



AFROGIVENESS

Art-Peace-Forgiveness

PROJECT REPORT

FRATERNITY WALK



Media Guests



Organized by **Afrogiveness Movement**

Venue: **Mbankolo Mountain yo Parcours Vita, Yaounde , Cameroon**

Date : **2nd to 4th of February, 2023**

Time: **7 am**

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1.EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organized to mark the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, the second edition of the Fraternity Walk which ran from February 2 to 5, 2023 was characterized by a series of activities aimed at raising awareness about “our common humanity” and empowering survivors of interfaith conflicts with some basic skills and resources to rebuild their lives. Among other milestones, the success of this year’s Fraternity Walk earned us a congratulatory message from the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France and a feature story on UNESCO’s website. Still thanks to the success of the event, our President, Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong, was invited to deliver the keynote address to 1000 legislators and delegates at the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Paliarmentary Union holding from **11-15 March** in Manama, Bahrain titled : “*Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance.*”

Organized by the Afrogiveness Movement (#Afrogiveness) in partnership with Positive Youth Africa (PYA) and the Africa Initiative for Health and Research promotion (AIHRP), under the patronage of the National Commission of UNESCO, the Fraternity Walk engaged 1000 participants including Pastors, Imams and representatives of 4 Government Ministries in Cameroon(Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Youths and Civic Education, Ministry of Basic Education and Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization). It was climaxed on the International Day of Human Fraternity (February,4) by a race competition dubbed the Fraternity Race.

The overriding mission of the event was to advance human fraternity while raising public awareness about values like; tolerance, forgiveness, empathy, human fraternity and habits like peaceful co-existence and harmonious cooperation between people of all religion, cultures or background.It saw an amalgamation of people from diverse cultural and religious, cultural,ideological and socio-economic backgrounds and it helped to foster social cohesion between youths in host communities and forcibly displaced youths (Internally Displaced Persons from Cameroon and refugees from 7 countries-Sudan, Rwanda, Central African Republic, Mali, Togo, Niger and Chad), whom all demonstrated the values of the International Day of Human Fraternity. during activities.

The main activity of the event was sports and key to the event was using the unifying power of sports to foster values that thread our humanity., On a more general level, the project was

successfully completed thanks to the strong commitment and involvement of the Afrogiveness team, and the reputation of the Afrogiveness Movement which has since 2018 achieved deep impact in advancing tolerance and peaceful co-existence between people of different faiths but also earned international recognition like the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, the Commonwealth Education Award and the Youth Movers Gold Award. However, the event came with some lapses which can easily be filled in future engagements if we apply the lessons learned from this edition. This report presents the activities, strengths, weaknesses and lessons of the event.

2. ACTIVITY REPORT

2.1 The Fraternity Workshop

The Fraternity Workshop: The Fraternity Walk started with a workshop to train 50 young leaders on Mediation and Interfaith Harmony on February, 2, 2023. Trainees were young leaders who demonstrated a strong desire to transform pain to purpose by rendering selfless service to their communities. During the workshop, trainees were lectured on important milestones to promote world interfaith harmony like the UN General Assembly (resolution A/RES/65/5), declaring the first week of February each year as World Interfaith Harmony week and also the declaration “Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” – co-authored by His Holiness Pope Francis and His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed El Tayeb. The workshop created a conversational space where both christian and muslim leaders could dialogue and puncture myths that have created divisions and bred tensions between youths of various religions. They were taught how to identify and counter hate speech both online and offline and they were trained on how to resolve interfaith conflicts peacefully through mediation. All trainees, who hailed from both christian and muslim backgrounds committed to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week by engaging positively with people of different religion and by spreading the knowledge gained in their various schools and communities. Trainees were called upon to practice the main tenets that unify all monotheistic religion :Love for the Almighty Father and Love for the Neighbor. A WhatsApp group was created to follow up on their commitments. Through the whatsapp

group, they shared pictures of themselves visiting their neighbors of other religions, making awareness campaigns about world interfaith harmony week in their schools.



a) Pictures from the Fraternity Workshop

2.2 The Fraternity Walk

Just like last year, this year's edition used the unifying power of sports as a tool to promote the “oneness in our humanity”, and to raise public awareness about human fraternity, interfaith harmony and the World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The highly mediatized sportswalk united 1000 survivors of interfaith/intercultural conflicts and intolerance with host-community youths and policy stakeholders who walked, talked, sang songs while holding placards which bore messages of harmony, tolerance, forgiveness, human fraternity solidarity, empathy and peace.

