

# **NPACT REPORT**

E4

**VISION IN ACTION CAMEROON** 











VISION IN ACTION CAMEROON



#### Louisa Fuen

**Board Chair** 

Whenever I visited our offices in the Northwest and Southwest Regions, I look at where

we are expanding our work into some of the community's hardest-to-reach places. I am always inspired by our staff and their relentless quest to shine a light into the community's toughest corners, empowering adolescent girls and young women to reach their sexual reproductive potential. As in so many places, children here face a daily

onslaught of inter-linked threats to their safety, health and education -- and, sadly, to their very survival. I vividly remember my last meeting in the Bamenda office, children told me that violent clashes between local factions mean they live under a permanent cloak of fear, hampering the most basic daytoday tasks.



#### Meanwhile, the beast of

poverty continues to gnaw away at children's hopes and dreams for the future. Yet, I am encouraged. It is a privilege to serve these children and witness how their lives change for the better. As the following pages show, our interventions on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Menstrual health and sanitation, community empowerment bring transformative results. In the corridors of power, we continue to press for change in policy-making and funding for the world's most vulnerable children. Our commitment to the transformational power of access to SRHR services remains unwavering. Through it, lives are being changed forever -- not just for millions of AGWY, but for their sponsors as well. Strong partnerships with the CBO's, faith leaders, governments, local and international non-government organisations, and community leaders mean AGYW are truly empowered, bringing dignity and hope for the future. Showing the impact of our work, accurately and quickly, is also crucial to reporting what we have achieved, and to adapt and evolve when things can be done better. We owe the utmost transparency and accountability to our donors, our partners, and those we serve. As we prepare to mark 10 years since the foundation of Vision in Action Cameroon, we must remain agile and at the forefront of innovation to ensure millions more AGYW in the most fragile places can shake off the shackles and access to SRH services and are empowered to experience life in all its fullness.

> Louisa Fuen Board Chair









#### **Publisher's Note**

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present VIAC's annual report. Last year we focused on developing a five year strategic plan, implementing new community outreach strategies that was informed by evidence generation, providing SRHR information to communities, expanding sexual and reproductive health services to rural communities and communities effected by socio-political crises in Cameroon. Furthermore, providing data driven information on SRHR through research to our partners and decision makers, measuring impact, establishing new partnerships and building the capacities of our team. These created positive results and increased our reach, the number of adolescent girls and young women reached through our programs doubled.

In 2023, we will make stronger our impact by developing and introducing more holistic programs, by sharing data driven information on SRHR to a wider audience, and increase the number of communities that benefit from our programs. We will create new partnerships and strengthen existing partnerships. We look forward to sharing our expertise and progress throughout the year with you. Thank you for being a part of our journey of improving the sexual and reproductive health of adolescent girls and young women.



Editor in Chief

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### List of Abbreviations

- AG Adolescent Girls
- AB Adolescent Boys
- YW Young Women
- SM Social Media
- SW South West
- **NW** North West
- **SRHR** Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
- MHMP Menstrual Health Management Practice
- LGBTQIA+ Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,Queer, InterseX Asexual,







### List of Abbreviations

- FM Face Mask
- **SW** Sex Workers
- **SRH** Sexual Reproductive Health
- **GBV** Gender Based Violence
- **HIV** Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- **STIs** Sexually Transmitted Infections
- **CSE** Comprehensive Sexuality Education



## About Us

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.





#### OUR MISSION

To improve sexual and reproductive health rights for adolescent girls and young women in Cameroon through a cohesive program of empowerment, advocacy, creative activism, research and development.



A community in which reproductive and health rights are recognized for all irrespective of sexual orientation, identity and gender expression.

OUR VISION



#### OUR Objectives

- Ensure that people's human rights related to sexuality and reproduction are respected, protected and fulfille
- Ensure that all people can enjoy the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health and well-being.
- Reduce unmet need for contraception
- Establish and strengthen formal and informal evidence-informed comprehensive sexuality education.







- Gender-Sensitive: We believe in the removal of all types of discriminations, segmentations and stereotypes that negatively affect our staff, members and other stakeholders, on the basis of their sex.
- **Respect for Human Rights:** The respect for human rights is held at the top of our priorities as servants of development work
- Humility (UBUNTU): We will respect the community and will not be confrontational in all our work.

• **Passion -** We are passionate about what we do

VALUES

- Volunteerism We believe in the spirit of volunteerism as central to achieving our goals and ideals
- Accountability We value participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable and transparent decision making
- **Diversity** We believe in diversity and equality in extending our services to everyone who needs them
- Inclusiveness We uphold social inclusion and non-discrimination

