

REPORT ON:

**CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP OF PEER EDUCATORS AND
COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM THE MBORORO AND PYGMY
COMMUNITIES OF EAST REGION ON HIV/AIDS AND GBV**



ORGANIZED BY CAMYOSFOP

BERTOUA, 15 – 16 OCTOBRE, 2019

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ACRONYMS

AIDS :	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CAMYOSFOP:	Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace
CEDAW: against Women	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination
CSO:	Civil Society Organization
EVAWG:	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
FGM:	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HR:	Human Rights
NAYONEB: Violence against Women and Girls	National Youth Network of the Boys-to-Boys Strategy on Ending
UN:	United Nations
VAWGS:	Violence against Women and Girls

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP

CAMYOSFOP with the financial support of UN WOMEN organized a 2 days capacity building workshop of peer educators and community leaders on the fight against HIV/GBV in Bertoua from the 15th to 16th of October 2019. The workshop took place in the conference hall of Christiana Hotel and brought together 30 participants; that is, 15(4women) from the Mbororo and 15(7women) Pygmies communities of East Region of Cameroon. The workshop was characterised by presentations in plenary, experience sharing, question and answer sessions and syndicate working groups.

Presentations were done on the following topics: Mapping of HIV/AIDS situation and violence against women in Cameroon, the Fight against HIV / GBV within vulnerable groups in Cameroon (Women, young women, persons living with disabilities, Mbororos and Pygmies, Rights based approach for the elimination of stigmatization, discrimination and the feminization of HIV/AIDS, the critical role of peer educators and community leaders in the fight against HIV/GBV in the Mbororo and pygmy communities, Best practice on promoting gender equality and ending GBV through the boys-to-boys strategy on ending violence against women and girls in Cameroon and the vision of the Caravan on the fight against HIV and GBV/Planification of the Caravan to be organized in Dimako. After the two days deliberations, the following recommendations were captured:

R1: There is a need to encourage communication on HIV / GBV issues in families.

R2: It will be good to involve community and religious leaders in the implementation of HIV / GBV activities to bring about behavioral change in both communities.

R3: It is necessary to empower and promote the education of the girl child.

R4: There is a need to bring outreach and capacity building activities to smaller communities.

R5: It is necessary for CAMYOSFOP to include educating young people about the harmful effects of drug use during the Caravan to be held in Dimako.

R6: Peer educators and community leaders need to be able to strike the right balance so as to be able to effectively bring about behavioral change in communities when it comes to HIV/GBV issues.

R7: The use of images during awareness raising and sensitization campaigns according to each thematic area should be encouraged.

1. Opening ceremony

1.1. Welcome address by Mr. Ngalim Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP

The opening ceremony started with a welcome address from the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP; Mr. Ngalim Eugene. He began his speech by acknowledging and appreciating the presence of all and particularly that of the Sub Divisional Delegate of Youth and Civic Education for Dimako; Mr. NGUY APPOLINAIRE FRANK. He also gave a rundown of CAMYOSFOP's activities and domains of intervention and heartily thanked UNWomen for their support. He equally expressed his gratitude to the National Youth Council, Plan International Cameroon and EL HADJ SOULEY who have been key partners in the organization of the workshop.

1.2. Opening Statement by Mr. NGUY APPOLINAIRE FRANK, Sub Divisional Delegate for Youth and Civic Education for Dimako

This was followed by the opening statement by Mr. NGUY APPOLINAIRE FRANK, Sub Divisional Delegate for Youth and Civic Education for Dimako who pointed out how pertinent the training is for the target populations as well as the important role youths would have to play in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the East Region which according to him is one of the most affected. He appreciated the initiative undertaken by CAMYOSFOP with the support of UNWomen which aims at contributing to improving on the lives of the population and that of youths in particular. He ended his speech by reassuring the participants of his Ministry's continuous support to the youths and on this note, he declared open activities of the workshop.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY OF THE WORKSHOP:

Mr. Ngalim began this session by giving a brief overview and the objectives of the workshop;

Objective1: Experience sharing on the fight against HIV/AIDS and GBV in their various communities.

Objective2: Capacity building of Peer Educators and Community leaders on the fight against HIV/GBV

Objective3: Develop a common strategy for the fight against HIV/GBV within the various communities

He equally presented the methodology which was an interactive approach based on active participation, presentations in plenary, exchange, plenary discussions and group work.

Mr. Martin TSOUNKEU moderated the session on setting workshop regulatory framework which ended with the adoption of 10 rules of conducts to be observed by all participants.

