

REPORT

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP OF THE AFRICAN PAN COMMONWEALTH CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK ON HIV/AIDS



Enhancing skills development and sharing of best practices
to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS
within the Commonwealth countries in the African continent

Munyonyo, Kampala - Uganda
16-18 April, 2007



Commonwealth
Foundation



The African Pan-Commonwealth Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS workshop

**‘Enhancing skills development and sharing of best practices to
mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS within the Commonwealth
countries in the African continent’**

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	3
Acronyms	4
Executive summary	5
Objectives of the workshop	6
Workshop participants	7
Workshop methodology	8
Participants' expectations	8
Welcome remarks by CHAIN country manager,	8
Speech by the Minister of Health	9
Speech by the Deputy Director - Commonwealth Foundation	10
Papers/speeches presented	10
Group discussions	10
Key issues arising from the workshop	14
Way forward for the network	17
Annex	
Annex 1: List of participants	18
Annex 2: Countries who are members of the network	29
Annex 3: Media organisations represented	20
Annex 4: Workshop programme	22
Annex 5: Presentation by the Deputy Director - Commonwealth Foundation	26
Annex 5a : Press release	28

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and express our gratitude to the Commonwealth Foundation for funding of the workshop, participants from the African continent; resource persons/facilitators, Chain staff and volunteers; the electronic and print media, the designer/photographer and the workshop rapportuer.

Acronyms

CBOs	Communitybased organisation
CHAIN	Community Health and Information Network
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDs
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing

Executive Summary

HIV is yet a large challenge within the Commonwealth where 60% of the people living with HIV globally are from these countries. It is over 25 years since the HIV virus was first discovered, but we still have no concrete strategies on how to reverse or eradicate this pandemic. Furthermore, broad consensus exists that governments alone cannot succeed in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Centralized government responses have proven inadequate in the face of the enormity of HIV/AIDS. Often, factors that determine HIV transmission are outside the influence of governments. Especially issues pertaining to cultural values and community norms are of critical importance

Based on this, the Commonwealth Foundation set up the Pan Commonwealth Network on HIV/AIDS in 2006. The Network aims to bring together key Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working with people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Commonwealth countries and aims to promote partnership building, effective programming, knowledge sharing, resource mobilisation, leadership and accountable governance in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The African pan-Commonwealth Civil society Network on HIV/AIDS, which is under the overall network, brings together key CSOs working with people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. To fulfil part of its aims, the network held a three-day residential workshop from 16th to 18th May 2007 at Speke Resort, Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop attracted 35 participants from CSO's from the African continent. The theme of the workshop was; "Enhancing skills development and sharing of best practices to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS within Commonwealth"

The workshop was officiated by Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Otaala the Minister of State for Primary Health Care. He called for the need to look at HIV/AIDS not just as a health problem but as a development problem since it affects other sectors of society including the economy. He also called for partnership between CSOs, governments and the private sector for a more effective delivery of services.

Various activities and methods were used to make the workshop more fruitful. They included; Brainstorming, Group discussions, Paper presentations, Question and answer (Q&A) sessions, Case studies, Video shows, Energisers (exercises, games and songs).

Among the key issues raised as pertinent to dealing with HIV/AIDS included; the need for meaningful partnerships that focus at reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS, access to treatment in terms of drugs and distance, domination of small organisations by big organisations, capacity building of CSOs to address the lack of adequate knowledge and skills to effectively design, implement, monitor and evaluate HIV/AIDS programmes, the need for policies to protect the rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and address issues such as stigma and discrimination. Additionally, the workshop also focused on the key role the media plays in information dissemination and advocacy on prevention.

Additionally, the participants came up with possible issues to include in a communiqué to CHOGM (Commonwealth Head of Governments Meeting). The issues included:

- ❖ Calling on Governments to provide a conducive environment for CSOs to operate independently
- ❖ Calling on Governments to develop better policies to deal with HIV/AIDS issues especially the rights of PLWHAs
- ❖ The need for policy reforms relating to copy rights and patents
- ❖ The need for Governments to allocate sufficient funds towards HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.
- ❖ The need to emphasise Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

- ❖ The need to committ more funds towards research and development
- ❖ The need to empower women and to ensure gender sensitive approaches.

A number of recommendations were made including among others, the need for capacity building of CSOs to enable them to deliver effectively. The need to lobby governments to develop better policies to deal with HIV/AIDS issues was also cited.

Objectives of the African Pan Commonwealth Network on HIV/AIDS

The main objectives of the African pan-Commonwealth Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS include the following:

To bring together key civil society organisations working with people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in the 16 African Commonwealth countries. (Initially one key civil society organisation has been selected from the African Commonwealth countries - Uganda, Cameroon, Swaziland, The Gambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa to be a member of the network).

Improve working relations between government, civil society and the private sector, and enhance collaborative work,

Promote effective HIV/AIDS programming, resource mobilisation, leadership and accountable governance amongst CSOs and national governments within African Commonwealth countries,

Enhance skills development and sharing of best practices and challenges faced amongst CSOs delivering HIV prevention, treatment and care within the African Commonwealth countries,

Document and evaluate positive HIV/AIDS interventions which have worked and share knowledge, skills and experiences amongst partner CSOs,

Initiate resource mobilisation for HIV/AIDS community-based interventions and develop effective fund raising strategies aimed at both government, the private sector and relevant International bodies

Lobby national and regional governments, and the international community on developing and implementing effective HIV/AIDS policies within Commonwealth countries.

