



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: PUBLIC POLICIES FOR CHILDREN FACING HIV AND AIDS IN CAMEROON.
UNDERSTANDING THE MARGINALITY OF THE STATE**

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ABSTRACT:

This paper presents a case study of three social-based care and support programs for children facing AIDS in Cameroon : *The Bi-multi programme* (2004-2008), the *National Support program for Children and AIDS* (2006-2010), and the *Children, HIV and AIDS program* (2008-2012). The development of these programs reveals the centrality of foreign actors through all over the process, from the definition of the targets to their implementation. This situation raises the following questions: what place does the Cameroonian State occupy in public policies about Children confronting HIV and AIDS? What do these public policies tell us about the State at work in Cameroon, about his resources and his capacities in providing public services such as primary health care, social and nutritional support for the most vulnerable? Based on empirical research carried out during eight months with four categories of actors (international actors, institutional actors, NGOs and local associations and local political leaders), our results show that the plurality of actors involved in support programs for children confronting HIV/AIDS did not diminish the regulatory capacity of the State in Cameroon. Although the Cameroonian government is extremely reliant on its foreign partners, it has significant leeway in conducting public health policies and the fight against HIV/AIDS. This flexibility, however, is greatly underused. The centralizing and authoritarian *habitus* of the regime, as well as the depoliticization maintained by NGOs and international institutions could explain the weak character of the State in providing public services to communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Larissa Kojoué, has a PhD in political science of CEAN-IEP Bordeaux. She is now at Les Afriques dans le Monde (LAM)-Bordeaux. Her area of expertises includes : HIV/AIDS, Global health, Children and HIV/AIDS, State building, Public policies, Human Rights, Cameroon.