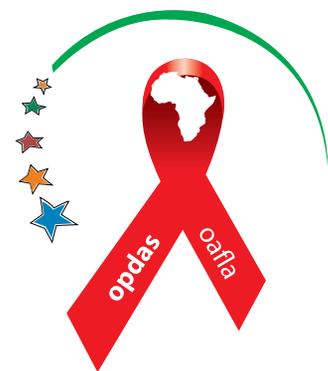


Organisation of African First Ladies
Against HIV/AIDS

(OAFILA)



MEMBERS DIRECTORY

2012-2013

10th
Anniversary

Organisation of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS

(OAFILA)



MEMBERS DIRECTORY*

2012-2013



Cosponsored by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

**Currently the publication serves more of a database of the most current contact details of the listed First Ladies' offices. However, we believe it will grow into a full directory of ALL OAFILA members over time.*

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Foreword

This year marks the 10TH Anniversary of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA). It is very historic to recall when our founding Sisters sat on a round table in Geneva and decided to form an Organisation that would address the number one killer disease on the continent.

Today, our permanent secretariat based in the beautiful mountainous landscapes of Addis Ababa is there to serve the entire membership OAFLA.

The continent was faced with uncertainties and there were many myths about the disease. As torch bearers of this Organization, we will continue to cultivate the excellent spirit of solidarity and share experiences regarding the latest development and progress relating to the on-going research that is aimed at finding a vaccine for HIV/AIDS to prevent the spreading of this dreadful disease.

I recap on the progress made over the past years. We have seen tremendous improvement in the cure for HIV with the introduction of anti-retroviral drugs which are readily available and affordable. Today, the campaign all over the continent has intensified and we therefore see the prevalence rates either constant or slightly increasing. We can confidently talk about the prevention and elimination of the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child, previously this was not possible.

Over the past decade we have seen international organizations, business firms, pharmaceuticals, musicians, philanthropists and others joining hands with OAFLA and governments around the world to combat HIV/AIDS and providing relief for the victims who are affected and infected. Let us double

our efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. We are more than conquerors and I believe that we shall all succeed. That is why we advocate for: "An HIV free generation tomorrow needs caring men and women today".

I pay tribute to Mme. Marie Joséphine Kama (aka Josephine Bongo), First President of OAFLA and former Presidents Mrs Jeannette Kagame, Mrs Maureen Mwanawasa and Mrs Azeb Mesfin who have worked tirelessly to establish a firm foundation for the organization to ensure where it is today. We must remain committed to continue with good they started and take OAFLA to greater heights.

We have seen the participation of many African First Ladies addressing HIV/AIDS issues in their national agenda and programmes. Furthermore OAFLA has continued to flourish because of the firm support by the AU, UNAIDS, PEPFAR, UNFPA, GAVI Alliance, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, and other development agencies and partners too numerous to mention.

As OAFLA President I am extremely proud to launch the first ever OAFLA Directory as part of our ten year celebration, and also as a much needed communication tool for the Organisation.

Happy Reading!

Penhupifo Pohamba



UNAIDS MESSAGE

The face of the AIDS epidemic in Africa continues to be that of a woman. Despite efforts and accelerated action in the AIDS response over the past 30 years, African women and girls continue to have significantly higher levels of HIV infection than men and boys.

In sub-Saharan Africa, young women represent 71% of young people living with HIV. Meanwhile, more than 350 000 babies per year are born with HIV in the region because women living with HIV did not have access to services to prevent HIV transmission to their children. This situation is unacceptable and underscores the need for stronger leadership and efforts to engage communities.

Ten years ago the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) called on Africa's First Ladies to unite for change and mobilize resources for the AIDS response in Africa, with a particular focus on women, children and young people. In July 2002, 37 African First Ladies gathered in Geneva to launch the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA). Through this organization, the First Ladies of Africa have worked tirelessly to transform their influence into concrete action, advocating for programmes to eliminate new HIV infections among children; address gender-based violence and empower women; improve access to HIV

treatment, care and support services; end stigma and discrimination; and mobilize resources for the AIDS response on the continent.

