



AAA NEWS BRIEF – FEBRUARY 2010

HIV/AIDS PREVENTION: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-2010

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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.

MA YEM-MA BO or I KNOW and I DO

Knowing/Being aware of problems: The last two years have presented us all with huge challenges and many occasions to despair - global food crisis; global financial meltdown; catastrophes like drought; Jobs and homes losses; crumbling of health, educational and water systems; collapse of social infrastructure with more children in the street than in schools in some places... This is **Down Time**, we should know it and not fear it!

Doing/Acting Time: Knowing by itself does not change things. Nothing will happen if there is no one to find solutions, make resolutions and get active for the implementation. **So we turned to the wisdom of ants** – the tiny organisms that regularly unite to act as a super organism. We then learn that one of the strengths is their superb division of labour. Their little interconnected brains regularly lead a colony as a whole to do things that one individual is incapable of doing. We also learn that their biggest tools are communication and cooperation that promote the creation of networks of communication and action, sort of HOT SPOTS.

MA YEM – MA BO, which means in Bulu I KNOW and I DO: To follow the example of ants, AAA created a mobilizing, positive theme: I know and I do, to fearlessly face the crisis, organize young people and rural groups members of our network, encourage them to script their vision and start applying that vision with all members and partners. Our year started with a networking day (January 2009) that emphasized the importance of knowledge; It followed with Youth Week (February 2009); then the World Malaria Day (April 2009) that gave birth to People-to-People partnership leading to the distribution of the first 100 mosquitoes bed nets from Monterey USA to Ngalla Cameroon. This will be followed by 500 bed nets from MTN, 300 from CARE until 1000 bed nets were distributed through AAA channels. Batonga Foundation allowed us to continue to send 21 orphan girls to school; UNICEF ensured that Mother and Child HIV/AIDS Prevention was part of our preventive health plans; with the support of Monterey-USA and MTN more than 1000 Drinking and Hand-Washing Stations are being distributed; the Ministry of Justice made sure that we dealt with all these issues in full respect of Human Rights. Like tiny ants, our network kept old timers like UNAIDS, MIFED, CVECA s, AFACs, ACMS, CCAM, and Duty Free Shop Ambas-Be. At the same time, it registered new comers like SOSUCAM, Sight savers International, the Ministry of Communication, allowing us to implement 95% of our work plan. **Please become part of this super organism!**

While AAA continues to work in the same direction with all its partners, we would like to thank our dedicated Board Members, International Advisers, Supporters around the world and dedicated staff, without whom the achievements of this past year would not have been possible, and who are the ones who will make all of our future work possible.

We wish you all a happy, healthy, green and peaceful New Year 2010!

Ruth Bamela Engo



Pictures of the President of AAA in action

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