



THE ACHAP QUARTERLY

Dual edition

FOREWORD

It is my sincere pleasure to once again share news on our work. Our reach is continuously growing as we live our mission to support our members to fulfil their mandate of providing sustainable health services in Africa. It has been a busy season with the ACHAP Biennial Conference in Kigali in July, as well as adding to our portfolio in our ministry of service; most recently our partnership with World Vision supported by GAVI to reach zero dose children in the SAHEL region of Africa.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to each and every person who took their time to attend the ACHAP 10th biennial conference in Rwanda. This conference was delayed by a year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are grateful that it came to pass. It was a time of rich engagement and learning for our members and partners.

I also acknowledge and thank our members and partners who are working tirelessly to implement our programmes across Africa, despite the sometimes challenging environments. ACHAP is excelling because of you.

Enjoy the read, and as usual, we remind you to get vaccinated against COVID-19, and stay safe.

Dr. Djékadoum Ndilta,
ACHAP Board Chair.

IN THIS ISSUE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW BOARD CHAIR
NEW MEMBER

OUR PROJECTS:

ADDRESSING HIV STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION
HYPERTENSION AWARENESS
COVID RESPONSE
COUNTY WASH SUPPORT
ZERO-DOSE MAPPING AND IMMUNISATION

UPDATES FROM OUR MEMBERS:

LESOTHO
ZIMBABWE
ZAMBIA
TANZANIA

THE ACHAP 10th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

NEW BOARD CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT

ACHAP is pleased to welcome a new board chair, Dr. Djékadoum Ndilta, who was elected in this year's AGM which was held in Kigali.

Dr. Ndilta is the current Executive Director of Association Evangélique pour la Santé au Tchad (AEST), and will be serving as board chair for the next two years.

“My vision for ACHAP for the next two years is to see more collaboration with our partners around the world towards a bright future for ACHAP ,” says Dr. Ndilta. “We will work together to mobilise our Francophone and Lusophone members to build their capacity and strengthen CHAs at all levels.”

Dr. Ndilta brings a wealth of experience across health programming towards the future success of ACHAP.



Our new Board Chair, Dr. Djékadoum Ndilta.

ACHAP WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER

Our reach continues to expand as we welcome our newest member, The Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA), the Relief and Development arm of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. PRDA was established in 1993 and has since inception worked with the war affected and marginalized communities of South Sudan providing emergency relief services and continually building their capacities to prepare them to be self-reliant as a strategy for community sustainable development.

We look forward to this partnership, and to the wonderful work ACHAP is set to do in South Sudan in the coming years.



PRDA team visit at the ACHAP office.

OUR PROJECTS

Addressing HIV stigma and discrimination

ACHAP conducted a series of trainings in Kilifi county to educate healthcare workers across all levels of service delivery; nurses, adherence counsellors, clinical officers, and laboratory and pharmacy technicians on stigma, starting with definition and how to recognise it in their day-to-day work from a customer service perspective, in this case how a patient is received and addressed at a health facility.

A fundamental component of this training is education of healthcare workers on the AIDS Prevention and Control Act, a law that provides clear guidelines on fair and unbiased treatment of HIV patients. A lasting effect of having healthcare workers understand and practice respectful care of patients is that more people living with HIV are actively seeking treatment, and have an avenue for support within their communities.



HCW training in session.

Further to this, ACHAP sponsored and participated in the Uganda National High-level Dialogue on ending inequalities. This forum attracted government officials, representation from Africa CDC, religious leaders, the Civil Society, healthcare workers, adolescents, young adults, and people living with/ affected by HIV. A pertinent theme was moving away from the idea the HIV is a result of immorality- an idea that fuels stigma in communities and healthcare establishments.

Speaking at the event, religious leaders asserted that even deeply spiritual people can be affected by HIV, and that dismantling societal barriers, in this case stigma and discrimination, allows people living with HIV to adhere to treatment and lead fulfilling lives.

Religious leaders are continually called upon to champion the cause against stigma, as they are influential figures in their communities, and therefore a trusted source of information and guidance.