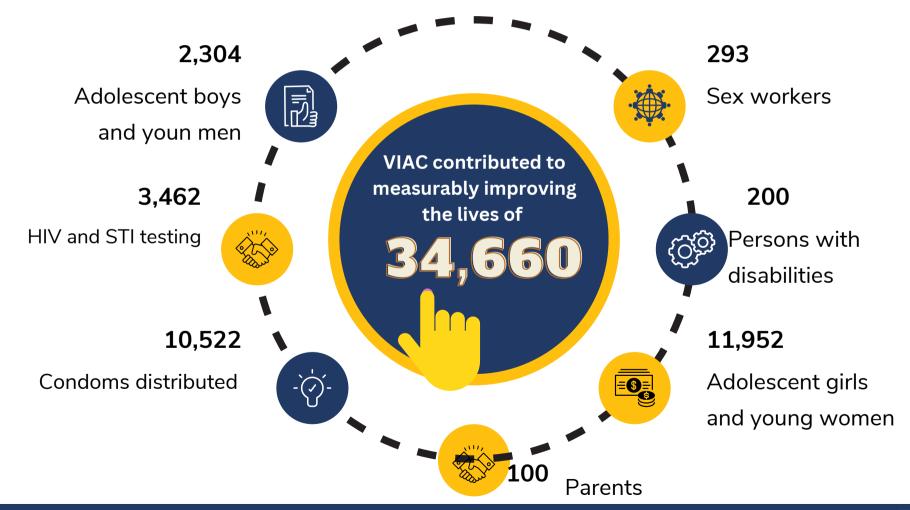




#### **OPERATIONAL CONTEXT**

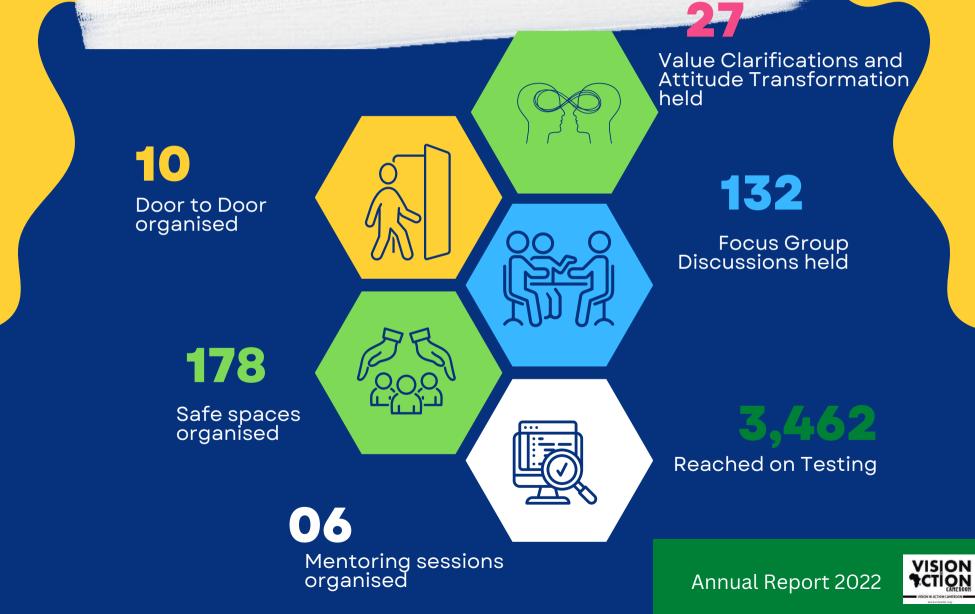


## 2022 AT A GLANCE





#### **2022 STRATEGIES**



#### **OPERATIONAL CONTEXT**

In Cameroon there are challenges in attaining sexual reproductive health and rights. In Cameroon experiences high rates of HIV among persons 15-49 years with about 500,000 persons living with HIV in 2021, sexual and reproductive health services are unequally distributed with less services in rural communities and often these services are not equally accessed by different genders especially women and other sexual minorities like the LGBTQ+ communities whose existence is constantly being denied.

This case is often made worst by the patriarchal nature of the country for adolescent girls and young women to access SRH services such as contraceptives. SRHR are far from completely being implemented such as restrictive laws on abortion being accountable for 25% of maternal deaths, criminalizing sex work, restricting access to contraceptives for women who need consent from a parent and spouse, little access to information on SRHR (comprehensive sexuality education) even for adolescentsin schools.





#### At least 2.2 million people were in need of humanitarian aid including SRH services.



15-49 years with about 500,000 persons living with HIV in 2021,

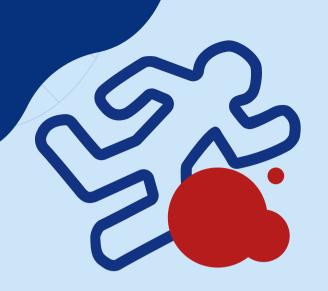






All these are worsened due to the ongoing socio-political crises faced by Cameroon in the Anglophone regions. Over 712,000 people were internally displaced in the Anglophone regions and in the Francophone Littoral, West, and Centre regions as of August 2021, and at least 2.2 million people were in need of humanitarian aid including SRH services. The Islamist armed group Boko Haram increased its attacks in the Far North region from January to April, killing at least 80 civilians, with over 340,000 internally displaced as of August 2021. In responding to the armed conflict, government forces have also been responsible for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including unlawful killings and arbitrary arrests. The government continued to restrict freedom of expression and association, while the state-sanctioned persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQIA) people intensified.





From January to April, Boko Haram killed at least 80 civilians.



Over 340,000 internally displaced as of August 2021.







15-49 years with about 500,000 persons living with HIV in 2021,

she has choice

Over 712,000 people were internally displaced in the Anglophone regions and in the Francophone Littoral, West, and Centre regions as of August 2021.

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Restrictive laws on abortion being accountable for 25% of maternal deaths,



#### **PILLAR ONE**

#### **Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights**

Our pillar one has as aim to improve sexual reproductive health and rights status among young people, woman and marginalised population.

#### **OUTCOMES**



Increased demand, uptake and utilisation of SRH Services( including family planning, HIV Treatment, STI management and safe abortion services) that meet human rights standard for equality of care and equity in access



Increase capacity of young people, women and marginalized groups to make informed decisions and choices.



Strengthen capacity of health system to deliver SRH services to young people, women and marginalized groups.



Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) integrated into programming of broader SRH interventions.



#### SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS

To improve sexual reproductive health and rights status among young people, woman and marginalized population. VIAC in line with her mission of improving SRHR status of individuals and communities worked on a number of issues plaguing communities. https://viacame.org/download/strategic-plan-2022-2024/

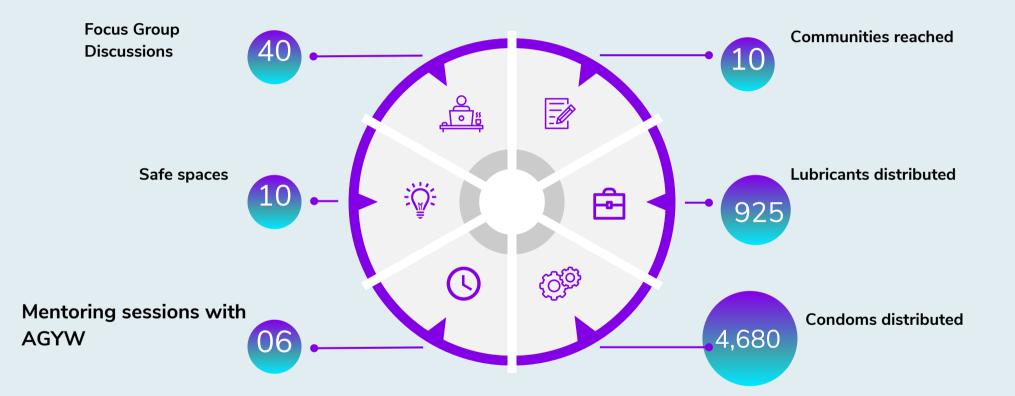




#### CONTRACEPTIVES



#### **Contraceptive reach**





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#### **CONTRACEPTIVES**

VIAC committed to equal access to SRH services reached out to adolescent women and girls in the **NW and SW Regions of Cameroon** to provide information and services on contraceptives. Throughout the year 40 Focus groups and 10 safe space discussions were held to talk about the factors acting as barriers to accessing and using contraceptives such as culture, myths, lack of appropriate information among others and teaching on the effective use of emergency contraceptives, male and female condoms.

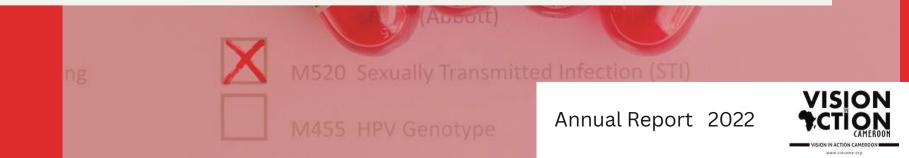
In addition, 6 mentoring sessions were held and supported 200 young girls on the effective use of contraceptives. Specifically, 3640 AGYW and 200 persons with disability in 10 crises affected communities had access to information on contraceptives which changed the narrative of contraceptive use for adolescent girls, young women and communities. A total 3840 male Condoms (2828 condoms to adolescent girls and 1012 to adolescent boys) and 840 female condoms (634 to adolescent girls and 206 to adolescent boys) were distributed. Equally a total of 925 lubricants were also distributed.

