



AAA NEWS BRIEF – APRIL 2008

HIV/AIDS Prevention: Effectiveness of mobile units for mass HIV testing

Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No 00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA Mission Statement

We believe that no one is alone. We succeed when the youth we serve become agents of their own change and use their knowledge to change their communities.

We reach the youth of sub-saharan Africa whose lives are affected by AIDS.

We affirm that tomorrow's responsible parents are the knowledgeable youth of today.

We educate youth with the knowledge they need to stay alive, and teach them to share that knowledge with their peers

We build extended family support networks in local villages and communities to deliver security, food, education and healthcare to children orphaned by AIDS.

We create healthcare awareness by funding women and children's health.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

“JUST KNOW” Campaign emphasizes

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behaviour change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

“Health before Wealth” Concept promotes

- Safe potable water and sanitation (wells, latrines, hand washing stations in schools)
- Income generating activities (IGA) -- treated mosquito nets and Sur'Eau – a liquid that purifies water) to create a fund for women's health in rural areas.

“Women's economic autonomy” through our **Scholarships Programme**. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to her financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

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Effectiveness of mobile units for mass HIV testing in sub-Saharan Africa

In Africa where less than 1% of the general adult population is aware of their HIV status, the use of HIV testing mobile units offers relevant public health prospects. In order to increase the HIV testing capabilities of voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centres, we developed a decentralized strategy based on bringing the needed services closer to the people, through the use of mobile units.

The National Public Health Laboratory “Hygiene Mobile” (LSHM) of Cameroon acquired a 7.5 metre long van comprising separate seats, the front ones for the driver and the medical team, and the back seats for the laboratory facilities. HIV testing is conducted using two rapid tests. Samples with discrepant results are referred to the LSHM for confirmation. Informed consent is obtained from all participants.

Since April 2005 we have tested more than 20, 000 volunteers who received pre-test and post-test counselling with an acceptance rate of 99.7%. The overall HIV prevalence in Cameroon stands at around 6.86 %.(1)

HIV testing, through mobile units likely constitutes a useful tool to promote large scale up HIV testing in sub-Saharan Africa, especially for people living far from formal HIV testing facilities, and should be integrated into the national HIV control programme.

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(1) Mbopi-Keou FX, Ongolo Zogo P, Angwafo F, Ndumbe PM, Belec L – High Impact of Mobile Units for Mass HIV Testing in Africa, AIDS 2007; 21, 1994-1996

AAA Activities in the Field



HAPPY AND JOYOUS EASTER!