



# ASSOAL

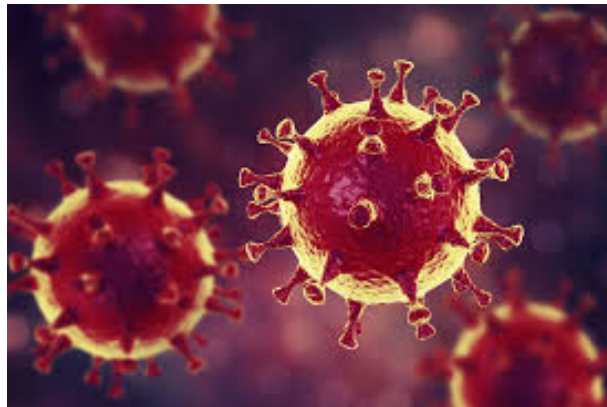
Association des Amoureux du Livre

Actions Solidaires de Soutien aux Organisations et d'Appui aux Libertés

BP: 5268 Yaoundé-Cameroun siège national : Quartier Nkolo Mimboman, derrière Shakespeare, Tél : (237) 242 899 818 // Cell : 698 931 241

E-mail : [assoalcam@yahoo.fr](mailto:assoalcam@yahoo.fr) Sites web : [www.devloc.net](http://www.devloc.net), [www.assoal.org](http://www.assoal.org)

## COMMITMENT NOTE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS



*March 2020*

## **1- CONTEXT**

The pandemic at Corona virus (Covid 19) is wreaking havoc worldwide and already close to one million four hundred and eighty-four thousand eight hundred and eleven (1,484,811) confirmed cases of infection on five continents, of which three hundred and twenty-nine thousand eight hundred and seventy-six (329,876) heals with eighty-eight thousand five hundred and thirty-eight (88,538) according to figures from the World Health Organization (WHO).

It appears on November 17, 2019 in Wuhan City, Central China, and gradually spreads around the world. In this country starting, eighty-one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five (81,865) confirmed cases, for three thousand three hundred and thirty-five (3,335) deaths and seventy-seven thousand three hundred and seventy (77,370) cured cases.

Cameroon is no exception. The first case of COVID-19 was detected on 6 March 2020. He was a 58-year-old Frenchman of Cameroonian origin from France on February 24, 2020. The patient was placed "in isolation in a care centre" at Yaounde Central Hospital, according to the Minister of Health. In less than a month, the cursor points to 730 positive cases, 60 cures and 10 deaths. The Central, Coastal, Western, Southwest and Northwest regions are affected.

It was with emotion and amazement that ASSOAL members and allies learned of the first cases of Covid 19 infection in Wuhan, China, its spread around the world and recently in Cameroon. Faced with this situation, the NGO decided to produce this strategic note on the impact of the pandemic at Corona virus (Covid 19) on these activities and the safety of its targets.

## **2- PROBLEMATIC**

Covid-19, is an infectious disease caused by the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. This pandemic has already resulted in the confinement of nearly 2 billion of the world's population in a context where no treatment has yet been approved, let alone a vaccine. So how could ASSOAL and its allies contribute to the response to this invisible but disastrous enemy? Specifically: what are the impacts of the pandemic on the activities of the organization and its beneficiaries? What impact does it have on human rights (CPR and ESCR)? What proposals to build resilience and limit the spread of the virus?

## **3- PANDEMIE IMPACTS**

Being an infectious disease that is transmitted from man to man, corona virus disease has transformed the behavior of the entire planet. Containment is presented as the prevention and barrier solution. However, the impacts are real. So, what are the possible impact levels of the disease and how do these impacts affect the ASSOALS activities and lives of the beneficiaries?

### **A. Social impact**

In Cameroon, the pandemic has brought changes in the being, doing and living of Cameroonians. Socialization spaces are closed (schools, nurseries, universities, high schools, etc.). A radical change in behaviour is the first element. Greetings and hugs are now outlawed while visits to relatives are limited. Highly mobilized events are not recommended (cults, weddings, bereavements, meetings, awareness meetings, etc.). If necessary, a maximum threshold of 50 people is set in a fairly airy environment with a 1 m spacing requirement for any public meeting.