The June 2011 United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS resulted in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV/AIDS, in which Member States set clear, time-bound targets to cut new HIV infections transmitted sexually by half, eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2015, ensure gender equality, reduce gender-based violence and increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection. At the same time, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1983, recognizing the need to address the link between HIV and violence against women in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Simultaneously, First Ladies of Africa also committed to scaling up action towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and keeping mothers alive.

UNAIDS recognizes the critical partnership role of OAFLA and supports the efforts of African First Ladies in the AIDS response, both in their respective countries and on the continent. The personal commitment and determination of African First

Ladies to ensure an HIV-free generation and a continent without AIDS are exemplary.

I am confident that the African First Ladies, as women and mothers too, will continue to take bold, urgent and concrete actions to respond to the needs of women, girls and young people. UNAIDS is committed to supporting these efforts. We must work together if we want to make a meaningful difference in the lives of women, girls and young people, and pursue our dream of the African continent getting to zero: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Michel Sidibé
UNAIDS Executive Director





Organisation of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA)



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 organizations 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 stakeholders 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's

2009 - 2013 Strategic Plan

OAFLA 's strategic plan has a broader framework including 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 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 organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) was established as a collective voice for Africa's most vulnerable people,



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Republic of Chad



H.E Mrs. Hinda Déby Itno
First Lady of the Republic of Chad
Vice President of OAFLA

About the First Lady

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).

Her interests are vested in helping others. She always listens to the needy and vulnerable.

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Programmes

Introduction

Agenda of actions:

Working on the reproductive health of the youth and the elimination of transmission of HIV from mother to child. 2012-2014 Period.

Methodology of implementation:

Lobbying for an optimal mobilization of all social strata, both at institutional and community levels to achieve "zero new infections," "zero AIDS related deaths," "zero stigma". 17 administrative regions out of 22 are covered by the end of June 2012.

Major challenges

Mobilization of financial resources to cover the three major regions of the far north of the country that are difficult to reach.

Encourage and support effective actions by regular monitoring to maintain the momentum of community leaders committed to the action plans of the First Lady.

Results

The leaders welcomed with great enthusiasm and fervor of an action plan initiated by the First Lady to contribute to their welfare, facing the threat of HIV and the high maternal and infant mortality.

Way Forward

Continue advocacy with government and partners:

- to ensure the prevention from Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), and Reproductive Health (RH), are supported by actual usage needs created by the actions of sensitization.
- to maintain the pressure so that legislation can be adopted and popularized and contribute to the promotion of PMTCT and RH.



Union of the Comoros



H.E. Mrs. Aboubacar Hadidja Ikililou
First Lady of the Union of the Comoros

About the First Lady

Her Excellency, Mrs. ABOUBACAR Hadidja Ikililou is a senior expert in Public Health. She worked at all health sector levels of the country. She also worked with the UN system especially with the UNFPA as an IEC / FP (Information, Education and Communication /Family Planning) promoter. She is an active campaigner for development associations. Former coordinator of the Association of African Women Facing AIDS, former President of Comorian Family Welfare Association, H.E. Mrs. Hadidja has deep knowledge in the social and health area including the area of reproductive health and HIV.

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Programmes

Introduction

The "HALOUITETE Foundation" program for the family development is a contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals namely MDGs 4, 5 and 6 and addresses the Statement of Heads of States of the AUC and the various African leaders in Abuja. It is the translation of the Foundation's commitment to the priorities of the New York Commitment Statement. Our program is based on four strategic pillars that are all related to the OAFLA Strategic Plan.

1. Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV

Awareness campaigns will be conducted at the islands with an emphasis on male involvement. Prevention tools will be available to the youth and capacity building of health care providers in PMTCT is also considered.

2. Reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality

Health facilities will be provided with drug kits, reagents, disposable and small equipment. Social mobilization weeks will be organized for healthy mothers and babies

3. Improved quality of care for PLWHA

Portable CD4 Count Equipment will be provided to referring physicians for the biological monitoring of PLWHAs. Nutritional care of PLWHAs will be provided.

