



# HIV FREE NW PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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## FEBRUARY ACTIVITY UPDATES

### Executive Summary

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- ◆ The HIV Free project has organized an information meeting with stakeholders to disseminate information on the project after its five years of implementation. The meeting on the 16th of February brought together stakeholders including project staff, representatives from the Regional Delegation of Public Health and District Medical Officers (DMOs). The meeting that also brought together journalists from different media organs presented updates on the current trend of the projects activities and sustainability plan in the Northwest region.
- ◆ The Accelerated Children's HIV and AIDs Treatment (ACT) Initiative now has a Care and Treatment Physician, Dr Kinge Thompson who doubles as Director of the Bamenda Regional hospital. Together with the Pediatric HIV and AIDS Advisor, they paid a working visit to some pediatric Care and Treatment sites in the region to check pediatric activities. It was realized during these visits and other supervisory visits to ACT sites that there is an improvement in the Care and Treatment rendered to children.
- ◆ Facilitative and supervisory activities at PMTCT, Option B+ and ACT sites have been effective. Documentation has been effectively checked during such visits with corrections affected to enable site staff function without difficulties. Generally, documentation is said to have improved even though amidst some challenges enumerated by site staff.
- ◆ Triplets born to an HIV positive mother in Mbingo coordination area are reportedly healthy and have all tested negative after rapid tests. A visit has been planned to the family next month to witness the family's continuous joy as the children who are now 2 years 9 months old are all growing healthily. The PMTCT program has followed the children since their birth in June 2013 to do their PCR which tested negative and also negative rapid tests were conducted on the children. The project is also currently following up on some triplets born to an HIV+ mother in Oku.
- ◆ There are reports of the increased utilization of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in LAP. This has been thanks to Collaboration between the leading health facility and the Primary Health Centres (PHCs), respect of administrative staff for punctuality coupled with the continuous persistent checks from the PMTCT coordinator in this coordination area. The work of Community Mother and Child Health Aides (COMCHAs) has also greatly increased as a result of this.
- ◆ The project continues to partner with other stakeholders in the HIV response to realize its set objectives. Partnership this month with the ViiV project saw the utilization of the PMTCT human resources to conduct VCT in some communities in Bansa and Ndu with the intention to increase in the participation of Men as Partners. 553 persons were tested with 7 HIV+ cases. Those who tested positive have been initiated in Care and Treatment. The turn out of male partners too has been increasingly impressive.
- ◆ An entire family of father, mother and children has been found in Modelle-Wum living with the HIV virus. The intervention of the PMTCT staff has succeeded to bring this family to start receiving treatment. This is a developing story and will be documented by the project documentation department.
- ◆ The Bamenda coordination area this month has reported the incidence of four HIV+ pregnant women who have not only refused treatment but have refuted the existence of HIV. The PMTCT team is working hard to save the lives of these children by seeing to it that these women succumb to advice in due course.
- ◆ Outreach and sensitization activities in all districts implementing the LCI project have continued to take place. This month, a total of 26,445 people were sensitized, 109 captured for ANC1 and 148 old ANC cases. These activities which also rendered vaccinations to 1529 children, received 459 persons at consultations; also saw many Men As Partners, tracked and linked back some lost-to-follow up cases amongst others.
- ◆ Some 136 service providers have been trained on Option B+. This number adds to 452 capacitated for the implementation of this PMTCT protocol since November 2014.

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