

# ***Seventh-day Adventist Church***

## **AAIM** **Adventist AIDS International Ministry** (GC-HIV/AIDS Africa Office)

*A Ministry of Hope, Love, and Compassion*

### **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2012**

Presented at the GC-AAIM Board Meeting  
GC-Headquarters – Silver Spring - MD  
October 9, 2012

**AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry**  
(GC-HIV/AIDS Africa Office)

**AAIM's IDENTITY STATEMENT**

*The Adventist AIDS International Ministry (AAIM) is an international ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, that brings hope, love, compassionate care and support to the people touched by the HIV epidemic. It serves the territory of the sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian-Ocean.*

**AAIM's MISSION STATEMENT**

*To coordinate actions and resources, to bring comfort, healing and hope to people infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS, share a message of education and prevention to the general population, and present a united front in order to accomplish what our Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned each of us to do in Matthew 25:35-36 and 28:19-20.*

**AAIM's VISION STATEMENT**

*We are creating "Centers of Hope and Healing" through our network of churches, medical and educational institutions, and church members. We are mobilizing our congregations through church based support groups. We are bringing practical solutions to those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. We are applying the practical Gospel of Jesus Christ, field by field, church by church, person by person, on a one-to-one basis. We are committed to the social responsibility of our church. We are helping create a new generation of parents and children, free of AIDS!*

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**1 – INTRODUCTION**

*Only six months have passed since the last time we met for the last AAIM Board Meeting. So many things and so much news has happened, that it seems almost overwhelming.*

*The year 2012 has been an exceptional year for AAIM. Several events confirmed the value and extent of its mission.*

*From Coordinators to Support Groups, and from Support Groups to Associations and Regional Networks, our churches are actively sharing AAIM's vision and mission through this Ministry of Hope, Love and Compassion.*

*Our churches are becoming Centers of Hope and Healing in many parts of Africa.*

*New programs for children, young adults and couples to be married are currently being implemented.*

*Adventists living with HIV/AIDS are organizing themselves into associations in different parts of Africa. The church environment is becoming more and more conducive to open talk about this disease, and accepting and helping our brothers and sisters who are HIV positive.*

*In the following pages you will find a description of the main events and developments in the life of AAIM during 2012.*

*This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary from the creation of AAIM in May 2002, by the General Conference Executive Committee (Became operational January 2004).*

*God has certainly blessed this Ministry through the ten years of its existence. Thousands of people have benefited from the programs of Prevention, Care and Support that AAIM has primarily implemented in 54 major cities of 25 countries in Africa.*

*AAIM's Coordinators and Support Groups have extended this work to thousands of cities and villages all over Africa.*

*We hope you will enjoy reading this report.*

## 2 – LATEST NEWS ON HIV/AIDS

### 2.1 From WHO and UNAIDS

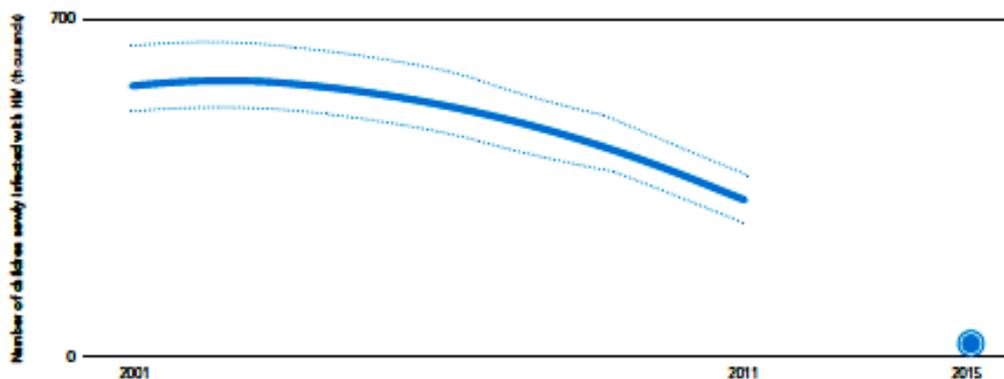
The following statements and graphs from the most renowned world health and AIDS organizations, come at a time of extraordinary hope, a time when more and more people are believing that the end of the AIDS epidemic is possible:

