



Alliance for Health Promotion

Annual Report 2013

Alliance for Health Promotion
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Highlights of the year were the following events: the Annual Briefing during the World Health Assembly, the participation of the Alliance delegation at the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Helsinki and the second Regional Workshop on Health Promotion held in Kitale, Kenya.

16th Alliance Briefing at the World Health Assembly, 21 May 2013

It was for the first time that the Alliance organised this traditional WHA Briefing jointly with a partner organisation, namely with the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI). Based in South Africa REPSSI covers 13 South and East African countries. Its programmes are targeted mainly to helping children have a better life.

The title of the Briefing was “From Global Declarations to Local Actions – Health Promotion beyond 2015”. More than 80 representatives from NGOs, Government, WHO and other organisations participated at the event. We were extremely happy to see many young people from the medical and pharmaceutical students associations, IFMSA and IPSF.

The three keynote speakers addressed the following issues:

- Rüdiger Krech, Director of the WHO Department on Ethics and Social Determinants of Health, Social Determinants of Health and Health Promotion – achieving more together beyond 2015
- Stefan Germann, Board Director, REPSSI
Psychosocial Support implementation at regional and country level - lessons for broader health promotion
- Roopa Dhatt, President, International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)
Medical Education and Health Promotion beyond 2015

Dr Pandurangi, President of CAMHADD, a revered INGO based in Bangalore, India focusing on Mental Handicap and Development Disabilities, said they had not missed a single Briefing in 16 years. He introduced briefly their programme always with a right-based approach, in collaboration with the Radjiv Ghandi Institute for Public Health and WHO.

The reception following the event in the Restaurant Vieux-Bois has provided an excellent opportunity for further exchange and networking.

8th Global Conference on Health Promotion, Helsinki, 10-14 June 2013

Health in All Policies

In June, Finland hosted the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion, with the theme of Health in All Policies (HiAP). There were nearly 900 delegates including participants from selected NGOs in attendance. Representing the Alliance were four Board Members: Joanna Koch, ACWW, Charles Senessie, AEMRN, Gabriella Sozanski, and Roopa Dhatt, IFMSA. Margaret Chan, Director General of the WHO, gave a powerful speech at the opening ceremony, condemning the effect of industry on global health, and asking us to challenge the Big Food, Big Money Clan, etc. Her ideas were reflected in the final Declaration.

There were two important documents from the conference: the Statement, and the Framework for Country Action. A strong delegation of young professionals headed by the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) stressed the need to include young people, actors for change, in the implementation of Health in All Policies and health promotion. At the final plenary session the Alliance representative encouraged Youth to speak Up and Speak Out. This intervention received a loud round of applause before the Conference ended.

It was the second time that the Alliance organised a meeting outside of Geneva, the **Regional Workshop on Health Promotion** in Kitale, Western Kenya on 9 August. The Workshop was integrated in the programme of a one-week mobile clinic initiated and coordinated by the Afro-European Medical and Research Network, AEMRN whose president, Charles Senessie is a member of the Alliance Board.

A major concern for the Alliance has been the general failure of "top down" policy implementation. There is a need for society to ensure a participatory framework with government that engages the public and provides the information for real change. In effect this is a global call for "Health in All Policies". How to achieve such an outcome?

Bernard Kadasia, President of the Alliance chaired over the one day Workshop. It was attended by over 90 participants; more than half of them had been present the year before. We were particularly pleased that many of the newcomers this year were the local or regional representatives of the Alliance Members, such as the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), the International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE), Soroptimists International, the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), and ACTPEW the new African Coalition for Traditional Practices and Empowerment of Women. Other participants included representatives of the national and local governments, the university staff, and many grass roots and community organizations.

We chose to use the 2013 Regional Workshop to follow up on the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in Helsinki in June 2013 with its theme of Health in All Policies.

Main Problems identified were HIV, Respiratory Infections, Diabetes and Depression, Cancer, Malaria, Diarrhea and poor Nutrition. However the need for the all embracing theme of HiAP was illustrated clearly in the very high occurrence of road accidents caused and suffered by motor cyclists providing essential transportation including carrying much needed medical and vital supplies into remote areas. To answer this situation, the Alliance is taking up contact with Riders for Health, who are active in some African countries, training young motor cyclists in basic driving skills, first aid, and in carrying out cycle maintenance and repairs.

The discussion raised the crosscutting issues: road infrastructure, licenses for drivers, first aid instruction, ambulance availability, vehicle repair and licensing. The Workshop stimulated much local interest to engage in long-term solutions.