Objectives of the workshop

The 3-day African Pan-Commonwealth workshop on HIV/AIDS held at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Uganda was titled 'Enhancing skills development and sharing of best practices to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS within the Commonwealth countries in the African continent.'

The specific objectives of the workshop included:

- ❖ To provide an opportunity for key CSOs supporting People Living With HIV from the 16 African Commonwealth countries to share their strategies used, experiences, and challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS,
- ❖ To create a forum through which members of the African Pan-Commonwealth Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS can develop a common agenda and

harmonise their HIV programming, monitoring and evaluation, to create a bigger impact in all the African Commonwealth countries

- ❖ To empower members of the network with skills and knowledge on good leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS, accountability, good HIV programming, developing and sustaining partnership, resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation
- ❖ To enhance the dialogue on improved quality and downward accountability.

The workshop participants

The workshop brought together over 35 participants, representing 11 African countries and 17 organisations as highlighted below. Details of participants full names and contact details are included in annex 1.

- 1) Santa Yalla, The Gambia
- 2) The AIDS information and Support Centre (TASC), Swaziland
- 3) Swaziland positive Living (SWAPOL), Swaziland
- 4) Zambia National AIDS Network (ZNaN), Zambia
- 5) Network of people Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPHWAN), Nigeria
- 6) Kenya AIDS intervention Prevention Project (KAIPPG), Kenya
- 7) Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organisation (NANASO), Namibia
- 8) Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA), Cameroon
- 9) Youth Net and counselling, Malawi
- 10) Drama Network, Ghana
- 11) Lesotho network of AIDS Service Organisation (LENASO), Lesotho
- 12) Uganda National AIDS Service Organisation (UNASO), Uganda
- 13) Reach Out Mbuya, Uganda
- 14) NGO Forum, Uganda
- 15) Christian Aid (Africa), Kenya
- 16) CHAIN, Uganda
- 17) Uganda Aids Commission (UAC), Uganda
- 18) Commonwealth Foundation, UK
- 19) Ministry of Health, Uganda

Mr. Vijay Krishnarayan Deputy Director and Anisha Rajapakse, Programme Manager Sustainable Development represented the Commonwealth Foundation at the workshop

Workshop methodology

Various activities and methods emphasising a participatory approach were used to make the workshop more fruitful. They included;

- ✦ Brainstorming
- ✦ Group discussions
- ✦ Paper presentations
- ✦ Question and answer (Q&A) sessions
- ✦ Case studies
- ✦ Video shows
- ✦ Energisers (exercises, games and songs)

It was a constructive, interactive and collegial environment where the goal was to forge relationships amongst members and develop concrete recommendations for ways to build a strong and effective African Pan Commonwealth Network on HIV/AIDS.

Participants' expectations

The workshop expectations identified by the participants included the following;

- ✦ Learn more about the Network, the opportunities it provides and the expectations it has of its members
- ✦ To know the roles and responsibilities of being an African Pan Commonwealth Network member,
- ✦ To learn more on how the network can support its members and enhance HIV/AIDS activities in other Commonwealth countries,
- ✦ To resolve the issues concerning coordination of the network since members are based in different countries
- ✦ To come up with a clear strategy on how to strengthen the network and other available resources so as to lobby government on adopting appropriate policies to deal with HIV/AIDS and ways of protecting indigenous knowledge
- ✦ To learn more on advocacy, resource mobilisation and engaging the government,
- ✦ For the network to create a new niche for itself and address gaps within the movement of those working towards the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS as opposed to duplicating what is being done by other CSOs and networks
- ✦ To get an understanding of why the Commonwealth Foundation has commenced this initiative last year, despite the fact that the pandemic has been around for over 25 years.

Welcome Remarks by CHAIN Country Manager, Regina Namata Kamoga



The Country Manager, Mrs. Regina Kamoga welcomed participants to the workshop. She highlighted the challenges that the NGOs working with HIV/AIDS face including those posed by unfavourable government policies, limitation of resources, expectations from beneficiaries and the conflicts between NGOs themselves.

She called upon the CSOs working on issues of HIV/AIDS to refocus their strategies and reinforce their energies so as to reverse the speed at which the pandemic is re-infecting people not only with Commonwealth countries but the world over.

Mrs. Kamoga also called upon members to work together by sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices on how to deal with the pandemic. She indicated that through a partnership, this network would create and perhaps develop new strategies on how to deal with HIV/AIDS.

Mrs. Kamoga indicated that the aim of the African Pan-Commonwealth Civil Society Network was to bring together CSOs within the Commonwealth working on HIV/AIDS. She further highlighted the overall objective of the workshop as networking and forging a way forward to fight the common causes of HIV/AIDS by sharing experiences, challenges, coping strategies and best practices.

In her closing remarks, she led the participants in the hope song entitled “lets keep up the fight”;

**Let us keep up the fight
The fight against AIDS
Giving hope to the hopeless
Giving help to the helpless**

**Let us keep up the fight,
The fight against AIDS
So we may have a better world
A safe place to live**

Composed by Mrs. Mary Kaddu, Uganda Prisons Forces

Speech by the Minister



The Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Stephen Mallinga was represented by Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Otaala, (Minister of State for Primary Health Care)

He welcomed participants to Uganda and wished them productive deliberations. He highlighted the relevance of the workshop since it was in line with the multisectoral expanded response to the pandemic which involves the mobilisation of resources and organisational capacity building for more efficient and improved delivery of services relating to HIV/AIDS

He called for the need to look at HIV/AIDS not just as a health problem but as a development problem since it affects other sectors of society including the economy.

