

## **REPORT OF THE LISTENER'S CLUB PROGRAM-Keep A Girl Alive**

**A sub Component of : Make an Impact on 20 Girl's Education - Cameroon**



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## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Listener's Club Program which is a sub component of the **Make an Impact on 20 Girl's Education - Cameroon** aims to educate and empower young female school drop outs in Tole and Buea pertinent HIV, gender based violence and basic book keeping for recording of incomes generated from micro projects. The program ran for a month in Tole and Bakweri town, twice a week for 3hrs daily.

**Target:** 23 Young female school drop outs, single mothers and young widows

**Time frame and location:** The listeners club program ran from the July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Odilia's Hair dressing saloon Great Soppo and in Tole

**Goal:** Young girls are encouraged to self-sustainability and self-esteem through skills training to curb poverty and social decline among them.

### **Objective:**

- Raising Awareness on HIV/AIDS and explaining the ways of infection, the methods of prevention.
- Training and coaching on basic bookkeeping for increased households incomes through seed capital provided for Income Generating Activities (IGA)

This activity report is divided into two phases:

### **Phase One: Positive Prevention of HIV and AIDS**

### **Phase Two: DISBURSEMENT OF SEED CAPITAL (EQUIPMENTS/ITEMS) TO THE LISTENER CLUB BENEFICIARIES**

### **Phase One: Positive Prevention of HIV and AIDS**

#### **I. PROCESS**

##### **Week one**

The LCP took on its first session on Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> in Tole. Upon the arrival of the team from REO, all the participants gathered in one of the participant's house which was the meeting point. The program began with introduction of the team from REO and the participants. This was followed by an energizer that was organized which made the

participants feel more relaxed, know each other better and gain some boldness to freely participate during the discussions.

After the energizer, the participant's knowledge on the basics of HIV and AIDs was tested through a game. From the game it could be evaluated that the 50% of the participants had an idea of what HIV was, how it was transmitted and prevented. After the game the first lesson on the generalities on HIV and AIDs was presented. After which was a session for questions and answers.

Next was a movie show where the participants were made to watch the first part of the movie "Life above all", The movie portrayed a typical African setting and the way HIV is been perceived in communities that are not informed on HIV and who still look at HIV as being a Taboo. The day came to an end at about 5:30pm. The total number of participants for the day was 16.

On Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, the first session of the LCP was as well held on Bakweri town with the same module being handled as that of Tole. The session began at 14:15 and ended at 16:30 with seven participants. The LCP of Bakweri town was held at Mrs. Odilia's Saloon.

### ***Week two***

On Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, the program started at 3:30 pm with a revision of the lessons of last week. That revision showed that the women understood most of the points from last week so emphasis was paid on very little facts. The lesson of this week was a continuation of the previous week lesson and this was on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT). An educative game was conducted about the topic to be discussed to ascertain to level of awareness on the subject matter. The participants were taught about the 4Ps of PMTCT to the understanding of every one.

The second lesson of the day was on nutritional counseling for HIV positive persons. Here the participants were taught to prepare recipes persons with weak immune systems using locally available ingredients. The facilitators explained the theoretical part of it and then the practical part was done by all the participants following the recipes that were presented to them. Four recipes were presented to the participants; weight gain recipe, blood regenerator recipe, Anti-Coughing and Immune building Cocktail 2. Participants were divided in to four groups and each group had to prepare one recipe following the procedure that was taught to them. After all the recipes were prepared, placed on the table and all participants had a taste of it. All participants were highly motivated in participating in this activity and were very pleased doing it. After all recipes had been prepared, the team of facilitators left Tole at 6 pm.

On Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, the same lessons that were taught in Tole, were taught in Bakweri Town as well. The program started at 11:45 am with 8 young girls. And just like in Tole, the girls in Bakweri town were highly motivated during the class

### ***Week three***

On Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, the program of the day started with an energizer followed by revision of the previous week's lessons. The girls did very well in remembering all the 4Ps of PMTCT.

With that the days lesson on Gender based violence (GBV) was presented. Most of them had never heard about GBV though they are constantly being victims of it. After the presentation which was done on PowerPoint slide-show bring out practical examples of GBV in the South West region where we find ourselves, the girls confess that they have been victims of it and some are still being victims of it. The facilitators informed the participants of place where they could go to report cases of violence committed against them or their peers.

The day ended with the girls watching the second part of the movie "Life above all". At the end of the movie, the girls were asked to bring out lessons learned from the movie. Lesson like No discrimination should exist between HIV infected person and those who are infected. Also, from the movie, they came up with the issue to denial of status when HIV positive. Finally they also identified the importance of community involvement in supporting those who are infected for them to live happier and healthier lives.

The same module was treated for the participants in Bakweri town and they as well were very happy with the module considering some of them had been and are still victims of GBV.

#### ***Week four***

Tuesday July 23, marked the last week for the LCP and lessons for the day involved "Family Planning" and "Basic Bookkeeping".

All participants were present when we started. An energizer was done followed by revision of the previous week's lesson on GBV. Next the facilitators presented the lesson on Family Planning. This was very interesting to the girls since all of them had child at tender ages without planning. The module of family planning ended with a movie about it. The movie was called "Le huitième pourra attendre ('the Eight can wait')". This was closely followed by the lesson on basic bookkeeping. The girls followed the lecture while having difficulties to understand certain details. At the end of the module the women had to create a cashbook by following an easy example. That was very important for her comprehension of the module. The same module was treated with the girls in Great Soppo.