Religious leaders and participants at the national high-level dialogue on HIV in Uganda.

Hypertension Awareness

On World Hypertension Day this year, ACHAP was honored in Cote d'Ivoire as a champion in NCD programming. Since its inception, the Healthy Heart Africa programme has worked to highlight the dismal hypertension awareness, vigorously promote accurate BP measurement methods, and underscore the importance of improving hypertension control. Our collaboration with the Ivorian Ministry of Health has seen an increase in demand for hypertension screening and treatment, as evidenced by a total of 10,748 BP screenings conducted during the WHD commemoration ceremony led by our in-country partner, ICPH. Worth noting is that 88% of individuals screened with elevated blood pressure were not aware of having hypertension.



Blood pressure and sugar screening on World Hypertension Day.

ACHAP is committed to work with its members to tackle the increasing burden of cardiovascular diseases as it puts patients first.

COVID Response

Our work in COVID response this year has been centered on vaccine advocacy and capacity strengthening for CHAs and support to governments to conduct vaccination activities.

Teaming up with IMA World Health, the Osprey Foundation, and InterNews, we are working to implement the CoV-FaB programme, an initiative aimed at increasing COVID-19 vaccinations across Sub-Saharan Africa. This programme is in its initial stages, and will be led by in-country members in the Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, and Liberia.

We have also partnered with AMREF Health Africa under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods programme; a partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC enabling purchase and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to millions of people across the continent, and laying the groundwork for vaccine manufacturing in Africa. ACHAP is playing a key role in Lesotho and Rwanda in a bid to support the respective governments to implement COVID-19 vaccination activities in the countries.



CoV-FaB implementing partners.

County WASH Support

To address a noted low in handwashing coverage, the ACHAP Afya project supported a rapid needs WASH assessment in Ganze, Kaloleni, Rabai, Magarini and Kilifi South sub-counties. The results from the assessment adequately informed procurement of WASH kits for a total of 68 health facilities; 59 MOH sites and 9 FBOs. The items were handed over to the Kilifi County Health management team for flag off to the sub-counties.



Handover of WASH kits by the ACHAP Afya team.

Zero-dose mapping and immunisation

In June this year, GAVI launched an immunisation partnership, called the Zero-dose Immunisation Programme (ZIP) in response to millions of children in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions lacking access to life-saving vaccines due to geographical marginalization.

ACHAP is working in consortium with World Vision, Food for the Hungry, CORE Group and other local partners to implement the Raise4Sahel project under the ZIP initiative. This project's key mandate is to identify immunisation blind-spots across Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Mali towards achieving vaccine equity.

ACHAP will be leading implementation through our member CHAs in Chad, Cameroon, and Nigeria for the next two years.



Raise4Sahel project launch discussion meeting.

ACHAP was aptly involved in the writing of the 2021-2025 Kilifi County RMNCAH investment plan, which was unveiled in June this year. As we join efforts with the county government to advocate for comprehensive and sustainable interventions toward improving RMNCAH outcomes, we are continuously reminded of the significant impact of community interventions, which contribute greatly to the county's goal of reduction of maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent morbidity and mortality within five years.



Representation at the Kilifi RMNCAH Investment Plan launch event.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Lesotho

Maluti Adventist Hospital, a member institution of the Christian Health Association of Lesotho launched an oxygen plant in May this year. This plant has the capacity to produce up to 30 cubic meters of oxygen per hour, and will go a long way in responding to the growing oxygen needs in Lesotho.



New oxygen plant at Maluti Adventist Hospital.

Zimbabwe

Following the effects of Cyclone Idai which hit the country in 2019, it became evident that emergency services were inaccessible to people in the eastern highlands of Zimbabwe. To mitigate this, UNOPS donated four new fully equipped ambulances to the Zimbabwe Association of Church-related Hospitals (ZACH) under the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project. The donation bridges the capacity of ZACH mission hospitals to transfer patients quickly and safely, and their ability to assist vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas. The ambulances were handed over at the ZACH headquarters in Harare.



