

# *GROUP OF REFUGEE STUDENTS' PARENTS*

G.P.E.R



## GENERAL REPORT

SEMINARS TO EDUCATE  
FACILITATORS IN THE CAMPAIGN  
TO HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST  
HIV/AIDS

WERE HELD :

FROM THE 15 TO THE 19 AUGUST 2006, IN THE  
KPO MASSÉ/OUIDAH REFUGEE CAMP.

FROM THE 21 TO THE 25 AUGUST 2006, IN THE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR REFUGEES IN  
COTONOU/BENIN.



## CONTENT

I. THANK YOU NOTE

II. INTRODUCTION

III. GOALS

IV. SEMINARS FLOW:

1. IN THE KPOMASSÉ REFUGEE CAMP

2. IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR THE REFUGEES IN  
COTONOU

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

VI. CONCLUSION

VII. ANNEXES

1. KPOMASSÉ'S LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

2. COTONOU'S LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## I. -THANK YOU NOTE

-We would like to thank:

- ✓ The Representative of the High Commissioner for the Refugees (HCR)/Benin for his financial support and advices through the Communal Service and Caritas;
- ✓ The Protection and Civil prevention Management (Direction de la Protection and de la Prévention Civile) and its staff for letting us use KPOMASSÉ's site and exert our activities freely.
- ✓ Respect International and especially Ms Sandrine CORTET for introducing us to Mr Logan COCHRANE.  
Our partnership with Respect International has allowed us to set up the basis of the exchanges between refugee children from Benin and other children in the world and as well as the basis of the project to educate teachers in the HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness programme;
- ✓ Working to Empower and mainly its founder Mr Logan COCHRANE for the realization of this project in Benin. Our sincere congratulation.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

Populations who flee their own environment' critical situations (armed conflicts, socio-political crises, and all types of discrimination) normally face problems such as poverty, food shortage and diseases. Their situation is even worse when they don't have access to appropriate health care in the hosting places.

This situation exposes refugees in particular to many risks and mainly to the HIV/AIDS. The latter, which has already made 25 millions of victims, kills 8,000 people a day and infects 14,000 more.

After verifying that we, refugees, were not enough aware and informed on the HIV/AIDS – the pandemic of the century, the Group of Refugee Students' Parents (G.P.E.R) created in 2002, set itself some goals and one of them is to contribute in the worldwide fight against this “plague”.

Therefore, in collaboration with “Respect International and Working to Empower, the G.P.E.R has set up two seminars to train educators in HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness programme. The first one was held from 15 to 19 August 2006 in the Kpomassé refugee camp and the second one from 21 to 25 August 2006 in the community centre for the refugees in Cotonou.

82 refugees including 42 women and 40 men of 13 different nationalities took part at these seminars.

### **III. GOALS**

#### **1. -Main goal**

Reinforce theoretical and practical knowledge on sexuality and HIV/AIDS prevention.

#### **2. Specific goals**

- ✓ Train key people that can later transmit their acquired knowledge to refugee people living in Kpomassé and Cotonou.
- ✓ Give facilitators tools and skills to strengthen their listening and intervention abilities which they will be able to use when they deal with other refugees in general, and mainly in their own community;
- ✓ Prevent HIV/AIDS infection thanks to suitable and credible training programmes;
- ✓ Reduce the possible risks that Kpomassé and Cotonou's refugees have to face because of a lack of information;
- ✓ Reassure refugees on the advantage of HIV/AIDS voluntary testing and tell them that people living with HIV could be taken in charge.

## IV. SEMINARS FLOW:

### 1. In the Kpomassé refugee Camp

The first day was marked by the opening ceremony and the courses introduction.

The treated topics are:

- \* Relations between the HIV and AIDS;
- \* How does the HIV behave in the human body?
- \* AIDS infected patient.

The different topics treated by the educator, Mr Logan COCHRANE, who was assisted by an interpreter, Mr Faïzi MULILIKWA Gérard have enabled the refugees to gain basic knowledge on the HIV/AIDS. They were also able to draw useful conclusions from what they have learned.

The session was interrupted by the Camp chief of the Kpomassé refugee camp on the ground that he had not received an authorization from the governmental authorities in charge of the refugees.

The following topics were dealt with on the second and third day:

- \* The way HIV is transmitted;
- \* Predominance of contamination linked to sexual intercourse;
- \* Health care condition and nutrition;
- \* Increasing cases of HIV infection;
- \* HIV/AIDS prevention;
- \* Prevention of mother to child transmission.

The fourth day allowed refugees to know more about the factors for HIV/AIDS transmission: Biological, social, cultural, economical, epidemiological vulnerability, etc.

The afternoon was dedicated to a movie projection on the HIV/AIDS of the Burundian refugee camp living in Tanzania.

Finally, the day was concluded by the evaluation, the synthesis of the seminar and a group discussion regarding the awareness project's future followed by a cultural activity during which we assisted to the reading of poetries written by refugee children belonging to the association "**International Hope**". This association also acts in the camp.

