A Brief Overview of Capacity Development Of African Faith Communities To Address The AIDS Pandemic

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PHASE I: 2000-2004: Scope of Work: A four-year cooperative agreement to expand its US Faith-based Training & Technical Assistance to serve churches in Sub-Sahara Africa by developing a comprehensive technical assistance and training structure to mobilize and educate African churches to fight against AIDS.

The Africa HIV/AIDS Faith Initiative
Cote d’Ivoire | Kenya | Nigeria | Tanzania | Zimbabwe

Goal: Build a sustainable health education and service delivery system in which African faith communities can operate independently.

Our Charge: Work in partnership with CDC-GAP to change social norms regarding HIV within each country and create a climate that supports the delivery of services at the grassroots level in faith communities.

Program Objective: Build the capacity of faith communities to become an effective force in the fight against the AIDS pandemic in Cote d’Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Nature of Partnership in Each Country

- CDC
- GAP Partners
- Faith Partners
- The Balm In Gilead Africa Faith Initiative
- The People

Projected Partnership Outcome

- The Faith Community
- Front and Center
- Addressing HIV

Establish an International Partnership (Synergy)

- Zimbabwe
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Nigeria
- The Balm In Gilead

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Mobilization & Engagement of National Faith Organizations in 5 African nations

Cote d’Ivoire:
The Episcopal Conference of Cote d’Ivoire (Catholic)
The Eglise Pentecoste Church
The Eglise Methodist Church

Kenya:
The Anglican Church of Kenya
The Eastland Pentecostal Churches of Kayole
The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims

Nigeria:
The Christian Association of Nigeria
The Christian Health Association of Nigeria
The Episcopal Conference of Nigeria (Catholic)
The Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs

Tanzania:
The Tanzania Episcopal Conference (Catholic)
The Christian Council of Tanzania (Protestant)
The National Muslim Council of Tanzania (2004)
The Office of the Mufti of Zanzibar (2006)

Zimbabwe:
The Zimbabwe Episcopal Conference (Catholic)
The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (Protestant)

Key Endorsers

Cote d’Ivoire
• First Lady Madame Simone Ehivet Gbagbo
• Cardinal Bernard Aggrey, Official Head of the Roman Catholic Church
• H. E. Philippe D’Ganjone Bi, UN Ambassador

Kenya
• Dr. Margaret Gachara, Director of the National AIDS Control Council
• H.E. Bob F. Jalang’o, UN Ambassador

Nigeria
• Senator Ike O.S. Nwachukwu, Chairman, Committee on Government Affairs
• Professor I. Akinsete, Chair of the National Action Committee in Nigeria
• O. Apata, UN Ambassador

Tanzania
• Prime Minister Frederick Tlrway Sumaye
• Hon. Lediana Mufura Mng’ong’o, Chairperson, Tanzania Parliamentarians AIDS Coalition
• H. E. Daudi Mwakawago, UN Ambassador

Establishment of International Advisory Board

Cote d’Ivoire
Bishop Benjamin Boni,
Apostle Traore Sidiki

Kenya:
Archbishop Benjamin Mwanzia Nzimbi
Bishop Williams Waqo
Bishop Jefferson Nyatuka
Sheikh Hamad Muhammad Kassim
Professor Abdul Ghafur El Busaidy

Nigeria:
Dr. AbdulLateef Adegbite
Hajia Khairat O.O. Sodique
Bishop Mike Okonkwo
Rt. Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins

Tanzania:
Bishop Severine Niwemugizi
Rev. Fr. Dr. Puis Rutechura
Rt. Rev. Dr. Samson Mushemba
Rev. Dr. Leonard Mtaita
Rt. Rev. Dr. Aloysius Balina
Bishop Methodius Kilaini
Sheikh Issa Shaban Simba,
Alhaj Othman Ntaro

Zimbabwe
Rev. Murombedzi C Kuchera
Rev. Fr. Walter Nyatsanza

USA
Imam Talib Abdul-Rashid
Rev. Dr Alton B. Pollard III
Rev. Edwin Sanders
Create Awareness: Identify a central theme that can mobilize the faith community around and place the challenging situation in that context.

Engagement of Faith Institutions: Provide tools in areas of program design, implementation and evaluation to support faith institutions’ commitment to developing their own active response to the community health crisis.

Capacity Development: Provide technical support that will build the capacity of the faith institutions to effectively address HIV/AIDS within their communities.

Community Mobilization: Provide tools in community organizing and mobilization to faith institutions that are now implementing their own strategies of developing a community wide health promotion program and encouraging behavior change with individuals.

Advocacy: Provide technical support to community planning boards, health departments and to faith institutions to support the inclusion of faith leaders in the community planning process as well as the political process that influence HIV policies and funding allocations at state and local levels.

The Balm In Gilead’s Capacity Development Model Adapted for African Context

Five phases of work as a blueprint for the work plan in each of the five African countries.

