

# COMBATING ILLITERACY, EMERGING PANDEMICS AND SOCIAL VICES IN CAMEROON



BY HER EXCELLENCY MADAME

# CHANTAL BIYA

- UNESCO GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION;
- UN AIDS SPECIAL AMBASSADOR AND
- FIRST LADY OF CAMEROON

**AN EXCEPTIONAL PASSION  
FOR UPHOLDING AND  
PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY  
OF HUMANKIND**



FLSVP - 1<sup>st</sup> Edition  
**September 2024**



A full-length photograph of H.E. Paul Biya, the President of the Republic of Cameroon, walking on a red carpet. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The background is a light green wall with a faint emblem of a laurel wreath. The carpet has a decorative yellow and white border. Faint text is visible in the background, including 'SOCIAL PROGRAMME', 'FIGHT AGAINST AIDS AND', and 'OTHER PANDEMIC'.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME  
FIGHT AGAINST AIDS AND  
OTHER PANDEMIC

**H.E. PAUL BIYA**  
President of the Republic  
of Cameroon



**H.E. Mme CHANTAL BIYA**  
First Lady of Cameroon



**H.E. Chief Dr Joseph DION NGUTE**  
Prime Minister,  
Head of Government



**Prof. LAURENT SERGE ETOUNDI NGOA**  
Minister of Basic Education  
President of the National  
Commission for UNESCO



**Mme MINETTE LIBOM LI LIKENG**  
Minister of Posts and  
Telecommunications



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Minister of Public Health



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KNIGHT OF THE CAMEROON NATIONAL ORDER OF VALOUR

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# COMBATING ILLITERACY IN CAMEROON



*The first Lady Mme CHANTAL BIYA at a christmas tree ceremony in Yaounde*

**T**he Cameroon government has entrusted the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB) with the task of combating illiteracy. To achieve this, a number of social partners are supporting the Ministry in its efforts. A key example is the **Unit set up for the Coordination of the Actions of the First Lady by Her Excellency Mrs Chantal BIYA**, which is carrying out more than commendable work in this ministerial department.

The fundamental aim of the First Lady's actions at the Ministry of Basic Education, in particular, and in the education sector in general, is to support an inclusive and comprehensive national education policy in terms of literacy and non-formal basic education, and by extension, to improve the learning environment. Within this framework, particular emphasis is placed on:

- Quality (learning materials and activities);
- Access and equity (the physical environment and the socio-cultural environment);
- Governance (the political environment and partnership).

This Coordination Unit embodies a range of multi-sectoral and pluri-disciplinary technical skills, thanks to its national and international partners. The Unit intervenes in the following areas:

- Support to the administrative coordination, monitoring and evaluation of literacy structures, non-formal basic education and the promotion of national languages;
- the development of digital hubs to promote and ensure access to the Internet for all, in order to ensure the completion of studies;
- the synthesis of needs relating to the creation of new literacy structures capable of effectively transforming the learning environment, including the family, the community, the workplace..., non-formal basic education and the promotion of national languages;

- Quality education for children from minority and socially vulnerable communities.

In line with government's vision to provide access to quality, equitable and inclusive education for all in an improved learning environment, the First Lady provides her support to assist public authorities in this area, despite many difficulties.

The goal of this edition of the First Lady's Social Vaccine Program (FLSVP) magazine, is to present the various activities carried out so far. These include:

**(I)** The creation, construction, equipment and retrocession of primary schools known as "Les Champions-Fondation Chantal BIYA", abbreviated as "Les Champions-FCB";

**(II)** The Programme to Combat STI-HIV/AIDS, Social ills and Other Emerging Pandemics in the Educational and Social Milieu, baptized "The Social Vaccine Programme of the First Lady";

**(III)** Difficulties encountered and

**(IV)** Prospects and Suggestions for covering the entire target population and optimising the transformation of learning spaces as stated in the NSD30 and MDG4.



The First Lady of Cameroon Madam Chantal Biya in her exceptional passion for upholding and preserving the integrity of humankind has taken the following actions:

# I. THE CREATION, CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND RETROCESSION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS KNOWN AS “LES CHAMPIONS-FONDATION CHANTAL BIYA”, ABBREVIATED AS “LES CHAMPIONS-FCB”

**S**ince the year 2000, Her Excellency Mrs Chantal Biya, First Lady of Cameroon, has been engaged in a relentless fight against illiteracy among children from very poor families and from precarious and isolated areas. The main objective of this project is to give these categories of children the opportunity to benefit from quality education, and to become good citizens of tomorrow, given that the youth, in the words of the President of the Republic, “is the spearhead of the nation”. Till date, ten Champions-FCB schools have been created mostly in rural areas in all ten regions of the country. They include:

