

AFASO • ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES ACTIVES ET SOLIDAIRES
(Organization of Active Women in Solidarity)

Last Updated: April 2004

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 Contact: Pauline Mouton
 Started: 2000
 City: Yaoundé
 Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:	
Patients receiving care:	0
Patients on ARVs:	30
Doctors and medical assistants:	0
Nurses and caregivers:	0

AFASO is an organization of women living with HIV/AIDS that started in July 2000 with the general goal of helping and supporting HIV+ people and AIDS orphans; their objectives are to create a support system around people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS; to promote the rights and physical, economic and mental well-being of women living with HIV/AIDS; to sensitize the various decision-makers on their situation.

Members of the organization insure that there is always someone at the day clinic: conducting pre- and post-test counseling and communicating the results. They organize home visits and visits to the hospital to mutually support one another, and to better manage their anxieties and difficulties in relation to their health and to their economic situations, with few resources; Additionally, the organization offers psychosocial follow-up on ARVs and conducts education and information sessions on treatment. Thirty of the clients are currently on ARVs. Getting more involved in providing treatment would need funding of ARVs, additional personnel, and training.

AFSU • ASSOCIATION DES FRERES ET SŒURS UNIS
(Organization of Brothers and Sisters United)

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 Started: 1994
 City: Yaoundé
 Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:	
Patients receiving care:	0
Patients on ARVs:	25
Doctors and medical assistants:	4
Nurses and caregivers:	2

Started in 1994, the AFSU gave itself the mission of being a spokesperson of people living with HIV /AIDS in Cameroon. In terms of care their main activities are the following:

- Medical and nutritional assistance
- Comprehensive psychological care of people are HIV- infected or affected;
- Home visits to PLHWAs and families;

Among AFSU members, 25 are currently on ARVs

"In our organization, 20 men, 40 women and 15 children are in urgent need of being placed on ARV therapy immediately."

COLIBRI

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Started: 2000
City: Bafoussam
Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:

Patients receiving care:	32
Patients on ARVs:	12
Doctors and medical assistants:	1
Nurses and caregivers:	1



Colibri brings together those infected and affected by HIV with the goal of insuring psychosocial care, promoting nutritional education and prioritizing access to treatment. It also aims at supporting people living with

HIV/AIDS with integration in their socio-professional settings and defending those who are the object of discrimination because of their HIV status;

COLIBRI conducts comprehensive care including:

- Counseling in hospitals and in prisons,
- Home-based care,
- Support with compliance to ARV medicines in particular by showing films about treatment side effects and appropriate nutritional diets.

Thirty-two people are receiving medical and psychosocial care. Twelve or them are on ARV treatment.



REDS • Réseau Ethique, Droit et Sida (Ethics Network, Law and AIDS)

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Contact: J.M. Talom

Started: 1988
City: Yaoundé
Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:

Patients receiving care:	14
Patients on ARVs:	2
Doctors and medical assistants:	4
Nurses and caregivers:	1

The Network on Law and AIDS started out originally as a group defending the rights of HIV+ people. While their work mostly deals with legal issues they also offer some financial support for medical services to PLWHAs. In 2003, 31 were able to qualify for "multifaceted" support (including financial and/or medical aid and social assistance) in addition to legal counsel.

REDS is also well known for computer and educational skills, especially in the management of care-giving personnel or in legal settings.

During the first semester of 2003 REDS conducted sensitivity training on ethic and the rights of PLWHAs with approximately 280 health professionals in 6 health centers. They were able to hire three coordinators in the provinces and to conduct sensitivity-training to two hospital directors during the course of their field trips to rural areas. As a result, they received requests to do training seminars from 37 health districts and 6 private health facilities.

In addition, a collaboration MSF Switzerland (Doctors without Borders) has given REDS the opportunity to work more on the legal and ethical aspects of placing people on antiretroviral medicine.

INTER CARE / NJINIKOM PROJECT HOPE
CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Last Updated: April 2004

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 Contact: Kenneth Muko
 Website: www.njinikomhospital.com

Started: 2000
 City: Njinikom
 Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:	
Patients receiving care:	1 650
Patients on ARVs:	88
Doctors and medical assistants:	8
Nurses and caregivers:	18

Inter Care / Njinikom Project Hope is the local affiliate of Inter Care UK, a British NGO. The organization conducts HIV testing (pre-and post-test counseling and on-site blood tests) and treatment and care of people with HIV. Medical consultation with a general practitioner costs 3 times less (\$0.70) here than it does at the closest public health facility (\$2.00).

For the past three years this organization has been involved in the prescription of ARVs and have gained some experience. Unfortunately, they are not able to distribute the drugs free of charge or at low costs. Drugs are purchased based on availability, not price. Those who are selected to receive ARV treatment are selected mainly on their availability to pay for the drugs. The organization offers them medical and psychological follow-up and conducts education and information sessions on ARVs.

Finding a way to treat all of their clients becomes more and more difficult because every day they have an increasing amount of positive cases. In 2003, of the 3680 that were tested, 846 were positive.