Phase I: (Create Awareness)
Mobilization of Religious Leadership

Phase II: (Engagement of Faith Institutions)
Development of National HIV/AIDS Coordinating Offices

Phase III: (Capacity Development)
Training Staff and Key Religious Leaders

Phase IV: (Sustainability)
Organizational Development and Program Implementation

Phase V: (Advocacy)
Development and Coordination of Local HIV/AIDS Service Delivery Systems

The Balm In Gilead’s faith-based Capacity Building Model

Millions of People in Rural and Urban Communities
Local Churches/Local Mosques

Church Denominations/
Dioceses/Muslim Groups

National HIV/AIDS
Faith Offices
Within National Faith
Headquarters

The Balm In Gilead

Three-Level Strategy Approach
1. Organizational/Infrastructure Development
2. Programmatic Strategy
3. Evaluation Approach
   Formative Evaluation
   Process Evaluation
   Outcome Evaluation

Infrastructure Development of an AIDS Office within the National headquarters of each partner’s existing organization.

Build Capacity of each national AIDS Office, enabling it to function as trainer/facilitator of local churches and mosques.
Technical support and skills building in following areas: Organizational Development; Program Development; Program Evaluation; Spiritual Application for HIV/AIDS Work; Fiscal Management; HIV Prevention Science; System Development and Coordination; Grant writing & Development; Community Mobilization; Building Partnerships.

Skills building training program will:
1. Strengthen the partnership and networking relationship with faith leaders;
2. Provide a theological framework that supports the development and implementation of faith based HIV programs and services;
3. Discuss the stigma of HIV/AIDS and develop strategies on reducing its impact;
4. Provide training programs in areas that include how HIV works in the body, voluntary counseling and testing and prevention of maternal to child transmission.
2000-2004 Milestones Include:

1. 2020 - Historical Summit of national faith leaders in Tarrytown, NY
2. Establishment of 10 national AIDS offices with the headquarters of Catholic, Protestant and Muslim faith organizations in 5 African Nations.
3. Established HIV/AIDS Advisory Boards within each leadership council to oversee the operations of the HIV office and to liaison with The Balm In Gilead-US.
4. Provided over 600 hours of intensive training to national staff and key leaders of the advisory boards, which included a six week training program in the US in partnership with the Mailman School of Public Health.
6. Completed a faith-focus Needs Assessment within each country.
7. Established key learnings and Best Practices of engaging and building the capacity of Africa’s faith community to address HIV/AIDS.

Cote d’Ivorie

Coalition of Religions Against HIV/AIDS in Cote d’Ivoire (CORAS - CI)

The leadership of the three leading faith organizations in the country requested the Balm In Gilead to establish a new NGO.

A National Coordinating Body for:
• The Eglise Pentecoste Church
• The Eglise Methodist Church

Development of Service delivery Systems at the local level through the churches had begun.

Never before had these groups worked together!

2004

CDC-Cote d’Ivoire

Focus on HIV & Sex Workers. DID NOT CONTINUE To Fund This Initiative.

Kenya

Three National AIDS Offices Established

The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK)

The Eastland Pentecostal Pastors Fellowship (EPPF)

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM)

Working together for the first time! Anglicans, Muslims and Pentecostals!

Development of Service delivery Systems at the local level through the churches had begun.

2004

With full requests from Kenya officials, including meetings and letters of support from the Ministry of Health and Councils of Bishops and Imams, The CDC-KENYA DID NOT CONTINUE to fund this initiative.

Nigeria

The Interfaith HIV/AIDS Coalition of Nigeria

A historical decision and request to The Balm In Gilead by the national leadership of Christians and Muslims to establish a new NGO with Christian and Muslims working side by side addressing HIV/AIDS.

A legal Faith-Based NGO was established with a constitution, Board of Trustees, and By-laws.

Development of Service delivery Systems at the local level throughout Nigeria in Christian and Muslim communities had begun.

This work was both historical and revolutionary in scope of Christians and Muslims working together. It has become a modified model for other NGOs.

2004

CDC- Nigeria

DID NOT CONTINUE to fund this initiative.

Zimbabwe

Heads of Christian Denominations (HOCD)

Established one national AIDS office within the existing headquarters of HODC, comprised of the leadership of Catholic and Protestant Communities.

*Over 80% of Zimbabwe’s population is Christian.

2004

CDC- Zimbabwe

DID NOT CONTINUE to fund this initiative.
PHASE II: 2004 - 2006: The Balm In Gilead works in partnership with Council of Bishops; Council of Imans; and Council of Religious Leaders to establish a national response to the AIDS pandemic within each country. The Balm In Gilead provides leadership and Organization development that results in the establishment of 9 national HIV/AIDS Offices within the national headquarters of Catholic, Protestant and Muslim organizations.

PHASE III: 2006 -2010: Enhance and Strengthen the Capacity of National Faith-Based Organization, Community Based Organizations and Non-Government Organizations Respond Effectively to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United Republic of Tanzania under PEPFAR.

The Tanzania HIV/AIDS Faith Initiative

**Goal:** The Balm In Gilead will rapidly expand the ability of faith-based and community-based organizations in Tanzania to effectively deliver HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs. The Tanzania HIV/AIDS Faith Initiative will contribute to enhanced indigenous capacity to sustain a long-term and local response to the epidemic, a central imperative of the President’s Emergency Plan of AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), as well as the strategic framework of the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS).

