



Organisation of
African First Ladies
Against HIV/AIDS
OAFLA



MEMBERS DIRECTORY
2013-2014



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This directory is sponsored by the UNFPA



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Foreword by the OAFLA President

It gives me great pleasure to present you the second OAFLA Directory which features profiles of African First Ladies and their activities in their respective countries.

As we embark on a new year with a new theme “*Celebrating Ten Years of African First Ladies Initiative in the campaign for ZERO HIV new infection, ZERO discrimination, and ZERO HIV/AIDS related Deaths*”, we must have more aggressive interventions that will save millions of lives on the African continent.

We have come a long way in establishing the OAFLA Secretariat which among other things facilitates internal as well as external information flow. As OAFLA's President establishing a functional Secretariat has been one of my three priorities. The second priority is *the promotion of effective communication, advocacy, resource mobilization and partnerships*. This annual members' directory primarily serves as a communication tool for OAFLA member countries. It serves as an experience sharing forum among members which features not only their successes and best practices but also their challenges in implementing OAFLA activities. I therefore

would like to take this opportunity to request all new OAFLA members to take advantage of this tool to create awareness for your countries programs.

Another priority as president was the revitalization of OAFLA membership, which has improved tremendously. In addition to the founding members, new First Ladies have joined OAFLA meetings with much enthusiasm. Due to the improved attendance of OAFLA meetings, issues are being thoroughly deliberated upon. Moreover, on the occasion of the OAFLA 10 years anniversary, African First Ladies have for the first time, come together in a round table discussion to renew their oath and decide on the strategic direction of OAFLA.

Our aim goes beyond satisfying members' information needs but also those of our current partners as well as our potential partners with whom we have successful discussions in formalizing our relationship. So far formal agreements are being drawn with International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPF), GAVI Alliance, RAND Cooperation, African Union Commission and some UN agencies.

In order to support its activities, OAFLA had launched a fund raising campaign at an event held at the Secretariat's office in October 2012, in the presence of the Diplomatic corps, UN Agencies and other partners. The fund raising event was further strengthened at the 10th anniversary celebration of OAFLA which took place in January 2013 alongside the OAFLA General Assembly. During these initiatives, OAFLA not only managed to raise funds to support OAFLA Secretariat's activities but also created a solid foundation for new partnerships and renewed commitment for future collaboration with existing OAFLA partners. In my efforts to create awareness for OAFLA I travelled extensively introducing OAFLA to potential partners including the All China Women's Federation in Beijing as well groups active in HIV and AIDS in Japan.

OAFLA is looking forward to embarking upon a new era, guided by the Strategic Plan 2014-2018, which in addition to Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) initiatives will also put emphasis on maternal and child health activities. The Strategic Plan will also expand the scope of

OAFLA to accommodate other challenges facing our individual member countries. African First Ladies as women and mothers ourselves, we have expressed that we are committed to contributing to accelerated reduction of maternal and child mortality in the Region by joining the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) launched by the Africa Union Commission in partnership with UNFPA. Let us adhere to our commitment.

I wish you happy reading as you go through the OAFLA Directory 2013/ 2014, which documents the contributions of African First Ladies in alleviating the suffering of their people.

Penhupifo Pohamba



Message from the Executive Director of UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has had a long-standing strategic alliance with the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA), since its creation in 2002. Both our organisations have a common endeavor to address health challenges of African girls and women, especially in the field of HIV/AIDS. Following the July 2010 African Union Heads of States and Government Summit convened in Kampala under the theme “Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa”, OAFLA has made a significant move by including maternal and women’s health as an integral program component along with the on-going HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation program.

Africa has achieved a 41% decline in maternal mortality over the last two decades. Much of this progress can be attributed to the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), which was launched by the African Union in close partnership with UNFPA in 2009. The leadership and involvement of African

First Ladies in the launching of CARMMA and its follow up implementation is instrumental to the progress.

To date, 38 member states have launched CARMMA and the campaign has given high visibility to the cause of maternal health in Africa by raising awareness, high level political commitment and country ownership. Since then, African First Ladies have been playing a very critical role during national launches of the campaign and contributed towards improving maternal and women’s health in Africa by supporting efforts to ensure that “no woman should die giving life”. To encourage member states to accelerate efforts to meet Millennium Development Goal 5 on maternal health, UNFPA and the African Union Commission (AUC) recently co-organized a high level event on CARMMA, which brought together more than 32 Heads of State and Government to recommit themselves to maternal health, including efforts to scale up measures to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Many women are still dying needlessly in Africa and despite the above progress, Africa still has the highest maternal mortality ratio in the world. Efforts to change this have to go hand in hand with better access to education, decent work and health services, including reproductive health services for women and young people, particularly adolescent girls, so they can achieve their full potential and contribute to inclusive social and economic development.

The publication of the members’ directory for 2013-2014 is timely as we commemorate the OAU’s/ AU’s 50th anniversary. It is time to re-energize our commitment to improving the lives of African women and girls. First Ladies can influence policy makers and mobilize key players in pushing the agenda of safe motherhood, promotion of gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence, in the context of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

The right to health is a basic human right. Together, we can improve the health of African women and

girls. Let us intensify our efforts and work together to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.

Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA

Executive Director





About OAFLA

OAFLA's Beginnings

In 2002, thirty-seven African first ladies met in Geneva at a meeting facilitated by UNAIDS and the international AIDS Trust (IAT). As a result of this historic meeting the organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) was established as a collective voice for Africa's most vulnerable people, women and children infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Since then, OAFLA has transformed itself from a forum of ideas to an institution capable of providing the continent-wide leadership needed to bring about change in peoples' lives. With its permanent secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, OAFLA has moved from addressing the symptoms of the HIV/AIDS crisis to the root causes of poverty and the overall inequality of women in the region.

OAFLA's Mission

Cultivate a spirit of solidarity and the exchange of experiences among African First Ladies.

Increase the capacity of First Ladies and other women leaders to advocate for effective solutions to response to the epidemic, as well as against stigma and discrimination in the fight against HIV/AIDS

Develop critical partnerships with international donors and organisations regional and local partners to mobilize resources, raise awareness and develop and support HIV/AIDS prevent treatment and care program.

OAFLA's Objectives

Reduce the stigma and discrimination of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and increase their participation in fighting this pandemic.

Mobilize stakeholder and financial and operational resources at the local, national, regional and international levels to facilitate an expanded response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic

Advocate for the expansion of effective strategies for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and for effective HIV/AIDS treatment



OAFLA Secretariat

OAFLA'S 2009-2013 Strategic Plan

OAFLA 's strategic plan has a broader framework than the first plan to include not only HIV/AIDS but those factors that have an impact on the quality of the lives of women and children.

- Prevention of Mother to child Transmission (PMTCT)
- Caring for orphans and vulnerable children
- Reproductive health
- Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP)
- Safe motherhood
- Preventing gender-based violence
- Preventing early marriage
- Educational opportunities for girls
- Economic empowerment

OAFLA's Priorities

- Prevent new infections in Africa through national campaigns on *ZERO new infections, ZERO stigmatization and ZERO deaths.*
- Promote maternal and child health through the fight of HIV and AIDS by engaging in family planning and child immunization projects and programs for example.
- Contribute to the therapeutic management and socio-economic support for people infected and affected by HIV, through gender quality advocacy, economic empowerment of women and access to antiretroviral drugs.
- Strengthening the capacity of OAFLA Chapters, by conducting trainings and workshops to effectively perform their tasks .



From left to right

Fassika Alemayehu, Programme Officer, **Sonia Ndimbira**, Executive Secretary

Nardos Berhanu, Communication Officer, **Esmeralda Vadala**, Finance and Admin Officer

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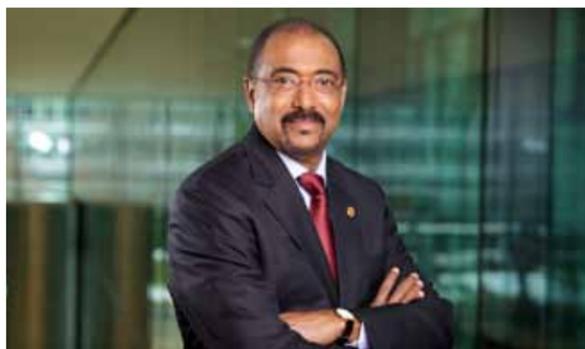
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UNAIDS Message



As we celebrate a decade of partnership with the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA), I would like to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the personal commitment and engagement of the First Ladies of Africa in championing an AIDS-free generation on their continent.

Over the years, OAFLA has expanded its membership and transformed the influence of its esteemed members into bold and concrete initiatives at the national, regional and global levels. Africa's First Ladies have worked tirelessly to strengthen public services, which have resulted in big improvements in sexual and reproductive health; maternal and child health; and HIV services. They have engaged governments, donors, private and public sectors to mobilise resources and implement life-saving services for people affected by or living with HIV.

Africa has made remarkable progress in the AIDS response. In the past ten years the number of new HIV infections has dropped dramatically and access to antiretroviral therapy has expanded significantly.

Such progress was unthinkable a decade ago. But we cannot stop here. We must make sure that these gains do not generate complacency and that AIDS stops being a priority in Africa. We must not forget that sub-Saharan Africa still remains the region worst affected by the HIV epidemic.

I wish to reflect on what our mentor, leader and the great son of Africa, Nelson Mandela said – “Just as the water is about to boil – it is foolish to turn off the

heat”. In terms of Africa's AIDS response, the water is just about to reach to a boiling point. We are starting to see results in many parts of the continent and we must keep the heat on to achieve our goals.

With less than 1000 days to reach the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) we must do better. We ought to have a paradigm shift in the way we position health development and AIDS in Africa. We have to forge innovative partnerships with emerging powers; sharpen our global debates around smart investments and rollout integrated services for people.

UNAIDS recognizes the critical role of Africa's First Ladies in the AIDS response, both in their respective countries and on the continent.

I want to urge African First Ladies as women and mothers to continue to take bold, urgent and concrete actions to respond to the needs of women, girls and young people to pursue our common vision – the renaissance of Africa with **zero new HIV infection, zero AIDS-related death and zero discrimination.**

Michel Sidibé
UNAIDS Executive Director





Republic of Burundi



H.E. Mrs. Denise Nkurunziza

First Lady of the Republic of Burundi and President of OAFLA-Burundi

Ongoing Projects/Activities

The First Lady of Burundi has given her contribution to the national response to HIV/AIDS in accordance with HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan 2007-2012 and OAFLA Strategic National Plan 2009-2013.