As an outcome of the Workshop a local contact group of eight members, resident in the area, volunteered to start work on solutions as well as planning for next year's Workshop and to maintain close contact with the Alliance in Geneva.

Consolidating and using the Kitale experience of Health Promotion Workshops as a model the Alliance is now looking into the possibility of expanding Workshops that focus on community concerns and to hold such a Workshop in the Asian Region. We have initial planning in place for a 2015 Workshop in Chennai, India. There are good reasons for this choice. A long time Alliance member, CAMHADD headquartered in Bangalore, Tamil Nadu, is interested along with a grassroots Indian NGO working with impoverished women and children in Chennai – Daughters of Mary

Immaculate. Two other Indian Social and Welfare groups have expressed their interest in the Alliance Workshop concept and the need to explore the meaning of HiAP in the Indian sub continent.

The Alliance is convinced this move into another Region to work with HiAP at the local and community level can bring a new dimension to the follow-up of the Helsinki Conference.

Revision of the Mission and Vision of the Alliance

The Alliance has reviewed its vision and mission and after several brainstorming sessions have come up with the following definitions:

Vision

The Alliance aspires to see empowered societies with ownership of knowledge and means to fully enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

Mission

To contribute towards strengthening global efforts made to improve the health status of societies by linking related international statements, agreed conclusions, and declarations and how they impact and connect with grass roots.

Goal

Empower individuals and societies through capacity building, networking, sharing information, with aim of enabling them to have a positive impact on national and international decisions and programmes related to health.

The above definitions need to be further discussed and consolidated adding strategies and actions.

Meetings and events

Following the Annual General Meeting and the Second Health Promotion Forum, 18-19 November 2012 the Alliance has held six Board meetings and several project team consultations. In addition, the following events have been organised by the Alliance during 2013.

<i>21 January 2013</i>	<i>Informal NGO Consultation during the WHO Executive Board Meeting With the presentation of a special guest</i>
<i>21 May</i>	<i>16th Briefing of the Alliance during the WHA, Geneva</i>
<i>9 August</i>	<i>Second Regional Health Promotion Forum, Kitale, Kenya</i>
<i>28 November</i>	<i>Annual General Meeting, Alliance Office, Villa Montfleury, Versoix, Geneva</i>
<i>29 November</i>	<i>Third Health Promotion Forum, WHO Geneva</i>

The Villa Montfleury (where our office is) witnessed a cultural event in August, namely a spontaneous concert of a Hungarian soprano who volunteered to share with us some exceptional moments. Music is good for health! – that was our slogan.

Partnerships and Advocacy

Project development

1. In accordance with the Activity Plan adopted by the Alliance AGM 2012 held in CIGG along with the 2nd Health Promotion Forum the Secretariat has developed a project focusing on the preparation of this year's Health Promotion Forum with special focus on involving municipalities and local associations. The project was submitted for funding in January to Loterie Romande, the State of Geneva and the City of Geneva. As only the State has contributed with financing a reception the activities linked to the preparation of the Forum had to be cut back substantially due to the scarce of human and financial resources.

2. To capture the spirit of Kitale we want to generate action and make Health Promotion work for communities. Lessons drawn from the *First Regional Workshop* of the Alliance helped us develop a concept paper on strengthening community partnership in health promotion from the perspective of social determinants of health and strive for bridging the gap between global and local.

Partners in the above initiative are the African Medical Research Federation, AMREF based in Nairobi, the Afro-European Medical and Research Network, AEMRN and REPSSI, the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative, an NGO based in South Africa focusing its attention to children.

The Project Team has had a couple of meetings including skype conferences with the involvement of partners in Geneva (Aga Khan Foundation ie.) and in Africa: AMREF, REPSSI and AEMRN.

3. Based on the data gathered and analyzed at the mobile clinics in Kenya, the two regional workshops held in Kitale identified issues related to environment as of special concern to local communities.

With a growing realization of climate change as a risk factor for health The Alliance is engaging with R20 – Regions of Climate Action, a non-profit organisation with a registered office in Geneva (established in the same villa as the Alliance).

The aim of our collaboration is to identify the impact of climate change on health and build resilience. We feel that combining our resources, increasing access to renewable energy and empowering women we can effectively contribute to improving the quality of life and well-being of people. Thus, making health promotion tangible.

Both organisations, along with their local partners, are committed to strengthening global partnership and increasing civil society engagement in local and regional reforms.

