

### AAA e-NEWS BRIEF – NOVEMBER 2012 HIV/AIDS PREVENTION: AAA PREVENTIVE HEALTH PLAN

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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.

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

#### "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.

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At the time when international health funding is shrinking, when national health budgets are almost inexistent, there is a need for Africa to focus on other healthcare solutions to protect its people. In this context, **Prevention of diseases is key**, rather than retrospective treatment after the disease has occurred. Furthermore, it is **not sustainable to just focus on current medical problems**; we also need to focus on the risks. People with AIDS don't die of AIDS; they die of malaria, diarrhea, tuberculosis, etc... **People must as well become active participants** in their own health care through **education that provides Knowledge**, instead of perpetually waiting for external support. Main problems in our context are: lack of clean water; lack of delivery of basic health mostly in rural areas; lack of personal and environmental hygiene and health education. Additionally, the purification of drinking water infrastructure is mostly absent or not functioning properly. Because of general lack of dignified latrines, waste goes into common water sources so that waterborne diseases strike an unacceptable high number of people, making diarrhea and cholera as well as malaria major killers. AAA Preventive Health Plan (presented below in French) was born in this context and seeks partnerships and support for its implementation. **Ruth Bamela Engo, President AAA** 



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