1. Campaign on the elimination of PMTCT under the theme “No child should be born with HIV,” under UNAIDS perspective “Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination and zero HIV-related deaths” in collaboration with UNAIDS and senior officials of the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS.
 - Methodology: Visit of the First Lady and other high ranking officials to country’s provinces for advocacy to adhere to the global PMTCT; Distribution of kits (food, non-food items) to HIV-positive women and their infants enrolled in PMTCT programs; Distribution of projection equipment to structures involved in PMTCT programs in the context of World AIDS Day.
 - Link to OAFLA Strategic Plan 2009-2013: Objective 1 (Strategy 1).
2. National information and awareness campaign on family planning under the theme “Controlling population growth in Burundi by repositioning family planning” in collaboration with UNFPA:
 - Methodology: Launch of nationwide campaign by the First Lady through a panel discussion on FP in Burundi; tour of the First Lady in all regions of the country for advocacy and awareness about demographic challenges in Burundi.
 - Link to OAFLA Strategic Plan 2009-2013: Objective 1 (Strategy 2) and Objective 3 (Strategy 2).
3. Campaign to reduce new HIV/AIDS infections in young people under the theme “Treat every child as your own”
 - Methodology: exchange platforms with parents, exchange platforms with women leader, exchange platforms with young people in different provinces; support visits with social distribution of social kits to orphans and other vulnerable children, orphans adoption; support to children requiring transfer for treatment abroad.
 - Link to OAFLA Strategic Plan 2009-2013: Objective 3 (Strategy 1).
4. Actions to support associations and support groups for people living with HIV, the poor and other vulnerable groups
 - Methodology: Support visits with distribution of social kits to poor and vulnerable women, transfer abroad for medical care.



- Link to OAFLA Strategic Plan 2009-2013: Objective 2 (Strategy 3).

Results

- Large population mobilization by high ranking officials for PMTCT under the theme “No child should be born HIV-positive”, according to the global campaign against AIDS and whose goal is” Zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related deaths.” Establishment of a technical committee to monitor the overall plan and of the political committee for PMTCT advocacy



First Lady during the World AIDS Day 2011 at model PMTCT site

- The tour of the First Lady in all parts of the country has inspired high ranking officials, spouses of high ranking officials, parliamentarians, religious leaders, leaders of political parties and the media; A panel discussion on the role of family planning in empowering women was organized by the First Lady in collaboration with UNFPA, UN WOMEN and South Africa.
- The panel discussion on the role of family planning in empowering women was held with the participation of 250 women leaders:

Major Challenges

Major challenges encountered during the program implementation:

- a) Lack of financial resources for implementation, as planned in the action plan, in an environment of domestic and global financial crisis,
- b) Limited access to ART treatment and PMTCT services, especially in rural areas;
- c) No male involvement in programs of prevention of mother to child HIV transmission (PMTCT) for responsible fatherhood and motherhood;
- d) Strengthening family planning to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

Future Actions

OAFLA-BURUNDI continues to take action in accordance with the OAFLA strategic directions and in line with the national strategic plan including, advocacy for a greater awareness, increased resources mobilization, development of leadership. Consultation with other national and international partners remain a key priority for complementarities in the various actions.

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Republic of Chad



H.E. Mrs. Hinda Deby Itno

First Lady of the Republic of Chad
Vice President of OAFLA

The First Lady of Chad holds a Masters in Finance and Accounting from the Institute of Applied Engineering (IGA) of Rabah (Morocco) and an advanced Diploma in Banking and Finance from the Institute of Public Administration and Business Studies (IAEC) of Lome (Togo).

Interests: She enjoys helping others. She always listens to the needy and vulnerable

Introduction

OAFLA Strategic Plan involves all member countries. It is suggested that each country be inspired by it, taking into account its realities, to draft an action plan. It is in this context that the First Lady of the Republic of Chad, Hinda Deby has set up an action plan for the period 2012-2014.

The implementation of this Agenda for the Reproductive Health (RH) of young people, the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV from (EMTCT) and gender-based violence (GBV) was launched in January 17th 2012 and continues. The First Lady of Chad has added to her plan advocacy for women's access to all decision-making instances, economic empowerment of women and young people, as well as other vulnerable groups (people living with HIV, widows, orphans, disabled).

Majors Challenges

- Maintain an optimal level of community adhesion and involvement to the First Lady initiatives in 22 of the 23 visited regions that make up Chad (with an area of 1,284,000 Km²)
- Search and strengthen partnership with any person or entity in order to improve the availability and quality of health services, access of vulnerable groups to financial and material resources

Results

- Social mobilization in favor of all the actions of the First Lady is a reality. The First Lady is, in fact, sought by all stakeholders, without distinction, which contribute to the development of urban and rural populations who are the majority: this is a convincing sign of adhesion to the program of the First Lady
- The series of meetings with midwives begin to produce the desired effect. HIV-free babies were born to mothers with HIV, regularly monitored by PMTCT services
- The best performance of health centers have resulted in a reduction of maternal mortality



and, although we are still far from the goal of “no woman should die giving life “The Assiam Vantou Centre in N’Djamena was even rewarded by the First Lady

- Women hold positions once reserved for men (Director of the Prime Minister Cabinet, Governors of N’Djamena and of regions)

Future Actions / Directions

- Identify any actions that could consolidate the gains of EMTCT, RH and the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA)
- Maintain advocacy at all levels to mobilize both public and private resources in favor of the First Lady actions for the benefit of vulnerable groups
- Continue to advocate for better access of women at decision-making and empowerment
- Provide the necessary support to the African First Ladies Peace Mission

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Union of the Comoros



H.E. Mrs. Hadidja Aboubacar Ikililou Dhoinine

First Lady of the Union of the Comoros

With a background of Advanced Technician in Public Health, Her Excellency, Mrs. Hadidja Aboubacar Ikililou Dhoinine worked at all the levels of the country health system. She has also worked with the UN system particularly with UNFPA.

She is an active advocate of development associations including the Women and Development National Network (RNFD). She is a former Coordinator of the Association of African Women Facing AIDS (AFAFSI), a former President of the Comorian Association for Family Well-Being (ASCOBEF).

HE Mrs. Hadidja has a perfect command of the social and health sector including the area of reproductive health and HIV.

Introduction

The “HALOUITETE Foundation” program for the development and growth of the family is a contribution towards the achievement of the Millennium Development goals including goals 4, 5 and 6 and meets the Declaration of AU Heads of States in Abuja and of several African leaders. It is the translation of the Foundation adherence to New York Declaration of Commitment and to the national strategy against AIDS and family health priorities. Our program revolves around four strategic priorities which are in line with the OAFLA strategies.

1. Preventing mother to child HIV transmission

Awareness campaigns are conducted in the islands with a particular emphasis on men involvement. Prevention tools will be available to young people and a contribution to capacity building of health care providers in PMTCT is considered.

2. Reducing maternal and neonatal mortality
Health facilities will be provided with drug kits, reagents, equipment and small materials.
Weeks of social mobilization will be organized for the health of mother and child
3. Improving the quality of care for PLWHA
CD4 portable meters will be supplied to referring physicians for PLWHA biological monitoring. Nutritional support will be provided to PLWHA.
4. Improving the conditions of women and better protection of children against abuse and violence in Comoros
Awareness sessions to administrative officials, traditional leaders, religious leaders and family heads in rural and urban deprived areas will be organized.
Excellence prizes for deserving young girls from primary, secondary and graduate levels will be awarded.



Supports for the establishment and operation of three counseling centers will be made.

Community-based associations will be trained on psychosocial support of vulnerable and abused children

Outcomes:

Tours awareness on prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child organized by Her Excellency the First Lady in the whole country got the support of the entire population, including women of childbearing age.

The results are well above forecasts.

The First Lady accompanied by wives of vice presidents and Governors of the autonomous islands held panel discussions with women of childbearing age on the following topics: Sexuality and HIV, HIV prevention, condom use and prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child

Future Actions / Directions

1. Upcoming march for the elimination of the transmission of HIV from mother to child,
 - Partners roundtable: national and international.
2. Continuation of the national campaign to eliminate the transmission of HIV from mother to child

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Republic of the Congo



H.E. Mrs. Antoinette Tchibota Sassou-Nguesso

First Lady of the Republic of Congo

Form for the OAFLA directory 2012

H.E MrsAntoinetterTchibotaSassou-Nguesso is a teacher by profession

At the International Level

- President of the African First Ladies Peace Mission against conflicts.
- Member of the organisation of African First Ladies against AIDS (OAFLA).
- President of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Coordinating Committee.
- Member of the Francophone network to fight sickle cell disease (RFLD/SOUTH DEVELOPMENT).

At National Level

- President of the OYO national workshop on recovery of the education system (RENATO).
- President of the 'Fondation Congo Assistance (FCA)'

Format of the program page

"HIV prevention among women and girls in urban and rural areas in the Republic of Congo"

This project developed in partnership with UNDP office in Congo is dedicated to mother and child

theme in general with particular emphasis on the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in the context of HIV and AIDS, towards the elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV (EMTCT) by 2016 to achieve the MDGs 2, 4 and 5. This project is being implemented since 2008 in the four departments of the Congo: West Cuvette, Plateaux, Pool, Lekoumou.

The project activities are aligned with the national strategic framework for the fight against HIV and AIDS in order to help the country achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on HIV/AIDS.

Majors Challenges

Extension of the project in the 12 regions of the Congo so as to contribute a bit to reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV and AIDS in order to eliminate the transmission of HIV from mother to child.

Results

- Eighty-six (86) peer educators trained
- Eight hundred (800) women's awareness sessions organized
- Ten thousand thirteen (1013) women sensitized on HIV/AIDS



- 43 social communication sessions organized
- 4240 condoms distributed: 2880 male and 1360 female.
- 6835 leaflets on HIV/AIDS distributed
- Two (2) prevention centers for women and girls are operational
- Three support NGOs enhanced
- Four hundred (400) women develop income-generating activities for empowerment
- 80% of micro-credit repaid by the beneficiaries

Future Actions

Extension of the project with the integration of screening, family planning and EMTCT across 15 Congo border sites, in seven (7) regions: West Cuvette, Plateaux, Pool, Lekoumou, Likouala, Sangha and Kouilou.

