



International Day of the Girl Child (IDG) 2017:

EmPOWER GIRLS to Overcome their Local Challenges

A- UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF EMPOWERMENT

The 2017 celebration of the IDG helped showcase the creative and collective desire of AAA girls, to share their understanding of Empowerment. For this group, Empowerment is an individual strength that leads to a collective strength of the community which in turn has an impact on each individual member. A brainstorming session coordinated by Prof. Charly Gabriel Mbock, led to a series of basic conclusions including:

- 1) One must first Exist to be able to participate in the process of overcoming local challenges;
- 2) Existing involves embracing who you are, and in so doing, enhancing Self esteem;
- 3) Recognizing that **NO ONE IS ALONE**, living peacefully with others as part of One's own existence and survival.

B- BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION

The biggest challenge in Cameroon today is the risk of a DIVIDE and AAA girls are determined to be part of the SOLUTION. They collectively and individually decided to adopt daily behaviors that promote peaceful/respectful/human interactions. We recorded few of them in English or French as follows: a) *I will be the one to greet my students when I enter the classroom instead of waiting for them to greet me;* b) *I will listen to other people's opinions calmly, even when we do not agree;* c) *Je tâcherai aussi de trouver de bonnes choses sur la vie au Cameroun et pas seulement ce qui va mal;* d) *I will make compliments to people when they do well or look smart;* e) *I will greet people I meet on my way with an encouraging smile;* f) *Désormais je parlerai doucement et gentiment à tout le monde;* g) *I will speak in French or English or in local languages to the patients I receive at the hospital and treat them with respect;* h) *Bonjour, Merci, S'il te plait, Excuse-moi feront désormais partie de mon interaction avec les autres!* VERY LOVED young Cameroon Artists RENISS and JOVI were there to encourage their fans, which gave a magic touch to this whole exercise...C'ETAIT DANS LA SAUCE!

C- 100% LED BY AAA GIRLS: EQUIPE DE COORDINATION

1. Présidente de séance : Eyebe
2. Présentatrice du thème Journée Internationale : Akwi
3. Secrétaire de séance : Ovono
4. Managers des T-shirts : Nyangon et Barda
5. Collectionneuses des messages : Michelle, Ngueguim (No name !)
6. Coordinatrices Petit – Déjeuner : Céline, Solange et Adidjatou
7. Santé Préventive : Bayemi, Beyala et Fru
8. Coordinatrices Lunch : Céline, Solange et Mado Laure
9. Guides – Lavage des mains : Benis et Kaldjob

Ruth Bamela Engo – President, AAA

