



ACHAP QUARTERLY

FOREWORD

Our initiatives towards achieving Universal Health Coverage have transcended conventional boundaries. Over the last few years, ACHAP has fostered collaborations governments and NGOs across Africa, which have been instrumental in addressing the diverse determinants of health.

The journey towards UHC has not been without challenges. Yet, our resilience and collective resolve propel us forward.

I am sure that like me, you are all looking forward to the upcoming biennial conference that will put a spotlight on the experience of faith communities towards this cause. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of ACHAP for their dedicated efforts that continue to bridge the gap in access to primary healthcare in Africa. This is our calling; to ensure no African is left behind where health is concerned.

Together, we have made remarkable strides, and I have no doubt that with our continued efforts, we will contribute even more significantly to the realisation of Universal Health Coverage.

I wish you all a happy holiday season, and God's blessings as you plan to join us in Abuja in February 2024.

Dr. Djekadom Ndita,
ACHAP Board Chair.

IN THIS ISSUE

AFRICA CLEARSIGHT PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT
HIV LEARNING WEBINARS
ACHAP AT THE AACC 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

OUR PROJECTS:

HIV STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION
FAITH AND SCIENCE IN HEALTH

FROM OUR MEMBERS:

ETHIOPIA
UGANDA
KENYA
GUINEA

ACHAP 11TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW PROGRAMME ALERT!



Across the world, more than a billion people are not able to see clearly or at all simply because they lack eyeglasses. Clear vision can be truly transformative for people, leading to immediate and sustained impact in health, livelihoods, education, and quality of life.

ACHAP has joined forces with RestoringVision, forming the The Africa Clear Sight Partnership, to tackle the global vision crisis, specifically presbyopia, by providing free reading glasses to marginalized populations in Sub-Saharan Africa.

ACHAP is taking on a regional coordination role, working through its member CHAs.

The first phase will be implemented in 4 ACHAP member countries i.e. Sierra Leone, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia, with a possibility of expansion to other countries. Partners will be distributing the glasses as part of their existing work in health facilities and through existing community outreach programmes.



Member country visits to launch the Africa ClearSight Partnership.

HIV LEARNING WEBINARS

ACHAP, in collaboration with UNAIDS and the Interfaith Health Platform, convened two learning webinars on addressing inequalities that fuel the rise of HIV infections among adolescents, young women, and children. This series was part of the closeout of our PEPFAR/UNAIDS project on HIV stigma and discrimination and the adoption of the Framework for Dialogue.

The webinars brought together about 200 participants and speakers from all over the world to share diverse experiences and country-specific contexts in HIV programming.

Part of this also included the Interfaith Health Platform's [10 Million Campaign for PEPFAR](#), an initiative to engage faith leaders, individuals and communities to promote access to health services to the 10 million children, women and men living with HIV who are not yet on antiretroviral treatment.

The webinar recordings are available on our website on the following links: [Webinar 1](#) [Webinar 2](#).

ACHAP AT THE AACC 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

ACHAP was aptly represented at the AACC Anniversary Conference in Abuja in November. During this conference, we put up a joint side event in collaboration with the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network and the Christian Health Association of Nigeria, with a focus on the role of religious leaders in health and healing. Discussions at this workshop were focused on key thematic areas: Healthcare financing, advocacy and governance, and health evangelism.

We also had an opportunity to do a 3-day exhibition, where we educated religious leaders on inequalities in access to HIV treatment in Africa, had a screening desk facilitated by INERELA, and raised awareness on the 10 Million campaign for PEPFAR.

Overall, this engagement did well to increase ACHAP's visibility and linkage to religious leaders and health promoting churches in Sub-Saharan Africa.



ACHAP exhibition at the conference.



ACHAP and EPN at the AACC 60th anniversary celebration.



Participants at the ACHAP, EPN, and CHAN joint side event.

OUR PROJECTS

HIV stigma and discrimination

This September, ACHAP CEO, Nkatha Njeru, participated in a talk show on OnPointRadio, discussing the impact of PEPFAR on HIV stigma and discrimination around the world. In her discourse, she shared her experience working in a health facility in rural Kenya during the early days of the HIV/AIDS crisis, noting that there was a lot of stigma and subsequent death due to neglect of patients before PEPFAR interventions. In many parts of Africa, the narrative is similar. ACHAP therefore continues to advocate for PEPFAR-led initiatives towards HIV treatment.