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Republic of Equatorial Guinea



H.E. Mrs. Constantia Mangué Nsue Okomo De Obiang

First Lady of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea
Steering Committee Member for the Western Region

H.E. Mrs. Constantia Mangué Nsue Okomo De Obiang has a BA from BA, Luther King University School of Teaching, Malabo, 1970 and a Doctor Honoris Causa, Universidad Interamericana de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Her Excellency is:

- Founding President of the NGO CANIGE (National Committee to support children in Equatorial Guinea).
- Honorary President of ASONAMI (National Association of people with disabilities).
- President of the National Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Patron of the National Program of Reproductive Health

Introduction

1. Awareness Program to prevent HIV among girls and women
2. Prevention of mother to child Transmission of HIV Program
3. Program for the economic empowerment of women

Challenges

- Maintain the sustainability of achieved results
- Lack of skilled human resources

Results

- Over 240 Peer Educators (female civil servants, youth and students) trained at the national level,
- Several public animation sessions in some areas with the involvement of these trained youth and women.
- About 1890 women traders have received credit
- Approximately 1000 patients have received treatment for 2 months

Future Outlook

- Implementation and launch of the National Program for the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV
- Meeting with women traders



Meeting with women traders

Technical Advisors

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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



H.E Mrs. Roman Tesfaye

First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Steering Committee Member for the Eastern Region

H.E Madam Roman Tesfaye has a B.A in Economics, an MA in Economics and MA in Organisational Leadership. H.E Madam Roman has undergone among others a number of training on the issues of:

- child rights school and classroom management
- mediation in the context of human rights
- rights based approach and gender mainstreaming and result based management
- gendermainstreaming
- women in leadership and early childhood development
- anti-poverty issues
- civil service reform strategic planning and change management
- HIV/AIDS mainstreaming
- macro-economic planning:two gap model

H.E Madam Roman Tesfaye served in the Ethiopian human rights commission as a director for monitoring research and advisor on issues of human rights. H.E had a passion in serving women and children by taking on the responsibility of a department head for children and women and disabled persons, women's Policy and strategy at the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

As an academician, H.E Madam Roman served as a lecturer, advisor of female students' campus life and administrative board member at the Arbaminch University

H.E Madam Roman Tesfaye served as:

- a vice chairperson for the National review board of HIV/AIDS FUND,
- vice chairperson of the board of the circus Ethiopia for youth and cultural development
- governing board member of south development association and member or capacity building standing committee of regional parliament

Accomplishment

H.E Madam Roman coordinated and participated on monitoring and reporting of prisons of the whole country, monitoring of human rights situations in primary and secondary schools, labor rights, women and children rights of various institutions etc.

Moreover, H.E Madam Roman was actively engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS by

- conducting training for members of four organisations on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming in the government institutions,



- coordinating HIV/AIDS mainstreaming in the bureau of finance and economic development
- serving as a chair person for the National Review board of HIV/AIDS FUND

Passionate to support the Youth, the First Lady served as vice chairperson of the board of the circus Ethiopia for Youth and cultural development.

Interest Areas

H.E Madam Roman is passionate about projects related to HIV prevention and rehabilitation of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

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H.E. Mrs. Sylvia Bongo Ondimba

First Lady of the Republic of Gabon

About the First Lady

HE Mrs. Sylvia Bongo Ondimba entrepreneur, wife of President Ali Bongo Ondimba since 1989 became the First Lady of Gabon after the inauguration of her husband to the Presidency of the Republic, 16 October 2009. In January 2011, she created the Foundation Sylvia Bongo "For the Family," which priority actions are the education of youth, women rights and advancement and social inclusion of vulnerable people.

Introduction

The "ACN without AIDS" has contributed to the prevention of HIV transmission among young people, thanks to a strong awareness creation on the occasion of the African Cup of Nations in January 2012. This campaign gave birth to another campaign, scheduled for May 2013 "Women against AIDS"

Major Challenges

- The young population is the most exposed to the AIDS virus in Gabon.
- Difficulty to educate young people in a effective way without guilt-creating and professorial discourse
- Need to adopt the language and codes of youth to communicate and be heard.

Republic of Gabon



Methodology

Taking advantage of the widespread mobilization around the CAN, the third largest event in world football, Sylvia Bongo Ondimba Foundation for the family launched a broad campaign against AIDS supported by a strong message: "CAN without AIDS 3-0 , zero transmission, zero deaths and zero discrimination. "

"CAN without AIDS" was for three weeks, a major campaign: urban display, audiovisual interactive, direct communication with the people, information booths and distribution of goodies and condoms, awareness and free screening free caravans, etc.. Two iconic footballers, Samuel ETO and Didier OWONO EBANG, committed themselves and participated in events.

The campaign was carried out in partnership with a range of organisations. 31 days of awareness have been made in the areas of Libreville and Franceville through the combined efforts of 200 volunteers from the Pan African Organisation for Health (OPALS) and the Gabonese Red Cross.

Results

- 215,000 people sensitized
- 488,800 condoms distributed;
- 2100 people anonymously screened for free;
- 36.9% of respondents said they have changed their behavior after the campaign



Future actions / Directions

To capitalize on this success, the Foundation launched a new campaign from May 2013: "Women against AIDS" with Mother/Daughter as line of communication and by reusing codes and mechanisms of "Can not AIDS" that have worked

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Republic of The Gambia



H.E. Mrs. Zineb Yahya Jammeh

The First Lady of the Republic of The Gambia

Profile

As the First Lady of the Republic, Her Excellency Madam Zineb became engaged in various humanitarian/charitable organisations and activities targeted at the most vulnerable groups of society, women and children. The public role she assumed is due to the encouragement and support of her spouse, who is known for empowering women. In her efforts to significantly improve the lives of many, Her Excellency the First Lady succeeded in changing the lives of numerous women and children.

The "Operation Save-A-Baby" initiative consists of a committee that engages in fund raising activities for the purpose of purchasing requisite equipment that would significantly enhance service delivery within the maternity and neonatal care units such as incubators, wall heaters for pre-term babies and other supplies in hospitals throughout the country. Such an initiative to provide support to the first babies of the year and their families served as motivation to the parastatals and the private sector, that have also become involved. Through the Operation Save-a-Baby initiative, Madam Zineb serves as a role model and strong advocate for the promotion of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation. Given the fact that blood safety is significant in the fight against HIV and AIDS, Madam Zineb aims at achieving 'zero' new infections

for any risks associated with blood transfusions.

Following the establishment of the Organisation of African First Ladies against AIDS (OAFLA) in 2002 in Geneva, Madam Zineb launched the OAFLA Gambia division (OAFLA-GAM) two years later, in 2004. In the national response to AIDS, Madam Zineb ensured that the overall campaign included the empowerment of women and young girls, by providing the leadership and political will required to ensure a positive change in their lives and the improvement of their status. Under Madam Zineb's guidance, significant achievements in ensuring a spirit of solidarity and partnership in the national commitment and fight against HIV and AIDS have occurred.

Using OAFLA-GAM as a medium, numerous programmes and projects were initiated and implemented as well as the strategic plan of (OAFLA) and has been working with partners to prevent the further expansion of HIV and AIDS and related co-morbidity in The Gambia to achieve the targets referred to as the 'Three Zeros'.

OAFLA-GAM has become the leading advocate and sponsor of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) support societies. Support is rendered to these societies in the form of food supplies, frequent visits and strong pronouncements against stigma and discrimination and all forms of violence against women and young



girls. Active participation in major events such as Candle Light Memorial matches and World AIDS Day commemorations, the interaction between PLHIV and Madam Zineb as well as joint declarations made with her spouse to demonstrate solidarity, all resulted in reducing HIV related stigma and discrimination in the country and an increased number of PLHIV support societies across the country.

Embraced as the country's mother figure, Madam Zineb actively participates in and complements the country's national development activities in support of the HIV and AIDS response. Madam Zineb also renders financial assistance to various institutions and organisations and as such, in July 2010 the latter financed and supported the launching of the strategy to accelerate the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. This strategy included the expansion of PMTCT services across the country, ensuring male involvement in PMTCT services and work towards the development of an elimination plan. The launch ceremony was also a celebration of having successfully tested 70,000 pregnant women at the PMTCT sites. It is Madam Zineb's strong conviction that no baby born to HIV positive women should be infected with HIV and all efforts would be made to save the lives of those women.

In the area of maternal and child health, Madam Zineb and her team launched the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) on the 24th July 2010 with the theme "The Gambia Cares: No Woman should Die Giving Life". The objectives of CARMMA are to enhance political leadership and commitment; mobilize action and resources for improved maternal and newborn health outcomes; and raise awareness and appropriate response at all levels, which make significant impacts on the lives of people living with or affected by HIV, women and children.

In a bid to tackle the challenges relative to this killer disease, especially the financial constraints in the country's national HIV and AIDS response efforts, Madam Zineb continues to advocate for increased budgetary allocation from government to meet the increasing demand for services. Equally, she also seeks support from international partners to improve the HIV and AIDS services in the country. Madam

Zineb is determined through OAFLA-GAM, to mobilize support to reach out to more communities in the country.

As a part of Africa's challenges, Madam Zineb supports her spouse in the implementation of the African Union's Roadmap for Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which could be included in every country's national priority plan of action.

During an award ceremony that was held in Amsterdam, Netherlands in November 2012, Her Excellency the First Lady received the prestigious Voice Achievers Award 2012 for "Outstanding African Women Rights" alongside the former President of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda and the new Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Mrs. Fatou Bensouda.

In addition to the above mentioned, Madam Zineb continues to make her modest contributions to the socio-economic development of the country, that has a positive impact on various aspects of the daily lives of all social groups and networks, and within a short period, Her Excellency Madam Zineb Jammeh has proven to become an inspiring figure to all Gambians.

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Republic of Ghana



H.E. Mrs. Lordina Dramani Mahama

First Lady of the Republic of Ghana

Ghana's First Lady has a profound passion for entrepreneurship, empowering the vulnerable and providing opportunities for the needy. She holds a Masters Degree in Governance and Leadership and Bachelors Degree in Hospitality Management with certificate in Catering.

The First Lady continues to actively serve as the National President of the Lordina Foundation, a charity and humanitarian non-governmental institution dedicated to orphans and the vulnerable whose mission is to support orphanages, women and youth employment, provide vocational skills for the youth and grant scholarship to brilliant but underprivileged children.

As Premiere Ambassador she advocates for the elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and prevention of new infections. She is committed to the elimination of Stigma. Lordina Mahama has vowed to ensure that no child is born HIV positive, dies from the disease or is orphaned because of HIV.

Programmes

"Global Plan" to Eliminate Mother to Child Transmission and Keep Mothers Alive

As Premiere Ambassador for eMTCT, the First Lady will spearhead the second phase of the Global Plan; empowering women and girls, challenging stigma, and helping national and community

leaders understand that the HIV response cannot be separated from the work to improve the health of mothers and children.

By providing women and girls with better tools to protect themselves from HIV and gender based violence, and championing the provision of effective and wide spread service,

- Over 548,000 (64%) of pregnant women in Ghana got an HIV test in 2012 with 70% of those testing positive received treatment.
- A decrease in number of HIV positive pregnant women by 29.2 percent from 2011 to 2012.
- The number of children born with HIV reduced by 6.2 percent from 30,395 in 2011 to 28,508 in 2012.

"Heart to Heart" Campaign

The "Heart to Heart" (H2H) HIV & AIDS Anti-Stigma Campaign was launched in 2011 by HE President John Mahama, when he was Vice President of the Republic of Ghana. The overarching objective of the H2H Campaign is to put a human face to HIV by fronting People Living with HIV (PLHIV) as ambassadors to deepen the knowledge of Ghanaians on the epidemic and stimulate a positive response of Ghanaians towards PLHIVs.



It is also to reduce stigma and discrimination towards PLHIVs by shaping society's response through sharing of life experiences of the ambassadors. There has been overwhelming response to the H2H anti-stigma campaign but there were some doubts about the HIV status of the H2H Ambassadors because they look very healthy. The First Lady is committed to supporting and promoting the work of the H2H ambassadors to eliminate stigma.

