



African Action on AIDS

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
Public Affairs Section,  
Yaoundé, Cameroon



## CRITICAL THINKING

Looking at History Through the Eyes of a Child

AFRICAN ACTION ON AIDS (AAA)  
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Web: [www.africanactiononaid.org](http://www.africanactiononaid.org) - 2015

## **SUMMARY**

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## Introduction:

*African Action on AIDS appreciates being chosen to be part of the “Looking at History Through the Eyes of a Child” Project, which validates the visual heritage of Cameroon and contributes in building self-confidence, critical thinking and solid/positive partnerships among nations!*



AAA girl creating a new image!

*We are extremely grateful to the American Embassy, Yaoundé, Ms. Anne Gregory, Ms. Pascale Obolo and Junior from BTV studios who helped, encourage AAA girls to strive for a better future.*

Ruth Bamela Engo  
President AAA

## A – Synopsis of the project document

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**Country :** Cameroon

**Award number:** SCM800 – 15 – GR - 007

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### **Award Title/Purpose**

**Title:** « Looking at the History Through the Eyes of a Child : A Dialog with the Present and the Past »

**Purpose:** For Services and costs incurred for working with African Action on AIDS (AAA) girls to create new narrative of Cameroonian History for an art installation, scheduled to run from January 27 – 30, 2015 in Yaoundé and Buéa.

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**Program CFDA Number**

**Total cost :** US \$ 5000

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**Financement :** American Embassy, Yaoundé, Cameroon

**Project Period :** From 01-22-15 through 02-06 - 15

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**Recipient :** African Action on AIDS(AAA), BP 4340, Yaoundé

**Duns number :** 55 – 990 - 5250

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## B - Project Report Narrative

### **Looking at History Through The Eyes of a Child**

**The De-Construction/Re-Construction of Memory: An audio/visual installation that Explores the Contribution of Women in Cameroon’s History**

### **Project Description**

The outcome of this project is an audio/visual installation that looks at historic moments in Cameroon through the eyes of African Action on AIDS (AAA) girls. An installation of archive photos accompanied by the girls’ voices was exhibited in Buea at the Validating Visual Heritage in Africa: Historical Photographs and the Role of the “Archive” Conference, January 27 - 30, 2015 sponsored by African Photography Initiatives.

### **Participants**

*Girls from African Action on AIDS*

*Anne Gregory, Artist, USA*

*Pascale Obolo, Documentary Filmmaker, France*

*Ruth Bamela Engo, Executive Director African Action on AIDS, Yaoundé*

## Summary of Project

Anne Gregory and Pascale Obolo worked in Yaoundé with 21 girls supported by African Action on AIDS. The girls studied archive photos from the Buea Press Collection that depict the role of women in colonial and postcolonial times.

**After discussing the photos, the girls told their version of what was happening. Their recorded words became a new narrative and a contemporary version of Cameroon's oral history.**

For the physical exhibit, four large freestanding panels were built in Yaoundé. These panels were then transported to Buea. Working in a "studio space" provided by the Alliance Française in Buea, Anne Gregory and Pascale Obolo created narrative collages using enlarged archived photos and photo elements. Both sides of the panels were covered, making a total of eight vignettes that focus on the contribution of women in Cameroon's history. Themes explored are Liberation, Decolonization, Education, and the importance of Keeping Your Heritage.

Titled The De-construction/Re-construction of Memory, the audio/visual installation consists of an edited version of the girls' recordings paired with the panels of collaged photos. The installation was exhibited at the Validating Visual Heritage in Africa: Historical Photographs and the Role of the "Archive" Conference in Buea, January 27-30, 2015

## Outcome

The end product of this project is more than an audio/visual installation that examines the role of women based on archival photos.

**This project gives voice and validation to a neglected segment of Cameroonian society – girls affected by AIDS. Through the process of re-examining history, discussing it from a contemporary point of view, and retelling it, the girls were introduced to the critical thinking process.**

**We believe their participation in this project will be an empowering experience that will profoundly impact their lives.**

## Exhibition Venues

The installation was exhibited in Buea at the Validating Visual Heritage in Africa: Historical Photographs and the Role of the "Archive" Conference, January 27-30, 2015.

## Follow-up

The original recordings of the AAA girls have been edited by Anne Gregory into a spoken word hip hop album. In March 2018, she returned to Yaoundé to collaborate with the AAA girls in order to include them in THE PROCESS. Six new were recorded. The next phase to create music that reflects each girl's words. The end goal is to complete an album that focuses on the aspirations and accomplishments of girls and women and in Cameroon.

