

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

Paix – Travail - Patrie

MINISTERE DE LA PROMOTION
DE LA FEMME ET DE LA FAMILLE



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace – Work - Fatherland

MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT AND FAMILY

**VIRTUAL MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS OF WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT, THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
2020**

**PRESENTATION OF MADAM ABENA ONDOA NEE
OBAMA MARIE THERESE, MINISTER OF WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT AND THE FAMILY**

ON

**MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE PROTECTION OF
WOMEN AND THE FAMILY AGAINST THE
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC IN CAMEROON**

The video conference consisted of 6 sessions. The Head of the Cameroon delegation presented Cameroon situation in the first session but took part in the rest of the sessions. In Session I, member countries were to share in 03 minutes their experiences structured around the key challenges in their countries with gender inequality and COVID-19, strategies put in place to address the situation, results achieved, lessons learned, and good practices.

The situation of the pandemic in Cameroon

The first case of Corona virus infection was reported in Cameroon on the 6th of March 2020. After the assessment of the situation, 13 responsive restrictive measures were announced by the Government on the 17th of March 2020. Some of them included: closing of schools, borders, leisure spots, limitation of crowds to maximum 50, mandatory wearing of face mask in public spaces. There have been weekly inter ministerial meetings chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government to assess and report on the respect of barrier measures and daily reporting by the Ministry of Public Health on the evolution of the pandemic.

Covid-19 Challenges

- loss of income for women in informal sector in the rural and urban areas;
- some women lost their jobs in the private sectors;
- physical and psychological violence due to confinement;
- unplanned pregnancies with young girls

Strategies put in place to address the situation

- creation of a special National Solidarity Fund by the Head of State, President Paul Biya which took the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family into consideration;
- suppression of taxes to business people in market places including women;
- training of women and girls in the production of Covid-19 kits(standardised face mask, liquid soap, soap, hand sanitizers)
- distribution of Covid-19 kits to vulnerable women and families;
- the staff of the ministry and other social actors were trained on combating gender based violence during Covid-19 in order to give psycho-social care to the targeted population.

Achievement through implementation and enforcement of the strategies

All efforts led to a better management of the situation of Covid-19 in Cameroon. **According to the Ministry of Public Health, the situation of Cameroon looked like this as of September 2nd, 2020: total infection is 19,759; recovered 17,326 and total deaths are 415 (2.1%).**

Some lessons learned

- **that maintaining hygiene leads to good health;**
- **effective and regular communication can bring about behavioural change;**

Some good practices

- **maintaining hygiene(frequent washing of hands)**
- **daily communication on the evolution of the pandemic**
- **the involvement and concern of everybody in the fight**