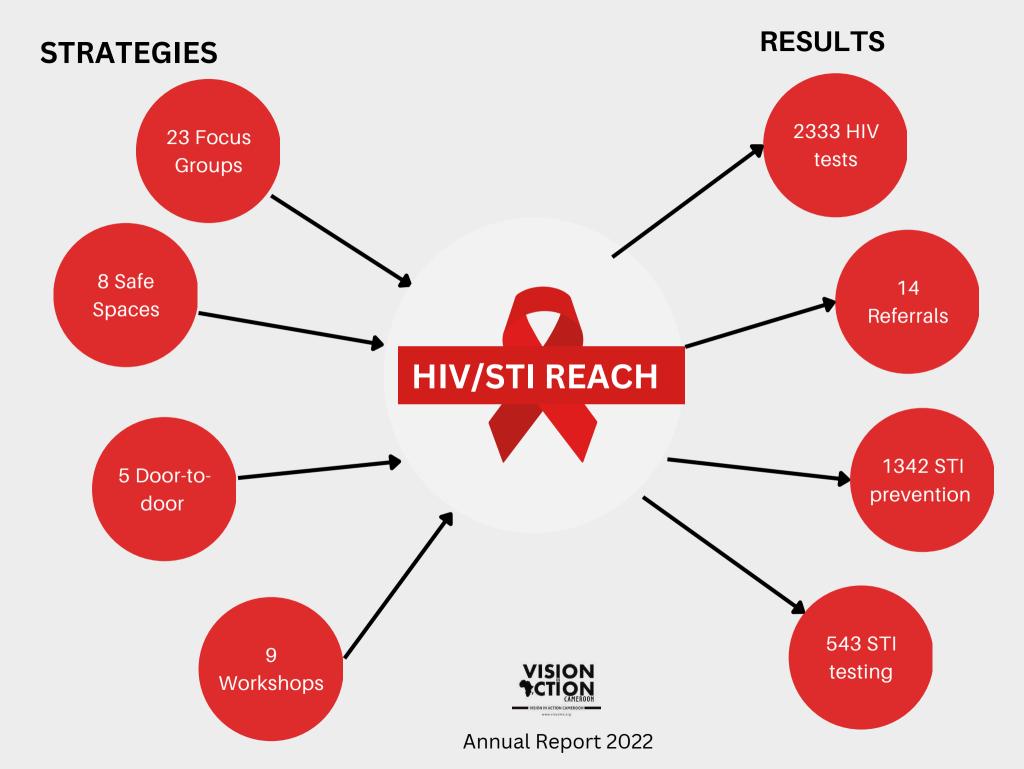






## HIV/STI











In line with our strategic plan, VIAC conducted 2333 HIV test (AG= 967, AB= 453 men=346, YW= 567) and 14 referrals for positive cases (7 to hospitals for treatment and 7 referral to support groups) in communities in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. Throughout the year, 23 focus group discussions, 9 workshops, 5 door-to-door visits and 8 safe space discussions were held making a total reach of 1342 (AB=590, AG=752) on HIV and STI prevention. A total of 543 young women were tested for STIs and treated.







#### MENSTRUAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PRACTICE









#### MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

In promoting menstrual health and menstrual pride for adolescent girls and Young women especially in marginalized communities and communities most affected by the crises. VIAC team executed a series of activities.





## Menstrual Health Management Practice (MHMP) Activities

- 20 focus group discussions and 6 doorto-door visit were held in 10 rural communities educating 1567 adolescent girls and young women on menstrual health practices including breaking menstrual taboos and calculating the menstrual cycle using menstrual beads. In this regard 1567 menstrual beads were distributed.
- Creating partnerships with religious leaders to promote menstrual health management and practices and discourage menstrual stigma and executing 7 Focus group discussions with adolescent girls and young women in churches.





## Menstrual Health Management Practice (MHMP) Activities

In improving an enabling environment for AGYW, 100 Parents and 26 services provides within communities were engaged through hospital visit and door-to-door sensitization for parents and focus group discussions to increase accurate and reliable information on menstrual health by encouraging menstrual talks between parents, services providers and AGYW. Ensuring AGYW have the right information they need from people they trust.





#### MENSTRUAL HEALTH FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS (MHH 2.0) IN CAMEROON



## Menstrual Health for Adolescent Girls (MHH 2.0) in Cameroon

The Menstrual Health and Management (MHM) 2.0 is an activity aimed at increasing awareness of menstrual hygiene and stigma reduction among secondary school-going youth in Buea, Cameroon, through a comic-based intervention, Siewe the Period Angel. VIAC in MHM 1.0 sought to understand the perceived relevance of comic books as an intervention for MHM awareness, and in MHM 2.0, VIAC sought to learn the effectiveness of the comic books, the effectiveness of school champions in MHM education and the role of boys in ending MHM stigmatization and being advocates for good menstrual hygiene.





 Completed the IRGPA which provided a better understanding of what the realities are on the ground in Cameroon.
Conducted their first round of implementation research, analysed findings, and began to develop the comic book on menstrual health awareness. • Secured approvals from six (6) secondary schools to conduct their activity and training 75 peer champions drawn from six schools in Buea on using a comic-based curriculum to educate their peers in secondary schools on MHH.





## MHM ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

• Developed an MHM training manual for school champions, with the TOT conducted by VIAC/AYM facilitators.

R3

 Trained a total of 3,242 students through the school champions, using the comic-based MHM curriculum and demonstration materials (reusable pads and menstrual beads).

**R4** 







• Finalized, printed, and distributed their knowledge product, over 100 comic books (title: Siewe the Period Angel) to libraries in the six (6) schools in Buea as well as to school champions. Also distributed 200 reusable sanitary pads and over 300 menstrual beads to the schools.





### ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTION

ER OF HICS





Joining in the fight to make safe abortion dymedicalized and more accessible to women and girls in Cameroon particular in the conflict affected North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. VIAC trained 100 pharmacist and nurses on WHO protocol on self- managed abortion and engaged community based and civil society organizations in an advocacy discussion on how to combat the restrictive abortion laws and abortion stigma plaguing communities in Cameroon.

Culture, policies and religious beliefs play a rule in the stigmatization of abortion seekers. VIAC in 2022 set out to build support for safe abortion in crises affected regions of Cameroon mobilization, through community sensitization/education on safe abortion and also importantly breaking abortion stigma in communities. 2000 individuals aged 18-40 years took part in safe space and focus group discussions on self, enact and felt stigma commonly experienced in communities, their causes, consequences and how to stop abortion stigma as individuals and members of communities.



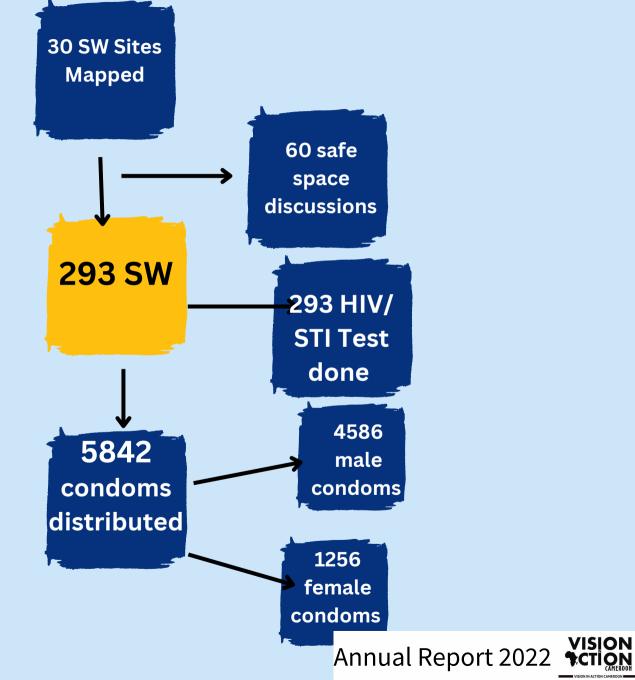


### **SEX WORKERS**



### **SEX WORKERS REACH**





# Sex Workers

Sex work is not only criminalized but sociocultural norms has played a role in the negative attributes placed on sex workers such as stigma, restriction in accessing social services, violence from law enforcement officers and gender-based violence. The ongoing crises has led to an increase in the number of women and girls involved in sex transactions. VIAC mapped out 30 sex worker sites with about 293 Sex workers reached in the SW Regions of Cameroon and committed to providing SRHR services in these through monthly visits to provide sites information including STIs prevention and testing and treatment including HIV/AIDS. A cumulative number of 5842 (4586 male condoms and 1256 female condoms) were distributed. 60 Safe space discussions were held on safe sex and safe sex negotiations, gender-based violence especially sexual gender based violence and prevention. Furthermore, a total of 293 testings were done.