"The Lordina Foundation"

The "Lordina Foundation" has been designed to support and to create homes within orphanages in Ghana; a positive and reinforcing environment where children can be nurtured, grow, develop and attain their full potential. Eventually, the foundation will raise funds to provide vocational skills for the youth and grant scholarship to brilliant but needy and underprivileged children.



H.E. Mrs. Mahama on one of her usual visits to an orphanage

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H.E Mrs Mahama cuddles the children at an orphanage she has been supporting for years



Republic of Guinea



H.E. Mrs. Conde Djènè KABA

First Lady of the Republic of Guinea

Mrs. CONDE Djènè KABA is President of the CONDE Djènè KABA foundation for the Promotion of Mother and Child Health (FCDK - PROSMI)

Introduction

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS Program

The implementation strategy of the project focuses on:

- Mainstreaming of PMTCT activities in health facilities offering reproductive health service providing a revised system of ANC;
- Primary prevention in women of childbearing age and their families for the adoption of healthy sexual behaviors and without danger;
- Promotion of Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) among women of childbearing age;
- Renovation and regular supply of ARVs in health facilities, in screening tests,
- Psychosocial, nutritional and medical care of women living with HIV, their children and their families;
- Skills development and service quality;
- Development of a functional system of reference and cross reference.

Major Challenges

Reducing the rate of mother to child transmission of HIV by 80% by end 2015

Results

- Increase the coverage of health facilities in PMTCT services through the establishment of 50 new facilities and the refurbishment of 50% of existing non-operational ones in Conakry and inside Guinea;
- Increase the screening rate of pregnant women attending ANC by 50% to at least 80% by end 2015;
- Increase the coverage rate of pregnant women tested HIV + and who received ARVs for PMTCT from 20% to 80%;
- Psycho social support of 80% of mothers living with HIV and children born to HIV positive mothers.

Way Forward

- Education support to 1000 children born to HIV positive mothers;
- Communities' sensitization to PMTCT adherence
- Nutritional support to children born to HIV positive mothers



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Republic of Mali



H.E. Mrs. Traore Mintou Doucoure

First Lady of the Republic of Mali

H.E Mrs Doucoure has a Medical degree in Physiotherapy in Algeria (1965 - 1970) and diploma of Midwife from Health High School (1962 - 1965)

Professional Experience

- Technical Advisor to the Prime Minister in charge of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Development and Solidarity, Ministry of Promotion of Women, Children and Family and Ministry of Education: 1992 - 2006
- Technical Advisor in charge of migrants' reintegration in the Ministry of Malians Abroad: 1991 - 1992
- Member of the national team of health training: 1977 - 1991
- Director of Studies of the Health Specialization Center 1983 - 1991
- Chief Directorate of Health and Social Planning: 1977 - 1983
- Professor of Physiotherapy in the rehabilitation center for the physically handicapped (CRHP): 1972-1974

Associations

Founder and President of the Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) ADAP MALI (Association for Populations Development and Activities / Mali

Express Bio of Madame Traore Mintou Doucoure

Specialist of physiotherapy, Ms. Traore Mintou DOUCOURE has practiced for many years in various health centers before being called in the High Malian administration as a technical advisor to the Prime Minister's Office. For sixteen years at the Prime Minister's Office, Ms. Traore took charge of health, social affairs, women's affairs and education departments.

The First Lady of Mali is a very committed political activist and a key player of women and youth development and empowerment. In 1987 she created a NGO called Association for Development and Activities on Population (ADAP/MALI) which work in different fields, such as:

Health: HIV/AIDS, child immunization, nutrition, maternal and child health, reproductive health,

Education: construction and equipment of schools, schooling for children and girls, female literacy;



Women and youth economic empowerment: income-generating activities, market gardening, small development projects;

Training in management of women and youth

IEC Campaign (information, education, communication) on social evils: AIDS, female circumcision, forced marriage, etc.

A big-hearted woman and a woman of action, Ms. Traore is deeply concerned by today's precarious living conditions of displaced Malian populations in West African region as a result of a war triggered by terrorists and drug traffickers in Northern Mali. She feels a lot of empathy especially for the disabled.

She is the mother of two boys and three girls and grandmother of several grandchildren.

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Republic of Mozambique



H.E. Mrs. Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza

First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique

Profile of the First Lady

Maria da Luz Dai was born in Manica Province, on February 5, 1953. Completed Her primary education in the country. In late 1969, Maria da Luz Dai, moved with Her family to Malawi, fleeing from Portuguese colonial rule. From there they headed to Tanzania (Tunduro), where She worked as a teacher in the Secretariat and the Educational Center. In January 1974, Maria da Luz married FRELIMO veteran, now President of the Republic of Mozambique, Armando Emilio Guebuza.

Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza served as Secretary to the first Minister of Education after independence and worked in the Secretariat of the largest women's organisation in the country, the Organisation of Mozambican Women (OMM). Continued Her studies after national independence (25 June 1975) and in 1992, graduated in Biology from the University Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo. She worked at the Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Action, playing the role of Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity, participating in various conferences nationally and internationally.

In 2004, Maria da Luz participated actively in the election campaign that elected Her husband to the presidency of the Republic of Mozambique. And since then, Madame Guebuza performs Her

activities in the Office of the First Lady, an institution subordinated to the Presidency, established to support the President of the Republic in the social and cultural areas.

As part of Her activities, Maria da Luz participated in several campaigns and lead a number of initiatives related to the prevention and fight against HIV & AIDS and the promotion of maternal and child health, including:

- The campaign "Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS", launched jointly with the UNICEF, the National Council to Combat AIDS, Ministry of Women and Social Welfare;
- The National Program "Window of Hope", which aims to protect children aged from 10 to 14 years against HIV infection;
- The campaign "No Child with Malaria," in coordination with the Ministry of Health, which aims to prevent and combat malaria, with higher incidence in children under five and pregnant women;
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health launched several campaigns highlighting the i) National Partnership for the Promotion of Maternal, ii) Newborn and Child Health, iii) National Family Planning Strategy and iv) National Campaign Against Chronic Malnutrition;



- Participation in various advocacy campaigns internationally, including most importantly: i) International Conference on Family Planning - Policy Dialogue On "Youth Access to Contraceptives in Africa, held in Dakar in Senegal; ii) Call to Action for Child Survival held in Washington in the United States, iii) the conference of the African First Ladies Development in Pretoria in South Africa.

Recognizing the crucial role of literacy to empower women and to increase national wealth, Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza launched, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNESCO, the advocacy and awareness campaign and resource mobilization for literacy (Masma), with the theme "Literacy as a tool for poverty reduction in Mozambique".

Maria da Luz is "National Champion for Maternal Health", title conferred on by Her Excellency Mrs. Sarah Brown, Former First Lady of England and leader of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, as recognition of Her role in improving Maternal and Child health in Mozambique.

In recognition to the work She performs in improving lives of Mozambicans, Her Excellency Dr Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza, received various international awards: i) 2009 Global Health Award assigned by the Global Health Council in Washington DC, United States of America, ii) the Prix de la Fondation 2009, awarded by the Crans Montana Forum in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium, iii) the title of "Doctor Honoris Cause in Humane" by the United Graduate College and Seminary, from the United States of America, in Maputo in 2010.

Due to Her tireless commitment to the vulnerable population's cause and Her permanent tours to the country, staying overnight in the villages with the population and local leaders, Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza is recognized as "beloved Daughter of the Mozambican people, and Mother of the Nation".

The First Lady's Office and its structure

The Office of the First Lady of Mozambique works with 13 technicians assigned to different working areas, namely Social Affairs and Advocacy, Administrative and Finance Department, International Affairs and protocol.

The interventions with communities are fulfilled through the articulation of Spouses of Provincial Governors. And thematically there is a strong coordination in the design and implementation with sectoral ministers such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Social Welfare to name few, and so on until the most peripheral level of governance.

The First Lady's Office counts also with a series of collaborative professionals from different areas, to support the design and implementation of various initiatives headed by the Office.

In November 2010, the First Lady of Mozambique created an NGO, the "INSTITUTO CRIANÇA NOSSO FUTURO" (Institute Children, Our Future), a promising NGO with a mission to pursue the objectives of the campaign "Our Children's Future."

Geographical areas of interventions

The work is performed in all 11 provinces of Mozambique, and since the term began in 2005, the First Lady's Office activities covered about 99% of the 128 districts of the country.

Projects currently running

- Promotion of women and children's health by implementing family planning and HIV prevention and PMTCT projects
- Promotion of breast feeding campaigns
- Promotion of Literacy and Adult Education movement
- Support of social protection of vulnerable groups: orphans, the elderly and people with disabilities
- Promotion of life skills in adolescents and young population
- Support to projects for training and self-employment of the youth
- Promotion of the project "I like to read"

Challenges

- Strengthen the capacity of services to increase access to health care
- Increase access of women and girls to education



- Promote and defend the rights of the child and of the layers in a situation of vulnerability as women, the elderly and the disabled
- Raise the financial and technical capabilities to cover more communities, offering more services and of high quality

Good Practices:

I. Defending equal access to resources

H.E Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza, First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique, defends that the existence of the legal framework promoting gender equality on access to Land, should enhance the awareness and attitude of every Mozambican citizen for equality. Madame Guebuza stated that the legal framework has emerged as a Government response to eliminate the vulnerability to which women were subjected in respect to unequal rights and opportunities in the country.

“The process of economic and social development in the country favours more equality in the access to resources and derived benefits”, said the First Lady of the Republic, Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza during Her visit to Nampula Province, where Her Excellency interacted with the communities and their Leaders. To support this assertion, da Luz referred to the Land, Labour and Family Laws which advocates gender equality. The Land Law, calls for equal rights between men and women regarding succession and the use and enjoyment of that resource. On the other hand, the Labour Law also provides for equal treatment, remuneration and career progression, in addition to ensuring conditions for women on maternity leave for 60 days and a specific time for breastfeeding, She said.

Speaking about the role of women in social development, the wife of the President said that although in the past women have been educated to serve and to be inferior to men, in the late nineties, this scenario began to change and the visible result today is that they occupy positions of leadership in the country. In this regard Dr. Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza said that twenty-eight percent of ministerial positions are held by women. Thirty-eight percent of the Members of Parliament are women, to mention few examples.

II. Matrimony as one of the tools to promote family protection



The First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique promotes, on Her social activities, cohesion and protection of the family. On this regard HE Dr. Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza attended the collective marriage ceremony of a total of 18 veteran couples, an initiative undertaken by the in collaboration with the Association of the Combatants of the National Liberation in Nampula Province.

At the wedding ceremony the First Lady of Mozambique, praised the initiative and motivated the couples to continue as an “example in the constitution of the family, which is one of the rights that our free and peaceful Nation defends and promotes” said Madame Guebuza.

III. Khavela Maputo: The revitalization of sport

One of the main challenges that HE Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza had taken is the protection of children, adolescents and youth, establishing initiatives that helps this groups to stay in schools as well as to create life skills and abilities. One of the initiatives is the so called” Khavela Maputo” a commendable sport’s project, which is not only interesting, but because it is undoubtedly a model to be followed for the revitalization of sport amongst adolescents and youth.