## 2. In the Community Centre for the Refugees in Cotonou

On Monday 21 August 2006, the Community Centre for Refugees was used as the setting of the five days training. During this time, the facilitators were educated in the campaign to help the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The session in Cotonou was intended for the urban refugees because future educators, who will have to act mainly in refugee environments, have to be trained.

The forty participants (40), beneficiary of this training are members of two local associations for the refugees:

- Group of Refugees Students' Parents (**GP**ER), promoters of the training in Kpomassé and in Cotonou;
- And an association called Projet Pilote 2 (**PP2**) composed mainly of refugee women

The purpose was to make people aware of the HIV/AIDS and to use this as an example to change the behaviour in refugee environment and in their surroundings.

Ms **Federica ALBERTI** from the Communal service of the **HCR** was present on 21 August 2006 for the opening ceremony. The usual introduction was done by the **GP**ER Executive Secretary, Mr **Lumbu SEMBEYA**.

After the opening ceremony, the rest of the day was dedicated to the following topics:

- \* Relations between HIV and AIDS;
- \* How does the HIV behave in the human body?
- \* Aids infected patient;
- \* The way HIV is transmitted.

The second and third days were dedicated to the following topics:

- \* Predominance of contamination linked to sexual intercourses;
- \* Health care and nutrition condition;
- \* Increasing cases of HIV infection.
- \* Gender, culture, society, HIV/AIDS prevention, living daily with the stigmas and discrimination.

The end of the day was dedicated to a movie projection titled: "**Love in the time of AIDS**": a story written by Mr **Noe SEBISABA** from the Burundian association "**Stop - Sida**". The moving story and HIV/AIDS misdemeanour left more than one attendees perplexed.

These two days enabled the participants to gain clearer basic knowledge.

The fourth day was dedicated to the contamination factors. It ended on the presentation of some examples on the HIV/AIDS awareness

programme in other countries in the world and on the discussions' synthesis. Before the end of this day, six groups (06) were constituted to realize some works in groups. It consisted in answering (03) the educator's questions in order to put into evidence Benin's situation as far as awareness is concerned:

1. The principal factor contributing to the HIV/AIDS transmission in Benin;
2. The best solution to cure this problem;
3. The practical action plan/project that will make this proposed solution a feasible one.

The fifth and last day was dedicated to the introduction and debate on the topics mentioned below.

This debate allowed the participants to gain some notion on how to elaborate the action plan and the strategies to increase awareness amongst the audience.

Finally, the day ended with the exchange of addresses between participants. This encouraged the cultural reinforcement and admixture between the people of thirteen different nationalities that participated to the seminar in Cotonou.

The synthesis of the workshop and the official closure followed by the distribution of the certificates delivered by **G.P.E.R** and **Working To Empower** - took place in a convivial atmosphere in Ms **Kristine HANDERSON's** presence - in charge of the Communal Service of the HCR/Benin.



## **V.RECOMMENDATIONS**

The participants of the education seminars organized in the campaign to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS recommend to:

### **A) The other participants:**

- \* To take part to the HIV/AIDS awareness campaign and to represent the G.P.E.R wherever it is needed;
- \* To ensure a broad diffusion of the acquired knowledge in their own environment.

### **B) The Group of Parents Students' Refugee (G.P.E.R):**

- \* To organize every year, a workshop on the HIV/AIDS in the refugee camp;
- \* To work on the continuity of the training and to implement adapted action plans.

### **C) The HCR, Caritas, Working to Empower and Respect International:**

- \* To carry on strengthening the education opportunities for the HIV/AIDS prevention.

### **D) The Beninese Government:**

- \* To encourage the creation of association for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV/AIDS) within the refugee community.
- \* To involve the PLHIV/AIDS in the process of prevention and of the HIV/AIDS taking charge.
- \* To introduce in secondary education a compulsory course on the HIV/AIDS and the prevention measures.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

The training was beneficial for the participants and enabled them to know more about the virus, the way it is transmitted and the means to prevent it.

We were happy to notice that the refugees were able to talk to each other and to discuss about various subjects of preoccupation.

At the end of the training, some of the participants pledged not only to change their sexual habits but also to invest their time in fighting for the humanity's well-being

So it is actually better to partner with associations, responsible people that are better prepared and informed to educate other refugees.