3. PRESENTATIONS IN PLENARY:

The presentations in plenary included the following:

3.1. Module 1: Mapping of HIV/AIDS situation and GBV in Cameroon; presented by Mr. Bouchard ZAMBO, Representative, UN Women

He began his presentation by defining the main objective of the module which for him will give to participants basic notions and an overview understanding of key concepts like; violence against women, harmful traditional practices and GBV as this will help them establish the link with HIV feminization. GBV is a reality in the world at large. He mentioned that in developing countries, reports on GBV acts have increased and this calls for concern as these are further aggravated by the uprising of armed conflicts. He noted that GBV is a reality in Cameroon as well and it worthy to note that, Violence against women and girls constitutes at the same time a cause and a consequence to HIV virus infection. GBV equally constitutes serious HR violations with grievous consequences on social and psychological health. He talked elaborately on the mapping of HIV prevalence in Cameroon, which shows that out of the age ranges of 15 to 49, an estimated 3.4% of the population is infected by HIV, with a sex disparity of 4.8% for women while men are just 2%. The South Region being the most infected with 6.36% and the Far North Region has the lowest infected rate with a percentage of 1.5.

Concerning the section on Understanding the links between HIV and gender based violence(GBV), he clearly established the relationship between societal and cultural norms and GBV but pointed out the fact that just like women, men and boys can equally be victims/survivals of violence with main causes being ; no respect of HR, abuse of power and inequality of sex. Some of the risks factors that contribute to violence against women, he said may include, Excess consumption of alcohol /drugs, mental and physical invalidity, distortion of roles within the family or community, dependency, lack of knowledge of individual rights; as well as social and cultural (cultural and traditional beliefs and armed conflicts/ wars, situation of refugees and internally displaced persons) . For a better understanding of the link between HIV

and GBV, he highlighted the gender construction process through an illustration of the “gender tree” which stems from the roots (representing the underground factors), the trunk (representing societal structures) and the leaves (representing the manifestation of differences in the society). Everybody he pointed out could be a victim of sexual and gender based violence (girls, women, men, boys, and people living with disabilities, minority and vulnerable groups). He noted that the vulnerability of Mbororo and Pygmy women to HIV could be very much associated to cultural and traditional norms, poverty and lack of education but the rate at which HIV/AIDS spreads amongst these women he said, could be curbed if behavioural changes in the sexual habits of men are adopted.

He outlined some strategies to fight against HIV/AIDS and GBV in Cameroon; such as, inclusion of GBV incidences on sexual reproductive health during conception of projects related to health, taking appropriate Institutional engagement on GBV, adoption of sexual harassment policies, respect of patient’s privacy and confidentiality and creation of referral networks to link survivors to legal aid and counselling structures.

3.2. Module 2: The Fight against HIV / GBV within vulnerable groups in Cameroon (Women, young women, persons living with disabilities, Mbororos and Pygmies) by Mr. Guy Nleme; Regional Director Plan Cameroon East region

Mr. Guy started his presentation by outlining the Mission and Objectives of Plan Cameroon. Next, he defined key terms such as Gender based violence and HIV. He went further to establish the Links between gender-based violence, sexual reproductive health and HIV / AIDS, he mentioned that rape can lead to the transmission of HIV and viruses because most sexual abuses go without protection as Victims of gender-based violence are often unable to negotiate the use of a condom. Mr. Guy also talked about the push factor that incites GBV and HIV on vulnerable persons. Here he recalled that children, Women, disabled, the elderly, people with chronic diseases, and Indigenous people are most vulnerable category of persons in the society. He noted that HIV and GBV is prevalent in communities where social norms promote gender inequality, where men who practice physical or sexual violence against women are not punished, and where violence against women is considered normal or justified.

He equally revealed that alcohol/drug use, history of violence, Low income or low educational level, traditional gender norms in favor of human superiority and

privileges, Gender norms that tolerate or even justify violence against women, Low community sanctions against perpetrators, poverty, contributes to HIV and GBV in communities. All these, he said leads to marginalization, social exclusion, trauma, death, depression are all Social consequences of GBV and HIV. Thus he mentioned that these negative effects can be mitigated through family support to survivors, medical care, social protection and social reintegration.

