

SUMMARY

Program Year 2007 commenced by refining the approved annual work plan, preparing the six months bi-annual plan for January –June 2007 as well as Individual Operating plans.

Major accomplishments took place during 2007. We thank and praise God! Two Consensus Building Conferences out of the three planned culminated in forming 2 new Country networks where new boards were elected to address governance issues of the networks. Board members were oriented on their functions. Boards in Uganda and Liberia held their first official board meetings, they developed five year strategic objectives and one year board plans. In Uganda, Liberia, and Swaziland; Bishops and senior church leaders were facilitated to deliberate on HIV and AIDS issues of significance to the church in their respective countries, this ended by the leaders developing communiqués. This was their first time for leaders to come together on HIV and AIDS issues. They breathed with relief that PACANet provided both the reasons and the direction for that to happen.

Preparing the human resource for the church through a six weeks training was another major achievement. Uganda and Swaziland's trainees, Erikshjalpen partners and PACANet staff graduated from phase 1 training, while Uganda and PACANet staff finished phase 2. Stigma and discrimination is a major setback in responding to HIV susceptibility and AIDS impact vulnerability. PACANet started addressing stigma by developing stigma and advocacy tools and undertaking focused four day stigma training in Liberia. Together with this, a number of participants attended a change agents training to prepare them for advocacy activities in Liberia. Internally staff got their capacity built by attending a five weeks HIV and AIDS competence training, and for those based in Kampala, they had training sessions on the French language.

As well as these accomplishments, PACANet also faced some set-backs during the year in question. In January it was learnt that one of the strategic partners was going to release financial resources about four months later. PACANet secretariat had to do a strategic re-adjustment of the bi-annual work plan. Financial transfer from Kampala Office to West Africa as well as to Madagascar was another uphill task; this had implications in the timely implementation of the planned activities. PACANet does not have a physical presence in all countries of focus except Liberia and so it depended on the Task Forces in the respective countries. Volunteerism of the Task Forces did not pick up well in some of the countries.

Despite these obstacles, 2007 has been a programmatically productive year for PACANet.

Binagwa Fulgence
Director of Programs

A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Exploration visits

Two exploration visits planned in two countries were accomplished. In Sierra Leone between 7th and 12th January 2007, and Ethiopia from 20th-22nd February 2007. These visits were later followed by other visits in both countries, i.e. Ethiopia on 22nd-29th April, 2007, and in Sierra Leone from 21st-24th August 2007. The objectives of the exploration visits were to identify Churches and Christian organizations, find out what they were doing in the area of HIV and AIDS, share PACANet's aim and objectives and invite them to partner with PACANet for a shared response to HIV and AIDS through the formation of strong networks in the respective countries. In both countries visited, discussions were centered on Christians' response to HIV and AIDS involvement.

Having had these discussions with them, the teams then presented to them PACANet's vision and mission, specific objectives and model. Last but not the least, they found out from them whether or not they were interested in collaborating with PACANet in the collective response to the pandemic. Although there were existing networks in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia, they were still embryonic providing both PACANet and these networks, namely, Churches United in the Struggle against HIV and AIDS (CUAHA) of Ethiopia and Network of Christians Responding to AIDS in Sierra Leone the opportunity to discuss and shape their partnerships.

Output of the visits other than relationship building was the selection of Task Force: In Sierra Leone, the task force was democratically elected; a draft plan was put in place for future activities. "Scripture Union" offered to take the lead in the process of selecting a consultant to conduct the Situation Analysis study. In Ethiopia, it was agreed that the current CUAHA team should act as the Task Force for the Situation Analysis, though the exact details should be discussed and agreed upon during the review of the terms of reference (TOR). Please see appendix 1a-b for the list of names met during the exploration visits.

2. Situational analyses on HIV and AIDS

The studies to find out HIV and AIDS response by the Churches and Christian Based Organisations were planned in 4 countries namely Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Sierra Leone. They were completed in Burkina Faso. In Sierra Leone it ends in November 2007, the study is going on in Madagascar and had not started in Ethiopia. PACANet developed the Situation Analysis Framework which was given to the consultants and the Task Force, to be adapted in the relevant countries. The aim of the Situation Analysis study was to assess the Church activities, and challenges in addressing the HIV and AIDS problem. Several aspects were looked at in the SA, namely:

- o The existing HIV and AIDS interventions being implemented by the church
- o Existing resources
- o Institutional and programme capacity of the church
- o Existence of some forms of stigma and discrimination in the church

- o Gender concerns addressed by the church in handling HIV/AIDS Challenges and problems and gaps

- o Advocacy and networking

The report for Burkina Faso was produced, first in French and then translated into English. The preliminary reports were circulated for inputs, from PACANet team and the task force before they were finalised. As regards to Sierra Leone PACANet's collaborated with the task force to identify a consultant by sending research tools to the task force. The task force then made a call for research proposals – technical and financial proposals - by placing an advertisement in local newspapers. The consultant was identified and research started, however, the process took longer than anticipated, partly because of communication delays between the task force and the prospective consultant and PACANet. Also the delays in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PACANet and the task force, between the task force and consultant and the with treasurer organization. Another factor was the process of obtaining bank details by the treasurer organization, which in Sierra Leone is the Scripture Union, and last but not the least the lack of information regarding the basis for selecting the consultant. The task force supported by PACANet's launched the Situation Analysis study on 11th September, 2007 because Task Force members felt that there was a critical need for publicity of the study.