*“The global community has made great progress in responding to the AIDS epidemic. More people than ever are receiving treatment, care and support. The prevention revolution is delivering dramatic results while science is offering new hope.”* - Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

### 2.2 From the International AIDS Society Conference

This meeting took place in Washington D.C. between July 22-27, and was a really important one for everyone working on the fight against HIV/AIDS, and specially this year when scientists and activists feel we are at a critical point where we can truly call for an “end to AIDS by 2015”, which means getting the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) down to zero new cases. Right now, this is the call to action.

**New HIV infections among children (0–14 years old), 2001–2011 and the target for 2015**



“The fight against HIV/AIDS is by no means over, but we are at the tipping point where we can look back and see that something once unthinkable is possible and within reach. This is success: 8 million people on treatment up from just hundreds of thousands, and a serious conversation about an end to this devastating disease.”<sup>1</sup>

More than 8 million people living with HIV  
received antiretroviral therapy  
in low- and middle-income countries in 2011

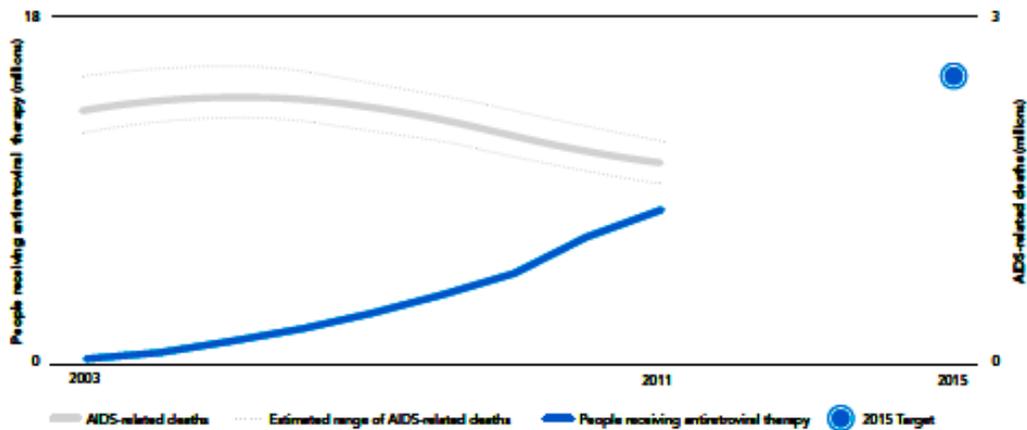
<sup>1</sup> Christy Turlington Burns - “What the 2012 International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference Means for Global Health” - [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christy-turlington/what-the-2012-international\\_b\\_1703104.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christy-turlington/what-the-2012-international_b_1703104.html)

*The world is nearly on track to having 15 million people living with HIV on antiretroviral treatment by 2015*

**Turning the Tide Together: A Declaration to End the AIDS Epidemic**

One of the great accomplishments of these meetings was “The Washington D.C. Declaration - Turning the tide together,” which recognizes the fact that we stand at a unique time in the history of the AIDS epidemic. Through new scientific advances and societal, political and human rights gains, it is possible to turn the tide against AIDS and begin to end the epidemic in our lifetimes.

**People receiving antiretroviral therapy versus the 2015 target and the number of AIDS-related deaths, low- and middle-income countries, 2003–2011**



The information recently published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), shows significant changes in the statistics which indicate great progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The most important ones are:

- 1) The decrease in the number of people newly infected,
- 2) The decrease in the number of children newly infected
- 3) The decrease in the number of deaths

**Global HIV and AIDS estimates** (Latest statistics from 2010)

People living with HIV/AIDS in 2010 .....	34 million
Proportion of women living with HIV/AIDS .....	50%
Children living with HIV/AIDS in 2010 .....	3.4 million
People newly infected with HIV in 2010 .....	2.7 million
<b>Children newly infected with HIV in 2010 .....</b>	<b>390,000*</b>
AIDS deaths in 2010 .....	1.8 million

*\*This is a drop of 24% from 5 years earlier (UNAIDS Report 2010)*

Extraordinary scientific advances are providing the tools to control and ultimately end the AIDS epidemic. However, HIV testing continues to be the critical gateway to therapy. Home based testing is being encouraged, in order to obtain earlier diagnosis and treatment<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Home Based HIV Testing is not yet available in Africa. South Africa may be the first country to approve it at approximately 10 Rands per test. A Massachusetts biotechnology company is involved in the negotiations.

