ANTI-CORRUPTION ORGANISATION

April 2020 Report

Highlights

- One (01) new complaint file opened this month
- AC hotline received 11 calls this month
- Health Corruption hotline received 20 calls this month

General

The AC hotline phone registered 11 calls this month of April, 2020 with 4 corruption and corruption assimilated offences, and, 4 non-corruption offences.

One (01) new case file was opened this month

One new complaint file on bribery and misappropriation of public funds was opened this month. The complainant reported that funds directed to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic have been misappropriated by a few health officials at the covid-19 emergency center located at the premises of the Yaounde central hospital. The report also claimed that money was solicited as bribe from suspected covid-19 patients who showed up at the center to seek testing and treatment. AC was unable to verify this report because access to the center was restricted to the general public. Nevertheless, AC forwarded a copy of the complaint to the anti-corruption unit of the Ministry of Public Health.

Legal follow-up continued this month in the corruption case of many counts with about 300 victims opened in the month of August, 2017. The judge had to extend the date for the preliminary hearing of the accused persons because the principal accused in the case made a request through his representative for an extension of the hearing date since he was engaged instituting security measures at the covid-19 emergency center at the central hospital in Yaounde, as the focal person in charge of security. An additional month of grace was given to the accused/s persons.

AC Hotline Phone

The AC hotline phone received 11 calls this month of April, 2020 with four (04) corruption and corruption related complaints, and four (04) non-corruption complaints.

The calls have been analyzed and represented on charts as seen below;
69% of calls were responsive while 31% of callers’ telephone numbers were unavailable.

This month of April, 2020, both corruption and non-corruption complaint calls represented 50% each of responsive calls.
Complaints of bribery and corruption represented 50% of corruption complaints while complaints of oppression and misappropriation represented 25% of corruption complaints.

Private problems reported this month of April, 2020 represented 34% of non-corruption complaints, while complaints of breach of contract and abuse from forces of law and order represented 33% of non-corruption complaints.
Gender

75% of calls were put in by the male gender while the female gender participated with just 25% of calls

Age range of callers

This month of April, 2020, the adult age range participated with 56% of calls, followed by the youth age range with 33% of calls and lastly, the elderly age range which participated with 11% of callers
Regional representation

The Centre region participated with the highest number of calls represented by 57% of callers, followed by the Littoral region which represented 15% of callers, and lastly, the West and Far North regions which contributed with 14% each of calls

Investigations

Investigations were carried out in a new complaint file on bribery and misappropriation of public funds opened this month. We received an anonymous report from a beneficiary who reported that funds directed to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was misappropriated by some health officials at the covid-19 emergency center located at the premises of the Yaounde central hospital. The report also claimed that money was solicited as bribe from suspected covid-19 patients who showed up at the center to get tested for the covid-19 virus and seek treatment in the case where they tested positive.

This complaint was taken seriously by AC because it was reported by a health professional working with the health team at the covid-19 emergency center. AC was unable to verify this report because access to the center was restricted to the general public and because measures of social distancing warranted measures for the protection of the investigator. Nevertheless, AC noticed a few irregularities from discussions had with a few individuals at the entrance to the site. This included favoritism and delays in the testing of suspected patients. On the other hand, the hotline number, 1510, provided to the public by the Ministry of Public Health was most often than not unavailable or busy which made the work of the health personnel cumbersome as they had to deal with a large crowd of people seeking information on testing and treatment procedures which would have been gotten through the phone. AC forwarded a copy of the complaint to the

Anti – Corruption Cameroon (AC - Cameroon)
Website:  www.kick-corruption.org
ac.cameroon@yahoo.com
anti-corruption unit of the Ministry of Public Health for proper follow-up of the health personnel who might be soliciting bribe at the center and for monitoring and accountability of covid-19 funds.

**Legal follow-up**

Legal follow-up continued this month in the corruption case of many counts with about 300 victims opened in the month of August, 2017. The judge had to extend the date for the preliminary hearing of the accused persons because the principal accused in the case made a request through his representative for an extension of the hearing date since he was engaged with instituting and supervising security measures at the covid-19 emergency center in Yaounde, as the focal person in charge of security. An additional grace period of one month was given to the accused/s to prepare for their hearing.

The case, is a corruption case involving many counts embodying a civil claim, with about three hundred victims which was originally deposited at the Court of First Instance of the Yaounde Administrative Center in the month of August, 2017. With the principal accused being a Commissioner of Police, another jurisdiction other than that where his duties are exercised had to be chosen to guarantee fair trial which is why the court of First Instance, Ntui, was designated as the competent trial court.

**Health Corruption Hotline**

The Health Corruption hotline phone received 20 calls this month of April, 2020, the highest received since the beginning of this year. One corruption complaint regarding the sale of subsidized malaria treatments was also registered. Most callers were interested in getting information on the impact of the coronavirus on their health as persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Data from the calls has been analyzed and represented on charts as seen below;
70% of Health Corruption calls were responsive while 30% were non responsive

Gender

The female gender’s participation represented 64% of calls while the male gender participated with 36% of calls
Age range of callers

The adult age group participated with 58% of calls, followed by the elderly age group with 25% of callers, and lastly, the youth age group which represented 17% of callers.

Regional representation

The Centre region participated with the highest number of callers represented by 46% of total calls, followed by the Adamawa region with 16% of callers, then the Littoral and South West regions with 15% of callers and lastly, the East region which represented just 8% of callers.
Finance
AC received funds this month from NEU FOUNDATION
Dollar Rate 586.5

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<th>Amount in Francs CFA</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Amount in USD</th>
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<td>AC Hotline</td>
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<td>Expenditure April 2020</td>
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Donor Financial Report April 2020

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<td>Balance from March</td>
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<td>NEU FOUNDATION</td>
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<td>Used in April</td>
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<td><strong>15,417</strong></td>
<td>Carried forward to May</td>
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