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Report Summary

Value Health Africa (VAHA) is a non-profit with a mission to promote health and wellbeing by improving access to primary health care services for all at all ages. VAHA has regional branches in the Central, South West, North West Region and Littoral regions in Cameroon even though our work spans across the national territory. VAHA works in partnership with the regional delegations of public health and local health districts in the implementation of all its activities in the community. VAHA is also a part of the humanitarian response coordination taskforce for the Anglophone crises, and a member of the WHO NW/SW health cluster coordination group and WASH cluster for the fight against COVID19 and other epidemic diseases like cholera.

Since the outbreak of COVID19, Value Health Africa has been carrying out several activities ranging from community sensitization using social media channels, radio and TV programs; capacity building for community leaders and health care workers, and technical support to the health and political administrators at the regional and district levels. Below are highlights of some of our major activities on COVID19.

SOUTH WEST REGION

Activity 1 : Community health workers (CHWs) training

Community health workers and key informants are pivotal in community engagement, early detection and reporting during disease outbreaks. Before Cameroon ever recorded a case of the corona virus, Value Health Africa organized a CHW training to educate CHWs on the novel corona virus and effective community sensitization and engagement strategies. The aim of this capacity building workshop was to equip CHWs on basic knowledge of the novel corona virus for adequate community surveillance and to equip them with community sensitization and engagement skills and tools.



Target: 20 CHWs were trained across the various health areas in Buea (SW)

Trainers: Pauline Akonkeng (Regional Delegation Of Health, Bureau Of Health Information), Mbianke Livancliff (Value Health Africa, Focal Point For IPC)

Activity2 : Donation and Installation of Handwashing stations

After a series of assessments conducted by value health Africa, it was found that most inhabitants of the South West region in overcrowded areas like markets, public offices, business spots etc don't practice handwashing because of the lack hand washing facilities. To instill the spirit of hand washing within this population as well as provide adequate hand washing facility in public places for use by the general public VAHA donated 10 handwashing stations to the local municipality which were installed as follows: three in markets, three in public offices (D.O office, Governor's office, Mayor's office), 4 overcrowded business spots. We also used these stations to demonstrate handwashing to the community.



Activity3: Awareness campaign and capacity building on mask production in 10 remote communities in the South West Region

Unlike in urban communities where there is easy access to information ranging from radio, television and other media sources, rural communities are still at greater risk as they lack access to information and this has greatly hindered them in carrying out adequate preventive measures. Also, in rural communities there still exist a lot of misinformation and myths around COVID19 as some still believe it's a "white's man' disease and the blacks have genetic immunity". There is therefore the need to carry out massive sensitization campaign within these communities as VAHA believes all lives matter. VAHA targeted 10 vulnerable communities in the SW region with a health campaign to raise awareness and engage the community in preventive measures of COVID19; the installation of community hand wash station and the production of local masks



Activities

- Community education on COVID 19 and its preventive measures
- Installation of community hand wash station.
- Practical education on the production of reusable mask from local materials.

Activity 4: Infection Prevention Control for 7 vulnerable community facilities

National and international efforts to fight against COVID19 have been concentrated at the national and regional levels. However, most community COVID19 cases visit local health centers first before they are referred to the designated treatment centers. To ensure no health worker in these local facilities is exposed or dies from COVID19, VAHA in collaboration with the SW regional delegation for public health identified 7 vulnerable health centers to strengthen their capacity of infection prevention and control. At the end of the training, an IPC committee was established in each facility to continue the monitoring and evaluation of the program.



Activity5 : Capacity Building for Journalist on risk communication, community engagement and reporting on COVID19

Following the misinformation around the covid19 pandemic, Value Health Africa in collaboration with the journalist union, the Buea Divisional administrative authorities and the regional delegation of public health built capacity for 15 journalists on risk communication, community engagement and COVID19 reporting. A community of knowledge and information sharing was developed to facilitate the verification of all information on COVID19 before publication.

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Participants were awarded certificate of attendance after training.