Under this project, HE Maria da Luz Guebuza, supports the role of the teachers work in schools, but not only on attracting more children aged eight to 14 years in the area of pedagogical influence, as well as identifying the best scholars to create a team which will compete at the annual festivals, that takes place every year in Mozambique.



The first phase of Khavela Maputo, which means moving the ball, will last 10 years, focusing on training, popularization and improvement of sports infrastructure and is expected to contribute to the increase in the number of clubs and the quality of the athletes.

”As Khavela produces talent, they will be integrated into the clubs. In this way there will be more coordination between the Government, the business sector and sports clubs”, said the Provincial Director of Youth and Sports, at the launching of the Project. With this program the province of Maputo will take the lead in the formation of talent at national level.

To materialize the project, the Provincial Department of Sports and Youth has created training centers for athletes in all districts of the Maputo City Province, through school clubs. Trained and prepared community monitors who were dispersed, now have been brought together in a core group.

IV. First Lady seeks support for the health sector



The First Lady, Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza, was the chief guest to the fundraising ceremony for the purchase of medical and hospital equipment for the country, an event sponsored by the CURE Project and which was held in Denver (Colorado) in the United States at the end of 2012.

The participation of the First Lady results from the partnership between her Office and Rio Tinto Mozambique and about 2,000 people took part in this initiative.



It was the social work to the far corners of the country that was carried out by the First Lady, Maria da Luz Guebuza, which drew the attention of CURE Project, a U.S. nonprofit organisation that works in the hospital sector. In the city of Denver, Colorado, Maria da Luz attended several meetings in search of partners and solutions that can help reduce the number of deaths of women and children in Mozambique, some of which caused by the lack of health facilities in their areas of origin.

It was also through the visit to the CURE Project warehouses, which lasted for a little more than two hours, in which Da Luz officially received the hospital equipment raised by more than 15 thousand volunteers, among young people and the elderly.

The hospital equipment and materials collected in several cities of the State of Colorado will be shipped to Mozambique earlier in 2013 in ten 40-foot containers.

V. First Lady brings warmth hand and solidarity to those affected by the floods

The heavy rain that flooded Mozambique earlier this year resulted in the Southern province of Gaza in almost 140,000 people who have fled their homes and found refuge in the provisional shelters that were created. At the provisional shelter of Chihaquelane, where the victims of the floods in the town of Chokwe were concentrated, the scenery was dramatic. The desperation of these people was visible. There was lack of everything: no water, food, latrines, tents and mosquito nets in sufficient quantity. People were living under trees, some with nothing to eat or to cover at nightfall.

The wife of the President of the Republic of



Mozambique visited Chihaquelane and those affected, She walked through the provisional shelter, learned about the functioning of the health centres, children care, visited the tents of the elderly and the newborns, dialogued with anonymous people and listening to their concerns.

To some extent, it can be said that the victims of the floods felt really comforted and this was Maria da Luz Guebuza major objective, in visiting the shelter, that is, to convey a message of comfort and hope.

Speaking to those affected, Maria da Luz Guebuza advised the population to follow the warnings and alerts by the authorities and take care of children, pregnant women and the elderly properly. "Despite the situation you are in, parents should ensure that children continue studying," said the First Lady of Mozambique, and added that "you should have courage and hope to rebuild everything you have lost."



VI. Africa United Against Cervical Cancer

The First Lady of Mozambique, Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza, attended the 6th Conference Stop Cervical Cancer in Africa, which reflected on the measures to combat Cervical Cancer in Africa, held in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

Invited to make a speech, HE Maria da Luz Guebuza, began by praising the commitment of the promoters of the initiative who have worked hard in disseminating information about the disease, stating that "cervical cancer is the most common and leading cause of cancer mortality in women in underdeveloped countries". Madame Guebuza noted that 80 percent of the cervical cancer cases diagnosed

in the largest hospitals in Mozambique are in an advanced stage, therefore having little chance of a successful outcome.

In order to improve women's access to healthcare, Mozambique has created an integrated care for women at reproductive age, a service that includes screening of cervical and breast cancer during the family planning consultations. This service allows women who test positive, and are in the early stage of cancer, to receive timely treatment on the same day. By the end of 2014, we expect to expand these services in about 100 health facilities at a primary level, and to install a unit of reference for each of the 11 provinces of the country, Guebuza said.

At the 6th Conference held in Lusaka, Mozambique was appointed to host the 7th Stop Cervical Cancer in Africa, which will take place from 21-23 July, 2013, in Maputo. Accepting the challenge to host such enormous and prestigious Conference, HE Dr. Maria da Luz Dai Guebuza emphasized that "We as a mothers, will be diligent in the struggle, seeking solutions and alternatives for improving the living conditions in our communities, promoting higher access to health services".

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Republic of Namibia



H.E. Mrs. Penhupifo Pohamba

*First Lady of the Republic of Namibia
OAFLA President*

Her Excellency, Madame Penhupifo Pohamba advocates for the empowerment of women and children to enable them to make a meaningful contribution to the development of society as well as fighting for the eradication of gender based violence and other forms of injustice against women. Mrs. Pohamba is a registered nurse. She was trained in midwifery both in Tanzania and Jamaica and practiced as a midwife and has served as a registered nurse for nearly 35 years until she became First Lady in 2005. She is a mother of 5 children and has 4 grand children.

Madame Pohamba is:

- Namibia's Patron of Maternal and Child Health and is the Champion for the Prevention of the Transmission of HIV and AIDS from mother to child.
- Patron of NAMPHARM Foundation, a foundation caring for children born with Clift pallets and other facial disorders.
- The Founder and Patron of the Organization for Empowerment of Widows and Widowers and Orphans of HIV and AIDS in Namibia (OEWONA). OEWONA has enlisted more than 10 000 Widows, and Widowers and Orphans of HIV and AIDS who benefit from the organization.

- Founder of Mukwamhalanga Tukondjeni Community Trust, a trust focusing on empowerment of rural women in Namibia.
- She is also serving as an honorary member of the Shafallah Centre for Children with Special needs based in Doha, Qatar.
- She is a member of RAND African First Ladies Initiative

1. Advocacy and social mobilization campaigns:

H.E Mrs. Penhupifo Pohamba engages in advocacy campaigns, in collaboration with Chiefs, traditional, religious and other community leaders to address various health and socio-economic issues regarding MCH; HIV and AIDS; reproductive health; teenage pregnancy; vaccine preventable diseases; child upbringing disability; women empowerment and human rights.

Regarding reproductive and family planning, H.E emphasizes on the promotion of universally accessible services to all women in child-bearing age, without any discrimination against HIV positive women, as a cost effective intervention for maternal, infant and child health



2. The Promotion of the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (CARMMA):

As the Patron of the National MCH Agenda in Namibia as well as President of OAFLA H.E Mme Penhupifo prioritizes that her national programmes and projects and those of OAFLA make concerted effort to promote CARMMA to ensure that no women should die while giving life

3. The Promotion of Maternal and Child Health services aiming to contribute to the Government's interventions for accelerated reduction of maternal and child deaths:

H.E Mrs. Penhupifo runs a project to support the construction and furnishing of maternal or birthing shelters. In Namibia, long distances to health facilities, especially in rural areas, is one of the three delays which are contributing factors to maternal and child mortality.



Pregnant women waiting to deliver

The practice which helps many pregnant women to receive timely professional obstetric care is for them to stay in birthing shelters near district hospitals, when it is close to their term.

H.E has supported the renovation and furnishing of two birthing shelters which were initiated by and built with active participation of the local communities.



Renovated waiting shelter

H.E has also sourced funds towards procurement of two outreach vehicles, one ambulance; emergency obstetric care equipment and training of some Health Workers on emergency obstetric care.

4. The Promotion of the Programme for the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT):

H.E Mrs. Penhupifo is gradually launching a PMTCT campaign, in phases, in five regions with the highest HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women in Namibia. The campaign targets mainly male partners to get more involved in PMTCT programmes in particular and in MCH services in general.

5. The Promotion of women empowerment and human rights:

H.E Mrs. Penhupifo promotes gender equality, human rights and women empowerment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Women and Child Welfare in Namibia. H.E's guiding principle is to look at the woman as a whole and have approaches which are more holistic to women's health, wellbeing, peace and development.



Challenges

- Procurement of Medical Equipment and instruments is yet to materialize
- Lack of training funds.
- More funds needed

Way forward

- More District Hospitals Maternal Shelters need to be built.
- Construction of a Pediatric Health Centre or Hospital
- Establishment of recreation centers and development of programmes for the empowerment of the youth

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Republic of Niger



H.E. Mrs. Mahamadou Issoufou

First Lady of the Republic of Niger
Steering Committee Member for the Western Region

H.E Mrs Issoufou is patron of the fight against AIDS in Niger and President of “GURI Vie Meilleure” Foundation. H.E Mrs Issoufou is a chemical engineer by profession and has a Masteras in Subsurface Resources Valuation

Interests

- Preventing mother to child HIV transmission
- Socio-educational and health sector
- Supporting vulnerable populations

Introduction

Niger is a landlocked country located in the heart of West Africa, one of the largest in Africa with an area of 1,267,000 square kilometers. of which two-third in the northern part is a desert, with rainfall varying in space and time, regularly creating deficits in agricultural production and sometimes severe food crises.

The population estimate for 2012 is 16,274,738 inhabitants, of which 80% live in rural areas. Women represent 50.1% of the population.

The extreme vulnerability of the country leads almost to the regular occurrence of emergency situations (food crises, natural disasters) to which the country is not always prepared. These several risk factors contribute to increased health problems

among the population, particularly among the most vulnerable (women and children).

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is very high, of the order of 7.6 children / woman in 2012. This is a consequence of the low level of education and lack of family planning and, as such, has negative implications especially regarding the health of women and children.

The TFR level means a population growth rate of 3.3% / year, one of the highest rates in the world. The overall literacy rate is low at 29% with a rate of primary school enrollment at 56% for boys and 40% for girls in 2012. In addition, the maternal mortality rate is about 554 deaths per 100,000 live births, the neonatal mortality rate is 34.3 % live births, the infant mortality rate is 130.5%. live births, contraceptive prevalence is at 16%, the rate of assisted deliveries at 34%, the coverage against tuberculosis (BCG) 81%, immunization coverage against measles, 66%, and the prevalence of acute malnutrition (P/T) 14.8%.

HIV/AIDS estimates for Niger in 2013:

People living with HIV: 67 466, of which 40 126 (59.5%) are women

Prevalence (15-49 years): 0.7% in 2006

New HIV cases: 5781 of which 3520 (60.9%) are women



AIDS related deaths: 3859 of which 2158 (55.9%) are women

In short, this inventory highlights the high vulnerability of women and children regarding health and survival issues in Niger.

The challenges faced by Niger regarding medical care of both mother and child are important and require a strong mobilization and pooling of resources and energies.

It is in this context that Niger, under the leadership of the President of the Republic, has developed a plan for economic and social development (PDES) for 2012-2015.