## Link to project:

A description of this project can be found on the website of African Photography Initiatives at the following link: <http://african-photography-initiatives.org/index.php/art-interventions-ag>

## Submitted by Anne Gregory

*Project Leader*

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[annegregorypainting.com](http://annegregorypainting.com)

00 1 919 672 0404

## C- Financial Report ( in French)

Date	Bénéficiaire	Libellé	Entrée	Dépense	Solde	Justificatif N°
20.01.15	Planète Game Electronique	Achat matériel	0	22 500	- 22 500	01
21. 01.15	Filles d'AAA	Transport filles	0	112 500	- 135 000	02
21. 01.15	A. T Multi – Tech (Carpenter)	Confection Tableaux (Fourniture et main d'œuvre)	0	130 000	- 265 000	03
21.01.15	IBS – Yaoundé - Carrière	Achat matériel	0	215 053	- 480 053	04
22.01.15	Toungou Hotel , yaoundé	Règlement frais d'hébergement et Diner	0	271 000	- 751 053	05
22.01.15	Garage Bosco	Location voiture + frais de carburant	0	175 000	- 926 053	06
22.01.15	Capitole Hotel Residence- Buéa	Règlement frais d'hébergement	0	140 000	- 1 066 053	07
23.01.15	Photo Merlino	Impression photos	0	17 800	- 1 083 853	08
23.01.15	Drimp Foundation - Buéa	Traitement du son	0	20 000	- 1 103 853	09
23.01.15	Messa Press, Kiosque Buéa	Achat 10 Newspapers	0	4000	- 1 107 853	10
23.01.15	Mr. Elakié Nestor John	Achat matériel	0	2500	- 1 110 353	11
26.01.15	Mr. Obolo	Achat 04 cartes mémoire SD	0	4000	- 1 114 353	12
29.01.15	AAA	Virement reçu	2 829 100	0	+1 714 747	-
29. 01.15	SCB - Cameroun	Frais bancaires	0	104 747	+1 610 000	-
30.01.15	Mr. Kamel Pascal	Avance Carburant pour le 30/01/15	0	50 000	+1 560 000	13
30.01.15	Mr. Nji Michaël Narcisse (Directeur Général – Babby A.)	Location d'un Pick up	0	150 000	+1 410 000	14
31.01.15	Toungou Hotel	Réservation hébergement	0	60 000	+1 350 000	15
31.01.15	Wandji Youmbi Saie Aimé Directeur ETS SAIE ABDIAS, Vente et location de voiture	Location voiture immatriculé CE 121 DE	0	500 000	+ 850 000	16
31.01.15	BTv Media	Frais de Studio	0	850 000	0	17
	<b>Total</b>	2 829 100	2 829 100			

NB : Les pièces justificatives sont jointes en annexe et repérables par les numéros qui leur sont affectés

# PICTURES





Photos of girls working on their narratives of the archive photos:



