Global Fund to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria:
Workshop to define a specific HIV strategy for Drug Users and Trans People
EDITO : THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA IN CAMEROON: 15 YEARS OF INCREASED FINANCING FOR A STRONG IMPACT.

Cameroon is making steady progress in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria through the efforts of the Government and its development partners.

To date, the Global Fund has invested US $ 510,739,480 for the fight against these diseases and the strengthening of resilient health systems, distributed as follows: US $ 272,325,451 for HIV, US $ 26,236,727 for tuberculosis, and 212,177,301 USD for malaria; this through 15 financing agreements.

This increased investment has enabled the country to achieve convincing results in 2017 with 254,000 put on anti-retroviral treatment, 20,000 people treated with tuberculosis, and 339,000 mosquito nets distributed to the people of Cameroon.

In particular, strong prevention programs have made a huge difference in the fight against HIV. Indeed, HIV incidence rates have decreased by 45% since 2000 and antiretroviral coverage has more than doubled since 2014.

Consideration of the needs of key populations is real, and part of the allocation of the Global Fund for the period 2018-2020 was dedicated to the implementation of activities in their direction.

In addition, $ 8,636,160 in catalytic funds from the current allocation will enable these key populations to access appropriate prevention, treatment, care and support services. This partnership of the Government with the Global Fund is necessary for an even more effective response against these 3 diseases in Cameroon.

INFOS IN BRIEF :
REPLENISHMENT’S CONFERENCE 2019: The city of Lyon will host the 6th Global Fund Replenishment Conference in 2019. In a context of resource scarcity, the news has been welcomed by all stakeholders with great hope for the preservation of global health. Indeed, the report get back on track 2017 underlines that the Global Fund will need about 14 to 18 billion dollars for the period 2020-2022.

Peter Sands, Executive Director of the institution, urged states to mobilize more domestic funds: “If we want to achieve Goal Three of the Sustainable Development Goals, we can not just continue as before. We need to increase resources, donor resources as well as domestic resources … It is a question of political commitment.”

GLOBAL FUND RECRUTS LEGAL COUNSELORS IN CAMEROON: In order to ensure the legal protection of the various stakeholders involved in the implementation of Grants from Global Fund to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, CAMNAFAW has recruited 3 legal counselors who will cover the 3 project implementation areas. Thus, Me. ALIKAKANG was
retained for the zone of the great north (north, far north, Adamaoua); Me. TEKAM Roger for the Great West Zone (West, Littoral, Northwest, Southwest) and Me NDONGO Jathan for Center zone (Center, South, East).

**FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS: CAMNAFAW ORGANIZES A TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR 31 TRAINERS OF COMMUNITY AGENTS:** In collaboration with the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP), CAMNAFAW organized a workshop from 24 to 26 September 2018 for the establishment of a national pool of trainers for Community Agents for Active Research (AIDA). on Community interventions in the fight against Tuberculosis. This workshop enhanced the knowledge, skills and community practices of 31 national trainers on community facilitation techniques.

**CCM EVOLUTION:** The Board of Directors of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has recently approved a new policy on country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), and an ethical code for members. It has also decided to implement the pilot project “Evolution of country coordinating mechanisms” in sixteen (16) countries including Cameroon, according to a phased approach over eighteen (18) months.

To this end, a team of consultants consisting of Mrs. Grainne Mc Daid and Mrs. Teresita BAGASAO, Mr. Saidou HANGADOUNBO and Mr. Chris ALANDO, was in Cameroon from October 29 to November 16, 2018 as part of the first phase of this project, of which the main results were the baseline assessment and the development of a costed capacity building plan for the CCM.

The second phase of the project, which starts on December 09, 2018, allows to define and to adapt the activities to be carried out on the basis of the reinforcement plan, and especially to establish links between the CCM and the other national coordination structures in the field of health.

**THE FILE: Workshop to define a specific HIV strategy for Drug Users and Trans People:** “This workshop is the culmination of a process initiated in 2014 with the mobilization of key populations,” says NDI NDUKONG TITUS, Executive Director of the Association Empower Cameroon, who is also the alternate representative of key population MARPS. at the Cameroon National Coordinating Mechanism. Indeed, in order to prepare the implementation of HIV prevention and care activities for drug users and Trans people, Affirmative Action has organized a workshop to define the implementation’s strategy of activities towards these two target groups.

Held from 06 to 08 August 2018 in the city of Douala, it allowed to: Make an inventory of prevention activities towards the target; to analyze the strategies previously implemented; to define appropriated operational strategies (mobilization, prevention and risk management) for the implementation of activities with these population groups as part of the implementation of the Global Fund grant for the period 2018-2020.
THE INTERVIEW: “The step has been taken, but much remains to be done”

1- What inspires you the workshop to define a specific HIV strategy for Drug Users and Trans People?
   This workshop inspires me equity in the true sense of the term talking of services offer. Trans women with specific health needs were previously confused with men who have sex with men. This workshop announces an area where specific answers will be provided to these needs.

2- What is your assessment of the strategy that was adopted at the end of this workshop?:
   I think it is quite solid in terms of the aspects it has integrated, for a better implementation of interventions with Trans in the cities of Yaoundé and Douala. Although there is a risk management plan for the Global Fund project, it should be noted that Trans people themselves remain highly exposed to gender-based violence.

3- Your final word?
   I can not end without thanking all the actors who made this workshop possible, namely CAMNAFAW and Affirmative Action. The step has been taken, but much remains to be done.

SUCCES STORY:
Consideration of Drug Users: from concept note to implementation.
As part of the promotion of access to the services of drug users in connection with the new funding model of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Empower Cameroon organized a week of activities from June 20 to 25, 2018 with the technical and financial support of CAMNAFAW, the main recipient of the Global Fund for Civil Society grants. These activities took place in the cities of Yaoundé and Douala and resulted in the screening of 187 people.

Stay tuned is a magazine published by the Affirmative Action and published in French and English. It is the result of the collaboration between Affirmative Action and the Community Right Gender (CRG) of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, funded by M.PACT Global Action for Gay Men’s Health & Rights as part of the «Keep In Touch» project, and aims to become an essential document for capitalizing on the results and good practices of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria on key populations in Cameroon.