

VIAC's MARCH NEWSLETTER



*Dear friends, colleagues and partners,
It is our pleasure to share with you
VIAC's latest news and updates.
In this Edition, we bring to you
exciting SRHR news from Cameroon.*



QUOTE OF THE MONTH



A small but growing body of global public health literature reveals simple and dyadic connections between climate shocks, food insecurity, and gender-based violence...As researchers achieve a deeper understanding of the multifaceted impact of COVID-19, a global stressor that interacts with each of the three concepts, it will likely prove demonstrative in its permeation through all aspects of global vulnerabilities.” ~ Agrawal, P., Post, L. A., Glover, J., Hersey, D., Oberoi, P., & Biroscak, B.d





In communities where some cultural practices and power structures promote gender based violence (GBV, VIAC focused on building community engagement against gender based violence in order to promote gender equality and equity through focus group discussions with 28 women on the different types of gender based violence and power structures.



Focus group discussion is not only essential in understanding these young people and addressing gender based violence, but it has also been instrumental to VIAC as it is used as a strategy to support young people through their journey of self-reliance.





Poor access to safe, and reliable information on sexual and reproductive health has been associated with stigma when accessing STI services thereby, creating an enabling environment where young people shy away from HIV prevention, detection and treatment.



In addressing this issue safe, reliable and age appropriate information on HIV prevention, testing and treatment was provided to 105 adolescent girls and boys through a safe space discussion and a door to door sensitization in the North West Region of Cameroon. A total of 315 condoms were distributed at the end of the sessions.



Over the past two years, we have successfully worked to identify effective strategies to promote menstrual health among adolescent girls in secondary schools. In the first year of the project, we identified the strategies suggested by adolescent girls and boys that will be effective in promoting menstrual health and reducing and reducing menstrual stigma. In the second year of the project, we implemented the suggested strategies, which included training of peer educators (school champions) on menstrual health management and practices (MHMP) and creating a menstrual health comic book to facilitate peer-to-peer discussions. In the third year of the project we are more inclusive. Partnerships were established with 2 schools having students with disabilities.

A total of 91 students at these six schools including schools with students with disability have received training to serve as school champions, with a focus on MHMP and sexual gender-based violence, using a comic book “SIEWE THE PERIOD ANGLE” to facilitate peer discussions.





In Cameroon, sex work is illegal, sex workers often experience stigma, discrimination, and violence. This makes it challenging for sex workers to obtain needed healthcare services and to report violence. In order to promote sexual reproductive health and rights without prejudice, VIAC works to identify sex worker locations in Cameroon so as to offer sex workers adequate sexual reproductive health services. VIAC successfully mapped out four sex worker sites and an organized safe space discussion on STIs mode of transmission, treatment and prevention was held with 20 sex workers in Buea.



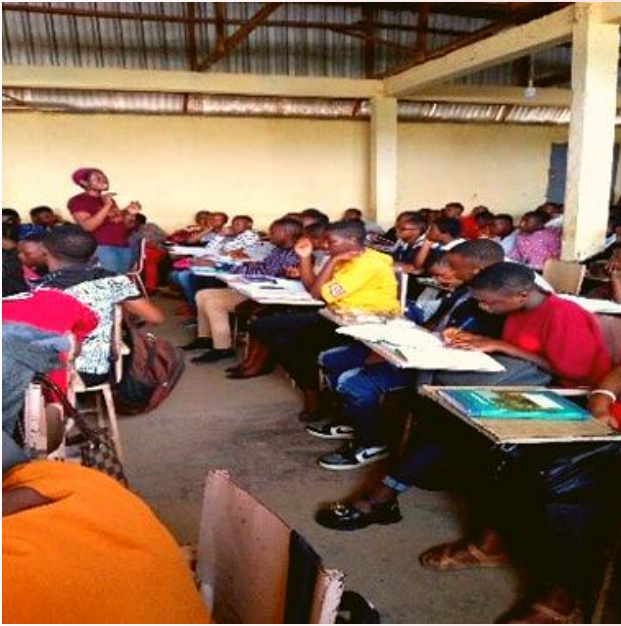
Preventive materials were distributed which included condoms, lubricants and a hotline number where they could access information on sexual and reproductive health.





Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) often find it difficult to access sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. In line with the thought of increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services for AGYW, VIAC partners with 3 health center to break down the barriers associated with AGYW accessing SRH services through collaborative efforts to build adolescent friendly health facilities, building capacities of health care workers to provide SRH services to AGYW and solving the myths and stigmas that are associated with adolescents girls who use sexual and reproductive health services.





Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) experience menstruation with shame and lack access to the materials to properly manage their menstrual health because of social taboos and gender stereotypes that stigmatize menstruation as filthy.



In an effort to normalize menstruation, using informative sessions VIAC provided menstrual health management and practices information to 105 adolescent girls and 50 adolescent boys in schools in Bamenda, North West Region.



COURSES: DATA ACTION RESEARCH COURSE



Data to action research course - Call for course participants: Together for Girls and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) launched the course "From Data to Action: A course on analysing and using the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) for Researchers and Advocates". Early career researchers working on child health, protection, violence, and child rights issues in universities located in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, Lesotho, Moldova, Mozambique and Namibia are welcome to apply to join the first cohort of participants.

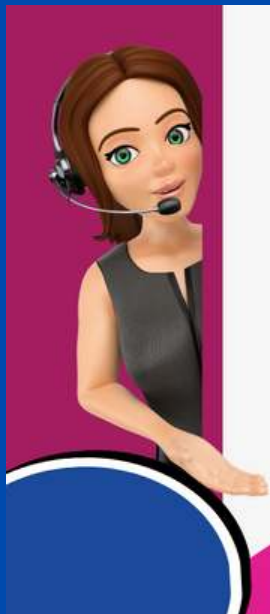
The course will take place from June to October via Zoom. It will cover topics such as violence measurement, research questions design, statistical approaches and techniques that can be applied to VACS data, and science communication to share research findings. Deadline for applications is 12 April 2023. Apply online. (<https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/vacs-data-course>)



WWW.VIACAME.ORG

HOTLINE

To get information on any issue regarding your sexual and reproductive health, feel free to contact Aunty Queen's hotline where confidentiality is top notch and you are sure of reliable information.





I want to know more about

- Unprotected sex
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Right sexual choices
- Staying healthy
- STIs

- Safe abortion
- Menstrual Cycle
- Contraceptives
- Domestic Violence

AUNTY QUEEN HOTLINE, a sexual reproductive health information service providing safe, reliable and confidential information on sexual and reproductive health to adolescent girls and young women in Cameroon just with a telephone at your convenience.

Hotline Number: +237 673 532 667  

ABOUT VIAC

Vision in Action Cameroon (VIAC) is a youth-led not-for-profit organization that supports and enables adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and communities in programs and influences change in the areas of Research (Evidence Generation), Advocacy (community mobilization), information & communication. VIAC is committed to feminist principles, using gender transformative and rights-based approaches.

At VIAC we believe that reproductive Health is a fundamental human right of every woman and man throughout her/his life cycle.

