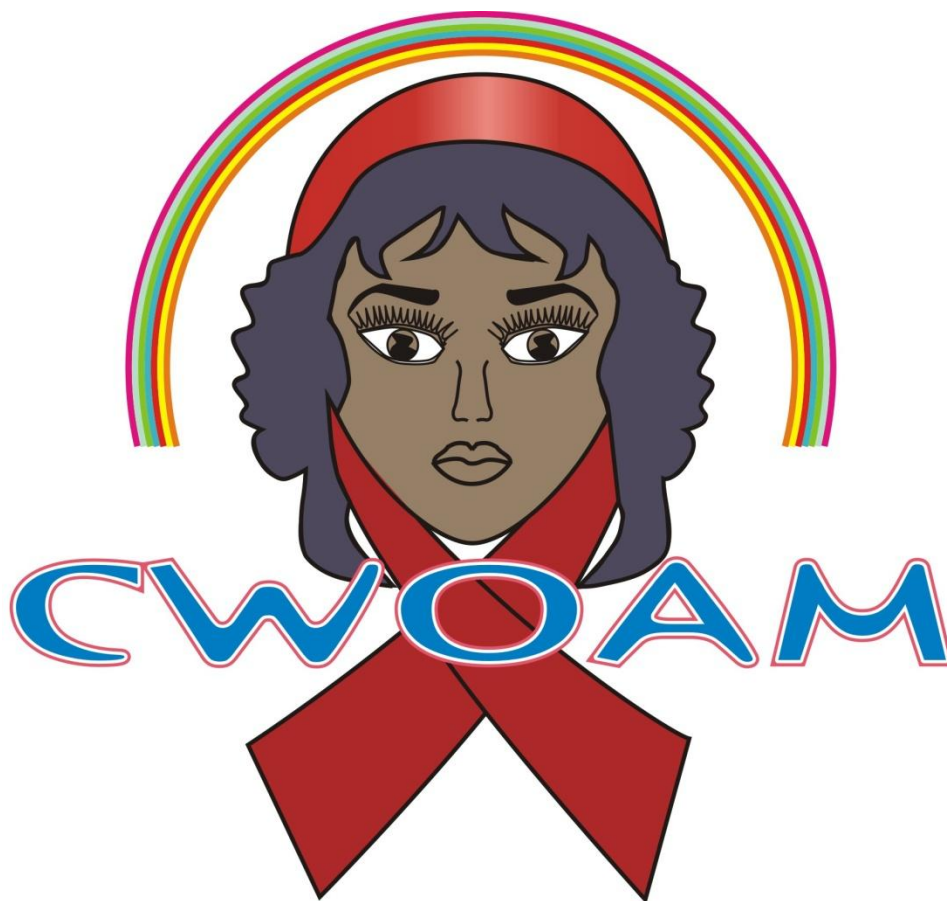


**COALITION OF WOMEN ORGANISATION FOR
THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS AND MALARIA
(CWOAM)**

Annual Report 2009 / 2010



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PREFACE

INTRODUCTION:

Coalition of Women Organisation for the Fight against HIV/AIDS and Malaria (CWOAM) is an umbrella organisation made up of fifteen Rural Women's Association and based in Cameroon. Our main activities include farming, agriculture trade, revolving credit scheme, cooperative activities such as gari processing and many others. Because of diversified activities and greater participation, we are spread all over South West Province of Cameroon. CWOAM believes that the rights of women are crucial in any society and thus seeks to promote those rights through various institutions at local, regional and continental levels

Working with a wide range of partners, CWOAM's members bring the issues of women living with HIV to the national stage, while providing them with support. Over 5000 members-strong after two years of operation, CWOAM provides a space for women to meet with leaders, receive microfinance support, and advocate for their needs. CWOAM holds anti stigma and discrimination workshops, campaigns on violence against women, and provides support to children orphaned by AIDS. The coalition's activities have encouraged thousands of women to be open about their status and to seek HIV testing and counseling, antiretroviral treatment, mother to child transmission prevention, and nutritional support.

