Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is an important prerequisite for good health and well-being for all. However, in most countries, governments alone are not in a position to ensure UHC – the private sector and civil society organizations must complement these efforts. The International Co-operative movement strives to help implement the Agenda 2030, including SDG 3. In this context, it is critical to better understand the strengths, weaknesses and potential of cooperatives, mutuals and other social and solidarity economy organizations (SSEOs), for example in sub-Saharan Africa. Over the coming months, a research team will conduct a needs assessment of cooperatives and other SSEOs currently active in two countries: Cameroon and Kenya. The research will trace the extension of their activities into health and social care, as exemplified by cooperatives in Guatemala, Peru, Venezuela, Ethiopia, and others reported in the international survey of co-ops and mutuals active in the health and social care sector. Directed by Jean-Pierre Girard, Lead Researcher and Editor of the survey and board member of the International Health Cooperative Organization (2001-2013), the research team includes Willy Tadjudje, a specialist in African cooperative and mutual law, and Veronica Shiroya, a PhD student at the Institute of Public Health (Heidelberg University) and program and liaison officer responsible for East Africa at the Alliance for Health Promotion (a Geneva-based NPO in official relations with the WHO). The project is funded by the International Labour Organization through its Cooperatives Unit, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, NorWest Co-op Community Health (Winnipeg, Canada) and Federazione Sanità (Confcooperative, Italy). It also counts among its partners the Association de soutien aux Centres de Recherches, d’Enseignements et de Soins, a Geneva-based NGO, the Centre International de Recherche, de l’Enseignement et des Soins, a Cameroon-based NPO, Réseau Éducation et solidarité, an NGO based in Paris and LPS Productions (Montreal).