



# THE ACHAP QUARTERLY

# FOREWORD

What a year 2022 has been! This year has seen the most growth in ACHAP, with increased engagement with our CHAs all around Africa. Our membership has expanded in South Sudan, giving avenue to capacity building for programming in emergency zones. ACHAP's reach is consistently felt through the engagement of religious leaders, who are looked upon by their communities as credible thought leaders. We continue to raise a platform for Faith-based actors to serve people through community interventions in healthcare. CHAs are gaining recognition from governments now more than ever, owing to their consistent grassroots-level interventions in matters such as pandemic response, maternal and newborn health, HIV stigma and discrimination, to name a few.

ACHAP is committed to ensuring equity in access to healthcare for all in Africa, and we are making steady progress towards achieving this.

I hope the highlights in this newsletter inspire every one of you, as you learn more about ACHAP and seek opportunities to strengthen the faith-based sector in Africa.

*Dr. Djekadoom Ndilita*  
ACHAP Board Chair.

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# HHA PROGRAMME EXPANSION

The Healthy Heart Africa programme is expanding to 10 new countries, starting in 2023; Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, The Gambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Over the next two years, ACHAP will be leading the expansion and implementation in 5 of the countries; CAR, Madagascar, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe, continuing our efforts towards raising awareness and standardising access to NCD care and management. The existing programme in Côte d'Ivoire is nearing the end of its initial two-year cycle. To ensure quality programming, a team from HHA and ACHAP conducted a joint site visit this October for monitoring, oversight, and learning from the different experiences in the zones of intervention, which provided an opportunity to draw from evidence and experience, and to share from activity implementation what works, what does not, and why. These learnings are quite timely, and will be applied across activities as the programme's reach expands.



*On-site mentorship and coaching of community health volunteers during the technical support and monitoring visit*

**Since the HHA programme began in Côte d'Ivoire:**

925,177 individuals have been screened for elevated blood pressure

124,098 individuals were found to have elevated blood pressure

19,490 individuals have been diagnosed with hypertension and treated with medication and/or lifestyle advice

## VEHICLE PROCUREMENT FOR WEST NILE

To address the persistent issue of lack of transportation in the West Nile region of Uganda, the ACHAP Afya project procured a vehicle for use by the field teams, to ensure seamless travel to the project sites. This comes after a long wait, and will without a doubt ease access to the project's beneficiaries in the hard-to-reach areas of Uganda. We are beyond elated to have completed the procurement process, which was greatly affected by shipping delays owing to COVID-19 lockdowns last year.



*The ACHAP Uganda team receiving the vehicle in Kampala, Uganda.*

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

The Christian Journal for Global Health is inviting submission of papers for a special issue on the role and characteristics of faith-based healthcare providers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ahead of this process, ACHAP teamed up with the CJGH team to conduct a webinar on researching and reporting in Global Health. This webinar brought together health actors from across Africa and beyond, including primary healthcare teams, health science students, health policymakers, and programme specialists to learn about research, review, and publication processes.

The webinar was conducted by a team from CJGH, ACHAP, and the World Bank, and availed the audience a wealth of transferrable knowledge.

The presentations and recordings are available on the ACHAP website: [Link](#)

For information on the Call for Papers, please visit <https://journal.cjgh.org/index.php/cjgh/callforpapers>

## OUR PROJECTS

### Healthy Baby Spacing

The Faith community was actively involved in this year's International Conference on Family Planning in Pattaya, Thailand, where their [commitment statement](#) purposing to collaborate towards supporting communities on family health and healthy baby spacing was unveiled. This renewed commitment was documented during a Faith side event convened by CCIH, where ACHAP was aptly represented by ACHAP Afya Chief of Party, Dr. James Mukabi. This conference was especially opportune for ACHAP, as part of our work in RMNCH involves educating families in marginalised areas about the importance of healthy baby-spacing.

Through this initiative, women are receiving family planning education from trained CHVs, and access to various means of contraception through community based distribution. Men, as well, are trained on family planning and its positive effect on women's health, and the economic and psycho-social wellbeing of their families.