### **3. ADVENTIST CHURCH RESPONSE**

#### **3.1 AAIM Country HIV/AIDS Coordinators**

Extensive networks of HIV/AIDS Coordinators have been organized in the three divisions. The AAIM Coordinators and lay members who participate in the Church Based Support Groups are working on the front-lines of the epidemic. We highly appreciate and value their dedication and commitment to help those infected and affected by the epidemic.

The following is the list of the 25 HIV/AIDS Coordinators organized by Division and Union/Countries. Please, keep them in your prayers.

#### **Eastern-Central African Division (ECD)**

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye

1.DRC	Kinshasa -	Dr. Badinanyi (HIV/AIDS only)
2.DRC	NECAT -	Mrs. Safi Bakano (HIV/AIDS only)
3.DRC	Lubumbashi -	Dr. Denise Kikuka Kaluhala (w/HM)
4.Ethiopia Union	Addis-Ababa	Ms. Gelane Kumera (w/HM)
5.Kenya	East Africa Union -	Mr. Daniel Tirop (w/HM)
6.Kenya	King'eero -	Mr. Gabriel Maina (HIV/AIDS only)
7.Kenya	Maasailand -	Mr. Solomon Lenana (HIV/AIDS only)
8.Rwanda	Kigali	Dr. Marc Habeniza (w/HM)
9.Tanzania	Arusha	Dr. Shango Kingu (w/HM)
10.Uganda Union	Kampala	Pr. Samuel Kizito (w/HM)
	Burundi - Not appointed	
	South Sudan - Not appointed	

#### **Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division (SID)**

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Mrs. Rhoda Nthani

11.Angola	North Union	Mr. Helder Correia Dos Santos (HIV/AIDS only)
12.Angola	South West Union	Mr. Tomas Isaac (HIV/AIDS only)
13.Botswana		Mr. Phillimon Armando (HIV/AIDS only)
14.Indian Ocean Union		Dr. Razaka Andriamanandibisoa (HIV/AIDS only)
15.Malawi		Pr. Dennis Matekenya
16.Mozambique		Mrs. Shunila Rana
17.Sao Tome e Principe		Mr. Francisco Bonfin
18.Southern Africa Union		Dr. Jun Negre
19.Zambia		Mercy Sitenge Ulaya
20.Zimbabwe		Pr. Innocent Gwizo

#### **West-Central African Division (WAD)**

Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator: Dr. Andre Ndaa

21.Central Africa Union Mission		Dr Assam Assam Jean Paul
22.Sahel Union Mission		Dr Awute Gilles (w/HM)
23.North-western Nigeria Union Mission		Dr John Sotunsa (w/HM)
24.West Africa Union Mission		Mrs Jemimah Wennie (w/HM) and Pastor Amos B. Horace
		Ghana Union Conference - Not appointed
		Eastern Nigeria Union Mission - Not appointed