Handover of ambulances at the ZACH headquarters.

Zambia

The Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) installed a new autoclave machine at Mbereshi Mission Hospital in response to an aid request from the facility which had been experiencing major challenges operating without an autoclave; Hospital staff had to travel long distances across districts to sterilize their equipment, or have to refer patients for surgery to other health centers- processes that proved very costly to the hospital. Thanks to CHAZ, Mbereshi hospital is now self-reliant, and is now able to channel resources previously used for referrals and transport to other hospital needs.



Newly installed autoclave machine at Mbereshi Mission Hospital.

DID YOU KNOW?

An autoclave is a machine used in medical and laboratory settings to sterilise lab equipment and waste. Autoclave sterilisation works by using heat to kill microorganisms such as bacteria and spores.

Tanzania

More than 50% of diabetes patients are unable to access their prescribed insulin dosage due to the price of insulin being too high for the average consumer. Starting this year, the vulnerable population in Tanzania will be able to access it affordably, following the launch of the iCARE Initiative in Tanzania by the Christian Social Services Commission. This initiative aims to leverage private-private partnerships in a bid to mobilize resources towards supporting FBO facilities to meet their goal of serving marginalized and vulnerable populations in Tanzania.

Through iCARE, CSSC will address the inaffordability of insulin by providing it at a subsidised price and training health care workers on managing care, consultation, treatment, and follow-up of diabetes patients.

A total of 6000 diabetic patients is envisioned to benefit from this initiative.



Danish Ambassador to Tanzania, H.E. Mette Nørgaard Dissing, speaking at the iCare launch.

THE ACHAP 10TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Over 100 participants from several countries across Africa and beyond gathered in Kigali for the ACHAP 10th biennial conference, centered on the theme: Christian Health Associations in Pandemics; The case of COVID-19. The 4-day conference featured an array of health actors from Africa and around the world, including representation from the Rwandese Ministry of Health, Africa CDC, CHA and DSO representatives from around the continent, and ACHAP's board, members and partners.

The Rwandan Minister of Health, Dr. Daniel Ngamije, graced the opening ceremony, stating in his speech that faith-based facilities are a cornerstone of the health system.

The experiences shared in the presentations highlighted the many similar challenges that African countries faced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and provided a platform for shared learning and future preparedness. A very interesting revelation was that countries that had suffered previous pandemics, particularly Ebola, had a better understanding of programming during health emergencies and were able to tailor lessons from their previous experiences to fit COVID-19 response.

The conference culminated in the drafting of a call to action for African governments and development partners to channel collaborative efforts towards strengthening the capacity of Christian health associations in pandemic preparedness and response. This document, as well as the conference report, is available on the ACHAP website: <https://africachap.org/achap-10th-biennial-conference-2022-2/>



Scenes from our 10th biennial conference



GALLERY



Meeting with the UNAIDS team at the ACHAP office.

The 2022 ICM procession in Nairobi.



Traditional dancers at the opening of the ACHAP biennial conference.



Meeting with the UNAIDS Deputy Director at the International AIDS conference in Montreal, Canada.

Donor visit at ACHAP Afya's West Nile project sites.

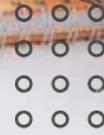


Conference ushering committee in traditional Rwandan garb.

PARTING SHOT

The world is evolving, and so are we. How do we keep ourselves from being left behind? We can start by acknowledging the interconnectedness of sectors. As health actors, we can get involved in education, climate change, investments, and technological innovations that make the world a more conducive place for our work. Partnership should not only be limited to those whose work is similar to ours; we expand ourselves by opening our minds to new avenues of collaboration. Let us seek to stay current, and to change with the times.





CONTACT INFORMATION

**Africa Christian Health Associations Platform |
P. O. Box 1069 - 00606 Nairobi, Kenya | AACC
Building, Waiyaki Way
Email: communications@africachap.org
T: +254 790 432 360, +254 786 664478
www.africachap.org**