- The “ Champions-FCB” school in Mémiam, located in a village in the Mbalmayo district of the Nyong and So’o division, Center Region, .
- The Champion-FCB school in the enclaved and precarious zone of Yabassi, in the Nkam division.
- the Champions-FCB School of Dimako ;
- the Champions -FCB School of Domayo Comice-Maroua»;
- the Champions-FCB school of Nanga Eboko »;
- the Champions-FCB school of Bangangté »;
- the Champions-FCB school of Limbe »;
- the Champions-FCB school of Garoua »;
- the Champions-FCB school of Ngaoundéré »;
- the Champions-FCB school of Bamenda »;

These “Champions FCB” schools in Cameroon

are equipped with: multimedia/videoconference centres, an infirmary, a fully-equipped library, a ware house and a modern office for the head teacher of the school, football and handball pitches as well as an Olympic-sized multi-sports complex constructed and fully equipped by Her Excellency Mrs Chantal Biya, First Lady of Cameroon, through her eponymous Foundation (Fondation CHANTAL BIYA) and handed over to the State. However, she has never stopped there. She continues to be fully committed to the future of Cameroon as a whole, providing the educational community with cutting-edge didactic material whenever the opportunity arises. Also thousands of joyous educational gifts are distributed every year through Christmas tree ceremonies.



*Champion school FCB of Yabassi*



*Christmas tree Ceremony in the Champion school FCB of Memiam*



*The champion school-FCB of Limbe*



*The champion school-FCB of Dimako*



*The champion school-FCB Nanga-eboko*



*Christmas tree ceremony in the champion school-FCB Memiam*



*The champion school-FCB Nanga-eboko*



*Christmas tree ceremony in the champion school-FCB Yabassi*



*Christmas tree ceremony in the champion school-FCB Bangangte*



*Recipients of joyous educational gifts*



## II. THE PROGRAMME TO COMBAT STI-HIV/AIDS, SOCIAL ILLS AND OTHER EMERGING PANDEMICS IN THE EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL MILIEU , BAPTISED “ THE SOCIAL VACCINE PROGRAMME OF THE FIRST LADY”.



*UNESCO goodwill Ambassador, after receiving her awards at the UNESCO head quaters in Paris*

### BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIAL VACCINE PROGRAMME

**C**oncerned about the future of Cameroonians in particular and humanity in general, Her Excellency Mrs Chantal BIYA, First Lady of Cameroon, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Education and Social Inclusion and UNAIDS Special Ambassador, has requested the setting up, among other humanitarian works, of the Programme to Combat STI/HIV/AIDS, Social vices and other Emerging Pandemics in the Educational and Social Environment, commonly known as the “First Lady’s Social Vaccine Programme”.

Convinced that one of the ways to combat this pandemic is to develop competences in young people to enable them fight this scourge effectively, the First Lady has set up the social vaccine programme, which is a set of strategies, methods and teaching approaches designed to combat and prevent STI/HIV/AIDS, other emerging pandemics and social vices.

With this in mind, a team of national and international pluridisciplinary/multisectorial

team of experts, led by the National Coordinator, Mrs JAJI MBAH ROSE, has produced books for nursery, primary and secondary schools, as well as teachers’ guides for the fight against STI/HIV/AIDS and other emerging pandemics in the school milieu. In the same vein, CD-ROMs, radio broadcasts and “Chantal BIYA” multimedia/videoconference centres have also been developed. The judicious use of these teaching tools enables pupils to adopt positive

attitudes towards STI/HIV/AIDS and those infected and/or affected. Teachers, on their part, find all the teaching approaches they need to pass on concepts relating to the eradication of these pandemics and social vices. For this to be possible, curricula had to be produced to teach family life education, STI/HIV/AIDS and other emerging pandemics.

These salutary actions by the First Lady are part of the overall vision of her illustrious husband, Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, whose unshakeable will has always been to focus on the most underprivileged sectors of the society so that they can later become an economic breeding ground for our emergence by 2030.



*The First Lady and the National Coordinator*

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

**T**his ambitious Programme aims to raise awareness of the HIV/AIDS pandemic among nursery and primary school children, post-primary school pupils and the student community, as well as teachers, by providing knowledge and developing in them, positive skills, attitudes and values. As you can imagine, this is a real Social Vaccine, supported by Prevention Teaching Tools.

In this regard, it aims to acquire the competences needed to combat this scourge, through primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.

**Primary prevention** involves taking steps to avoid becoming infected, while **secondary prevention** involves taking steps to avoid developing AIDS when infected with HIV. In this way, it is possible to avoid infecting others and developing the disease. Finally, **tertiary prevention** involves managing the disease to avoid further contamination and death.

