



Applying SROI

Project for income generation Cameroon, 2010

In 2009 a Dutch NGO requested CDP to analyse the main impact(s) as part of the evaluation of its income generating projects. Since SROI permits for in-depth discussion and offers a structure for quantifying social results, this methodology was applied.

1. The project

A project providing capacity building and means for income generating activities, in Cameroon.

2. SROI - process

Discussions were organised with groups of farmers. Starting point for every discussion was the identification and ranking of the changes experienced due to the project. Consequently, smaller groups were formed in order to specify, analyse and quantify the exact change and its importance. Per group discussion 12 farmers participated during a period of about 4 hours.



In the plenary each member of the group was asked to mention the most important changes he/she had experienced. When ranking these changes it appeared that sending children to school was the most important change for the majority of both men and women.

In small groups they were asked to analyse the benefits of sending children to school.

3. Summary results of SROI

During plenary sessions one of the most important changes mentioned was sending children to school (since parents were able to pay the school fees now). Both men and women ranked this change very highly.

Reasons to value this particular change so highly turned out to be:

- girls that don't attend school easily end up in prostitution;
- boys that don't attend school commit mischief that gets them in jail.

If children have good education, they will be able to find work, resulting in:

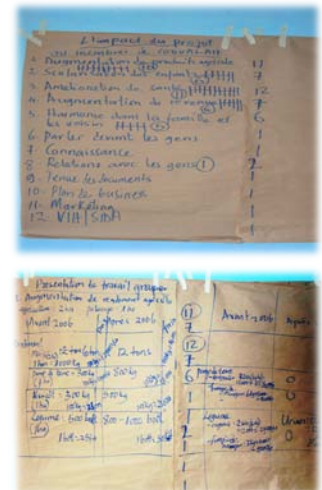
- children no longer being a financial burden for the parents;
- if a girl is well educated, she can take a good position in marriage and take care of herself;
- if children earn a good living, they will be able to look after their parents when these are old;
- there is general satisfaction when you see that your children are doing well.

4. SROI calculations

In this case example, one SROI calculation is explained. The most tangible impact in this example is the ability of children to take care of their parents when old. During discussions, it was asked what is the exact amount involved in looking after your parents. After some hesitation, the groups decided on the following:

- period of caring on average some 20 years, from age 55 to 75-80
- not including emergencies
- amount needed per week for the care of two parents was estimated at XAF 10.000, - per week, based on experiences of participants presently caring for their parents

The other members confirmed these data and agreed on a rough calculation of the total amount for 20 years of care of XAF 10,000,000, which means about Euro 15,000 !!



5. Conclusions

The results from these discussions clarify the reasons why parents in Cameroon attach value to education for their children.

They readily use part of their income to pay for schooling because it lessens the daily burden the children pose on them; and because it enhances the chance that children will be able to take care of them in future, when they have grown old.

The principal goal of the project was income generation. However, through this SROI analysis, it became clear and specified what changes and impacts an increase in income actually had on local society and possibly its future.