

Her Voice Fund Cameroon NEWSLETTER



QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dear Valued Reader;

The HERVoice Fund Cameroon continues its unwavering commitment to advancing the rights, health, and education of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). By advocating for health frameworks and active policy engagement, we are building a future where young women are at the center of community development. We invite you to explore the impact of our initiatives and see how AGYW are stepping into important decision-making roles nationwide.

The Her (HIV Epidemic Response) project is executed by the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Global) on behalf of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action, in partnership with the Global Fund, facilitates the meaningful engagement and leadership of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in crucial decision-making processes, intending to reduce HIV incidence and enhance overall health, well-being, and rights.

Project Objectives:

- ⇒ To increase meaningful engagement of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in Global Fund processes and related national policies in Cameroon through Support to AGYW representation and participation.
- ⇒ To improve the availability of integrated HIV and ASRH (Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Rights) services for AGYW, leading to increased access to HIV and Adolescent SRH services.
- ⇒ To create greater awareness of AGYW involvement and participation in HIV/AIDS related processes.

The HVF project is operational in 13 countries, with Cameroon identified as a

key focus area. Six grantee organizations are involved, with the Centre for Advocacy in Gender Equality and Action for Development (CAGEAD) designated as the lead organization in the country. The remaining grantee organizations are COMAGEND, HOVUCA, LEAP GIRL AFRICA, SWO, VIAC, and YEARN.

Key Aspirations of the HVF Project:

- ◇ Increase the provision of comprehensive sexuality education among AGYW, including HIV prevention Knowledge
- ◇ Reduce Gender-Based Violence and Promote Gender Equality for AGYWs
- ◇ Improve the availability of integrated HIV and ASRH services for AGYW, leading to increased access to HIV and ASRH services.

The primary goal of this project is to elevate knowledge and awareness of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV), and access to essential support services for AGYW in Cameroon. A significant focus of the project is to assist AGYW in obtaining access to SRHR services.



From Local Voices to Decision-Making Tables: CAGEAD's Journey in Strengthening HVF Grantees

Over the years CAGEAD has been charged with overseeing all 06 HVF grantee organizations through monthly coordination meetings conducted virtually. Through these coordination meetings we get to learn about activities being implemented by all 06 grantee organizations. As part of the country leads Terms of Reference, she conducts sit support visits to grantee organizations, to have a detailed review of the activities they have implemented so far, assist in areas where they face difficulties and ensure their

advocacy plea is in line with the country profile. The country lead also has a duty to engage and introduce grantees to measure decision making bodies like Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) Regional Technical Groups (RTGs) and Regional delegations of Health. CAGEAD also strengthened the capacity of some HVF grantee organizations on the development of Uproot Scorecards and this will enable them develop and implement roadmaps for their organizations





COMAGEAND strengthens AGYW voices through GBV prevention, health-rights advocacy, peer support, digital empowerment, and access to integrated health services.

COMAGEND in collaboration with three secondary schools carried out a "NO To Rape" advocacy. The campaign aimed at creating a safe, structured dialogue spaces for students to unpack rape culture, challenge harmful gender norms, and dismantle victim-blaming attitudes. By positioning gender-based violence (GBV) as a primary structural driver of adverse sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and HIV outcomes, the initiative equipped adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) with essential rights literacy, local protective measures and self-advocacy skills. Also, this activity established school-based peer support groups and functional, peer-led referral networks, enabling AGYW to safely report abuse, assist their peers, and access timely health

and social support services. The grantee organization also organized a multi stakeholder dialogue to discuss the health rights of women and girls in times of poly-crisis. This was done during the celebration of the International Day of Action for Women's Health. COMAGEAND also organized the development of a comprehensive Policy Review and Advocacy Policy Brief and disseminated in partnership with RTG as part of the national dissemination program with the **"Vacances sans SIDA"**. They also organized a holiday empowerment activity that brought together adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) to promote peer support, self-confidence, and resilience against negative peer pressure. The activity provided integrated health education on HIV,

tuberculosis, and malaria prevention, testing, and treatment adherence. It also included practical digital-skills training to enable AGYW to safely and effectively use online platforms for learning, peer-led advocacy, and accessing and sharing accurate health information. The activity complemented the organizations broader advocacy efforts by translating evidence into community level action while strengthening AGYW's autonomy, health literacy, digital capacity, and access to integrated health information and services.

Through these activities 46,095 AGYWs have been reached, 5987 other persons have been reached indirectly and 40,108 others reached through social media platforms





HOVUCA equips AGYW with menstrual health knowledge, practical skills, health-service linkages, and a stronger voice in shaping community action.

HOVUCA developed and launched the **“Our Flow, Our Pride” Campaign**, offering a practical learning experience in menstrual health and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). It involved 19 adolescent girls and young women in open discussions regarding menstruation, personal care during periods, and associated societal stigma. Additionally, participants received hands-on training in the production and proper upkeep of reusable sanitary pads. The activity successfully enhanced their knowledge, fostered confidence, developed practical abilities, and promoted greater self-reliance. Also, 4 AGYWs were assigned to the Catholic Medical Centre and Tonga District Hospital to enhance their practical skills in health promotion,

peer interaction, and connecting peers to healthcare services. Through this initiative, 41 AGYW young mothers received information and guidance concerning available health resources.