Through our HIV programmes, we have built the capacity of religious leaders and community health workers to provide respectful care and psychosocial support to HIV patients.

To listen to this interesting radio interview, please [click here](#).

Faith and Science in Health

The CoV-FaB Project, with support from Internews, successfully completed training sessions for faith leaders and designated communications officers from ZACH and CHASL partner Christian Health Associations, focusing on effective engagement with journalists and the news media to disseminate science-based information in timely and impactful ways.

Subsequently, the outcomes of the training were tested through collaborative efforts with ZACH and the local partner, the Humanitarian Information and Facilitation Center, to design and conduct media science cafes in Harare over the past few months.

These cafes served as platforms to bring together faith leaders, health experts, and journalists in a relaxed setting, fostering connections and building competence among the participants. Themed on immunization, pandemic preparedness, and related health issues, the cafes provided valuable experience for trainees in engaging with the media. Notably, there is an overarching communication gap, necessitating the need for faith leaders to articulate their growing conviction about the value of science to their followers without conflicting with their faith.



IEC materials developed by Internews on the integration of faith and science in matters health.

Ethiopia

Our in-country member, EECMY-DASSC celebrated the graduation of 60 Irregular migration returnees from Addis Ketema Industrial College in Addis Ababa.

The graduating class underwent a three-month vocational training under the AAS BO "Safe from Irregular Migration" project, specifically aimed at aiding returnees to become self-employed and to gain financial freedom. With practical skills in hand, these graduates are empowered to reintegrate into society and gain make ends meet.



The graduating class at Addis Ketema college.

Uganda

As part of their community outreach, Joint Medical Store donated 2 Universal Anesthesia Machines valued at 200m at Soroti Regional Referral Hospital. A testimonial from Dr. Joseph Epodoi, a Senior Consultant Surgeon at Soroti RRH, highlighted a notable achievement of Soroti Regional Referral Hospital in successfully performing the separation of conjoined twins in 2022. He expressed gratitude for the generous donation of the two machines, emphasizing their crucial role in facilitating more surgeries and saving lives.



The JMS team handing over the donated machines at Soroti Hospital.

Kenya

Our DSO member, Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies, launched a microbiology quality control laboratory at their premises in Nairobi. The official opening ceremony was graced by the Kenyan president, H.E. William Ruto, who in his speech, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts among health facilities, government institutions, private sector actors, and NGOs towards achieving Universal Health Coverage. This laboratory is a major step towards combating counterfeiting and ensuring that facilities receive high quality drugs and supplies, and a major contribution towards the country's plan to streamline quality control and make quality drugs accessible to all Kenyans. We congratulate you, MEDS!



Kenya Health CS, Susan Nakhumicha at the launch event.



Official opening of the laboratory by H.E. Dr. William Ruto.

Guinea

In September, our Guinea member RECOSAC convened the first ever workshop for Christian Health Networks in the Francophone region in Africa. This workshop brought together faith-based health organisations from five countries; Chad, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mali; to share their experiences and form a peer-to-peer mentoring space towards growing their footprint in West Africa. The event was made possible by the generous support of Bread for the World. ACHAP was in attendance to gain a deeper understanding of health programming in the Africa Francophone context. We also led a session on sustainability of CHAs in Africa, with specific examples on how to increase organisational financial resources. Cross-country collaboration is essential in improving access to health funding in the region. We are proud of RECOSAC for leading this initiative that will without a doubt contribute positively to the health landscape of West Africa.



Working sessions at the workshop.

GALLERY



Religious leaders showing their support for the 10Million Campaign.



ACHAP representation at CPHIA 2023 in Lusaka, Zambia.



ACHAP and IMA World Health support supervision visit in Liberia.



ACHAP and partners' representation at ICASA 2023 in Zimbabwe



ACHAP programme representatives at the USAID Global Health local partners meeting in Ghana.



ABUJA, HERE WE COME!



The 11th ACHAP biennial conference is coming to Abuja in February 2024, under the theme: The journey to achieving Universal Health coverage in Africa; Experiences and Lessons from Faith Communities. We look forward to this opportunity to engage with and learn from essential actors in universal healthcare, and position faith-based organisations in the global journey towards UHC2030.

To learn more and register, please visit: <https://africachap.org/events/achap-11th-biennial-conference/>

YOU SHOULD KNOW...



Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. Read more about it [here](#).



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