



Alliance for Health Promotion

Annual Report 2013-2014

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ANNUAL REPORT

November 2013 - September 2014

Introduction

The Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP) is an association of international NGOs and Civil Society Organisations, founded in 2008 under Swiss law, and a head office in Versoix, Canton of Geneva, Switzerland. The Board of eleven members meets regularly, six times a year and in addition, for informal meetings and visits to UN and WHO. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held at the time of the Alliance Health Promotion Forum in November.

The Alliance is currently in contact with about 40 NGOs, institutions, partners and supporters and has a network 130 organisations and individuals. The Alliance welcomes active members who adhere to its Vision and Mission, and who have an interest in or are involved in health promotion in its widest sense. The Alliance informs its network members all over the world with periodic Newsletters and updates on its activities, on upcoming events, whilst all documentation can be found on the Alliance website.

Promoting best practices and exchange around Health Promotion

The Alliance has organised four major events over the past 12 months:

- 3rd International Health Promotion Forum, Geneva, Switzerland, November 2013,
- Lunchtime consultation between WHO and NGOs during the WHO Executive Board meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, January 2014,
- Annual Briefing during the World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland May 2014
- 3rd Regional Workshop on Health Promotion, Kitale, Kenya, August 2014

The Annual General Meeting of the Alliance was held 28 November 2013 preceding the Health Promotion Forum.

1. Health Promotion Forum, 29 November 2013

The Alliance was happy to hold the Forum in Conference Room A at WHO Headquarters with all its technical advantages. Participants were happy to attend this NGO meeting hosted by WHO Social Determinants of Health team and this accounted for the high rate of participation. The Institute of Global Health of the Geneva University was the other partner in organising the Forum. The Co-operative Federation Micros, Geneva, sponsored first class catering. The four sessions covered:

- i. From Policy to Practice – Going beyond the Helsinki Statement
- ii. The Co-operative Model of inter-sectoral collaboration
- iii. Experience from the Field
- iv. Health Promotion from a local perspective – Examples from Switzerland

The Forum's innovation was to webcast the event, thus enabling a keynote presentation from the South-Australian Government and the active participation of the Health Promotion group from Kitale, Kenya whilst connecting to other parts of the world. The report on the Forum is available on the Alliance website: www.alliance4healthpromotion.org

2. Lunchtime Consultation during the WHO Executive Board meeting, 21 January 2014

Kwan-Cho Tang, WHO Coordinator for Health Promotion opened the Consultation, welcoming guest speakers, Kameko Nichols, Partnership Director, Riders for Health, Dr Charles Senessie, CEO, AEMRN (Afro-European Medical and Research Network), and Bernard Kadasia, President, A4HP (Alliance for Health Promotion). The presentation by

Riders for Health was a direct follow-up to the 2013 Regional Workshop in Kitale, where participants identified the huge impact on health caused by road accidents in the region. The Alliance was keen to carry on the message of Health in All Policies, the theme of the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion, Helsinki, June 2013.

3. NGO Briefing during the World Health Assembly, 21 May 2014

The Briefing entitled: "Empowerment for Sustainable Development: Making Health Promotion tangible in the Post-MDG Agenda" was organised by the Alliance in collaboration with R20, Regions of Climate Action.

The opening remarks by Dr. Maria Neira, Director, WHO Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, were followed by Guest Speakers, namely Dr. J. Nyikal, Member of Parliament of Kenya, Mr Jini Sebakunzi from R20 and Dr Josko Mise, President of IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students Associations). Dr. Howard Koh, US Assistant Secretary for Health honoured the meeting and shared with the audience some health promotion experiences from the USA. Alliance President, Bernard Kadasia introduced the Alliance activities in his presentation. The discussion was moderated by Luc Besançon, Vice-President of the Alliance and CEO of FIP (International Pharmaceutical Federation). Some 80 participants attended the meeting, which was followed by an informal networking reception co-sponsored by R20 and Geneva State. Some key messages:

- Preventative strategies are more cost-effective than curative strategies.
- The rule of law plays a major role to make Health Promotion more tangible.
- Multisectoral collaboration is vital to make the post MDGs a reality.
- Climate change and environmental issues affect health .

4. Regional Health Promotion Workshop in Kitale, Kenya, 22 August 2014

This was the third and most successful Regional Workshop, the Alliance has organised, building again on Health in All Policies (HiAP), theme of the Helsinki Conference and as in the past, partnering with AEMRN (Afro-European Medical and Research Network). Sadly the Ebola outbreak prevented a number of high-ranking Health officials and major NGOs to participate. However, 76 people were in attendance including students from IFMSA, IPSF (International Pharmaceutical Students Federation) and the Moi University in Kenya.

Inspired by the example of the Alliance participants agreed on founding the Kenya Alliance on Health Promotion (KA4HP). The local founding Members' Advisory Board outlined an activity plan based on their particular needs and challenges in the region, including the Boda Boda riders, the Community Health Organisations, tree planting, combating jiggers, involvement of youth groups and women's groups, hand-washing, open defecation, plastic bag disposal and solar energy, to name only a few.

Another positive outcome resulting from the 2013 Workshop has been the establishment of a Boda Boda School in Kitale, to train young riders. Educating them on their rights will curb the rising police bribery practices and will help to reduce the negative reputation they have in the area.