**3.2 List of countries and major cities reached by AAIM (By alphabetical order)**

1. Angola
  1. Luanda
  2. Huambo
2. Burundi - Bujumbura
3. Botswana - Gabarone
4. Cameroon
  1. Yaounde
  2. Douala
  3. Nanga Eboko (Cosendai)<sup>3</sup>
5. Democratic Republic of Congo
  1. Lubumbashi
  2. Goma
6. Ethiopia
  1. Addis-Ababa
  2. Gimbe
  3. Mekele
7. Gabon - Libreville
8. Ghana
  1. Accra (Valley View)
  2. Kumasi
9. Ivory Coast - Abidjan
10. Kenya
  1. Nairobi
  2. Eldoret (AUEA-Baraton)
  3. Kajiado-Oloongurman
11. Lesotho
  1. Maseru
  2. Leribe
  3. Maluti
  4. Mohalishek
12. Madagascar
  1. Antananarivo
  2. Antsirabe (Zurcher)
13. Mauritius - Vacoas-Phoenix
14. Malawi
  1. Blantyre
  2. Lilongwe
15. Mozambique
  1. Maputo
  2. Quelimane
16. Namibia - Windhoek
17. Nigeria
  1. Lagos
  2. Ile-Ife
  3. Babcock (Babcock)
18. Rwanda
  1. Kigali (AUCA)
  2. Kibuye
19. South Africa
  1. Johannesburg
  2. Bloemfontein
  3. Durban
  4. Cape Town (Helderberg)
  5. East London (Bethel College)
  6. George
  7. Limpopo
  8. Pretoria
20. Swaziland
  1. Manzini
  2. Mbabane
21. Tanzania
  1. Arusha
  2. Musoma
22. Togo - Lome
23. Uganda
  1. Kampala (Bugema)
  2. Entebbe
24. Zambia - Lusaka
25. Zimbabwe
  1. Harare
  2. Bulawayo (Solusi)

List of 54 Major cities in 25 countries where AAIM implemented programs on HIV/AIDS from 2004 to 2012

<sup>3</sup> Between parenthesis are written the Adventist Universities already visited to present the AAIM HIV/AIDS Curriculum.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is actively involved in actions of **Prevention, Care and Support** on the continent of Africa

3.3 AAIM On-going Programs in Africa:

**1. Centers of Hope & Healing** - Each Church a Health Center for the Community - Church Based Support Groups

**2. Giving Hope to the Hopeless** - Home Based Care, Income Generating Activities, Sewing Workshops & other Skills Development Activities, Food Gardens.

**3. Caring for the Vulnerable Children** - Orphans Care, Feeding Programs, Clothing and Shoes Distribution.

**4. Caring for the Youth** - Special Programs for the Youth, Resilience Development & Prevention of Risky Behaviours

**5. Caring for the Care-Givers** - HIV/AIDS Education and Support for the Grandmothers & Grandfathers' Clubs

Our churches play a very important role through the **active presence of its support groups in the communities** and their interaction with the infected and the affected.

3.4 French Translation of AAIM Training Manual - Lay-out in process

An updated translation of the AAIM Training Manual was finished in May this year under the direction of Mrs. Caroline Coralie, from the ECD Translation Department.

Based on the 2007 first edition, AAIM has updated all the statistical and scientific information.

This newest French Training Manual is currently being modified to follow the modern layout of its English version.

This publication is scheduled for March 2013, and will be electronically distributed through the HIV/AIDS Coordinators of the French speaking countries of ECD, SID and WAD.

The Manual has eight sections; the first four dedicated to the description of the infection, the following four dedicated to the spiritual and social aspects of the epidemic, as well as to the action plan.

The last section number eight, is self explanatory and serves to implement the whole program. It contains all the steps necessary to organize a training seminar, and the check-lists to implement each of the steps of Planning, Preparation and Production of the event.

#### **4. MAIN EVENTS 2012**

##### **4.1 SID-HIV/AIDS Advisory Feb. 26- March 1 2012**

It was a very important event that gathered all the SID HIV/AIDS Coordinators for a Division wide Advisory on the epidemic for the first time.

The main characteristics of this event:

- The first one of this kind in SID
- Joint effort SID-AAIM
- Participation of 8 out of 10 Country Coordinators
- Participation of 2 Conference Presidents (Lesotho and Swaziland)
- Participation of 2 invitees from Kenya and one from Lesotho
- Participation of SID Key Departmental Directors
- Great opportunity for interaction and mutual enrichment. (18 participants)
- **Consolidation of the SID/AAIM network of HIV/AIDS Coordinators in the region with the highest HIV Prevalence in the World.**

##### **4.2 Zimbabwe AAIM/ZAAM-HIV/AIDS Convention**

This event was the first of its kind in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Africa. It took place on May 10-14, in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

It represents the highest level achieved by ZAAM - Zimbabwe Adventist AIDS Ministries, which is a branch of the Adventist AIDS International Ministry.

