



# AAA e-NEWS BRIEF –MARCH 2013

## HIV/AIDS PREVENTION: ORPHAN GIRLS’ SCHOLARSHIP

**Your contributions keep us going!**  
**Please send a tax-exempt check**  
**payable to one of African Action on**  
**AIDS’ addresses below**

### 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. No00174/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
- Mouth hygiene

“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.

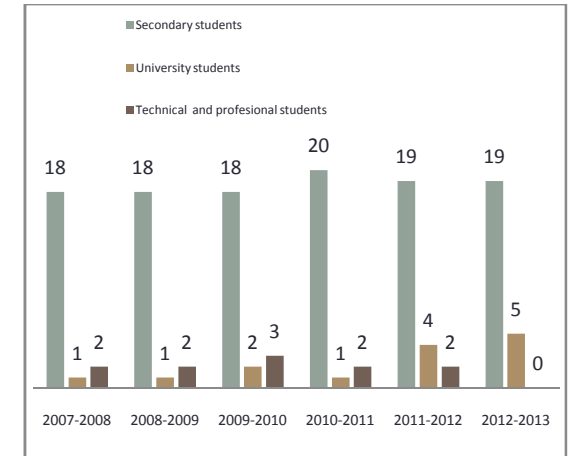
**A-Rationale of the scholarship:** African Action on AIDS’s work is based on three programmes, the most important being: WOMEN’S ECONOMIC AUTONOMY. Through Batonga Foundation, the Center for Peace through Culture and AAA contributions, a scholarship was created six years ago. The objective of the scholarship was to increase the pool of vulnerable girls eligible for continuing into University and/or Technical/Professional Education in Cameroon. This orientation leads beneficiaries to financial and economic autonomy, while greatly reducing their risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS through sexual abuse and violence based on economic needs. Indeed, and according to EDS-MICS 2011, from 15-19 years of age, 2% of women are seropositive. This percentage rapidly grows to 10% at age 35-39, while that of the general population of women evolves at 5, 6%. These numbers must be compared to the level of national infection of both men and women of same age which is 4, 3%.

Based on this reality AAA has provided a steady opportunity for at least 18 vulnerable girls to attend secondary education (see table 1 below) and regularly enter University or Technical/ Professional education each year since 2007.

**B- AAA Concepts leading the selection of beneficiaries of the Scholarship are:** a) Give preference to total orphans (have lost father and mother); b) When possible place sisters who have been separated by the death of their parents in same schools; c) A new girl is enrolled only if we have the means to support her education in at least one whole level of education ( i.e secondary, technical or university); d) Same importance given to school education and life skills in the community; d) Use both formal school and life education as tools for individual and community success, to ensure a minimum common humanity level for all community members.

**C-Conclusion and lessons learned:** From the above stated rationale, we learn at least 2 lessons:

- The first positive and general lesson learned is that: When vulnerable girls are placed in good conditions to pursue education and when they are encouraged to work with endurance and without fear, they succeed!
- The second lesson more related to the project, is that the present entry level needs to be maintained or preferably increased, to get a steady entry of vulnerable girls in higher education, in a situation where only 6% of men and 3% women enter University (EDS-MICS -2011)



|                                    | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Graduated from secondary school    | 0         | 1         | 2         | 4         | 2         |
| Graduated from University          | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Graduated from professional school | 0         | 0         | 2         | 0         | 2         |

**Ruth BamelaEngo,**  
**President / Founder**

**Contacts: [www.africanactiononaid.org](http://www.africanactiononaid.org)**

| HONG-KONG  | USA   | Europe   | Cameroon  |
|--|---|--|---|
| VivekAranha<br>AAA Representative in Asia<br>Unit 103, 7 May Road,<br>May Towers one, Mid-levels<br>HONG-KONG <a href="mailto:v_aranha2000@yahoo.com">v_aranha2000@yahoo.com</a> | LaraineLippe<br>Vice Chairman AAA Board of Directors<br>P.O. Box 1680<br>New York, NY 10163- 1680<br>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ljlippe@aol.com">ljlippe@aol.com</a> | Herta P. Kaschitz<br>AAA Representative in Vienna<br>Schottenfeldgasse 20/9 - 1070 Vienna, Austria<br>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:hpkaschitz@aol.com">hpkaschitz@aol.com</a> | Ruth BamelaEngo<br>President AAA<br>B.P. 4340, Yaoundé Cameroon<br><a href="mailto:ruthengo@aol.com">ruthengo@aol.com</a> |