Membership

Membership to ACHA is open to Christian Health Associations and Health Networks from Africa. Associate membership is open to Collaborating/Development Partners. An annual membership subscription fee of US$ 200 is paid by member CHAs following a resolution of the 4th Biennial Conference.

Map of Africa showing countries with Christian Health Associations or Church Health networks that ACHA Platform represents:

[Map Image]

A Platform for Christian Health Associations and Networks from Africa for advocacy, networking, capacity building and information exchange.

Promoting health systems strengthening and partnerships for quality health care.

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Background

The Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP) is a networking forum for Christian Health Associations and Networks from Sub-Saharan Africa. The forum was established in 2007 with support from World Council of Churches. The core functions of the forum are coordinated by a Secretariat hosted by the Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK) in Nairobi. The platform’s core mandate is to facilitate networking, communication and experience sharing among the CHAs and to create a stronger voice in advocacy for health systems strengthening and partnerships towards sustainable quality health care in Africa.

The decision to establish ACHAP was made during the CHAs 3rd Biennial Conference which was held in January 2007 in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. The ACHAP governance structure, mandate and core functions were affirmed by the 4th Biennial CHAs Conference held in Kampala in February 2009. The platform secretariat facilitates networking and bi-lingual communication among the CHAs and with collaborating/development partners. In addition the Secretariat supports efforts to profile the work, potential, knowledge and experiences of CHAs in Africa.

The Platform Secretariat facilitates translation of various important documents and publications into both English and French and ensures their dissemination to the respective CHAs. The Secretariat maintains an updated Directory of the various CHAs from Africa and has assisted in planning for exchange visits among CHAs from different countries.

A rich database of CHAs health systems and partnership policy documents are hosted on ACHAP website: www.africachap.org. The Platform Secretariat produces and disseminates a quarterly electronic bulletin known as the Africa CHA’s Bulletin. In addition, a monthly electronic publication on HRH is produced and disseminated.

Health systems strengthening focuses on; integrated quality health and HIV management services, governance and management of health facilities, HRH retention strategies, HMIS, health care financing and public-private partnership through MoU with government.

The Platform Secretariat is mandated to facilitate planning and management of logistics for the CHAs Biennial Conferences. The Secretariat/CHAK coordinated the planning, resource mobilization and hosting of the 2009 CHAs Biennial Conference which was held in Kampala, Uganda on 23-27th February 2009 in collaboration with UPMB and UCMB. The conference theme was “Building partnerships for health systems strengthening in Africa” and was attended by 76 participants from Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and USA. The 5th Biennial CHAs Conference would be held in Accra, Ghana in February 2011 in collaboration with CHAG.

Participants at the 4th Biennial CHAs Conference at the Speke Muyonyo Resort, Kampala follow proceedings

The 4th Biennial Conference identified the following strategic priorities:

1. To strengthen the institutional capacity of ACHAP Secretariat
2. To facilitate communication and networking among Africa CHAs and with partner organizations
3. To facilitate joint advocacy for the CHAs in Africa
4. To facilitate support to the CHAs HRH Technical Working Group
5. To facilitate South-South and North-South exchange and learning
6. To promote partnerships for health systems strengthening
7. To coordinate planning for the 2011 Africa CHAs 5th Biennial Conference to be held in Accra, Ghana
8. To facilitate building of a Resource Database for the CHAs in Africa
9. M&E of the ACHA Platform activities

Partners

The growth and development of ACHAP has been facilitated by successful partnerships. Some of the partners for ACHAP activities include; WCC, Global Fund, IMA World Health with funding from USAID through the Capacity Project, WHO, Global Health Workforce Alliance, ICCO, Cordaid, Miserior, Difaem.

ACHAP has received growing recognition from various organizations globally. Consequently the platform has had representation in various international fora including; WHO 62nd World Health Assembly held in Geneva in May 2009 during which a resolution for the renewal of Primary Health Care was passed; World Bank Faith and Development forum held Accra Ghana in September 2009; GAVI partners forum held in Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2009; UNAIDS stakeholders meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand in April 2010; CCIIH Annual Conferences held in Maryland, USA and Medicus Mundi.