Present at the launch were the heads of 40 Churches, other Christian organisations and local and international NGOs, as well as representatives of the Government of Sierra Leone. The Consultant began the study, after he had trained the field staff and other study assistants for two (2) days and pre-tested the research instruments.

In Madagascar the Task Force initially delayed the process because of the Presidential elections, a situation which was similar in Sierra Leone. Later on after continued communication from PACANet, call for proposals were done during the second quarter. Individuals and firms submitted proposals. Unfortunately the Task Force sent these proposals to Gaborone, Botswana. The proposals arrived to the Kampala office in June 2007. The documents were read and translated, they were then vetted and an individual and a firm selected. These names were then communicated to the task force in Madagascar. The Task Force then conducted an interview to select an individual or organization to carry out the situational analysis. Delays were mainly due to many commitments by Task Force member.

Funds earmarked for the carrying out of the study were transferred in July 2007, but did not arrive in Madagascar. PACANet traced them and found them. Another means of resending the funds had to be devised.

Management decided to send them through the Western Union. Since huge amounts cannot be transferred through the Western Union, the funds had to be sent in two trenches. The partners have acknowledged receipt. The consulting firm, IMAGE APPLI, began with the study at the end of September 2007 and is going on.

In Ethiopia PACANet was invited at the strategic meeting in April by CUAHA, when a very brief meeting was held between PACANet representative and the Task Force. It was agreed that collaborative efforts be continued. Frequent exchange of correspondences over the internet between the task force and PACANet representative went on and the MOU was signed between the Task force and PACANet, despite that the SA has not started. The Chairperson of the Ethiopian Task Force found it difficult to bring members together to

discuss the way forward. The celebration of the millennium in Ethiopia, in which members participated, aggravated the situation. Efforts are continuing to get the study done.

3. Call to action conference

3.1 CAC in Burkina Faso

Two Call to Action conferences (CAC) in Burkina Faso and Swaziland were successfully conducted. Given the explanation under the situation analysis above, CAC were not held in Madagascar, and Ethiopia. In Sierra Leone it is planned in December 2007. The broad objective of the conference in Burkina Faso was to disseminate results of the situational analysis study carried out on the work of the Churches and other Christian organizations. The CAC was conducted between 1st April and 3rd April 2007 in Ouagadougou, following a one week intensive consultation between PACANet and Task Force. On top of presenting the results of the situational analysis by the consultant, Mr. Omer BOUDA, from Consult Group International other topics presented and discussed at the conference were; PACANet and Networking for a Better Response to HIV and AIDS, HIV and AIDS and the Holy Scriptures, Drivers of the HIV and AIDS epidemic and the role of the Church, The Impact of HIV and AIDS on the Burkinabe society, especially the Church, The Church and its Biblical Mandate, and the way forward regarding PACANet's relationship with Burkina Faso over the following eight (8) or nine (9) months. In all thirty-six out of fifty people invited for the conference attended and participated full

The participants appreciated the importance of the conference bringing them together and sensitizing them on the need to work together in spite of their doctrinal differences that existed. The issue of ethical clearance prior the study was a challenge among them when it came to the question of dissemination of the results. Another issue was on the involvement of the Catholic Christians. A number of next steps over the 8-9 months were agreed; these included senior church leaders' consultation, human resource training, stigma and discrimination, change agents training, and consensus building. Leadership challenges exists within the Task Force, no wonder all activities agreed at the conference not even a single activity has taken place until at the time of writing this report. See appendix 2 for a list of participants at the CAC in Burkina Faso.

3.2 CAC in Swaziland

In Swaziland the objective of the conference was to discuss the way forward regarding PACANet's collaboration with the Swazi Church in response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Swaziland. The conference was held at the Thokoza Centre in Mbabane, Swaziland from 18th – 20th June, 2007. Presentations made at the conference included; PACANet and her mandate, the Situation of HIV and AIDS, Factors Fuelling the Spread of HIV and AIDS in Swaziland, HIV and AIDS and the Holy Scriptures, HIV and AIDS and the Biblical Mandate and Stigma and Discrimination. Discussions and group work followed presentations. The conference was well attended with representation from Churches, Christian organizations, government and United Nations (UN) agencies responding to HIV and AIDS in Swaziland. The participants committed to a further collaboration with PACANet. PACANet will help develop the human resource of Swaziland's Church and other Christian organizations and also

help strengthen the already existing Church Forum. It was agreed that the situational analysis study carried out by PACANet in 2003 be revisited. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has expressed its desire to fund a similar study.