4. Improving the living conditions of women and better protection of children against abuse and violence in Comoros

A fundraising campaign "OPERATION RIYALI" will be organized. Awareness sessions for administrators, traditional and religious leaders and families in least-favored rural and urban areas will be organized. Awards for deserving young girls at primary, secondary and higher education levels will be provided. Support will be provided for the establishment and operation of three counseling centers. Community-based associations will be trained on psychosocial support for vulnerable and abused children.

Achievement

The RIYALI Campaign aimed at raising funds, especially coins to support vulnerable children, (children with disabilities, children affected by violence and abuse of any kind) was supported by the entire population, the authorities and of all development partners. The results were well beyond expectations.

Way Forward

1. Validation and implementation of the triennial and annual action plan
 - Validation Workshop of the Plan including all partners;
 - National and International partners Roundtable.
2. Effective establishment of the Coordinating Committee
3. Sponsorship of the 2012 Indian Ocean Conference on HIV



Republic of Congo



H.E. Mrs. Antoinette Tchibota Sassou-Nguesso
First Lady of the Republic of Congo

About the First Lady

H.E. Mrs. Antoinette Tchibota Sassou-Nguesso is a teacher by profession.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

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

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- President of the national network for the OYO workshop on the education system recovery (RENATO).
- President of the Congo Assistance Foundation (CAF)

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Programmes

Introduction

“Prevention of HIV among women and girls in urban and rural areas in the Republic of Congo”

This project, developed in partnership with the UNDP office in Congo, focuses on mother-child nexus in general with specific emphasis on reducing HIV and AIDS related maternal and infant mortality with the aim of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV (E-MTCT) by 2016 to achieve the MDGs 2, 4 and 5. This project started in 2008 across the four Regions of Congo: Cuvette ouest, Plateaux, Pool, Lekoumou. The project activities are aligned with the National Strategic Framework for the fight against HIV/ AIDS to help the country achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on HIV/AIDS.

Major Challenges

Scaling-up of the project on the 12 departments of Congo so as to contribute, so little it might be, in the reduction of women’s vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Achievements

- Eighty six (86) peer educators trained
- Eight hundred (800) Women sensitization sessions held
- Ten thousand and thirteen (10013) women sensitized on HIV / AIDS
- 43 social communication sessions held
- 4240 condoms distributed: 2880 male and 1360 female
- 6835 leaflets on HIV / AIDS distributed
- Two (2) prevention centers for women and girls are operational
- Capacity building of three support NGOs
- Four hundred (400) women developed income-generating activities for their empowerment
- 80% of micro credits reimbursed by the beneficiaries

Way Forward

Scaling-up of the project with the integration of screening, family planning and E-MTCT activities in 15 border sites and in seven (7) Regions of Congo : Cuvette ouest, Plateaux, Pool, Lekoumou, Likouala, Sangha and Kouilou.



Republic of Gabon



H.E Mrs. Sylvia Bongo Ondimba
First Lady of the Republic of Gabon

About the First Lady

H.E. Mrs. Sylvia Bongo is an entrepreneur who married H.E. President Ali Bongo in 1989 and became the First Lady of Gabon at the inauguration of her husband as President of the Republic in October 16, 2009. In January 2011, she created the Foundation Sylvia Bongo named "For the Family", which priority actions are the education of youth, the promotion of human rights and women and the inclusion of vulnerable people.

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Programmes

Introduction

The "United for the Health of the Mother and the Child" program contributes to the Prevention of Mother-To-Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) in Gabon.

Methodology

- Training / retraining of staff responsible for monitoring pregnancy and birth (midwives, nurse, matrons) in medical facilities in the provinces of Gabon by a group of experts on family planning, PMTCT, breastfeeding and Active Management of Third Stage of Labor (AMTSL)
- Distribution of 10 000 delivery kits, 10,000 mosquito nets, 10,000 family medical kits

Major Challenges

- Insufficient number of qualified personnel, especially midwives
- Lack of suitable equipment in certain facilities
- Access to certain facilities (ex landlocked road within the country)
- Difficulties in conducting tests in several facilities due to lack of reagents and / or laboratory

Achievements

- More than 5,000 poor women have received appropriate care and experienced a safe delivery
- To date, 38 health facilities, that is 4 additional ones were equipped

