A photograph of a grassy hill under a clear blue sky with trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

African Health Forum Camden and Islington

An Overview

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Participants at a World Aids Day event



Singing during World Aids Day event 2010



African Health Forum Camden and Islington Board members as at September 2011:

Chikwaba Oduka Chairperson

Joseph Ngongo Vice Chair

Salna Abdallah Secretary

Rev. Kongo Kunga Vice Secretary

Danmore Sithole Treasurer

Jean Leon Ngwamah Vice Treasurer

Roger Masudi Member

Lodi Kasongo Member

Papa Albert Elongo Member

Sabina Odhiambo Member

To contact the Forum

send an email to

africanforum55@yahoo.com

Introduction

Background and history

The Organisation

The African Health Forum Camden and Islington was set up in 1996 when African organisations who were responding to the incidence of HIV/AIDS amongst the African community came together as a way of providing support to each other. Over the years the forum with the support of Camden and Islington Primary Care Trusts and other stakeholders developed into a focal body bringing together organisations that were providing HIV and Sexualhealth services to the African community in the boroughs of Camden and Islington. At its formation the key aims of the forum were:

- To enable sharing of information, experiences and expertise.
- To enable pooling of resources including personnel.
- To enable community groups access capacity building.
- To develop standards for the delivery of services to the African community.

Some key achievements of the African Health Forum Camden and Islington include:

1. Influencing HIV/AIDS strategy for the boroughs of Camden and Islington.
2. Holding an African HIV/AIDS conference
3. Negotiating office space for small and upcoming African organisations providing HIV/AIDS and sexual health services. Many organisations have benefitted from this and some continue to use the

facility Manor Gardens Centre.

4. Negotiated for administrative support for the Forum from the Camden and Islington Health Promotion team. This also included meeting space for the Forum.

5. Organised the first World Aids Day for the community which has since become an annual event that brings commissioners, HIV service providers, service users and other stakeholders. The event has on many occasions been graced by the Mayor of either the borough of Camden or Islington.

The setting up of the Forum also allowed the organisations to avoid duplication of the services they provide and provided the Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities a platform to discuss and agree strategies to reduce the incidence of HIV in the African community.

In 2004 Camden and Islington Primary Care Trusts Strategic Commissioning teams invited African community-based organisations involved in HIV and sexual health promotion to set up a partnership. The aim of the partnership was to improve co-ordination of services and resources allocated to African communities and enhance working relations between local community –based organisations.

Partner organisations worked with a facilitator to develop a better understanding of partnership formation, structure and sustainability; develop partnership aims and objectives; action plan and the partnership agreement. In 2004 the partnership agreement was finalised and secured approval from partner organisations and local primary care trust commissioning teams.

Currently membership to the partnership comprises of thirteen partner organisations. Membership is open to any not for profit organisation based in or

offering service in Camden and Islington that is managed by the members of the African community and delivering services to African communities especially those address healthcare issues.

Progress To Date

Legal Status

African Health Forum Camden and Islington is registered as a company limited by guarantee comprising membership from African led community-based organisations involved in health and social care promotion and is managed by a board.

Office premises

African Health Forum Camden and Islington is currently based at the African Community Project's office at 6-9 Manor Gardens Centre, Manor Garden's , London N7 6LA

Organisation structure

The forum is made up of member organisation and has elected office bearers.



The Chair of African Health Forum Camden and Islington having discussions with the Master of Ceremonies during a Forum event.

Partner organisations are represented on the Partnership Board where they take part decision-making processes; reports on progress and feedback needs and issues identified from the communities they represent.

The programme manger (when recruited) will lead on the day-to day management of the Forum activities; provide support to the chairperson and partner organisations.

Each partner organisation has an identified project manger/ lead who is responsible for the day to day management of the projects and project staff teams, setting up and operation of systems within partner organisations.

Mission

To improve the quality of life experienced by all African communities particularly those affected by HIV through the development of a robust partnership that builds on its members, ensures the delivery of holistic and responsive services and facilitates achievement of excellence.

Aims

1. To respond to the specific needs and aspirations of African communities
2. To raise the profile of the contribution and specific requirements of African communities.
3. To build a sustainable and meaningful partnership among African Communities

Objectives

1. To coordinate through member organisations range of high quality and complementary services and through the partnership, a forum for the development of

creative and sustainable solutions

2. To develop one to one support, training, mentoring and through the development of key quality standards
3. To ensure participation of partner organisations in decision-making forums, working in collaboration with local, regional, national and international organisations and development of an effective marketing and promotion strategy for the partnership.
4. To establish a robust partnership through the development and implementation of annual planning cycle, effective procedures, and training programme for member representatives and by undertaking effective consultation with and ensuring the practicing participation of service users.