The conference recommended that the Church Forum be registered as a legal entity. Its legal, governance and administrative systems required strengthening. It was also recommended that a stakeholders' analysis by the forum and harmonizing of the various activities funded by various funders be done to avoid double funding, over-funding or under-funding of these activities. Next steps agreed at the conference included, human resource training, and senior church leaders' consultation meeting. Both activities have taken place the second phase of training is going on and ends in the first week of December.

4. Church competence in HIV and AIDS training

The plan was to conduct training in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Swaziland. During the year, PACANet conducted training in Uganda and Swaziland and for the

Partners supported by Erickshalpen. Arising from the factors mentioned above no training was done in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Sierra Leone. The activity took place for Uganda and Swaziland. The goal of the training was to cultivate within the Church a competent human

resource base, which will motivate a movement that will challenge the segment of the Church that has not been involved to begin prioritizing HIV and AIDS, as well as urge those who have been involved to scale up and improve efficiency of quality service delivery to mitigate the impact of the HIV and AIDS pandemic across Africa. Deliberate efforts were made at every level to reflect and emphasize Biblical values and teachings without compromising scientific facts and evidence! Six modules were covered during the six weeks, approximately one week per module. The training is divided into two phases, separated by a practical period. Broadly, phase one had the following objectives; Equip trainees to communicate and facilitate HIV and AIDS prevention messages.

In Uganda, phase one of the training was from 12th – 28th February 2007 at Hotel International 2000 in Kampala and second phase was held from, 11th -29th June 2007 at the same venue. Phase one training in Swaziland was held from 10th to 28th September 2007 at Emafani Christian centre Mbabane, the second phase started on 19th November 2007 to 7th December 2007. Please see appendix 3/4 for the list of participants

The first phase for Uganda as well as Swaziland covered three modules with an interval in between left for practical. The modules are the HIV and AIDS basic facts with 9 topics, module two; HIV and AIDS Prevention care and support with 9 topics while module three is Introduction to HIV and

AIDS Counselling and helping with 8 topics. Second phase covered three modules as follows, module 4 is titled, 'family support system' with 8 topics; module five is titled, 'loss and bereavement' with 8 topics and module six is on project management and consists of 8 topics. Please see appendix 5 for these topics. Despite limited time and resources, participants of both of the courses held in Uganda, Swaziland and Liberia gained a lot more knowledge on HIV and AIDS and counselling. Please see 0 appendix 5 modules and topics.

Participants in group discussions (Uganda PHOTO

5. Development of Training Modules

Training in HIV and AIDS competences by the church required materials to provide guidelines for the trainer as well as for the participants. During the year PACANet attempted to develop draft materials for six modules as already noted above with the objective of pre-testing and finally printing. The drafts for modules 1-3 were pre-tested during courses conducted in Uganda in March, June and July 2007. In Liberia from April 30 – May 18, 2007 at the Konola Seventh Day Adventist Mission Campus in Margibi County, training was conducted where the materials were also pre-tested. Other materials developed in draft form and pre-tested included stigma and discrimination and change agents' training manuals. By July 2007, the staff members working on these materials had produced drafts on stigma and discrimination

Developing training modules, particularly in the area of HIV and AIDS required a lot of research, reading and writing, and therefore staff involved in the development of the modules needed to have a lot of time at their disposal, which was not available for they had other assignments. In April 2007 specific PACANet's staff members were assigned the responsibility of developing the manuals for the stigma and discrimination and change agents' training.

6. Stigma and discrimination training

The plan was to run the training in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Uganda and Swaziland. This training was conducted only in Liberia. The PACANet team was unable to conduct the planned trainings in the other countries as the process of network development was considerably slowed down in those countries as indicated in Sections 2, 3 and 4. The broad objective of the training, which was held at the SOS Social Centre in Monrovia, Liberia from 3rd-7th September, 2007 was to equip participants with the requisite knowledge, skills and positive attitudes needed to fight HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination in the Church as well as the community at large.

Participants had the opportunity to propose their expectations. Topics covered included; Fears about HIV and AIDS, Why people do not believe facts about HIV and AIDS, What people say about persons living with HIV and AIDS (PLHA – Judging characters” and “Rights of PLHA”
At

the end of the four (4)-day training participants had had adequate knowledge about issues surrounding HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. While this was a full four days training, participants also covered topics on basic facts on HIV and AIDS. On a similar note those

participants doing a six weeks course had topics on stigma which covered; meaning and types of stigma and causes of stigma, fears and attitudes, impact of stigma on HIV and AIDS response in prevention, care and support, stigma in the church and action plan to address stigma in the church.