MISSION:

CWOAM exists to curb the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improve the livelihoods of those affected/infected with the virus in the community.

VISION:

The vision of CWOAM is a world in which people do not die of AID

For us, this means a world in which communities: have brought HIV under control by preventing its transmission; enjoy better health; and can fully exercise their human rights.



VALUES:

Our actions are guided by the following **values**:

The lives of all human beings are of equal value.
Everyone has the right to access the HIV information and services they need for a healthy life.

Together, with other partners, we are committed to supporting community action and, through collaboration, provide strength and support to each other in pursuit of our core commitments:

- Community action
- Participation
- Accountability
- Rights-based approach
- Gender
- Equality and diversity
- Children and young people
- Comprehensive, integrated responses
- Evidence-based
- Quality support

OBJECTIVES:

- To sensitize, educate, mobilize and raise the level of awareness of all women in Cameroon especially in rural areas, in matters concerning HIV/AIDS related problems.
- To undertake AIDS prevention and control activities that are acceptable to all women in Cameroon based on socio-cultural background.
- To examine, formulate and support AIDS control program for women in Cameroon especially in the rural areas.
- To collaborate with national and international organizations in AIDS prevention and control.



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3. WORD FROM THE National Coordinator



On behalf of the communities that we partner and work with and on behalf of CWOAM Staff, I am pleased to share with you the CWOAM Annual report for the implementation year 2009/2010. This year has been completed in the usual CWOAM style of high levels of commitment, confidence, creativity and accountability. There have been some ups and downs, but these were all handled maturely and honestly by everyone concerned. The

remarkable achievements shown in the following pages of this report were often realized in the face of a number of challenges, including a heavy workload. However, to most members, job satisfaction was the force behind their tireless and unselfish execution of their duties to serve the less fortunate and vulnerable members of our community. Team work and the CWOAM spirit are always at work here, and with great honor I thank all the staff and volunteers for that undying spirit. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has caused suffering and death within the community, so I salute our sister organizations -AID for Women and Children - for their continuing support of providing effective HIV treatment to our clients. Their continued services prolong and improve our clients' lives, despite the credit crash which has affected the global funding system. Appreciation also goes to the Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC), which has made it possible for CWOAM to educate children about HIV /AIDS through sensitizing them and teaching prevention measures and general reproductive health. We look forward to the continued support we received from our national partners, to maintain the momentum we have so far gained towards achieving our mission-A Cameroonian Society that is free of poverty and lives in Dignity. We call on International partner and funders to support our plight to save women from Malaria and HIV

Bitame Lucia
National Coordinator



4. MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



It is difficult to fully capture, in a document of this kind, the full scope of the work of CWOAM and the remarkable difference it makes in people's lives within our community. CWOAM continued to strengthen its HIV prevention, care and support services to realize its mission of curbing the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improving the livelihoods of those affected / infected with the virus in the community. This is manifested in its tremendous success in the areas of community outreach, voluntary counseling and testing, orphan support and sponsorship, comprehensive HIV/AIDS sensitization and education, and condom promotion/supply, as is clearly indicated in the following pages of this report.

Our partnerships with international individual donors and institutions have continued to grow, and we wish to thank our past and current national volunteers for their input and commitment towards the realization of CWOAM's mission. Our local partner organizations, government, schools, women groups, CWOAM staff and the clients who have been instrumental in making this implementation year a success are also acknowledged and appreciated with our utmost gratitude. In conclusion, this report documents CWOAM's work over the past year and calls for more action to strengthen support for the organization's vital interventions. "Through partnership we can make a difference."

