

Republic of Cameroon	République du Cameroun
Peace-Work-Fatherland	Paix-Travail -Patrie
Littoral Region	Région du Littoral
Wouri subdivision	Département du WOURI

# 2021ANNUAL REPORT

ENGLISH VERSION

ASSOCIATION FEMMES ET ENFANTS  
Récépissé N°063/RDDA/C19/BAPP du 07 Mars 1996  
DOUALA/CAMEROUN  
afemmesenfants@yahoo.fr

French version available

# SUMMARY

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## ACRONIMS

**ACED:** Acting and Building Together Sustainably

**CASA:** Africa Coalition for Safe Abortion

**ADEF:** Association for Women's Development and Entrepreneurship

**AFE:** Association Femmes et Enfants

**AGR:** Income Generating Activities

**ALTER U:** Urban Alternatives

**ANAJEHCAM:** National Association of Disabled Youth of Cameroon

**AFHCAM:** Association of Disabled Women of Moungo

**ASAFE:**

**BTC:** Building Together Cameroon

**BUNEC:** National Office of Civil Status

**CAFI:** Call for Action and Implementation

**CAL:** Coalition For African Lesbian

**CDHC:** Cameroon Human Rights Commission

**CNJC:** National Youth Council of Cameroon

**CNLS:** National Committee for the Fight Against AIDS

**CORDAID:** Dutch organization

**DAJEC:** District Delegation of Youth and Civic Education

**DAPROFF:** District Delegation for the Advancement of Women and the Family

**DVD:** Back And Belly Outside

**DSSR:** Sexual Rights and Reproductive Health

**EMAPUR:** Mobile Team of Urban and Rural Popular Animation

**Dr:** Roadmap

**EGF:** Generation Equality Forum

**GBVIMS:** Gender Based Violence Information Management System

**GIZ:** German Cooperation Service

**GPD:** Gender-Peace-Development

**UNHCR:** High Commissioner for Refugees

**IAS:** International AIDS Society

**IPAS:** Partners for Reproductive Justice in Francophone Africa

**IRC:** International Rescue Committee

**ISEC:** Inform, Sensitize, Educate on COVID 19

**STI:** Sexually Transmitted Infection

**I=I:** Undetectable = Untransmittable

**JIF:** International Day of the Girl

**MINPOSTEL:** Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

**MINAS:** Ministry of Social Affairs

**MINJEC:** Ministry of Youth and Civic Education

**MINPROFF:** Ministry for the Promotion of Women and the Family

**MUPAC:** Cameroon Elderly Mutual Fund

**ICT:** New Information and Communication Technologies

**OCHA:** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
**SDGs:** Sustainable Development Goals  
**OLPC:** Observatories of Public Freedoms in Cameroon  
**WHO:** World Health Organization  
**NGO:** Non-governmental organization  
**UN WOMEN:** United Nations Women's Organization  
**CSOs:** Civil Society Organization  
**PACEL:** Project for the Improvement of the Conditions of Exercise of Public Freedoms in Cameroon  
**IDP:** Internally Displaced Persons  
**PLAFOSCIL:** Platform of Coastal Civil Society Organizations  
**PR:** President of the Republic  
**PROCIVIS:** Active Citizenship Support Program  
**PROMO2DEF:**  
**Ground floor:** Democratic Republic of Congo  
**GTR:** Reset The Mind  
**ICMS:** Incident Management System at COVID 19  
**SMI:** Maternal And Child Health  
**AU:** African Union  
**EU:** European Union  
**1MA:** A Future World  
**UNFPA:** United Nations Population Fund  
**UNICEF:** UNICEF  
**U AFA:** Urgent-Action Fund-Africa  
**GBV:** Gender Based Violence  
**VCD:** Belly And Back Outside  
**HIV/AIDS:** Viruses of Immunodeficiency Human/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrum  
**WFACC:** Women For a Change Cameroon  
**XOESE:** Francophone Women's Fund  
**WHW:** Women Help Women  
**WP:** Word Pulse  
**WWSF:** Women's World Summit Foundation

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*An African proverb says this: "a family is like a forest, when you are outside, it is dense, when you are inside, you see that each tree has its place".* This is a good illustration of the work of Association Femmes et Enfants (AFE) at the end of 2021. Social issues are acute, and each association according to its field of activity, its vision, its mission, its objectives, spares no effort to go to the field in order to implement government policy, and thus contribute to the construction of this edifice which is Cameroon. AFE remains in the spotlight.

This activity report is the fruit of the permanent and sustained collaboration of various institutions and several souls of goodwill who have sacrificed, directly or indirectly, what about their time, what about their intelligence and wisdom, what about the modest financial and logistical contributions , and I forget...

The AFE, through the voice of its president and on behalf of all its members as well as its technical staff, its volunteers, takes this opportunity to take stock to express its deep gratitude to them.

Particularly, our feelings of gratitude go to Cameroon's partner development organizations such as:

- **CORDAID**(Dutch organization) whose support has really allowed us to restore our wartime image,
- **GIZ**(German organization),
- **International AIDS Society**, a global platform of AIDS actors which has made the president of AFE a member of this prestigious organization since July 2018;
- Urgent-Action-Fund-Africa, which through funding enabled this association with two partners BTC and WFAC, to conduct a study to identify the various feminist actors in the sub-region of the Economic and Monetary Community of Africa (CEMAC), to analyze their needs, challenges and priorities;
- Madam the Regional Delegate of MINPROFF who is present and supervises all the activities carried out

- **Word Pulse, UN WOMEN, UNFPA, UNHCR, CS4ME, Coalition For African Lesbian** and many others cannot be left out.
- **The Platform of Civil Society Organizations of the Littoral**, which through its multiple opportunities has given AFE opportunities to improve its visibility, in particular through participation in the civil society forum and the following projects:
  - **ACED**: Acting and Building Together Sustainably),
  - **ISEC**: Inform, Sensitize and Educate on Covid 19.
- **The platform** GenEgaliteECCAS (platform of the Generation Equality of the Economic Community of Central African States) which recognized the work done by AFE and which received two distinctions.

Just as especially, certain sectors of the department of Wouri particularly at the level of the districts especially of MINPROFF, MINJEC and MINSANTE by their institutional sponsorship, their facilitation on their ground, force our admiration and our gratitude.

Several local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) deserve our sincere thanks, such as: 1MONDE A VENIR, ANAJEHCAM, Urban Alternatives (AlterU) Building Together Cameroon (BTC); ANAJEHCAM, whose sense of collaboration and sharing as well as opportunities to strengthen the capacities of our members through training workshops and other conferences have been very enriching for us.

The Cameroonian private sector, notwithstanding its spirit of citizenship, has remained deaf to our appeals for support, despite the great hopes we place in it for the cause of women and children.

Moreover, our deep gratitude goes to all the people whom we cannot name by name, but who have spared no effort in carrying out the activities through their constructive suggestions and their contributions of all kinds.

We do not omit to especially thank all the officials, pupils and students of primary schools, high schools, secular private colleges, universities and colleges, vocational training centers and all the other institutions who trust us in the implementation of our activities by facilitating our access to their respective establishments.

Association Femmes et Enfants

*Pauline Matchim. K.*

## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

**name of the organization:** Women and Children Association (AFE)

**Legal status:** Association declared under the receipt N°063/RDDA/C19/BAPP of March 7, 1996 at the Prefecture of the Department of Wouri.

**Age :** Twenty four (25) years serving women and children

**Vision of the association:** A world without any discrimination against women and where the rights of children and adolescents are respected.

### Goals

- ✓ Promote and defend the rights of women and children through education, awareness, training, information, mediation and the fight against GBV;
- ✓ Contribute to improving the health of all by promoting sexual and reproductive rights;
- ✓ Improve the economic and socio-political powers of women as a factor of empowerment;
- ✓ Make the voice of women and children heard by public authorities.

### Areas of intervention:

- ✓ Rights of the child;
- ✓ Rights of women and young girls: (fight against gender-based violence, STI/AIDS, sexual and reproductive rights, family planning, etc.)
- ✓ Resilience work;
- ✓ Advocacy / Lobbying.

### Areas of intervention covered (Cameroon)

- ✓ Littoral, South-West and Center Region.

### Target groups

- The decentralized services of the State;
- Civil society organizations;
- Schools, colleges, high schools, training centers, universities
- Churches, Homes, Mosques, etc.

### Final beneficiaries

- Girl-mothers, pupils, students, adolescents, street children, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), parents, and teachers;
- children living with a disability,
- People living with HIV and any other discriminated category.

### Address:

- **Executive President / Coordinator:** KENMOGNE MATCHIM Pauline
- **General secretary:** MBEM MBEM Lazare Carnot
- **Project manager:** AYA KARIM
- **Fund raising officer:** YUGA RTAN
- **Program Officer:** Murriel NYAMBO
- **Telephone :**+237 674 384 826 / 699 849 556
- **E-mail :**[afemmesenfants@yahoo.fr](mailto:afemmesenfants@yahoo.fr)
- **Seat :** Boulevard de la République, place called DEIDO public school

Bank account: ECO BANK

**WOMEN AND CHILDREN ASSOCIATION 0000601318995801 62**

**Iban: CM21100290000601318995801 62**

**SWIFT: ECOCCMCX**

# ABSTRACT

"Association Femmes et Enfants" presents its 2021 activity report as a year of success despite the persistence of COVID 19 and especially with the receipt of two awards for the work done within the framework of generation equality. Indeed, on June 10, 2021 in KINSHASSA, the president of AFE was awarded during the KINSHASA conference for the preparation of the Generation Equality forum which was to be held in Paris from June 29 to July 02, 2021. She also won the prize for the most committed person on the issue of generation equality by the GENERATION EQUALITY platform on November 19, 2021. .

Despite the absence of a funder who supports the activities, the achievements have been concentrated around the major events that punctuated the year 2021 and which serve as a framework for raising awareness, education, training and questioning the topic of critical issues related to young people, adolescents, girls and women.

In its strategy, high schools, colleges, university institutions, vocational training centers, churches and mosques, a few families and non-school environments have been given priority; we do not forget the many women's associations and radio broadcasts.

This endurance work carried out by the technical staff of the AFE, allows us to highlight three main points, namely, the main achievements, the results and the lessons learned, the difficulties and the prospects.

## **A. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS**

Activities are generally carried out at four levels: working with young people, women, at platform level and with other organizations.

### **❖ Work with young people (girls and boys)**

This work revolved around: February 11: Youth Day; May 28: Menstrual Hygiene Day; June 16: Day of the African Child; October 11: International Day of the Girl; December 1-17: AIDS month. AFE took to the field during these celebrations; it relied on meetings, awareness raising, radio broadcasts, publications, caravans in establishments, etc.

The main topics covered during these days generally relate to: sexual harassment in the school environment, deviance in the youth environment, risky behavior (drugs, prostitution, indecent clothing,) sex education, the health of the reproduction and sexual rights, sexuality issues in schools, family planning, support for children with special needs, clandestine abortions, safe sex, etc.

The year 2021, which follows the year 2020 still called the year COVID 19, continued to undergo the upheavals linked to the pandemic. The school program has suffered a blow, especially in high schools where there is a large young population. There was a review of timetables: almost all these structures

which supervise 3/4 of the school population have switched to the half-time system. As a result, it is no longer easy to meet all the students in one visit, as in the past. This has led to a drop in activities in these places, because the lack of financial means does not allow us to go and come back.

It is clear that many of our activities have experienced a certain slowdown due to the new barrier measures that are necessary in the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic.

The year 2021, despite these difficulties, has not been easy. The Women and Children Association within the framework of the ISEC project, carried by 1MA which provides the executive secretariat of PLAFOSCIL, has been involved in awareness-raising activities in the fight against the pandemic among internally displaced populations, the elderly through MUPAC, as well as primary school students, categories that have been completely forgotten in the many awareness campaigns. Hand washing, distribution and wearing of masks and gels, respect for physical distancing, were the highlight of the activity carried out in the field.

The ban on meetings of more than 50 people out of respect for physical distancing (government measure) will also have made it possible to develop online meetings. We can conclude that this year 2021 will have made it possible to discover technology differently, and we have lost count of the number of online meetings in which we have participated, with an average of two meetings per week, that is to say approximately, 8 per month. This certainly reduces the costs of transport and room rental, but which are all also absorbed by the purchase of INTERNET credit.

### **❖ Work with women**

As for the previous axis, it took place around major events.

March 8: day of struggle for women's rights; May 15: Family Day; May 22: Day of eclampsia and pre-eclampsia; June 26: Widows Day; July 31: African Women's Day; October 15: women living in rural areas and sustainable management of productive resources. Moreover, the AFE was involved in the 16 days of activism against violence against women from November 26 to December 10.

In 2021, the same pattern was followed, but the number of women taking part in the activities decreased significantly, due to the fear of being contaminated: which led us to talk to the women about mental health, because with the advent of COVID 19, poor information management was observed. Women, children and families live in unparalleled stress related to the loss of their sources of income and the acquisition of new habits, really not knowing which saints to devote them to.

### **❖ Working with platforms:**

The Women and Children Association is a member of several local, national and even international platforms; but in this report, we will only retain two platforms with which we worked in particular during the year 2021.

The work with PLAFOSCIL led AFE to participate in two projects which are:

- **ACED:** Acting and Building Together Sustainably: the aim was to create a framework for multi-actor dialogue made up of administrative and traditional authorities, RLAs, the private sector, etc.
- **ISEC:** Inform, Sensitize and Educate on Covid 19.

Working with the Generation Equality platform has enabled us to:

- Participate in online meetings on Generation Equality in Mexico City and Paris;
- Go on a mission to Gabon to raise awareness among Gabonese women on Generation Equality issues;
- Participate in the KINSHASA conference organized by President Félix TSHISEKEDI;
- Conduct a study on the mapping of feminist movements in the CEMAC zone;
- Discover the fund for French-speaking women (XOESE) and participate in the French-speaking forum organized by this structure which was held from November 22 to 26 online.

### ❖ **Work in collaboration with other actors**

With regard to work with other actors, particularly local NGOs, development partners and institutions, we can retain capacity building and training activities on various themes.