See appendix 6 a/b for a list of participants in Liberia.

7. Change Agents' training

The plan was to conduct training for Change Agents identified by the Church leaders in advocacy and facilitation skills in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Uganda and Swaziland. The training was conducted only in Liberia from 9th-15th September, 2007, due to the same network development constraints as outlined in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this document. The broad objective of the training was to equip the participants with skills that they would need to contribute to better a Christian response to HIV and AIDS. A number of topics were covered during the training: These include: “Basic Facts about HIV and AIDS”, “The HIV and AIDS Situation in Liberia”, “Factors Fuelling the Spread of HIV and AIDS”, “The Mission of the Church in the HIV and AIDS Era”, “The Rights of PLHA”, “Networking and Collaboration”, “Orphans and Vulnerable Children”, “Stigma and Discrimination”, “Gender and Sexuality”, and “The Concept of Change”. At the end of the training participants expressed how satisfied they were with it. They also stated that they were poised to engage their Churches to respond more effectively to HIV and AIDS.

One of the participants on giving his closing remarks on behalf of other participants, urged his colleagues to go out and share the knowledge acquired during the training. He challenged the Church to be a voice for the voiceless. He brought home the point that if the Church did not speak out it would be held accountable for the destruction of the children of God through HIV and AIDS. Given the enthusiasm of participants and experience gained at the training, PACANet will continue to train as many change agents as possible. Please see appendix 7 for a list of participants

Participants in group discussion during change agents training in Liberia PHOTO

8. Bishops and Senior church leaders’ consultation

The conferences held to consult leaders were planned in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Uganda and Swaziland. They were successfully held in Liberia in the VIP Lounge of the Monrovia City Hall from 27th – 29th March 2007, Uganda from 15th-17th May, 2007 at

Ranch and Lake Hotel at Kigo, along Entebbe Road, and in Swaziland from 29th October to 1st November 2007 at the Country Club. Due to the network development setbacks mentioned above the Bishops and Senior church leaders’ consultations were not held in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Madagascar. The objective in all three consultations was to seek the commitment of the Senior Church leaders regarding the work of the Churches and other Christian organizations in the area of HIV and AIDS, with a focus on the following key areas; Church Teachings and Practices, Family Life Education, Advocacy and Networking and Collaboration. In specific terms the objectives were to;

- o Solicit the input of the Senior Church Leaders/ delegates on the issues of HIV and AIDS
- o Identify and discuss Church teachings and practices affected by the onset of the HIV and AIDS epidemic;
- o Advise on the development of HIV and AIDS agenda for the Church in Africa to respond to the pandemic.
- o Strengthen joint collaboration in facilitating a coordinated Christian response in Swaziland
- o Develop a joint statement reflecting observations, commitments and resolutions of the senior church leadership in addressing the issues of HIV and AIDS in Uganda.

The process of consultation involved brief presentations where then the leaders were given areas for discussion in a form of questions based on the principle of simultaneity, i.e. question and change are related. Following these discussions, the leaders made presentations, and discussions with minimal guidance and clarification by PACANet. At the end of the consultation time a joint communiqué was prepared to address pertinent issues related to HIV and AIDS. For example in Swaziland it was read before the Prime Minister, who promised to meet them on quarterly basis. Please see appendix 8 for a sample of the questions and appendix 9 for a list of participants for Uganda

Bishops/Seniors Church leaders in Uganda, staff facilitated the draft communiqué PHOTO

Bishops and senior church leaders in Swaziland PHOTO

9. Consensus building conference

The plan was to conduct three consensus building conferences, launch Christian AIDS Networks and run a commissioning service in Burkina Faso, Liberia and Uganda. Two consensus building conferences were held in Uganda and Liberia. The CCANets were launched and commissioning services took place, in Kampala and Monrovia, respectively. From 26th-28th September, 2007 PACANet held a consensus-building conference at the Pope Paul VI Catholic Memorial Hotel, Rubaga, Kampala, and from 6th-8th November 2007, consensus conference was held at Samuel Doe Stadium in Monrovia.

In both activities the objectives were to seek the commitment from the delegates regarding collaboration modalities, governance of the network, and way forward of the network, and finally conduct a short commissioning service for launching the network. The delegates were drawn mainly from participants who attended; call to action conference, stigma and change agent training, bishops and senior church leaders' consultation and for Uganda who attended church competence in HIV and AIDS training. This was the opportunity to dialogue together on the structure and strategy of the network. In both countries, a briefing was given on the history of PACANet; report presented by the task force, few delegates gave their testimonies. Regarding the network future, vision, mission statement, broad goals were created. And other areas that compose the network, such as challenges of working together, communication plan, linkages with other stakeholders, were discussed.

