



1000 women call for reconciliation, transform conflict, risk their lives for their community, educate, advocate for the poor, stand up for human rights, create alternative incomes, care for and re-integrate HIV/AIDS affected persons, restore justice, fight for access to land, ask for political rights, and find solutions against violence. Coming from more than 150 different countries, they are all led by imagination, confidence and unfaltering optimism and were nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

1000 PeaceWomen
Across the Globe

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**TECLAIRE NTOMB
FOUNDER/COORDINATOR GICPAI**

"The universal protection of fundamental needs of both men and women and the enforcement of human dignity – this is my motto"

Teclaire Ntomp (67) has contributed to the well-being of fellow Cameroonians by providing training on sanitation, education, agriculture and nutrition. Her projects base on simple, indigenous techniques that provide income to self-help groups. Teclaire Ntomp's efforts have helped develop food products that are now marketed and consumed nationally and internationally.

Teclaire Ntomp learned as a pastor's daughter about the value of respecting and sharing with others in order to create true social harmony. A teacher by profession, she lived in different regions where she dealt with different people. She discovered that poverty and ignorance transforms people into egoists, partisans and creates low self-esteem. She thus ended her teaching career to focus on changing people's living conditions by promoting their local potentials. To achieve that she uses an organized work process that integrates solidarity and mutual assistance.

Acceptance by the target community and encouraged by others to succeed, gives energy to Teclaire Ntomp, whose husband and children also support and encourage her. As a result, village populations have mobilized over the past 13 years through the association set up by Ntomp Teclaire, the Community Based self help Association; and NGO African Action on Aids collaborated with her to publish "Fighting Hunger with Cassava: A Gift of 22 Recipes from the Rural Women of Bogso".

It has not always been easy. Teclaire often faces traditional customs that do not favor modern development. A peaceful future will be realized when women are educated and become financially and materially independent to subsequently improve education and health standards. Inadequate resources create all sorts of conflicts in societies. Hence, she keeps her motto: the universal protection of fundamental needs of both men and women and the enforcement of human dignity.

Life in Cameroon is harsh for ordinary citizens. The social and economic setting does not always facilitate the exploitation of local resources that could help alleviate poverty in some regions. Several organizations are remedying the situation with local and international networks.

Cameroon