## **B- Results obtained and lessons learned**

Of the main results retained during the year, we can retain:

- Institutions and organizations increasingly receptive to reproductive health and GBV issues;
- Improved collaboration with the public authorities, especially the achievements of the ACED project, MINPROFF and MINJEC;
- An increasingly large and diversified number of the target which is becoming increasingly large and varied given the multiple solicitations.
- An increased interest in issues relating to sexuality;
- Increasing demand from the target audience for educational talks, listening and resilience work;
- Receiving an award at the KINSHASA conference for work done on Generation Equality;
- Recognition of Generation Equality platform on commitment to work on

women's rights.

## **C- The main difficulties encountered**

- No Coverage of services, in particular training for trainers and facilitators who work in the field, educational talks, resilience work and psychological support for victims of GBV. Our work is done free of charge;
- Difficulty in setting up a team and stabilizing it because the notions of volunteering and voluntary work are very poorly understood by the general public and even young people;
- Difficulties in setting up action/animation clubs on life and love in high schools, colleges and vocational training centres.
- Severe lack of financial resources and lack of an organization that can support our activities in the field;
- The prevalence of prejudice;
- Lack of sensitivity of corporate citizens;
- Insufficient training to respond to questions of gender identity and sexual orientation in schools;
- Failure in seeking funding from several actors;
- With regard to gender-based violence, despite all the capacity-building seminars organized, the whatsapp groups of gender experts, GBV Task force, and others, do not really manage to put in place a good referral system that could help victims to break the silence, with psychological support that would enable them to reconcile with themselves and move on;
- Difficulties in obtaining funds, from the Gender Department of the African Union, relating to the gender-sensitive budget, yet an agreement has been signed since March 27, 2019 between the AU and the AFE.

## **D- Highlighting perspectives**

The emerging perspectives are worth highlighting:

- At a time when we are only talking about generation equality action coalitions, which normally must mobilize governments, women's, feminist and youth organizations, international organizations and the private sector to catalyze collective action, spark conversations global and local relationships between generations, spur public and private investment, achieve concrete progress in gender equality across generations for girls and women, it is time to know that gender equality is not just a goal, it is essential to the survival of the planet, to realizing the rights of women and girls, and to building new economic and social systems that include and work for everyone. There is a need to train women in all directions, particularly in Central Africa so that they are at the same level of understanding and so that their voices are heard in the concert of nations;
- Work in the search for capacity building opportunities for members and partner organizations, especially on issues related to women's rights, to respond to new challenges;
- Focus on finding partners able to support our activities over the long term (at least over a year);
- Reflect on the systems of health services sensitive to young people in the Cameroonian context, particularly in terms of sexual and reproductive health;
- Contribute to a better integration of sex education in school curricula in Cameroon by organizing a symposium on this subject.
- Find a partner for the printing of the "guide to raped girls" that AFE staff has been designing in French and English since 2020.

# INTRODUCTION

Like every year, Association Femmes et Enfants is required to produce its report for reasons of performance and professionalism which are required of any serious organization.

This is the primary meaning of the presentation of this report. It has two objectives: the first is to inform and report to its various partners; the second is to do our self-assessment, in order to take advantage of the limits of the present and correct and/or improve future actions.

It is a question of compiling the reports of all the activities, actions, missions carried out within the organization during the year 2021. In reality, the production of the final report is the subject of internal discussions.

As in previous years, we have remained constant in our areas of interest, namely, sexuality and reproductive health education, with particular emphasis on sexual and reproductive rights, family planning, gender-based violence despite the lack of a good referral system, the rights of women and children, resilience work with all kinds of victims. We do not forget to mention the work done on Generation Equality.

Our work is in line with SDG 3: enable everyone to live in good health and promote the well-being of all and at all ages,

4: ensure access for all to quality education, on an equal footing, and promote lifelong learning opportunities and

5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

For Generation Equality, we are working on three of the six themes of the Action Coalition for Accelerating Gender Equality.

These six action coalition themes are:

- o gender-based violence;

- Justice and Economic Rights;
- Bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Feminist action for climate justice;
- Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality;
- Feminist movements and leadership.

So we ask ourselves: according to SDG 3, can we live in good health without access to education? In this case, how to help the uneducated young mother or woman to understand the stakes of family planning and the need to send her children to school and to say no to forced and early marriages? Should sex education be taught in school? How and why ? What can we do to empower grassroots women if they do not have the minimum information required to hope for future well-being?

Sexuality education is an integral part of EDUCATION which is a universal right. Its integration into school curricula is not a subject of debate. Good questions revolve around the what and the how. In other words, we must adapt it to our context and take into account the ages as well as the level of knowledge of the children.

Finally, when it comes to SDG 5 on EQUALITY, we should know that progress on key gender equality indicators has stalled and no country has yet achieved full gender equality. It is up to us to tackle the issues that are among the most intractable barriers to equality, from violence to climate change and economic systems that leave women and girls behind.

All this work done on reproductive health, family planning, HIV/AIDS and STIs, sexual and reproductive rights, gender-based violence, the rights of children, girls and boys, the work of resilience with victims of trauma as well as gender equality issues, remain the leitmotif of our activities.

Our activities are in line with the international commitments of the Cameroonian government, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Agenda 2063 for the Africa we want.

Regarding the six themes of the action coalition, we believe that Central Africa in general is not sufficiently mobilized around the issue. Discussions must stop

being reserved for a certain elite. All women should be given the opportunity to participate and take a stand on issues that concern them. Women would also benefit from identifying actions that, if implemented and fully funded, can lead to lasting, transformative change and help ensure that women, girls and gender-diverse people everywhere can fully enjoy of their human rights.

Our report is structured around two main parts:

- ✓ Activities carried out during the year (Part 1).
- ✓ The results obtained and lessons learned which make it possible to analyze and highlight the achievements, the difficulties encountered and the new challenges identified (Part 2).



# FIRST PART

## I- Activities carried out

This part will present the work in a young environment, with women, and in collaboration with other actors; which are all points that will form the frame and the background of this presentation.

### 1.1-WORK IN A YOUNG ENVIRONMENT

**OFFICIAL ALERT:** Warning warning !!!!!!I

The State of Cameroon protects youth: "drug use destroys youth". Drugs are a way of no return, it is better never to start. Drugs are a threat to my future; no cannabis, no TRAMOL, I chose health. No to BANGA. No to hemp in my life. All drugs kill. Cultivation, trafficking and consumption of drugs is guaranteed prison.

It is through the message above that the MINPOSTEL urges the youth during the school year and the holidays of 2021. This is proof that the public authorities have a benevolent look at our youth who are suffering and who are in lack of benchmarks . On closer inspection, drugs are one of the factors that prevent them from reaching their potential.

But it is clear that the deviations in the young environment start from the fact that there is a lack of preparation of the young person to return to his adult life, and especially from a poor management of the impulses linked to puberty. This creates a personal conflict that eventually leads to lack of self-control. Violence of all kinds towards classmates and teachers, insults, lack of respect, to name but a few examples, are all things that show that hard work must be done among young people.

The causes of drug taking in school are numerous: following, group pressure, frustrations of life, mood disorders, lack of self-confidence and self-esteem, family problems , etc

Lack of knowledge and ignorance are, among other things, one of the causes of the consumption of these synthetic chemical substances in schools. Indeed, those of the pupils, who do not know the misdeeds of it, are curious and try on an experimental basis, some being influenced by the others.

Each meeting with young people is an opportunity to talk about these issues which are insidious and against which drastic measures have not yet been taken in the different living environments of these young people.

### **1.1.1-Participation in the celebration of the youth day**

Youth Day in Cameroon is an excellent moment of communion with young people and their nation. Faithful to its tradition, AFE actively took part in it in order to discuss with young people throughout the week. Two great moments marked his involvement in the activities:

- ❖ **Participation in kick-off meetings held on January 25** at the Douala 5 Multifunctional Center in KOTTO. The president of AFE has been appointed as vice president of the WORK PROMOTION AND VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT commission. After several preparatory meetings, we had to educate young people at the College of Laureates, where about 200 young people selected from three colleges came to participate in the educational talk. The other two colleges being Akwa-Nord High School and BAHO College. These young people were told about the evils that undermine their different environments: we also and above all talked about drugs, family planning, STDs/AIDS, girl/boy relationships. The goal was to train ambassadors to be spokespersons among their peers.
- ❖ **Sensitization of Dominican youth and young people of the PK10 district.** The 250 young people present were interviewed on the theme: "Youth and the use of violence at school and social level". and also on "Drugs in schools, the consequences". This forum allowed us to explain to young people what drugs are, what their different forms are and what the harmful effects on health are, and so on.
- ❖ **The Association for Development and Female Entrepreneurship** also invited the AFE to educate the people of BEPANDA at the head of Block 4 on issues of sexuality, new information and communication technologies, and educate young girls as a guarantee of sustainable development. 150 young boys and girls and parents were present at this meeting.
- ❖ **Awareness of young people on deviant behaviors in their environment:**

One of the highlights of AFE's intervention during the youth week focused on "raising awareness of deviant behavior", the objective being to make them understand what deviance is, the risks are associated and above all the appropriate attitudes so as not to succumb to it.

Concretely, the work focused on:

- **What is deviance?**: deviation from the norms and values of our society;
- **Some deviant behaviors**: prostitution, alcoholism, smoking, drug use, greed, banditry, sexual vagrancy, etc.
- **Some causes of these deviant behaviors**: ignorance of pre-established rules (citizenship, high school or college rules, etc.) lack of family supervision, lack of a critical mind on television programs and series, social networks, mimicry, bad company, low esteem of oneself, misery, poverty, unemployment, etc.

➤ **What can be done to eradicate them (behaviours to adopt)?** Learn to become an exemplary citizen (who knows and respects the laws and regulations of the Republic, the emblems, the buildings), etc.

In 2021, most of the sensitization led us to the Lycee Bilingue de BEPANDA and to the College de la Perfection, College Laval, College Etoile, where children were made aware of the issues of sexual harassment and other violence in schools.

We insist a lot on this theme, because it concerns young girls as well as young boys. It is observed that since the advent of COVID 19, sexual violence has increased due to a relaxation of custody of children by parents first; then the truce experienced by education for this same cause and finally, by ignorance of the victims, the populations and finally by lack of places to complain and personalized support.

The GBVIMS (Gender Based Violence Information Management System) which is the classification tool for gender-based violence established six main types of GBV, created in 2006 by OCHA, UNHCR and IRC, is poorly known by several associations working on issues of GBV.

These six types are:

1. Rape;
2. sexual assault;
3. Physical aggression;
4. Forced marriage ;
5. Denial of opportunities or services;
6. Psychological violence.

Sexual harassment is a reality in schools. We know this because of the closeness we have with young people. We try to see together and dissect the causes, the consequences and the methods of prevention.

The Cameroonian Penal Code in its Article 302-1 in Law 007/2016 of July 12, 2016 relating to the Protection of the Rights of Women, the Family and the Child deals with sexual harassment

- 1) Is punished with imprisonment from six months to one year, and a fine of one hundred thousand to one million francs (100,000 to 1,000,000), whoever, using the authority conferred on him by his position, harasses another by giving orders, uttering threats, imposing constraints or exerting pressure in order to obtain favors of a sexual nature.
- 2) The penalty is imprisonment for one to three years if the victim is a minor;
- 3) The penalty is imprisonment for three to five years, if the perpetrator is responsible for the education of the victim.

From the above, we see that:

- Young girls and boys are victims of rape, in all their living environments with an increase in cases since the advent of COVID 19;

- Sexual harassment, falls into the category of sexual assault, it is forms of sexual contact without consent, which do not result in or are not based on an act of penetration. Other examples are: attempted rape, kissing, caressing and unwanted touching of the genitals and buttocks, etc. Female genital mutilation and cutting fall into this category because they are acts that injure the sexual organs.
- Physical attacks are not left out; they exist in young circles and at school. Among others, we can cite: blows, slaps, strangulation, jostling, burns, the use of weapons, etc. Whatever attacks cause pain, discomfort or injury.
- Forced and/or early marriage is also part of the violence of which girls are victims.

The causes of this violence such as sexual harassment, their consequences and methods of prevention must be discussed with pupils and young people in general.

Sexual harassment can take many forms: verbal, auditory, physical and visual.

## **1- Who are the actors involved?**

A person: (man or woman), (boy or girl) vulnerable or in a position of subordination and another (man or woman) (boy or girl) in a situation of power or authority.

### **2- Events: it can happen between:**

- Girls and boys by public denigrations, repeated small gifts;
- Teachers and pupils by regular unjustified punishments of repeated small gifts, repeated oral interrogations to the same group of pupils in which the subject is found (girl/or boy), fanciful notes for the benefit of the pupil, touching, inappropriate gestures, rude comments, repeated dates;
- Threats without reason, insults, and invitations to have a body massage, insistent looks, compliments after tutorials, etc.
- Repeated requests for services, exit proposals, discriminatory treatment without reason, unjustified warnings;
- Requests for sex in exchange for a favor or advantage,
- Insistent requests for a date, by not accepting a negative response, requests for caresses,
- Unnecessary physical contact, including unwanted touching,
- Derogatory language and/or remarks towards women (or men, depending on the circumstances),
- Remarks of a sexual nature about a person's appearance or actions,
- The display or circulation of pornographic material, images or drawings of a sexual nature, sexually explicit graffiti or other images of a sexual nature (including online),
- Jokes of a sexual nature, bragging about one's sexual prowess,
- Bullying based on gender or of a sexual nature,
- Spreading sexual rumors or gossip (including online).
- etc

### 3- Causes

In some schools, the space is not suitable for girls. The boys' toilets are not separated from the girls' toilets. There are no boys' and girls' changing rooms. There are unused, unsanitary classrooms. We also have beliefs, traditional and culture: in all cultures, men too often think that they can dispose of women's bodies as they see fit. For some, girls are described as flowers made available and at the whim of boys.

Even though harassment is a violation of the rights of girls and women, the latter are seen as culprits. It is considered that it is their fault if they are bothered and attacked because of their behavior or outfit deemed to be provocative. For fear of not being listened to or of being rejected by their family, they prefer not to denounce their attackers and do not dare to break the silence.