The PDES 2012-2015, is part of an overall goal of promoting economic, social and cultural well-being of the population. It mainly aims at accelerating growth and at improving significantly the lives of the Nigerian people.

Mobilization of resources for the implementation of this plan continues and Niger hopes that all partners will align themselves around this strategic plan to support Nigerians out of poverty and to fight disease.

It is in this spirit that GURI BETTER LIFE Foundation was created to help achieve the PDES and bring the Niger out of poverty as reflected in strategic areas, namely, education, environment and particularly the health of both mother and child

Programs / Projects

To cope with the challenges in the area of the mother and child health, Niger has developed several strategic documents, of which the main are “The health development plan” that defines the entire health policy in Niger, “The National Strategic Plan against STD/HIV/AIDS.”

Also for implementing the fight against HIV in women, Niger has also developed a national policy for the prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child and a plan to eliminate the mother to child transmission of HIV.

GURI Foundation has a strategic plan and an action plan, with the main areas being health, education and the environment

To this end, the Foundation has initiated several

projects to fight HIV particularly among women.

Methodology

The mission of the GURI Better Life Foundation is to assist the most vulnerable people in the country, the Foundation intends to intervene across the Niger.

The main strategy being to contribute to the efforts of the Nigerian government, the Foundation made a strong plea for the mobilization of resources, and to do so, prefers to rely on public facilities and community-based organisations.

Major Challenges

- Low mobilization of financial resources
- Low rate of children from parents with HIV monitored
- Low use of HIV support services by women
- Low involvement of partners (husbands) in mother and child health care
- Low involvement of community leaders in the health issues of women and children
- Low enrollment of young people, especially young girls
- Low economic empowerment of women

Results

- Awareness activities to get women to accept the elimination of HIV transmission to the child program
- Donation to women living with HIV
- Donation of micronutrients to support centers of children living with HIV
- Promoting girls' education in several areas

Future Actions / Directions

- Advocacy for greater involvement of community leaders (religious and traditional)
- Advocacy for better integration of RH/HIV
- Offensive for better resource mobilization
- Extension of the school of model husbands strategy in the country



- Better mobilization of affected communities particularly women living with HIV in the response
- Promotion of IGAs and socio-professional integration of girls from disadvantaged backgrounds

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Federal Republic of Nigeria



H.E. Dame (Dr.) Patience Goodluck Jonathan

First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

H. E. Dame (Dr.) Patience Goodluck Jonathan has a B.Sc. in Biology/Psychology from the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She taught in various schools before she ventured into the banking industry where she spearheaded the establishment of the First Community Bank in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, named Akpo Community Bank. Dame (Dr.) Patience Jonathan founded the A. Aruera Reachout Foundation (AARF) in year 2000 to improve the status and earning capacity of the Nigerian women and youths. Since its inception, the Foundation has trained over 4000 women and youth in different skills. The AARF has since extended its focus, and now supports and assists children with heart-related problems through its unit, A. Aruera Heart Foundation. Through her other NGO, the “Women for Change and Development Initiative” founded in July 2010, Dame (Dr.) Patience Jonathan has taken practical steps to bring dignity and respect to women and girls in Nigeria with a mission to advance strategies for gender equality, gender equity and promotion of Affirmative Action principles. Through her campaign and mobilization efforts, Nigeria now has for the first time in its history the largest number of women in the Federal Cabinet. The nation also currently has its first female Chief Justice and many women now hold key positions in the private and public sectors through her mass awareness campaign.

Introduction

A number of activities have been carried out by the Nigerian First Lady through her NGOs, the A.Aruera Reachout Foundation and the Women for Change and Development Initiative. Some of these activities are:

A. Sponsorship of Children with Heart Ailment



H.E Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan presenting gift to one of the beneficiaries of Heart surgery program during the graduation ceremony of her NGO Training School

In December 2012, a batch of 12 children with heart ailments was flown abroad for heart surgery. This is in furtherance of Her Excellency’s promotion of healthy family and healthy nation. When Her



Excellency’s hospital for Women and Children is finally completed, these medical services will be accomplished locally.

B. Poverty Alleviation

The last Christmas/New Year yuletide season provided Her Excellency the usual platform to demonstrate her large hearts and putting smiles on the faces of the indigent members of the society. She visited two orphanages and also hosted disadvantaged persons comprising the physically challenged, the albinos, people living positive, and market women to a food bazaar at the presidential villa during which she distributed bags of rice, vegetable oil, yam and other materials to them. This is aimed at poverty alleviation and ensuring hunger reduction.

C. Graduation of 140 trainees of A.Aruera Reachout Foundation Training School

Her Excellency’s NGO, the A.Aruera Reachout Foundation’s Training School on February 26, 2013 graduated a total of 140 trainees from its batches 9 and 10. The trainees received certificates for completion of training in Tie & Dye of fabrics; Catering; Bead Making, Hat Making and Tailoring. They were also provided with cash and working equipment to enable them start their new businesses. This was in furtherance of Her Excellency’s goal of making women and the youths economically self-reliant.

Challenges

Special attention is required for children with heart ailments. This calls for synergy between government, the private sector and the civil society organisations. Inadequate facility and resources to cope with the large number of applicants that need medical attention and skill acquisition is slowing down progress in these areas.

Results/Achievements

At the moment, 53 children have received heart treatment through Her Excellency’s Foundation. This offers a huge relief to families which naturally could not bear the heavy cost of surgery and treatment abroad. The completion of Her Excellency’s

Women and Children Hospital will contribute to tackling the huge cost and reliance on overseas treatment. Women and the youths are economically empowered and enabled to become useful members of the society. Her Foundation has trained over 4,000 hapless citizens, thereby providing them with legitimate sources of livelihood.

Way Forward

The First Lady has continued to ensure that all stakeholders work together to achieve maximum results in all her programmes. Her office has continued to collaborate with relevant agencies of government and the private sector in pushing her ideas and plans for Nigerian women, youths and children. This approach of tapping into the experiences of experts and technocrats in the areas of her engagements has encouraged the flourishing of her programmes and projects. She will continue to ensure the synergy between her office and relevant stakeholders in making life better for Nigerian women, children and the youths.

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Republic of Rwanda



H.E. Mrs. Jeannette Kagame

First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda

Mrs. Jeannette Kagame, the First Lady of Rwanda, became a founding member of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) in 2002, and served as its President from 2004 to 2006. During her mandate as President of OAFLA, she along with her fellow African First Ladies initiated a continental campaign known as “Treat Every Child as Your Own”. This campaign received the John Thompson “Legacy of a Dream” Award. In 2001, the First Lady founded PACFA (“Protection and Care of Families against HIV/AIDS”), an initiative primarily focused on providing a holistic approach to HIV prevention and care for the whole family.

Over the years, PACFA grew to include projects other than those in the HIV/AIDS domain and in 2007 Imbuto Foundation - which means “seed” in Kinyarwanda - was born. The First Lady of Rwanda Mrs. Jeannette Kagame is the President of Imbuto Foundation; the Foundation is dedicated to the empowerment of Rwandan Youth and consistently advocates for the promotion of girls education. The First Lady is a firm believer that youth are the true agents of change.

Mrs. Kagame, who holds a degree in Business and Management Science, has delivered keynote speeches at numerous national and international fora on various themes including leadership, economics, health, children’s welfare, and women’s empowerment, among others. Mrs. Kagame personifies an active, relentless devotion to

uplifting the lives of vulnerable population in Rwanda, particularly those of widows, orphans and impoverished families.

OAFLA related activities under the Office the First Lady of Rwanda

I. Name of the Programme and Objective:

Family Package – EMTCT: Extends a comprehensive package including basic care and economic support to families living with HIV and AIDS, as a way to contribute to their socio-economic development.

Adolescent Reproductive Health and Rights: Uses schools and health centers as agents of change for adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Mountain Movers – HIV prevention in youth: Improves knowledge, attitude and behaviour of young adolescents, especially girls between 15 – 24 years on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Malayika Murinzi (Guardian Angels): As a continuation of the First Ladies “Treat Every Child as Your Own” campaign, Guardian Angels campaign rewards adults who protect children against HIV/AIDS, break taboos about sex through sexual education and speak out against adults infecting children with HIV virus.



II. Methodology for Implementation

Family Package – EMTCT: Advocacy, training and outreach conducted by peer educators.

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH): Creating and empowering ASRH clubs in schools and peer education approach.

Mountain Movers – HIV prevention in youth: Capacity building of community-based organisations; parent and adolescent communication forums and awareness campaigns.

Malayika Murinzi (Guardian Angels): Public rewarding ceremonies; creating and empowering of Guardian Angel networks.

III. Challenges

1. Sustaining the successes and life of the programmes.
2. Breaking culture of silence with regards to addressing sensitive topics like HIV/AIDS, adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

IV. Results (July 2011-June 2012)

Family Package – EMTCT: 540 peer educators conducted outreach activities on PMTCT/EMTCT, 27 associations provided with funding to start income generating activities, 27 sites are implementing the Family Package; 6 districts are implementing EMTCT interventions.

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH): 100 ASRH clubs have been established in schools and communities; 8,400 adolescents have been empowered with messages.

Mountain Movers – HIV prevention in youth: 450 adolescents and 300 parents brought together in a Parents and Adolescents communication forum to break silence and demystify adolescent sexual and reproductive health. 16,000 youth empowered through ‘Week for True Love’ awareness campaign, which encourages youth to know their HIV status.

Malayika Murinzi – Guardian Angels: 65 Guardian Angels rewarded in 10 public rewarding ceremonies country-wide; 65 cows donated to Guardian Angels to economically empower their families; Guardian Angel networks established in 27 districts.

V. Way Forward

Family Package – EMTCT: Ensure that PMTCT interventions graduate to EMTCT activities through awareness campaigns and peer education.

Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH): The First Lady’s Foundation (Imbuto Foundation) will partner with the Ministry of Health to create a ONE STOP CENTER on ASRH where tools, policies and communication materials will be available for any organisation working in the ASRH area.

Mountain Movers – HIV prevention in youth: Facilitate awareness campaigns and build capacity of community based organisations focused on youth.

Malayika Murinzi – Guardian Angels: Strengthen Guardian Angel networks to be able to care for vulnerable children.

VI. Best Practice

1. The peer education approach is effective in empowering HIV positive clients as well as other vulnerable groups.
2. Rewarding Guardian Angels in public reinforces good deeds and inspires positive behavior in community members.
3. Provision of a comprehensive package whereby families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS benefit, has been a highly successful approach to tackle HIV/AIDS

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Republic of Senegal



H.E. Mrs. Marème SALL

First Lady of the Republic of Senegal

The First Lady of Senegal, Mrs Marème SALL created the foundation “SERVING SENEGAL” with a view to improve the lives of its most disadvantaged citizen.

As a First Lady, she is committed to serve the Senegalese in general and the poor in particular.

Aim of the foundation “SERVING SENEGAL”

Contribute to the economic and social promotion of Senegalese and the advent of a Senegal of prosperity and well-being.

