concrete blocks, corrugated metal roof wiring for a 1000 Watt solar array to power the building lights and equipment. The fabrication of mud blocks and building of the walls can only take place in the dry season between the months of November and March, and the metal roof must be installed prior to the arrival of the rains.

Additional exterior features on the property would include an aboveground 250-gallon

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rainwater catchment system tied to a solar thermal collector, a drilled or hand dug well equipped with a solar pump, a bee apiary, poultry compound, small-scale tree nursery and garden plot.

The interior of the building would be divided into three main areas – the demonstration room, the instruction room and the study room. Various displays of appropriate technology accompanied by literature would be set up in the demonstration area where visitors can explore the various technologies taught at the center. The instruction room provides a platform for teaching small groups. The room would be equipped with a small projector, and netbooks would be available to students. The study room would provide a combination of materials on technology and Christianity through various media, including videos, literature and audio.

Measurement of Project Progress

The *Banyo Resource & Training Center* consists of both short- and long-term objectives. The introduction of appropriate technology and resources are only the first steps towards creating a better world. Without proper education, ownership of the project, and community participation, measures such as these will not have a lasting, transforming effect. Ultimately, WTM desires to see entire communities transformed through sustainable and transformational development applied through the Gospel message, which seeks an internal change in the heart and mind in order to achieve an external change in the human condition. This can only be brought about by the hope that is born when community members put their trust in Jesus Christ and live out His command to love one another. This does not come from temporary aid or relief or a constant influx of foreign resources; it is the result of empowerment of people through hope, the nurturing of relationships through love

and the introduction of sustainable, transformational development.

WTM strives to accomplish this on a number of levels. It is vitally important both to the success and longevity of the project to create community involvement from the very beginning. Community members are able to participate in the project by providing labor and local materials. For example, sand for concrete blocks can be gathered and carried from local rivers. Likewise, water must be carried long distances to mix cement. Community members will be trained in the various technologies in order to teach others and improve the quality of their own lives. Nationals will be chosen to assist in the center operation and student instruction.



FULBE MEN LEARN HOW TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A TOP BAR BEEHIVE AT A TRAINING

Revenue generated through the various projects at the center and distribution of resources, such as beehives and biosand filters, will be utilized to create a self-sustaining program that is not dependent upon outside resources to operate. The initial capital investment that comprises this proposal is expected to be sufficient to create a sustainable center that will not be dependent upon outside funding once it is operational.



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Long-Term Partnering Opportunities

WTM is committed to taking appropriate technology and the Gospel to the world's remotest regions and unreached people groups. The construction of the ***Banyo Resource & Training Center*** is seen only as the beginning of a model that can be implemented across the globe in developing countries once appropriate technology surveys have been conducted. It does not need to end in Banyo, Cameroon. Why should it not spread across West Africa? All of Africa? The entire world? What is stopping us from growing a network of centers that target specific regions of the world and carry on the vision of reaching the Unreached? WTM offers you our passion, skills and desire. We only ask that you offer your resources to make this vision a reality.