



IDF
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

P.O.BOX: 338 Bamenda. Tel: (237) 70 23 65 62; 77 75 59 75

Email: idfbamenda@hotmail.fr , tdameni@yahoo.fr;

website: www.idfbamenda.wordpress.com

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REPORT

INTERNATIONAL AIDS DAY ON THE 1st December 2009



IDF team present during the celebration of the World AIDS Day

2nd December 2009

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I. INTRODUCTION

On the 1st of December 2009, IDF joined actors for the fight against HIV/AIDS the world over in commemorating the International World Aids Day under the theme “Universal Access and Human Rights” and the national theme “Mother and Child without AIDS”.

Activities in Bamenda started at 8:30 with the Take off of Caravan from the office of the RTG through Bamenda town to the Governor’s esplanade, at up station where the activities proper were scheduled to take place. IDF team was part of the caravan and participated in the activities till the end.

II. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

During the days leading to the commemoration, IDF was engaged in several preparatory activities such as:

Technical preparation

- Facilitated preparatory meetings with staff, CRA and CVs on various activities to be carried out on that day like materials for exhibition, who will do what, etc...
- CRA did some preparation on a sketch that they were to perform
- Ordering, printing of T – Shirts
- Preparation of contents of talk and documents to be exhibited.

Pedagogic preparation

- Rehearsals to make sure everything will be moving well
- Distribution of task and timing for individual intervention

Logistic preparation

Conception, printing and distribution of invitation letters

- Arranging materials for demonstration and distribution
- Transporting materials to the ceremonial ground
- Distribution of T – Shirts

Other preparatory activities

- Attending preparatory meetings organized by RTG
- Attending meetings organized by MINAS

III.CEREMONIES PROPER:

a) Preparation of the stand

On the morning of the activities, a stand that hosted materials to be demonstrated and distributed by IDF was properly set at the ceremonial ground. This consisted of items such as both female and male condoms, educative reading materials and written messages. A complete list of the materials distributed is found in Annex d.

b) Speeches

b-1. A Welcome Address (Government Delegate, Bamenda City Council)

After assembling of the population and invited guests at the esplanade of the Governor, the national anthem was sang and a welcome speech delivered by a representative of the Government Delegate of the Bamenda City Council. She started by welcoming and thanking everybody for honoring the invitation and commended their effort as sign of dedication and

seriousness to the course of reducing the incidence of the pandemic. She urged everybody not to relent any effort in fighting against this deadly disease and ended by challenging all to strive to know their status because it is only by this that you can afford to live positively and healthy.

b-2. Regional Delegate of Social Affairs

The representative of the regional delegate of social affairs took to floor and gave reasons why we all have to join hands together and give hopes to the hopeless. She told everybody present that this can only be achieved if we change our attitude towards PLWHA and avoid certain bad practices such as injustice and discrimination. She ended by saying that, because of insufficient budget allocation, this service has not been able to fully satisfy PLWHA. The delegate's speech was followed by the presentation of a Rhyme by ALJ-Cameroon on stigmatization and discrimination against PLWHA.

b-3 Regional Coordinator Regional Technical Group Northwest

On her part, the regional coordinator presented the situation of HIV/AIDS in the North West as of the year 2009. She started by saying that RTG was created to implement activities on HIV/AIDS of the NWR and that 3 new treatment centers have been opened bringing the total to 16 all in an effort to reduce the incidence of the pandemic. She said that, despite a drop in the incidence, PLWHA that are on ARV should continue to adhere and always respect the time given for taking of drugs. She encouraged everybody to do their test, know their status and live positively. She ended by pleading to people and associations of goodwill to contribute in their own little way to see to it that the incidence is greatly reduced.

b-4 Governor of North West Region

The representative of the Governor talked on efforts that the government has been doing to reduce the incidence like undertaking educational campaigns, promoting individual rights etc... He also challenged all stakeholders to take concrete action that can help Bamenda and Cameroon in general meet up with the global objectives. Before visiting stands and dance groups, he officially declared the celebration opened.

c) Animation and dances

Activities of the day were alternated with animation and dances mostly traditional dances. There was a song by Fru Doris on the effect of AIDS on the youths. This was executed immediately after the welcome address by the Government Delegate's representative. The Regional Delegate's speech was followed by a sketch performed by ALJ-CARITAS Cameroon. A short sketch on stigmatization and non acceptance was also acted by the Cameroon Youth Network. Various dance groups also did perform, like the Mbaya group from Old Town Bamenda.

d) Visit of stands

IDF had a stand at the esplanade where activities carried out by IDF in this direction were displayed. These included educative materials, condoms, write up of field activities as presented below

e) Condom demonstration

As part presentation of activities, a demonstration was done by Amah Julius, a CRA working in IDF, on the proper use of condom. He started by asking any willing participant to demonstrate how a condom is supposed to be used. After this was done, he corrected all the aspects where the participant went wrong and he descriptively demonstrated to all present how properly a condom should be used. This initiative was commended by everybody who participated.



Representative of Governor and entourage listening to the presentation of SIDA COOP



Distribution of educative materials to participants



Representative of Governor and entourage listening to the presentation of HBC



Cross section of IDF Team at the tribune

IV. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- The location of the activities at the Governor's esplanade was not very convenient. Comparatively, the impact was not measurably felt because grassroots population was not present.
- The turn out would have been much better if the location was in an area where there was a larger population.
- The time taken by the Governor's entourage during the visit of stands was too short. This made it difficult for appropriate presentation of activities carried out by organizations to be done.