- There are no criminal penalties for harassers: when they speak out and file complaints with officials, girls are not listened to. Judicial complaints are rarely filed and sometimes even almost never result in legal sanctions.
- **Gender inequalities:** Sexual harassment is one of the many inequalities and discriminations faced by girls around the world. The lack of information on the phenomenon but also the lack of awareness among boys of girls' rights and sex education continues to fuel the phenomenon.

**4- The consequences:** Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination based on sex. When a person is sexually harassed at school, they may feel their dignity and sense of security violated, their studies disrupted, and they may feel unable to reach their full potential in life. If nothing is done to eliminate sexual harassment in schools, it can escalate into violent behavior.

We also have moral and psychological violence against girls, deaths, dropping out of school: in some communities, having a girl who is sexually harassed tarnishes the honor of the family. Parents are so anxious to avoid shame that they have an incentive to keep their daughter at home. Some parents are afraid that their daughters will not find a husband. This can cause them to shut up their daughter if they have been stalked or even raped. These practices also lead to isolation. Sexual harassment can have both physical and psychological consequences for the victims.

**On the educational level:** loss of concentration at school, drop in school performance, repeated failures, school dropout, frequent change of establishment, lack of consideration for teaching.

**On the psychosocial level:** shame, shyness, loss of confidence and self-esteem, injustice, guilt, withdrawal, antipathy for men, antipathy for women (misogyny), marriage precocious and or forced, debauchery, violence, aggressiveness.

**On the psycho-sanitary level:** great emotivity, constant fear, anorexia (loss of appetite), nervous breakdown, arterial hypertension, heart attack, frigidity, menstruation disorder, risk of STIs, risk of HIV-AIDS.

A student who is sexually harassed may lose interest in the curriculum and all school activities. He/she may miss and drop out of classes or leave school entirely.

## **5- To whom should a case of sexual harassment be reported?**

Anyone who is a victim of sexual harassment can contact: To the Principal, supervisors, censors, to the teacher; social services: DAJEC, DAPROFF, Social Affairs, public security forces, to the associations defending the interests of the school or any other recognized human rights association; to judicial authorities.

## **6- Methods of prevention and Recommendations**

Everyone should be aware of the existence of an anti-sexual harassment policy and established procedures for resolving complaints. To do this, the Ministries of Secondary Education and Youth, Civic Education, Women and the Family, and Social Affairs can:

- Design anti-bullying policies at school;
- Distribute these policies to everyone as soon as they are in place;
- Raise awareness of policies among teachers, school staff, students, parents by including them in policy documents;
- Provide comprehensive training, including to those in positions of responsibility, on the content of the policies and sensitize them to human rights issues.

### **For the MINPROFF,**

There is the establishment of a good referral system that will specifically take into account gender-based violence in schools. We believe that with this service, access to the executioner and the sanctions administered to the executioners, will encourage young victims to break the silence around the issue. Moreover, we would like a plea to be made to bring the public prosecutors to take up cases if the executioners are protected.

### **1.1.2-Menstrual hygiene day**

In Cameroon, female students in general often have difficulty managing their menstrual period. They face practical, social, economic and cultural problems. Several difficulties are encountered:

- The high cost of marketed sanitary napkins;
- Lack of water for washing or cleaning protections in schools;
- Dirty, unpleasant to use and unhygienic toilets;
- The lack of hygienic products for personal hygiene (vaginal and anal);
- Lack of appropriate places to dry menstrual linen;
- Lack of access to pain medication;
- The inadequacy or non-existence of facilities used for waste management;
- Lack of privacy to change menstrual pads;
- Leaks caused by poor quality sanitary protection;

- The lack of resources for washing such as soap or basins;
- A lack of knowledge about the course of menstruation;
- Limited access to counseling and referral services;
- Fears linked to traditional myths and beliefs;
- Feeling of embarrassment and low self-esteem;
- Lack of family and community support;
- Certain religious practices that consecrate the impurity of the girl in menstrual period.

Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated on May 28 every year. We dare to approach this subject on the rules which are taboo, and on which the young girl by ignorance, accepts everything and especially the non-scientific nor correct information.

Advice to follow during menstruation:

- Change towels two to three times a day; (every 4 to 6 hours);
- Choose towels according to your flow;
- Wash twice a day;
- Do not use soap for menstruation, but clean water;
- Wash hands with soap after changing diapers;
- Do not overlap two towels;
- Do not throw used towels haphazardly and anywhere;
- After use, it is advisable to wash them and put them in the plastic that is sold with the diapers, before throwing them in the trash;
- Do not use different towels at the same time; use either disposable pads, tampons or washable pads;
- Avoid throwing them in modern toilets;
- less than 15% of girls in Cameroon know about menstrual hygiene management.

1,300 girls were reached at the College of Perfection (500) College of the Sun (200) and Saint Charles Lwanga Parish (200) and Home workshops (100).

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that in Africa, 66% of girls do not have good information about menstruation before they experience their first period, making the experience negative, and sometimes traumatic. The same source indicates that on the African continent, one in ten girls of school age is regularly absent from school during her period.

The objective is to make understand that there is a need in our schools to have spaces for girls. We need to break the silence around periods because they are natural, not dirty, not shameful.

In 2021, this day did not have any particular celebration because the advent of COVID 19 seriously disrupted school timetables, and the mi system time established in some local high schools, still does not give us the latitude to reach a large number.

Awareness-raising radio broadcasts were nevertheless carried out in a local radio station. (Radio Audace, Mirror, and Carrefour and Véritas).

### 1.1.3-Day of the African Child

The Day of the African Child, which is celebrated on June 16 of each year, gives us the opportunity to raise awareness among young children in schools. The celebration this year brought us to three major primary schools, namely: the Difference school; the school the voice of the Sentinels; BASSA Popular School.

Children have the right to health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education and any other service aimed at meeting their basic needs. There is therefore an urgent need to protect all children caught up in crises against threats, trafficking of all kinds, recruitment which weighs on their lives, their well-being and their dignity. They are the most vulnerable in armed conflicts, and can even be victims of targeted and indiscriminate attacks, suffer acts of abuse such as sexual violence, gender-based violence, kidnappings. We must put an end to these violations of their rights, so that when they grow up they do not think that violence is normal and acceptable.

Thus, protecting the child means:

- Ensuring the safety of girls, boys, adolescents and adolescents means building separate toilets for girls and boys, well lit and safe;
- Help girls stay in school where they are less likely to be victims of early marriage or suffer other violations of their rights;
- Find the space needed to protect children and provide them with essential services;
- Strengthen the security of children and young people and enable them to enjoy a better future and provide them with the resources they need;
- It is to meet their other social, cultural, spiritual, cognitive, belonging and emotional needs, because there are not only material needs.

There is a need to realize the rights of children affected by a humanitarian crisis in the country. Child protection in emergency situations includes specific activities implemented by child protection actors (families, parents, educators, State,) both at national and community level. Humanitarian staff in charge of building local capacities must be able to work on this. In all decisions concerning children, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.

***Heart of the message to parents: "The needs of the child are not only material needs (health, schooling, clothing, nutrition). To these must be added emotional, social, cognitive and spiritual needs.***

#### 1.1.4- Family planning

***Every young person has the right to sexual and reproductive health information regardless of demographics. Ensuring hard-to-reach populations have access to SRHR information is important for their health and well-being.***

On the occasion of Family Planning Day, September 26, AFE trained young association leaders in family planning: 40 young girls and boys to raise awareness among others. Peer educators must be involved at all levels.

We need to document the difficulties that young adolescent girls in the community face in relation to their empowerment and the respect of their rights. For them, efforts must be made to improve the situation.

We would benefit, for example, from creating spaces for young people within health facilities, with staff committed to their cause who do not pass value judgments on their presence, their illnesses, and who give them scientifically accurate answers.

Engaging boys is equally essential to achieving gender equality. They can adopt positive behaviors that respect girls and also help ensure girls' access to health services. Boys too need to access these services for their own good.

#### 1.1.5-Celebration of the International Day of the Girl:

For the celebration of the 10th edition of the International Day of the Girl (IDD), in the absence of the theme proposed by the MINPROFF in this year 2021, we fell back on the international theme which spoke of: "***Digital generation, our generation***"

Several activities were organized in local high schools and colleges. The work was done in collaboration with DAPROFF 2, DAJEC 2, 4 and 5 as well as the RESET THE MIND Association.

Educational talks have been organized on the theme and here is their content:

##### ❖ **What girls need to know**

Girls know their digital realities and the solutions they need to open pathways to freedom of expression, joy and unlimited potential. Together, let's open these pathways on the International Day of the Girl Child. The COVID 19 pandemic has accelerated digital platforms to learn, earn and connect, while shining a spotlight on girls' diverse digital realities. Every girl of this generation, regardless of race, gender, language, ethnicity or age should have access to

technology, regardless of ability, economic status and geographic origin. UNICEF figures show that:

- 2.2 billion people under the age of 25 do not have access to the internet at home, with girls more likely to be deprived;
- Globally, the percentage of women among science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates is below 15% in more than two-thirds of countries;
- And in middle- and high-income countries, only 14% of top performers in science or math expect to work in science or math, compared to 26% of boys;
- Only 22% of artificial intelligence (AI) professionals worldwide are women;
- 132 million girls aged 6 to 17 are still deprived of school;
- 63% of illiterate adults in the world are women;
- 1 in 4 girls does not go to school in developing countries;
- 12 million girls are forcibly married every year before the age of 18, that's nearly 33,000 girls a day.

### **What are the barriers to a girl's education?**

- Poverty and illiteracy of parents;
- Ignoring ;
- early marriages and pregnancies;
- Educational choice favorable to boys;
- Harmful cultural norms;
- gender-based violence;
- The burden of domestic and agro-pastoral work;
- The distance from home to school;
- Hostile and not always favorable school environment (lack of space for girls in menstrual period and poor management of sanitary napkins, harassment of all kinds).

### **Why invest in girls' education?**

- The young girl constitutes a majority part of the global and national population;
- Investing in girls' education is also a right since education is included in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, as well as in the Maputo Protocol. ;
- No development initiative can take place without women;
- The girl's education will promote a strong healthy family and a happy life;
- Finally, it must be recognized that "to educate a girl is to educate an entire generation, a nation. »

### **What can be done to achieve equitable and sustainable emergence through girls' education?**

- Breaking down barriers of discrimination to girls' access to education, stereotypes that hold girls back, as well as harmful cultural norms and traditional practices;

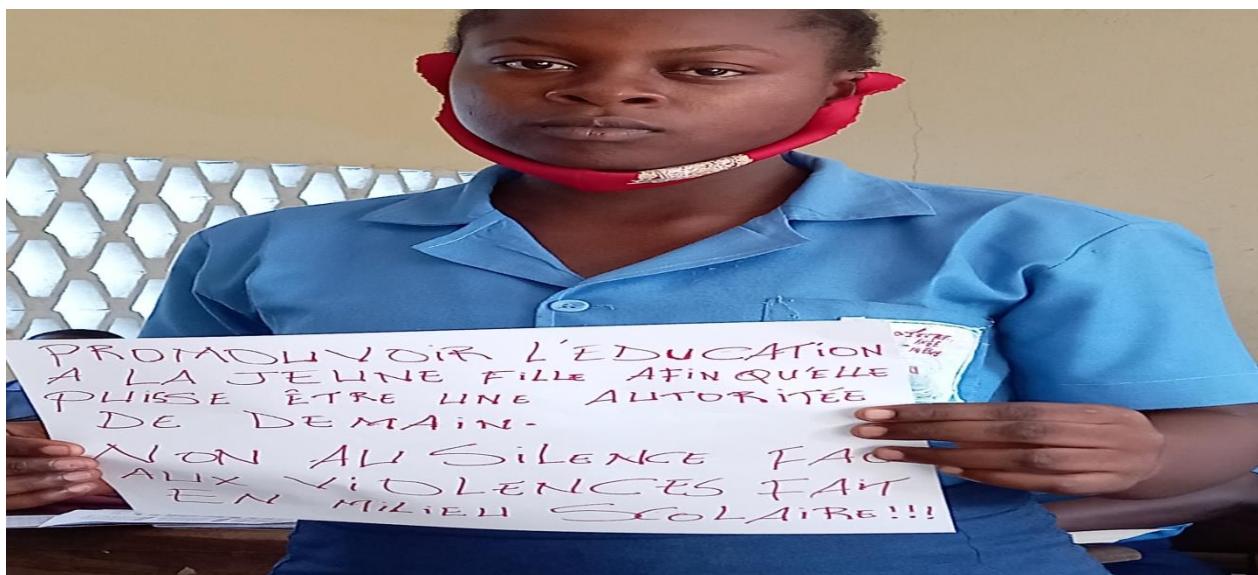
- Educate parents on the importance of girls' education by showing them the benefits for the girl, the family, the community and the nation;
- Create spaces for girls as well as favorable environments for their development;
- Offer scholarships in sectors where there are few girls, such as the scientific series for the French-speaking sub-system and "sciences" for the Anglo-Saxon sub-system.

### **Young girl, how can you contribute to the emergence of your country?**

You must be disciplined, conscientious, and be courageous. Take charge of your life since you have the opportunity to study. Forget everything that can harm you and inform yourself before entering the sexual life which can only bring you inconvenience of all kinds such as unprotected sex, early pregnancy and STIs / HIV / AIDS, clandestine abortions etc The activities were carried out in the following establishments and groups:

- College Sainte Julienne PK19: 600 pupils, girls and boys combined;
- Mongo Joseph High School: 400 students
- Polyvalent Islamic College of Douala 2; 100 girls
- SACRED HEART College of Douala 2; 600
- Evangelical College of Douala 2; 200 girls
- BONASSAMA Bilingual High School; 200 girls
- The girls of the BTC Association in YAOUNDE; 40 girls
- The women of NDOKOA in the Department of Haute SANAGA. 50 women

This activity is often difficult to organize, because it takes place only a few weeks after the start of the school year. We were able to distribute 200 packets of sanitary napkins to young internally displaced girls at the Collège Sainte Julienne and the Lycée Bilingue de BONASSAMA.