We will meet the objectives above through the work delivered by each partner organisation. The work plan outlines the objectives for each partner organisations, the activities and expected outcomes.

Values and Principles

Service user centered: that the objectives, strategies and services of the partnership are designed to meet the requirements of those members of the African communities most in need, therefore ensuring the highest possible African communities most in need, therefore ensuring the highest possible standards.

Quality: That the partnership will provide and assist to provide high quality services to African communities, this will include ensuring the provision of skilled staff and volunteers and the financial viability of the partnership and member organisations.

Equality and diversity: That the partnership will

actively pursue equality of opportunity, recognise diversity and challenge discrimination through its work

Services

Since 1996, Camden and Islington Forum members have provided services to over 20,000 African people between them. These have included people living with HIV, women, men, young people, the elderly, families with children, men who have sex with men and professionals etc.

The range and type of services that forum members have provided to the community include:

- One to one support and safe spaces for users
- Workshops and seminars
- Outreach with those who are hard to reach
- Emotional support and counselling
- Training on awareness and skills building
- Capacity building
- Access and Referrals
- Community Consultations and research
- Supporting volunteering and employment

Contribution to strategies

Members of the African Health Forum Camden and Islington have sought to influence policies on HIV/AIDS through a range of strategies and publications over the year. Some of these have included:

The Padare Project

Mayisha Study

An exploration of African Men Living with HIV

The National HIV and Sexual Health Strategy

The London HIV Strategy

HIV and AIDS in African Communities: A framework for better prevention and care.

Camden HIV and Sexual health strategy

Islington HIV and Sexual Health strategy

Forum activities in Pictures



Chairperson

African Health Forum

Camden and

Islington



Forum members skills include:

Organisational development, Counselling/psychotherapy, Financial management, Teaching, Nursing, Social work, Community Development, Health promotion, Mother tongue and foreign languages



Services Provided:

One to one support, Emotional and counselling support, Testing support, Contribution to strategies, Volunteering and employment support etc





Secretary

African Health Forum

Camden and

Islington

Capacity building received so far:

Organisational development, Policies and procedures development, Financial management, Financial systems, Health Promotion etc



Forum activities in Pictures



Master of Ceremonies, World AIDS Day, 2010



On the left are young actors

and

on the right are Forum volunteers.



Source and Refer for capacity building

Over the years members of the Forum have benefited from a range of capacity building opportunities that has included training and consultancy support. The training has covered:

- Organisational Development
- Policies and Procedures development
- Financial Management
- Financial systems
- Partnership development
- Health promotion
- HIV/AIDS Awareness
- How to carry out Outreach
- Managing Volunteers

The organisations have delivered their services through one to one contact, workshops and seminars, giving talks, organising events such as World Aids Day, handing out information leaflets, carrying out outreach to hard to reach communities and networking with other organisations and key stakeholders.

They have played a key part in encouraging people from the African community to go for testing and to access treatments. Many have contributed to such documents as AHPNs ‘The Knowledge, The Will, The Power’, HIV and Sexual health and informed many strategy documents for health and social care in Camden and Islington.

Networking

Over the years, the Camden and Islington African Forum benefitted immensely from the support and expertise received from many organisations. Some of these have included:

Camden PCT
 LB of Camden
 Islington PCT
 LB of Islington
 Camden Health Promotion team
 Habari African Communities Project
 iCare
 African HIV Policy Network (AHPN)
 LINKs (Camden and Islington)
 Terence Higgins Trust
 Cara
 Africare

We are also immensely grateful to the many organisations that have provided the forum with funding for its activities



Participants listening to a presentation during World Aids Day 2010.

