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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's work is based on 3 programmes:

“JUST KNOW” Campaign emphasizes:

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

“Health before Wealth” Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands (hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicine

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

APPROPRIATION, EMPOWERMENT, SUSTAINABILITY

The **troubled economy** will loom large over the work of civil society organizations in 2012 for reasons that will differ from one country to the other. In many parts of Africa, the choice between recruiting more jobless youth in the civil service to limit social instability will have to compete with important needs relating to potable water, adequate food, electricity, dignified toilets and ARV for people living with AIDS. The need to keep up previous commitments including: Zero Infection, Zero stigmatization, and Zero Deaths must also remain part of the equation.

This is a moment when we all need to realize that, *severe economic conditions create the most urgent need for the very services that many civil society organizations provide.* It is important therefore to have a well-defined goal. A goal that will prioritize a basket of actions that limit HIV infection through Mother to Child Transmission, treat AIDS, and ensure that activities linked with basic health for all, lead to the kind of synergy that will allow African countries to travel the road of **APPROPRIATION, EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY** called for during the 16th International Conference on AIDS in Africa held in Addis Ababa in December 2011.

To attain this goal, the commitment made several years back of **15% of African countries budgets definitely need to be allocated to Health.** On the other hand, the International Community must mobilize for an effective treatment of AIDS, so that patients who develop side effects or drug resistance are able to switch to other ARV through **generic production.** As Joseph Kizerbo says “The most intimate aspects of development are virtually indefinable or impalpable like health and happiness”.

Ruth Bamela Engo
President



Organisations and people working together and achieving goals



The future of Africa calling – See me I'm here!

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