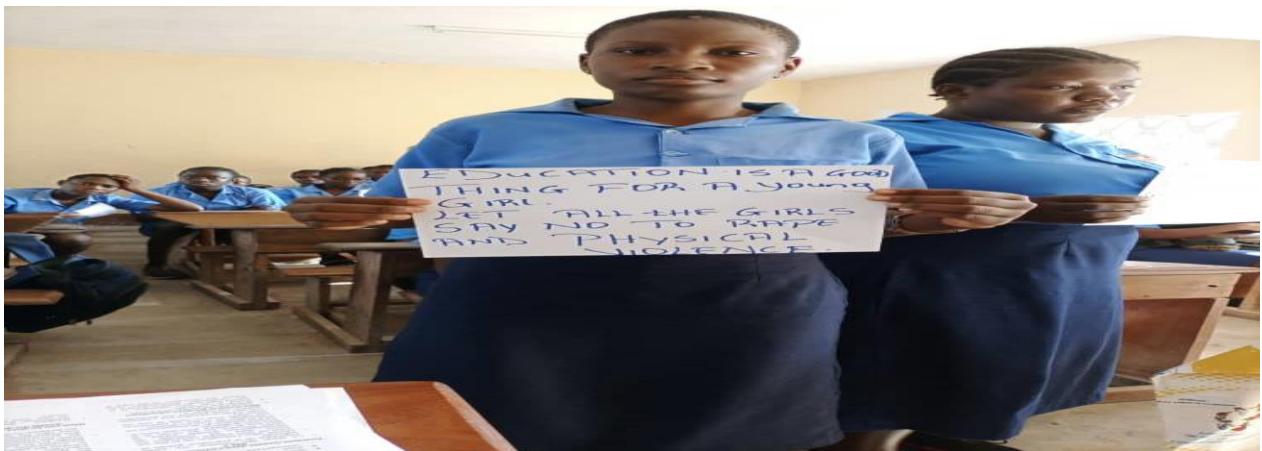
Teenage girls and women of BTC and AFE



International Day of the Girl, Sainte Julienne College PK 19 Douala in collaboration with DAJEC 5



International Day of the Girl at the Lycée Bilingue de BONASSAMA, in collaboration with DAJEC 4



**fb LIVE**

**100% jeune**  
Mercredi 20 octobre 2021

**Sur @ reglocameroun**

**16h**

**On Djoss**  
Les obstacles au leadership féminin

**Présentée par:** Philomène Djussi

**Pauline Matchim Simo**  
Présidente Association Femmes et Enfants

**8188** **reglo.org** **100% jeune** **ACMS**

**11 octobre 2021**  
**10ème Edition**

**JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE LA FILLE**

**Notre programme cette semaine**

**Lundi 11 : Collège Ste Julienne Ngoma**  
**Mercredi 13: Collège ge franco arabe**  
**Vendredi 15: Collège Orchidée**

**AFE - Association Femmes et Enfants**  
Tél: 674384826



*sacred heart college*

**ASSOCIATION POUR L'ÉPANOULISSEMENT DE LA JEUNE FEMME**

**CAMPAGNE DE SENSIBILISATION DES JEUNES FILLES RÉFUGIÉES SUR LES VIOLENCE BASÉES SUR LE GENRE**

**VENDREDI 01 OCTOBRE 2021**

- Lieu: AKWA Centre de la promotion de la femme et la famille (salle des fêtes)**
- heures: 14h**
- Intervenants :**

**FRANCK NYEMB ENCADREUR SOCIAL**

**MADAME PAULINE MATCHIM EXPERT EN SANTÉ DE LA REPRODUCTION**

**Dr MELOMBI BORRIS MEDECIN GENERALISTE**

## 1.1.6-AIDS Month

### 1.1.6.1: Formation and procedure

AFE and its institutional partner DAJEC raised awareness on the fight against HIV/AIDS 2021, recognized as the 6th edition of the Cameroonian AIDS month as recommended by our MINISTRY OF HEALTH. Other countries celebrated the 33rd edition of the World Day against HIV/AIDS. This pandemic continues to wreak havoc, and we are sparing no effort to play our part in the fight against this pandemic, especially since this fight has experienced a relaxation due to COVID 19. Our slogan has remained the same as that of previous years "YES TO LIFE, NO TO AIDS IN YOUNG ENVIRONMENTS".

To better prepare ourselves, AFE has strengthened the capacities of the staff of DAJEC 2, 4 and 5 as well as the EMAPURS; these trainings took place according to the following schedule:

- Douala 5, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, with 6 participants;
- Douala 4, November 29<sup>th</sup> with 8 participants;

- Douala 2, November 30<sup>th</sup> with 8 participants.

Multiple-choice test questions were offered to the participants beforehand to measure the degree of their knowledge of HIV/AIDS and afterwards to measure the efforts made. The atmosphere, as usual, is always good-natured and we want to see the many questions asked by the participants as proof of this.

The comment we can make is that knowledge is certainly acquired, but there is always a lack of confidence when it comes to talking about it. However, education remains if not the only one, at least, one of the means to provide the response to HIV/AIDS.

Given the time allocated, reception in the establishments took into account the realities of the moment. Sometimes the team went into classrooms or raised awareness in the middle of the playground. The days selected were respected, but some establishments were slow to give their agreement.

We would particularly like to thank the various DAJEC delegates, especially that of Douala 5 who mobilized his entire team for the manufacture of the pins.

### **Raising awareness in our various locations focused on the following points:**

- Take your HIV test and get your results. Only screening can reveal one's serological status;
- To know my serological status is to begin care, to protect my life and that of my/my partner and to prolong my lifespan;
- Screening services are available in all hospitals:

Referral hospital, central hospitals, regional hospitals, district hospitals, district medical centers (CMA), denominational and secular health facilities, medico-social centers.

- Get tested after any exposure (unprotected sex, blood transfusion, soiled objects), before any sexual engagement, before marriage, if you are a victim of rape, in the event of pregnancy, at any age. To be taken care of in the event of positive results, refer to the nearest hospital center where you will find the care units (UPEC) and approved treatment centers (CTA). These include: Referral hospitals, central, regional, districts, denominational and secular health facilities, Medico-social centers.
- Proper medication intake makes people living with HIV UNDETECTABLE AND UNTRANSMITTABLE. AND WE SAY I=I.

### **WARNING**

<b>GOOD TO KNOW AND REMEMBER</b>	<b>GOOD TO KNOW AND TO REMEMBER</b>
<b>Difference Between HIV and AIDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HIV is a virus;</li> <li>➤ it is transferable;</li> <li>➤ cannot be reversed;</li> <li>➤ It is present in the majority of the population;</li> </ul>	<b>Difference between HIV and AIDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ HIV is a Virus</li> <li>➤ it is transmissible</li> <li>➤ It cannot be reversed</li> <li>➤ More of population have it</li> <li>➤ One can have HIV without AIDS</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ You can have HIV without having AIDS.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIDS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is an advanced stage of poor health due to the HIV virus;</li> <li>➤ Not transferable;</li> <li>➤ Reversible;</li> <li>➤ A small population is affected;</li> <li>➤ Can't have it without HIV.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is an advanced stage of poor health due to HIV virus;</li> <li>➤ Not transferable;</li> <li>➤ Reversible;</li> <li>➤ Small population has it;</li> <li>➤ Cannot have it without HIV.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AIDS</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAIN MEANS OF TRANSMISSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of HIV is transmitted through sexual intercourse;</li> <li>• 6% through mother-to-child transmission;</li> <li>• 4% by transfusion and blood manipulation.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAIN MEANS OF TRANSMISSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 90% of HIV is transmitted via sexual intercourse;</li> <li>• 6% mother-to-child transmission;</li> <li>• 4% through blood transfusion and other blood manipulation.</li> </ul>
Emphasis should be placed on viral load reduction if Anti Retrovirals are taken correctly.	Focus can be laid on the reduction in viral load if ARVs are properly taken
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SOME STATISTICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 18,000 girls aged between 10 and 19 are living with AIDS compared to 13,000 boys of the same age group.</li> <li>➤ 18% of girls between 15 and 18 years old have an STI against 10.3 in boys.</li> <li>➤ The number of young people having taken tests during the last 12 months in the 15 to 19 age group is 46.6% among girls against 40.8% among boys</li> <li>➤ Source: INS and UNAIDS</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SOME STATISTICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 18,000 girls between the ages of 10 and 19 are living with AIDS compared to 13,000 boys in the same age group.</li> <li>➤ 18% of girls between 15 and 18 have an STI compared to 10.3 for boys.</li> <li>➤ The number of young people who have been tested in the last 12 months in the 15-19 age group is 46.6% for girls compared to 40.8% for boys.</li> <li>➤ Source: INS and UNAIDS</li> </ul>

### **1.1.6.2:SUMMARY OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS, HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES SENSITIZED**

<b><u>Arrondissement</u></b>	<b><u>Institutions</u></b>	<b><u>Number of students affected</u></b>
<b>DOUALA 2</b>	STEVIN INTERNATIONAL BILINGUAL SCHOOL	700
	PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE SEVEN DOORS	200
	INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS	200
	COLLECTIVE WEDDING CELEBRATION at NEW BELL	200
	<b>SUBTOTAL DOUALA 2</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>DOUALA 3</b>	COLLEGE OF PERFECTION	1500
	<b>SUBTOTAL DOUALA 3</b>	<b>1500</b>
<b>DOUALA 4</b>	BILINGUAL HIGH SCHOOL OF BONASSAMA AND COLLEGE DU LEVANT	2700
	NGUESSON CHARLES COLLEGE	1000
	ALPHA HIGHER INSTITUTE	750
	HORIZON BILINGUAL COLLEGE	900
	SAINT LOUIS INSTITUTE	200
	CEFOP	258
	ACCURACY BILINGUAL COLLEGE	300
	COLLECTIVE WEDDING CELEBRATION	200
	<b>SUBTOTAL DOUALA 4</b>	<b>6308</b>

<b>DOUALA 5</b>	PRIMARY SCHOOL THE DIFFERENCE	457
	BASSA POPULAR SCHOOL	150
	SCHOOL THE VOICE OF THE SENTINELS	170
	BILINGUAL HIGH SCHOOL OF LOGPOM II	2300
	JOHN PAUL II COLLEGE	1000
	COLLEGE OF GENERAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF MALANGUE	1162
	COLLEGE DAUPHINE I	1380
	COLLEGE DAUPHINE III	1620
	BILINGUAL COLLEGE OF THE OMNISPORT CENTER	1500
	BILINGUAL HIGH SCHOOL OF BEPANDA	2500
	MULTIFUNCTIONAL CENTER FOR THE PROMOTION OF YOUTH / REFERENCE DOUALA BASSA	61
	SAINT THOMAS COLLEGE of PK 10	500
	INTERNAL DISPLACED PERSONS BONAMOUSSADI TERMINAL	100
<b>SUBTOTAL DOUALA 5</b>		<b>12,900</b>
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED</b>		<b>34,908</b>



*School difference:*



*College Malangue*



*STIVIN INTERNATIONAL*



*CMPJ of reference*

### **1.1.7-WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: THE CASE OF CHILDREN WITH MENTAL DISABILITY**

The work done with children with mental disabilities allows AFE staff to first talk to parents about mental disabilities, then to do resilience work in order to make them accept the situation of their children, and finally, to tell them to consider the person first before associating the disability. According to the new order which is a point of sustainable development, "no one should be left behind". This work rightly relates to SDG 10, which calls for reducing inequalities within and between countries.

*By 2030, empower all people and promote their social, economic and political inclusion, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or their economic or other status.*

An interview was made with the parents on MENTAL DISABILITY. It covered several key points:

- Understanding disability
- Types of disability and their characteristics
- Some landmarks on disability
- Life with a disabled child

At the end of this training, we also spoke to the parents about the benefits of psychomotority. Other instructions given to parents are to always smile with them, and always be happy. Motor activity plays on the psyche. What we have to live and represent what is happening in our head is our body. The means generally used is the game with a specific goal to achieve.

This activity usually takes place on December 3, the day of the celebration of disability.

## **1.2- ACTIVITIES WITH WOMEN**

The objectives in the work done with women are to increase the employment rate of women in decision-making circles.

### **1.2.1-International Women's Rights Day:**

The theme of the day **8 March** of the year 2021 focused on the theme: "Female leadership: for an egalitarian future in the world of COVID 19" The activities carried out were of several orders. From March 1 to 7, 2021, at the esplanade of the Sub-prefecture of Douala II located in NEW BELL, the Women and Children Association, Promo2def, ASAFAE and the Delegation for the Advancement of Women and the Family together to organize a series of activities. Among others, we can mention: the educational talk organized at the University of Douala where a presentation was made to the staff and to the women of this structure on the rights of women and the breaches of the law. Another meeting took place at Plan International with young displaced and refugee girls for an educational talk. The highlight of the event allowed us to choose a sub-theme and an educational talk was organized under the leadership of the sub-prefect of Douala 2.

### **WOMEN AND THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID 19**

COVID 19 is a great first in our era. Epidemics of the same type have already been experienced, but not by us. This has created a lot of fears, anxieties, stress on us, our family and our children. Everyone is freaking out, so how do you become resilient in the face of COVID 19? How to arm yourself to face the situation? The information received here and there disturbs us and very often, what kills us is not even so much the disease, but the fragility of our mental health, because we become vulnerable. Due to COVID-19, many of us are

staying home, exercising less and having limited social interactions. This situation can have repercussions on our physical and mental health. Advice that we are going to listen to here today, is to help us,

Covid 19 has introduced new contingencies in our lives and we have to deal with them. So how? We are going to insist on children in the family: how to live with them, what to do and what not to do? How to avoid contamination? how not to expose the young girl when you know that it is she who helps the mother in the housework by taking care of her little brothers and the elderly and the sick. The mother is the caregiver. It's a fact.

How to protect our children in times of Covid? In a context where water is scarce and where COVID has increased the costs in terms of the purchase of hand gels, masks, etc., how can you live when the salary or income no longer exists? How to respect the rules of hygiene in the house when the neighbor's children do not respect them at all? How to make so that our children have also right during Internet whereas we have 4 of them and only one telephone? How to manage the TV since each child has his favorite show?

