April CHIPO Coalition Call

Hepatitis B Elimination Agenda: Awareness and Education Campaigns in Cameroon

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Community Vision Group (CVG) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing solutions to community challenges especially in the domain of Education, Health, Agriculture as well as Research and Training.

CVG is registered and incorporated in the **United Kingdom** (England and Wales, Reg No.13294553), **Cameroon** (Reg No.10/ACK/E/32/A2/CSAAJP). And **Malawi** (Reg No. TMBRS1013908).
Mission

• Community Vision Group is dedicated to activating and nurturing potentials for holistic transformation for a poverty free society

Vision

• Our vision is to create a transformed community through shared responsibility

Our Strategic Focus

○ Support to Quality Primary Education
○ School Health and Nutrition/School Feeding
○ Healthcare Service Delivery Primary Eyecare services and Hepatitis B
○ Smallholder Agricultural Development
○ Research and Training
Focus on Healthcare Service Delivery

Hepatitis B Campaign: Awareness and Education Activities, Screening, Vaccination, and Linkage to Care in Cameroon and Malawi
In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Hepatitis B is endemic, and the prevalence is highest (Seroprevalence of HBsAg: 6.1%), with about 60 million people living with Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB).

Of the 60 million, 33% (21 million) are eligible for treatment and only 1% are accessing treatment.

Liver cancer is the leading cause of death in Africa, with about 55% attributable to HBV.

Over 87,890 deaths are recorded annually in sub-Saharan Africa, with 80% of cases due to HBV infection.

HBV is indeed a grossly neglected public health challenge and studies on the incidence of cirrhosis in HBsAg+ are rare (see Sonderup et al., 2019 and Okeke et al., 2019).
Background: State of Hep B in SSA & Cameroon

• Cameroon with an estimated population of 22.25 million has a high burden of hepatitis with very low testing rate for chronic HBV.

• HBV is a common co-infection in people living with HIV and according to WHO, approximately 7% have co-infection in Cameroon

• In Cameroon, prevalence rate is 11.2% and a study with a pooled sample of 100,501 individuals of low risk revealed a prevalence rate of 9.5% in 2017.
  - In 2013, the prevalence rate among pregnant women, blood donors and healthcare workers was 12.2%, a percentage higher than the continental average of 8.8% (see Schweitzer et al., 2015).
  - In 2019, over 12,000 new cases of Hepatitis B were recorded up from 9,600 in 2018 (25% increase) while sadly <1500 people infected are on treatment (see Bigna et al., 2017)
  - Regional prevalence of HBV in Cameroon: Far North, North and South Regions (>15%) Centre, East and South West (8-15%) and Littoral, North West and West (8 - 17%)
  - Overall, approximately 2,250,000 people are infected by HBV in Cameroon as of 2017 (see Bigna et al., 2017)
Strategic Direction

- Awareness and Education Activities,
- Screening, and vaccination, and
- Linkage to care and Support

CVG aims to contribute to eliminating HBV infection as well as significantly reducing the number of deaths related to liver cirrhosis and cancer due to CHB.

Purpose

- To create a model HBV program that can be adapted, scaled, and replicated in other regions of Cameroon, where HBV and liver cancer burden is high.

Goal

- Contribute to eliminating HBV infection by providing a full cascade of care for hepatitis B including awareness raising and education, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care.
Strategic Objectives

Our strategic Objectives include:

• Increase the number of **people screened** for viral Hepatitis B in Cameroon through **improved awareness raising and targeted group education campaigns**.

• Improve **access to screening and vaccination** among **key populations** including pregnant women, prisoners, healthcare workers, blood donors, commercial sex workers and a designated segment of the general population (the youth especially students) **as well as reduce stigma and discrimination among the affected population**.

• Increase **access to care and support** to **people testing positive** for viral Hepatitis B, especially those disproportionately affected by poverty.

• Enhance government **commitment** to and influence the formulation of policies that will fast track the realization of a “No Hep Community” by 2030.
What we are doing

• Engaging the general public during major Hepatitis related events including World Hepatitis Day
• Radio Talks on Hepatitis B Topical issues – What it is, how it transmitted, how it can be prevented, living with it etc
• Outreach to churches/mosques
• Outreach to schools – Partnership with Decentralised Government Ministry of Secondary Education for the implementation of Hep Education Project
• Targeted Outreach programmes – Athletes for Hep B Initiative
Hepatitis B and YOUR FAMILY
Information for Cameroonians and Africans at large

What is Hepatitis B?
Hepatitis B is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). It is the most common infection in the world, with over two billion people (1 in 10) infected and about 300 million people living with chronic HBV infection. When infected, a person can develop an acute infection, ranging in severity from a very mild illness with few or no symptoms to a serious condition requiring hospitalization. Acute HBV infection refers to the first 6 months after exposure to the Hepatitis B virus. Some people can fight the infection and clear the virus. For others, the infection remains and leads to a "chronic" or lifelong infection. One time, chronic HBV can cause serious health problems including liver damage, liver failure, and even liver cancer.

