OUR CELEBRATION OF WORLD MALARIA DAY 2019

By Nadege Mapigoue, Association President

**Theme:** REDUCING THE MORTALITY RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE DUE TO MALARIA IN CAMEROON

- Date: April 25th, 2019
- Where: Marché Makepe Missoko Douala
- Partner: CAMNAFAW – BEPANDA; a community focal point.
- Target: Shopkeepers and all the people in neighbourhood.

« All children have the right to grow, develop and reach their full potential to build a better world.»

Association AFEDEC, member CS4ME celebrates the World Malaria Day. April 25 is World Malaria Day for WHO. It comes from a partnership with WHO, the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP. Cameroon is ranked 18th out of 20 countries in the world where the mortality rate of children under 5 years old is higher, that is 148 per thousand. Only 13% of children under 5 sleep under an insecticide-treated mosquito net, and malaria accounts for more than 40% of all people in this age group. Malaria-related mortality was declining in 2000 before rising again in 2016 due to a stagnation in efforts to combat this deadly disease. It is worth noting that a child dies every 2 minutes from malaria.

Our objectives were as follows:

- To raise awareness and understanding on malaria and to provide informations for malaria control (community-based malaria prevention and treatment activities) in endemic areas.
- To mobilize public opinion by raising awareness of the disease and to promote existing prevention methods.
The program was held over two days. On April 24, 2019, the AFEDEC team raised awareness by distributing leaflets and posters passing door to door. Then on April 25, 2019 we had the intervention of the Health District staff on: the method of using the mosquito net, its role in the communities and IEC in endemic areas. The members of CAMNAFAW called the attention of the participants on the determination where the sick child should be taken to a hospital structure and the care of children from 0 to 5 years old. The sensitization was concluded by exchanges with the participants.

At the end of this activity, we were able to see that women, especially those we targeted for this activity, are more centred in their daily occupations, leaving children aged 0 to 5 for the most part to neighbours, alone at home, sometimes to their elders who have no notion of disease prevention. Our presence edified them a lot and we think of multiplying this activity in other places. As the environment is favorable to the spread of female Anopheles, we plan to return with preventive measures (human investment, drainage of gutters, disinfection with insecticides and educational talks).