Way Forward

- Develop a communication strategy for community awareness, in order to encourage the testing for all pregnant women and reduce stigma
- Eradicate the transmission of HIV from mother to child in all provinces of Gabon



Republic of Guinea



H.E. Mrs. Conde Djènè KABA
First Lady of the Republic of Guinea

About the First Lady

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

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Programmes

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



Republic of Namibia



H.E. Mrs. Penhupifo Pohamba
First Lady of the Republic of Namibia
President of OAFLA

About the First Lady

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

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Programmes

Introduction

As the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, she has taken a special interest in the health of our mothers and children. This is why in 2010, she initiated a Task Force to plan a campaign to promote the health of mothers and babies, focusing on issues such as exclusive breastfeeding, and greater involvement of fathers in maternal and child care in general and the prevention of Mother-to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV in particular.

Methodology

- Launching of CARMMA (Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa).
- Campaign to increase male involvement in maternal and Child care and PMTCT and promote exclusive breastfeeding and gradual meaning of babies.
- Establishment of a Task Force for Maternal and Child Health, joined forces with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, NawaLife Trust (a Namibian NGO) and development partners such as UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO, to develop a social behavior change communication strategy to promote male participation in MCH, particular in PMTCT.

Results/ Achievements

- National launch of PMTCT by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia on 10 March 2011.
- Funds mobilized through private sector and donors.
- Development, printing and distribution of a social and behavior change communication strategy.
- Study done on male involvement and report is available.
- Launch the Second Phase of the PMTCT Campaign

Way Forward

- The social and behavior change communication strategy will be used to stimulate dialogue and serve as a broad guide for the PMTCT Campaign.
- Intensify media activities for the promotion of the message of the campaign.



Republic of Niger



H.E Mrs. Aïssata Mahamadou Issoufou
First Lady of the Republic of Niger

About the First Lady

H.E Mrs. Mahamadou Issoufou Aïssata is a Chemical Engineer by profession. The Intervention areas Her Excellency is interested in the Socio-educational and Health Sectors. In particular she focuses on the support to vulnerable groups and prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child

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Programmes

Introduction

The rate of HIV prevalence in the general population is 0.7% but 1.7% in pregnant women. The fertility rate is 7.1 children per woman and the Growth Rate to 3.2%. Hence, it was relevant to develop a PMTCT program, which began in 2002. As part of the global fight against HIV and specially PMTCT, Niger endorsed many international commitments including:

- The Millennium Development Goals (4, 5 and 6)
- The Commitment Statement of the special session of the GA in 2001
- The 2005 High Level Forum of the Global Partners in Prevention
- The high-level conference held in the United States in July 2011 with the objective of the Three Zeros

Strengths

- Political Commitment
- A successful scaling-up
- Coverage of 621 Integrated Health Facilities out of 839
- The activity is integrated in all SR posts
- High rate of HIV testing of women (95%)

Major Challenges

- A low rate of assisted deliveries / low involvement of husbands
- A failure in the monitoring of the mother and the child.

Results:

- The rate of assisted delivery is enhanced
- The monitoring of the mother and the child reaches 80%
- 50% of the husbands are involved

Way Forward

- The involvement of community relays to address these challenges
- The establishment of a sound monitoring system of the mother the child
- The promotion of breastfeeding at lower risk and the assisted delivery
- The development of a virtual elimination plan by 2015



Federal Republic of Nigeria



H.E. Dame Dr. Patience Goodluck Jonathan
First Lady of the Republic of Niger

About the First Lady

H.E. Dame (Dr.) Patience Goodluck Jonathan has a Bsc in Biology/ Psychology. 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 called Akpo Community Bank. Dame (Dr.) Patience Jonathan founded the A.Aruera Reachout Foundation (AARF) to improve the status and earning capacity of the Nigerian women and youths. Since its inception, it trained over 4000 women in different skills such as tie and dye fabric, soap and candle making, plantain flour and chips production, bread and pastry and other waste to wealth projects. AARF has since extended its focus, and now supports and assists children with heart-related problems through its unit, A.Aruera Heart Foundation. Many children have benefited from this gesture which restored their hope of living normal lives again Through her other NGO, "Women for Change and Development Initiative" 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, Nigeria now has for the first time in its history the largest number of women in the Federal Cabinet.