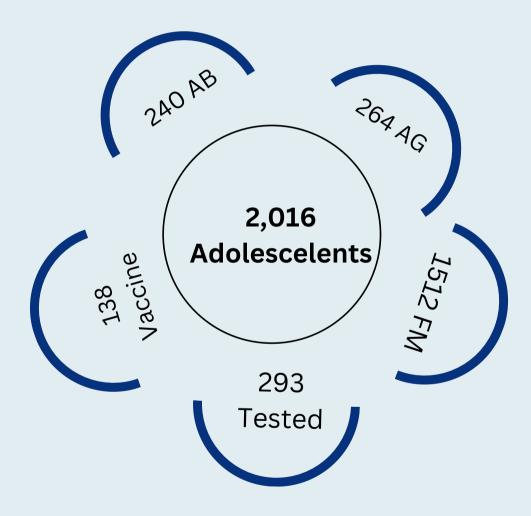




### COVID 19



### **COVID 19 REACH**



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## Covid 19

The surge of the COVID-19 pandemic is no new talk, it brought about not just health and health service delivery challenges it also brought about social and economic challenges as well. Amid all these some marginalize groups such as persons living with disability and crises affected communities received little attention. In joining the national and global fight VIAC carried out 10 educative talk sessions and 3 focus group discussions with 264 AG and 240 AB in rural communities in the NW **Region.** These educative sessions focused on clarifying misconceptions on covid-19, promoting the practice of WHO preventive measures and encouraging the frequent testing and vaccination in communities. At the end of the project 1512 adolescent girls and boys received face mask, 293 adolescents were tested and 138 adolescents vaccinated.



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### **PILLAR THREE**



#### **OUTCOMES**



SRHR Research Publications in national and international journals and abstracts presentation of national. And international conferences

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You can request a copy of our research by sending an email to info@viacame.org

VISION CTUON CALEDON VISION IN ACTION CAMEROON

#### Research

VIAC uses an information-based approach to designing programs and projects. 3 key researches were conducted to inform VIAC programs and stakeholders' decisions.











### PHARMACY MAPPING



### **Pharmacy mapping**

Promoting safe abortion practices, dymedicalizing abortion is important in increasing access to safe abortion and breaking the restrictions in accessing abortion services. VIAC conducted a research in Buea a town in the South West Region of Cameroon were it was observed that the rate of unsafe abortions was high due to the restrictions placed on abortion which made abortion users to often use clandestine and unqualified service providers. The research focused on <u>mapping</u> <u>pharmacies</u> in Buea that provide self-managed abortion services and to access the knowledge and practice of pharmacies following the WHO protocol for self-managed abortion. A total of 54 pharmacies where mapped and the research showed poor knowledge and practice on self-managed abortion.

https://viacame.org/download/a-summary-report-on-the-knowledge-andpractice-of-friendly-pharmacies-and-drug-stores-on-the-who-protocol-on-selfmanage-abortion-with-pills-in-buea-southwest-region-of-cameroon/







#### ABORTION STIGMA MEASUREMENT TOOL

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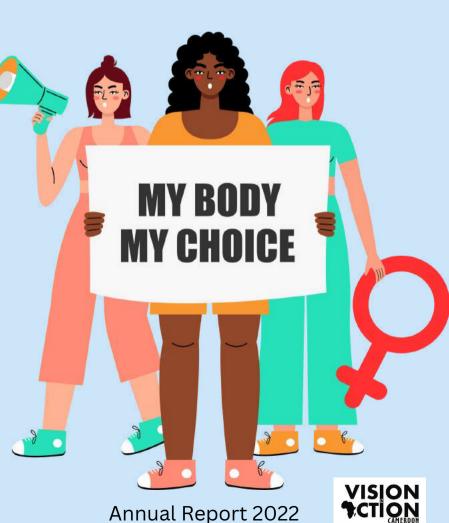
TION



#### **Abortion Stigma Measurement Tool**

People who support, talk or carry out abortions services are often faced with stigmatizing attitudes in communities. These attitudes have led to very little information in communities about safe abortion and poor abortion service delivery. VIAC in the light of building community support for safe abortion finds it very important to be able to identify the various types of stigmas that exist in the community as to inform intervention designs.

VIAC developed and tested a tool to measure abortion stigma in communities. The tool measures 3 different types of stigmas which are the self, enact and felt stigma. https://viacame.org/download/abortion-stigmaand-measurement/



#### BARRIERS TO CONTRACEPTIVES FOR AG



#### Barriers to Contraceptives for AG

Access to contraceptive is a fundamental human right for all. Aside from legal laws that give restrictions to access, there are other factors that will act as a barriers for access to contraceptives for AG. This explored socio-cultural research factors that acts as barriers. https://viacame.org/download/safespace-as-an-approach-indelivering-quality-information-onthe-importance-of-contraceptivesto-agyw-in-communities/





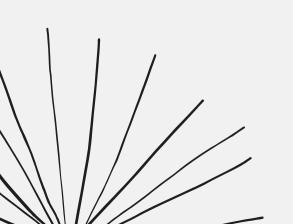
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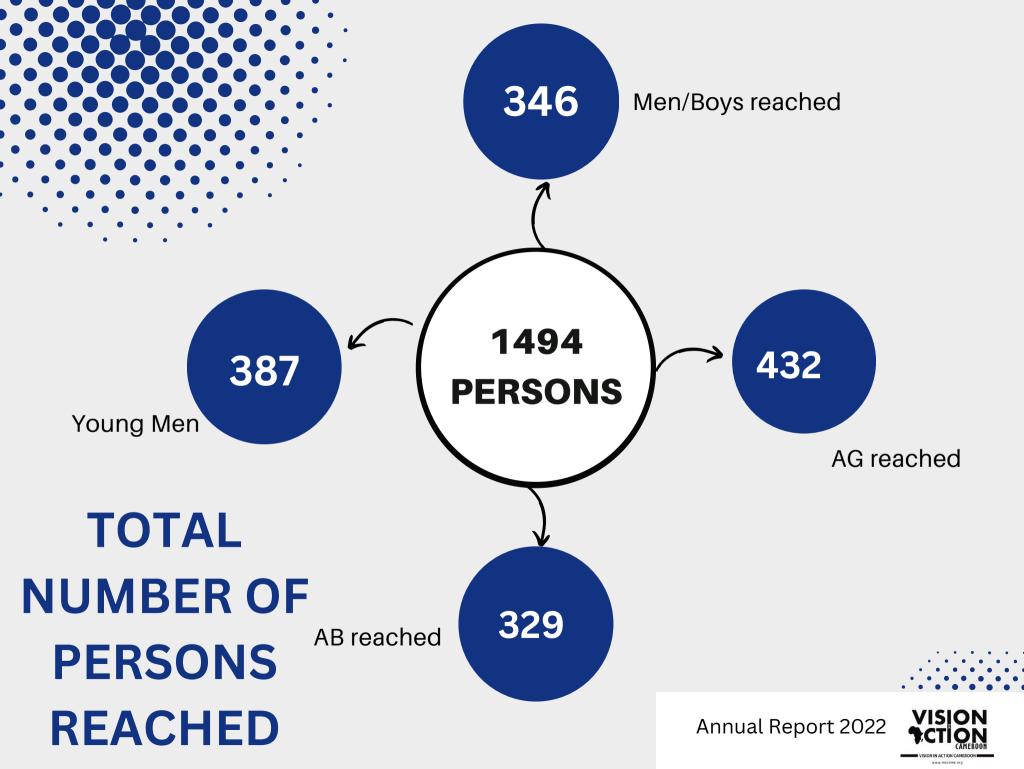


