



Second National Training On Adolescent Health and Well-Being and Launching the Dissemination of ‘The Health and Well-being of Adolescents and Young People in Cameroon: Advocating for Change for Adolescents Toolkit in Cameroon, Policies, Actions, Meaningful Engagement’ (ACAP Toolkit).

Date: Saturday 28th December, 2023

Key Note Statement of Deserve Manager, Desmond Nji

The representative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education,
All other government representatives and international development agencies represented,
Dear participants from all over Cameroon recognized (we’re honoured to have you),
Fellow young people,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024 to you in advance!

We are gathered here today to continue to build the blocks on a foundation on which sustainable health and well-being of adolescents and young people in Cameroon can be built. Adolescents are a populous group in Cameroon, numbering more than 4 million, yet; their health and well-being has not been adequately taken into consideration as to enable policies, adequate financing and holistic delivery of services such as comprehensive sexuality education and other health and well-being services for adolescents and young people.

This training comes right on the heels of the 1point8 billion adolescents for change for campaign which saw the enumeration of over 55,000 responses from young people across Cameroon on what they want for their health and well-being. Many said they wanted access to health services, educational opportunities, money, employment, good roads and social peace. Indeed, adolescents need these goods and services to survive, thrive and be able to transform. These results were presented to the Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education during the Cameroon Forum for Adolescents (CFA) held alongside the International Youth Day week between the 9th and the 12th August, 2023. The 1point8 campaign culminated in the Global Forum for Adolescents in October 2023 during which stakeholders agreed on a list of priorities to improve adolescent health and well-being. This is summed up in 7-point call to action of the Agenda for Action for Adolescents which states and other partners are called upon to commit to.

La trousse à outils dont nous sommes ici pour lancer la diffusion est le produit d’un engagement significatif de longue date entre les jeunes, les autorités gouvernementales et les agences de développement qui ont débuté en 2017. Nous sommes reconnaissants de la collaboration du ministère de la Jeunesse et de l’Éducation civique. Nous reconnaissons l’avant-propos du ministre Mounouna Foutsou à la trousse à outils qui témoigne de notre collaboration fructueuse.

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Nous remercions également le Ministère de la Santé Publique et le Programme National Multisectoriel de Lutte contre la Mortalité Maternelle et Infantile au Cameroun (PLMI) pour leurs contributions techniques et de connaissances à ce document. Nous remercions les responsables du ministère des Enseignements secondaires qui ont participé activement aux nombreux ateliers depuis 2017 qui ont abouti à cette trousse à outils.

We also thank our global partners who supported us technically and financially enabling us to achieve this milestone. We heartily thank PMNCH, Women Deliver and The Global Financing Facility for Women, children and Adolescents (GFF).

The work is yet not complete because we are building the foundation. The walls have been laid. So, our expectations have not changed; we want to be able to measure over time, the change in adolescent health and well-being (qualitative and quantitative) after the use of this toolkit including the two other toolkits we developed (a Comprehensive Sexuality Education Manual for schools and a manual for collection and analysis of disaggregated data on adolescent health and well-being). These three toolkits form the Adolescent Health and Well-being Package (AHWP). We therefore need to disseminate this toolkit further and empower more young people to meaningfully engage in SRMNCAH+N in Cameroon and with all stakeholders involved. We need more support and our collaboration with our stakeholders is definitely expected to strengthen this going forward. We are starting with soft-copy dissemination while we look forward to disseminate hard copies in future.

We will use this toolkit to train, but it is a document that will be handy for all stakeholders to use and refer to when engaging in issues regarding the health and well-being of adolescents in Cameroon. No need to over explain the toolkit as elaborated explanations are there in and we will delve into them during this training. We just enjoin all of you to read the copies when they are made available to you.

Je remercie chaleureusement toute l'équipe DESERVE pour ses efforts ces derniers mois pour préparer cette formation. Nous avons eu plus de 25 séances d'ateliers pour arriver à ce niveau. C'est la passion du bien-être des adolescents qui nous motive et nous espérons que vous, nos amis venus suivre cette formation, porterez cette passion dans vos réseaux. Nous sommes véritablement optimistes qu'un bon travail peut refléter le changement positif qu'il contribue au bien-être des autres.

Please enjoy this training to the fullest and may God bless you.

Thank you
Desmond Nji