Unlike other organizations, Inter Care Njinikom Project Hope also has several programs targeted towards children. They provide the necessary, be it educational, health, spiritual or psychological. Orphans that have been out of school for more than one year are trained in income generating activities. They also treat non-orphaned infected children. They find that they have difficulty treating children because the parents of these infected children do not believe that treatment is a priority, mainly because they cannot afford it.

Finally, in 2003, 847 women benefited from program on the reduction of mother to child transmission (nevirapine), which included counseling, medical follow-up and free baby milk formula.

"Of our members, 768 men and 822 women are in emergency need of ARV treatment. The organization could follow up 1 200 people on ARVs. Currently we follow only 88. The potential and the skills are not being exploited only because we do not have the drugs."

AFSUPES • ASS. DES FRÈRES ET SŒURS UNIS POUR L'ESPOIR ET LA SOLIDARITÉ Last Updated: April 2004
(Organization of Brothers and Sisters United for Hope and Solidarity)

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Started: 1996
 City: Douala
 Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:	
Patients receiving care:	50
Patients on ARVs:	0
Doctors and medical assistants:	6
Nurses and care givers:	10

AFSUPES conducts testing and counseling and provides comprehensive care to people with HIV.

The organization provides basic medicines for treating opportunistic infections at a reduced price, gives financial aid for members to buy medicines and proposes psychological follow-up to patients as well as conducting information workshops on ARVs.

Seven members are currently on ARVs.

SUNAIDS

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Started: 2000
City: Douala
Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:

Patients receiving care:	0
Patients on ARVs:	7
Doctors and medical assistants:	1
Nurses and nurse's aides:	0



Started in 2000, SunAids is a PLWHA organization that came together to get informed and support people living with HIV in the region of Douala. This small group is "professionalizing" its support work: SunAids counselors hold positions in hospitals to follow patients on treatment, the director of SunAids has started a documentation center and an HIV hot-line, medical consultations are routinely suggested to members. Quite involved in the comprehensive care network in Douala (Hôpital

Laquintinie, SWAA, MSF, etc), SunAids is in a position to start an effective lobby representing the HIV+ people of Douala and to contribute to their empowerment in the years to come.

The stated goals are:

- Sensitization of the community and comprehensive care for PLWHAs;
- Reaching out to members so as to give them the opportunity to break out of the isolation and emotional marginalization to which they often feel confined;
- To get informed and keep its members informed and updated on new developments in scientific research and treatment of HIV through contacts with national and international organizations and institutions and participating in seminars and conferences;
- To research the ways and means to insure comprehensive medical, psychological and physical/financial care as well as better societal and familial integration for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- To develop a lobby confronting the various decision-makers with the goal of obtaining grants from international organisms to pay for up-to-date therapies (Antiretrovirals);

The organization operates in three hospitals in Douala where a team of 8 counselors conducts counseling and proposes "educational conversations," particularly in the case of reducing the transmission of the virus from mother to child. These counseling activities reached close to 700 people for pre-test counseling and 550 for post-test counseling in 2003. In addition, the organization is currently giving psychosocial follow up on an as-needed basis to its 7 employees currently on ARV treatment, and conducts treatment literacy on ARVs.

The organization is currently looking for a partner to establish a community fund in order to fund lab tests and medical care for those who are very poor.

Difficulties encountered in relation to ARVs:

- Un-guaranteed delivery
- Inability to satisfy the demand of patients, a majority of whom are waiting for donations.

SWAA LITTORAL

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Started: 1990
 City: Douala
 Country: Cameroon

Within the organization:	
Patients receiving care:	80
Patients on ARVs:	20
Doctors and medical assistants:	1
Nurses and caregivers:	2



The work of this organization revolves traditionally around psychosocial and medical care for the poorest people but they also conduct prevention work, with one project in the New Bell prison in Douala.

This provincial branch of SWAA Cameroon ran the AIDES Pavillion until 2002-- a comprehensive care center for people living with HIV situated inside the Hôpital Laquintinie. But since the start of the antiretroviral access program, DARVIR, the center was taken over by the hospital management to transform it into an outpatient clinic. In June 2002, SWAA Littoral opened a comprehensive care center in the Akwa neighborhood in Douala. A full-time psychosocial counselor re-orientes the most destitute to the new center where they receive free care.

Comprehensive care includes:

- Counseling by experienced and trained counselors.
- Direct help to resolve problems (rent, transportation, food, funeral costs, hospitalization costs, financial support for orphans, etc.).
- Home visits.
- Medical care for close to 80 people, with free consultations and essential medicines.
- Nutritional supplementation.
- Activities in reducing transmission of the virus from mother to child: the organization cared for 15 women in 2003 by giving free baby formula, counseling and workshops on infant nutrition.

SWAA's medical personnel has prescribed ARVs since 2001, and conducts educational workshops on ARVs. The project of setting up support groups to help with compliance is currently in progress. 20 people are currently on ARVs.

"In the organization, at least 100 people are in emergency need of ARVs some of whom already started therapy and stopped due to lack of funds. If treatment was accessible to all, we would be able to follow an additional 100 people on ARVs, possibly more if we had additional free-lance general practitioners."