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Programmes

Introduction

The First Lady carries out programmes through her NGOs, namely A.Aruera Reachout Foundation (AARF) and the Women for Change and Development Initiative (W4CDI). Current programmes being executed under the two NGOs include:-

(i) W4CDI- Integrated Health Programme:

To improve the Nigerian health sector, the W4CDI- Integrated Health Programme was launched. The objective is to lead the effort to reduce Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS (MTCT) as well as Maternal and Child Mortality. It is to specifically advocate to policy makers and stakeholders to improve budgetary allocation and promote universal access to maternal, child health and PMTCT services; ensure greater collaboration and integrated service delivery and also strengthen accountability at all levels.

(ii) Establishment of Call Centre for HIV/AIDS & Related Diseases

Establishment of call centre for HIV/AIDS and related diseases in conjunction with National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA). It is a platform for providing information, counselling and referral services on HIV/AIDS and related diseases. It serves to disseminate messages and other vital and useful health information to the people in order to strengthen the national response in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic.

(iii) Nationwide Peace Advocacy Visit:

On the platform of W4CDI, the First Lady is currently on a nationwide Peace Advocacy visit to the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). It presupposes that when there is peace, women will go about their economic activities devoid of harassment. This means better quality of life, etc.

(iv) Skills Acquisition Programme:

The A.Aruera Foundation just concluded the admission process for Batch 10 totalling 120 students for the Foundation's Skill Acquisition Centre. Training for six months will commence in June.

Graduates of the centre are economically empowered to cater for themselves and their families. Inability to cater for themselves and families predisposes vulnerable people to HIV/AIDS and other related diseases infecting them. The AARF also has a soup kitchen where the less privileged are fed periodically.

(V) Medical Mission:

In April 2012, under AARF Special Pediatric Cardiology Clinic, 39 No. children of indigent parents were recently sponsored for special heart surgical treatment abroad. These medical treatments are carried out locally but when the need arises, the children are flown abroad. It is Her Excellency's belief that a "healthy family begets a healthy nation".

Challenges

Reducing maternal and child mortality rate and prevalence of mother to child transmission of HIV will require increase in budgetary allocation.

Inadequate facility and resources to cope with the large number of applicants that need medical attention and skill acquisition is mitigating on the progress been made.

Results/ Achievements

Quite a number of indigent children have received heart treatment and have gotten their lives back. This helps mother and child to conserve the meagre resources to be channelled into other useful ventures. More access to drugs, reduction in stigmatisation, more awareness and reduction in HIV prevalence. Women are economically empowered and are encouraged to join politics. Through the effort of the First Lady and her NGOs, the 35% affirmative action has been realised in Nigeria in both elective and appointive positions of women in government. The foundation has churned out hundreds of the less privileged in the skill acquisition centres, thereby providing them with source of livelihood. It has sponsored people living with HIV/AIDS to the past and forthcoming world HIV conference in New York in July, 2012

Way Forward

The First lady has ensured that a coordinating mechanism is established to have all stakeholders work together to build the necessary synergy for maximum impact in all the programmes established, especially the integrated Health Programme. Going forward, the First Lady will continue to be active in supporting key initiatives that will strengthen processes on the eradication of killer diseases in mother, children and less privilege. The effort of the First Lady through the Foundation has encouraged women to be in positions of decision making in government.



Republic of Rwanda



H.E. Mrs. Jeannette Kagame
First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda

About the First Lady

H.E. the First Lady of Rwanda Mrs. Jeannette Kagame is the President of Imbuto Foundation and holds a degree in Business and Management Science. She has delivered keynote speeches at numerous national and international forums on various themes including leadership, economics, health, children's welfare and women's empowerment. Mrs. Kagame personifies an active, relentless devotion to uplifting the lives of vulnerable population in Rwanda, particularly those of widows, orphans and impoverished families.

She became a founding member of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS in 2002 and served as its President from 2004-2006. During her mandate as President she initiated with her fellow African First Ladies the regional campaign known as "Treat Every Child as Your Own" that was implemented by OAFLA. This campaign has received the John Thompson "Legacy of a Dream" Award.