Members of the task force line up, Key note speaker Minister for Information, Hon Lawrence Bropleh and the Minister for Sports, Madam Amuyah Tarpeh all attended briefly the consensus conference in Liberia

In terms of the governance, it was agreed that the delegates constitute the first General Assembly as the supreme body, and then the Board of directors be elected, the board would provide the direction, and then the secretariat will be recruited as the technical team. Following the elections, Rev. Bishop Masereka, a retired Anglican Bishop was elected the board Chairman in absentia for Uganda Country Christian AIDS Network. In Liberia Rev Moses Gobah was elected as the chair. In both conferences capable people were identified and elected to serve on the board. Participants appreciated the process, and with the boards in place, they said the Church will be better placed to jointly handle issues

in regard to scaling up the response against to HIV susceptibility and AIDS impact vulnerability. Please see appendix 10 for the network structure.

Rev. Moses Gobba from the Lutheran Church and Fr. B. Washington from the Roman Catholic Church, preparing to give certificates at the commissioning service in Liberia, held at Christ the King Church. Dr. Benjamin Lartey, presided as the chair for electing the board, while Sr. Ophelia Kennedy

Below is also a section of participants PHOTO

Commissioning services were held as brief ceremonies but full of excitement whereby the participants who attended various training received certificates. Participants praised and thanked God for the achievements. A word from the Bible was preached by one of the participants. The Service which started by prayer was also closed by Prayer. There were 68 participants at the consensus building conference in Uganda while in Liberia the attendance was 67.

10. Institutional support of the country Christian networks

Board orientation

Following the election of the board members of the new networks, PACANet decided to run a brief orientation for the new boards. In Uganda it was conducted from 17th to 18th October 2007 at Ranch and Lake Hotel. In Liberia the orientation was from 9th and 10th November 2007 at The Lutheran Church in Liberia compound. The broad objective of orientation was to facilitate the board members to develop five year network strategic objectives, orient them on the roles and functions of the board, and develop year one board plan. As part of the process individual board members had time to reflect on their mission, long term goals i.e. their personal leadership and management as they relate to those of the board and the network as a whole. Then they discussed the board functions, they had first official board meeting where they elected the other officials of the board and or formed or confirmed the committees. The product of the orientation time was minutes with actions, Year one board plan, refined Network vision, mission and broad goals, areas of focus for the next five years of the network. See appendix 11/12 for the list of participants and appendix 13 for a sample of areas of focus for the network.

Uganda Country Christian AIDS network board members in group work PHOTO

The Christian HIV and AIDS network in Liberia Board members during orientation PHOTO

11. Capacity building for Erikshjalpen partners

11.1 Needs assessment

Erikshjalpen requested PACANet to support her 15 small Christian organisations and non Christian organisations partners located in 10 Countries. Their names and countries are underlined in the text below. PACANet held a meeting with representatives of ACET1 (supported by Tear fund) on the 31st January 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the best approach to use for supporting Kubatsirana in Mozambique. During the meeting the field assessment findings were presented and it was agreed that Tear fund takes the lead and after which, ACET will advise PACANet on any emerging issues that will need extra input.

Other organisations visited were; Bureau des Projets de Development et des Ouevres Sociales (BUPDOS) – Bénin. PACANet assisted BUPDOS to document the history, extent and the impact of HIV and AIDS on the organization; and scale up the work on HIV and AIDS. This called for identifying the organizations technical capacity to intervene in the area of HIV and AIDS.

1 ACET is a Ugandan based regional NGO that deals with AIDS EDUCATION & TRAINING

Association Protestante de la Santé au Mali (APSM), in Mali is a national interdenominational organisation working mainly on health issues. PACANet facilitated HIV and AIDS training for board of directors, staff and volunteers.

Swedish Philadelphia Church Mission (SPCM) in Ethiopia, based in Addis Ababa. SPCM Has been active since 1980's, one of her focus is a project in Addis Ababa which caters for training and rehabilitating of former sex workers mainly from the streets in Addis Ababa providing them

counselling and financial support. The challenge is that while people who attend the positive living centre are all HIV positive, not all the beneficiaries at the rehabilitation centre know their sero status. There is a stigmatization problem at the centre. PACANet facilitated a review from 19th – 22nd February 2007. PACANet has been following up key issues which came up during the assessment.

Taretuoki Mission Trust of the Free Pentecostal Fellowship of Kenya (FPFK), focuses on street children and children at risk, addressing the root cause and HIV and AIDS. FPFK did not have a specific program except ad hoc response. Following baseline study by PACANet, it was agreed that the way forward is to design a strategic document to guide program implementation, and later draw a Monitoring and Evaluation framework to help them monitor the program.

