



BEYOND VULNERABILITY: AFRICAN Girls' Education

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/S AC). 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.

Each year, AAA offers 26 scholarships to vulnerable girls, with the commitment to see them through Secondary school and University, as long as each girl remains a full time student, demonstrates efforts, commitment and maintains passing grades. This important orientation is based: **First**, on the need to diversify the pool of girls eligible for continuing their education into Secondary school and University as a global goal, not only for Cameroon, but for Africa as a whole. **Second**, on the need to help vulnerable girls build the kind of economic autonomy that would reduce their risk of HIV infection through sexual abuse and violence based on their economic needs. **Third**, to ensure, that AAA takes its scholars BEYOND basic VULNERABILITY.

Between 2007-2017: **20 AAA SCHOLARS** graduated from Secondary Education (Baccalauréat or GCE-AL); **15 girls** earned University degrees, including tertiary level professionals (4 Masters : Banking, Nursing, Biology/chemistry, Sociology/Theology); 1 Civil Engineer; 3 Bachelors (Human Resources Management, Telecommunications, Logistics); 2 State Nurses; 6 Brevet de Techniciens Supérieurs (BTS/DSEP). **4 girls** graduated from professional schools at Baccalauréat level in Hotel Management and Primary school Teachers (ENIEG).

Of the above list, only 4 girls among the graduates presently have paid jobs! 3 of them, because of their Information Technology skills!

We therefore definitely agree with **Mr. Bradford L. Smith, President of Microsoft** when he says: "We think computer science is to the 21st century what physics was to the 20th century" (Financial Times, June 2017)! In its constant efforts to move BEYOND VULNERABILITY, **AAA is launching an APPEAL TO** all public institutions, private companies, including all IT groups (Microsoft, Apple, Samsung, IBM, VIACOM, Institut Africain d'Informatique, etc...), Schools, Universities, Foundations, NGOs, Individuals, to help adopt a broader problem-solving tool. A Tool that would improve vulnerable girls' job prospects through

modern skills with better careers in computer science and engineering. The relationship between a girl's improved education level and her participation in the labor force as well as global development is at hand. AAA now has a pool of intelligent/hard working girls ready to start, staying in line with our vision for "**Women's Rights to Work and at Work**"!

Ruth Bamela Engo – President, AAA



AAA girls are exposed to IT but need reinforcement

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