



## AAA NEWS BRIEF – MARCH 2008

### HIV/AIDS Prevention: The Impact of Malaria

#### 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.

#### Contacts:

USA	Europe	Cameroon
Ruth Bamela Engo <i>President</i> African Action on AIDS 511 Avenue of the Americas #302 New York, NY 10011, USA E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ruthengo@aol.com">ruthengo@aol.com</a>	Herta P. Kaschitz <i>AAA Representative in Vienna</i> Schottenfeldgasse 20/9 1070 Vienna, Austria E-Mail: <a href="mailto:hpkaschitz@aol.com">hpkaschitz@aol.com</a>	Theodore L. Tangie <i>Chief, AAA Yaoundé Office</i> B.P. 4340, Yaoundé Cameroon E-Mail: <a href="mailto:longtchi@yahoo.com">longtchi@yahoo.com</a>

#### HIV/AIDS Prevention: The Impact of Malaria

Malaria is caused by the plasmodium parasite transmitted through the bite of an infected female anopheles mosquito. It causes 350 to 500 million cases of malaria yearly, resulting in 1million deaths among whom 80% concerns children aged under five. While malaria programs are focusing on children and pregnant women, a new vulnerable group is immersing; this is made up of people living with HIV (PLWHA).

The defense system of a PLWHA is weak and this explains why malaria is more frequent and severe with cases of treatment failure both resulting in many deaths from malaria.

PLWHA should therefore rigorously apply the preventive measures such as sleeping under insecticide treated bed net every night, applying insect repellants when staying outdoors, etc. Also malaria treatment must start within 24 hours of onset of symptoms.

In cases where the immune system is severely compromised, a doctor may prescribe chemoprophylaxis for a limited duration.

Because people living with HIV/AIDS are vulnerable to malaria, HIV prevention programs must include the fight against malaria in order to save more lives.

**Dr. Esther Tallah**  
Manager, Cameroon Coalition against Malaria

#### AAA Activities in the Field



**HAPPY, PEACEFUL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2008!**