#### OUTCOMES

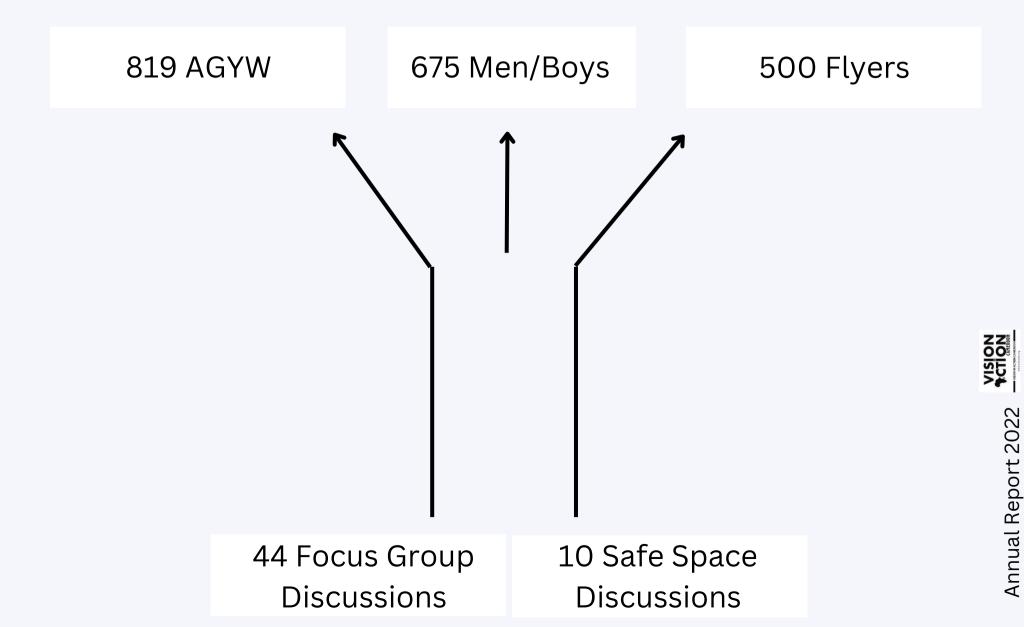
- Enhance familial and communal structures on gender responsiveness.
- Increases gender equality and participation by young people in target communities.







### **GENDER JUSTICE REACH**



### **GENDER JUSTICE**

Enhance familial and communal structures on gender responsiveness. Increase gender equality and participation by young people in target communities.

VIAC in line with the strategic plan of increasing gender equality and participation of young people in communities, organized 5 educative sessions, 20 focus group discussions and 10 safe spaces on gender-based violence including intimate partner violence. By the end of the year 387 young women understood what GBV is, its different forms and how to respond incase of gender-based violence.





### **GENDER JUSTICE**

"Men of quality are not afraid of equality" as slogan use in engaging men/boy participation in promoting gender equality. Through our strategic focus we promoted positive masculinity in communities by engaging in 24 focus group discussions with 346 men/boys. At the end of the activity 346 men/boys understood positive masculinity, its benefits and the role they play in gender equality. 500 Flyers on sexual harassment and positive masculinity were distributed to men and boys in communities in the North West and south West Regions of Cameroon.





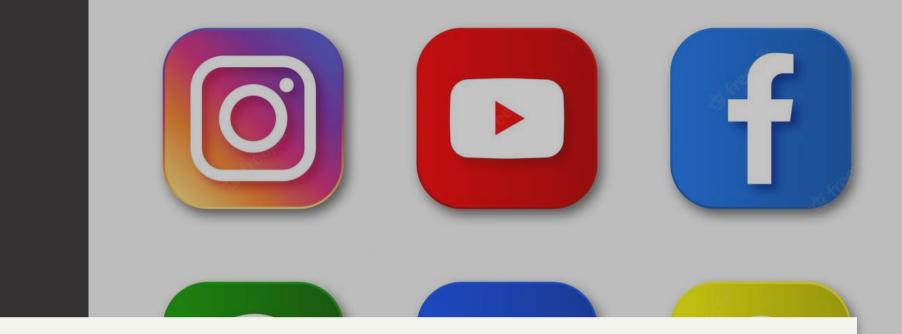
### **GENDER JUSTICE**

VIAC equally worked with 329 AB and 432 AG in the NW and SW regions. Focus group discussions and workshops were held with in-out of school adolescent boys and girls on gender-based violence with emphasis laid on sexual harassment, rape, positive masculinity, bullying in schools, cyber bullying and what to do in case of violation. Posters on sexual harassment and positive masculinity were distributed in schools and communities.

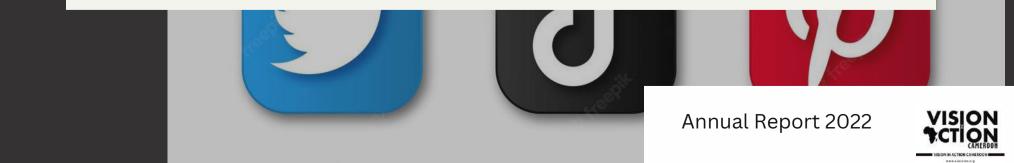


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#### SOCIAL MEDIA FOR COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS



### Using Social Media for Communication and Advocacy

VIAC's communication team engaged audiences across social media plate forms (Instagram, Facebook, linkedIn, and twitter). Strategies such as the use of info graphics, pictures and vlogs were used in designing campaigns. A total of 10.5K persons were reached throughout the year, of which, 7,242K were reached through social media campaigns across different social media platforms.

VIAC ran a 2 weeks social media campaign on menstrual health based on the theme making "menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030". The aim of the campaign was to increase knowledge on menstrual health and normalize dialogues on menstrual health management. A total of 529 persons were reached.