V. LESSONS LEARNT

- The messages given by the speakers were so touching and direct to the point.
- The physical presence of certain heads of services was an indication of the value that they attach to this program.
- IDF, COOPAB, IVFCAM were honored by the presence of VSO HIV/AIDS Program Manager who came to encourage and support her partners.

VI. WAYS FORWARD

- Subsequent events like this should be located in areas where the impact will be felt by a larger size of the population and the objective of sensitizing more people will also be met.

VII. SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

- Although the event was a success, it is worthwhile pointing out that, during subsequent events like this, enough time should be allocated for visiting stands so as to allow organizations vividly present most or all the activities that they do in this regard.
- We thank VSO for the support given to us to facilitate this important activity.

ANNEXES

a) ILO/SIDA COOP

PROGRAM	ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CAPACITY BUILDING AND LOAN TO WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS
OBJECTIVE	To promote entrepreneurship amongst women living with HIV/AIDS in the towns of Wum, Kumbo and Bamenda by offering them Management, Technical and Financial support
TARGET POPULATION	Women living with HIV/AIDS
Methodology	It is a holistic approach that focuses on the Psychosocial and Economic aspects of the individual and his/her entrepreneurship ability to do business
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be HIV/AIDS positive • Belong or willing to become member of a support group • Own a business or income generating activity • Be ready to share CD4 count result • Be willing to become a member of one of the identified COOPEC
RESULTS OBTAINED AND IMPACTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 192 promoters have benefited from technical and management support • 68 have benefited from financial support • 30 promoters have been registered into Community Mutual Organization to ease their access to basic health care • improvement of the health of many PLWHA • Acceptance of status • Most of the promoters are stigma free
DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient fund to support the huge number of promoters that are interested in the program • Some of the promoters are still finding difficulties getting their CD4 results because of frequent breakdown of equipments and long distances to cover
PARTNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILO/SIDA COOP • ILO/TC RAM • MINAS • RTG • Three business women savings and loan Cooperatives (Wum, Kumbo and Bamenda)
WAY FORWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize more resources through project writing/ lobbying • See how to include men living with HIV/AIDS who are requesting to join the program • Capitalise the experience for replication, vulgarisation and dissemination purpose

b) Home Base Care (HBC)

PROGRAM	Home Based Care (HBC) For People Living with HIV/AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable
OBJECTIVE	Care given to the sick and affected in their homes through family participation and community involvement physically, psychologically and spiritually
TARGET Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLWHA • Affected by HIV/AIDS • OVC • Community in general
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Visits • Use of community • Socialization with PLWHA and the community • Take appointment • Make findings on their lifestyles through questioning
Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reside in Mezam Division • Getting treatment in Day hospital
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and working with CRA and CV • Routine Home visits • Sensitization of group meetings and associations of PLWHA • Training of family members to take care of PLWHA • Identification of new clients and other illnesses • Referrals of patients to treatment centres • Educational talks/prevention, nutrition, adherence etc to clients and the community • Organize behavioural and communication change (BCC) sessions • Search for people lost to follow up/defaulters • Distribution of food baskets to PLWHA
Results Obtained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of 13 quarters in Nkwen and Mankon • Trained 27 CVs • After three months, CVs have realised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 185 home visits and 94 group meetings - 32 meetings with associations of PLWHA - identified 138 clients - 80 PLWHA have received food baskets - built good relationship between CRA and CVs - Good relationship with hospital staff
Difficulties Encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effective referral of cases • Area of intervention is too large compared to the number of CVs and CRAs • Lack of good monitoring and evaluation tool

c) Orphans and Vulnerable Children

PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN
OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS and other factors that render children vulnerable
TARGET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orphans and vulnerable children, children at work and children trafficked
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis, identification, home visits, various supports (Educational, psycho social, nutritional, legal and medical)
Vocational training and follow up	<p>Eligibility criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an orphan or vulnerable child exposed to child trafficking, labor, prostitution and HIV/AIDS • Reside in Menchum Division
Results obtained and Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7500 OVC identified • Diagnosis on the child trafficking and child labor phenomenon in the region • Educational, Nutritional, Psychosocial, legal, medical supports and vocational training to 550 OVC • Withdrawal and bring back two children of 11 and 13years old in their families and put them back to school
Difficulties Encountered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient fund to support the huge number of OVC in the region • Some parents and guardians do contribute to the non respect of children rights • The abrupt stop of the Government program to support OVC
PARTNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSO • ILO/TC RAM • CARE • MINAS • RTG
WAY FORWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize more resources through project writing and lobbying • Build capacities for staff and Community Volunteers on how to counsel children in difficulty and life skills development

d). *List of educational material exhibited/distributed*

No	Description	Quantity
1	La santé vient en mangeant	19
2	Bouger c'est la santé	102
3	Mal de dos	28
4	Can mosquitoes	16
5	Comment garder l'équilibre après 60 ans	18
6	Entre nous jeunes	35
7	J'arrête de fumer	49
8	Penis artificiel	04
9	Aider les adolescents à ne pas fumer	18
10	Grossesse et tabac	19
11	Les solutions pour arrêter de fumer	26
12	Integrated Development Foundation Brochure	25
13	Préservatifs féminins	100
14	Préservatifs Masculins	500