Talking about community action to support vulnerable people, survivors of GBV and HIV / AIDS, he stated that there is need for awareness raising, training, education, behavior change, family support and questioning of harmful social practices. The presentation ended with the role of CSOs and Faith Based Organizations on the fight against GBV and stigmatization against persons living with HIV, and Preventive methods against GBV in homes and the community

3.3. Module 3: Rights based approach for the elimination of stigmatization, discrimination and the feminization of HIV/AIDS; presented by Mr. TSOUNKEU; General Representative ADIN

He started by giving a genesis of the Universality of Human Rights adoption after which he outlined the 3 main categories of fundamental rights (individual, collective and social rights). He also talked on International Human Rights (HR) Instruments relating to HIV/AIDS (Universal Declaration of HR, Declaration of engagement on HIV, CEDAW, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Pact on Civil and Political Rights, African Charter for Human and People's Rights, Protocol on the Rights of Women, African Charter on Children and African Youth Charter). He equally talked on the importance of HR for social inclusion and equality, nature and outreach of discrimination and its contribution in justifying inequalities in revenues, properties, health and education, discrimination and how the State engages to fight against direct and indirect discrimination, potential contributions on "Rights based approaches" by Government, CSO and international donors in the fight against discrimination and inequalities and why HR protection is necessary in the fight against HIV/AIDS

3.4. Module 4: The critical role of peer educators and community leaders in the fight against HIV/GBV in the Mbororo and pygmy communities by Mr. Guy Nleme; Regional Director Plan Cameroon East region

Starting his presentation, he noted that GBV and HIV / AIDS have disastrous consequences on individuals, victims / survivors, families, local communities,

nations and the world at large. He equally noted that behaviors, attitudes, beliefs and actions of the community members are the main causes of this phenomenon in the communities. Thus he mentioned that in order to effectively fight against GBV and HIV / AIDS in communities, there is a need for a real change in behavior by perpetrators of GBV.

He revealed that in this process of change of behavior and social education, community leaders the peer educators are called to play a key role. Furthermore, he gave a definition of community leaders and peer educators with examples and differences. Talking on the theories of behavioral change he mentioned that some prominent people are able to cause behavioral change in some people, based on an individual's system of values and interpretation because some individuals in a given population act as agents of behavior change by disseminating information and influencing collective norms in their community and some members of a given peer group (peer educators) can contribute to behavior change within this group.

He also presented the challenges of Peer Educators in Addressing Gender-Based Violence and HIV in Communities and emphasized that peer educator must have the capacity to manage these "constraints and opportunities" to their benefit, to change behaviors within the group and in the community.

He also established that the role of peer educators in the fight against GBV in their community is to: Mobilize and organize peers, Conduct awareness activities and provide accurate information on the disease and risky behaviors, help peers develop the skills needed to change their behavior, organize and animate discussions and exchanges, present cases and evidence favorable to behavioral change, conduct individual interviews with peers when necessary, distribute condoms, pamphlets, information and awareness leaflets where appropriate and referral to services.

On the other hand, he mentioned that the role of community leaders in the fight against HIV / GBV is to Mobilize and direct the community towards an idea, vision and goal. In this light, he said such a person must be organized, encourage others to express the best of themselves, inspire others, have a spirit of commitment, see possibilities, not obstacles, Show example, be determined, collaborate with other, take risk, mobilize and organize the community, Facilitate awareness raising and awareness activities, promote the establishment of community structures to fight against the phenomena, Provide technical and material assistance for awareness raising activities, establish reporting and case reporting mechanisms, establish community-based case management structures.

3.5. Module 5: Best practice on promoting gender equality and ending GBV through the boys-to-boys strategy on ending violence against women and girls in Cameroon by Mr. Jean Serge Nguiamba Mbile; Coordinator NAYONEB

Mr. Nguiamba started by presenting the genesis of the NAYONEB, which he said, is an innovative and best practice on EAWGs in Cameroon and Central Africa as a whole created in November 2014 by CAMYOSFOP with the support of UN Women Country Office in Cameroon. Furthermore, he mentioned that this strategy is innovative because it engages men who most often are the perpetrators of violence against women and Girls unlike in other strategies where only the victims that are women are involved.

Talking on the achievements of the network, he revealed that they have already mobilized over 100.000 men in the 10 regions of Cameroon to endorse the HeForShe campaign, engaged traditional and community leaders in the Northern and North West regions against early marriage, FGM, sexual assault, child trafficking, domestic violence and all other obnoxious practices against women, engaged 20 secondary schools through CAMYOSFOP on enhancing gender equality through diverse activities, organized a Motorized Bike Riders Caravan in the city of Buea to mobilize bike riders against VAWGs during the 16 Days of activism, and continues to educate young boys on the notion of gender equality and against all sort of discrimination against their peers girls.