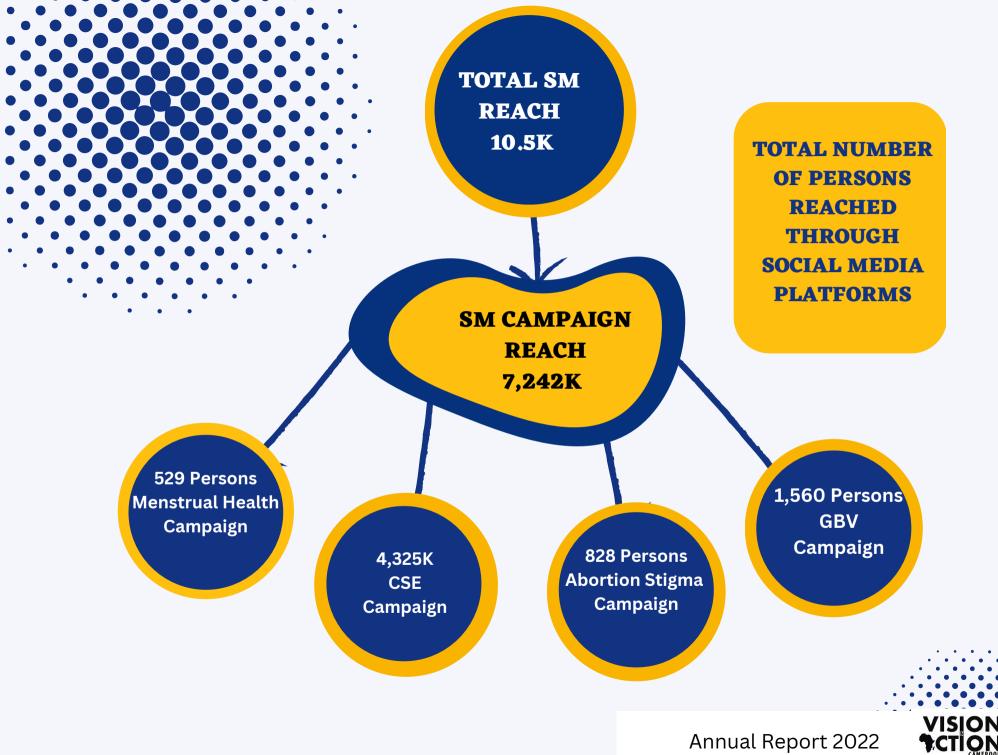


A campaign on abortion stigma was lunched for 7 days to celebrate the international day of safe abortion. The aim of the campaign was to increase knowledge on safe abortion and break abortion stigma reaching out to 828 persons at the end of the campaign.

A three weeks campaign on gender-based violence with the theme "Lets end gender-based violence against adolescent girls and young women" was held. A total of 1,560 adolescent girls were reached at the end of the campaign.

Lastly a campaign was lunched to increase awareness on the importance and knowledge of comprehensive sexuality education a total of 4,325 persons were reached in this campaign.







#### **OUR INNOVATION & STRATEGIES**



# **INNOVATIONS/ STRATEGIES**

VIAC used a comic on menstrual health management and practices to increase the knowledge and menstrual health practices of 3242 students in secondary schools. The comic book provides stories that adolescents can relate to, its colorful illustrations and design makes understanding easy with the help of peer educators trained in these school to facilitate discussions on menstrual health management, the students had increased knowledge on MHM, girls had better healthy practices and the boys stopped stigmatizing attitudes towards menstruating girls. While school administrators commend the achievement of the project and recommend these activities continue and be up scaled.







#### **CREATING SAFE SPACES**



#### **CREATING SAFE SPACES**



Encouraging adolescents girls and young women to take part in SRHR activities, it is very important that they are provided with the space to do so. In that light VIAC sort to create safe spaces in communities. These safe spaces were created with the support of adolescent girls in these communities who identified the space and the materials they need to create the space safe and told their peers of the existing space. 100 safe space discussions have been held in these safe spaces with 550 adolescent girls and young women took part in these conversations. https://viacame.org/download/safe-spacescreation-for-adolescent-girls-and-young-women-in-communities-a-strategy-inpreventing-hiv/ Annual Report 2022





### HOTLINE





### HOTLINE

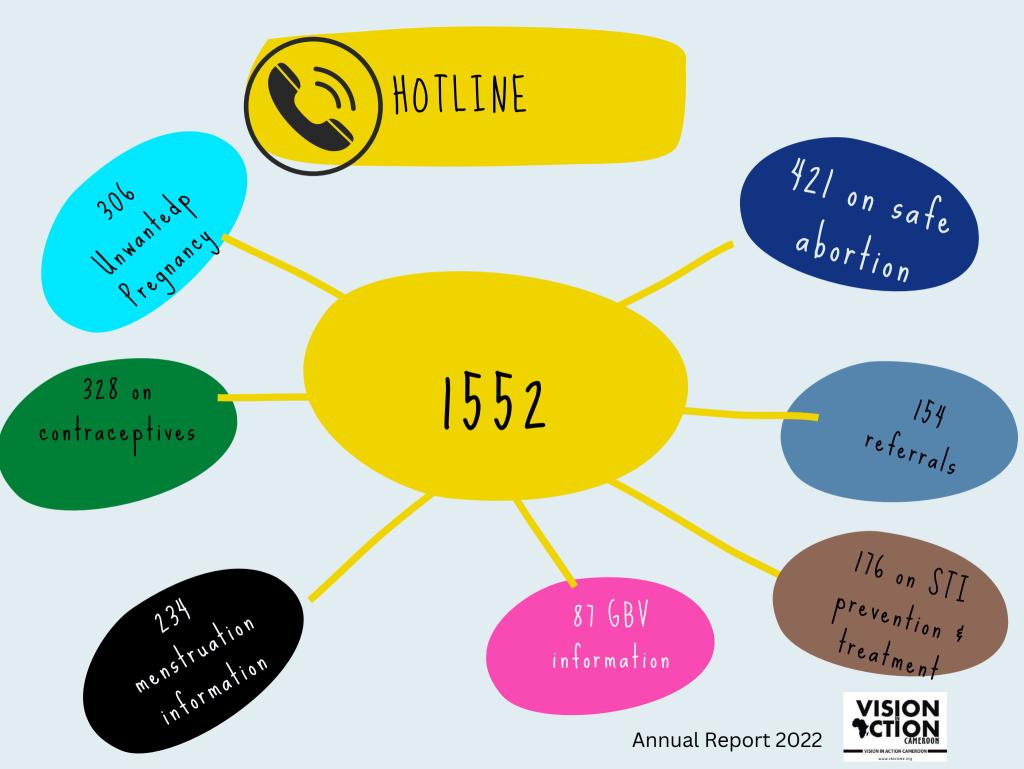
#### I want to know more about



VIAC runs a hotline that provide reliable and confidential information on SRHR including safe abortion, contraception, menstrual health, unwanted pregnancies, STIs in Cameroon. The hotline provides room for individuals to get information on SRHR ask about issues they are afraid to talk about in public due to fear of stigmatization, judgment and discrimination such as abortion, preventing pregnancy especial for young unmarried women and GBV.







A total of 1552 calls was recieved in 2022; 306 seeking information on unwanted pregnacies; 328 on contraceptives, 234 calls on menstrual health information. 87 called for GBV information , 176 on STIs treatment and prevention and 189 calls on unwanted pregnancy. We referred 154 callers to our mapped pharmacies and 421 called for MA information.

