

Value Health Africa (VAHA) Cameroon



Promoting good health & wellbeing for all.

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Website: www.valuehealthafrica.org
REG No: 52/E.29/1111/VOL.8/ALPAS

**REPORT OF CERVICAL CANCER AND FIBROID AWARENESS CAMPAIGN CARRIED OUT BY
VALUE HEALTH AFRICA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BANDY KIKI UNDER THE PARTRONAGE OF
THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL DELEGATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

22ND TO 26TH APRIL 2019 IN BAMENDA

PRESENTED BY:

VALUE HEALTH AFRICA' SECRETARIAT

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CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Over 80% of cervical cancers in low resource settings like Cameroon are detected in late stages, predominately due to lack of information about the benefits of cervical cancer prevention; lack of screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions, and high prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Also, up to 80% of women will experience uterine fibroids, (noncancerous tissue growths in the uterus, by the age of 50) and Africa descents are even at a higher risk. In an effort to raise awareness and improve on early diagnosis, Value Health Africa in partnership with BANDY KIKI is organizing a one week awareness campaign on cervical cancer and uterine fibroid.

Sponsors:

NW Regional Delegation of Public Health; ABII foundation; VolunteerMedCorps; SISTERS SPEAK; Moghamo TV online; Frog Tutoring; Mofor Violet; Ndedi Asek Matuke; Le Gideon Newspaper

Objectives

- To bring cervical cancer screening to the door steps of women at risk.
- To inspire and link women at risk of or with cervical cancer and/or fibroid to to medical and psychosocial support.

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- To link vulnerable women with fibroid and or cervical cancer to support services (health, psychosocial support etc).

CHRONOGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

S/N	DATE	ACTIVITY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1	10/04/2019 to 15 th /04/2019	Preparation of press Release and Printing of Posters and other sensitization materials	CEO VAHA and Partners
2	16 th to 21 st April 2019	Social media mobilization and distribution of posters in the community	VAHA Team
3	23/04/2019	Radio campaign on CBS	Coordinator VAHA
4	24/04/2019	Preparation of Campaign Venue	Logistician VAHA/Abii Foundation Team
5	25/04/2019	Online Sensitization on cervical cancer with guest Gynecologist on Value Health Africa's Facebook page	Dr Lilian
6	25/04/2019	Seminar on Cervical Cancer and Fibroid Free Cervical cancer screening ,	Key note Speakers

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		<p>using the Visual Inspection with Logol Iodine (VILI) and Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA)</p> <p>Pre and post counselling sessions on cervical cancer and its associated risk factors:</p>	<p>Laboratory Technicians and counselors</p>
	26/04/2019	<p>Seminar on Cervical Cancer and Fibroid</p> <p>Free Cervical cancer screening,using Visual nspection with Logol Iodine(VILI) and Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA)</p> <p>Pre and post counselling sessions on cervical cancer and its associated risk factors</p>	<p>Laboratory Technicians and counselors</p>

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Introduction:

The free cervical cancer and fibroid awareness screening campaign was organized by Value Health Africa in partnership with Bandy Kiki, ABII Foundation, Volunteer Medical Corp, Sisters Speak, Le Gideon's Newspaper, FROG TURTURING, Mofor Violet, ACADI,CAN, under the patronage of the Delegate of Public Health North West Region.

The campaign was observed under the theme; "CERVICAL CANCER CAN BE PREVENTED" while stressing on the need of early diagnosis. The campaign took two days from the 25th to 26th of April 2019. It was coordinated by a Public Health Nurse and VAHA's sexual and reproductive health advocate and other VAHA team members.

ACTIVITIES

A radio campaign was made @CBS radio on 24th of April 2019 by VAHA team. The radio campaign focused on VAHA, Cervical Cancer and Fibroid, the agenda of the free screening and the various partners who contributed enormously to the success of the screening.

Day 1 (25th April 2019)

Amazingly, as early as 6:00am on the 25th of April 2019, women from far and near started gathering at the screening ground (Former Le Bien Hotel Brasseries Bamenda). This was followed by registration of participants and filling of questionnaires. Orientation of participants

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was done and a brief introduction and a rundown of the activities. Filling of the questionnaires continued while the presenters of the day were getting ready.

Doctor Tebit Ignatius (Obstetrician and gynaecologist) gave the first talk which was focused on “the overview of daily realities on women’s health, laying emphasis on;

- uterine fibroid,
- risk factors and
- diagnosis and also highlighted on
- success stories from Abii foundation.

Interestingly, pictures were displayed. After the presentation, there was a questions and answer session which gave room for better assimilation of the lesson by the participants.