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I. **List of participants in Kpomassé refugee camps**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Name and surname</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Association</b>
1	Munseki Biyama	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
2	Bariadora Bebaa Cletus	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
3	Jean-Claude Seluvangidio-Matezo	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
4	Badom Ledisi Kponanyie	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
5	Mbougou M Pievette	Congo-Brazzaville	G.P.E.R
6	Blema Fangamou	Guinea Bissau	G.P.E.R
7	Charles S. Danw	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
8	Ngenohirana Gilbert	Rwanda	G.P.E.R
9	Lokombe Kintongoro J. Bosco	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
10	Ipa Barileera L.	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
11	Yorgoro Joyful	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
12	Cookey Augustine	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
13	Tanen B. Elizabeth	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
14	Ipa Barisi Monica	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
15	Oluca C Nlca	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
16	Sehouenou Sitou	Togo	G.P.E.R
17	Kudadze Amadela	Togo	G.P.E.R
18	Arnelde-Cora Moutsinga	Congo-Brazzaville	G.P.E.R
19	Mguala Kazadi Béatrice	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
20	Kabedi Mutomba Christine	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
21	Lawoson Latré	Togo	G.P.E.R
22	Kpotoufe Yawa	Togo	G.P.E.R
23	Mama Ouro Poukéya	Togo	G.P.E.R
24	Pembele Léoux	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
25	Plukoo Adolé	Togo	G.P.E.R
26	Mbaidrnom Fidéle	Chad	G.P.E.R
27	Tako Alphonse	Togo	G.P.E.R
28	Fernand Julien Loumouamou	Congo-Brazzaville	G.P.E.R
29	Lutezamo Danny	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
30	Afleang B. David	Chad	G.P.E.R
31	Koutouma Irene Flere	Congo-Brazzaville	G.P.E.R
32	Bayi-Ayina Solomon	Chad	G.P.E.R
33	Madjibaroum Ngarnaye	Chad	G.P.E.R
34	Kianga Catherine	Congo-Brazzaville	G.P.E.R
35	Akakpo Zowadan Kamkoé	Togo	G.P.E.R
36	Hounnou Kocou	Togo	G.P.E.R
37	Tougan Abla	Togo	G.P.E.R
38	Manzila Okingo	Congo-Brazzaville	G.P.E.R
39	Tombeni Awanen	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
40	Basuleka Jeanette	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
41	Barikpele Bodee	Ogoni (Nigeria)	G.P.E.R
42	Dogbe Akouvi Monique	Togo	G.P.E.R

## **II. List of participants in Cotonou.**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Association</b>
1	Pindou-Moungueli Justine	Congo-Brazzaville	PP2
2	Mujawamariya Angéline	Rwanda	PP2
3	Rwamakuba André	Rwanda	G.P.E.R
4	Kabura Elizabeth	Burundi	PP2
5	Rolo Castel	Equatorial Guinea	G.P.E.R
6	Matiyabo Angèle	DR of Congo	PP2
7	Davis Olcicmi	Liberia	PP2
8	Kankindi Hilarie	Rwanda	PP2
9	Kayibanda Monique	Burundi	PP2
10	Alagnon Jeanne	Togo	PP2
11	Agbassah Nicole	Togo	G.P.E.R
12	Lumbu Vèronique	DR of Congo	PP2
13	Biganiro Doreen	Rwanda	PP2
14	Mankondo Manzila Aline	DR of Congo	PP2
15	Banga Ntsoko Martine	Congo-Brazzaville	PP2
16	Fautau Nima	Congo-Brazzaville	PP2
17	Mwanjalulu Célestin	DR of Congo	PP2
18	Pindililo Phillippe	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
19	Issumbelo-Etungano Oliver	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
20	Msambya Asende	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
21	Zema-Ebendeya Sylvain	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
22	Dunia Mangala Jacques	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
23	Saidi Mwajuma Isabelle	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
24	Nonan Abdallu	Sudan	PP2
25	Sembeya K. Trésor	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
26	Muamba Mangala Pierre	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
27	Haramategeko Iddi	Burundi	G.P.E.R
28	Tchakubuta Masitchwe Fabien	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
29	Shyaka Gibert	Rwanda	G.P.E.R
30	Havugimana Félix	Rwanda	G.P.E.R
31	Ingabire Marie Antoinette	Rwanda	PP2
32	Shaw Ibrahim	Sierra Leone	PP2
33	Afokpa Kwamioi Gbébléwu	Togo	PP2
34	Mufa Gérard	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
35	Lumbu Sembeya Wopsy	DR of Congo	G.P.E.R
36	Evelyn Sunday Ledor	Nigeria	PP2
37	Ndayishimiye Nicolas	Burundi	G.P.E.R
38	Niyonkuru Ernest	Burundi	G.P.E.R
39	Mpabansi Yusuf	Burundi	G.P.E.R
40	Tshidibi Chantal	DR of Congo	PP2

### III. Evaluation questionnaire

- i. What is HIV?
- ii. What is Aids?
- iii. How can you describe the relation that exists between HIV and AIDS?
- iv. How does the HIV behave in the human body?
- v. What does the expression <the AIDS death> mean?
- vi. What is the most frequent way to get contaminated by the HIV?
- vii. What are the prevention measures to reduce or to prevent this type of contamination?
- viii. What does contact blood to blood mean?
- ix. How can we avoid this type of contamination?
  - x. What does the mother to child transmission mean?
  - xi. How can we avoid this mode of contamination?
- xii. What is the factor key linked to the different type of contamination?
- xiii. Why should we focus on sexual transmission?
- xiv. What is the role of the nutrition in the prevention?
- xv. Why the medical treatments are important?
- xvi. Why HIV/AIDS?