On a final note the minister called for partnership between CSOs, governments and the private sector for a more effective delivery of services

The Minister also indicated that more resources were now available for dealing with AIDS and other epidemics like malaria and TB but that the resource management need to be improved.

Speech by Vijay Krishnarayan, Deputy Director, Commonwealth Foundation.

The Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, Vijay Krishnarayan, expressed his gratitude to Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Otaala and the Government of Uganda for its interest to work with Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN) and welcoming the Pan-Commonwealth initiative. He said that the challenge of HIV is enormous. Last year marked 25 years of a world with AIDS: 20 million people are dead and 40 million are living with HIV. Of those 40 million, 25 million are Commonwealth citizens and more than 70% of those are women.

He addressed two questions that had been raised by participants at the conference. First; "Why the Commonwealth?" He explained why the Commonwealth should rightly be involved in catalysing a network of this nature. Among other reasons, he said that the Commonwealth has a tradition of exchange between the citizens of member states, based primarily on our common language.

The second question raised was "Why now?" With global enthusiasm for the Millennium Development Goals seemingly waning, in 2005 Commonwealth Heads of Government declared HIV/AIDS a global and Commonwealth emergency. Each Commonwealth organisation therefore has a role to play. In response to the enormity of the challenge and the call to action by Heads of Government and civil society, the Commonwealth Foundation assessed the contribution that it could make.

The Foundation's niche position at the interface between governments and civil society means that it is ideally placed to catalyse multi-sectoral initiatives aimed at halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS that would also facilitate the delivery of policy messages to ministers and senior officials.

The network's specific objectives will be driven by its members, but it will have the potential to improve the Foundation's work on the issue with information from people across the Commonwealth living with HIV/AIDS and an outlet for advocacy materials. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Krishnarayan emphasised that no one underestimates the scale of the challenges that the pandemic has brought with it. However, a combination of citizens' action, professional and technical support from organisations, governmental support for policies and institutions is a powerful combination. The voices of people in these efforts are central to making sure that our aim is true.



Papers Presented

A number of presentations were made by professionals from the HIV/AIDS field covering a wide range of topics. Find detailed presentations in Annex 5.

Group Discussions

In line with the participatory approach and for authenticity, the participants were divided into small groups to discuss and present HIV/AIDS programmes in their respective organisations including the activities, as well as the successes and challenges faced. The four groups were tasked with the following questions

1(a): Examples of HIV programmes being implemented in respective organisations and briefly mention the activities involved.

1(b): What are the challenges and how they are addressed?

Group 1

Members of the group

1. Siphwe Hlophe – SWAPOL, Swaziland
2. Ngnie Tangne Suzanne – SWAA, Cameroon
3. Daniel Motsatsing – BONASO, Botswana
4. John N. Musanje – ZNAN, Zambia

1(a): Examples of HIV programmes being implemented in respective organisations and briefly mention the activities involved

- ❖ Strengthening support groups e.g. treatment literacy
- ❖ Food security and Nutrition
- ❖ Home Based Care
- ❖ OVC support and care
- ❖ Neighbourhood care support
- ❖ Advocacy for rights of women
- ❖ Capacity Building
- ❖ Resource mobilization
- ❖ Advocacy of policies influence
- ❖ Information sharing and sensitisation
- ❖ Advocacy for rights of people living positive
- ❖ Sub granting to NGOs and CBOs
- ❖ Exchange visit and networking

1(b): What are the challenges and how they are addressed?

- ❖ Inadequate funding
- ❖ Donor/ Partner agendas change
- ❖ Absence of/limited accountability for the limited funds
- ❖ Inadequate human resource capacity
- ❖ Lack of institutional sustainability
- ❖ Project-timed funding without exit strategy
- ❖ Poor Government/Civil Society Organisation relations
- ❖ Stiff competition for the limited resources

Group 2

Members of the group

1. Thandi TASC, Swaziland
2. Zack NANASO, Namibia
3. Amelia, LENASO, Lesotho
4. Malbau, YONECO, Malawi
5. National University HIV/AIDS Committee

1(a): Examples of HIV programmes being implemented in respective organisations and briefly mention the activities involved

- ❖ National frameworks like the National Emergence Response and National AIDS framework in Malawi and Medium term Plan 3 in Namibia

- ❖ Activities in areas of prevention, cure, impact mitigation, VCT, gender, drugs and alcohol abuse, youth development, OVC
- ❖ Know your status campaign with politicians being the first people to testify in public

1(b): What are the challenges and how they are addressed?

Below is a summary of the challenges and how they are being addressed;

- ❖ Top-down approach in donor allocation of resources
- ❖ Governments not prioritising HIV/AIDS
 - ❖ Lack of resources for programme implementation
 - ❖ Inadequate capacity building for CSOs to design, implement, monitor and evaluate HIV/AIDS programmes
 - ❖ Lack of willingness of government to effectively partner with CSOs. i.e. what is currently known as cosmetic partnership
 - ❖ Socio-cultural beliefs, for instance some males do not seek HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care services but rather opt for traditional medicines/practices
 - ❖ CSOs lack advocacy and lobbying skills to effectively engage government.
- ❖ Linkages of poverty to HIV/AIDS and food/nutrition



Group 3

Members of the group

1. Josephine Sackey, The Drama Network, Ghana
2. Baba Jammeh, Santa Yalla, The Gambia
3. Dr. Stella Alamo, Mbuya Reach Out Uganda

1(a): Examples of HIV programmes being implemented in respective organisations and briefly mention the activities involved.