Mission of the Foundation “SERVING SENEGAL”

- Promoting social action in favor of the poor and vulnerable populations
- Encourage associations, non-governmental organisations and all private initiatives for these populations.
- Raise awareness of population on economic, social and citizen issues;
- Contribute to take care of the challenges in the areas of health, education, training, employment, hydraulics (access to drinking water), energy, environment ...
- Supporting people with disabilities
- Fight against poverty and misery

AIDS-specific challenges

- Advocacy for eliminating mother-child transmission of AIDS virus (EMCT)
- Support to orphans and vulnerable children

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H.E. Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma

First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Sia Nyama Koroma is the wife of Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, the 4th democratically elected President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. She has two daughters, namely Alice and Danke.

Office of the First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone

The Office of The First Lady (OFL) was created in 2007 by Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma. This is the first effective office of a First Lady in the history of Sierra Leone and Mrs. Koroma is recognized as an international and national advocate on health issues. She is a pioneer. Through challenging times she demonstrated qualities of patience and quiet perseverance which has enabled her to establish this significant and functioning office in Sierra Leone. The primary role of the Office of the First Lady is to compliment the work of the President and the Government of Sierra Leone.

The Office of the First Lady advocates for the reduction of maternal and child mortality issues in Sierra Leone through the Women Initiative For Safer Health also known as WISH. The WISH project is the vehicle by which the Office of the First Lady hopes to strategically contribute in the reduction of maternal and child morbidity and mortality by focusing on the emergent need to change people's lives by offering them better health choices, better

Republic of Sierra Leone



access to health facilities and training for health workers operating closest to the areas of need.

Apart from the WISH Project, the Office of The First Lady has also developed the FLAXIS Project which focuses on behavioral change and civic educational for the school children in Sierra Leone. FLAXIS is the acronym for First Lady's Attitudinal Change In Schools.

Her interventions and strategies are mainly complimentary to the efforts of the national government.



Interventions of the First Lady

- Advocacy on reproductive, child and sexual health issues
- Community sensitization among Religious, Traditional and Young Leaders emphasizing the repositioning of family planning and campaigning for the prevention of teenage pregnancy and early marriage
- Use of popular musical artists to spread the message to our vulnerable children and mothers.
- Engaging in the construction and equipping of Birth Waiting Homes/Resource Centers. These centres will improve comprehensive HIV prevention programs and expand access to care related services for pregnant women. Women can learn their status, accessing essential care if positive, and receiving information on ways to protect themselves if negative.
- Renovation/Rehabilitation of rural hospital (Matru Jong Hospital)
- Use of mobile phones for positive bulk messaging
- Engaging in behavioural interventions – Examples of these interventions include correct and consistent use of condoms, proper testing and reduction of alcohol use
- Provision of nutritional packs for HIV infected mothers that help to improve their health and quality of life.
- Currently engaged in the establishment of a functional dialysis unit in the nation. This is in collaboration with the Ministry of Health
- Provision of baby packs to encourage institutional delivery
- Provision of scholarships to students in Secondary and Tertiary institutions
- In the process of producing textbooks and manuals on Attitudinal Change and Civic Education which will be inculcated into the school curriculum

Mrs Koroma is also engaged in several philanthropist and charitable aspect namely;

Distribution of books, educational materials, computers, sewing machines, used clothing/blankets to the old and needy; organize children's party for the less privileged kids every Christmas, promote and distribute agricultural tools and seeds to women farmers and distribute medical drugs and hospital equipment to hospitals across the country among others.

Introduction

On November 2008 the First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone Mrs Sia Koroma launched her campaign "Women Initiative for Safer Health" (WISH) with the overall purpose of significantly reducing the maternal and child morbidity and mortality in Sierra Leone. Since then the First Lady, through the WISH Programme, has been delivering a collection of activities together with key partners and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation focusing on enhancing the provision of health service delivery to mother and child. These activities, over the years cumulated into a comprehensive package of support for ensuring safer health outcomes for individuals, groups and communities in poor and vulnerable communities in Sierra Leone.

In 2008, the prevalence of HIV in the general population was 1.5% (SLDHS 2008) having remained stable since 2005. The HIV prevalence among pregnant women dropped from 4.4% in 2007 to 3.2% in 2009 (NACP 2009). Voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) sites and the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services have been scaled up nation-wide through the efforts of the First Lady's advocacy role in scaling up the PMTCT by distribution of baby packs to and establishing a strong partnership with National AIDS Response Programme.

Implementation constraints, lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained from evaluations and studies that have taken place in the course of the quarter.

- Mobilize resources to Complete Matru Jong Hospital as a centre of Excellence



- Lessons Learnt increased commitment from TRLs in community mobilization and advocacy on maternal mortality and F/P issues and promotion of PMTCT at their community level
- Increase political will to address Maternal Mortality issues, scale up CARMMA Activities and Family Planning issues.
- Launching Campaign on “My Right, Your Right, Our Rights: To Give Birth to a Life Without HIV”
- Building Partnership with people living with Network of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone (NETHIPS) and Voice Of Women, which is a group of HIV positive women.

However, access to PMTCT services is still a challenge with limited involvement of TBA'S in PMTCT Programmes in some areas. Male participation in PMTCT has to be encouraged and improved. Finally to continue the fight against stigmatization and discrimination against people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.



Way Forward

- Scale up the preparation and distribution of baby packs to health facilities nationwide.
- Support the establishment of and popularize the community health insurance schemes at district level to ease the problem of referrals.
- Embark on resource mobilization to fence Matru Hospital
- Undertake M/E of TRL Networks and to institutionalize TRL Networks
- Scale up PMTCT campaign nation wide

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Republic of South Sudan



H.E. Mrs. Mary Ayen Mayardit

First Lady of the Republic of South Sudan

Biography:

H.E. Mary Ayen Mayardit is an over two decade freedom fighter, mother, women, children and human rights activist, educationist, women socio-economic empowerment and gender based violence, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS campaigner. As an orphan, the First Lady, was unprivileged in war-ravaged South Sudan and married at a teenage. She soon became an SPLA guerrilla fighter, alongside her husband, in pursuit of freedom and justice for her children and all Southern Sudanese people. Therefore she experienced deprivation of social services such as education, health facilities, adequate food and security during that period, which challenges remain a-rife today. Her passionate desire to improve the situation of women and children in South Sudan inspired her to establish Concern for Women and Children as a charity, humanitarian, non-governmental organization.

Introduction:

Concern for Women and Children (CWC) was established in 2006 by H.E. Mary Ayen Mayardit. It is a National Not-For-Profit, Non-Governmental Organization. CWC and OAFLA are strategically inter-connected in the program components of women, children and human rights advocacy, HIV/AIDS prevention, maternal and infant health and education. CWC is made up of eleven high profile

Executive Board members who are appointed by the First Lady of South Sudan. Their ethnic composition is representative of the three Greater Regions of South Sudan. The organization has an Executive Director, doubling as Secretary to the Board, who oversees its day to day operations at the Secretariat. He is supported by a Programmes Coordinator and Finance and Administration Officer.

Vision: A future for all women and children of South Sudan which promotes a united democratic peaceful and prosperous society.

Mission: To mitigate the suffering, injustice and poverty by empowering women and supporting children to build secure, productive and improved political and socio-economic environment.

Strategic Goal: To improve the social, economic and political status of women and children, in the Republic of South Sudan by 2015

Country Programs:

Health – sexual and reproductive health, maternal and infant health education and services and HIV/AIDS prevention education and services.

Education – promotion and advocacy of girls' education, provision of formal and informal/ alternative adult education facilities and services (construct, equip and operate).



Research and Advocacy – research and influence women and children policy in South Sudan and carry out advocacy / campaigns on women, children and human rights at national and state level

Women Economic Empowerment – vocational training on business and entrepreneurship causes and provision of micro-credit / micro-finance to organized women cooperatives; focus is placed on agriculture.

Methodologies:

Implementation is done with the involvement of all programmatic stakeholders; from the community level, central, state and local governments, UN agencies, international organizations, development partners and donors. The involvement of these stakeholders is from assessments, planning, design, implementation, M&E to reporting and program/ project closure

Challenges:

Technical and financial resources.

Results/ Achievements

Launched national girls Education day

Pushed through, 2011 National Girls Education Act

Pushed through 2010 Child Act

Way Forward:

Construction, equipping and operationalize the National Model Primary Girls Boarding School

Women Research, Advocacy and Training Inst.

Women Referral Hospital and Midwifery Training Center



Pushed through, 2011 National Girls Education Act

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United Republic of Tanzania



H.E. Mrs. Mama Salma Kikwete

*First Lady of the United Republic of Tanzania
Steering Committee Member for the Eastern Region*

Her Excellency Mama Salma Kikwete, the First Lady of the United Republic of Tanzania, wife of President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete and WAMA Foundation's Chairperson is an ardent believer in empowerment of women and disadvantaged children; issues she has made her life time commitment.

She has more than 20 years experience as a teacher and firmly believes that success in education and health are fundamental principles in unlocking any potential in human beings. She is fully aware that development in education and health are key factors in liberating Tanzania and Tanzanians from the three nationally recognized enemies -Ignorance, Poverty and Disease.

She led fellow women leaders in 2006 to create an organisation named Women in Development (WAMA), a vital umbrella under which many issues and challenges facing needy communities in Tanzania have been and continue to be tackled. It is a non-profit organisation committed to increased number of economically empowered women, working towards progressive communities, and educating healthy children.

Introduction:

WAMA Foundation contributes to the national goals of eliminating Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and AIDS; AIDS related deaths and stigma and discrimination.



WAMAs approach includes; improvement of health systems through provision of medical services equipment and materials; advocacy campaigns that increase utilization of PMTCT services through community participation especially men; campaigns early pregnancies, HIV infections among youth and improvement of gender norms in order to enhance utilization of family planning services and improve maternal and child health.

Challenges:

Inadequate health facilities and some traditional factors have seen many women (over 50%) especially in rural areas deliver at homes hence unable to utilize PMTCT services that the Government of Tanzania provides for free.



Results and Achievements:

Generally reduction of maternal mortality ratio from 578 per 100,000 live births in 2004/05 to 454 per 100,000 live births in 2010 and HIV infections from 5.8% to 5.1%. In WAMA trained Traditional Birth Attendants have escorted women and ensured the increase of ante natal reporting and deliveries in health facilities.

Way Forward

WAMA will continue working with partners and key players to advocate on the improvement of maternal and infant health which include conduct of advocacy campaigns, donation of hospital equipment and supplies and reviewing and implementing strategies, interventions and policies to accelerate reduction of maternal deaths.

