

## A DISEASE FORGOTTEN BY THE POPULATION OF THE PERIPHERAL NEIGHBORHOODS OF KINSHASA IN THE MENTAL HEALTH OF COMMUNITIES

Since the outbreak of COVID19 in 2019, HIV-AIDS has been forgotten by the population in the outskirts of Kinshasa; the context of COVID19 puts HIV-AIDS problems in the mentality of the population. Proper monitoring of PLWHA is no longer felt at the community level, the risk of spillover effects more negative than direct effects due to COVID-19.

With the outbreak of Covid-19, community structures and actors involved in the fight against the 3 endemic HIV-AIDS, Malaria and tuberculosis have seen their performance negatively impacted because of the devastating socio-economic effects of this pandemic. HIV/AIDS and poverty in the DRC.

Poverty in some households in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) does not allow the majority of parents to meet the basic needs of their children: clothing, feeding, schooling, primary health care etc.

In order to survive, the children of these families take to the streets, its prostitutes despite the many harmful consequences that result; early motherhood, forced abortions, HIV/AIDS etc.

By analyzing the situation of the peripheral neighborhoods of the city province of Kinshasa such as the commune of Kimbanseke located east of Kinshasa, taking into account its geographical and demographic situation and the resurgence of poverty in the entire population of these neighborhoods, teenage girls, girl mothers, widows and many other brides, Its give to make the long journey on foot to the fields and villages NEARBY: KINDUTI, BUMA, N'SELE, KIMPOLO, MANENGA; MBOLO etc.

For the purchase of food products, and some girls for the sex trade to the exchange of products in broad daylight; Others are sometimes raped along the way by the men in uniform and so many other people.

This maneuver only contributes to the unintentional transmission by women to the spread of HIV/AIDS within the community, due to a lack of viable information. As a result, very few people have access to good information on HIV/AIDS, and do not even know their HIV status due to a lack of voluntary testing centers (VDCs) in some neighborhoods.

### The feminization of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

The feminization of the AIDS epidemic in the outskirts of the city of Kinshasa and in rural areas is a daily reality, a ticking time bomb. Most AIDS awareness campaigns in the city-province of Kinshasa are carried out in the vehicle-accessible environment. This inconsistency does not allow the population of peripheral neighbourhoods to access information from sensitizers on the transmission and spread of HIV/AIDS.

The mechanism set up within the framework of the anti-poverty and AIDS programmes is too bureaucratic and conditional, especially to the exclusion of certain NGOs and actors in the field who are in constant contact with the population to the funding resources made available to them by the donor community. In any case, it is the so-called accredited international NGOs that have the main beneficiaries, there are very few national NGOs that have access to these resources.

## Poverty and HIV/AIDS

It is the poor who are most severely affected by the disease, they are the most vulnerable to infection and it is among the poorest families that the disease causes the most suffering, disease and death. One of the effects of HIV/AIDS is its devastating financial hardship, which in turn has tragic consequences. The disease pushes poor families further into poverty and condemns relatively wealthy households to the same fate.

It is likely that the effects of the epidemic on the demographic structure and life expectancy of adults will result in major negative changes in socio-economic behaviour patterns. It is likely that the effects of the epidemic on the demographic structure and life expectancy of adults will result in major negative changes in socio-economic behaviour patterns.

HIV/AIDS is changing the very structure of populations. In many African countries, the proportion of dependants is increasing, for example with fewer working-age adults having to support elderly children and parents, a situation that is tending to worsen.

For young people who see their elders die en masse and so early, the psychological effects and fears for their own futures are far-reaching and are sure to have profound effects on economic development. In addition, since parents (mostly young adults) die prematurely, they do not have time to pass on property or baggage to their children. Thus, HIV undermines the process of accumulation and transmission of human capital - experience, know-how and knowledge - from one generation to the next.

Our structure, Association d'Entraide Médico-Sociale AEMS-asbl, is developing a project for the implementation of awareness-raising actions for the change of mentality and psychological care in communities affected by HIV-AIDS.

We are looking for partners who can participate in the financing of this activity for the beneficiary communities.

Please contact us at E.mail: [aemsasbl@yahoo.fr](mailto:aemsasbl@yahoo.fr); [kipupila52@gmail.com](mailto:kipupila52@gmail.com)