Mrs. Kagame is dedicated to the empowerment of Rwanda Youth and consistently advocates for the promotion of girls education. She is a firm believer that youth are the true agents of change.

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Programmes

Introduction

The Family Package (FP) project was designed to promote a comprehensive approach of the standard "Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission" package. It emphasizes on male partner involvement, integration of Family planning, psychosocial support through peer education approach, and socio-economic empowerment through Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

In collaboration with Health Centers and associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, clients are sensitized, in particular discordant couples with the overall objective of increasing access to HIV prevention, care and treatment. The Family Package is now implemented in 27 HCs.

Challenges

Low education level of the beneficiaries in some cases affects the way Income Generating Activities are administered, since these are overseen almost entirely by members of the association; The Monitoring & Evaluation system needs to be reinforced enough to allow consistent and reliable data collection for use in evidence based decision making;

Results/ Achievements

In 2010, the review of the FP project revealed the following results:

- Indicators of the project such as, the number of pregnant women attending Ante-Natal Care (ANC) who were tested for HIV, number of male partners coming for ANC with their wives and for HIV testing, infant follow ups for HIV testing, Anti retrovirus prophylaxis initiation, etc..) were higher in Family Package sites as compared to the National average.
- Creation of IGA and capacity building on IGA management has improved lives of many beneficiaries of the project
- Beneficiaries have received psychosocial support thus acceptance of HIV status has brought harmony within the families and community therefore stigma reduced
- In May 2011, the First Lady launched the EMTCT campaign which led to development of a national EMTCT strategic plan up 2015.

Way Forward

To continue implementation of the FP and EMTCT plan in the 27 sites till 2015. The objective of national EMTCT plan to reduce below 2% HIV infections for children born to HIV positive pregnant women by 2015.



Her Excellency the First Lady of Rwanda handing over the ARV regimen to Ruhuha health center Director as the Minister of Health looks on



Republic of Sierra Leone



H.E. Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma
First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone

About the First Lady

H.E. 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. She was born on March 19th 1958 to Danke Evelyn Koroma, a school teacher and Aiah Abu Koroma, a lawyer who later transformed into a respected political figure. Her father served as Attorney General of Sierra Leone from 1967-1968 and was a Presidential aspirant in 1996.

Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma attended the Annie Walsh Memorial Secondary School in Freetown and completed her undergraduate and Masters Degrees in Synthetic Organic Chemistry in the United Kingdom. During the war years in Sierra Leone, she left the country for the United Kingdom where she studied nursing at Kings College, London University. She is both an Organic Chemist and a trained and practicing Psychiatric Nurse. Her academic background coupled with her timely experience and training received from her family have in diverse ways prepared her to serve Sierra Leone well in her capacity as First Lady.

Mrs. Sia Nyama Koroma is a pioneer. Through patience and perseverance, she has been able to establish the first effective and functioning Office of The First Lady in Sierra Leone.

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Programmes

Introduction

The First Lady of Sierra Leone and the Office of the First Lady is committed to join in the fight to reduce maternal and child mortality and the prevention and transmission of the AIDS virus. Her voice has helped to scale up interventions at the national and international arena making her one of the country's most effective advocates.

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 access to health facilities and training for health workers operating closest to the areas of need. Her interventions and strategies are mainly complimentary to the efforts of the national government.

Apart from the WISH Project, the Office of The First Lady has also developed the FLAXIS Project that aims to support and empower the educational sector in Sierra Leone. FLAXIS is the acronym for First Lady's Attitudinal Change In Schools

Interventions

- 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 centers will improve comprehensive HIV prevention programs and expand access to care related services for pregnant women. Women can know their status, accessing essential care if positive, and receiving information on ways to protect themselves if negative.
- Use of mobile phones for positive bulk messaging
- Encouraging male circumcision
- Engaging in behavioral 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.
- 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



Republic of South Sudan



H.E. Mrs. Mary Ayen Mayardit
First Lady of the Republic of South Sudan

About the First Lady

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 teen-age. 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.

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Programmes

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 levels.