His Excellency the Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Dr. E. Mombeshora, honored the event with his presence, and expressed his deep appreciation for the excellent work done by ZAAM.

Also present at this event was the SID President, Dr. Paul Ratsara, as well as the representatives of the Health Team of the General Conference, the GC AAIM team, the SID Health Ministries Team, Health Ministries Directors of other SID Unions and Union Conference Officers and Departmental Directors.

A highlight of this convention was the presence and participation of several Adventists living with HIV, who participated in a special ceremony where they received a gift, consisting of a blanket, that was wrapped around each person living positively, signifying the church's warmth, acceptance and support.

Several people were recognized as pioneers in the HIV/AIDS work in Zimbabwe, among those were Pastor Denias Chiwhai, who worked until 2005, before traveling to England and Brother Dumisani Nkomo - the first Adventist to openly declare his HIV positive status in Zimbabwe; Pastor Paminus Machamire and Pastor Salomon Maphosa.<sup>4</sup>

This event marks an important milestone in the history of AAIM, because for the first time all major activities and outreach of this Ministry were combined into one program.

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<sup>4</sup> Partially modified from "Christ our Hope and Healer - First ZAAM Convention in Bulawayo" - Adventist ECHO, Vol.10, August 2012 by Rhoda Nthani, (SID Official Publication)

#### **4.3 Kenya Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS**

The East Central Africa Division HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye, reported the re-organization of the Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya. Mr. Daniel Tirop, East Africa Union HIV/AIDS Coordinator, worked with the group of Adventists to have their Association on track again.

First organized several years ago by Pastor John Machiaria, it was discontinued because of stigmatization and lack of support. It was reactivated by AAIM in 2006-7 with the presence of 46 members under the leadership of Sheila Ongwino, Henry Ombasa and Alice Alolo.

The current effort is the third attempt to keep this Association functioning.

This variability is an expression of the challenges Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS have to face. We pray and hope that more support will be given to these Associations, which are a powerful means to dispel the stigma still present in our churches.

#### **4.4 Ethiopia AAIM Sewing Program Graduating Ceremony and Baptism**

In November 2004, AAIM started a sewing workshop in Ethiopia, to help People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Under the direction of Sister Genet, herself an HIV positive person, this project has continued without interruption helping dozens of people, women and men, and providing skills for an income generating activity.

Five people graduated and received diplomas on 7 July 2012.

AAIM is very glad to announce another baptism, fruit of the work of this project.

Based in KOTOBÉ Church, and equipped and sponsored by AAIM, it operates from Addis-Ababa, under the supervision of AAIM HIV/AIDS Coordinator for Ethiopia, Ms. Gelane Kumera.

We praise the name of the Lord for His many blessings on this project.

#### **4.5 Democratic Republic of Congo - AAIM Activities in Kinshasa**

With the appointment of Dr. Jean Badinanyi as HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the West and South Congo Conferences, AAIM activities in that region have taken a new direction.

Dr. Badinanyi organized a series of Programs in the coastal region of Matadi and a Youth Camp Meeting.

Included in Dr. Badinanyi's plan for the future are the Associations of West Congo, South Congo, Equateur, Kasai Central, East Kasai, and West Kasai.

More programs were presented in the churches of Ozone, Djelo Binza, Delvaux and Bandalungua.

More than 600 participants attended these programs. Fighting Stigmatization, Rejection and Isolation were among the main themes of the seminars, together with a strong encouragement for HIV testing and counseling.

#### 4.6 Lesotho Grandmothers' Training Center - Opening of 1st Phase

Grandmothers' Clubs were started in Lesotho in 2004 by AAIM - Adventist AIDS International Ministry, for the purpose of lending support to grandmothers who suddenly found themselves having to care for a number of grandchildren at an age when they were no longer earning an income.