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Republic of Uganda



H.E. Hon. Mrs. Janet Kataaha Museveni

First Lady of the Republic of Uganda

H.E Hon Mrs Museveni has a bachelor of Education from Makerere University and a diploma in childhood Development from Sweden

Work-related Experience and Achievements:

- **Minister for Karamoja Affairs** - Involved in supporting Government Development Programmes in Karamoja Sub Region.
- **Member of Parliament** for Ruhaama County Ntungamo District re-elected in 2011.
- **Founder and Patron of Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO)** an indigenous NGO which cares for war-related and HIV/AIDS affected orphans in all the Districts of Uganda. The NGO has been in operation since 1986 and works with major UN agencies and other international donor organisations.
- **Founder and Patron of National Strategy for Advancement of rural Women in Uganda (NSARWU)**, an indigenous NGO which works with poor rural women to empower them economically through various interventions like micro credit. The NGO has been in operation for 20 years and works closely with international donor agencies.
- **Founder and Patron of Uganda Youth**

Forum (UYF) an NGO that engages the youth of Uganda for character and behaviour formation particularly with regard to HIV/AIDS prevention. This NGO was founded in 1992 and provides a platform for open dialogue on issues and challenges of growing up, such as sexuality, relationships, adolescence, and career choices.

- **Goodwill Ambassador for Safe Motherhood** in Uganda on behalf of the Ugandan Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO) with a major role of advocating for reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity.
- **Active member of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA Uganda)**, an NGO established in 2002 to effectively respond to the scourge of HIV/AIDS in Sub Saharan Africa.
- **The first Chairperson of African First Ladies Forum on Cervical and Breast Cancer Prevention.** She is The Patron of this Forum and has been instrumental in facilitating the initiation and scale up of this intervention since 2007.
- **Co-Chair of CURE Hospital** – a special Hospital for crippled children in Uganda, in



partnership with CURE International.

- **Conference Speaker** both in Uganda and at many international fora concerning various social development topics, particularly HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication and women economic empowerment.
- Hon. Janet Museveni is a professed and active Christian whose work and life is driven by faith.

Her Excellency the First Lady Mama Janet Kataaha Museveni was hoisted as the champion (a person appointed to advocate for the prevention of HIV transmission from an HIV infected mother to her baby during pregnancy, labor, delivery or breastfeeding) for eMTCT in Uganda. At a national eMTCT stakeholder's consultative meeting, the first Lady committed to:

- Steer eMTCT actors to achieve common eMTCT goals and results as was stipulated in the National Scale-up Plan for eMTCT and care of exposed infants.
- Advocate for a holistic approach focusing on all aspects of the four prongs especially the focus on the HIV negative population.
- Promote knowledge exchange and learning between political and technical leaders nationally, in the region and internationally
- Advocate for improved community involvement, especially targeting male involvement as partners and caregivers

The First Lady's EMTCT advocacy campaign

The goal of this campaign is;

- To mobilize technical and political leadership from government, civil society, private sector, local communities and development agencies to work together to save babies from HIV and keeping their mothers alive.

The specific objectives for the First Lady's EMTCT advocacy campaign shall include the following:

- To encourage HIV testing for all people especially women of reproductive age with their partners

- To encourage HIV- women and their partners to keep negative through behavioral change; and HIV+ve women of reproductive age to enroll, adhere and continue to use skilled services to prevent transmission of HIV to their babies
- To address community and social barriers that deter women from seeking eMTCT services e.g. male involvement
- To mobilize, allocate and ensure effective accountability for eMTCT services.
- To Act as role models for eMTCT where applicable

Achievements

There is evident that there has been acceleration of eMTCT plans:

Facts and figures presented about the situation of HIV in general and eMTCT in particular has stirred up renewed commitment in the leadership. There are fresh public announcements and calls to leadership to get involved in re educating masses on the root causes of the spread of the scourge.

There has been some fast tracking and increased commitment towards availing drugs.

The initial roll out plan for Option B+ was phased but this has changed. The whole country is rolling out around the same time. Massive roll out from all angles is expected.

There has been accelerated training of Option B+ staff to get them ready for the March 22nd launch. This implies that the country will be ready for the rollout earlier than envisaged.

There is a felt need for accountability as the First Lady engages with the different players. there is an enhanced sense of unity of purpose as the different players discuss the way forward.

There is an improved commitment towards motivating and utilising village Health Workers (VHTs) to ensure community mobilisation and increased access to the relevant services.



Generally, there is increased conversations about HIV in general and eMTCT in particular on the streets, in the media etc increasing awareness among the populace.

Way forward

- Plan and manage advocacy events for the First Lady
- Initiate and arrange relevant advocacy and networking meetings
- Resource mobilization for the programs

Technical Advisors

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Republic of Zambia



H.E. Mrs. Dr. Christine Mwelwa Kaseba – Sata

*The First Lady of the Republic of Zambia
Steering Committee Member for the Southern Region*

The First Lady of the Republic of Zambia and current Vice Chairperson of the OAFLA Southern Sub-Region is an outstanding Obstetrician and Gynaecologist who has passionately, wholeheartedly and selflessly offered her professional services in the public health sector of the Republic of Zambia for close to 30 years. Her vast experience in maternal and new born health spans many years during which she has coordinated and led various national programs in safe mother hood, family planning, comprehensive abortion care, emergency obstetrics and newborn care, as well as maternal death reviews and other programs related to maternal health. She continues to offer technical advice to various working committees and working groups on PMTCT, EMONC and reproductive health.

In her passion to improve the wellbeing of humanity, Dr. Kaseba has championed the fight against HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Gender Based Violence, education and other injustices affecting women. Her considerable energies towards mobilizing awareness and support for the cancer screening initiatives in Zambia have led to unprecedented demand for the services. She has exclusively rallied behind government to support cancer management and palliative care.

On the African Region front, Dr. Kaseba is an expert contributor, advocate and trainer of service providers

and civil society in essential actions that save mothers and keep children alive. Dr. Kaseba is the current Chairperson for the Forum of African First Lady's Fight against Cervical and Breast Cancer and is also working with the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

At the global level, Dr.Kaseba has participated in numerous summits and meetings and has received notable awards including the 2012 Award for Outstanding Leadership in Cancer Control by the American Cancer Society, the 2012 Global Award of Distinction by the Susan G Komen Foundation, and the 2012 Leadership Award by GAVI Alliance and is also the World Health Organisation Goodwill Ambassador against Gender Based Violence.

OAFLA Zambia – Chapter Structure and activities

Zambia is one of the pioneers of the formation of OAFLA and was co-chair of the inaugural OAFLA Meeting in Geneva in July 2002. Since 2002 Zambia continues to be an active member of OAFLA. OAFLA Zambia is registered under the Societies Act of Zambia.

The Chapter secretariat has its registered offices located at Kambendekela House Rooms S20 and S21. The current OAFLA Zambia Chapter Board



Chairperson since September 2011 is Her Excellency the First Lady, Dr Christine Kaseba. The secretariat is administered by a Coordinator with various technical expertise drawn from relevant government ministries and partners whenever necessary.

Former OAFLA Zambia Chairpersons include Former First Lady, Mrs. Thandiwe Banda from September 2008 to August 2011 and Mrs. Maureen Mwanawasa from September 2002 to July 2008.

Activities

OAFLA PMTCT Lay Workers/Counselors Training Workshop 25th – 29th March, 2013

UNAIDS through the OAFLA Secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia made funds available to OAFLA-Zambia Chapter for a training workshop on PMTCT. The training targeted PMTCT Lay workers/ Counselors from Chongwe district of Zambia and 45 participants were trained. The training was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development Mother and Child Health and the Ministry of Health.

During the five days workshop, cervical cancer screening services were available for women in the surrounding community and more than 100 women were screened.



First Lady Dr Christine Kaseba Sata presenting certificates to graduates of the first OAFLA- Zambia, PMTCT Training Workshop for Lay Workers/ Counselors in Chongwe District

Cervical Cancer Screening

First Lady, Dr. Christine Kaseba, Her Royal Highness Senior Chiefteness Nkomeshya and the Minister of Tourism, Hon Masebo listen to the Medical doctor explaining the findings of the screening exercise.

First Lady, Dr. Christine Kaseba meeting some of the women who came for cervical cancer screening during the OAFLA- Zambia PMTCT training workshop in Chongwe District.

UBUTALA UBWA BUMI

On 8th February, 2012 H.E Dr. Kaseba-Sata officially registered a local NGO to champion various community activities at country level aimed at contributing to the improvement of maternal and child health, economic well-being and social justice targeting the under-privileged and most vulnerable women, children and adolescents in society. The organisation is called UbutalaUbwa Bumi (UUB - meaning "A Haven of Wellbeing").

UUB is currently focusing on the following themes:Health: The UUB promotes the utilization of maternal and neonatal health services through reinforcement of health education, empowerment and welfare services.

Human Rights and Governance: Intensive advocacy for the attainment of Millennium Development Goals specifically improved maternal and child health, reduced gender based violence and poverty reduction.

Community Empowerment: Community empowerment through the provision of health literacy, entrepreneurship and community welfare programs.

Charity and benevolence: Charity for vulnerable and underserved individuals and families.



First Lady, Dr. Christine Kaseba meeting some of the women who came for cervical cancer screening during the OAFLA- Zambia PMTCT training workshop in Chongwe District.



Continental and International Activities

Dr. Kaseba is the current Chairperson of the Forum of African First Ladies against Breast and Cervical Cancer, a position she has held since July, 2012 and will relinquish her position end of July, 2013. During her tenure of office, Dr. Kaseba has used her position to advocate for scaling up of cervical cancer activities such as screening and treatment and has spoken at different fora. Among these high profile presentations, Dr Kaseba has promoted the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon Initiative in collaboration with the former president of USA George Bush and Former First Lady Laura Bush.

Dr. Kaseba was recently appointed the WHO Goodwill Ambassador on Gender Based Violence and has since participated at the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations calling for the end to violence against women.



First Lady, Dr. Christine Kaseba speaking in her capacity as WHO Goodwill Ambassador on Gender Based Violence, during a High-Level panel discussion on the Magnitude of the Health Impacts and Health Sector response to Violence against women at the 57th Session of the Commission on the status of Women

Current Interventions Include:

1. Cervical cancer advocacy and sensitisation
2. PMTCT sensitisation and awareness

3. Training of PMTCT lay workers/scounselors
4. Reproductive health and family Planning
5. Gender based Violence
6. Women empowerment

Challenges

1. Finances to scale up programs
2. Finances to have full time employed staff

Good Practices

1. Private sector involvement
2. Policy makers formulation involvement
3. Traditional and religious leaders involvement

Technical Advisor

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OAFLA Member States

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Republic of Angola

Republic of Benin

Republic of Burkina Faso

Republic of Brundi

Republic of Cape Verde

Central African Republic

Republic of Chad

Union of the Comoros

Republic of the Congo

Democratic Republic of Congo

Ivory Cost

Arab Republic of Egypt

Republic of Equatorial Guinea

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Republic of Gabon

Republic of Gambia

Republic of Ghana

Republic of Guinea Bissau

Republic of Guinea

Republic of Kenya

Kingdom of Lesotho

Libya

Republic of Malawi

Republic of Mali

Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Republic of Mauritius

Republic of Mozambique

Republic of Namibia

Republic of Niger

Federal Republic of Nigeria

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