How to follow the children when the mothers are not pedagogues to teach the children? What arguments can the young girl or boy use against his tormentor who rapes him/her because he/she no longer goes to school? How to avoid new pregnancies when dad is at home all the time now? How do I get paid for my overtime because I work more at home than when I'm at the office? How do I manage my spouse's mood? How to make sure family members wear the masks when they are out of the house? In short, how to live responsible parenthood? How can we diversify our activities so that we are no longer dependent on a single income?

### **A few tips**

- 1- **take a step back**, observe silence, and use our energies in the right direction: (singing, dancing, telling a story, laughing, etc.)
- 2- **Breathe several times a day**, you can inhale while counting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Hold the breath while counting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and exhale while counting 1, 2, 3, 4.
- 3- **Meditation**: it is not very widespread in our society and yet it can bring us a lot of good.
- 4- **Calm** is very important to avoid stress. Because stress and panic can destabilize us.
- 5- **Visualize in our heads**, let's look for the images of the events experienced that make us smile, it can be the birth of the child, the day of my wedding, the day when I sold well, in short, think of everything that makes me happy and that can take the stress away from me;
- 6- **Repeat the positive things**, for example: everything is fine, I'll be fine, don't worry, God is on my side, my children are healthy, I still have enough to eat, my children love me very much, etc.

- 7- **Follow the radio and TV, especially the newspaper:** Listen the advice and recommendations of your national and local authorities. Follow reliable news channels, such as local or national television and radio, and keep up to date with the latest news;
- 8- **do sports**, that is, carrying out a physical activity that we do not often do. Sport produces the hormones that stimulate the brain and help us stay healthy;
- 9- **Keep a healthy lifestyle:** Eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Vary the meals; Cook the meat well;
- 10- **Limit the amount of alcohol** that you consume or abstain completely. Avoid tobacco;
- 11- **Manifestation of stress in children:** Stress can induce different reactions in children. They may thus be more clingy, anxious, withdrawn, angry or agitated, or suffer from nocturnal incontinence, among other things;
- 12- Respond kindly to your children's reactions, listen to their concerns, and give them even more love and attention;
- 13- In difficult times, children need the love and attention of adults. Give them more time and attention;
- 14- Remember to listen to your children. Speak to them kindly and reassure them. If possible, give them the opportunity to play and relax;
- 15- Try to keep children close to their parents and family and avoid separating them from caregivers as much as possible. In the event of separation (for example for hospitalization), make sure to guarantee regular contact (for example by telephone) and to reassure them.

### **1.2.2 11th edition of World Widow's Day: June 23**

This day 2021 was celebrated under the theme: "eliminate violence against widows, improve their living conditions".

Each international day represents an opportunity to inform the public on topics related to major issues such as fundamental rights, sustainable development or health. These days are also an opportunity for the United Nations system, public authorities and civil society to organize awareness-raising and resource mobilization activities.

The death of a husband, depending on the customary practices or ethnic groups to which the deceased belongs, could very quickly turn into a nightmare for the widowed woman.

Millions of widowed women face daily extreme poverty, violence, homelessness or legal and social discrimination. In several African countries, widows are considered "material goods". These women belong to the in-laws or are rejected and ostracized after the death of their husband. Often deprived of income, they find themselves destitute and no longer able to feed their children. They are subject to conformist or alienating social pressures that keep them in a certain dereliction. This state of affairs in no way favors the emancipation of the latter

who find themselves at the limit of "slaves" to their in-laws or quite simply left behind.

The isolation of the widow, the distress, the grief of losing a loved one; the cost of the funeral; the hardship of widowhood rites but also the difficulties associated with refusing to undergo these rites; the difficulties related to the lack of financial means to assume the costs of food, health, schooling, clothing and housing for the children; non-respect of the widow's inheritance rights, added to the long administrative formalities for certain rights such as the widow's pension.

This day is an opportunity to act and ensure that the rights of widows are recognized. This means providing them with information on access to a fair share of their assets, lands and productive resources; pension and social protection that is not based solely on marital status, as well as education and training opportunities. Empowering widows to support themselves and their families can help address social stigma, which leads to exclusion and discriminatory or harmful practices.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, widows must not be excluded from our work which will aim to "build back better". Let's ensure our recovery prioritizes their unique needs and helps societies be more inclusive, resilient and equal for all!

To celebrate this day, about 100 women (internally displaced, refugees and host community) gathered at the special civil status center of New Town Airport 3 and were sensitized on the rights of widows, AGR. In addition to the sharing of their widow's testimony by three brave women, we proceeded to the manufacture of granulated ginger candies. Then a leaflet designed in French and English by AFE was distributed to them.



*New Town Airport: widows testify*

### 1.2.3- July 31: 59th African Women's Day

**THE 59TH EDITION OF THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY**

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH ADOLESCENTS GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN**

**MEET OUR SPEAKERS**



**MS ENDOUH ANNA YERIMAH**  
Speaking on Financial Inclusion

**MME PAULINE KENMONGNE MATCHIM**  
Speaking on Generation Equality & Equity

**MS NENE ODETTE NZAIE**  
Speaking on Menstrual Hygiene

**Contact :**  
**670921225/678969606**

**DATE: 31st July 2021 TIME: 2pm to 5pm**  
**VENUE: Tshinga**

The theme of the 59th edition of African Women's Day at Cameroon aligns itself with the continental theme which is stated as follows: "Women's Financial Inclusion: Challenges and Opportunities". This theme reflects the continent's determination to strengthen efforts and mechanisms towards empowerment complete women, essential to the sustainable development of our countries. The overall objective of the day was to strengthen advocacy for women's financial inclusion. BTC and AFE, within the framework of intergenerational conversations, a concept very dear to "Generation Equality", wanted to raise awareness among young Cameroonian girls and women, refugees and internally displaced women on cultural practices harmful to the financial inclusion of women. Measures should be promoted that will improve African women's access to formal financing institutions. Seventy percent of African women do not have access to financial services such as a savings or checking account, loans, credit and other institutional services. In Cameroon, less than 10% have a bank account in a formal financial institution. Little is known about the difficulties and obstacles in accessing finance that African women encounter. We believe that the first cause must be illiteracy, the documents to be provided and completed, the lack of a land title or title deed which are required to obtain credit from the bank, the husband's signature as guarantor of the credit to obtain just in case, etc.

It is true that the advent of online payments has increased the number of women who have access to a telephone and who can transact online. But what happens in big cities is always the tree that hides the forest. We cannot start from the observations made in the cities to deduce that all women are housed in the same boat. Today's young girls are encouraged to go to school to learn to read and write, to face the challenges of digitalization that arise. Parents should also encourage them to do science series, so that they can easily access new technologies.

Policies should help women enter the formal financial system; this will generate evidence to help financial institutions, regulators and policy makers promote women's access to financial services.

On the occasion of this day AFE and BTC organized a meeting at the headquarters of BTC in Nkolbissong Yaoundé where adolescent girls and young women representing several countries attended a meeting where they were interviewed on intergenerational conversations and technologies of information and communication.



*African Women's Day: AFE/BTC*

#### **1.2.4- 26th edition of World Rural Women's Day**

This day was celebrated under the theme: "Strengthening actions in favor of peace, access to land and financing, for the recovery of women and girls living in rural areas in a context of crisis"

The general objective of this 26th edition was to promote actions in favor of peace, access of women and girls living in rural areas to production resources. On this occasion, AFE and its partner from the Center Region carried out an awareness campaign in NDOKOA, a district located in the Department of Haute Sanaga. After discussing at length with the women of this small village, we noted all their problems related to health, chemical fertilizers, the sale of their products, the creation and the difficulty of creating GICS and cooperatives. We talked to them about Family Planning, STIs/AIDS. Then they were trained in the production of liquid soap and d and bleach in order to help them improve or find new sources of income.

We extend our thanks to Mrs. NDENGUE Colette, the leader of this community who is at the head of this initiative.



The members of BTC and AFE around Mrs. NDENGUE, head of NDOKOA



Reception of plantain bunches offered by the NDOKOA community



*Talk and exchanges with the women of NDOKOA*



*the president of BTC in action*



Making liquid soap: the women of Ndokoa have been trained to diversify their income and become trainers in their respective neighborhoods, under the watchful eye of the chief; those who can take notes.

### **1.2.5- 16 days of activism against violence against women.**

The "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" is an annual international campaign that begins on November 25 with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on December 10 with Human Rights Day. Launched in 1991 by activists from the Women's Global Leadership Institute, this campaign is organized each year by governments and organizations fighting violence against women, with a view to protecting women's rights, preventing and elimination of violence against women and girls. This year's theme was titled "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now".

Several activities were carried out on this occasion. We had to raise awareness:

- 100 displaced women and girls and 5 internal men in the Arrondissement of Douala 2, in collaboration with DAPROFF 2, ASAFE, PROMO2DEF, and the Association Genre Paix et Developpement;
- An educational talk was organized at the Lycee Bilingue de BONASSAMA in collaboration with DAPROFF 4 on sexual violence in schools: with the participation of 150 students, including 50 boys;
- During the collective wedding ceremonies, we had to sensitize 40

couples and their guests, about 300 people at the NKOLOULOUN Secondary Civil Center; and 32 couples and their guests, approximately 400 at the Town Hall of BONASSAMA, in partnership with the Town Hall of Douala 4, DAPROFF 4, and the ALTER U Association.

### **1.3- Working with platforms:**

Association Femme et Enfant is a member of several local, national and even international platforms; but in this report, we will only retain two platforms with which we worked in particular during the year 2021.

#### **1.3.1- PLAFOSCIL**

The work with PLAFOSCIL led AFE to participate in two projects which are:

- **ACED:** Acting and Building Together Sustainably:

The aim was to create a framework for multi-actor dialogue made up of administrative and traditional authorities, RLAs, the private sector, etc. Several activities have been implemented, namely the organization of two forums and nearly four meetings organized with other actors. For this project, it was a question of initiating a space for multi-actor dialogue with a view to improving the exercise of freedoms in the Littoral Region. This has allowed the missions and actions of CSOs to be better known by the public administration at the local level.

- **ISEC:** Inform, Sensitize and Educate on Covid 19.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused uncertainty in the world and in Cameroon in particular. No definitive and lasting solution has been found so far. Such a situation necessarily requires a good mastery of a minimum of information on the subject, to engage in any action. The ISEC Littoral project, whose two main axes are: Information, education, awareness and support for vulnerable people, has planned an exchange session with the regional unit for the fight against Covid 19. This meeting will be a time for sharing updated information on the virus in Cameroon and more particularly in the coast. It will also be an opportunity to visualize the issues and challenges around covid 19, good practices at the regional level, the approaches to adopt and the types of messages to build, to ensure a good intervention in the field and with the targets. The exchange workshop with the regional unit for the fight against Covid 19 will bring together 25 people, including health personnel (members of the unit for the fight against covid 19 extended to staff from private and religious hospitals), associative actors and the journalists. The activity will lead to the establishment of a space for digital exchanges between the various actors involved in the action. The activity will lead to the establishment of a space for digital exchanges between the various actors involved in the action.

### **1.3.2- The "GENERATION EQUALITY" platform**

#### **1.3.2.1- Participate in meetings on the Generation Equality forum in Mexico City and Paris online:**

The Generation Equality Forum (FGE) is a global gathering for equality between men and women, organized by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico. This forum will launch a set of ambitious and transformative actions to immediately and sustainably achieve gender equality goals. This program is innovative and ambitious for women. Action coalitions must ensure that this program achieves concrete results of the United Nations decade (2020-2030), in order to achieve the SDGs. This is for feminist associations, what these coalitions of action mean for us as women and girls in general. How does this particular action coalition relate to the work the associations are doing on the ground? How can associations integrate these themes into the work done in the community, in the family, in the Church, etc.? ?

### **1.3.2.2- Mission to Gabon**

In the year two thousand and twenty-one and from Sunday twenty-third to Sunday thirty May, a delegation made up of three ladies from the GenEgaliteECCAS platform, went to Libreville in Gabon. It was for these three collaborators of the coordinator of the said platform:

- Meet with sub-regional organizations and encourage them to take the leadership of Generation Equality, as well as the processes of the action coalition, in order to give visibility to the CEMAC Zone;
- Map and expand alliance building for the GenEgaliteECCAS movement.
- The mission is not at all an improvisation. It is directly in line with the platform coordinator's desire to unite the voices of feminists in the CEMAC zone. Several steps have been taken in previous years. We experienced the training of nearly eight feminists from Equatorial Guinea in September 2020, the training of the Congo Brazzaville team in November of the same year. We are not forgetting this manifest desire that the coordinator had to organize from September 23 to 30, 2020, the training of feminists in advocacy which brought together more than 100 participants from almost all the countries of the ECCAS zone.
- This mission allowed us to meet the commissioner in charge of the gender department of ECCAS, and several other personalities from the associative world. (See narrative report).



*Photo taken at the new headquarters of ECCAS- GABON*

### **1.3.2.3- KINSHASA Conference organized by President Félix TSHISEKEDI;**

As part of the preparation of the "Generation Equality" Forum on gender equality to be held in Paris from June 29 to July 2, an African summit, co-organized by the DRC, UN Women, and the AU, was held on June 10, 2021, in KINSHASA on the initiative of President Félix TSHISHEKEDI, Chairman-in-Office of the African Union.

Organized virtually and face-to-face, this event was attended by high-level personalities as well as senior government officials from the DRC, the African Union through WGYD (Femme Genre, Jeune et Développement/Women, Gender and Youth Directory) as well as senior representatives of Civil Society, representatives of the Generation EGALITE Platform of ECCAS for short (GenEgaliteECCAS) from Cameroon, Congo Brazza and the DRC; we will not fail to mention the presence of representatives of the private sector, as well as guests from donor countries. This event also targeted high-level guests from the countries that are the current leaders of the six action coalitions of the GENERATION EQUALITY Forum, without forgetting the other current or future champions involved in the dialogue on gender equality which are: Ethiopia, Tanzania, etc. with the main African countries currently leading the EGF action coalitions which are Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Senegal.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Her Excellency Mrs. Gisèle NDAYA, Minister of Gender, Family and Children of the DRC, followed by a reminder on gender equality in Africa by Mrs. Awa NDIAYE, representative of UN Women in

DRC, from the word of the African Union said by Mrs. Michèle NDIAYE representative of the African Union in the DRC, and closed by the word of circumstance of Professor Alphonse NTUMBA LUABA, coordinator of the DRC-UA Panel.