The Tanzania Resource and Assessment Centre for Disabled Children (TRACED), TRACED goal is to enable children with disabilities to have opportunities in the provision of early

detection and intervention program in the mainstream services. PACANet facilitated strategic plan which was a need for TRACED from 5th-9th February 2007. Over the year TRACED and TARETUOKI finalized their strategic plans. Development of financial for Redeemed of the Lord Evangelistic Church, Kampala in Uganda and monitoring systems for Redeemed, Maseno Inter Christian Child Self-help Group, Maseno (MICH) in Kenya and Church Mission Action (CMA) – Vilankulos-Mozambique were not completed. Other partners received training as seen below. See appendix 14 for the list of Partners, country and what they do.

11.2 HIV and AIDS competence training

The East African Erikshjalpen partners i.e. from Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Kenya attended phase one training, which was held from 21st May-1st June, 2007 in Uganda-Kampala and phase one for the Southern Erikshjalpen partners was from 1st to 12th October 2007, this was held in Mozambique.

The PACANet staff took this opportunity also to attend phase one with the Erikshjalpen partners in East Africa, while they attended phase two with Participants attending phase two from Uganda. Regarding the Erikshjalpen partners training, the duration was reduced to four weeks instead of six weeks, because of financial constraints. Erikshjalpen's partners, who had a two-week' training instead of the total six weeks, expressed their desire to go through the total course in order to be fully equipped. The West Africa HIV and AIDS competence training which was planned to be held in Burkina Faso did not take place, because this depended on the network development process in Burkina Faso where the human resource training was planned to be held jointly with church nominees.

11.3 Erikshjalpen and PACANet Review Meetings

PACANet management and the capacity building team held meetings with Erikshjalpen representatives from 15th – 17th January 2007 at the PACANet secretariat in Uganda. Issues discussed included a review of the previous work plan and the assessment of partners' needs. The meeting resolved to group the country partners into various categories according to their needs. In the new work plan, PACANet technical support was to take the format of mentoring and training. The training mentioned above (11.2) was the output of this meeting.

A mid term review planned at the design stage of partnership program between PACANet and Erikshjalpen was held in Uganda on 17th September 2007. The meeting has three objectives, i.e. to strengthen the role of PACANet as a Pan African Christian Network; to establish and run a country Christian network in Burkina Faso; to build the capacity of Erikshjalpen's partners to enable them to carry out HIV and AIDS-related interventions. For each of the objectives, the group looked at achievements made, assessed indicators, ascertained lessons learnt and discussed the way forward. Partner organizations participating in the program gave feedback to both Erikshjalpen and PACANet, reflecting the experiences and the impressions of the individual organizations. Staff from PACANet, the responsible desk officers of Erikshjalpen and one representative of the partner organizations from each region met in Kampala Uganda to draw conclusions regarding the methods, effectiveness, achievements and outcome of the program to date. The mid-term review was valuable basis for working out the proposal for the continuation of the program.

12. Planning

Following the delays in financial remittance by PACANet donor (SIDA), PACANet had to adjust the annual work plan to match with the situation. Out of the work plan, PACANet team formulated the bi-annual activity plan with details of activities, countries, person responsible and time frame. This was done both for January-June 2007 and July –December. Out of the Bi-annual plans quarterly plans were developed to review and adjust for changes. Then each employee developed individual operating plan. Staff met from 22nd -24th October 2007 to develop a draft plan for 2008. This plan looked at previous accomplishments, challenges and the next years focus, given the limited resources, in terms of time, finance and personnel.

Regarding five year strategic plan i.e. from 2008 to 2012, From 17th – 26th July PACANet developed a draft strategic plan. The draft strategy considered the following areas; Resource Mobilization, Capacity Building, Communications, Advocacy, Networking, Research and Monitoring and Evaluation. The draft strategy also catered for the sustainability aspects of the secretariat.

13. Other Accomplishments

13.1 Translation of Documents

Various documents were translated from English to French or vice versa. These include but were not limited to;

- o PACANet's Newsletter
- o PACANet's training modules
- o Material in PACANet's website
- o Report on "call-to-action" conference in Burkina Faso
- o Situation analysis report for Burkina Faso.

13.2 Project proposals

- o In July 2007, a proposal was submitted to the Danish Church AID (DCA) for the running of activities by the Ugandan task force
- o A concept paper for the New Partnership Initiative (USA) was submitted on the 5th of October, 2007. It was titled Orphaned and Vulnerable Children: Strengthening Community Based supporting Center for Gulu and Pallisa in the Northern and Eastern Uganda respectively.

13.3 Networking Meeting

On 13th April 2007, a network meeting for a better response to HIV and AIDS in Botswana was held, with objectives of exploring the ways by which various stakeholders could network. At the end of the meeting, participants made it clear that it would be necessary for PACANet to organize a similar meeting and bring together more stakeholders for the purpose of establishing a strong network.