The Cameroonian government, compared to other countries where containment is total, still speaks of partial or voluntary confinement, because no note has been taken in this direction. Seventeen (17) barrier measures to stem the course of the pandemic are listed, all having an impact in terms of the gradual fraying of social culture. Other experts point to the risks of increased gender-based violence as a result of containment measures, particularly for couples facing this scourge. Vulnerable groups such as prisoners, displaced persons, youth, women and indigenous peoples, people living in disadvantaged

neighbourhoods and rural populations are even more affected by some crisis management measures. Some households use repeaters to curb the decision to close schools. Supermarkets are being stormed by households with food security stocks. Others make the choice of containment away from urban traffic jams, in country villas. Some are followed at the medical level by family doctors. The vast majority of vulnerable households in the categories are unable to pay for these luxuries. Worse still, forced to choose between survival income and health security, they risk making the choice of survival income, which may call into question the impact of all the measures taken by the government.

## **B. Economic impact**

On his twitter account, the President of the Republic of Cameroon said; "the world is facing a serious and unprecedented health crisis in March 2020. It will impact our day-to-day behaviour and our economy." The Cameroon Inter-Management Group (GICAM) has carried out an assessment on the impact of coronavirus on the Cameroonian economy. The results of this evaluation enabled GICAM to suggest financial and customs proposals to the government to mitigate these ever-increasing impacts below.

- The fall in the price of raw materials (oil, minerals, gold, wood, etc.);
- Stopping the passenger transport sector;
- Reducing freight transport;
- The destabilization of the tourism sector;
- The slowdown in the activities of private production companies;
- Etc.

The real risk is the entry of Cameroon into recession if the pandemic lasts and the number of infections increases.

Cameroon's economy is predominantly informal. The crisis has led to inflation in the price of certain consumer products and especially those in popular imagery that have virtues against the virus (lemon, ginger, Aloe Vera, lemongrass, etc.). In the transport sector, the downward trend in revenues has been noted by several unions, which are calling for lower fuel prices to mitigate the impact of the crisis on incomes. In the world of work, the Covid 19 has a very strong impact, many companies and services have reduced the number of their employees to the bare minimum. The unemployed are less and less likely to find work. Early ILO estimates indicate "a significant increase in unemployment and underemployment in the wake of the virus. Based on different scenarios relating to the impact of COVID-19 on global GDP growth, the ILO's preliminary estimates show an increase in global unemployment ranging from 5.3 million (optimistic scenario) to 24.7 million (pessimistic scenario) from a baseline of 188 million in 2019. The average scenario portends an increase of 13 million (7.4 million in high-income countries)."

## **C. Political impact**

Politically, there has been a relaxation in public policy planning and monitoring activities that focus mainly on crisis management. Institutions at the central and local level operate at a minimum. After the election of the offices of the parliamentary bodies, work was suspended in order to comply with the barrier measures issued by the government and WHO. The limitations of COVID-19's crisis management measures reinforce the constraints imposed by insecurity in the North-West, South-West and Far North regions. Members of some political parties are mobilizing to contribute to the fight against the pandemic through outreach activities, the distribution of masks and the mobilization of financial resources to strengthen the government's responsive fund. In the same vein, voices are rising to call the head of state to speak live to reassure Cameroonians as in other countries, which provokes controversy on the web and slides towards a certain political recovery.

The Political and Citizens Right refer, among other things, to freedom of expression, information and the press; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of assembly, association and peaceful assembly; the right to vote, to be eligible and to have equal access to public office; The right to a fair trial the right to freedom of movement and security; The right to nationality the right to marry (etc.). These rights are restricted by the implementation of certain measures to manage the COVID-19 crisis. For example, gatherings of more than 50 people are prohibited; travel is forced, borders are closed. The unanimistic tendency prevailing in undemocratic systems is growing at the expense of criticism. Civil society organizations are most affected by all these measures, which in the long run may call into question civil liberties.