Promoting the di-medicalization of abortion and increasing access to selfmanaged abortion for women in Cameroon with restrictive abortion laws made worst by the on going socio-political crises is very important.

After making careful observation in communities it was noticed that girls/ women seeking abortion services turn to services out of hospitals from nurses in the community, local drug store owners and pharmacist. VIAC identifies abortion services providers in communities and train them on WHO protocol on self-managed abortion. This year 100 pharmacies were trained and women and girls received safe abortion services from the providers trained by VIAC.

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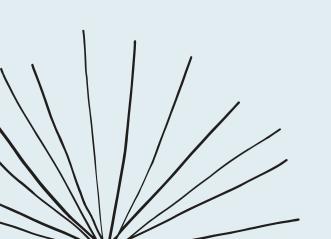


# **PILLAR Five: STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS**

#### OUTCOMES



 Sustained partnerships and Increases synergy that lead to successful resource mobilisaton and effective SRH interventions







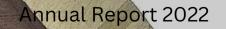
VIAC could not have realized all these achievements without the support of stake holders partners and donors which included:



#### VISION IN ACTION CAMEROON

## FINANCIAL REPORT

2022







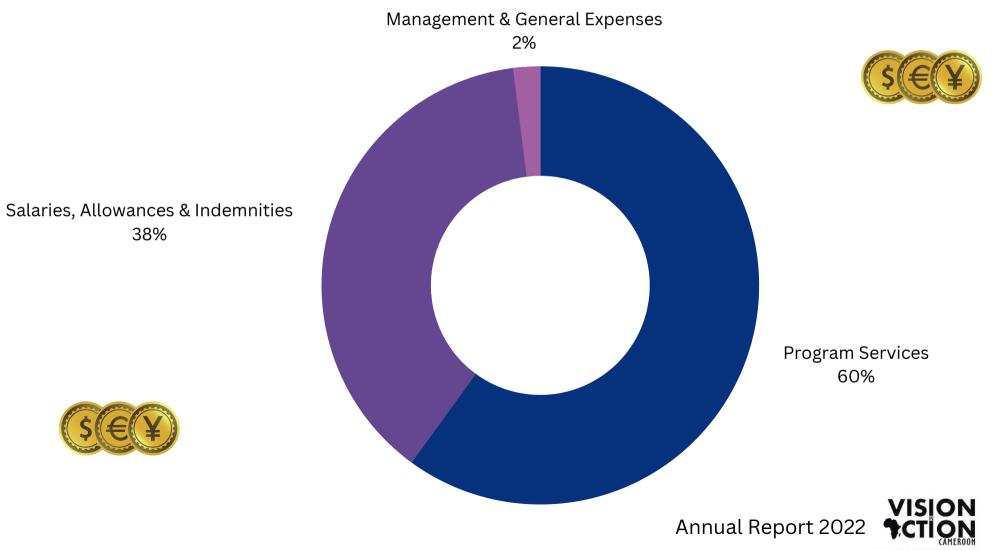
### **OUR FINANCIALS**

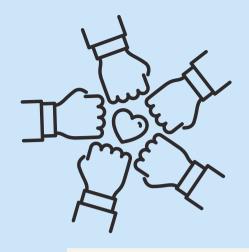
FISCAL YEAR 2022 | January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

In FY2022, VIACs' expenses totaled XAF 83142,272.65 (\$131,971.86)

Revenue included multi-year grants awarded in FY2022 for use in FY2022 and future fiscal years.

REVENUE: XAF 83,443,416 (\$132,433.99)







# **SUCESS STORIES**





### **SUCCESS STORY ONE**

I am Petra and I am a menstrual hygiene peer educator. Two months after I saw my Menarche, Vision in Action Cameroon came to our school and told us about menstrual hygiene. I was fortunate enough to be amongst one of the students that were chosen to be trained as peer educators. During the training, I got to know a lot about menstruation and I also got to know it was just a normal phenomenon. That was the second month of seeing of period and my aunt whom I live with knew nothing about it. I was so scared because I thought she would accuse me of having sexual intercourse with boys. So whenever I saw my period, I would look for a dirty cloth from the laundry basket and put in my underwear so it could soak the blood. My idea for using a dirt cloth was because I didn't want to stain my clean cloths with cloths besides, I always washed the dirt cloths whenever was doing my laundry. But after this training, I got to realize that I had seen menstruation from a very wrong perspective. I had apt knowledge on menstruation as I was taught about the materials to use during menstruation and how to take care of myself during menstruation. As a means to support me, I was given sanitary pads, and that made me very anxious to welcome my next period because I would be using something comfortable unlike the clots which sometimes always stocked out of my pants.



#### **PETRA** (Peer Educator)



### **SUCCESS STORY TWO**

When my friend who is a peer educator first told me about menstruation, I was so shocked that laughed at him. I told him he isn't acting like a man because he has gotten himself involved in women's business. He tried twice to educate me on menstrual hygiene but I really didn't care and I wasn't ready to listen to what he had to say. He even suggested I read the comic book on menstrual hygiene management, being very interested in graphics I took the book since it looked very interesting. But I didn't get to read the book that day. Two days later, at about 5pm I heard my twelve-year-old younger sister scream in the room, I was so frightened that I rushed to her. She just woke up from her siesta and there was blood everywhere on the bed, I was so terrified, no one was around, how could I have handled the situation. She sat there crying for over 5 minutes waiting for her elder brother to help her, but then I was helpless. I then remembered my friend had given me a menstrual hygiene comic book titled "Siewe the Period Angel". I rushed over the book like I was looking for an immediate solution to the period, then my eyes fell on menstrual materials. I could recognize the menstrual pad and I knew it was available in stores around my area. But I was so ashamed to go and buy it, so I asked my sister to change her cloth and quickly rush and buy a pad before the blood drips. I felt so bad asking her to do that since I knew she was in a tight position.

She came back home crying even louder, telling me some boys laughed at her because the blood stained her gown. That really broke my heart because I love my younger sister so much. I felt so terrible and frustrated that the next day when I resumed school I asked my friend to tell me all I needed to know about menstruation. I didn't want to see my sister in a helpless situation again. I narrated the story to him and he told me about the materials my sister should use during menstruation, how to take care of herself during menstruation and he also debunked the whole idea of stigma and encouraged me to support my sister when she is menstruation. I took it upon myself to educate my sister about menstruation and also to buy sanitary pad for her every month. Moreover, I went ahead to educate the boys in my area about the importance of supporting girls during menstruation and capitalizing on the negativity of stigmatization.

#### BRYANN (Student)









Working with VIAC in 2022 was inspiring. Building team dynamics and introducing activities to constantly grow the capacity and productivity of VIAC team was wonderful and exciting this gave me the opportunity to explore, understand and appreciate cultural dynamics not just within our team but also within our stakeholders and communities which is vital in the success of VIAC. Working with communities was the finest part being able to contribute to the development of communities and promote change through program and project design did not only cause me to think on the effects existing cultures and laws but also to take a deep look in to my fears and aspirations. I believe in working to build our team and communities I work every day on who I am as person and on my goals for this I am grateful. Thank you to my colleagues for their unfailing support. Looking forward to introducing innovative and participatory programs with even greater impact than this vear.