Organisations	Services Covered	
AWACSO	Teenage Pregnancy services	
OPAM	Prevention and life skills for Africans living with HIV	
Health Advocacy Project	Congolese Family Crisis Centre	
PAMODZI	Sexual Health and awareness for women and young girls from Sothern African communities	
ASCOP	Sexual health for swahili and french speaking communities.	
Congolese Youth Association	Sexual health with French speaking young people.	
CYA	Sexual health and health awareness projects for African communities	
African Relief Support Project		
Congolese Finance Project		
British Somali Community		
Womens Association for African Networking and Development		
Kenya Women Association (KEWA)		
Africa Permanent Education		
The Kinbaguist Hope of the World		

For further details on the African Health Forum Camden and Islington contact the Secretary on 020 7272 3882 or you can send an email to africanforum55@yahoo.com

Forum activities in Pictures



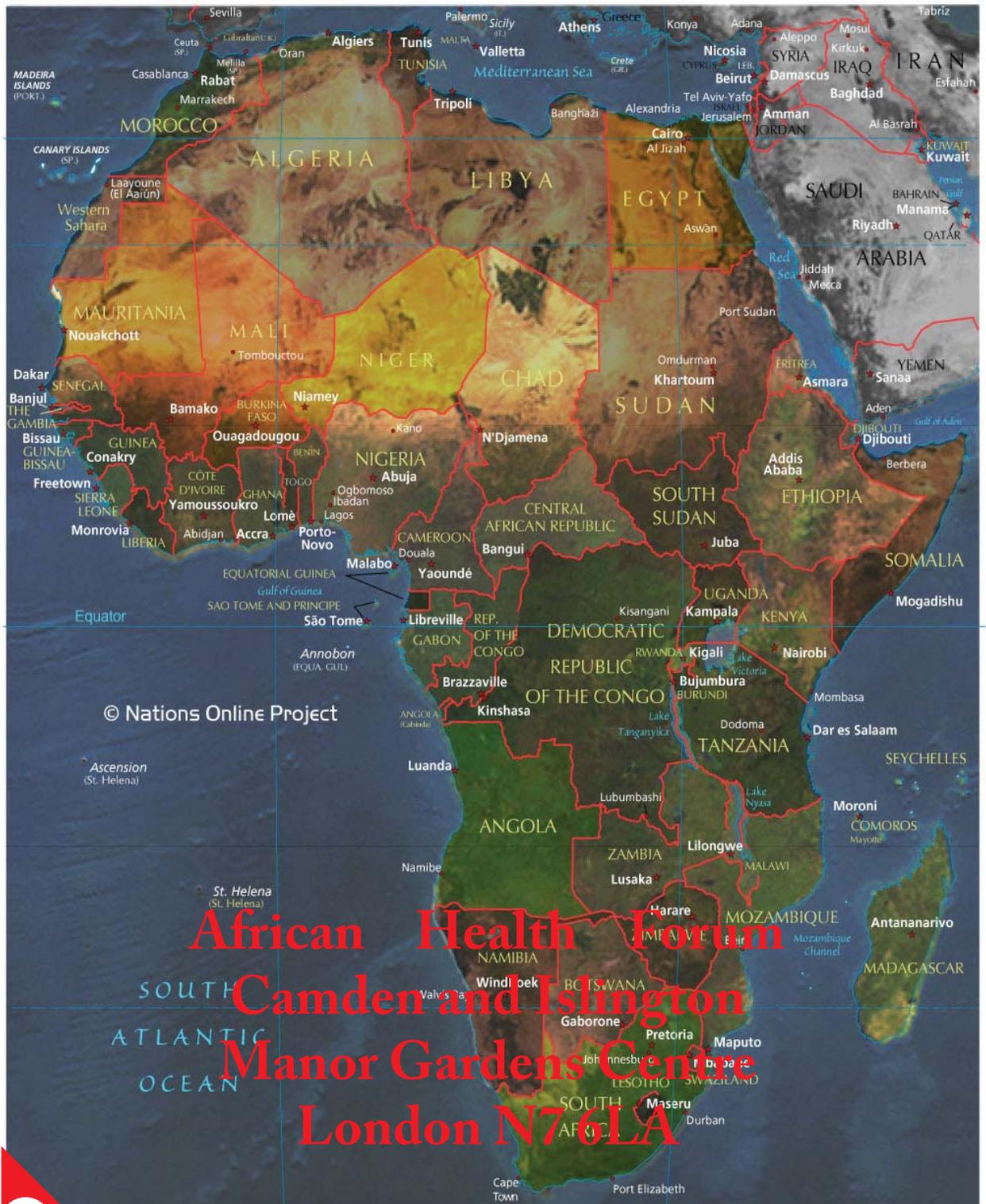
Young people acting as volunteers at an event



African troupe performing at an event



Young actors performing an HIV/AIDS awareness play



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