#### **D. Impact on the organization and its operational allies**

Almost all of the organization's activities are affected by these limitations. Surveys related to studies, opinion polls and documentation of scheduled cases, meetings of consultation, consultation, training, awareness, dialogue and advocacy, visits to built housing models, participatory budgeting, mobilization on the traditional land code, campaign against evictions and land grabs, large- and medium-scale mobilization activities that constitute the main means of engagement private and social workers are concerned. The limitation also affects concrete activities to improve basic social services for beneficiaries, such as the implementation of housing models with cooperatives, and the animation of neighbourhood libraries.

### **4- PROPOSALS TO MOVE FORWARD**

Given these implications for both recipients and the ASSOAL team, some proposals are being made at the strategic and operational levels.

#### **A- Strategic proposals**

Strategically, it is proposed to:

- Analyze ASSOAL's 10-year Strategic Plan, three-year plan and annual programme, including PALS2, to identify activities impacted by the crisis and propose measures that can help curb them;
- Propose with the allied networks of civil society and the ESCR Observatory a memorandum or appeal to the government for pro-poor and gender-sensitive crisis measures;
- To follow through the ESCR Observatory and in collaboration with allied networks, the implementation of the response plan, assess the impact on CPRs and ESCRs to produce a report.

#### **B- Operational proposals**

Operationally, it is proposed to:

- Develop a list of activities in the 2020 action plan impacted by the crisis and crisis management measures and propose recommendations for further implementation;
- Develop and implement a plan to contribute to the implementation of the response plan against Covid 19.

### **5- PRIORITY ACTIONS PLAN**

#### **A- Objectives:**

- **The overall objective:** To contribute in 2 months to the protection of PALS 2 teams, targets and beneficiaries against the Corona Virus pandemic (Covid 19) in the project's response areas.

- **Specific objective 1:** To facilitate the appropriation of the barrier measures enacted by the government and WHO by the targets and beneficiaries of PALS 2;
- **Specific objective 2:** Support the fight against the spread of Corona virus in the municipalities and neighbourhoods or communities of PALS 2.

## **B- Results**

- Technical teams, volunteers and volunteers are protected and ensure continuity of service;
- The beneficiaries of PALS are protected from COVID-19 and take ownership of the barrier measures enacted by the government and WHO;
- Victims' collectives, cooperatives and targeted households are adopting the operational alternatives proposed by ASSOAL to continue the activities programmed under PALS 2.

## **C- Indicators**

- Municipalities and CSOs are more involved in the crisis management and monitoring;
- The technical team of ASSOAL, at least 10 volunteers, appropriate the tools and techniques for working remotely;
- The technical team and volunteers have essential anti-COVID-19 kits for their protection in the context of risky activities;
- At least 300 members of collectives, cooperatives and allied organization networks receive information on protection measures against COVID-19;
- 25 neighbourhoods and collectives or communities of victims or potential victims of eviction receive at least 1 COVID-19 protection kits (hand washes, soap, gels, masks).

## **D- Activities**

### **Activity 1: Advocacy for inclusive and transparent management of the Covid-19 crisis**

In this area of work, it will be a question of advocating for an inclusive and transparent management of the Covid-19 crisis. The following actions will be carried out:

**Activity 1.1:** Socio-economic impact analysis of the crisis and crisis management measures on vulnerable groups and ASSOAL beneficiaries

ASSOAL in 2018 has validated its 10th-year strategic plan for the period 2019-2028, two program axes have been selected with four cross-cutting axes. With the corona virus pandemic, it is important that a thorough analysis be carried out to assess the actual impact of this pandemic on the future implementation of activities. But also, the socio-economic impact that this crisis and management measures have on vulnerable groups and beneficiaries of ASSOAL.

To do this, a working group will be set up by the Executive Office made up of members of allied networks, representatives of the vulnerable strata, representatives of beneficiaries, representatives of partners and representatives of ASSOAL bodies. It will therefore be a question of identifying the manifestations of the crisis on the beneficiaries. The impact assessment of the crisis on the ASSOALS Then Years Strategic Plan have to be made. This work will lead to a set of recommendations.