The walk took off from the Afrogiveness Centre where all the participants were registered and shared T-shirts. Before the walk, there were some warm up exercises organized by the coaches of ParcouteVita sporting centre which is managed by Cameroon's Ministry of Sports. The warm ups were also accompanied with some music.

The walk began at about 7:am from the Afrogiveness Centre to the ParcouteVita Centre where the thick of activities happened. . The walk covered a distance of about 7 km, a walk which was strongly guarded by security officials and police men.

The highly mediatized sportswalk was spiced by workout exercises and warm ups. It attracted the attention of onlookers who sought to understand the meaning of words on placards like tolerance, empathy and human fraternity.



b) The Fraternity Walk engaged 1000 youths from different religion and backgrounds

2.3 The Fraternity Race

The event was climaxed by the Fraternity Race through which some participants of different religions, cultures and backgrounds contested for cash prizes as well as gold, silver and bronze medals.

Out of 29 contestants for the Fraternity Race, 9 won prizes and medals. Although the Fraternity Walk was equally aimed at raising funds to provide relief to survivors of interfaith conflicts through the sale of tickets, very few participants could afford to pay the ticket price and so that aspect was waived by organizers.



c) The Fraternity Race demonstrated the values of sports like hard work and fair play

The Fraternity Race however achieved its main purpose which was to use the unifying power of sports to foster social cohesion between youths of all religions while promoting the values of sports like tolerance, empathy, teamwork and fair play.



Categories	1 st winner	2 nd winner	3 rd winner
Boy/girl	Abboulrazak Mohamadou	Abdoul Raouf	Hamed Rufai Musa
Females	Delphine	Kum Peaceful	Mabondo Baby
Males	Timchia Eugene	Pouneratchai Lerec	Bomba Herbert

1) Winners of the Fraternity Race

2.4 The Fraternity Dance and the Afrogiveness Choir

A number of sports dances and cultural performances graced the event during the Fraternity Race. This aspect of the project dubbed the “Fraternity Dance” was mostly animated by the Afrogiveness Choir; Cameroon’s first and only interfaith/refugee choir established by Afrogiveness in 2020 to heal, connect and uplift survivors on opposing camps of interfaith/intercultural conflicts. The Afrogiveness Choir did not only animate the walk with songs from its first album dubbed; “Solidarity” but also used the event to produce music videos for their songs which have all been jointly composed by the choir members who hail from different religions. Other electrifying dances and songs were performed by sports coaches and participants of different backgrounds.



e) Afrogiveness Interfaith Choir performs at the Fraternity Race

2.5 The Fraternity Outreach

The Fraternity Outreach, which was the fifth major activity of our World Interfaith Harmony Week event, was dedicated to joint community work. In this edition, on February, 5, 2023, we reached out to female refugees who had been raped, widowed or tortured during interfaith conflicts to offer support in the form of basic needs and training on income generating activities. We trained them on soap making and gave them seed capital to start businesses and we gave them food stuff like rice, salt and cooking oil. We reached out to 20 women who fled the Boko Haram Conflicts from Niger, Tchad, Nigeria and the Central African Civil wars and during this outreach, we also coached them on the importance of forgiveness so they may resist interfaith resentment.



f) The Fraternity Community Outreach

3 KEY INTERVENTIONS

2.1 3.1 Mrs. Franca Ma-hi Sulem Yong, President of the Afrogiveness Movement (#Afrogiveness)

During a press briefing, Mrs. Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong who convened the entire event, stated that in today's world, not a day passes without instances of man's inhumanity to man. She stressed that humans would only be able to live in harmony if they realized that there is beauty in differences and if we learned to celebrate our common humanity. She stated that most of these conflicts could have been easily avoided if we just understood our common humanity and learned to dialogue constructively.

2. Mrs. Laurence Anne Moumie, Deputy Secretary General of the National Commission of UNESCO-

Moumie stated that the Fraternity Walk comes to honor UNESCO's most cherished concept that since wars begin in the minds, it is in the minds of men that the defenses for peace must be constructed. She stated that since this event was organized around youth day, it was important to sensitize youths to love their neighbors irrespective of religion, culture, race or background.

3.3 Dr. Sulem Steve ,Sulem Yong Foundation

The President of the Sulem Yong Foundation, Dr. Steve Sulem reminded all participants on the importance of forgiveness and accepting the other, by which we would have greater peace of mind and be at peace with others.