ACHAP Afya COP, Dr. James Mukabi at the ICFP



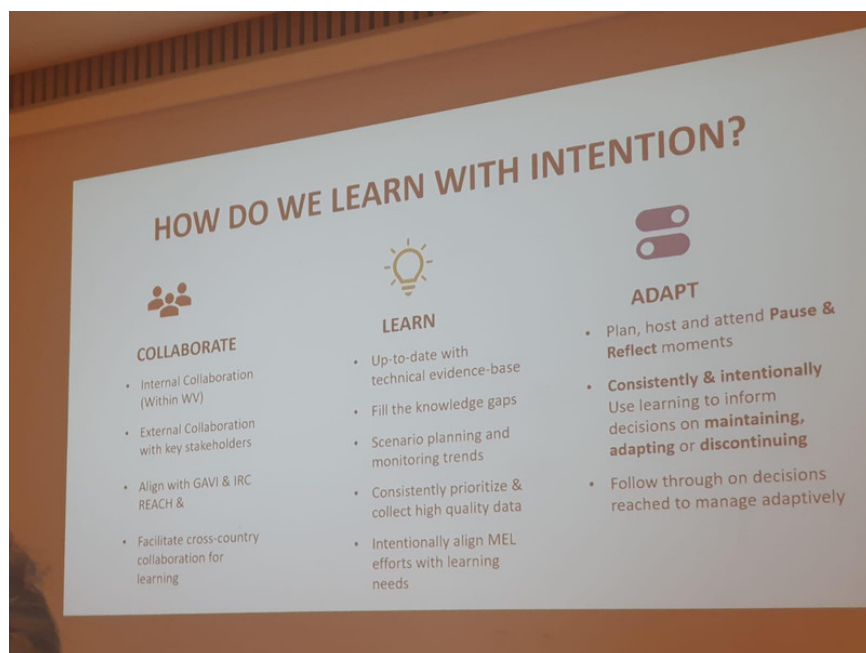
A recipient of the ACHAP Afya CBDFP in Kilifi County

## RAISE4SAHEL project kickoff

Faith-based organisations complement government efforts in healthcare across Africa, particularly in the hardest-to-reach areas. To address accessibility gaps in immunisation blindspots, ACHAP is leading implementation of the GAVI Raise4Sahel project in Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria. This project is bringing together CHAs from the 3 countries, to work on zero-dose mapping and ensure that children born in high emergency and marginalised zones of the Sahel region gain access to life-saving vaccines.

Towards the end of the inception phase, the project partner convened a 5-day regional workshop in Niamey Niger to develop a common understanding of project approaches towards identifying and reaching zero-dose children, support country teams to review and finalise country specific 18-month workplans, and facilitate team building and shared learning among country teams.

During this workshop, ACHAP's in-country implementing members had an opportunity to share their knowledge and experience on supply chain, gender and social inclusion approaches, and project monitoring and evaluation among other subjects.



MEL knowledge sharing during the R4S regional workshop

## COVID-19 Vaccine Advocacy

The Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone organised Information and advocacy forums with the inter-religious council to equip them with adequate knowledge and skills for advocacy in regard to Covid-19 Vaccines uptake. This is in line with the work of the CoV-FaB project, a partnership of IMA World Health, ACHAP, and the Osprey Foundation, towards COVID vaccine acceptance and uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the course of these gatherings, an advocacy agenda was developed, and Faith-leader champions selected to support CoV-FaB activities through providing evidence-based information to congregants and the rest of the communities. These efforts are aimed at reduction of COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in Africa, and strengthening the capacity of Christian Health Associations to respond to future health emergencies.



*Information and advocacy meeting; Inter-religious council-CHASL*

## Adolescent education on HIV

As part of our work on HIV Stigma and Discrimination, the ACHAP-UNAIDS team embarked on a mission to involve the youth by educating them on HIV prevention and management. This initiative is aimed at increasing peer-to-peer engagement in matters all matters HIV, including stigma and discrimination among the youth, to encourage positive behaviour change and encourage young people living with HIV to seek treatment and find support in their peers.

Towards this, the team actively participated in the development and dissemination of paediatric-friendly IEC materials, which have been distributed in schools, and health centers in Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria.



*ACHAP West Nile Team Lead, Linda Akello, distributing PAEDS materials to adolescent champions in Uganda.*

# FROM OUR MEMBERS

## Kenya

On World Diabetes Day, the Christian Health Association of Kenya organised a procession around Chuka Town in Tharaka Nithi County in conjunction with PCEA Chogoria to raise awareness on Diabetes. Members of the public joined the procession and participated in a free Diabetes screening camp, which was held at PCEA Chuka Town Church.



## Lesotho

Paray Mission Hospital, one of the medical institutions under the Christian Health Association of Lesotho, launched two new Covid-19 mitigation structures; 40 bed COVID-19 centre, and an oxygen plant, sponsored by the Sam Matekane Foundation.