At about 11am, the deputy delegate of Public Health for the North West Region of Cameroon arrived the screening ground with his entourage from the delegation of Public Health. He addressed the team and the women who were present, giving an overview and statistics of cervical cancer and at the same time, encouraging and congratulating VAHA and team for her success in improving health in the community.

Thereafter, doctor Mercy Fondu mounted the stage and powerfully highlighted what cervical cancer is all about, ignorance and how much deaths have been recorded as a result. She went further to elaborate on the risk factors, signs and symptoms and sturdily encouraged the women to take charge of their health. As usual, the session ended with questions and answers.

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Thereafter, Dr. Nyela Elvis emphatically explained not just the stages of cervical cancer, prevention, benefits of early detection but also extended to other important diseases surrounding the woman and how a woman can live in good health. His session took much longer yet the women were still very eager to hear more. At the end each woman said what she had learnt and how important it was for her

Still in that order, Mrs Kinsa Relindis,(the Regional Focal Point of Sexual and Reproductive Health for the North West Region) with all the experience and skills gathered from many years of work, expressed herself in broken language (Pidgin English) for more & proper assimilation of the materials. Throughout her talk, it was a kind of interactive session where everyone was delighted and willingly gave a contribution in the discussion. She highlighted on “government effort addressing the disease”, enumerating the various preventive and treatment institutions in the North West Region and a lot more in this regard.

At about 1pm, all the participants were given snacks to regain their lost energy. Free Cervical cancer screening was done and Echography was performed on this first day.

While all the educative talks and screening were going, the Nutritionist of VAHA and a few others were in charge on administering the questionnaires. Meanwhile, VAHA’S volunteers and Logistician were involved in urgent errands for the smooth running of the campaign.

Over 80 women showed up on day 1 despite the high level of insecurity that was witnessed on this day and 39 were screened. There was sudden and severe gunshots lasting for about an hour

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and forty minutes, destabilizing movement in town. The team left the screening ground at 6:15pm after a brief evaluation meeting.

Day 2

Similar activities took place on day two, though with the introduction of new speakers. screening on the second day was much faster and convenient as there were two screening rooms. Chaplain Emmanuel took over three and a half hours discussing and imparting the women. He ended with a sweet and lovely song which awakened and energized everyone woman in the hall. Day 2 was rather more hectic than day 1 because everyone wanted to be screened especially as it was the last day of the screening campaign. There were two counsellors who carried out Pre and Post counselling on all the women that were screened.

Day 3

After the campaign, the hall was cleaned, chairs and other rented items returned, questionnaires put together, and everything placed in their respective places and in order.

RESULTS

On day one, 39 women were screened and on day two, 78 were screened making a total of 117 even though 125 questionnaires were filled. The 8 women were not eligible for the screening.

Out of 117 screened, 53% (62/117) of the participants attested to have fair knowledge on cervical cancer.

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29.9% (35/117) of them indicated that they have done at least one cervical cancer screening before.

18% (22/117) were shown to have inflamed cervix on visual inspection.

11.1% (13/117) had both inflamed cervix and positive VILI & VIA tests.

Palpation revealed that 5.1% (6/117) had a lump around the abdominal region while breasts palpation revealed normal breasts for all the 117 women screened.

Statistics still revealed that 0.008% (1/117) woman had hemorrhagic inflamed cervix.

12.8% (15/117) had profuse vaginal discharge. The women were counseled and referred for specialized care.

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

- Availability of financial and material resources before the campaign facilitated the smooth running of the activity.
- All the eligible women who participated in the campaign were screened.
- All Key Note Speakers were available and on time.
- The availability of partners was a motivating factor for the massive turn out
- Wide sensitization of the Public Educated thousands of Women on Cervical cancer and the importance of early diagnosis.

Weaknesses

- Low target was set (budgeted) for the screening and more than expected women showed up.

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- Late start of the program on the first day due to irregularities of electricity.

OPPORTUNITY

- The presence of media houses helped to diffuse the message to the population.
- The influence of Bandy on social media was a great add to the mobilization success.

THREATS

- Sociopolitical crises in the region leading to high level of insecurity.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- Higher targets should be set so as to budget for them to be screened.
- Alternative power source should be allocated when next a similar project is to be carried to avoid delays.

CONCLUSION

The Cervical cancer screening and awareness week that was organized by Value Health Africa in partnership with Bandy Kiki and sponsors was very successfully. 117 women were screen and 11.1% of these women were positive for the VILI AND Visual Inspection with VIA. 5.1% had a lump around the abdominal region. 29.9% had done at least one screen against cervical cancer and 11.1% had an inflamed cervix. 12.8% had profuse vaginal discharge. All the women who had any abnormality after the screening was referred to specialized care for proper management and follow up.

Compiled by:

The VAHA Team

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