Odelter Njungwei, Program Director



5. OVERVIEW



CWOAM continues to provide HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and support services in the communities we serve. This report covers interventions and activities implemented FY 2009/2010 which is the third year since the inception of CWOAM's significant work. This year under review was characterized by remarkable achievements, lessons learned, and also some challenges. Most of CWOAM's programs/activities were

consolidated and strengthened, made possible with financial, material, technical and moral support from our partner organizations/institutions, local and individual donors, staff and volunteers. Following registration with the General Hospital in Kumba and some private Clinics, CWOAM expanded its services to cover the two districts of Meme and Ndian. As regards CWOAM's HIV/AIDS



Participants on focus group discussion during the workshop

prevention program, about 2,592 school-going youth have been reached with HIV/AIDS prevention and adolescent/reproductive health information. Approximately 1,580 people have been able to know their HIV sero-status, and many people at risk of HIV/AIDS infection have accessed condoms free of charge. CWOAM's HIV/AIDS care and support program has supported 64 families registered under the community outreach project, enabled an additional number of orphans (8) to access education under the orphan sponsorship project, and referred at least 184 clients to partner organizations for treatment and other support services which fall outside of CWOAM's scope. Five national volunteers have been hosted by CWOAM in this implementation year under review, and this has increased efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. Commemoration of the World AIDS Day and distribution of Christmas packages have been the major special events/activities conducted by CWOAM in the 2009/2010 year.



CWOAM's operational principles

- Principle of practical involvement and participation of beneficiaries in the identification of key areas of operation and possible solutions in tackling issues



Participants pose for picture before capacity building workshop organized by CWOAM

associated with HIV/AIDS

- Principle of non-political and non-partisan operating environment
- Principles of non-discrimination, confidentiality, adaptation, responsibility and Partnership



Women taking part on the reflection education project on HIV/AIDS

6. HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM



6.1. Comprehensive HIV/AIDS sensitization/education

In this implementation year under review, our primary targets for HIV/AIDS sensitization

Sessions have been women, youth and men. CWOAM continued to run a project in which we conducted discussion groups in local schools in the community, focusing on the ABC approach (Abstinence, Being faithful and Condom use) as a means of HIV prevention, as well as discussing the effects of concurrent partnerships. These sensitization sessions have been conducted as more of a discussion and sharing knowledge than a lecture format. By the end of this implementation year, a total of about 2,592 young people/youth have been sensitized about the spread and prevention of HIV/AIDS. This project also involved distribution of information, education and communication materials designed to communicate sensitive information to young audiences during the sessions. Through other activities like radio talk shows and World AIDS Day celebrations, which involved HIV/AIDS sensitization and education, people of all ages in the community have benefited from our services.

6.2. Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT)



Free HIV/AIDS screening test organized by CWOAM

This service has been available through CAPEC to enable people to know their HIV status, with the aim of further reducing the spread of the virus in the community. It has promoted behavioral change for people who tested HIV negative, and acted as an entry point to other CWOAM services, including referral to partner organizations and

health facilities for treatment and other health care services, for those who tested HIV positive. Additionally, by offering VCT, people got to discuss HIV/AIDS and its impact, hence normalizing it and reducing HIV/AIDS stigma within the community. A total of 1,580 people have been able to know their HIV status free of charge, of which 59.2% were female and 40.8% were male. Adults (those aged 18 and older) constituted 74.6% of the total number of people tested. During this implementation year, 86 people tested HIV positive, resulting in an overall infection rate of 5.4% among those we tested. Of the total number of positive cases 89 % were adults (18 years and older), 64.4% of whom were women. This service has been offered in partnership with government health centers through which testing kits have been acquired. Each VCT clinic included registration, pre-test counseling, rapid HIV test, and post test counseling. For HIV positive cases, services included referral to partner health facilities and invitation to come to CWOAM office for further counseling. For vulnerable individuals and families in need, VCT clinics acted as an entry point into CWOAM's community outreach and orphan support projects.



6.3. Condom promotion and supply

Condoms have been made available through the CWOAM's office at any time during our working hours, as well as during VCT sessions in the community. Along with provision of condoms, comprehensive sensitization and training in correct use and storage was offered. CWOAM has continued to receive free condoms from the ACMS through the HIV and STD Control Program. In addition to having free condoms available for all interested individuals, we have been targeting specific groups at higher risk of HIV infection in the community for condom distribution. These included sex workers, long distance truck-drivers, urban motorcyclists (local public transport) and discordant couples, where one partner is HIV positive and the other negative.