Activity 6 : Social Media sensitization and risk communication

Since the onset of the outbreak, VAHA has developed more than 50 sensitization and risk communication messages (posters and videos) which has been shared via VAHA's facebook, Instagram, twitter and LinkIn pages and read by over 20,000 persons. Also VAHA has been invited by the state and private TV and radio stations to give talks on COVID19 and preventive methods.



LITTORAL REGION

Activity 7: Donation of Handwashing supplies and facemasks

VAHA donated ten handwashing kits and 100 face masks to the DoualaV municipality to fight against COVID19. The kits were handed to the the mayor and regional delegation of public health by VAHA regional coordinator for Littoral. In addition, VAHA provided technical support to the municipality in developing a community response plan targeting 31 high risk communities for (community education, sensitization and awareness) which is currently being implemented.



Activity8: Community education and awareness raising

VAHA in collaboration with the local administration is conducting community education and sensitization for 31 high risk communities in Douala. The program is targeting quarter heads, block heads and heads of associations in all 31 communities. During this reach out, the community leaders are educated on hand washing and hand hygiene, community case detection and reporting, preventive strategies.



NORTH WEST, SOUTH WEST AND LITTORAL

Activity 9: Community need assessment of the impact of COVID19 on displaced population in Littoral, Bamenda and Buea.

Project Description

VAHA in collaboration with Street Child conducted a baseline assessment to obtain information on the impact of COVID19 on the lives of displaced persons in Littoral, Buea and Bamenda and the challenges faced by these persons during this COVID19 pandemic. We identified humanitarian response gaps to help guide action, policy and decision making. VAHA team reached out to over 500 households in the Littoral, North west and South West regions. The data is currently being analyzed and result will be published soon.



2. The guardian post published VAHA's humanitarian response activities in Cameroon

regions, and to increase their credibility as development actors," Omer Songwe added.

"I intend to pass on the skills in my community. First I will be a good example of a peace crusader especially Cameroon through capacity and skill building programs and has been in existence for more than 15 years.

deadly clashes have been recorded in the area. Relative calm is however being witnessed in some parts of the division.

Buea gets hand-washing stations to step up fight against coronavirus

From Gityo Ndzi in Yaounde

Health organization, Value Health Africa, VAHA, has donated some hand-washing supplies to the Buea municipality.

Meant to help the community better prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the ten hand-washing points were installed yesterday.

The hand-washing points that cost 400,000FCFA were installed in different public places in the town including the DO's office, central police station, inspectorate of basic education, markets and the Mile 17 bus station.

Talking to The Guardian Post, VAHA's focal person for infection prevention and control, Dr Mbianke Liviancliff, said the donations will support residents of the municipality "in following WHO precautions of adequate hand hygiene".

"The municipal council is to ensure the sustainability of these hand-wash stations by making sure there is water in the water dispensers every day, making sure utilities such as liquid soap are replaced when finished and also make sure these hand-wash stations at the end of the day



are taken into a safe house where they are kept and brought out in the morning so people can utilise them," he said.

VAHA is also supporting the DO's office and the municipality, Dr Mbianke said, in ensuring that: "Every public

facility has these hand-washing stations. We are there to ensure that hotels, bars and restaurants follow strict IPC protocols".

"To make this possible, VAHA has developed SOPs for hotels, banks restaurants to be used during this COVID-19

period and will be moving around with authorities to ensure they are utilised by these facilities," he added.

Hand-washing, Dr Mbianke said, should, however, not be the only preventive measure taken by inhabitants of the town.

"Avoid social gatherings, stay at home as much as possible, use hand sanitisers after coming in contact with dirt or surfaces," he advised. To him, "people should get information only from the right sources to avoid panic".

The recent move comes barely hours after health minister, Dr Manaonda Malachie, took to twitter to announce that the first positive case of the virus recorded in Buea passed away.

In addition to measures instituted by Prime Minister Dion Ngute, South West governor, Bernard Okalia Bidai, yesterday further limited the operation of bars and restaurants, stating that customers should take home their products if they must be consumed. The administrator also warned parents who send their kids out to hawk, noting that the decision to stop schools from functioning was for them to stay home.

www.theguardian.com info

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- VAHA announced impact Hero of the month following the recognition of its efforts in the COVID19 response.