4 PROJECT OUTPUT

4.1 Strengths of the Project

This year's edition of the Fraternity Walk was successful as it achieved the desired impact and outcome. However, it came with some lapses which can be covered in subsequent editions if we learn the lessons in this year's edition.

● Institutional Coverage:

The Afrogiveness Movement (#Afrogiveness) has since 2018 championed interfaith harmony, tolerance and peaceful co-existence, under the auspices of the National Commission for UNESCO in Cameroon. Last year, in November, 2022, our President, Mrs. Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong won the prestigious UNESCO-Mandangeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non Violence. Thanks to the success of this year's Fraternity Walk, #Afrogiveness received a congratulatory message from the UNESCO's headquarters in Paris and a web story about the event was featured on UNESCO's website. Still thanks to the success of the event, our President, Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yong, was invited to deliver the keynote address to

1000 legislators and delegates at the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union holding from **11-15 March** in Manama, Bahrain titled: “*Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance.*” The event further received strong institutional coverage from 4 government Ministries in Cameroon who sent representatives to participate and report on all activities of the event (Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Youths and Civic Education, Ministry of Basic Education and Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization) as well as religious leaders such as 3 Pastors and 2 Imams. The Ministry of basic education has decided to adopt the Fraternity Walk as a national annual event which shall be organized every year to encourage peaceful co-existence.

● **Security Coverage:**

The event was also backed by the presence of two gendarmes from the Mbankolo station in Yaounde who assured the security of the participants throughout the walk. They accompanied the participants of the day from the initial point of the walk at the Afrogiveness Centre to the Centre of sporting activities. They were in charge of maintaining order during the walk, guarding against the misconduct of passers-by, prohibiting verbal offenses and profanities.

● **Media Coverage:**

The event was highly mediatized. It was reported on popular radio, tv, newspapers, blogs and reached a circa 2,000,000 people. This helped to raise the visibility of the event and the organization.

● **Strong Health Coverage:**

Health was covered by the African Initiative for Health and Research Promotion. They did an incredible job by providing health assistance to the participants. Some participants need immediate health attention due to the tiring activities that they carried out. Thanks to the involvement of AIHRP, they received all the medical support they needed.

● **Attendance:**

Needless to say, the event was a huge success with the presence of over 1000 participants who came from different religious and cultural backgrounds. The presence of such diversity during the event testifies to the growing popularity of the Fraternity Walk which registered just 300 participants last year. As it was mentioned above, the participants were, IDPs, refugees, policy stakeholders, religious leaders and host community youths who believe that we are all human irrespective of our religion or background.

● **Purpose**

The Fraternity Walk achieved its main purpose which was to use the unifying power of sports and arts to raise awareness about interfaith harmony and our human fraternity; to promote tolerance, dialogue, forgiveness and peaceful co-existence between survivors on opposing camps of interfaith and intercultural conflicts and to raise funds to economically empower young refugees and forcibly displaced youths whose lives have been disrupted by interfaith conflicts.

4.2 Weaknesses of the Project

Despite the tremendous success, the event also registered some challenges which can be overcome in subsequent editions.

Limited Resources

Although organizers hoped to give t-shirts to all participants and hijabs to all muslim girls, resources were limited and only the first 400 received t-shirts and hijabs. This caused some friction and disappointment between those who had tshirts and hijabs and those who did not have. It is hoped that more t-shirts (and supplements) will be available in the next edition of the Fraternity Walk.

Moreover, organizers intended to raise funds during sales of tickets for the Fraternity Race but not up to 5 people could afford ticket sales and so tickets were waived. As such, instead of the 50 female refugees/survivors of interfaith conflicts whom we hoped to serve during the Fraternity Community Outreach, we served just 20 of them.

5. FINANCE REPORT

The following costs were incurred during the Fraternity Walk;

- Authorization: 150,000 FCFA
- Sandwiches : 400,000 FCFA
- First Aid Coverage: 67,000 FCFA
- Water: 93,000 FCFA
- Hijabs : 40,000 FCFA
- Cash prizes : 60,000 FCFA
- Police coverage: 20,000 FCFA
- Cleaning : 10,000 FCFA
- Banners: 100,000 FCFA
- Media coverage: 100,000 FCFA
- Photo/video coverage: 100,000 FCFA
- Stipends for Facilitators: 500,000 FCFA
- Community outreach: 700,000 FCFA
- TOTAL: 2,440,000 FCFA (4,066 USD)**

6 CONCLUSION

By and large, the Fraternity Walk was a successful event. We however hope that in this year's edition, there will be more funds and that it would be better organized so that the objectives we set will be attained to the fullest.