- ❖ Prevention programmes
 - Community sensitisation/outreach
 - Involvement of PLHAs
 - Drama, dance, cultural shows
 - Film shows
 - VCT
 - Youth in schools, out of schools programmes
 - Male-focussed programmes
 - Couples programmes
- ❖ Social Support
 - OVC programmes
 - Schools and nutrition support
 - Support to care givers
 - Looking for foster families
 - Skills building
 - Home-Based Care (HBC)

- ❖ Peer support groups
 - Income Generating Activities (IGAs)
 - Nutritional support
 - Support for ARVs
 - Micro-finance
 - Adult literacy issues
 - Alcoholic anonymous club
 - Medical support

1(b): What are the challenges and how they are being addressed?

Below is a summary of the challenges and how they are being addressed;

- ❖ Financial Resources
 - Finding alternative sources of funding
 - Advocacy
 - Generating funds internally
- ❖ Human resources
 - Using volunteers
 - Capacity building
- ❖ Stigma: societal and self stigma
 - Encouraging disclosure
 - Family participation
 - Information dissemination
 - Inclusion of communities in HIV activities
 - Inclusion of PLS in community sensitisation
- ❖ Dependency syndrome
 - Can be solved by skills building/micro finance
- ❖ CBOs not recognised at the national level
 - Advocacy
 - Dissemination of best practices

Group 4

Members of the group

1. Titus Tumwesigye, UNASO, Uganda
2. Pat Mat, NEPHWA, Nigeria
3. James , KAIPPG, Kenya
4. Sandra Nanyombi, CHAIN, Uganda

1(a): Examples of HIV programmes being implemented in respective organisations and briefly mention the activities involved.

- ❖ Capacity building
 - Treatment literacy (CHAIN)
 - Care giver training (KAIPPG)
 - Life skills development

- ❖ Resource mobilisation
 - Proposal writing
 - Networking
 - Linkages to donor agencies
- ❖ Coordination
 - Formation for support groups and sub networks at local, regional and national level
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
- ❖ Service delivery
 - Provide food and vitamins supplements
 - Support to OVC
 - Outreach programmes
 - Treatment of opportunistic infections
 - HIV/AIDS Prevention education
 - Introduction of youth programmes
 - Introduction of school programmes
- ❖ Advocacy
 - Policy processes
 - Rights advocacy

1(b): What are the challenges and how are these being addressed?

Below are the challenges outlined and how they are being addressed.

- ❖ Understanding the concept of networking
 - Mapping
 - Forming sub networks
 - Information sharing
- ❖ Human resources
 - Capacity building
 - Volunteers
- ❖ Resource mobilisation
 - Writing proposals**
- ❖ Cultural factors
 - Education and sensitisation**
- ❖ Political factors
 - Advocacy**

Key issues arising from the workshop

The key issues arising from the African Pan-Commonwealth Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS includes the following;

Access to treatment

The CSOs indicated that it was becoming increasingly difficult for them to give support for PLWHAs in terms of treatment, counselling and other forms of support. In Uganda for instance (and certain conflict areas), it was indicated that Internally Displaced Persons

(IDPs) found it hard to access treatment because of the insecurity that threatened them. Carers indicated that since IDPs are mobile it was also hard to administer the taking of drugs and in some cases patients took half treatments and adherence to ART is still a challenge. The long distances to the health centers was yet another hinderance to treatment and adherence. Health centres beyond district level would certainly assist in solving this problem

Participants were also concerned about the resources that were available for CSOs working on HIV/AIDS and with targeted communities. There was concern that resource allocation was not fair and sometimes organisations on the ground that are in touch with the people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS hardly received sufficient funding compared to larger and established organisations that were based in the urban centres. Governments need to reconsider the methods of resource allocation for CSOs.

Capacity building and networking

CSOs lack capacity to effectively design, implement, monitor and evaluate HIV/AIDS programmes. The need to build capacity of CSOs to enable them deliver effectively was greatly emphasised. The areas for capacity building include among others; advocacy, resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation as well the dissemination of information and media relations.

It was indicated that there was a need for participants to network, learn from each other and as a result build each other's capacities. Participants agreed that HIV/AIDS was larger than any organisation and thus they need to work together if far reaching impact in terms of prevention, treatment and care was to be achieved.

Participants observed that large and small organisations needed each other and yet most times larger organisations sidelined smaller organisations. Benefits of networking were given based on case studies of projects in Uganda which had borrowed from several countries including Malawi and Swaziland and in turn best practices from Uganda had been borrowed by other countries including Kenya, South Africa and Swaziland.

"There is need to identify training needs so as to build the capacity of CSOs. We identify the training needs especially through TOTs," said a participant from Malawi.

Partnerships

There is need to develop meaningful Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). Governments were urged to strengthen their collaboration with CBOs and CSOs.

Coordination

It was noted that there is a lot of duplication of work by the different CBOs and CSOs. As such, there is need to have coordinated efforts to overcome this.