A dialogue session was also conducted involving stakeholders and 25 participants, including adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and representatives from five different stakeholder groups. The meeting allowed AGYW to discuss their experiences and interact with stakeholders regarding health, education, protection, active involvement, and sustainability. The meeting led to the identification of shared actions and the creation of a Community Commitment Charter.





Trained through the Adolescent Initiative Reform, AGYW are championing SRHR, promoting inclusive decision-making, and restoring hope among their peers including young people living with disabilities.

During this reporting period AGYWs trained through the Adolescent Initiative Reform (AIR) have been so instrumental in sensitizing their peers and general public on sexual reproductive health and rights. Through their lessons on advocacy they have been able to advocate for girls and women inclusion in decision making spaces and youth friendly services. The organizations approach to educate and sensitize youths from all diversities has been commendable as this spirit of oneness has been a source of hope to AGYWs in indigenous communities especially those living with disability. They have been able to restore hope to their peers and increasing knowledge on their sexual reproductive health rights despite their predicaments. The



Through self-awareness, menstrual health education, GBV sensitization and community dialogue, SWO is empowering adolescent girls and young women to know their rights, build confidence and shape safer communities.

SWO within her project “Voice of Adolescent Girls and Young Women” organized community club activities within her project implementation area one of which was self-esteem/ self-awareness. It was an educative and impactful session which targeted 45 beneficiaries The grantee organization also commemorated the World Menstrual Hygiene Day under the theme “Together for a period friendly world” Within the celebration beneficiaries were educated on the biology of menstruation, how to maintain proper menstrual hygiene practices and safe disposal of menstrual materials. Equally, they were taught on how to calculate their menstrual cycle, knowing their ovulation, safe and unsafe periods using their own personal menstrual cycle. As part of the grantees activities she organized and conducted a community sensitization session on

GBV, its potential impact on the health, safety and well-being of AGYWs particularly on how it contributes to increasing the vulnerability of HIV infections. The activity brought together community members, young girls and boys, men and women to discuss the forms of GBV, its consequences, preventive methods, strategies and available support services. SWO also conducted a one day community dialogue session with religious and traditional leaders, community representatives, Women Led Organizations and women leaders to deconstruct negative social norms and enhance their knowledge on GBV. The dialogue provided a safe space and participatory platform for stakeholders to openly discuss the causes and consequences of GBV





Empowering Adolescents, Strengthening Communities, and Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

For this reporting period VIAC implemented and rights. As part of her activities, she has carried out activity on transforming peer pressure into positive strategic advocacy and partnerships for CSE peer influence by empowering adolescents to turn promotion by working with communities, service peer pressure into positive peer influence through providers and strategic partners to strengthen healthy decision making, peer support, leadership and advocacy for Comprehensive Sexuality Education positive behavioral change. VCAT sessions were (CSE) and create supportive environments for conducted with boys, girls, men and women. The adolescents.

grantee partners have equally collaborated with other They have created a positive impact on adolescents, institutions to address menstrual dignity, girl's boys and men through VCAT sessions reaching 321 empowerment, drug abuse prevention and other issues people (94 boys, 140 girls, 9 men and 78 women). affecting young people through advocacy events, 1,400 people were reached through drug abuse conferences, walks and community engagement. To advocacy activities and international day of the girl child where 514 girls were direct beneficiaries and add, they have engaged communities through 2,161 indirect beneficiaries. Strengthened capacity of community dialogues and participation while 150 young people on Sexual Reproductive Health and supporting community driven initiatives that respond to local needs and promote adolescent wellbeing and Rights





YEARN empowers AGYWs to take their advocacy to the decision-making table, opening new pathways for participation, leadership and meaningful influence in their communities.

YEARN within the project “Supporting AGYWs in Crisis to have a Voice regarding decisions that affect them through education, Empowerment and service linkage” was able to mobilize adolescent girls and young women to attend the Tubah council budget planning meeting for 2026 during which they were able to present their advocacy request. It was a

great experience as the Mayor of the council categorically said it was not part of the agenda but applauded the bravery of the young girls and planned another meeting with them. He also called upon AGYWs to take up positions at the council’s upcoming elections.

The grantee also organized a workshop with adolescent girls

and young women in Babanki to reinforce health clubs and also organized GBV sensitization sessions. Another workshop was also organized with AGYWs to strengthen the functioning of AGYWs health clubs. During this reporting period, 65 AGYWs were directly reached.



OUR TEAM

Editor in Chief: CLOTILDA Andiansa Waah

Producer: Chia Fastinus Kam

Coordinator Lead: Ndifor Kishiana Nchang

Contributor: CAGEAD, COMAGEND, HOVUCA, LEAP GIRL AFRICA, SWO, VIAC, and YEARN.

PARTNER AND GRANTEES

