

# SHAP SHAP

## Towards An HIV-Free Generation

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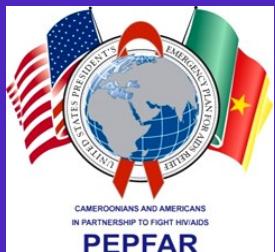
### Our GOAL is HIV EPIDEMIC CONTROL



*Editorial*

*In This Issue*

*On the Field*



**HIV FREE II SHAP SHAP MAGAZINE**

A monthly publication of the HIV Free II Project Team.

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## GOALS AND STRATEGIES OF HIV-FREE PROJECT

**Project Goal:** To reduce HIV-related morbidity and mortality for infected individuals through comprehensive, high-quality integrated and innovative HIV testing programs, optimized care and treatment program for adults, children, and pregnant women (Option B+), building on the successes of PEPFAR support in the HIV-Free Project in the NW and SW regions of Cameroon.

Strategy1:  
HIV Case  
identification  
& linkages

Strategy 2:  
HIV  
Treatment

Strategy 3:  
Adherence,  
and Retention

Strategy 4:  
Data Management  
and Quality  
Improvement

### Cross cutting approaches:

**Cross-cutting Implementation Approaches:** Coordination and joint supervision  
Promote Task shifting and onsite mentorship.  
Support MOH in Test and treat policy and community dispensation of ARVS.

With initial focus on the Northwest and Southwest, these strategies and approaches will enable the attainment of the following specific objectives:

- ◆ Increase the percentage of PLHIV who know their HIV status to 90% in both regions.
- ◆ Increase the percentage of HIV positive adults, pregnant women and children who access ART in health facilities and communities, from 86% to 90%.
- ◆ Increase by 10% the number of PLHIV retained in care and achieving VL suppression.
- ◆ Improve health systems performance and function through increase documentation, quality and utilization of health information, increase quality health services and increase human resource development.

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## Prof. Tih Pius Muffih

### Project Principal Investigator

We are already a month old in to the Country Operational Plan for 2019 (COP19) which started on October 1, 2019. This Fiscal Year 20 (FY20) came with a completely new project orientation and has lots of expectations and demands from our funders – CDC/PEPFAR. We are now implementing the Direct Service Delivery (DSD) package; this means that we deploy staff to all the sites to work there full time as though they are staff of the facilities.

As the implementing partner of the Western Zone (Zone 1) – North West, South West and West Regions – we have regional targets which have been distributed according to the current HIV prevalence in each region. The main objective of this new project year is to attain **Epidemic Control** in the three regions and it has come with very ambitious targets which must be attained. For instance, we are expected to identify 30,000 Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) in the North West Region and initiate them on treatment. Meanwhile, we have to find and put on treatment, 180,000 HIV positive clients in our implementing regions. Of these targets, COP19 alone has a 60% target which accounts for about 110,000 PLHIV to be attained while the remaining 40% is to be attained by COP20. These targets cannot be attained from the 79 sites of our Zone. This is because it is the three regions that are expected to achieve epidemic control and not the enlisted sites. Hence, the 79 facilities will be used as satellite sites for all the others sites to network and put clients on treatment.

It is worth noting that, Cameroon has the second highest HIV prevalence in West and Central Africa ranging from 5.3% in 2004 to 3.4% in 2018. To achieve **Epidemic Control**, Cameroon aims at achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 by 2020 and 95-95-95 by 2030. According to the CAMPHIA survey published in 2018, Cameroon's



performance in meeting the 90-90-90 UNAIDS Agenda stood at: 1<sup>st</sup> 90: 56%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 90: 93% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 90: 80%. Meanwhile, the 2019 programmatic data states that Cameroon's performance has improved to: 1<sup>st</sup> 90: 68%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 90: 90% and 3<sup>rd</sup> 90: 81%. Attaining Epidemic Control also entails the finding, testing and treating of at least 30,000 persons living with HIV in the North West Region alone.

In a bid to help us attain our objectives faster, we have transferred some of your colleagues who used to work in Yaoundé to the NW so that their experience in the DSD package will help you achieve our objectives easily. Please collaborate with them so that you understand the DSD package in full. We have instituted a series of strategies and guidelines to help us attain our objectives in the shortest time possible; but for that to be possible, everything must be in green. That is why; I am reactivating the Operation ALL Green (OAG) strategy for all our indicators so that you work hard with same steam; because without good results our future in project implementation is bleak.

Take the rendezvous to more updates on this medium Shap Shap towards an epidemic control in Cameroon.

Enjoy Reading!

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*NW Regional Delegate of Public Health Addressing HIV Stakeholders at COP19 Launch*

## The Project Principal Investigator Prescribes a Concerted Effort to HIV Epidemic Control

COP19 Project Year has begun with an ambitious target of identifying at least 30,000 Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) on the road to epidemic control. Speaking at the launching of HIV Free NW COP19, the Project Principal Investigator – Prof. Tih Pius Muffih – prescribed a concerted effort to attaining Epidemic Control for the whole North West Region. He made this prescription while calling on all HIV stakeholders (heads of implementing sites, treatment centers and regional stakeholders) in the region to put hands on deck for this ambitious target to be attained.