Consequently, the First Lady needs all our support to disseminate this Programme wherever it will be useful, whether inside or outside our country, considering that the objective sought in her capacity as UNAIDS special Ambassador is to completely eradicate this pandemic throughout the world.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES :

**A**ccording to the 2007 activity report of the Ministry of Public Health, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate was 5.1 of the total population. About 543294 people were living with HIV/Aids out of whom 44800 were children. A high-level parental mortality rate of 46,000 resulted in 35,000 orphans. 67,000 pregnant women were seropositive with about 11000 new births contaminated. Furthermore; at least 500 teachers die every year of HIV/AIDS-related diseases.

Based on this observation, an anonymous, free and voluntary pre-test was conducted on a sample of 4,000 teachers in the Mfoundi division of the Center Region and approximately 10% of this target population was infected with HIV. Hence the justification for implementing this programme. The above-mentioned programme is therefore geared towards the protection of the Cameroon of tomorrow, in particular, and Africa south of the Sahara in general, from the aforementioned pandemic.

### The programme has as specific objectives:

- to create awareness in the educational community about the spread of STI/HIV/AIDS, social vices and other developing pandemics in the educational and social settings;
- develop basic competences for the fight against STI/HIV/AIDS, social vices and other emerging pandemics among learners;
- Encourage change in deviant behaviour among adolescents and adults in educational settings, young people in precarious urban neighbourhoods, urban centres and society as whole.



## TARGET POPULATION

With Cameroon being a pilot country, the target population for this ambitious project is 10 million nursery, primary and secondary school children and around 130,000 teachers and the society as a whole.

## Programme Team of Experts:

The Programme is being implemented by a national and international pluridisciplinary/ Multi-sectorial team of experts. This team works under the leadership of Mrs JAJI MBAH ROSE, National Coordinator of the Programme

## Programme Strategies :

Achieving the Programme’s objectives involves :

- The production of teaching aids for student teachers ;
- The production of a Student study guide on the fight against STI/HIV/AIDS ;
- The provision of Multimedia/Videoconference Centres with high speed internet connection to the educational community for research and the dissemination of the “Social Vaccine Programme” throughout the world.

# ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FIRST LADY’S SOCIAL VACCINE PROGRAMME

The First Lady’s social vaccine programme counts a number of achievements amongst which are:

- **The creation of “Chantal BIYA” Multimedia/Videoconference Centres ;**  
a true realisation of the futuristic vision of her actions which integrates the objectives of comprehensiveness and exclusivity.



*The First Lady and digitalisation of education*

Interestingly, **twenty-nine (29) “Chantal BIYA” Multimedia / Videoconference Centres** have been constructed in twenty-nine (29) localities across the country and equipped with several hundred of computers, all connected to high-speed Internet network via optic fibre. The beneficiary populations, are those often considered to be disadvantaged

by the hazards of their condition and their physical space due to their distance from the country’s major urban centres. These Centres are a vector for improving the educational environment with genuine teaching/ learning structures, for both formal and non-formal education.

- The installation of High-Tech Center annexes in Minta and Nkolfofoulou, major digital

hubs offering a wide range of services and opportunities for distance learning and e-Learning ;

- The many training courses offered and the awareness campaigns against emerging pandemics and social vices organised in the various localities hosting the said “Chantal Biya” Multimedia / Videoconference Centres ;



*The Chantal Biya multimedia / videoconference center of Minta*



*The Chantal Biya multimedia / videoconference center of Dschang*



*The Chantal Biya multimedia / videoconference center of Bangangte*

- Till date, one million four hundred and thirty-three nursery, primary and secondary school children out of a target population of ten million learners (1,433,000/10,000,000) and twenty-three thousand four hundred and thirty teachers out of one hundred and thirty thousand targeted (23,430/130. 000) have been sensitised against the spread of STI/HIV/AIDS and other emerging pandemics through the provision of books for learners and Teacher's guides on the fight against STI/HIV/AIDS, social vices and other emerging pandemics.

- The monitoring of several villages and centres of activity, awareness-raising and learning in the camps of the indigenous populations, to improve their knowledge on STI/HIV/AIDS and other emerging pandemics.

- Numerous seminars and other training courses aimed at building the capacity of teachers in order to equip them with new teaching/learning techniques and promote inclusive education by combating discrimination and barriers linked to gender



*Teachers after training in the Chantal Biya multimedia videoconference center - Dschang*

and cultural diversity;

- Awareness-raising and training for teachers on the culture of peace involving the whole community, refugee camps and the promotion of living together;

Building the capacity of the various communities to self-determine a number of socio-professional plans.

- Reducing the seroprevalence rate to near zero in the educational setting in particular, and the society as a whole with an objective to attend a world void of infections.