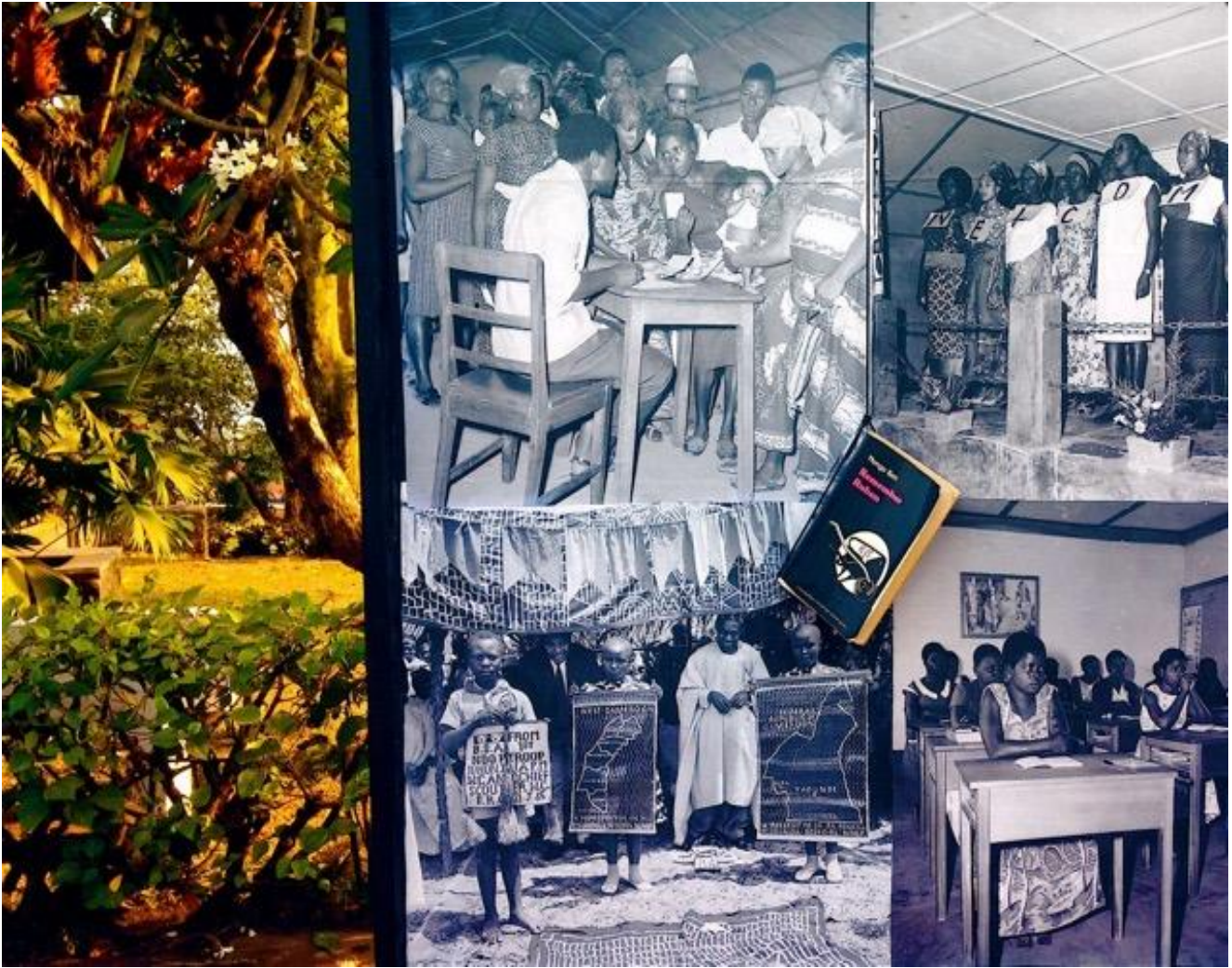


Photos about making the actual exhibit:



The Exhibit Buea:





# **ANNEXES**

# Project Team

## **Anne Gregory**, Project Leader and Lead Artist

Ms. Gregory resides in Durham, NC where she is an arts educator and recipient of the Mayoral Award for contributing to at – risk youth.

ROLE – As the project Leader and Lead artist, Ms. Gregory will oversee the project, be the financial administrator and collaborate on the audio/ visual installation. She will act as a steward of US society and present videos from US students. She will also act as an emissary for Cameroon and share the project with US students on her return.

## **Pascale Obolo**, Lead Documentarian

Ms. Obolo lives in Paris, France and is French Cameroonian. She is an award winning documentary filmmaker and co-editor of the online magazine Afrikadaa.

ROLE – As the Lead Documentarian, Ms. Obolo will focus on the technical and practical aspects of this project using her expertise in documentary filmmaking and her familiarity with Cameroonian history and contemporary culture.

## **BTv Studios**, Lead Audio/Visual Experts

Located in Yaoundé, Cameroon. BTv Studios is a music & video production Company, owner of Burn M Records and BTv. Their president Junior is a founding and active member of African Action on AIDS.

ROLE – BTv Studios will oversee all technical aspects of the project's visual and audio components.

## **Ruth Bamela Engo**, President AAA

Resident in Yaoundé, Cameroon, Ruth Bamela Engo is the Chief Executive and Founder of African Action on AIDS, an NGO in consultative Status with UN. ECOSOC working with girls affected by AIDS.

ROLE – As President of AAA, Ruth Bamela Engo and her staff will facilitate the recording sessions with AAA Cameroonian girls.



# African Action on AIDS, INC. (AAA)

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Yaounde, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015

Founder/President and Executive Director:  
**Ruth Bamela Engo-Tjéga**

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**Ms. Eileen Lawlor**, The Monterey Meets Ngalla Committee  
**Vivek Aranha**, AAA Representative in Asia

#### FOUNDING MEMBERS

**Ms. Barbara Abomo Engo**  
**Mr. Enyegue Jean Pierre**  
**Ms. Mariama Darboe**  
**Mr. Paul Bamela Engo Junior**

#### CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Cameroon: **Teclaire Ntomb, GICPAB**

Presidents of AFAC/CVECA Cameroon

## SUMMARY: COMITE DE PILOTAGE (CoPIL) MEETING

1. AAA CoPIL met on January 21, 2015 after the signature of the project prepared for the US Embassy Yaoundé and submitted by Ms Anne Gregory, Project Leader.
2. The reason why Ruth Bamela Engo, President of AAA had to sign the project without consulting the CoPIL was because it could not be taken in consideration by the local US Embassy if there was no local organization behind it. It was a way to support a genuine partner and expose AAA girls to critical thinking.
3. Indeed, Ms. Gregory had asked AAA to partner in the realization of her project titled: "**Looking at the History Through the Eyes of a Child: A Dialog with the Present and the Past**", where AAA girls were chosen to comment on historical photographs.
4. Based on the above outline, CoPIL members took the following decisions:

- AAA appreciates being chosen to be part of this important art work that not only validates the visual heritage of Africa, but also help build self confidence among AAA girls and partnerships among nations. On this basis AAA will seek the disbursement of only basic in-built expenses that cannot be avoided, including:
- 2 days transports for AAA girls to be interviewed for audio/visual art installation see the attached list of presence that highlights the total cost
- Banking costs related to transfer and exchange of currencies as well as withdrawals related to the project that will appear on the bank statement.
- That all payments by AAA should be based on documents approved by Ms Anne Gregory.

Signed and Approved by the following members of CoPIL:

President: **Simon Yon**

Members:

- **Ruth Bamela Engo**
- **Mireille Ndengue Nlom**
- **François Eba'a Zambe**