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

Methodology

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



2011 Delivery of Humanitarian Relief Aid to Internally Displaced Women and Children

- 2011 Launched / Marked National Girls Education Day
- Pushed through, 2011 National Girls Education Act
- Pushed through, 2010 Child Act

Way Forward

Construction, equipping and operationalize the following projects by the end of 2012:



- National Model Primary Girls Boarding School
- Women Research, Advocacy and Training Inst.
- Women Referral Hospital and Midwifery Training Centre



United Republic of Tanzania



H.E. Mrs. Salma R. Kikwete
First Lady of the United Republic of Tanzania

About the First Lady

H.E. Salma R. Kikwete is the founder and Chair of the Wanawake na Maendeleo Foundation (WAMA) which literally translates to Women in Development. A nonprofit organization committed to increased number of economically empowered women, progressive communities, and educated healthy children.

Her vision is backed by the invaluable first hand knowledge and experience she gained in the more than 20 years that she spent as a teacher.

She believes that education and health are essential prerequisites in unlocking the potential of many poor Tanzanians to contribute to their country's development, Africa and the world at large. She maintains that education, entrepreneurship and innovation are the key to liberate Tanzanians from ignorance, poverty and disease. She is a firm advocate for the elimination of gender inequities in accessing education and health services for ensuring equitable development.

In order to ensure that girls from poor families do not miss this chance of a life time, WAMA Foundation has scaled up its girl child education program which has so far benefited more than six hundred (600) girls. To date two hundred and ninety (427) have each 4 year full scholarships that enable them to pay for school fees, uniforms, books, transportation and other costs.

She is a pioneer of girl child education and a child rights advocate who has received numerous awards. She champions campaigns against stigma, Maternal Health and care for vulnerable children. Currently she is the Vice-President of the Organization of African First Ladies Against AIDS (OAFLA) – Eastern Region.

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Programmes

Introduction

The Save the Unborn Child is WAMA's flagship program in its pursuit of an HIV-free generation in Tanzania. The program contributes to the national efforts to ensure Zero new HIV infections and Zero deaths among mothers. The foundation collaborates with various national and international partners and donors to implement the Prevention of Mother to Children Transmission (PMTCT) program "Save the Unborn Child." The program works to increase meaningful and effective participation of communities including but not limited to men and traditional birth attendants.

The save the Unborn Child was created under the broad theme of Treat Every Child as your own which was formed under OAFLA to guide community programs of African First Ladies. Its approach and focus emanates from the core of OAFLA vision.

The key methodology is forging partnerships for wider reach and impact while providing leadership through championing broad national programs.

Challenges

- Long distances from health facilities prevent many women from obtaining services when they need them. Rural health facilities are very few and ill equipped hence less attractive to mothers.
- Gender inequalities including Gender Based Violence which deny decision making power and control of resources. This has seriously affected women's health seeking behavior.
- Lack of sufficient resources to roll our PMTCT programs widely.

Results/ Achievements

- We have witnessed increased uptake of PMTCT services in project areas.
- Community mobilization activities have successfully initiated dialogue at community levels and increased knowledge and involvement among community members including men.
- Increased number of women who deliver at hospitals in project areas.

Way Forward

- Continue with the advocacy to address male involvement, stigma and discrimination community involvement the need to complete the activities planned which were not completed.
- Recruit Health promoters and Field officers at the districts to directly support the program in the remaining districts



Republic of Zambia



H.E. Dr. Christine Kaseba- Sata
First Lady of the Republic of Zambia

About the First Lady

Her Excellency, Dr Christine Kaseba-Sata is a well versed, experienced Obstetrician Gynaecologist who has passionately, wholeheartedly and selflessly been providing her professional services in the public health sector of the Republic of Zambia for a continuous many years preceding her rise to the position of First lady of the Republic of Zambia.

H.E Dr Kaseba-Sata has in the process of providing her services served in various positions in the highest medical institutions of Zambia. In her service to the masses, H.E Dr Kaseba-Sata has always passionately placed the wellbeing of the masses in the area of health in relation to the fight against HIV/AIDS, Cancer and injustices affecting women and children in an effort to raise the living standard of people.