**Activity 1.2:** Developing a plan to participate in crisis management

In view of the barrier measures enacted by the government, as a Citizens' Organisation, ASSOAL is committed to contributing to the response to this pandemic. To this end, an action plan will have to be drawn up according to the cannons. A working group will be set up, the members will submit a draft that will take into account the guidelines of the above analysis. In video conference, a meeting will be organized for validation and appropriation.

**Activity 1.3: Structuring and animation of WhatsApp working groups and support**

Based on the work to be done, working and support groups will be created on WhatsApp. Administrators will be identified and the animation of these groups will be entrusted to them. A schedule of exchanges will be submitted to each group and validated. This activity is a response to the current health crisis, it will reduce physical encounters as well and enable ASSOAL implemented previous activities despite government limitation measures.

**Activity 1.4: Campaign for inclusive crisis management through media and social networks**

Given the importance of awareness and information in times of crisis, the web/sms platform and medias network will be used to conduct awareness and advocacy campaigns on the management of the crisis's. The designed messages will be integrated into an appeal and a campaign plan that will be implemented after validation.

**Activity 1.5: Independent monitoring and publication of a civil society report on crisis management**

During this period when the pandemic is affecting Cameroon, OSC members of the National Observatory for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are committed to independently monitoring the management of the crisis. To this end, follow-up criteria will be determined and values assigned. Thus, the working group set up for this work will focus on collecting data and producing weekly reports. This group will be based on the documentary review (speeches, decrees, reports, print media, radio and video, etc.), using the interview guides, the teams will be able to interview certain relevant actors. At the end of the collection, the supervisory team will check the data collected before sharing in the civil society report on the management of the health crisis in Cameroon.

**Activity 2: Contribution to the management of the government responsive plan**

This section will make it possible to make a practical contribution to the government response to the fight against the Corona virus pandemic. The following actions will be carried out:

**Activities 2.1: Raising awareness of technical teams, volunteers and volunteers (Publication of a press release on barrier measures and the protection plan for technical teams, volunteers and volunteers)**

This activity will facilitate the ownership of technical teams, volunteers and volunteers in compliance with the measures prescribed by the government and the World Health Organization. These teams will be responsible for descending into communities to raise awareness and training of beneficiaries in washing techniques, the use of masks, the use of hydroalcoholic gel, distancing measures and other useful actions to block the spread of this pandemic. There will also be a press release on barrier measures and a protection plan for the teams will be made available.

**Activities 2.2:** Acquisition of awareness kits (hand washes, soaps, gels, masks, flyers, posters, t-shirts)

This health crisis where a vaccine is not yet operational, communication is a major asset, in this sense, ASSOAL has planned to produce communication and awareness tools on barrier measures (posters, leaflets, stickers, etc.). It also decided to make available vulnerable strata and beneficiaries of protective devices. It will therefore be a question of acquiring hand washers, soap, gel boxes, masks, (etc.).

**Activity 2.3:** Preparation and animation of awareness sessions and distribution of kits to technical and volunteer teams (neighbourhoods, collectives, cooperatives, libraries, allied networks, partner associations, communes, Yaounde and Douala)

Volunteers mobilized for this activity will descend on the neighbourhoods to facilitate sessions to raise awareness and distribute protection devices against the spread of Corona virus in neighbourhoods, collectives, cooperatives, libraries, allied networks, partner associations, municipalities in the city of Yaounde and Douala.