The R20 Founder, former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, has repeated the significance of a multidisciplinary approach in addressing climate change by also evaluating the economic and social outcomes of sustainable development. According to Dr. Christophe Nuttall the Executive Director of The R20, "The R20 is pleased to partner with The Alliance for Health Promotion on building the green economy by exploring projects that improve the health of communities, create new jobs, increase access to clean energy, and protect the environment".

Engagement with WHO

We participated in discussions about the WHO Reform and particularly in the consultation of a new policy regulating WHO's relations with non-state actors including NGOs. A revised document will be put forward to the next meeting of WHO Executive Board in January 2014.

The other area of collaboration with WHO is around the NCDs Action Plan. We are strongly supporting the inclusion of Mental Health in any NCDs policies. NGOs were invited to attend an informal dialogue in August and were able to submit comments in November on the global coordination mechanism (GCM), the terms of reference for the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs, and a set of action plan indicators.

The Alliance representatives attended the mhGAP Forum held 7th October celebrating the World Mental Health Day. WHO called upon all stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020.

Some structural changes have happened in WHO recently. Social Determinants of Health (SDH) has been moved to the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health (PHE) with Maria Neira as Director. Eugenio Villar remained in his position as Coordinator of SDH.

Rüdiger Krech, former Director of the Department of Ethics and SDH has taken up his new position as a Director in the Office of the Assistant Director General, Health Systems and Innovation.

Relations with Geneva authorities

Since the registration of the Alliance in 2010 as an international NGO with the State of Geneva we have enjoyed support from the Cantonal authorities. They have sponsored a reception during the HP Forum and accorded free rent of an office space until August 2014.

Unfortunately, our Project in preparation for the Health Promotion Forum has not obtained any funding from Loterie Romande and the City of Geneva.

A major upcoming event

The Third **Health Promotion Forum** will be held 29 November hosted by WHO and organised in collaboration with the Institute on Social and Preventive Medicine of the University of Geneva.

This year the Forum will address the theme of Building Capacity for Health Promotion – Inter-sectoral partnership between Civil Society and Government. The programme is attached.

Membership and communication

Membership remained at the same level as last year. However, communication tools have been further developed. Along with the website development the Alliance has launched a Newsletter. The first one was published and distributed in Kitale, Kenya, during the 2nd Regional Health Promotion Forum. The next one will be distributed at the Health Promotion Forum in Geneva, 29th November. It is going to be a quarterly available electronically.

Governance

The Alliance is governed by a Board which comprises mainly the core group of founding members.

The following organisations are represented on the Board:

Afro-European Medical and Research Network, Associated Country Women of the World, Global Alliance on Women's Health, International AIDS Society, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Pharmacists, International Health Co-operative Organisation, International Federation of Medical Students Associations, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, International Pharmaceutical Students Federation, Solar Cookers International, World Federation for Mental Health.

President of the Board is Bernard Kadasia, Joanna Koch remains Treasurer, Gabriella Sozanski Secretary and Seamogano Manowe, continued to be the auditor. The Board elected at its meeting in August Luc Besançon, GS and CEO of FIP, as Vice-President.

In compliance with the Statutes the next Board Elections are due in 2014.

Secretariat

The daily work of the Alliance has been coordinated by the Secretary with the occasional support of interns and volunteers. We are lucky and proud of having an independent office in Versoix, Geneva due to the generous support of the State of Geneva. Free rent will, however expire in August 2014. The office manager is the Alliance Secretary on a voluntary basis.

In order to cut operational and maintenance costs the Alliance has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the NGO Forum for Health, a sister organisation on sharing the office and also the coordinator. The Secretary of the Alliance is at the same time Coordinator of the NGO Forum for Health which helps forming synergies and avoiding overlappings. The office furniture and equipment is exclusively due to the generous in kind donations of members of both NGOs.

Finances

The annual membership fee has been paid by 10 members, just like last year, amounting to a total of CHF 2.700. The Alliance expresses its thanks for the generous support of REPSSI, Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative contributing to the organisation and reception of the Annual WHA Briefing, the Desjardins Group, Canada contributing also to the Briefing; UFER and the WFMH contributing to the Kitale Workshop and FIP contributing to the Health Promotion Forum. Our partners in organising the Forum are WHO SDH (room rent, equipment, operators), the Institute of Global Health (former ISPM) contribution to interpretation costs and Migros, Co-operative Society, Geneva inviting us for a lunch reception.

Without the valuable voluntary support of Board members the Alliance would not have been able to perform. However, on the long run it is indispensable to ensure sustainable financing for running the activities and thus, achieving the objectives as approved by the AGM.

The audited Financial Report is attached.