Over 85% of these targets are expected to come from the 30 project sites drawn from 15 Health Districts as those are the sites with about 80% of the Region's Treatment Current. According to

the CAMPHIA survey published in 2018, Cameroon's performance in meeting the 90-90-90 goal stood at: 1st 90: 56%, 2nd 90: 93% and 3rd 90: 80%. This means that Cameroon still has so much work if she must attain the UNAIDS 2020 Agenda. Addressing his staff, the North West Regional Delegate of Public Health – Dr. Che Soh Kingsley asked for unflinching collaboration by all the stakeholders from the regional, to the district and health area levels. He reminded the stakeholders that the CBC Health Board is partnering with the Ministry of Public Health to ensure that she attains her objectives in HIV and AIDS.

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**Project Technical Director Presenting COP19 Orientation  
Based on PEPFAR Expectations**

## Strategizing to Aggressively Attain Epidemic Control by COP20

The HIV Free NW Project on October 1, 2019 officially began the implementation of COP19 project activities. This was done through a week long intense working session which took place in Bafoussam at the HIV Free West Conference Hall. Addressing the staff on behalf of the Project Principal Investigator – Prof. Tih Pius Muffih; the Business Official – Mr. Monju Johnson Vishi stressed that the aim of the working session was for site staff and management team to be more effective and efficient in their execution of field activities; ensuring that no stone is left unturned.

The main focus of COP19 is Index Testing, HIV TB, Advanced HIV Disease and Viral Load Tests. Hence, it's going to be very imperative that the team meets up with this task through the dissemination of sensitization messages and

radio spots to call on people to get the uptake of services.

The Senior Management Team (SMT) also took time to orientate staff on the new project orientation; that is, the Direct Service Delivery (DSD) package which also entails that the team remains at the site.

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## NW Team Braces Up for the Effective Take Off of Project Activities at Site Level

New Site teams assigned to the 30 project implementing sites of the North West Region of Cameroon have recently received site level orientation and introduction to the various treatment centers where they will be working. The orientation and introduction comes as part of the implementation activities as was recommended during the five-day long Bafoussam Orientation meeting.

Prior to their arrivals at the sites, the teams all submitted to their facility heads, a letter of authorization signed by the Regional Delegate of Public Health – Dr. Che Soh Kingsley and another signed by the Project Principal Investigator – Prof. Tih Pius Muffih.

With these orientation exercises, activities are being implemented at all levels in each site. Hence, the project is on the road to epidemic control in the region.

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*Site Introduction at Nkambe District Hospital*

## DAMA Team Orientates Data Managers of Implementing Project Sites in COP19 for Effective Data Management

The Data Manager (DAMA) Team of the HIV Free North West Project has engaged 80 Data Managers working in the 30 sites of project implementation for effective and comprehensive management of data in COP19 Project Year. This was followed by an intensive practical orientation training session on using DAMA in reporting facility data. The goal of this training was to; engage the facility staff (Data Managers) to work alongside the Data Clerks deployed by the project to the facilities as prescribed in the Direct Service Delivery (DSD) package from CDC.

The DAMA Administrator – Mr. Ndosack George – highlighted that DAMA will be present in all the 30 sites of project implementation; hence, the

raison d'être for organizing the working session. Worthy of note is the fact that, DAMA is an electronic version of the national tools that are already being used in the facilities as recommended by Cameroon's Ministry of Public Health.

The training was organized by the project management in partnership with the North West Regional Delegation of Public health (RDPH). It ran from 25th to 26th October 2019 at the North West Regional Fund for Health Promotion (NW RFHP). The facilitators included the DAMA Administrator, Regional Technical Working Group (RTG) for HIV and AIDS Coordinator, the Senior M&E Supervisor and the Regional M&E Supervisor.

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*Practical Sessions during the DAMA Training*



**STA for HIV Care and Treatment Presenting the Fast-track Strategies for HIV Case Identifications**

## STA Prescribes Targeted Testing for HIV Case Identification and Treatment

The Senior Technical Adviser (STA) for HIV Care and Treatment – Dr. Pascal Nji Atanga – has called on HIV Testing Staff of the 30 implementing project sites to intensify targeted testing as a fast track strategy towards the attainment of the 1<sup>st</sup> 90 of UNAIDS 2020 Agenda. The call was made during the first session of the training workshop on HIV Case Identification Strategies and Tools. The main goal of this training is to optimize HIV case finding/identifications at all levels of the facilities.

According to the STA, HIV case identification is still the least attained of the 90-90-90 UNAIDS 2020 Agenda with 70% attainment rate at the global level. *“More testing will NOT give us better results; but Targeted Testing will”* Dr. Pascal Nji Atanga highlighted. Meanwhile, the Regional Technical Group (RTG) for HIV and AIDS –

Dr. Tayong Gladys – reminded participants about the guiding principles of HIV testing. One of which states that, *“HIV testing is strictly confidential and voluntary.”*

# On the Road to Epidemic Control



## CBC HEALTH BOARD

“HIV is just like any other disease; get tested and get treated”

Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Project Principal Investigator.

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