Human rights

Participants were concerned about the rights of PLWHAs. They called for a rights-based approach in dealing with those infected the way they are treated at the work place including stigma and discrimination, during service provision, forceful disclosure and testing (right to privacy and confidentiality) and the right to have children. There were also concerns about women being forced to disclose their status or forced to test for HIV and yet this is a breach of people's privacy and the right to make choice. An example was given from Swaziland where it was compulsory for all expecting mothers who visited the antenatal clinics to be tested.

Policy and advocacy in HIV prevention

The participants were concerned about the way policy and advocacy in HIV prevention was handled. They acknowledged that generally most CSOs used a reactive approach that was not sustainable.

It was identified that part of the problem had to do with skills and the ignorance about policy processes. People always expect policy makers to come up with conducive policies but in reality it should be driven by the collective efforts of CSOs and others concerned about the rights of PLWHA and other issues pertaining to the pandemic.

It was the hope of the participants that the newly formed Pan-Commonwealth Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS would make a difference in ensuring that decision makers address policy-related challenges to ensure a conducive environment in which to deal with the pandemic.

Innovations

Participants emphasised the need for innovative and new ways of approaching the HIV/AIDS pandemic including adopting 'homegrown' strategies. Some participants however cautioned against some of the new remedies for instance the case of the Gambian President, Yahya Jemmeh who says he has discovered a cure for AIDS. The participant from The Gambia explained that the President claims to have had a revelation of the AIDS cure through his ancestors in a dream. He said those on the President's medication claim that their health had improved but there was no sufficient evidence to substantiate these claims.

Socio-cultural practices as hindrance to HIV prevention

Participants indicated that several socio-cultural practices in several African communities were a hindrance to prevention. Some of the bad practices included polygamy and having sex with multiple partners, circumcision with unsafe instruments and the inability of most women to make informed choices on sexual and reproductive health issues. This was seen as a negative effect of patriarchy where by men have control over their wives bodies and so if they are infected, the women are unable to protect themselves.

Participants also explained that cultural expectations on men was a deterrent to them seeking HIV/AIDS testing and eventually treatment. Culturally men are expected not show weakness and succumbing to weakness. Seeking counselling is another way men would be judged as weak. As a result, men stay away from support services available.

It was also observed that on several occasions CSO targeted mostly women and isolated men. Women are often seen as the victims and are often offered free testing, counseling and treatment including women as expecting mothers. Men however, who are mostly regarded as economically better and part of the problem are hardly targeted and these issues need to be addressed.

Donor dependency

Many HIV/AIDS programmes rely solely on donor funding. There is thus need for governments and CBOs to be more innovative and find alternative sources of sustaining these activities.

"We would like to see more funds towards mitigation of HIV/AIDS from our governments. This will go a long way in ensuring sustainability and in the end will reverse the HIV/AIDS trend," were the exact words of a participant from Swaziland.

Participants evaluation of the workshop

To a large extent most participants were satisfied with the workshop.

Participants' feedback about the workshop

- ✦ Increased knowledge about the network
- ✦ Gained better understanding on the involvement of the Commonwealth Foundation in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- ✦ Learnt best practices and challenges faced in eradicating AIDS from other countries
- ✦ Building networks and coalitions as a way of scaling up HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment.
- ✦ Good interactions and exchange of experience and good practices
- ✦ Learnt new things on implementing projects and policy advocacy
- ✦ Interactive and collegial workshop environment
- ✦ Informative and interactive presentations
- ✦ The relevance of the documentary from Mbuya Reach out

Way forward for the Network

- ✦ To strengthen the capacities of CSOs and CBOs to ensure effective delivery of services - for instance through improved advocacy, resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation, effective information dissemination and improved media relations.
- ✦ To generate funding at the national and regional levels and also to link CSOs to potential funders to enable them to address issues that are critical in member countries
- ✦ Strengthen membership by attracting new members to have a bigger multiplier effect.
- ✦ Support participating organisations to set up sub networks at a country level.
- ✦ Set up a list serve and website for continued experience-sharing.
- ✦ Improving the lives of PLWHA through Income Generating Activities(IGAs) and loans
- ✦ Advocate for Commonwealth governments to put in place clear HIV and AIDS policies and honour them.
- ✦ Enable meaningful involvement of PLWHAs beyond tokenism
- ✦ Focus on HIV/AIDS prevention education - with special emphasis on young

people and facilitate greater involvement by them into the related processes
Initiate crucial research on home grown remedies in order to enable evidence-based interventions and to build on those that are already in place
There is need to empower women and to enact gender-sensitive policies



At the end of the workshop, every participant was awarded a certificate of attendance

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of participants for the African Pan-Commonwealth Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS workshop; 16-18 April 2007

No	Name	Title	Organisation	Country
1	Daniel Motsatsing	Executive Secretary	Botswana Network of AIDS Service Organisation	Botswana
2	Baba A.F Jammeh	Executive Director	Santa Yalla	The Gambia
3	Thandi Nhlengethwa	Executive Director	The AIDS Information and Support Centre (TASC)	Swaziland
4	John Musanje	Executive Director	Zambia National AIDS Network (ZAN)	Zambia
5.	Pat Matemilola	Coordinator	Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPHWAN)	Nigeria
6	James Onyango	Executive Director	Kenya AIDS Intervention Prevention Project (KAIPPG)	Kenya
7	Zack Makari	Advocacy Officer	Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organisation (NANASO)	Namibia
8	Suzanne Ngnietagne	Communications Officer	Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA)	Cameroon
9	Mac Bain Mkandawire	Executive Director	Youth Net and Counseling	Malawi
10	Josephine Sackey	Project Director	Drama Network	Ghana
11	Dr. Amelia Ranotsi	Chairman LENASO	Lesotho Network of AIDS Service Organisation (LENASO)	Lesotho
12	Siphiwe Hlophe	Director	Swaziland Positive Living (SWAPOL)	Swaziland
13	Twesiga Titus	Information and Documentation Officer	Uganda National AIDS Service Organisations (UNASO)	Uganda
14	Dr Stella Alamo	Executive Director	Reach Out Mbuya	Uganda