13.4 Training on HIV and AIDS for BOCAIP

PACANet contributed to the training for Staff of the Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme (BOCAIP) in Botswana. The objective was to equip participants with the requisite knowledge about HIV and AIDS. The training brought together lay counsellors working in the health facilities throughout the country. Discussions were on discussions on the following topics: HIV transmission; HIV prevention; universal precautions in prevention of mother-to-child transmissions (PMTCT) settings; HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination; benefits of HIV testing in PMTCT settings; treatment, care, and support needs of mothers and children living with HIV and the specific interventions for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) used in Botswana.

13.5 Religious Leaders' Conference

On 22nd-23rd August 2007 PACANet was invited by one participant at the PACANet General Assembly to facilitate a Religious Leaders' Workshop on HIV and AIDS in Tanzania with the objectives of; networking building process between the two major religions i.e. Islam and Christianity and endorsing HIV prevention strategies of abstinence and faithfulness. This was the first meeting between National Muslim leaders and Bishops to be held in the country's history. In all, 56 bishops and 72 Muslim leaders participated in the conference. Hitherto, leaders from both religions had not had any such formal encounter to discuss issues affecting the Tanzanian society. The closest they had come was when they met in hospitals and at funeral gatherings. Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Edward Lowassa, officially opened it. At the end of the two-day conference the religious leaders came out with a joint communiqué.

Bishops in group discussion, the organisers, Christian and Muslim Leaders, a cross section of participants

13.6 Meeting strategic partners in the Botswana

PACANet had meetings with or visited the following partners and organisations: the Southern African Development Corporation (SADC), CUAHA, Botswana Council of Churches (BCC), the Evangelical Fellowship of Botswana (EFB) and the University of Botswana (UB). Prior to these encounters some of these organizations had relations with PACANet. SADC, for instance, had invited PACANet to its international meetings in Swaziland, Malawi etc. and had been soliciting ideas regarding the needs of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in the region. At the SADC office PACANet got information on the general HIV and AIDS situation in Southern Africa, while at the BCC, UB and EFB, PACANET had further discussions about networking strategies in Botswana.

13.7 Conference for the Liberian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (LIFES)

PACANet participated in a conference, which was organized for 75 young people from universities, colleges and other tertiary institutions in Liberia held in Monrovia. The theme for the conference was: “Living HIV and AIDS Free / Making our Nation HIV and AIDS Free.” PACANet member Mr. Korkoyah Dala had the singular honour to deliver a talk to the students. He mentioned in his talk that it was necessary for them to personalize their risks of contracting HIV, and encouraged them to do all they could to help mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on the Liberian society.

14. Monitoring and Evaluation

M and E Framework development

Monitoring and evaluation system document was developed during the year, building on previous drafts. It highlights PACANet’s vision, mission, goals, sub-goals and objectives. The purpose of the monitoring system is based on the PACANet’s responsibility and accountability not only to people but to God, in the sense that all resources belong to the Lord. The purpose of having a monitoring and evaluation system is to demonstrate PACANet’s accountability to God and the people we serve.

The objectives for the monitoring system is to enable PACANet collect information and process it so as to regularly check on the status of the work, i.e. strategic plan implementation and in the long term to be able to see if PACANet is moving towards achieving its outcomes. The document outlines indicators at all levels, tables for indicators description, baseline, means of verification, frequency of data and information collection for the vision, mission, sub-goals and each objective.

Regarding implementation of the monitoring system, the tools for data collection will be developed to facilitate the data collection and processing. Some data will be collected on quarterly basis, bi-annual, annually and the other during specific surveys or monitoring visits. Monitoring and Evaluation officer will utilize various reports to identify key results depending on the activity. The document also points out the reporting system. On communicating the information the document mentions various audiences such as the board, strategic partners, country networks and the data required.

Evaluation which will look at the management process, style of management, appropriateness of the organization structure as well as the indicators for the mission itself is also indicated. Other areas will be systems analysis, which will cover all the systems and policies, their implementation and whether they have facilitated program work or became a hindrance. Regarding Country Networks evaluation, this will be done through sampling.

The system will be implemented once the Monitoring and evaluation officer is oriented, various forms developed to tract data and information. Development of the systems document has taken longer than planned because of the changes which took place, such as changing roles and delay in getting appropriate staff.

B. CHALLENGES MET OVER THE YEAR

There were quite a number of limiting factors to the implementation of last year's program annual plan, only few will be highlighted here, since some have been mentioned under the accomplishments.

1. Money transfer has been and is still a major challenge. In some situations money got misdirected, or returned. This delayed a number of activities planned. During the certain period of the year there was a tendency to rush for facilities, by other organizations, where as hotels or conference owners needed an advance 50% pay ahead of time, or needed grantee of ten days, unfortunately PACANet could not afford this.

2. The task force members serve on volunteer role, so PACANet's activities became secondly. Some members had a limited technical skills and representation which limited their contribution. This has created a lot of delays in implementing PACANets activities. PACANet had a presence only in Liberia and the secretariat in Kampala. Physical presence in the country was not realistic because of financial implication. Difference in leadership opinions and interests within the Task Force members was a challenge to move the activities especially in Burkina Faso.

