



## AAA NEWS BRIEF – FEBRUARY 2008

On 6-8 February 2008: The AAA/UNAIDS/MIFED team Celebrates YOUTH WEEK at the CECA of OBALA

### 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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### Phase II of INTERPERSONAL CONVERSATIONS

In October 2007, AAA launched interpersonal conversations with women members of CECA, a community microcredit scheme. One of the goals was to help create the kind of financial autonomy that would, not only limit HIV infection facilitated by prostitution and/or other sexual violence, but also develop tools that would strengthen women's self confidence and allow them to negotiate their sexuality with partners. As a result, a Village Health Plan (HP) was developed; an organization of women members of the microcredit scheme (AFAC) was elected with a mission to implement the HP; a health based Income Generating Activity (IGA) - selling treated mosquitoes bed nets, and a product that creates potable water- was launched.

On 6-8 February, the AAA/UNAIDS/MIFED team is going back to launch phase 2 of the project. This coincides with YOUTH WEEK 2008, with the following activities:

- Counselling and free Voluntary Testing of HIV for members of CECA and their families, as well as secondary school students;
- Teaching AFAC members a new IGA (making soap) to promote healthy habits;
- Build a toilet for CECA to keep the environment clean;
- Organize a training/debate session for secondary school students on the theme: **HIV/AIDS Prevention: Building a new AIDS-Free Generation.**



AAA Activities in the Field

**HAPPY, PEACEFUL CAMEROON'S YOUTH WEEK 2008!**