



HIV/AIDS PREVENTION: Support Initiatives that Empower Africa’s Youth

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/SD LP/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” MA YEM, MA BO”:**

- 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 medicin

**“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.

Trade Unions were created during the Industrial Revolution, because individual workers could not face private companies alone and win. Regional governmental organizations bring more weight and influence to individual member states. In the same vein, EPRO (Entente et Progrès) is bringing un-employed/educated youth in Cameroon together, to solve their unemployment problems, while contributing to national economic, social transformation and progress. Their members are few today, but project to be at least 1000 in the next 3 years and in all corners of the country. They are located in Yaoundé and want to project to be at least 1000 in the next 3 years and in all corners of the country. They are located in Yaoundé and want to project to be at least 1000 in the next 3 years and in all corners of the country.

They all live in a large, open, and un-equipped barn now and share their food, but believe that they will be visiting each other’s comfortable homes soon. EPRO recycles used boxes to create bio-degradable bags that will eliminate plastic from our gutters and fields. As of this writing, EPRO produces 300 solid/resistant bags per day for the local market. Members work long hours and are determined to succeed. But how long can this go, if they lack all basic health protection and habits to keep them alive? How to ensure they have potable water, basic sanitation and aggressive prevention of HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and water borne diseases?

AAA’s meeting with this group was to launch the support that will empower EPRO members individually and contribute to a sustainable nation’s building. If this experience serves no other purpose, it teaches us two things: FIRST, that strenuous times are great equalizers. SECOND, that where people survive together there is a bond of understanding where they also learn to support and look out for each other!

Ruth Bamela Engo – President, African Action on AIDS



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