7. HIV/AIDS CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

7.1. Community Outreach



Through the community outreach project, CWOAM has helped 64 families during this implementation year under review. We have provided psycho-social support, assistance with basic necessities (especially food, clothes, etc.), and health checks to clients (individuals and families who have been infected or affected by HIV/AIDS). This project has been implemented with the goal of improving the livelihoods of our clients, including HIV/AIDS patients, AIDS orphans, and widows and elderly people who have lost spouses and/or children to HIV. The community outreach program also involves referrals to partner organizations and government health facilities for clients who required medical treatment and other health care services.



7.2. Orphan support/sponsorship

In CWOAM's endeavor to improve the lives of orphans infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS in the community, we have continued to partner with local schools to secure scholarships that enable orphans to obtain an education. An additional 8 orphans have been enrolled in this implementation year, bringing the total number of orphans under CWOAM's orphan sponsorship project to 20. We have also provided school uniforms and scholastic materials to each of the orphans under this project. While CWOAM is unable to fund the education of all the orphans in our community, we have recently started a small program where individuals (from the community and internationally) can help us sponsor orphans. Under this arrangement, 8 orphans have been fully sponsored: 6 are in nursery and primary, while two have just started their first year at secondary level of education.



“Main dans la main” Orphanage DOUALA also benefited from CWOAM’s gesture



CWOAM supports children of Good Sheperd Orphanage NKOABANG with cartons of clothes and school suppliers

8. MALARIA PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



Malaria is one of the deadliest diseases especially in sub-Saharan Africa. The tools and drugs to fight malaria are, however, available. Prevention methods are also being promoted. But despite efforts to kick out malaria, the disease has remained persistent, affecting millions of people across most parts of the continent.



FY 2009/2010, our targets

were pregnant women and children. Throughout Africa, *P. falciparum* infections are more common in pregnant women, especially in young mothers and those in their first pregnancy. They are more likely to have both clinical and asymptomatic infections that create a health problem for the mother and developing fetus.

CWOAM distributed 1000 mosquito's nets to women and children in Kumba, and organized a series of seminar/workshop to teach them hygiene on how to keep their compound clean to prevent malaria and also to fight malaria through the use of insecticide treated mosquitoes' bed nets.


Apart from Civil Society efforts for the fight against malaria, the Government of Cameroon, represented by Dr. Ndong Bessong (Permanent Secretary of Cameroon National Malaria Control Programme, NMCP) in October launch the program for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria in homes.

9. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

World AIDS Day



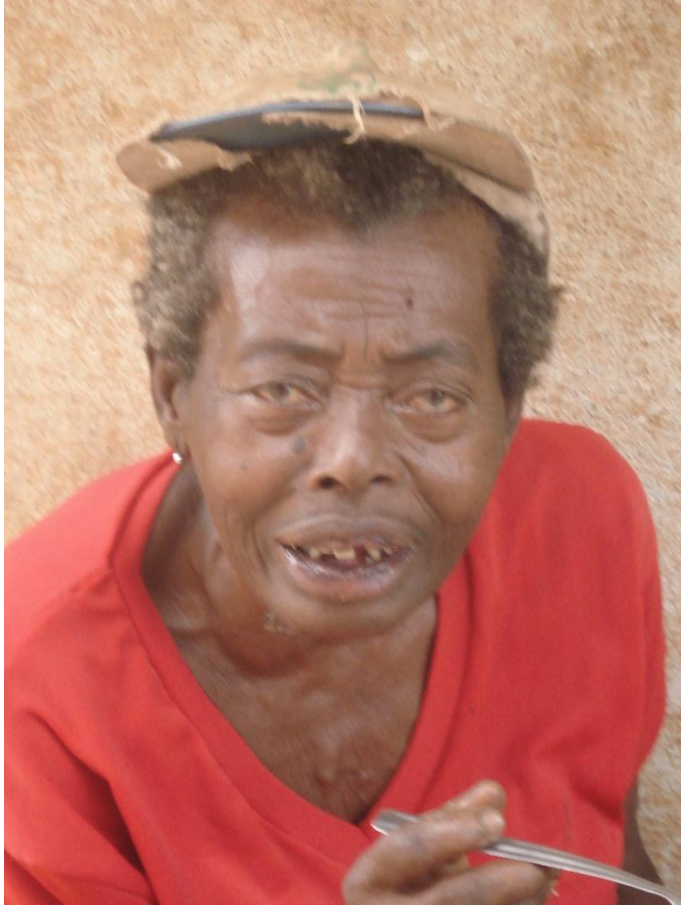
Traditional dance during the celebration of World AIDS Day 2009