Thematic Areas of The consortium of The Tanzania HIV/AIDS Interfaith Partnership.

**Abstinence and Be Faithful (as of April 2010)**
Working in 9 CDC Zonal regions & Zanzibar: over 35,000 individuals reached; 17,000 youth; 259 community based prevention activities.
Per CDC request, Balm - TZ adapted A Time To Talk or Sasa Tuzungumze for use in Christian and Muslim communities.

**Orphans and Vulnerable Children (as of April 2010)**
Balm - TZ was appointed by the MOH as the lead agent to coordinate and implement OVC activities in Kigoma region comprising four districts. Over 25,000 OVCs have been identified in the Kigoma region. Over 6000 OVC received essential services and 280 community members and householders have been trained to offer direct care.

**HIV Counseling and Testing**
Within a three -month pilot program in the Shinyanga region, over 6,007 persons were tested. Our Church/Our Mosque will be rolled out nationally beginning in 2011.

**Home Based Care (as of April 2010)**
Over 3000 persons living with HIV have received palliative care . TIP provides linkages with ICAP facility-based HBC program. With technical support from Balm-TZ, TIP will start up palliative home based care in Kigoma region in late 2010.

Key Developments

Having established a functional AIDS office within each national faith organization that allowed for the potential HIV service delivery to 98% of the population, The Tanzania HIV/AIDS Interfaith Partnership (TIP) was formed as a program consortium under the leadership and direction of The Balm In Gilead - US.

The Balm In Gilead-Tanzania was established as a legal satellite office in Dar es Salaam, TZ. Over a period of 5 years, knowledge, technical and skill development regarding the mobilization and capacity development of faith communities have been transferred to the Balm In Gilead - TZ. In addition, Balm - TZ has developed strong working partnerships with all public health agencies and is a strategic partner in the implementation public health strategies regarding HIV, TB and malaria. The Balm -TZ, comprised of 99% Tanzanians, was developed to serve as an institutional mechanism linking each national faith organizational structure with the training and capacity development resources of the Balm In Gilead and other international organizations including multilaterals, academic centers and medical organizations, as well as the Tanzania Ministry of Health, TACAIDS, NGOs, and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

With an established, developed AIDS office, each national faith organization begins to receive funding from donors who were previously reluctant to work with faith communities. Continued capacity development and coordination supports the partner’s implementation of other funded activities.

Our Church Lights the Way HIV Testing Campaign, a successful national program targeting African American faith communities is adapted into a Swahili context as: Our Church/Our Mosque Lights the way. This campaign has been designated by CDC-TZ as the most effective HIV testing campaign to date.
PHASE IV - SUSTAINABILITY: 2010-2015: The CDC/PEPFAR awarded a 5 year cooperative agreement directly to The Tanzania Interfaith Partnership (TIP).

The Christian Council of Tanzania, a faith partner of TIP, was awarded a five-year cooperative agreement as the lead agency to build the capacity and management skills of the partners of the Tanzania HIV/AIDS Interfaith Partner (TIP) and immediately scale-up successful community-based operations and work towards the goal of reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania. Over this five year period, it is expected that the four faith partners will form a legal NGO to support and implement public health strategies.

The Balm In Gilead-US was awarded a five-year cooperative agreement to continue the implementation of best practices to scale-up comprehensive prevention and behavior change activities that integrate HCT, HBC, and OVC-related services. Working through its Tanzania office, The Balm In Gilead-TZ will design and support interventions to further strengthen the leadership and management of the four TIP partners, enhance coordination and collaboration between and among Christian and Muslim religious networks, improve the use of data for decision making, and reinforce the capacity of communities to participate in the planning and management of HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

**Prime Deliverables of The Christian Council of Tanzania on behalf of TIP**

- Sub-granting to TIP National Offices
- Direct programmatic report to CDC-TZ/CDC-US
- Progress report to PEPFAR
- Programmatic design: Prevention, Counseling & Testing; OVC, HBC and PLWHA care and support.
- Accountable for targeted results
- Accountable for fiscal management
- Programmatic guidance to TIP partnership
- Develop program synergy and linkages

**Prime Deliverables of The Balm In Gilead-US via Balm - TZ**

- Increase FBO capacity to design, develop and deliver HIV prevention and BCC interventions
- Increase FBO capacity to promote uptake HCT services at the community level
- Increase FBO capacity to manage and implement quality and sustainable HBC services
- Increase FBO capacity to manage and implement comprehensive OVC services
- Increase FBO capacity to administer and sustain existing TIP national HIV/AIDS coordination mechanism

**Today In Tanzania:**

The Tanzania Interfaith Partnership works independently of The Balm In Gilead. The Balm was among the first NGOs to successfully transfer ownership to an indigenous organization to address HIV/AIDS.

The Balm In Gilead continues to be a National Capacity Technical Assistance Provider in Tanzania with a primary focus on faith based HIV Testing and Counseling efforts.