15	Vijay Krishnarayan	Deputy Director	Commonwealth Foundation UK	United Kingdom
16	Anisha Rajapakse	Programme Manager – Sustainable Development	Commonwealth Foundation	United Kingdom
17	Warren Nyamugasira	Executive Director	NGO Forum	Uganda
18	Dr Martin Odiit	M&E Specialist	Uganda AIDS Commission	Uganda
19	Dr Kakia Aloysius	Project Coordinator	SCOT/TASO	Uganda
20	Dr Stella Neema	Researcher	Institute of Social Research Makerere University	Uganda
21	Dr Charles Wendo	Communication Officer	Infectious Disease Institute Makerere University	Uganda
22	Robinah Kaitiritimba	National Coordinator	Uganda National Health Users Organisation	Uganda
23	Stella Ayo Odongo		Uganda Child Rights Network (UCRN)	Uganda
25	Moses Wangudi		Health Rights Action Group (HAG)	Uganda
26	William Babumba	Programme Manager HIV/AIDS	Christian Aid (Africa)/CHAIN	Uganda
27	Regina N.M Kamoga	Country Manager	CHAIN	Uganda
28	Amoding Dorcus	Events Officer	CHAIN	Uganda
29	Kasasira Sandra	Training & Resource Centre Manager	CHAIN	Uganda
30	Peter Ogenga	Advocacy and Information Officer	CHAIN	Uganda

Annex 2: Countries who are members of the Network

1. Botswana,
2. Cameroon,
3. Ghana,
4. Kenyan,
5. Lesotho,
6. Malawi,
7. Mozambique,
8. Namibia,
9. Nigeria,
10. Sierra Leon,
11. South Africa,
12. Swaziland,
13. Tanzania,
14. The Gambia,
15. Uganda,
16. Zambia,

Annex 3: Media organisations represented at the workshop

1. The New Vision
2. The Monitor Newspaper
3. Uganda Broadcasting
4. Wava broadcasting station
5. Radio One Central broadcasting Station (CBS)
6. Simba FM
7. Super FM



The Daily Monitor, Saturday April 18, 2007



The Daily Monitor, Saturday April 21, 2007

Govt to minimise Global Fund dependency The New vision

Tuesday, 24th April, 2007

By Geresom Musamali

THE Government is planning to increase funding for malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in order to reduce dependency on the Global Fund, Emmanuel Otaala, the health state minister, has said.

“We shall no longer have a situation where only the Global Fund supports those sub-sectors. We shall budget for them in the next financial year.”

Otaala was opening the Commonwealth HIV/AIDS Network meeting at Speke Resort in Munyonyo on Monday. Participants from 13 African Commonwealth countries attended. A position paper will be presented to leaders at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of State and Government Meeting.

The Global Fund recently suspended funding for the three sub-sectors, following mismanagement of the money.

“NGOs will be funded through the Uganda Aids Commission, after thorough scrutiny of their past performance and present work plans,” Otaala affirmed.

Proceedings of the African Pan - Commonwealth HIV/AIDS Network Workshop

Enhancing skills development and sharing of best practices to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS within the Commonwealth countries in the African continent

Annex 4: Workshop programme

PROGRAM FOR A 3 DAY RESIDENTIAL CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP

16 – 18th April 2007, Speke Resort, Munyonyo

Title: Enhancing skills development and sharing of best practices to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS within the Commonwealth Countries particularly in the Africa region.

Organised by: PAN African Commonwealth Network on HIV/AIDS

Contact details:
 Community Health And Information Network (CHAIN)
 Community House, Plot No 809 Kanyanya, Gayaza Road
 P.O. Box 16051 Kampala Uganda
 Tel: 00256 41 568 786

ARRIVAL Sunday 15th April 2007

Arrival at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. Airport transfer to the Speke Resort, Munyonyo. Room allocation for the participants. Registration process.

DAY ONE – Monday 16th April 2007

TIME	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER	MODERATOR
8.30- 9.30 am	<i>Registration</i>		CHAIN staff
9.00 –9.50 am	Overview of the workshop, welcoming delegates and brief on the Pan African Commonwealth Network on HIV/AIDS.	Regina Namata Kamoga – CHAIN Country Manager	

10.00 am	Chief guest – Minister of Health arrives takes his sit		
10.10 – 11.20	Press Conference starts		
10.15 – 10.25 am	Brief about the Commonwealth Peoples Forum (CPF)	Warren Nyamugasira – Focal Point, CPF	
10.30 – 10.50 am	<i>Brief about the Commonwealth Network on HIV /AIDS</i>	Vijay Krishnarayan – Deputy Director, Commonwealth Foundation	
10.50 – 11.20	Minister’s speech		
11.20 – 11.40 am	Q & A Session	Warren Nyamugasira	Anisha Rajapakse Commonwealth Foundation
11.40 – 11.50 am	Group Photo		
11.55 am	<i>End of press conference & Workshop starts</i>	Hon Minister of Health	
12.00 pm	“Overview of the HIV epidemic and the Civil Society response in the African Commonwealth Countries”	William Babumba / Regina Namata Kamoga	Dr Stella Alamo – Executive Director Mbuya Reach Out
1.00 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
2.00 pm	<p><i>Group discussions</i></p> <p>Topic 1(a): Examples of HIV programmes being implemented in respective organisations and briefly mention the process involved.</p> <p>Topic 1(b): What are the challenges and how are these being addressed?</p> <p>Topic 1 (c): What critical HIV issues do you want to see included in the Civil Society communiqué to be presented to the Heads of States during CHOGM?</p>	External Facilitator	William Babumba

