



VALUE HEALTH AFRICA JOINS THE CAMEROON NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDs) ALLIANCE TO OFFER A PRESS CONFERENCE AS PART OF ACTIVITIES MARKING THE CELEBRATION OF THE GLOBAL WEEK FOR ACTION ON NCDs

On Wednesday 4th September 2019, The Cameroon Non Communicable Diseases Alliance met at the Cameroon Coalition for Tobacco Control Office at Etudi Yaounde to offer a Press Conference as part of the activities marking the Second Global Week for Action on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs). With the subject '**Healthy Lives For All Depends on Action To Prevent And Control Non Communicable Diseases**', the Cameroon Civil Society NCD Alliance joined their voices to the Global NCD Alliance to say 'Enough of the apathy, inaction and glacial progress on prevention and control of NCDs.' They called on the government of Cameroon to deliver on the rights to healthcare for all people in Cameroon.

The Cameroon Civil Society NCD Alliance is a member organization of the global NCD Alliance since 2018 and represents such a rise in Civil Society action that assists to watch the blind spots of government and to provide useful feedback on the pains of persons living with NCDs, recommending key actions that if taken will make economic and developmental sense for the country. The Cameroon Civil Society Alliance has been created by the coming together of three organizations: The Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, Health of Populations in Transition, and The Cameroon Coalition to Counter Tobacco. It now has 19 members including Biaka University, Cameroon Diabetes Association, Value Health Africa, Recherche Sante De Development (RSD), The MEDICZ, and thee Reconciliation and Development Association (RDA). The Alliance is a move that will unite and promote NCD action by helping strengthen the priority accorded to all NCDs without exception, at the highest level of government's commitment to its people's health.

The 2019 Global Week for Action on NCDs, from 2-8 September had as theme '**Non Communicable Diseases and Universal Health Coverage: Delivering Healthy Lives for All.**' It was a unifying and rallying opportunity to celebrate where action has led to progress in improving health, and an opportunity to say Enough to inaction on the world's largest cause of death and disability. Advocates call on governments everywhere to step up and translate commitments into action that will lead to meaningful progress and improvement of the lives of all people, everywhere. The global health movement calls on decision makers to bridge the gap between promises and progress, ensuring that negotiation and commitments to secure Universal Health Coverage by 2030 are not squandered requires assertive and urgent action and investments to turn words from high-level meetings into real and measurable health for all. As part of the Enough campaign, people around the world are sharing their views and voices on the importance of adequate Universal Health Coverage to improve on the health of people living with NCDs. Many of their messages highlight the opportunity presented by UHC to address challenges they and their families experience due to NCDs, such as social disparities, financial insecurity, and poorer quality of life.



The Cameroon NCD Alliance asserted with unwavering conviction that ‘it is time we get things like cancer care, dialysis centres into our countries and not obtain the same services abroad.’ Three presentations were done by Prince Mpondo and Judith Chekumo from the Cameroon Coalition to Counter Tobacco, and Mbangowah Elvis Ngwa from Value Health Africa. The presentations hinged on awareness of the NCDs and the efforts of the Cameroon NCD Alliance to alleviate the untold suffering caused by NCDs. Lamenting on the 2014 WHO statistics of 239000 deaths as a result of NCDs in Cameroon, Value Health Africa’s Central Regional Coordinator decried that Cameroon cannot afford to allow NCDs become an issue of concern, noting that Cameroon still has to grapple with other infectious diseases like malaria and HIV. Responding to a question of the Press on practical activities carried out during the celebration of the Week of Action on NCDs, Value Health Africa’s Representative mentioned social media sensitization and campaigns, live shows, radio presentations, community awareness initiatives by volunteers to sensitized and educate their peers, partnering with community health centres to offer sensitization, screening and practical advice on the management of NCDs, advocating for NCDs to be prioritized in Cameroon and also advocating for improvement in Primary Health Care in Cameroon.

The event saw over 14 media outlets including CRTV, Canal 2 English, Magic FM, The Post and Le Messenger. The clarion call was on the government of Cameroon to step up and translate commitments into action that will lead to meaningful progress and improvement of people’s lives in Cameroon.