## *Other achievements*

**The First Lady's Social Vaccine Programme through its pluridisciplinary and multisectorial college of expert has produced books with the following titles :**

- *Develop Basic Competences for the Fight Against STIs-HIV/AIDS/ Développer les Compétences de Base en matière de Lutte Contre les IST-VIH/SIDA ;*

- *Student's Companion for the Fight Against STIs-HIV/AIDS, at levels I, II and III / Vade-mecum de l'Etudiant en Matière de Lutte Contre les IST-VIH/SIDA.*

- *Teacher's Companion for the Fight Against STIs-HIV/AIDS, for student and teacher books /Vade-mecum de l'Enseignant en Matière de Lutte Contre les IST-VIH/SIDA.*



*The different publication of the Social Vaccine Programme of the First Lady*



*Recipients of books on the fight against the spread of STIs, HIV/AIDS and other emerging Pandemics in Meyomessala*



*The Chantal Biya multimedia /video conference center library of Minta*



*The champion school-FCB library Yabassi*

The content and teaching activities in the books vary according to level and cycle.

- In the Nursery and Level I, the aim is not to talk about AIDS and sexuality in a simple and vague way. Instead, the aim is to develop protective behaviours that enable pupils to avoid situations that predispose them to infection.

- In Levels II and III, certain concepts presented in Level I are recycled and enriched. This takes into account the children's level of development and the fact that these concepts prepare them for their integration into the society.

- The Student's Companion for the Fight against STI-HIV/AIDS contains basic knowledge about STI-HIV/AIDS and helps students develop the necessary life skills.

- The Teachers' Manual, the Teacher's Companion for the Fight against STI-HIV/AIDS, contains basic knowledge on STI-HIV/AIDS, lesson plans for nursery, primary and secondary schools, scenarios for comic strips and the life skills learners need to develop.

- The CD-ROMs containing basic information on the fight against STIs-HIV/AIDS are to be used by teachers on plasma screens and DVD players for self-training.



- Radio broadcasts will be made via solar-powered radio stations and public, private and community radio stations, targeting teachers in particular and society as whole.

- As for the Multimedia/Videoconference Centres, they are useful in popularising the Social Vaccine Programme and the development of Information and Communication Technologies, as well as the digital economy and the digitalisation of education.

As you can see, the task is enormous and demanding, but exciting.

## III-DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

In addition to the structural difficulties encountered and prejudices about sending children to school (especially young girls), other difficulties include:

- Insufficient financial and material resources for the design, production and reproduction of Pupils' Books and the Teacher's guide in the fight against STIs-HIV/AIDS, social vices and other emerging pandemics for the endowment as Gifts from Her

Excellency Mrs Chantal BIYA.

- Insufficient resources to extend the network of Chantal Biya Multimedia Videoconference Centres to other localities, and to continue with the construction of meeting halls in the camps of indigenous populations;

## IV - PROSPECTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR COVERING THE ENTIRE TARGET POPULATION AND OPTIMISING THE TRANSFORMATION OF LEARNING SPACES AS STATED IN THE NSD30 AND MDG4

Among other things, this involves:

- *Advocacy in favour of funding the mass production of teaching materials such as student books entitled " Develop Basic Competences for the Fight Against STIs-HIV/AIDS /Développer les Compétences de Base en matière de Lutte Contre les STIs-VIH/SIDA;*

- *Student's Companion for the Fight Against STIs-HIV/AIDS, at levels I, II and III / Vade-mecum de l'Etudiant en Matière de Lutte Contre les IST-VIH/SIDA/.*

- *Teacher's Companion for the Fight Against STIs-HIV/AIDS, for student and teacher books /Vade-mecum de l'Enseignant en Matière de Lutte Contre les IST-VIH/SIDA.*

- Advocacy, for the construction of champions schools FCB in all subdivisions of Cameroon.

- make a plea for funding to extend the network of the **Chantal Multimedia/ Videoconference Centres** to other localities, and for the construction of meeting halls to be continued in other camps for indigenous populations ;

- Finally, **the construction of a headquarters to house the First Lady's Social Vaccine Programme.**

In addition, the **First Lady's Social Vaccine Programme** needs to be equipped with technical and functional structures capable of organising itself in terms of technical research, with an objective to build resilience in the event of social and clinical scourges, resilience could be a guarantee, among other things, for the improvement of learning spaces.



# An exeptional Passion...

**for upholding and preserving the intergrity of humankind in Cameroon, sub-saharan Africa and the world at large**







**Partnership agreement between MINHDU and the Social Vaccine programme of the First Lady of Cameroon, Madame Chantal Biya - March 2019**



**Renewal of the partnership agreement between MINDHU and the Social Vaccine Programme of the First Lady of Cameroon, Madame Chantal Biya - May 2023.**





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## Magazine on the activities of

SOCIAL VACCINE PROGRAMME  
FIGHT AGAINST STAMPS OUT AND  
OTHER EMERGING PANDEMICS

*Her Excellency*  
**MADAME CHANTAL BIYA**  
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