Executive Summary

By Clementine MBI/ Alphonse ABANDA

The HIV Free Northwest project embarked on the trainings of healthcare service providers from additional facilities on Option B+ in the region. The two session trainings in Bamenda and Kumbo built the capacities of 83 health care service providers. This number adds to 81 providers trained in November to bring the total to 164.

Pediatric clinics across coordination areas celebrated Christmas with the children. The children took home gifts and expressed joy. Reports point to increasing numbers of children received at Pediatric Care and Treatment centers, thanks to the ACT program. An example is Ndu where the number of children increased from 37 in November to 67 in December. Strategies are built to follow up any defaulters and bring them back to care and treatment in other centers.

The monitoring and evaluation team within the month embarked on an exercise to identify addresses of HIV positive clients as a means for better follow up for Care and Treatment. With the information gotten, the clients will be better served. The statistics show that a greater number of clients receiving treatment at care and treatment centres in proportions come from Bamenda District, followed by Fundong and Ndop.

Outreach continued at 9 C&T Centres supported with project funds. Averagely 1900 clients are reached in far off communities through this service as a way of reducing the distance of clients to the C&T centres. Clients express their joy as this has helped some who would not have respected appointments to meet the team of nurses in their own community health centers.

VCT results to mark WAD 2016 tested 570 people and recorded 12 HIV positive cases. These figures add to those reported last month to bring the totals to 3,659 people tested and 77 HIV positive cases. These clients were linked to care and treatment and the follow up in subsequent months will ensure they receive the care prescribed.

All coordination areas engaged in their routine monthly activities including supportive and facilitative supervision. The exercise was very successful with improvement registered at most sites in Service Quality Assurance and Data Quality Assurance. Lapses identified were appropriately handled and recommendations made where necessary.

Men as Partners activities were carried out in Oku, thanks to collaboration with the ViiV healthcare. Some 26 men accompanied their spouses. This shows that more men are getting involved in PMTCT activities.

The Local Capacity Initiative this month witnessed the last phase of the sensitization and integrated outreach activities for Ante Natal Care (ANC) for 2015. The activity that was carried out in all five districts of the LCI project, reached out to a total of 8880 people. Communities have through this activity seen the importance of attending early ANC.

The Advocacy Technical Working Group of the LCI met in Bamenda and brainstormed on strategies geared towards refining the draft copy of the Policy Advocacy Strategic Plan that centres at strengthening dialogue structures. The three day session focused on focused on the background, goal, objectives, work plan, monitoring and evaluation as well as budgeting.

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