

Using door to door strategy to sensitize adolescent girls and young women on HIV Prevention.

The silent killer, Africans predator, the curse with no cure are all names given to the HIV virus but what is this virus. Acquired immunodeficiency virus commonly known as HIV is a wildly feared virus that destroys the immune system precisely the white blood cell rendering the body vulnerable to opportunistic diseases mostly gotten from having unprotected sex or sharing infected needles. A survey carried out in Cameroon on the prevalence of HIV by CAMPHIA showed that, 3.7% of adults are living with HIV in Cameroon, representing approximately 500000 people. Moreover, the survey also showed that the prevalence amongst women was two times higher than amongst the men. The number of HIV cases continues to grow in our local communities especially amongst our young girls and women.

A stich, they say in time saves nine. Supported by the funds from her voice, vision in Action Cameroon organized a mobilization campaign on HIV prevention amongst young girls and women with men inclusive. The strategy was focused on using the door to door approach to get to as many

adolescent girls as well as young women. A professional team went into different communities, from door to door to explain in details the methods and importance of preventing HIV to adolescent girls and young women of the targeted communities. The program flowed smoothly and was quite a success as over 100 persons received quality information on the HIV prevention in each of the 5 targeted communities in the south west region of Cameroon (Mile Sixteen, Dongo, Bokwi, Bokwango and Bova).

The strategy of using the door to door approach was such a brilliant success as it did not just allow the VIAC team to give out information about HIV and its preventions it also gave them a chance to cancel some of the myths about HIV by letting them know that, sharing a bed or dresses with an infected person does not mean you would be infected. Also it gave the VIAC team memorable experiences, and even better enhanced their communication skills with people.