Ending his presentation, he noted that there is need to scale up the activities of NAYONEB with support of key government departments especially MINPROFF, UN agencies especially UN Women and other partners working on the same concept.

3.6. Module 6: The vision of the Caravan on the fight against HIV and Violence against women/Planning of the Caravan to be organized in Dimako; presented by Mr Ngalim Eugene; Executive Director CAMYOSFOP

Considering that organising a caravan is one of CAMYOSFOP's major activities of the project, there was need for a proper planning of the event including the peer educators and community leaders from the target communities who took part in the capacity-building workshop. It is in line with this that, Mr. Ngalim presented on the vision of the caravan on the fight against HIV and violence against women, which will be taking place on November 2nd, 2019 in Dimako, East Region of Cameroon. He stated by displaying images of some caravans CAMYOSFOP had carried in the past

years, as an entering point for participants to better understand the idea and importance of organizing caravans during massive sensitization campaigns on gender based violence and HIV. He equally highlighted the role peer educators and community leaders have to play in the mobilization of their peers within the communities for a massive participation in the upcoming Caravan. Proposed activities for the event which was adopted by all include; a march across the city, free screening for HIV, counselling on violence against women, educative talks by prominent personalities and survivals, traditional dance performances, musical and comedy shows, distribution of gadgets, debates, Radio and Television talk shows.

4. Syndicate Groups

Participants were divided into two groups to work on the topic: mapping the prevalence of GBV/ HIV in the pygmy and Mbororo Communities and the strategy on the fight against GBV/HIV. At the end of the discussions, the groups presented the following strategy:

Group 1: Pygmy community from Ayos and Dimako

Mapping of areas of GBV and HIV: Homes, school environments, drinking spots, markets, camps, motels and hotels, water supply spots and river sites and prostitution site

Proposed strategies to curb this phenomenon; Sensitization and educative talks Work in collaboration with the population, Carryout free screening of HIV at the local level, Work in synergy with community and religious leaders as well as the church and organize trainings.

Group 2: Mbororo community:

Do a mapping of areas of GBV and HIV:

Mandjeu (video clubs, Bocom Petrole station , parks for trucks and Bindia market round about), Boulembe(Motel and market), Guiwa Yangamo(central market), Ndokayo(central market), Zembe Borongo(Motel and market), Goudo Bazere(center), Garoua Boulai(Entrance to town, station motel, hotel and market), Bazzama(football field), Colin des mines (exploitation sites, motel, market), Keite(Entrance to town, centre and sites)

Proposed Strategies to fight against GBV and HIV:

Sensitization and educative talks, working in collaboration with the population, carryout free screening of HIV at the local level, Work in synergy with community and religious leaders, Organize trainings and provide socio-economic support for better reinsertion of victims/survivals, Creation of community radios, promotion and vulgarization of Rights relating to GBV/HIV and Organize caravans.

5. Closing Ceremony

5.1. Remarks by the Executive Director, CAMYOSFOP

The Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP, Mr. Ngalim Eugene in his closing remarks thanked all participants for their active participation during the workshop. He heartily thanked all partners (UN Women, Plan Cameroon, and National Youth Council) for their support in organizing the event and mentioned that he counts on their collaboration on the implementation of future projects.

5.2. Remarks by Mr Bouchard Zambo, Representative, UN Women

The representative of UN Women, Mr. Bouchard Zambo, expressed gratitude to all the participants for their participation and noted that he was very satisfied with the quality of participants selected for the workshop. He revealed that the collaboration between UN Women and Plan Cameroon has produced a lot of positive impact in communities. He thanked CAMYOSFOP for the work done and pledged to continue working with her on future projects on the fight against GBV and HIV. He urged participants to take the message back to their communities and endeavor to share the outcome of their activities with partners. Lastly, he declared the workshop closed.

6. Conclusion

The organizers as well as the participant were satisfied with the outcome of the workshop and the take home message was ; encourage each and every person in the community to know their HIV status by going for the test because this will enable us to take the necessary measures to protect the lives of others. Encourage already infected persons to follow up treatment. Sensitize families and communities on discrimination, stigmatization and feminization of HIV as this will go a long way in contributing to the fight against gender based violence.

Figure1 : Some participants from the Pygmy (left) and Mbororo communities (right)



Figure 2: Mr. NGUY APPOLINAIRE FRANK, Sub Divisional Delegate for Youth and Civic Education for Dimako giving the opening statement (left) and Mr. Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP giving his opening statement (right)