## PLAN D' ACTIONS

Activity 1: Plaidoyer pour une Gestion inclusive et transparente de la crise du Covid-19				Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
<b>Objective:</b> To facilitate the appropriation of the barrier measures enacted by the government and WHO by the targets and beneficiaries of PALS 2.											
<b>Direct effect:</b>											
Results	Indicators	Activities	Under Operations								
Victims' collectives, cooperatives and targeted households are adopting the operational alternatives proposed by ASSOAL to continue the activities programmed under PALS 2.	1 socio-economic impact analysis note of the crisis and crisis management measures on vulnerable groups and ASSOAL beneficiaries	<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Analysis of the socio-economic impact of the crisis and crisis management measures on vulnerable groups and ASSOAL beneficiaries taking into account the impact analysis of the crisis on the DSP and ASSOAL programmes									
	The technical team, at least 10 volunteers, appropriate the tools and techniques of working remotely	<b>Activity 1.2:</b> Developing a plan to participate in crisis management									
	Municipalities and CSOs are more involved in managing and monitoring the crisis	<b>Activity 1.3:</b> Structuring and animation of WhatsApp working groups and support									
	At least 300 members of collectives, cooperatives, networks of allied organizations receive information on protection measures against COVID-19	<b>Activity 1.4:</b> Campaign for inclusive crisis management through media and social networks									
	1 civil society report on crisis management	<b>Activity 1.5:</b> Independent monitoring and publication of a									



		civil society report on crisis management										
<b>Activity 2: Contribution to the management of the government response plan</b>				Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	
<b>Objective:</b> Support the fight against the spread of Corona virus in the municipalities and neighbourhoods or communities of PALS 2.												
<b>Direct effect:</b>												
<b>Results</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Under Operations</b>									
Technical teams, volunteers and volunteers are protected and ensure continuity of service.	The technical team, volunteers and volunteers have COVID-19 anti-COVID-19 kits essential for their protection in the context of risky activities.	<b>Activities 2.1:</b> Raising awareness of technical teams, volunteers and volunteers (Publication of a press release on barrier measures and the protection plan for technical teams, volunteers and volunteers)										
PALS recipients are protected from COVID-19 and take ownership of the barrier measures enacted by the government and WHO.	25 neighbourhoods and collectives or communities of victims or potential victims of eviction receive at least 1 protection kits against COVID-19 (hand washes, soap, gels, masks).	<b>Activities 2.2:</b> Acquisition of awareness kits (hand washes, soaps, gels, masks, flyers, posters, t-shirts)  <b>Activity 2.3:</b> Preparation and animation of awareness sessions and distribution of kits to technical, volunteer and volunteer teams (neighbourhoods, collectives, cooperatives, libraries, allied networks, partner associations, communes, Yaounde and Douala)										

## Budget

Expenses	Unit Type	Number	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Analysis of the socio-economic impact of the crisis and crisis management measures on vulnerable groups and ASSOAL beneficiaries taking into account the impact analysis of the crisis on the DSP and ASSOAL programmes	Meeting	1	0	0
<b>Activity 1.2:</b> Developing a plan to participate in crisis management	Meeting	1	0	0
<b>Activity 1.3:</b> Structuring and animation of WhatsApp working groups and support	Meeting	20	5000	100 000
<b>Activity 1.4:</b> Campaign for inclusive crisis management through media and social networks	Internet fees	20	5000	100 000
<b>Activity 1.5:</b> Independent monitoring and publication of a civil society report on crisis management	Insertion	20	5000	100 000
<b>Activities 2.1:</b> Raising awareness of technical teams, volunteers and volunteers (Publication of a press release on barrier measures and the protection plan for technical teams, volunteers and volunteers)	Internet fees	3000	40	120 000
<b>Training workshop</b>	Workshop	1	250 000	250 000
<b>Activities 2.2:</b> Acquisition of awareness kits (hand washes, soaps, gels, masks, flyers, posters, t-shirts)				
Hand wash	Unit	50	30000	1 500 000
Know	Pieces	5	15000	75000
Gels	Box	100	2000	200 000
Mask	Mask	1000	250	250 000
Folder	Copy	1000	100	100 000
Sticker on devices	Copy	60	250	15 000
Posters	Copy	100	300	30 000
Teeshirt	Teeshirt	50	5000	150 000
<b>Activity 2.3:</b> Preparation and animation of awareness sessions and distribution of kits to technical, volunteer and volunteer teams (neighbourhoods, collectives, cooperatives, libraries, allied networks, partner associations, communes, Yaounde and Douala)	Descent	25	10000	250 000
<b>General Supervision</b>	M/D	10	25 000	250 000
<i>Total</i>				<i>4 990 000</i>