Part of this support was to teach income generating activities, management of their meager finances, nutrition, psycho-social support for the orphans and food-gardens, etc.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lesotho was honored by the presence of several government dignitaries on the occasion of the official opening of a Training Center where the Grandmothers can pass on necessary skills, principles and values to their orphaned grandchildren.

The center is located on the grounds of Emmanuel Mission School, in the Kingdom of Lesotho, Africa. The grandmothers cleared the land themselves. Construction began in 2010, and the first building was finished during the month of July this year.

On Sunday the 12th of August 2012, the dream of a community center for the grandmothers, finally became a reality with the ribbon cutting ceremony conducted by the Honorable Prime Minister of Lesotho, Mr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane, accompanied by four ministers of his cabinet, as well as the Speaker of the Parliament.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lesotho was represented by its president, Pastor Chobokoane, and also Mrs. Kunene, from the Southern Africa Union, who preached on Sabbath.<sup>5</sup>

#### 4.7 South African Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS

A new Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS is in the making.

This time it is the Southern Africa Union (SAU) and the Trans-Orange Conference (TOC) who are taking the initiative under the auspices of AAIM and the Southern Africa Indian Ocean Division.

Dr. Jun Negre, SAU-HMD and Mrs Euginia Keebine, TOC-HIV/AIDS Coordinator are leading the organization of this event, that will be a first for the Adventist Church in the Southern part of the continent.

It seems that all these years of work are bearing fruit, and the time has come for the Adventists to strongly oppose the stigma and discrimination still existing in our churches.

The fact that our brothers and sisters can come out into the open and testify of their condition is a huge step forward in the church's battle against the epidemic.

Lets prepare ourselves to offer as much support as possible, and receive this initiative with hope, love and compassion.

**6th AAIM Tri-Divisional Advisory** - Planning is underway for the AAIM 2013 Tri-Divisional Advisory in Nairobi between 9-14 September 2013. The implementation of this program depends upon the availability of funds.

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<sup>5</sup> Extracted from the article published in Adventist News Network on August 24th.

**5. TENTATIVE ITINERARIES 2013 (in preparation)**

NOVEMBER 2012

- ECD Year-End Meeting
- AAIM Country programs

DECEMBER

- Madagascar
- TOC Association of Adventists Living with HIV/AIDS

FEBRUARY 2013

- WAD - Cameroon
- WAD - Central Africa Republic

MARCH

- ECD - Kinshasa
- ECD - Lubumbashi

APRIL

- GC-AAIM Board

MAY

- WAD - Mid Year Meeting - Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- ECD - Mid Year Meeting
- SID – Mid Year Meeting

JUNE

- 

JULY

- Youth Congress - Pretoria

AUGUST

- 

SEPTEMBER

- 

OCTOBER

- GC-AAIM Board

NOVEMBER

- ECD – End of the Year Meeting
- SID - End of the Year Meeting
- WAD - End of the Year Meeting

DECEMBER

-

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Despite all the challenges we had to face during the past six months, God did not stop blessing the Adventist AIDS International Ministry.

We praise the name of the Lord, who continues to open new doors for this Ministry all over Africa.

AAIM certainly represents the Ministry of Christ, reaching to the sick and the needy, to the widows and orphans, to the stigmatized and outcast, to the rejected...

Matthew 25:35-36 is the answer to a question asked by many: "what can I do to help...?" This passage of the Bible is a test to our faith and a clear message about the mission ahead of us. AAIM explores each part of it, and implements practical solutions to these needs.

AAIM continues to serve those less fortunate, that have been touched by the HIV epidemic, and the many at risk to be infected by the virus. Programs of Prevention Care and Support are being implemented in all the countries associated with this program.

**Matthew 25:35-36**

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was (an orphan) a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick (with AIDS) and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

Once again, AAIM thanks its partners in Ministry, the General Conference, the GC-Health Ministries Department, East-Central Africa Division, Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division, and West-Central Africa Division, ADRA International and Loma Linda University for their constant encouragement and support.

AAIM thanks its generous donors for their financial support, which facilitate the majority of the country programs,

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for His love and His guidance!