On 1st December 2009, CWOAM joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International World AIDS Day at Fiango play ground, under the theme “**Universal Access and Human Rights**”. The rationale for this theme was the dire need to emphasize indiscriminate universal rights to

information and services such as voluntary counseling and testing for HIV; antiretroviral drugs (ARVs); pediatric care and treatment; and the right to HIV and AIDS treatment for all, irrespective of age, gender, race, socio-economic status, and geographical location. In partnership with other organizations and institutions, CWOAM brought together communities in Three Corner Fiango and Tancha to recognize this day locally. The event started with marching (along with a brass band) in the community, and involved local schools, organizations and local leaders. It was followed by a football match between CWOAM and CAPEC-Cameroon, drama and theatre presentations and guest speakers, including local leaders and people living with HIV/AIDS. A VCT clinic was also part of the event and at least 200 people were able to know their HIV status. This event attracted at least 500 people from Three Corners and Tancha.

10. OTHER COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTIVITIES



MA Helen of Mbonge, also benefit from CWOAM Assistance

CWOAM has continued to participate in various community health activities organized both by National NGOs and Delegation of Health Affairs, including mass immunization, hygiene and sanitation demonstrations, and drug distribution. Also in this implementation year, two of CWOAM staff members -Bitame Lucia and Odelter Njungwei - were recruited by the Delegate of Health as village health team members.



CWOAM identified and support Amina, age 13 with her 1 year old child

11. CHALLENGES



Soap production learned by women group as a means to increase livelihood

Some of the challenges we experienced in the year 2008/2009 are ongoing and have appeared in 2009/2010 as well, namely an increased number of clients in need of CWOAM's support services and lack of reliable transportation. The sustainable solution for these challenges lies in acquiring more resources for the organization. One of the



unique challenges has been referring clients to partner organizations. Due to resource constraints, we are not able to reach out to many groups that need our support. For example, travelling to distance with immovable road are very difficult for us. We are badly in need of more collaborators and donor to support our activities especially to women already infected by HIV/AIDS .An increasing workload for CWOAM staff has been yet another challenge. The organizational, community, and office tasks have been too great compared to the manpower available to complete them, resulting in a delay in accomplishing some of the tasks we set out to do this year. In the face of the above challenges, however, CWOAM has continued to deliver high quality services in accordance with its mission of curbing the further spread of HIV/AIDS and improving the livelihoods of those in our community who are infected with and affected by the virus.



Soap already made

12. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

In the next implementation year 2011/2012, CWOAM hopes to:

- Establish sustainable support projects for widows and aids orphans as means of improving their socio-economic livelihoods
- Strengthen its partnership with the government of Cameroon by signing a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
- Purchase a vehicle to facilitate effective mobility and enable CWOAM services to reach more remote areas
- Establish and strengthen partnerships with a greater number of local and international organizations and agencies



14. CONCLUSION

2009/2010 has been a year of tremendous growth for CWOAM, from a small organisation to a community based organization. A great deal of work has been achieved despite several challenges, and CWOAM is preparing to attain higher levels of service in the coming implementation year. CWOAM wishes to acknowledge and appreciate all partner organizations, individual donors, schools (Private and Public) and agencies that made CWOAM's implementation year 2009/2010 a success.



Group discussion



Energizer before workshop begins for young muslim girls on HIV in MAROUA