#### ***Closing Ceremony***

After the last part of the program the session was officially ended. The facilitators thanked participants for attending. The participants sang songs and thanked the facilitators for the devotion they had in seeing that they are empowered. Group photographs were taken and a copy of the manual handed out to the president of the girl's group in Tole and to a representative of the girls group in Great Soppo - Bakweri Town. The participants were informed that they will be handed seed capital to start off petit business of their own in the nearest weeks to come.

#### ***Difficulties encountered***

- The program in both sites started later than the stated time due to the late arrival of the participants.
- In Bakweri town, due to limited space, the energizer that was organized in Tole could not be Organized.

- Some participants had difficulties of understanding some aspects on the lesson and the Movie since the characters spoke in a South African language.

### **Attempted Solutions**

- Despite the late start of each of the sessions, the time was managed such that all the activities scheduled for that were treated
- The movie was interpreted by one of the facilitators and a summary of the lesson was done by another facilitator to the understanding of all.

### **Recommendations**

- Participants for future programs should be educated on the importance of keeping to time.
- Energizers that do not require too much movements should be organized in the allocated hall if space is small

## **II. Phase Two: DISBURSEMENT OF SEED CAPITAL (EQUIPMENTS/ITEMS) TO THE LISTENER CLUB BENEFICIARIES**

**Introduction:** Following the active participation of the young girls from the Listeners club program which is an extension program under the Keep-A-Girl Alive project, the participants benefited from seed capital to start up businesses of their own.

**Date and location:** The disbursement of these seed capital took place at the two sites where the program was held; Odilia's Hair dressing saloon and catholic school Tole, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2013.

### **HANDING OVER**

#### ***Odilia Hair dressing Saloon:***

The handing over of the seed capital to the beneficiaries began a bit later than previewed the arrival of the representative of the chief social center which preceded the arrival of REO staffs and interns. All the 06 beneficiaries were already present when the ceremony started at 12:25pm with the singing of the National Anthem and an opening prayer. This was closely followed by singing of a song from the beneficiaries. The head of the health department of REO welcome everybody present, gave an overview of the entire program and the rationale behind the handing over of these seed capital. Next was handing over of the different items to the 06 beneficiaries. Four beneficiaries who are into hairdressing benefitted from; combs, a big thread, needles, towel, 5 liters of shampoo and conditioner, a pair of scissors and a hand drier. Two others who are into manicure and pedicure benefitted from; nail files, a pack of cortex, a pack of artificial nails just to mention a few. After the items were handed over to the beneficiaries, one of them expressed her heart felt gratitude towards all that had happened throughout the program. Speaking on behave of her mates, she thanked REO and her partners for thinking to empower them with knowledge and above all, empowering them economically. She continued by promising that they will do their best to make use of this items given to them to improve on their economic situation and their lives. Next was a word from the owner of the saloon Mme Odilia, who thanked REO and partners for coming with this wonderful initiative of empowering young female school drop outs. She continued

by saying that she did not have such an opportunity when she dropped out of school due to pregnancy and she urged all the young girls who had benefitted from this program to take whatever they had received very seriously and work hard to better their lives. The representative from the chief of Social center also gave a word in which she expressed happiness towards all that REO has been doing in communities for the underprivileged. She urged all the beneficiaries to make use of the little that had been provided for them to start up life so that they will be able to better of their lives and that of their families. The Operations Manager of REO was to last to give a word and closing remarks. In his words he emphasized that the girls needed to work very hard to serve as role models in their communities and they also had to pass out what ever lessons they had learned during this one month program. He said that REO will continue to follow them up to ensure that what they have received will not be misused or under used. The handing over ended with group photographs. Two of the eight earmarked participants did not benefit from the support provided due to their very poor performance during the sessions.

### ***Catholic School Tole:***

After the disbursement of the seed capital to beneficiaries at Bakweri town, the team immediately left for Tole to carry out the same exercise. the program started at 3:15pm, with the singing of the national anthem, followed by an opening prayer from one of the beneficiaries. The program proceeded with a brief summary of the program by the Head of the Health department. The beneficiaries of Tole sang a song which they composed entitled **“Reach Out Is Soo Good”**. Next was the handing over of the items; 14 participants benefitted from Okro, pepper, eru, tomotoe seedlings, cartoon fresh fish, and plastic Chairs for rentals.

One of the beneficiaries on behalf of her mates also expressed their gratitude and she said they were very happy for what REO have been doing and is still doing to them and the entire Tole community. She went forth by encouraging REO to continue with their good work and that God should add more grace to the wonderful work they are doing to the poor and the vulnerable. Next was the representative of Charity Sisters who gave a word of advice to the beneficiaries. She emphasised that they should be hard working and make use of the opportunity which has been given to them to start up a business of their own. She also called on them to be united and love each other though they might be involved in different kinds of

businesses. Furthermore, the representative of Social Center was so impressed with the lessons they learned over the period of one month, and edge them to not only keep these lessons in their heads but should put them in practice to help themselves , their families and also help those in need just as they have been helped. She went ahead by thanking REO for the wonderful work they are doing and urged REO to put in more effort in reaching out to the poor, the vulnerable, and the needy. The operations Manager of Reach Out was the last to speak. In his closing remarks, he pointed out that the girls needed to work hard to serve as role models in their communities and they also had to pass out what ever lessons they had learned during this one month program. He continued by saying that they will be followed up to ensure that what they have received will not be misused or under used. The handing over as well ended with group photographs. One of the 15 participant of Tole could not benefit from the seed capital because she did not attend effectively all the training sessions.

## **Conclusion**

The disbursement program to all the beneficiaries was actually a success. The girls promised to do their best and the follow up which will be done by REO shall be carried out, to ensure that the girls make use of what they had learned and benefitted from.