How is Hepatitis B spread?
Hepatitis B is spread when the blood, semen, or other body fluids from an infected person enter the body of another person who is not infected. The virus can be spread through:

- Sexual contact with an infected person
- Sharing drug users, needles, syringes, and other equipment to inject drugs with someone infected with Hepatitis B who shares the drug
- Birth to an infected mother
- Not being vaccinated against Hepatitis B

Chronic HBV infection is a lifelong infection with the Hepatitis B virus. The likelihood that a person develops a chronic infection depends on the age of infection and other factors, such as gender and ethnicity. Most adults who become infected with HBV during adulthood do not develop a chronic infection. However, about 1 out of every 10 people who become infected with HBV during adulthood develop a chronic infection that can cause serious liver problems, including liver damage, liver failure, and even liver cancer.

The only way to know if you have Hepatitis B is to get tested.

Can Hepatitis B be prevented?
Yes. The good news is that Hepatitis B is preventable and treatable. It begins by testing to know if you are infected. If not infected, the best way to prevent Hepatitis B is by getting vaccinated. For adults, the vaccine is usually given as a series of 3 doses over a period of 6 months. This is repeated later. There is also a combination vaccine that protects against both Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B. You should talk to a doctor about which vaccine to take.

Who should be vaccinated against Hepatitis B?
Vaccination is safe and effective for adults and adolescents, especially:

- People with multiple sex partners
- Anyone with a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- Anyone having sex with an infected partner

What are the symptoms of Hepatitis B?
Some people with Hepatitis B do not have symptoms and do not know they are infected. If symptoms occur, they can be fever, feeling tired, not wanting to eat, upset stomach, throwing up, dark urine, grey-colored stool, joint pain, and yellow skin and ice.

When do symptoms occur?
If symptoms occur with an acute infection, they usually appear within 3-6 months after infection and can last up to 6 months. If symptoms occur with chronic Hepatitis B, they can be seen throughout the life and can be a sign of a severe liver disease.

The best way to prevent Hepatitis B is to get vaccinated.

Getting tested for Hepatitis B can help you take care of yourself and protect your family.

Acknowledgment: Community Vision Group is not the author of these materials, and we extend our gratitude to US Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control.
Hepatitis B Campaign - Synopsis

Athletes for Hepatitis B

Become STRONGER
Don’t Let Hepatitis B Win

Our Hep B Campaign Leaves No One Behind
Finding the missing millions

Community Vision

Parcours Vita - Bamenda

Call now info@communityvisiongroup.org

Community Vision is working everyday.
Someone loses their life to Hepatitis.
Don’t be one of them. Don’t wait. Get tested. Get vaccinated. It may save your life.

No to Hepatitis

Call now info@communityvisiongroup.org
Targeted Outreach Programs - Athletes for Hep B

HEPATITIS B
TIME TO TEST
TIME TO TREAT
TIME TO CURE

HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY IS IMMUNIZED ???

Let's keep our household and communities safe from Hepatitis B and C by screening and taking vaccines. Let's build a Care Centre and Community by screening and treating Hepatitis B and C.

CARE FOR YOUR LIVER
THINK ABOUT HEPATITIS B PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE
GET VACCINATED NOW !!!

MEMBER OF
World Hepatitis Alliance

TEAM UP FOR HEP B FREE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY VISION GROUP-CVG
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202 million people living with hepatitis around the world

Hepatitis B
202 million people living with hepatitis B around the world
Do you know your hep B status?
Targeted Outreach Programs – Outpatient Units and ANCs

Outreach to Churches/Mosques
Outreach to schools
Recognition and awards

Hep B Foundation @HepBFound... · Aug 10

Congratulations to the winners of the #BtheChange Advocacy Challenge! Thank you to all participants for using your voice to help bring attention to the needs of the hepatitisB community around the world!

#WHD #WorldHepatitisDay #NOhep

WINNERS

Abraham Wani - South Sudan
Gabby Verbeke-O'Boyle - United States
Genoveva Sotirova - Bulgaria
Miki Gilbert - Cameroon
Paul Hartman - United States
Sadie P. - United States
Coalition for Global Hepatitis

1st place in the #testing category was @comvisiongroup (Cameroon)

The volunteers take the conversation on hepatitis (screening) over the radio, with the general public calling in for questions & answers, ... a monthly programme & CVG hopes to make it weekly

Coalition for Global Hepatitis

Co-Runner-Up in the #testing category was @comvisiongroup in Cameroon

The story behind the photo captures a Volunteer during the official launch of the Athletes for #HepatitisB campaign in May 2022... Their key message was the urgency to screen for hepatitis

Congrats! to the #HepEliminationInAction 2022 Photo & Video Contest Winners
Some Challenges

• No funding to fully scale Hep B awareness raising and education activities

• Inability to provide screening and vaccination services – making awareness & education ineffective

• High cost of screening and vaccination services

• Slow response for collaboration – linked to funding gaps

• Limited incentive for volunteers
Our Hepatitis B Elimination Roadmap

• Accompany Awareness and Education campaigns with screening and vaccination

• Provide Hepatitis B Infrastructure for Linkage to Care and Support

• Promote better awareness among key populations and the public on viral Hepatitis B

• Fully integrate Hepatitis B Campaigns in schools and universities

• Build sustainable partnerships with the Government, other CSOs and Mobile Telephone companies

• Support Government action through research to influence policy and advocacy
Meet Our Team

- Gilbert N Miki – Founding President – g.miki@communityvisiongroup.org
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Thanks