Alliance participation at other events and conferences

- The Swiss Health Promotion Foundation Annual Conference in Lausanne, Jan. 2014
- Zero tolerance FGM Consultation, February 2014
- Geneva Health Forum, April 2014
- UN Public Private Partnership meetings
- Graduate Institute Global Health Programme seminars
- IAS Conference in Melbourne, Australia, August 2014
- WHO first Global Conference on Climate Change and Health, September 2014

- FIP Conference, August 2014
- NGO DPI Consultation, New York, September 2014
- WHO Mental Health Gap Forum, September 2014
- WTO Public Forum, Geneva "Why trade matters to everyone", October 2014

Engagement with the World Health Organization

During the reporting period, the Alliance has initiated and/or strengthened its relations with different clusters of the WHO, in particular with the following departments:

- Within the NCDs and Mental Health (NMH) Cluster regular contact has been maintained with the Director of the Department on the Prevention of NCDs and in particular the Health Promotion Unit. Meetings have been held on tobacco use and its devastating affects on women, unborn babies and young children.
- Within the Family, Women's and Children's Health (FWC) cluster
 - meetings have been held with the Director of the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health (PHE), and in particular with the Social Determinants of Health Team. Their support for the 3rd Health Promotion Forum was instrumental and highly appreciated
 - meetings took place with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research (PHR) and in particular with the Department of Gender, Equity and Human Rights Team to share gender concerns and introduce the role of women in health co-operatives
- Exchange has continued with the Health Systems and Innovation (HIS) Cluster.

The above contacts have enabled the Alliance to initiate the process of acquiring Official Relations (OR) with WHO after 17 years of collaboration. Based on the documentation submitted WHO has invited the Alliance to formally apply for OR. The competent technical department, namely the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health, has supported a preliminary work plan for a three-year collaboration. The official application is expected to be submitted for decision to the Executive Board meeting in January 2015.

In addition to the meetings listed above the Alliance followed carefully the discussions around the WHO Reform, in particular in relation to the Non-State Actors.

WHO support in providing meeting and conference facilities, speakers and technical assistance has had a huge impact on achieving our objective, namely to mainstream Health Promotion.

Engaging in Projects

The Alliance was happy to endorse the African Women's Organization in Vienna with their grant application to the European Union for FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) Training Manuals.

With the aim of mobilising funds for the implementation of activities approved by the Alliance we started to engage in project activities in partnership with our members.

1. To capture the spirit of the Kitale workshops we aspired to generate action and make Health Promotion work for communities. Building on lessons drawn from the 1st and 2nd Regional Workshops of the Alliance and the concept of strengthening community partnership we have joined R20, Regions of Climate Action, in developing a project proposal which was submitted to DFID, UK within the "Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) Programme" in November 2013. The objective of this project was

to directly benefit vulnerable individuals, particularly women, in Kenya by addressing the current health and climate related problems while working with existing health centres to introduce clean energy technologies.

2. We responded to a call for a proposal by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Again, it was R20 submitting the proposal in partnership with the Alliance and NGOs, members of the Kitale Group as local partners. The title was: "Enhancing NGO cooperation in the Trans-Nzoia County of Kenya through health promotion training, empowerment and adoption of appropriate clean energy technologies to reduce the adverse impact of climate change".

3. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation published a call for research projects within the Grand Challenges Explorations Round, March 2014 "Inciting Healthy Behaviors: Nudge, disrupt, leapfrog, reach." This time the Alliance responded on its own behalf with the involvement of a competent researcher writing for us a 2-page project idea as required. The title was: "Mutual Assistance Communities For A Resilient Society In Kitale/Kenya".

Due to keen competition we failed to obtain funds for the above projects.

Membership

During the reporting period the Alliance has expanded its membership base. Five applications have been received and the Board has adopted the following new members: Biovision Foundation (Switzerland), R20 - Regions of Climate Action, REPSSI - Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (South Africa), INPEA - International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the African Women's Organisation in Vienna.

In addition to paying the annual fee, members offered extra contribution to the Kitale Workshop.

Secretariat of the Alliance

The Secretariat relies on the work of volunteers and interns to run the daily activities. During the reporting period we have had four short-term interns (from six weeks to three months). Each of them has provided valuable support for the Alliance and left with rich experiences from International Geneva. As they became very interested in the advocacy work of the Alliance some of them were keen to stay on board after their internship was over. Veronica Shiroya, a WHO intern who spent 3 months working for the Alliance became our Liaison Officer in Kenya and played a decisive role in coordinating the 3rd Regional Health Promotion Workshop in Kitale. Recently, we started to recruit interns through IPSF. There is a huge interest, which makes the selection process rather challenging. End of 2013 we shared an intern from Boston University with R20 in order to develop a project proposal.

The Geneva State two-year subsidy for the office rent has expired 31 July 2014. At the same time the NGO Forum for Health has moved out of the office from 15 September 2014. We are seeking partner NGOs to share the office and its overheads so that we can maintain our base in Geneva.

Finances

The audited Financial Report is attached.

Conclusion – Why promote Health Promotion

Since its foundation in 1997 at the 4th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Jakarta, the Alliance was inspired to work to translate the Global Declaration – in whatever form – to action at the community and grass roots level, where there is frequently no knowledge of such declarations or high level discussions. Community needs and challenges are very individual and cannot be fully met by global declarations. Therefore the unique approach by international NGOs with their strong grass root involvement is so important. The Alliance was founded for this specific reason and purpose.