This was necessitated by the high number of COVID-19 patients admitted at the facility, which was initially not prepared to handle COVID-19 cases and required a functional isolation ward. Thanks to the oxygen plant, the hospital now has a stable supply and is able to supply other hospitals around the country with oxygen.



*The Paray Mission Hospital COVID ward and oxygen plant.*

## Cameroon

CBC Health Services, graduated three internal medicine specialists from the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) program and one surgeon from the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) program in November at the Mbingo Baptist Hospital Chapel. The commencement address at the graduation ceremony was delivered by Dr. Sharpe Richard Powell, a surgeon and member of the PAACS faculty.

The graduates will be proceeding to join the health workforce of Cameroon, and will remain important contacts for CBCHS. Our hearty congratulation to all of them!



*The graduating class with CBCHS and BIHS administrators.*

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

This year, ACHAP members and partners around Africa participated in the campaign, linking its theme to their various health activities, particularly reproductive health, safe motherhood, HIV stigma and discrimination, and peer education.

ACHAP has been greatly involved in initiatives surrounding gender equity in healthcare, the most notable intervention being training of male champions on RMNCH, family health, and family planning in Kenya and Uganda. Our work with religious leaders has been greatly highlighted in this regard, as our field teams take time to engage with them on gender-based violence. Religious leaders are trusted in their communities as a source of information, therefore speaking up about GBV enables them to educate the masses and influence positive change. They also lend a voice to the victims in their communities, encouraging women and girls to report GBV cases to relevant authorities, while providing them much needed psychological safety.

The ACHAP Afya team in Kilifi County has also been actively engaged in the design of county legislation on women's health.





Religious leaders' training on GBV in Kilifi County



Training men as GBV champions in Kilifi



**STOP  
GENDER-  
BASED  
VIOLENCE**



**16 DAYS  
OF  
ACTIVISM**

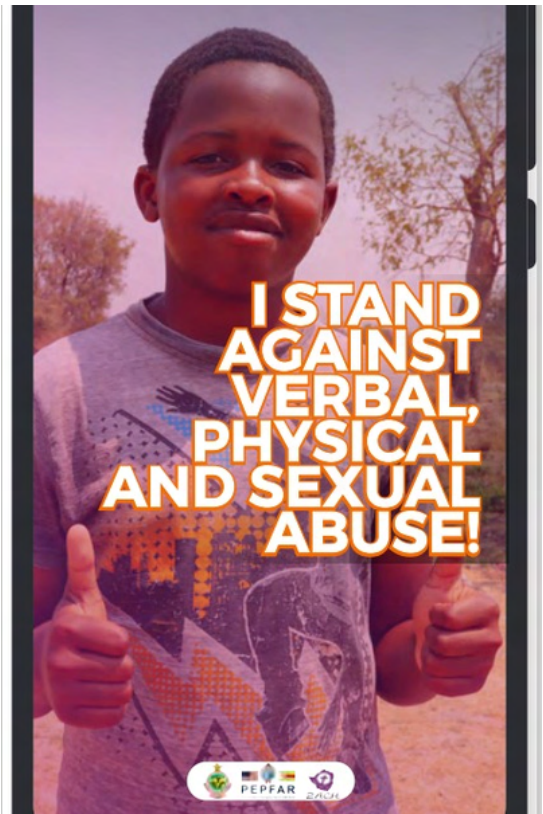
Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.

Leviticus 19:18

#OrangeTheWorld



AFRICA CHA PLATFORM



16 Days of Activism campaigns by ACHAP members and partners



# GALLERY



*Commemoration of the International Day for People with Disabilities in Cameroon, led by ACHAP member CBCHS.*

*Courtesy visit to CHAG office in Accra, Ghana.*



*Dialogue meeting with teenage mothers in Ewaa Parish, West Nile.*

# GALLERY



*ACHAP represented at the All Africa Youth Congress in Kasoa, Ghana.*

*ACHAP delegation at the EPN Forum in Nairobi, Kenya.*



*Data verification exercise during the HHA monitoring visit in Côte d'Ivoire*

## PARTING SHOT

The impact of our work is measured in the number of lives we change; the people who benefit from our knowledge and skills and the systems that are improved by our involvement. A human approach to healthcare is all about reaching the unreachable, hearing those who for so long have struggled to be heard, and bringing their issues into the light.

Let us put people at the center of what we do; for without people, our work would not count.





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