In her service to the masses, H.E Dr Kaseba-Sata has always passionately placed the wellbeing of the masses in the area of health in relation to the fight against HIV/AIDS, Cancer and injustices affecting women and children in an effort to raise the living standard of people. She has just set up an NGO 'Ubutala bwa bumi' (Haven of well being) which amongst other things will be looking at

- Emergency obstetric and neonatal Care
- HIV and Female Cancers
- Gender based Violence
- Women empowerment including increasing literacy levels amongst women

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Programmes

Introduction

Zambia is one of the third world countries in need of supplementary support to government efforts in the areas of effective provision of health services especially in maternal and child health. In order to achieve better health objectives, various programs have been put in place by government with the support of other entities such as UN agencies, the corporate world and non-governmental organisations. Particular attention is continually being paid to the reduction of HIV/AIDS (specifically through PMTCT) the fight against women related cancers and other vices which largely contribute to underdevelopment in the country. The office of H.E The First Lady of the Republic of Zambia has joined this campaign through the various programs being undertaken.

- Cancer and HIV Mitigation and Awareness
- Awareness and Lobbying for maternal Protection support and ratification of relevant statutes
- UBUTALA UBWA BUMI –U.U.B (A Haven of Wellbeing) Community Projects

Program Concept And Methodology

The promotion and utilization of maternal and neonatal health services through community interventions and empowerment programs with various social, economic and good health promotional activities targeting vulnerable communities and groups.

This project will also involve the First Lady personally carrying out outreach paediatric and surgical services on site.

These are in relation to OAFLA Strategic objectives cited as :

- To combat HIV/AIDS with increased awareness through effective prevention and responses
- Provide support to national efforts on related activities
- Mobilisation of resources to achieve objectives

Challenges

As the program is still in its early infancy, most of the challenges are financial in nature. We are trying to find office space to accommodate the secretariat. We are also trying to establish effective local and international partnerships to support UUB objectives.

There is also a high demand and expectation of all forms of support and provision by UUB to public by virtue of First Lady's Office

Results/ Achievements

Zambia underwent major elections in September, 2011. These elections ushered in a new government and gave rise to the current holder of the office of the First Lady, Dr Kaseba-Sata. Within the past six months of service, H.E Dr Kaseba- Sata has achieved the following in relation to OAFLA activities:-

- H.E Dr C Kaseba-Sata has made high profile appeals on international and global fora for support on issues relating to wellbeing of women and children in relation to HIV/AIDS, Women Cancers, empowerment and human rights.

The first lady is working hand in hand with :

- The Cancer Support Network which she helped launch
- The Red Ribbon Pink Ribbon initiative which she is co anchoring with Ministry of Health and CIDRZ

- Establishment of a wholesome community initiative - Ubutala Ubwa Bumi UUB (a Haven of Wellbeing) as a tool to undertake various initiatives
- H.E was made Vice Chairperson of the Stop Cervical Cancer in Africa Movement and placed to host the 6th SCCA conference in Lusaka, Zambia from 22nd to 25th July 2012 where she will take over the Chair of the movement.

Way Forward

At this stage, Zambia requires all the support to ensure targeted areas of operation are given positive responses as per indicated objectives. Continued lobbying and activities should continue in the spirit of getting more resources for the office.

PHOTO GALLERY



OAFLA Member States



Arab Republic of Egypt
Central African Republic
Democratic Republic of Congo
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Kingdom of Swaziland
Libya
Mauritania
Peoples Democratic Republic of Algeria
Republic of Angola
Republic of Benin
Republic of Burkina Faso
Republic of Burundi
Republic of Cape Verde
Republic of Chad
Republic of Cote D'Ivoire
Republic of Equatorial Guinea
Republic of Gabon
Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea
Republic of Guinea Bissau
Republic of Kenya
Republic of Lesotho

Republic of Malawi
Republic of Mali
Republic of Mauritius
Republic of Mozambique
Republic of Namibia
Republic of Niger
Republic of Rwanda
Republic of Senegal
Republic of Sierra Leone
Republic of South Africa
Republic of South Sudan
Republic of Sudan
Republic of the Congo
Republic of The Gambia
Republic of Tunisia
Republic of Uganda
Republic of Zambia
Republic of Zimbabwe
Somali Republic
Union of the Comors
United Republic of Tanzania