Six workshops were formed and distributed and we took part in workshop 6 which focused on: "Promoting the reproductive health of young people and women, intergenerational conversation on gender equality and women's rights in the context of COVID 19 and vaccination program".

Each workshop had to propose one or two recommendations which will be read by the president during the GEF in Paris.

The closing remarks were made by his Excellency the Ambassador of France in the DRC. For him, the time chosen for this mini-summit is ideal, insofar as it is between the conference in Mexico and that in Paris. He added that the issue of the roles of African women in the development of their respective countries and Africa / Europe partners is quite important.

At the end, the gender minister invited 8 women who stood out for their work. Thus, the prizes were awarded to 5 women who work on resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and 3 were awarded to three women working on Generation Equality issues: Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville and DRC.



*Award in the DRC for work done on "generation equality"*

#### **1.3.2.4- Study on the mapping of feminist movements in the CEMAC zone**

This work led by AFE, WFCC, and BTC, was funded by Urgent-Action Fund-Africa. The mapping of feminist actors in the CEMAC zone is an initiative of the generation equality platform in Central Africa (GenEgaliteECCAS) or(Economic

Community of Central African States), to meet the needs of coalitions for effective action in favor of gender equality and women's autonomy. Also at the heart of the study are the concern furniture and support efforts to promote its coalitions and sub-regional advocacy opportunities. It also responds to the well-justified concern for both knowledge and visibility of feminist actors.

Essentially, the objectives assigned to it were: i) Present the situation of women's rights in the six countries of the sub-region; ii) List the different actors in the different countries of the sub-region, analyze their needs and priorities.

To do this, the study relied on the use of documentation and interviews conducted with a few key players. This made it possible to review the environment in which these are deployed, to criticize and question a few feminist organizations.

This work has made it possible to highlight the issues, challenges and opportunities for the promotion of gender equality in the CEMAC zone: i) The significance of the disparities between men and women in the CEMAC zone; ii) The irreversible commitment of the States of the CEMAC zone to gender equality; iii) The pressing need for inclusive growth; iv) Mobilization technical partners around the issue of equality; v) Relative political stability and insecurity in the CEMAC zone; vi) The progressive interest of parliamentarians in the promotion of gender; (vi) Ownership and continued adherence of all the different populations, in particular by customary, religious, political and administrative opinion leaders, to the issue of women; viii) Transforming the mentalities of men and women for greater recognition and respect for the rights of women and girls in the CEMAC zone; xix) The adoption of a process of negotiation and social dialogue to associate men in the process of cultural change to be adopted gradually; xi) The development of qualitative women's leadership and a dynamic women's movement to carry out constant advocacy for the effective implementation of the BEIJING process; xii) The awareness of women and girls and the change of their mentalities to adapt to the current realities of the countries linked to the economic, social and cultural crisis that the CEMAC zone is currently going through.

It also allowed to highlight the strengths and constraints of feminist activism in the CEMAC zone: i) Weakness of cohesion and collaboration; ii) Weakness of

the associative base; iii) Financial vulnerability; iv) Coverage of a wide range of intervention sectors; v) The insufficient technical skills;

On this basis, recommendations were made to the main key players:

- **To the States and governments of the CEMAC zone** (Strengthen the position of women in mechanisms and programs for growth and sub-regional integration; Improve the share of the budget allocated to the promotion of gender in the public investment budgets, particularly of the ministries in charge of these issues; Set up a CEMAC gender fund for the promotion of gender promotion initiatives in the sub-region; Make effective legislative provisions favorable to women (quotas for example); Ensure the adoption of the law on gender parity; Take into account parity in any process of appointment to decision-making positions; Ensure the upgrading of the status of women in the CEMAC zone in general and that of the rural world in particular; Expedite the acceleration of the revision of the family code for those countries that already have one and the promulgation for those that do not yet have one; Strengthen the legal and institutional framework of associations and NGOs promoting gender through training in the management of organizations and income-generating activities (IGA) supported by the granting of micro-credits.
- **To Technical and Financial Partners** (Support the States of the CEMAC sub-regional the level of the implementation of commitments made in favor of gender equality, opportunities and emancipation, in accordance with the provisions of national development strategies; Set up a fund for the implementation of commitments in terms of gender equality and emancipation; Support projects/programs of sub-regional scope in order to promote the sharing of experiences and the exchange of information).

**With regard to feminist CSOs** (Strengthen coalitions of multi-level (national and regional) and multi-sector actors open to the outside in order to make the voice of women in the sub-region heard; Improve the internal functioning of organizations in order to make them more efficient; Make organizations and

their actions more visible, particularly via the internet; Promote female leadership in the economic, political and social field.

### **1.3.2.5- Francophone Women's Forum**

The Fund for Francophone Women (XOESE) based in LOME, TOGO organized the Francophone forum which was held from November 22 to 26, 2021 online.

#### **narrative report of the session organized by AFE at the French-speaking forum**

**Theme:** How to make rural women's voices count in feminist movements?

The Francophone Forum was held from November 22 to 26, 2021, the Executive President of AFE chaired a panel on the theme set out above.

This debate was held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cameroon time.

As a reminder, it was said that rural women's issues have been taken into account since 1995 at the 4th Beijing Women's Conference. Since this year, the international community has come to the 26th day, instituted since 1997 by the (WWSF) Women's World Summit Foundation, which celebrates each year, women living in rural areas.

It is an opportunity given to all stakeholders (governments, technical and financial partners, civil society organizations and the media to carry out actions in favor of women and girls living in rural areas. It is also to enable them to improve: agricultural production, food and nutritional security, sustainable management of resources, poverty reduction, and the strengthening of capacities to adapt to climate change.

Despite what is done, new challenges are imposed on them every day. So how can we evaluate all these measures that are put in place in order to define new strategies aimed globally at eliminating gender disparities and the structural constraints linked to the multiple effects experienced in our different countries?

Rural women play an essential role in economies regardless of the country's level of development. They represent 71.6 of the formal and informal agricultural workforce and produce more than 85% of the food products consumed (ECAM 4. Cameroon household survey); they devote more than 16.8 hours per week to unpaid domestic work, compared to only 8.3 hours for men (RNDH 2019 National Human Development Report) and number in the thousands in the informal economy and low-income primary sectors. yield. In addition, they are responsible for the education of children and the care of the elderly and the sick. They are also involved in field work, trade and other income-generating activities to improve their standard of living.

Their efforts to participate in development come up against numerous structural and social constraints. Despite non-discriminatory legal provisions against them, they have limited access to resources and means of production, including inputs, appropriate technologies, credit and land.

Regarding access to credit and land in Cameroon, only 1.6% of women own a land title in their name and 16.8% of them can benefit from credit. (National Report on Human Development 2019). In addition, the efforts made on a daily basis by the very people who feed many families in cities and villages are diminished by the socio-political and security crises to which the Corona Virus pandemic has been added.

African rural women are invisible, discreet and often marginalized in leadership structures. We believe that if they organize into social movements, they can amplify their voice to challenge agribusiness and patriarchal oppression while advancing agroecology and building new leadership for feminist agro ecology.

At the end of her introduction, she gave the floor to Maitre TCHAKOUNTE, the first speaker, to present the rural woman tossed between customary law and modern law.

She recalled that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights voted by the United Nations in December 1948, no distinction is made: neither between Customary Law and Modern Law, nor between Rural Women and Urban Woman. Cameroon, as a full member of the United Nations, does not distinguish between these notions at the legislative level.

In other words, the theme to be shared is the result of cultural pressures, which are so heavy and degrading for certain women. Indeed, the Cameroonian Woman called Rural Woman is the one who lives in areas where life and activities essentially revolve around agriculture or even far from anything that is intellectual and contrary to ancestral practices.

This is what explains certain laws, among others: marketing in the name of marriage of the fetus that can become a baby girl, early marriage sometimes for the benefit of a man older than the young girl's parent (MOURJANATOU case which was given in marriage at 13 when a 67-year-old husband is imposed on her), the non-schooling or under-schooling of the young girl, unlike young boys who benefit from all the financial and human efforts, forced marriage in the name of religion or parental submission of minor and/or adult girls, the obligation to undergo all possible humiliations in the home, marital pain having become a normal lifestyle for the Housewife.

This flagrant reality is consecrated by slogans of the genre: marriage is the heart, you have to put up with it because you don't marry to divorce; the main thing is that the husband gives the ration and pays for the children's school, do not denounce your husband who has abused your daughter, if you accept the divorce, you will not be entitled to anything because you cannot not prove that you participated in the acquisition of household goods, etc.

In addition, we observe: the primacy of concubinage over civil marriage because the population is not educated on the misdeeds of concubinage, the levirate (the fact of offering the widow to the brother of her deceased husband), the Sororat (the option of offering the widower the sister of his late wife; the prohibition on women claiming the liquidation of the community after divorce or the death of their husband, the woman

herself being considered as property, the salaries inhuman, cruel and degrading commonly known as widowhood rites (case of the widow of BAFANG (CAMEROON) who, for 9 weeks was forced to eat with her fingers from the same dish, without ever washing her hands, nor washing her intimate area), others that I can't name or that I don't know. There is also the case of a woman who was forced to have sex with 3 of her late husband's brothers in the name of securing her children and so that the in-laws would not drive her out of the house. family home yet built by her late husband.

This is among other things what the rural woman continues to suffer unlike the urban woman, who from time to time has the possibility of access to knowledge and sometimes benefits from the advice that we share.

### **SOME PROPOSALS:**

- 1) Sensitization of parents and/or parents from the birth of the girl: that is to say that at birth, summon both parents in order to instruct them on the concretely human character of the one who has just been born and recall their obligation to offer him a dignified schooling in the same way as that offered to the boy;
- 2) Compulsory schooling for girls under penalty of punishment;
- 3) The sensitization of all rural areas starting with the chiefdoms, because if we touch the head the lower people will certainly be affected.

This is one of the conditions for rural women to be able to smile again as foster mothers of the nation.

**Ms Clarisse EMBOLO**, the second speaker talked about rural women and how to deal with the constraints they encounter on a daily basis.

In her introduction, she said that the two previous speakers had set the stage for the legal and historical aspect, and focused her presentation on how rural women could address the constraints encountered on a daily basis..

For her, so many days are dedicated to women, such as March 8, July 31, October 11, the 16 days of activism, etc., as if we want to be forgiven for something when, at all times they contribute to development in the different environments in which they find themselves.

In our regions, they take care, among other activities, of work in the fields. They are the ones who, through food products, are the nourishing breasts of urban areas, where they transport foodstuffs day and night. It is thanks to them that our villages continue to live; they give birth to us, feed us and support families. They are the ones who suffer with the children the pangs of chemical fertilizers so we must campaign for peasant and ecological agriculture.

Addressing the constraints of rural women means talking about caring for the family from morning to night, raising children, not forgetting the plethora of activities they

carry out. She drew attention to the fact that our societies are still very poorly banked, savings do not exist.

Despite the important role of rural women in agriculture and household food security, our experience shows that traditional authorities continue to reproduce patriarchal structures. Women's decision-making capacities suffer greatly in terms of agricultural practices, markets and access to finance, whether at home, in the community, in the church, in educational institutions, in the arena, politics and economics. These structures are nurtured by a culture of obedience that sustains and reproduces a system of authority and patriarchy.

For many men in Africa, women are not meant to lead. Women must be placed at the forefront of exposing the lack of leadership and corruption at village and neighborhood level. Above all, we can talk about access to land.

When their husbands die, the in-laws evict the widows from the land where they worked alongside their husbands. They are sent back to their parents with nothing at all, and cultivate the parents' land. Very often, it is their work that feeds everyone; they can also sell part of the harvest at the market. Unfortunately, when the parents die, the brothers sometimes with the complicity of the local chiefs expel them from the parental lands. They are sometimes wracked with anger and lack where to go to complain, due to lack of support structures.

## **HOW TO DO ?**

Empowering rural women and girls and realizing their human rights are key to achieving gender equality around the world. Rural women and girls face a number of challenges that require solutions tailored to their realities. It will therefore be necessary to increase the organizational capacities of women.

The other crucial challenge is that women are not valued as leaders. Therefore, strong local associations, farmers' groups, savings clubs, health committees and faith-based women's organizations led by rural women must be created. The existence of these local trainings will show that rural women have the skills, capacities, experience and knowledge required to lead.

Recognition of these skills will be a big step, as women are often made invisible in larger movements despite having played a key role in them.

In Africa, women have challenged slavery, colonization, apartheid and fought in wars of liberation. It is therefore essential to probe the uncharted realms of African women's leadership, protests, activism and campaigns so that their voices and leadership can be duly heard and amplified.

## **Other strategies to strengthen women's leadership:**

Organize regular feminist schools, leadership sessions and a social media training camp for young women where the ideas of feminism, feminist leadership and power relations are reinforced and developed. Examples of grassroots resistance and grassroots

women's activism are integrated into these trainings. At the national level, in various countries, we need to challenge the dominant male-centred, top-down, imposed and centralized organizations and decision-making, including within farmers' movements.

We need feminist leadership in rural areas:

African rural women have a lot to learn. Important questions for them should be:

- How can they create different shapes of non-hierarchical organizations and what are the different ways of leading them?
- Leadership for what and to change what?
- For them, leadership should be a means and not an end in itself. They must be rooted in the values of the movement and in an understanding of the change we need or want to bring to the lives of women.

To succeed, it is necessary to deconstruct the concept of leadership, in particular feminist leadership. Experiments are needed with collective leadership, horizontal structures and greater autonomy at the village and country level, to "blaze the trail as we go". The goal must be to create open and safe spaces for women.

Popular education, collective reading and storytelling should be used as part of feminist movement building strategies.

Finally, to build women's movements, we would benefit from recognizing the existence of strong collective mobilizations of women in the past and present, and across our lands and communities.

We must make women's voices our starting point, engage in their struggles and encourage their mobilization according to the principle of horizontality. Such an approach means promoting feminist leadership and ensuring that women and their practices are no longer made invisible, ignored or erased from memory.

Master WOGAING despite the worries of network spoke of the traditional and socio-cultural burdens in rural areas.

