



AAA End Year Event: **PROBLEMS EXIST ONLY BECAUSE THEY CAN BE SOLVED!**

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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/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.

*In the present context dominated by multiple local challenges leading to global insecurity, we need, at the dawn of this new decade, to positively pursue our journey with the determination: 1) To find new solutions adapted to problems on the ground; 2) To be led by a new form of wisdom rooted from the problems we face. In so doing, we can transform fear of the future into a force that will help us invent, new paths, and new solutions. Best said by a local proverb which teaches us that **problems exist only because they can be solved!***

Based on these thoughts and our impatience to witness more encouraging results from our present efforts, we chose the following title for the AAA End Year Event: **Getting out of Vulnerability: My own Responsibility.**

The event was an occasion for us to review the present educational system. A system developed long time ago, to create a group of people capable of running administrative and technical tasks for businesses that typically did not solicit creative intelligence from their employees. **Sustainable Development was not their main Goal!**

The results are that, of the hundreds of children trained at a high level since the AAA first scholarship in 1992, very few have found stable jobs. At the same time more people, mostly young women have become extremely vulnerable, because the kind of education they received did not give tools to find a job or create one.

The goal of our event was therefore to enable our scholars to meet and discuss with other young people who have traveled the same road and now working to end or limit their own vulnerability. One of the main points/concentrations was to learn the new modern working tools dealing with information technology, while paying attention to school of life!

That is why the first group of AAA scholars of 2020 entering higher education, now has to spend a whole year getting tools, including computer literacy, at least 2 international languages and the local language of where they live. Seriously applying themselves to this program could lead to paid jobs or creation of income generating activities they love. This could in turn allow them to happily earn their living. Happy and Safe New Year 2020 to all, and happy International Day of Education!

Ruth Bamela Engo, **President AAA**



Experiences sharing



HIV testing



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