AMIS D'AFRIQUE • (FRIENDS FROM AFRICA)

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Started: 1993
CIty: Bangui
Country: Central African Republic

Within the organization:	
Patients receiving care:	1300
Patients on ARVs:	140
Doctors and medical assistants:	4
Nurses and caregivers:	17



Amis d'Afrique (Friends from Africa) is by far the largest; perhaps the only comprehensive care organization for patients on ARVs in the country. Set up in Bangui in 1993, this organization supported in large part by the Japanese Cooperation is advantageously placed inside the medical facility of the Boy-Rabe neighborhood. It develops several divisions of activities:

• Medical follow-up:

A well-equipped laboratory makes it possible to do a variety of lab work on site. A pharmacy is regularly supplied with essential generic medicines as well as those used to treat opportunistic infections. Close to 140 people are on ARVs in the organization. Triomune is the medicine that is most commonly prescribed. Ever other month patients are required to pay for their own medicines. The alternating month's medicines are paid for by the organization. So patients' medicines are subsidized by 50%.

The staff of Amis d'Afrique is composed of 4 doctors, 1 dermatologist and 17 nurses and caregivers. A medical team composed of a doctor, a nurse and a sociologist consults with patients at home. Amis d'Afrique receives additional help from World Food Program to give food support to patients who are visited.

• Information and education activities:
  - Outreach and awareness campaigns on the community and family level
  - Monthly patient education/awareness workshop: this awareness workshop is exclusively for HIV+ patients registered at the Center. Various issues such as AIDS and opportunistic infections are discussed.

• Training: Training and peer education for members of community organizations who then become instructors in their respective communities. In 2003, 102 people graduated from these training sessions.

The organization has various projects that it hopes to develop, if funding were available, namely a project of orphan care, and a project of decentralization of activities in several provinces of the country.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

ASSOMESCA • Association pour les Œuvres Médicales des Eglises en Centrafrique (Organization of Church Medical Charities in Central Africa)

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Started:
City: Bangui
Country: Central African Republic

Within the organization:
Patients receiving care:
Patients on ARVs:
Doctors and medical assistants:
Nurses and caregivers:

Assomesca is a Catholic organization which runs several health centers in Bangui and throughout the country: 6 private health centers, one of which is a maternity clinic, 2 nutritional centers, 2 centers for disabled people, 9 smaller health offices managed by Caritas, 3 hospitals in Bangui, 1 old age home, run by the Missionnaires de la Charité.

One of the centers run by Assomesca, the Centre de Santé Notre Dame de Fatima, is situated in a working-class neighborhood.

The parish of Notre Dame de Fatima, which is next door to the healthcare center, conducts counseling sessions every Wednesday from 4-6pm and promotes voluntary testing. A group of 60 women has been created from these sessions 40 of who are HIV+; 31 of whom are on cotrimoxazole.

The center provides medical consultations for adults and children Patients pay a flat rate, which includes the price of the consultation, and any medicines that may have to be prescribed.

Finally, the health center provides home-based care with the help of a mobile team. A prevention of transmission of the virus from mother to child has begun. Twelve women are currently enrolled.

RECAPEV • Réseau Centrafricain des Personnes vivant avec le VIH (Central African Network of People Living with HIV)

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Started: 1994
City: Bangui
Country: Central African Republic

Within the organization:
Patients receiving care:
Patients on ARVs:
Doctors and medical assistants:
Nurses and caregivers:

RECAPEV is The Central African Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. It was created in 1994 at the PLWHAs and under the direction of the Minister of Health.

Seven organizations are currently members of RECAPEV:

- The National Caucus of Young HIV+ (CNJFV+);
- The Comité centrafricain des PvVIH (COCAPEV) (Central African Committee of PLWHAs);
- Réveil Action Centrafrique + (RAC +) (Awake Action Central Africa);
- l'Association des Hommes Vivant avec le VIH (AHVV) (Organization of Men Living with HIV);
- International Community of Women against Aids (ICW);
- The Groupement d'Aide Sociale (GAS)(Social Assistance Group);
- The Association des Femmes Vivant avec le VIH (Organization of Women Living with HIV).

In addition the network works in collaboration with the organization of blood donors. In total, 3 000 members are united under the umbrella of RECAPEV.

The goals of the network are to coordinate activities for member organizations and to develop communication and awareness activities. RECAPEV is a signee of the agreement between UNDP and the Global Fund and participated in validating the sites of voluntary testing for the Global Fund.