3.30 pm	Presentations and feedback from groups	Group Leaders	Regina Kamoga
4.30 pm	<i>Tea Break</i>		
5.00 pm	<i>Plenary</i>		William Babumba & Anisha Rajapakse
5.30 pm	End of the day & special announcements		

DAY TWO – Tuesday 17th April 2007

8.30 – 9.00 a.m.	Recap of day one's session and overview of the day	Recap by Rapporteur Day's proceedings	William Babumba
9.00-10.00am	<i>"How to design, implement and monitor a good HIV/AIDS programme"</i>	Dr. Martin Odiit M & E Specialist Uganda AIDS Commission	Volunteer from delegates
10.00-11.00am	<i>"Building and sustaining effective partnerships in the fight against HIV/AIDS within the African Commonwealth Countries"</i>	Dr. Kakia A Project Coordinator TASO	Volunteer from delegates
11.00-11.30 am TEA BREAK			
11.30-12.30pm	<i>"Resource Mobilization for scaling up HIV/AIDS responses: What Civil Society Organisations needs to know and do."</i>	Dr. Stella Neema MUK Institute of Social Research	Volunteer from delegates
12.30-1.00pm	Morning plenary Session	Moderated by Anisha Rajapakse	
1.00-2.00pm LUNCH BREAK			
2.00-3.00pm	<i>"Working with the media to scale up HIV/AIDS effective response in African Commonwealth Countries: What Civil society needs to know and do."</i>	Dr. Charles Wendo Communications Officer Infectious Disease Institute - MUK	William Babumba

3.00-4.00PM	“Government HIV/AIDS Policy – development & implementation process” - What is the role of Civil Society organisations?	Robinah Kaitiritimba Uganda National Health Users org- UNHCO	Regina Kamoga
4.00-4.15pm	TEA BREAK		
4.15-5.00pm	“Building Networks and Coalitions as a way of scaling up the HIV/AIDS and OVC Response.”	Stella Ayo-Odongo Uganda Child Rights Network (UCRN)	Anisha Rajapakse

DAY THREE – Wednesday 18th April 2007

8.30–9.00am	Recap of day two’s session and overview of the day	Recap by Rapporteur Days Proceedings	Dorcas Amoding
9.00-10.00am	“ <i>Strategic Directions on HIV/AIDS programming within the African Commonwealth countries - a donor perspective.</i> ”	Fred. T. Muwanga HIV/AIDS Specialist USAID	Regina Namata Kamoga
10.15 – 10.45 a.m.	“How to promote the rights of PLWHA in African Commonwealth countries”	Moses. O. Wangudi Health Rights Action Group	Anisha Rajapakse
10.45 am – 11.15 am	TEA BREAK		
11.15 am – 12.00 pm	Strategizing the way forward for the Pan African Commonwealth HIV / AIDS Network.	William Babumba	
12.00 – 12.15 pm	Evaluation		
12.15- 1.15 pm	PLENARY / CLOSING CEREMONY Chief Guest: Dr Apuuli Kihumuro Director General – Uganda AIDS Commission		
1.15 pm - 1.30 pm	Awarding of certificates by Chief Guest		
1.30 pm – 2.15 pm	LUNCH & CLOSE		

Departure by 4 pm latest on Wednesday 19th April 2007

Transport will be available from Speke Resort, Munyonyo to Entebbe Airport.

Annex 5

Presentation by Vijay Krishnarayan, Deputy Director, Commonwealth Foundation to the Pan-Commonwealth African Network on HIV/ AIDS

Introduction

I would like to start by thanking Honourable Dr Emmanuel Otaala, Minister of State for Health (Primary Health Care) for his support and indeed the continuing interest of his Ministry, having attended the launch of the Pan-Commonwealth Network in June 2006. Especially welcome at that event, was the pledge of support made on behalf of the Government of Uganda to the work of the Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN) and the Pan-Commonwealth Network.

The challenge of HIV for the Commonwealth

The challenge of HIV that we face is enormous. Last year we marked 25 years of a world with AIDS: 20 million people are dead and 40 million are living with HIV. Of those 40 million, 25 million are Commonwealth citizens and more than 70% of those are women.

But I want to address two questions that have been raised by participants here this morning. Firstly, "Why the Commonwealth?" I believe there are four good reasons why the Commonwealth should rightly be involved in catalysing a network of this nature.

- ❖ The Commonwealth has a tradition of exchange between the citizens of member states, based primarily on our common language. Where else could you have people from 16 countries come together to discuss common experiences without a vast array of simultaneous translators and documents in multiple languages?
- ❖ There is a diversity of experience that makes exchange a worthwhile exercise. People really can learn from each other and this morning we have already heard about the diversity between the experiences in Ghana and Swaziland regarding prevalence rates
- ❖ There is a shared institutional experience, which means for example that people immediately understand the way that healthcare systems are configured, and that professions work
- ❖ Finally the Commonwealth is receptive to the voices of civil society. Commonwealth ministerial meetings often make space within their deliberations to hear from civil society. The Commonwealth Foundation has a key role to play in making this happen.