She started by defining the concepts:

The woman: a plurality of definitions

1. According to the Larousse dictionary, a woman is a female human being who is or has been married.
2. **Is a human being belonging to the female gender.**
3. To be a female human being.
4. **Is a mother, a wife and vice versa.**
5. In the African context, a woman is a person born female who has reached maturity as a biological and/or social mother.

The conception of "woman" knows its first biases from its different definitions which are among others: "is or was married". This implies that if the woman is not married, she loses her status as a woman.

In addition, the popular conception would like the woman to be above all a wife, a mother. These considerations exclude the status of widow, which implies that the conditions of wife or mother have to be fulfilled, not to lose her status as a woman.

### **Status and roles of women**

The status of women varies according to cultural areas. In communities with centralized power as in the Grassfields, the woman is sometimes queen-mother, queen, princess and the other women who live outside the chiefdom. In these spaces of life, the status of women depends on their birth. However, the queen presides over agricultural production.

In lineage societies where power belongs to the eldest person, and therefore to the patriarch, women's lives are most often governed by gender division even if men and women sometimes work together.

In almost all of these social organizations, women are in charge of production and reproduction. She is the first responsible for internal management in terms of organization, management of household tasks.

Once married women are attached to their husband's lineage, even if they continue to be considered foreigners. Without being the owner or head of the family, the woman contributes, in significant proportions, to the economy and to the acquisition of property in the family, through all the domestic and economic activities that she performs. Because the work they do is unpaid, their contribution is not appreciated.

### **Socio-cultural gravity**

The socio-cultural burdens are a set of practices, attitudes, conceptions and behaviors with regard to women that do not contribute to their development in their living environment.

These weights vary according to the status of the woman.

### **Practices rooted in the daily lives of women**

#### **- The woman who remains in the marital lineage**

In several communities where the levirate was a form of enduring marriage covenant that protected the woman regardless of her age evolved. This practice has lost its primary meaning and role. The widowed woman with the capacity to procreate was "taken" by one brother of the deceased brother. The woman continued to benefit from the protective gaze of her husband's. She had the right and the duty to exploit her late husband's land, which ipso facto belonged to her children when they were male. As for the girl children, they are supposed to marry.

Single women or women without children benefit from little consideration even when they are producers of food products. Some remain excluded from the division of family property. In almost all organizations, land is primarily a male property regardless of his rank in the siblings.

- **Work of a gendered nature**

The woman who has only male children is very often obliged to carry out domestic tasks alone. Boys are culturally exempt from certain tasks such as cooking and washing up. In some communities, they are not even allowed to serve themselves the meal from the pot in the absence of the mother or a female figure.

On a completely different level, the water supply falls within its field of activity as well as the care of relatives and allies near or far.

- **Exploitation without a title deed**

Despite the evolution of society, women have always been the ones who provide the products intended for the food of the community whether it is from agricultural production, fishing with the net, gathering and pickup. First lifting, they ensure the supply of foodstuffs in rural areas and for the rest of the community.

As such, they exploit the lands which sometimes belong to the husband, sometimes to the father. Because it is most often shared between the family lineage and that of the husband, it becomes exhausted there over time without the possibility of consistent support.

At the end of this presentation, the question-and-answer session began with a question from Mr. HOUNZAME Patrick from Benin, who wondered if the public authorities really wanted to get involved in cases of domestic violence in rural areas. He took as an example the case of a soldier who beat his wife and was released after his arrest despite having caused his wife to miscarry. He wanted to know whether provisions are made, particularly in the armed forces, with regard to this type of incident.

A second question was then asked by Ms. MAMY MASSIMANE from the DRC living in Nairobi who wanted to know what strategies could be put in place so that rural women regain their place.

Mr. TCHAKOUNTE responded to the concern of Mr. HOUNZANME Patrick, stating that the rulers have not yet taken this concern to heart. But that the police are the person closest to the woman in danger; unfortunately, corruption is a major obstacle. There is still a huge amount of awareness-raising work to be done with law enforcement.

## **MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- ❖ Women's work must be valued at its fair value;
- ❖ The woman must be able to pass from the status of the one who exploits the land to that of owner;

- ❖ Women must benefit from institutional support through the granting of credit; the various institutions in charge of the qualitative improvement of women's lives must work in close collaboration (MINAS, MINSANTE, MINPROF, MINESUP, etc.) to strengthen the capacities of women in rural areas;
- ❖ The enormous economic contribution of unpaid work must be recognized and measures must be taken to reduce and redistribute the burden of domestic tasks;
- ❖ Public works programs can promote gender equality in rural employment, especially when beneficiaries are genuinely involved in their design;
- ❖ Promoting quality female education in rural areas and reducing gender disparities in primary and secondary education will improve women's access to decent employment;
- ❖ Non-traditional agricultural exports can create quality jobs for rural people of both sexes, but women in particular are exposed to lax enforcement of labor standards;
- ❖ A set of complementary policy measures is needed to address these many gender disparities in rural employment. These measures should include legal reforms that promote: gender equality; social safety nets; aid to support organizations for farmers, women and young people; child care programs; education and better access to information and the labor market;

To conclude, the moderator addressed the word of thanks by specifying that as feminists, we place the patriarchal system at the center of our concerns. Patriarchy is a system of male authority that oppresses women through political, social, cultural and religious institutions. Men's access to and control over resources in the public and private domains stems from patriarchal ideology based on male dominance. The patriarchal system is spatially and temporally variable, that is, it changes over time and varies according to social, racial, ethnic, religious and imperial relationships and structures. However, in the present era, this system does not only change on the basis of these factors, but remains closely linked to social, racial, ethnic, religious and imperial. Thus, to effectively protest against the patriarchal system, it is necessary to question the other systems of oppression and exploitation, which often reinforce each other.

#### **MVENG MENGUE Caroline Ignace / Rapporteur**

#### **1.4- Work in collaboration with other actors and participation in related events.**

With regard to work with other actors, particularly local NGOs, development partners and institutions, we can retain capacity building and training activities on various themes. This synoptic table presents the various other activities:

THEME OF THE TRAINING/MEETING OR EDUCATIONAL TALKS	DATE AND PLACE	ORGANIZING INSTITUTION OR ASSOCIATION	GOALS
Support workshop for the development of the civil	04 January	CAMEROON EUROPEAN UNION	Assess previous FDR

society roadmap of the EU and the Member States (2021-2027)	HOTEL LEUWAT	COOPERATION PROCIVIS	Validate priority areas Develop actions Program post FDR
Third session of the ACED project monitoring committee  Presentation of the activity report, August-December 2020	JANUARY 12 Seat 1MA	ACED PROJECT PLAFOSCIL	Continuation of exchanges aimed at promoting dialogue between associative actors and others
Meeting of the Board of Directors of PLAFOSCIL	January 13 at 1MA Headquarters	13 PLAFOSCIL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS	Present the financial statement of PLAFOSCIL  Presentation of the PLAFOSCIL charter  Function code overview
Participation in the 2nd edition of the Coastal CSO forum under the theme: COASTAL CSOs TO THE TEST OF PUBLIC POLICIES	JANUARY THE 21ST AKWA PARTY HALL DOUALA	PLAFOSCIL ACED PROJECT AFE	Building an active synergy of CSOs  Establishment of multi-actor consultation frameworks  Monitoring of public policies related to freedoms and capitalization
Practical workshop on issues of democracy, human rights and citizenship (ACED project)	January 22-23	PLAFOSCIL, ACED PROJECT, PROCIVIS	Bring participants to understand the issue of democracy and freedom of exercise in the perspective of sustainable development
Preparatory meeting for the organization of the 55th Youth Day	January 29 KOTTO Multifunctional Center	CMPJ AFE	Organize activities in the Arrondissement of Douala 5 with young people
Education, a framework for the future of the Cameroonian citizen	February 9 Chiefdom of Block F4 BEPANDA YONG YONG	ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP WOMEN AND CHILDREN ASSOCIATION CODAS CARITAS	Educate the populations of the block in sexuality, new information and communication technologies, educate women as a guarantee of sustainable development
Third Session of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Framework	February 17: Hotel valley of the princes	PLAFOSCIL, A FUTURE WORLD EUROPEAN UNION/PROCIVIS ACED PROJECT	Promote dialogue between associative actors, local elected officials, public administrations, defense and security forces, with the aim of promoting fairer and more appropriate public decision-making, taking into account the needs of citizens at the local level.

36th International Women's Day: Female leadership for an egalitarian future in the world of covid 19; Women and the fight against covid 19	Series of activities carried out from 27 January to 06 MARCH	DAPROFF 2, AFE, PROMO2DEF, ASAFAE, UFC	Organize activities to build the capacities of women in IGA and educate them on their respective rights
Participation in the General Assembly of 1MA	March 13: Bepanda Omnisport multipurpose center	A FUTURE WORLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Verify the relevance of budget lines;</li> <li>. Conduct a review of the action plan;</li> <li>. Define the main axes of the next strategic plan</li> </ul>
Training workshop for CSO networks on actions to raise awareness and protect populations against COVID 19, and signing of grant contracts	SOMATEL HOTEL YAOUNDE MARCH 29-31	PLAFOSCIL A FUTURE WORLD WOMEN AND CHILDREN ASSOCIATION	<p>Reframing the selected COVID 19 actions</p> <p>To introduce participants to the epidemiology of COVID 19</p> <p>Analyze the behaviors, beliefs, attitudes of populations in relation to community engagement and response</p> <p>Finalize the contracting of COVID 19 EMERGENCIES grant recipients</p>
Training of community mobilizers on the prevention of GBV and the consideration of preventive measures in the context of COVID 19	April 15, 2021 in Douala	UNFPA AND LUKMEF	<p>Humanitarian principles</p> <p>Psychological first aid</p> <p>Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>
Operational planning workshop for the ISEC project	April 28 at the Hotel Lumière AKWA	PLAFOSCIL, ISEC PROJECT, A FUTURE WORLD, OTHER PLATFORM ASSOCIATIONS	Determine the role and responsibilities of targets and stakeholders including AFE as an affiliated organization
Civil society training workshop on documenting acts of torture	April 30, 2021 in Douala	RIGHTS AND PEACE: ACTING TOGETHER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	<p>Recall international and regional texts and mechanisms on the prohibition and prevention of torture</p> <p>Defining and criminalizing torture</p> <p>Monitor and investigate cases of torture</p>
Exchange workshop with	MAY 18 HOTEL	PLAFOSCIL, SGIC	Share updated information on

those responsible for the Incident Management System at COVID-19. (ISEC PROJECT)	LUMIERE AKWA DOUALA		Covid 19 Issues and challenges around Covid 19 Building awareness messages
Provision of integrated life saving GenderBased Violence services including COVID-19 prevention and protection to vulnerable IDPs and host communities in the North West, South West, West and Littoral regions in Cameroon	From 03 to 05 June 2021 in DOUALA	UNFPA EUROPEAN UNION	Strengthen capacities and set up a task force to effectively combat GBV Identify strengths and weaknesses Hold regular meetings Promote practices to respond to GBV
KINSHASSA CONFERENCE	June 10 in KINSHASSA	Democratic Republic of Congo AND THE AFRICAN UNION	Promoting youth and women's reproductive health, intergenerational conversation on gender equality and women's rights in the context of COVID and vaccination program
Capacity development and strengthening workshop with SRHR feminist individuals and organizations including health personnel, on Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) and communication on safe abortion across their respective area of work and organizations.	June 15 to 18, 2021 in YAOUNDE	ACSA: Africa Coalition for Safe Abortion Ipas: Health Access Rights Africa Alliance Women For a Change Cameroon	Communicate on medical abortion Learning values, and determining one's own in order to transform attitudes
11th International Widows Day. Theme: Eliminate violence against widows, improve their living conditions	JUNE 23 at the chiefdom of New Town Airport.	- WOMEN AND CHILDREN ASSOCIATION - DAPROFF - PROMO2DEF - HEADQUARTERS	Testimonies of the experiences lived by the widows present Educational talks Forming into ginger granules Organization of the Widows Association
Training module for members of civil society organizations of PROCIVIS partner CSO networks Awareness and protection of populations against COVID 19	BAFOUSSAM, 29 and 30 JUNE	CAMEROON EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION PROCIVIS PLAFOSCIL	Master the generalities of COVID 19 Know and apply covid 19 prevention methods Establish a guide line for all
Organizational Capacity	From July 14 to	CAMEROON HUMAN	Increase the performance of the

Building Workshop for Civil Society Organizations Members of the Observatory of Public Liberties of Cameroon	16, 2021 in DOUALA	RIGHTS COMMISSION WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PACEL	OLPC and its members, while promoting healthy emulation among stakeholders
National Convention of Women for Peace in Cameroon	July 29, 30 and 31 Congress Palace YAOUNDE	FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG	Understanding the role of women in peace processes Historical dynamics of the role of women in conflicts and peace processes Women, peace and civil society Women in peace processes in Cameroon
CAFI: Call to action Field Implementation:  - Establish specialized GBV services and programs that are accessible to anyone affected by GBV and available from the onset of an emergency	AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 04, 2021 in Yaoundé, Cameroon	DYNAMICS OF WOMEN LEGAL EXPERTS; CARE INTERNATIONAL CAMEROON, ETC.	Establish specialized GBV services and programs accessible to anyone affected by GBV and available from the onset of an emergency  Integrate and implement actions to prevent GBV and mitigate GBV risks at all levels and sectors of the humanitarian response  Mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through humanitarian action
Setting up a consultative and exchange framework between the security forces and community actors on issues of community violence, traditional justice, human rights and the penal code, in respect of cultural diversity	September 15 in BUEA	MINPROFF BUEA/UNITES NATION AGENCIES	-Ensure the respect of human rights  -The protection of vulnerable persons,  Especially women, youth and children

## SECOND PART

This second part is more critical because it allows us to analyze and shed more light on the actions taken. To tell the truth, our interventions would be in vain if they did not produce any social transformation.

We have therefore organized this part around three main points which are: the results obtained, the difficulties encountered, the observations and the new challenges.

### 2.1- THE OBTAINED RESULTS

The results obtained during the year 2021 are structured around certain elements:

#### 2.1.1: An increasingly large and diversified number of targets :statistics :

Over time, the number of our targets continues to diversify. As evidenced by the categories below.

