

*GEORGIA OROKO CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, USA
(GA-OCA, USA)*

FEASIBILITY STUDY: HOSPITALS AND
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE CENTERS
IN OROKOLAND

REPORTED BY

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We hope this study serves its purpose. It is also expected that this report will serve as a reference document for policy makers, students, government and non-governmental organizations as well as research institutions in fully understanding the concerns and needs of hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Oroko land.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Orokoland is located in the South-West Region (formally known as Southwest Province until 2008), specifically in Meme and Ndian Division of CAMEROON, Africa. Its surface area is about one sixth the size of Georgia State, USA. Though the Orokoland is rich in natural resources (crude oil; an extended tropical rainforest which has continued to attract researchers and biodiversity conservation organisations; beautiful springs, rivers and streams; etc.) it is still one of the least developed area in Cameroon. Majority of the people depend on the surrounding forests, subsistence farming and petite trading for their livelihood. The people can not afford to pay for the increasing cost of medical services. Indeed, the existing healthcare facilities (hospitals and community healthcare centers) lack basic medical equipments and supplies to address the medical needs of its population. The nature of the existing roads which are usually not accessible during the wet season makes it even difficult for people to transport their loved ones in an effort to seek medical attention. As a consequence, many die from simple illnesses and medical complications.

Georgia Oroko Cultural Association, Inc. (GA-OCA, INC.) USA a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization is deeply concern about the wellness of the people in the Orokoland. During one of her general assembly meeting members, agreed to embark on a medical project aimed at supporting hospitals and healthcare facilities in Orokoland with medical equipments and supplies. To help develop a realistic strategy and action plan contingent to the goal and objectives of the medical project, GA-OCA, INC. identified the need to gather detailed information of existing and functioning healthcare facilities in Orokoland and the respective host communities through a feasibility study.

After consulting with selected Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Cameroon, the study was finally contracted to Dikome Balue Development Corporation (DIDECO), an indigenous NGO with headquarters in Cameroon. The terms of the contract were agreed with DIDECO authorities and together a questionnaire was developed to facilitate field information gathering.

This report documents information on host village communities, hospitals and healthcare centers with emphasis on problems and felt needs. It also raises some concerns on the quality of healthcare services in Orokoland as experienced by the frontline volunteers. Hope the Cameroon Government will exploit the information to effect a change in the region.