The second question raised was "Why now?" With global enthusiasm for the Millennium Development Goals seemingly waning, in 2005 Commonwealth Heads of Government declared HIV/AIDS a global and Commonwealth emergency. Each Commonwealth organisation therefore has a role to play. In response to the enormity of the challenge and the call to action by Heads of Government and civil society, the Commonwealth Foundation assessed the contribution that it could make.

Allow me here to explain that the Commonwealth Foundation was established by and reports to 46 Commonwealth member states. It was set up with a mandate to support civil society, including professional associations across the Commonwealth. It therefore faces in two directions – on the one hand accountable to governments – on the other serving civil society. The Foundation has three programmes, which focus on culture, governance and sustainable development. It would be wrong to characterise the Foundation as a

donor organisation. It has a budget of 3 million pounds and a staff of 17. Many of you will have worked with international NGOs that have resources that dwarf those at the disposal of the Foundation. Where the organisation has been able to punch above its weight, this has been due in large part to its inter-governmental status.

The Foundation's niche position at the interface between governments and civil society means that it is ideally placed to catalyse multi-sectoral initiatives aimed at halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. It can also facilitate the delivery of policy messages to ministers and senior officials.

This all comes at a time when bodies such as the WHO, World Bank and UNAIDS, as well as bi-laterals such as SIDA have called for coordinated and strategic programmes that draw on the experiences of people living with HIV to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions. This is in part an acknowledgement that centralised, state led responses on their own have not been adequate to meet the multi-faceted nature of the pandemic.

Towards a Pan-Commonwealth Network

Last year the Foundation initiated the development of an international network of civil society organisations (CSOs) to link up people and communities affected by and living with HIV/AIDS and provide a platform to advocate for better coordinated prevention, treatment and care efforts across the Commonwealth.

The network's specific objectives will be driven by its members, but it will have the potential to:

- ❖ Improve the Foundation's work on the issue with information from people across the Commonwealth living with HIV/AIDS and an outlet for advocacy materials
- ❖ Improve cooperation between governments and civil society by ensuring that the voices of those directly affected inform partnerships and projects
- ❖ Ensure that Commonwealth Ministerial Meetings (for example, Health, Education and Women's Affairs) are informed by Commonwealth citizens living with the reality of HIV/AIDS

The approach has been to identify a lead organisation for each part of the Commonwealth and work with it to establish the network incrementally. This is a deliberate attempt not to replicate existing institutions and ensure that the network adds value to existing work. So here in Africa the Foundation has partnered with the Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN). Last June the first activity took place with the launch of a poster campaign to raise awareness on the marking of 25 years of HIV/AIDS. This was followed by a red ribbon awareness poster campaign leading up to World Aids Day with the Global AIDS Rainbow.

The Foundation has been invited by the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka to play an active part via the Pan-Commonwealth Network in the 8th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP). This biennial congress, which brings together governments and civil society, will be held in Sri Lanka from 19-23 August this year. This will provide a first focus for the network in Asia. The launch of the Caribbean pan-Commonwealth network will be in September this year followed by the Asian launch later in 2007.

Conclusion

None of us underestimates the scale or scope of the challenges that the pandemic has brought with it. However a combination of citizens' action, professional and technical support from organisations such as yours and governmental support for policies and institutions is a powerful combination. The voices of people in these efforts are central to making sure that our aim is true.

5a. Press Release

NGOs from the African continent meet in Uganda to address the challenges of HIV/AIDS and shape targeted interventions

Monday 16 April 2007

Members of the African Pan-Commonwealth civil society network on HIV/AIDS will meet in Uganda today to strategise on effective grassroots initiatives to address the challenges in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This network brings together local NGOs and CBOs in the 16 African Commonwealth countries that are working with people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

This three day workshop in Kampala, will be inaugurated by the Ugandan Minister for Health Hon. Dr. Stephen Malinga. Also present will be Mr. Vijay Krishnarayan, Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation and Anisha Rajapakse, Programme Manager for Sustainable Development based in London. Community Health and Information Network (CHAIN) is the leading CSO of the Network and has the overall responsibility of coordinating HIV initiatives in the African continent.

The title of this workshop is 'Enhancing Skills Development and Sharing of Best Practice to Mitigate HIV/AIDS in the African Commonwealth'. Civil society representatives from Cameroon, Swaziland, Uganda, The Gambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Lesotho, Zambia, Nigeria, Sierre Leone, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa will attend.

Over the next three days there will be various speakers and group discussions aimed at formulating concrete strategies to scale up national responses to address HIV prevalence, treatment and care. The workshop will also emphasize the importance of improving working relations between government, civil society and the private sector and promote collaborative work.

Regina Kamoga Country Manager for CHAIN said: "There is an urgent need for civil society organisations in Africa to develop their skills in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This network will provide a mechanism for the sharing of information between peers which is an essential part of any capacity building strategy."

Vijay Krishnarayan, said: "There is need for partnerships between civil society and governments. At present the relationship is too often characterised by tension and suspicion. The sooner bridges can be built between these sectors the better for the pan-Commonwealth fight against this global pandemic."



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