3. Sustainability is a product of involvement and participation at all stages of network development, this required patience and facilitation skills from PACANet side, however, it tended to conflict with time frames set at the planning time. A balance was required.

4. Shortage of Human resource was a very serious setback, where an individual served in over four capacities, which meant loss of time in addressing strategic issues for the organizations. Translation from English to French or vice versa required more than one person. Modules development for instance required full time concentration, but this was not possible, because of human resource and time shortage. This had implication also in getting adequate time for documentation and keeping track of lessons. Full time staff to address Monitoring and evaluation was also a challenge.

APPENDICES NEXT PAGES

APPENDIX- 1a LIST OF PERSONS (NAME, ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION)
VISITED IN SIERRA LEONE

APPENDIX- 1b LIST OF PERSONS (NAME, ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION)
VISITED IN ETHIOPIA

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE “CALL-TO-ACTION” CONFERENCE
IN BURKINA FASO

APPENDIX 3 : LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, WHO PARTICIPATED IN PHASE ONE (1) OF
THE HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING IN SWAZILAND FROM 10TH-28TH
SEPTEMBER, 2007

APPENDIX 4: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED THE FIRST PART OF THE
HIV AND AIDS COMPETENCY COURSE IN MARCH 2007 AND THE SECOND PART
IN JUNE 2007-UGANDA

APPENDIX 5 COURSE OUTLINE MODULE AND TOPICS

APPENDIX 6 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, FACILITATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF, -THE
STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION TRAINING IN LIBERIA FROM 3RD-7TH
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6 a CHURCH PARTICIPANTS

6b PARTICIPANTS FROM CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS

APPENDIX 7: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, FACILITATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF, AT
THE CHANGE AGENTS’ TRAINING IN LIBERIA FROM 9TH-15TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

APPENDIX 8 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE BISHOPS AND SENIOR CHURCH
LEADERS CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

BISHOPS AND SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

APPENDIX 9 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE BISHOPS AND SENIOR CHURCH
LEADERS CONSULTATION UGANDA

APPENDIX 10 COUNTRY CHRISTIAN AIDS NETWORK STRUCTURE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

All members belonging to the network, will form the GA

NETWORK BOARD

Executive committee Committees

SECRETARIAT

A small team of staff

Network Coordinator

APPENDIX 11 NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHRISTIAN HIV AND AIDS NETWORK OF LIBERIA (CHANOL) BOARD MEMBERS

APPENDIX 12 LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS UGANDA CHRISTIAN AIDS NETWORK

Present during Orientation

1. Mr Toolit Ambrose - Karamoja region Rep
 2. Mr. Okello Vincent - Member
 3. Fr. Balthazar Ndyomugabe - South Western Region Rep
 4. Pastor Mugote Sam – Member
 5. Bishop Nelson Onono Onweng – Northern Region Rep
 6. Bishop Aswa Isaac – Madi West Nile Rep
 7. Pastor Joshua Lwere – Central Region Rep.
 8. Pastor Lubaale Paul – East Region Rep.
 9. Rev. Canon Robert Angiro – Eastern Region Rep.
 10. Ms Faith Kunihira – Member
 11. Ms. Christine Baralemwa – Member
- Board Members Absent during orientation
12. Bishop Zebedee Masereka - Board Chairman
 13. Pastor Fred Sekyewa – Central Region Rep.
 14. Mr. Charles Birungi - Member
 15. Dr. Opio Patrick - Northern Region Rep.

APPENDIX 13 BROAD AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE

CHRISTIAN HIV AIDS NETWORK (CHANOL),
5 years, 2008-2012

1. IDENTITY

CHANOL should be a legally registered body with a constitution, a secretariat, a fully operational office, recognized and accepted by the Church, government and donors as a key player in HIV and AIDS response in the country.

2. NETWORKING

The CHANOL should develop and coordinate a networking model that facilitates Christian Organizations and Churches involved in HIV and AIDS response in Liberia to communicate, network, collaborate and partner.

3. PROGRAMS

CHANOL develops an operating framework (strategic), which translates into a national program for reaching the grassroots, with a focus on advocacy, capacity building, church creating environment for promoting behaviour change in abstinence and faithfulness, while facilitating them to mainstream HIV and AIDS into their development activities.

4. RESOURCE MOBILISATION

CHANOL should mobilize resources for her own operations as well as for the member churches and organizations, through various approaches such as; fundraising, volunteer work, proposal write ups, and access funds from government, donors and churches.

5. RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

CHANOL should maintain an updated data base of organizations, interventions and services provided by the Church and Christian stakeholders at the country as well as at the county level, while developing a strong and active Research and Development component.

APPENDIX 14 NAMES OF PARTNERS SUPPORTED BY ERIKSHJALPEN IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH PACANET