#### **ELONG CARINE NYADJROH**

#### **PROGRAMS OFFICER**





The greatest assert for VIAC is the team; the quality of training, supervision and commitment is what is driving change with us.

My desired change with the team is always looking at creative ways, using social innovations as a primary tool and exploring more gender transformative and feminist approaches in our work and as a strategy. It is intentional as a strategic management officer to loop in intersectionality and leveraging on our existing resources and pulling in human capital.



#### **PETER FONGEH** Strategic Management Officer



MOLINGE HERDRINE N Communications Officer Working with Vision in Action Cameroon over the past 18 months has been a journey of discovery. As a communications officer for VIAC, I have responsibilities that go beyond running the communication desk. I have the chance to communicate with internal and external stakeholders, as well as actively participate in other departments like research and advocacy. I'm proud to announce that during the past 18 months, I've not only bragged about my communication abilities, but also about my advocacy abilities and some research knowledge. I must admit that it is a wonderful place to work where people are given the chance to discover themselves, be successful, and truly glad to be there.





I began the year with many expectations with respect to getting experiences in the field of research and applying what I learned from school and stepping out of my comfort zone to perform these tasks. A stepwise approach of led to the introduction of the learning excitement factor to these tasks which eased the burden to learn and perform these tasks and the zeal to go to the field. There were moments of doubt but it was a gradual process where a look back at the beginning and my present illustrates a variety of changes in me. In the past year I have learnt a lot, not just fulfilling some school expectations, but learning in other aspects of life which were never an expectation.





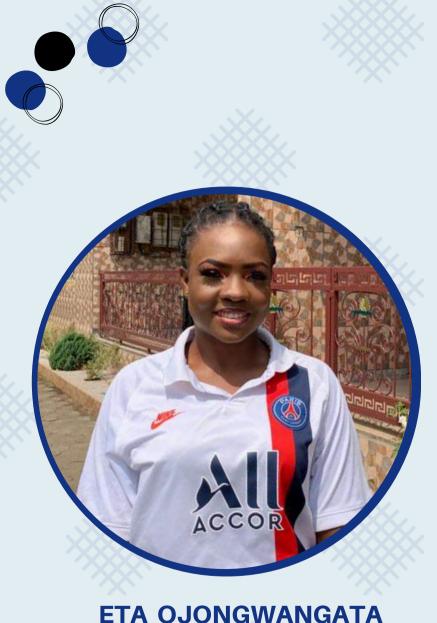
Last year was a turning point for me working as communications officer for Vision In Action Cameroon as I had the opportunity to not only build my skills in communication and digital advocacy but also put into practice knowledge I had succeeded in acquiring during my academic pursuits. VIAC has also given room for me to explore and expand my creativity and knowledge in other fields like visual designing and field advocacy. My one year experience also gave me the opportunity to build other skills like multitasking, team working, public speaking and problem solving. Ultimately, my stay in VIAC has been an awesome, challenging and inspiring experience. I am pleased with the colleagues I have had the opportunity to work with and I look forward to another amzing year.





I am Ngonlend Joan Ify Olisakwe. A final year Masters student in the department of Women and Gender Studies from the university of Buea. I have been volunteering with Vision in Action Cameroon (VIAC) for four months now. While here, my stay has been quite an interesting one. I have built a lot of skills like multitasking, getting involved in community outreach programs, also got involved in a bit of research, learnt a little bit of designing, tried different roles and equally built on my strengths and weaknesses. VIAC has also been helpful in making available online courses which have helped to improve on basic skills on how to chair a meeting, how to write minutes of a meeting and lots more. In addition, I attended a series of trainings, workshops which have helped to broaden my knowledge base on certain aspects. Furthermore, I have been able to build a lot of networks, learnt how to protect the marginalized group in the society as the working environment has been a great one as everyone is eager and ready to work, learn, teach others. In a nutshell, my stay at VIAC has been a blessing.





Finance Associate

I am Enow-Eta Ojongwangata, the finance assistant at Vision In Action Cameroon (VIAC) from the 2nd of August 2020 till date. I assisted in field activities like sexual gender base violence, drug abuse, menstrual hygiene etc. Am passionate about sexual and reproductive health right issues and being the role model. This passion pushed me in studying on issues related to SRHR and being accountable to every knowledge I give to the society and also as a finance assistant in the organization. VIAC has helped push and boost my confident and knowledge by building my capacities from trainings, fieldworks and paying courses but online and offline so as to be the best in my field of studies and passion.



NYINGKA SIGHAN HARIETTE Advocacy Associate Am Nyingka Sighan Hariette, an advocacy associate for Vision in Action Cameroon (VIAC) under the department of advocacy. Working with VAIC has been great but it is interesting to know that 2022 was one of the best, interesting and encouraging year for me though challenging. With the help of VIAC from 1st January to 31st December 2022 I was able to improve my communication skills, leadership skills and skills in community mobilization through webinars and capacity trainings.





Volunteering with Vision in Action Cameroon. Working with VIAC has been very interesting but challenging due to the fact that, I was from the medical world, harmonizing it with the humanitarian organization with their varying methods of operation. My stay here has improved me in all aspects. I have had the opportunity to work with communities, educate them on issues concerning their sexual health, attended webinars, assisted in presentations and also I have been attending online courses. VIAC gave me the opportunity to practice community nursing freely. All thanks to VIAC am becoming a better version of myself.





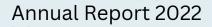


My name is Brandy Tate, I was a volunteer in VIAC for over 4 month and I had an exciting, adventurous and an enlightening experience. I felt like I was part of a family rather than an organization, I felt comfortable discussing the problems I encountered in any area of work. Having the opportunity to work in all the departments was a plus to me as I gained writing skills (minutes writing, CV writing and blog posts ...), how to come up with social media campaign and designing (flyers and posters on CANVA) in the communication department. The research department taught me data collection, report writing and data entry while in the advocacy department I learnt how to mobilize and chair a focus group discussion, safe spaces and door to door sensitization. My stay in VIAC empowered my personal and academic skills.



I have gained experience on how to plan, monitor and implement activities in the organization. I have also been able to effectively communicate organizational needs, can successfully conduct trainings and i have also known how to maintain a safe and healthy work environment.

**KIEN VERA** FIELD SUPERVISOR







FACEBOOK Viac Cameroon

# Social Media Accounts

LINKEDIN VISION IN ACTION CAMEROON

**TWITTER** Viac237

Vision in Action

in

WEBSITE www.viacame.org

INSTAGRAM viaccameroon

Central Market, Bokwai Road Buea, South West Region. Cameroon



## **MERCI!**

VISION



# **THANK YOU!**

VISION

### **APPRECIATION**

**ASANTE!** 

We continue to find ourselves in a world with extensive challenges and much uncertainty. It gives us confidence to see how VIAC as a national organisation is becoming increasingly aligned in purpose, and how VIAC and teams are connected to one another. VIAC is in a resilient and solid position to continue to make a difference in contexts where the organisation's programs are most needed.

The Supervisory Board expresses its gratitude to VIAC's management, team and all who worked to create impact at scale throughout 2022. The commitment and professionalism of the organisation's team members around the world is an inspiration in these turbulent times. This appreciation also extends to all of the partners and donors with whom we work to implement our projects.

LOUISA ONBEHALF OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

**THANK YOU!** 

## **MERCI**!