



AAA NEWS BRIEF – JULY 2008 DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2008

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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.

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) like treated mosquito bed nets and WaterGuard – 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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DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2008: Cameroon youth make scripts for AIDS films and dialogue with parents

The idea of letting African youth write film scripts to provide information about AIDS is not new. **Scenario from Africa** has been doing it since 1997 in 37 countries.

African Action on AIDS launched this idea in Cameroon this year as part of its campaign on Visualizing a world without AIDS and Malaria. The particularity of the AAA initiative lies on the need to integrate youth perspective in the search for solutions to major problems encountered during AIDS preventive work in the field. The two-day seminar organized by AAA was titled: **Youth Participation: Visualization of a world without HIV/AIDS and Film making**.

The seminar combined scripts writing, under the leadership of **Mr. Bassek ba Kobhio**, Promoter of ECRANS NOIRS and his two Assistants: Award winning Etet Pauline D. and Waa N. Musi Producer/Director of Musinash Image Centre. Debates and scripts writing during the two-day seminar focused on taboo issues like:

- Parent-child discussion on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention;
- Alcohol, Drugs and HIV;
- The right moment to teach the use of condom to a child - The Learning Moment!
- Learning to use a condom - not as an encouragement to sexual promiscuity;
- Stigmatization - not only as an outward attack to a person living with HIV/AIDS, but also as self-stigmatization.

These and other issues were at the centre of a dialogue between children and adults hosted by a great school: The **Mario Academic Complex** in Yaoundé on 26-27 June 2008.

Ruth Bamela Engo
President, African Action on AIDS

HAPPY SCHOOL VACATION!



Views of the Day
of the African
Child seminar