Activities carried out	Places	Number of girls/women	Number of Boys/Men	Total people affected
<b>55th edition of the Youth Day</b>	. College of Laureates . Dominican youth . ADEF . Bepanda High School . College of Perfection . Laval College . Star College	110 100 100 300 200 300	91 150 70 200 100 200	201 250 170 500 300 500
<b>SS Total Youth Day</b>		<b>1110</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>1921</b>
<b>Menstrual hygiene day</b>	. Perfection College . College of the Sun . Parish of St Charles L. . Home workshops . broadcasts on 4 RADIOS: MIRROR, AUDACE, VERITAS and CARREFOUR	800 300 130 100	500 200 80 /	1300 500 200 100

<b>SUB TOTAL Menstrual Hygiene Day</b>		<b>1320</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>2100</b>
<b>Family Planning day</b>	Training of peer educators	20	20	40
<b>international day of the girl</b>	. St Julianne College . Mongo Joseph High School .College Pol. Islamic .Sacred Heart College .Bil Bonassama High School .BTC Association . Girls of Ndokoa . CFP Akwa	400 240 100 350 200 40 50 50	200 160 / 250 / / 10 30	600 400 100 600 200 40 60 80
<b>Subtotal for Girl's Day and FP</b>		<b>1450</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>2120</b>
<b>Cameroon AIDS Month</b>	.Building DAJEC staff capacities 2, 4 and 5 .Number of young people reached	20	2	22 34,908
<b>Disability Day</b>	Home of the rising sun	08	12	20
<b>International Women's Day</b>	. University of Douala . Esplanade Sub-prefecture	150 150	50 20	200 170
<b>widow's day</b>	. New Town Airport Civil Status Center	150	15	165
<b>Rural Women's Day</b>	. Chiefdom of NDOKOA in the department of Haute Sanaga	60	10	70
<b>16 days of activism against violence</b>	. ASAFAE headquarters . Bonassama High School . Logpom 2 High School . Collective marriage ceremony at the special civil status center NKOLOULUN 40 couples . Wedding ceremony at the esplanade of the town hall of DOUALA 4: 32 couples	105 150 200 200 250	08 50 100 150 150	113 200 300 350 400
<b>African</b>	. Radio program on the			

<b>Child Day</b>	rights of the child Radio mirror, crossroads and audacity			
<b>Raising awareness on the fight against COVID 19</b>	. MUPAC . PDI . Students	300 100 417	250 100 300	550 200 717

#### **LISTENING ACTIVITIES**

<b>PATTERN</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>CALL</b>	<b>WHATSAPP MESSAGE</b>	<b>SMS MESSAGE</b>
<b>GBV all categories combined</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Sexual Health Questions</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Request for advice and guidance</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

It should be noted that the lack of a referral system and the fear of breaking the silence prevent victims from approaching us because they are really unsure of the outcome. In addition, many call or simply come to empty their bags because they do not know what sauce they will be eaten.

But, to effectively fight against GBV, substantive work must be done. We live in a context where all values are recognized for wives and very few for widows and single women. These situations must be taken into account in raising awareness.

Initially, it would be a question of sensitizing women on their fundamental rights which are: inalienable, extra-patrimonial rights, these rights which are untransmissible, which are not lost despite their non-use, in order to give back to women, the meaning and the taste of his being and his person.

In addition, we must above all work on the financial empowerment of women and teach them to make decisions that concern them. All actions to be taken are towards her and not against her. Our work is a work of listening and above all of orientation. It is the woman who is at the center of his life and not someone else.

Furthermore, defenders of women's rights must arm themselves or be armed in the face of any prejudices in society.

## **2.1.2 - Good reception from the institutions:**

High schools, colleges, vocational training centers, primary schools, as well as universities and other major training schools, churches and mosques, are increasingly opening their doors to AFE staff. The other associations do not achieve the same results as us because of blockages on the ground. AFE's strategy of working with MINJEC and MINPROFF is the best one, because these institutions work as scouts in the field, and thus mark the way for the Association. This shows that the public authorities and society are sensitive to the cause we are defending with regard to its merits.

## **2.1.3- Improved collaboration with public authorities**

The decentralized state services, particularly those in AFE's area of expertise, are increasingly collaborating with it: MINJEC, MINSANTE, MINPROFF, MINESEC and MINEFOP.

This collaboration, although insufficient, brings more credibility to our actions at the same time as it opens more doors for us. Indeed, had it not been for the intervention of certain sectors at the college level, we would never have had access to it.

## **2.1.4- One increasing gain for questions relating to sexuality:**

Increasingly in schools and institutions, awareness sessions on reproductive health are quite popular with students, proof of the interest in the issue.

The drop in the number of calls is due to the ease offered by Whatsapp. This is proof that the interest of educational talks is growing among young people.

Questions about reproductive health issues are increasingly common. Meetings for "counseling" questions asked via SMS or Whatsapp show us that the lack of information on reproductive health is really glaring. Everything is an opportunity for us to remind young people that the place where they should go par excellence remains the health facilities. We cannot, just by describing white discharge, itching, condoms remaining in the vagina, intermittent bleeding during menstruation, etc., make a diagnosis. It is necessary to consult and take urethral, vaginal and/or blood samples. Unfortunately, hospital formations do not have a specific welcome for young people. They are afraid of being judged.

## **2.1.5-International and local recognition:**

The President of AFE, through her effective presence in the field, has been crowned with two international distinctions by her co-option as a member of the International AIDS Society since July 2018, a global platform for AIDS actors.

The same goes for Word Pulse, an association that works to amplify women's voices through communication, capacity building and more. AFE is also a member of several platforms in the region and in the country such as: Women

leaders in Cameroon, Women 4 dialogue, Women in management, platform for peaceful elections, CSO Coordination platform, Wilpf Gender analysis, Generation equality ECCAS and also a member of a professional group, Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME). In this year 2020, the President of the AFE received two awards for work and commitment carried out on the work for issues of generational equality. The first was received at the KINSHASA conference, and the second was given by the ECCAS generation equality platform.



*received by the generation equality platform for commitment to work*

*Prize*

## **2.2- ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES**

The year 2021 also had its share of difficulties, which are at several levels:

### **2.2.1-Support for services including training:**

Many people would like to be trained in our areas of expertise, particularly sexuality education in the family, dialogue with children, conflict management, women's and children's rights, gender-based violence, resilience work, but are unwilling or unable to bear the related loads.

### **2.2.2- Difficulty stabilizing staff:**

The lack of available and qualified human resources is one of our great difficulties: some organizers agree to be trained despite our modest contribution, but do not make themselves sufficiently available to the association. Some lack time, others are students, but deep down there is a lack of financial motivation.

### **2.2.3- Difficult implementation of action/animation clubs on life and love and gender clubs**

One of our concerns would be to create frameworks in schools and colleges allowing young people to raise awareness and educate themselves, and to support them in this. We encounter the difficulty of creating or setting up Life and Love Education clubs. Some establishments give us quite a long period of reflection and others would like their health clubs to be strengthened.

Nevertheless, this year we were able to create a gender club in a local establishment, but which could not be supported due to a lack of resources on the one hand and school calendars on the other.

### **2.2.4- Lack of financial resources**

The real difficulty remains and remains the problem of transport. Getting around the city is a real obstacle course. To save time and arrive on time, we take motorcycles with all the risks that entails. This situation weakens our work equipment and we are obliged to renew it each time. How to protect the picture boxes and the video projector on a motorcycle? In addition, the working environment is very changeable, and varies from place to place. Sometimes you have to go to several classrooms for the same speech, or there is no electricity; there is always a reason that prevents us from achieving our goals.

### **2.2.5- Prevalence of prejudice**

The problems of stereotypes, of mentality difficult to change also remain a very great difficulty in our work; habits die hard, it's true. Our challenge remains to arouse in the child or young people we train, a critical spirit.

## **2.2.6- Low business sensitivity**

Just like last year and the years before, we are not always able to get corporate citizens to rally behind the cause that interests us so much, namely the sex education of young people. Yet more and more, many companies, in their civic momentum, come to support certain organizations.

## **2.2.7- Issues of gender identity and sexual orientation in schools**

The problems of homosexuality and drugs in the school environment continue to arise for us, but we really lack experience in the matter and do not know where to go or how to direct young people to better provide themselves. There is a real need for training for the members of our association. Drugs also wreak havoc in the school environment and the problem is really acute. We must take the bull by the horns, because the rate of vandalism, aggression between pupils and teachers, between pupils and pupils is going more and more.

## **2.2.8- Difficulty of publication and dissemination**

Our newspaper "my sexuality I speak about it" has not appeared since 2017 as expected due to lack of funding.

- Some problems that are posed to us are not always part of our field of action.
- For some partner institutions and/or users, we must add other aspects to our activities such as the protection of the elderly, the environment, climate change, etc. Everyone realizes that what is taught is different from what is lived. How to find the words to explain climate change to the youngest who see plastics invading their environment, and trees being cut down without reforestation;
- With regard to children with mental disabilities, the obvious need is to rent a place where parents can come and work with their sick children.
- Moreover, partnerships between CSOs are not always fair because many play games and do not want to participate financially. The collaboration with the Ministries also remains very mixed, because the delegations always complain about the lack of the budget and do not participate financially in the activities.
- Finally, our activities are not given so much media coverage by the newspapers, the written press, television because at every moment, you have to pay.
- Difficulty in obtaining funds from the African Union, yet an agreement has been signed between the AU and AFE since March 27, 2019, relating to the gender-sensitive budget.
- Difficulty finding support to edit the guide to raped girls written in English and French.

## **2.3- FINDINGS AND NEW CHALLENGES**

We have two challenges to overcome: those related to the socio-cultural and political environment and those related to the functioning of the organization.

### **2.3.1-Challenges related to the socio-cultural and political context**

**2.3.1.1-** The empowerment of women: Cameroonian women also contribute to the economic survival of their community and to the growth of their country by performing jobs and activities in undervalued sectors (domestic work, informal economy, etc.). Despite all this, they still remain poor. They are generally deprived of access to assets, credit and any form of social insurance. We need to promote their economic empowerment by removing all the barriers and other traditional and cultural constraints that continue to keep them in the rank of being inferior. The social impact of this empowerment must improve the living conditions of the family and could even exert an influence on their decision-making power at the level of the family, the community and the country.

It is the same for rural women who despite all the efforts made to feed the populations of the big cities, their voice is still not taken into account.

**2.3.1.2- Education:** To educate is to free people's speech and thought. Education allows the expression of legitimate questions, freedom of thought, respect for personal values and fulfillment in the relationship with others. This is the reason why we must educate everyone and especially the young girl. For greater justice, we would gain empower girls to access education and raise female literacy rates. Education is also the means of increasing the participation of women in the labor force and strengthening employment policies in favor of women, of improve women's access to credit. Finally, we must promote the rights and participation of women in political life without forgetting to expand programs on reproductive health, as well as family support policies.

**2.3.1.3- Gender-based discrimination:** girls far outnumber boys in primary and secondary education. But it is difficult to find them at the superior level; and if so, it's rarely in the so-called scientific series. They are encouraged to enroll in literary series, in order to quickly promote their integration into social life. Women have great difficulty in being recruited because of their future maternity, and it happens that they are made to sign commitments to refrain from having children before a certain period. Because women are called, whether we like it or not, to found a family, it is necessary to: strengthen programs for nutrition, disease prevention and maternal health; improve the basic education and knowledge of women and young girls and finally, increase the

**2.3.1.4- Access to health care:** the infant and maternal and child mortality rate is still high in our country. A policy of sensitization and encouragement of women of childbearing age to attend health facilities is essential. The Cameroonian State would gain by subsidies, to reinforce the capacities of the private medical centers for a better follow-up of the women. Maternal health remains a real challenge, because it will be necessary not only to fight against ignorance, but also to integrate men who sometimes feel left out of the process of monitoring prenatal visits. Habits die hard, it's true, but we have to face the facts. Men have an important part to play in the formation of a child, in his education and in family life.

## **2.4-Challenges related to AFE's work**

### **2.4.1-Functioning of the organization**

AFE has been operating since 2018 without subsidy; willpower alone is not enough. We need both material and human resources. The lack of these main resources does not allow us to give the best of ourselves. Membership fees and sporadic aid received from friends and other benefactors cannot allow us to really take off. We therefore need institutional partners and other corporate citizens who can help us reach our full potential.

### **2.4.2-Capacity building**

Among our major concerns, the issue of capacity building figures prominently. Indeed, things change very quickly and the truths of yesterday have become the lies of today. AFE staff needs their knowledge to be updated in order to deal with the many questions that young people ask during the sensitizations and which are really relevant. Our training needs are great. We hope to be able to count on you in order to improve our performance in the field.

### **2.4.3-Failure to take into account our presence in the field**

We still remain on the fact that we could not have a visa when we were invited to the 22nd International AIDS Conference which was to be held in Amsterdam, HOLLAND. It is the same for this failure with the Spanish Embassy in Portugal where we had been invited to share our experience on the field work with others.

**2.4.4-** The absence of "safe spaces" for violent and abused people, victims of gender-based violence; there is also a lack of referencing despite the attempts to create networks that always leave us hungry for lack of funding, coordination, monitoring, etc. How to fight against GBV when these prerequisites are not acquired?

**2.4.5-** The impunity of the executioners because of the judicial system not accessible to all and the silence that continues to prevail among the victims. We would win in this fight, to put the State in front of its responsibilities, by recalling the role of the Public Prosecutor who is, according to his missions, the lawyer of the company. He can seize the many opportunities and prosecute the people who committed the offences, even if they are the spouses. At this time, we seek to protect society from the offenses committed.

**2.4.6-** The resilience work that is not done with many victims due to a lack of resources, which makes it difficult for victims to become resilient and cannot be agents of change either.

### **2.4.7Highlighting perspectives**

- ✓ We work to find capacity building opportunities for members and volunteers to respond to new challenges;
- ✓ Focus on finding partners able to support our activities over the long term (at least over a year) and even longer, why not?

- ✓ Reflect on the systems of health services sensitive to young people in the Cameroonian context, particularly in terms of sexual and reproductive health;
- ✓ Contribute to a better integration of sex education in school curricula in Cameroon by organizing a symposium on this subject.