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Activity Report on Partnerships

2012-2015



Contents

[**Introduction** 2](#_Toc441134790)

[**UN Agencies** 2](#_Toc441134791)

[**1.** **The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** 2](#_Toc441134792)

[**2.** **United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)** 6](#_Toc441134793)

[**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** 8](#_Toc441134794)

[**1.** **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)** 8](#_Toc441134795)

[**Regional Organizations** 10](#_Toc441134796)

[**1.** **African Union Commission (AUC)** 10](#_Toc441134797)

[**International Financing Organizations** 12](#_Toc441134798)

[**1.** **The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria** 12](#_Toc441134799)

[**Private Sector** 13](#_Toc441134800)

[**1.** **Fashion 4 Development (F4D)** 13](#_Toc441134801)

[**2.** **Alere Inc** 14](#_Toc441134802)

[**Others** 15](#_Toc441134803)

[**1.** **High Level Task Force for Women, Girls and Gender Equality and HIV for Eastern and Southern Africa (HLTF)** 15](#_Toc441134804)

[**2.** **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** 16](#_Toc441134805)

[**Conclusion** 17](#_Toc441134806)

# **Introduction**

Two of the overarching goals (4 & 5) of the OAFLA 2014-2018 strategic plan focus on strengthening stakeholders’ commitment as well as increase and diversify the resource-basis of the organization. Due to this mandate the OAFLA Secretariat works closely with current partners and endeavors to establish new partnerships from different sectors, including the private sector and philanthropists to ensure success.

As of December 2015, OAFLA has been working, implementing projects and activities with UNAIDS, UNFPA, IPPF, AUC, HLTF, Alere Inc and F4D.

The objective of this report is to follow up and highlight partner’s contribution to the implementation of the OAFLA strategic plan as well to identify future plans which OAFLA will embark upon with partners.

This document will be updated annually and presented to the General Assembly.

# **UN Agencies**

## **The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

UNAIDS has been the prime donor and partner of the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) since its inception in 2002. The partnership between OAFLA and UNAIDS is materialized through recurring Programme Funding Agreements which included financial assistance through the OAFLA Secretariat to member states programs , covering administration cost of the secretariat, funding of events and meetings, publications as well as providing technical assistance for the OAFLA Secretariat.

* **Activities**

Since 2012 UNAIDS has provided financial and technical assistance for the following projects/activities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Amount allocated in USD |
| 2012 Programme Funding Agreement (PFA):   * Phase I PMTCT fund allocated for 12 countries * Purchase of a digital photo camera, covered costs of OAFLA 10th anniversary event and for the advertisement of OAFLA in the 10th Anniversary journal of the Africa Union. * Funded missions of the Executive Secretary of OAFLA to attend the African First Lady Initiative programme which was organized by RAND Corporation and the OAFLA strategic planning session (review of strategic plan)for TAs in Sept 2012 in NYC * Financial & technical assistance for the printing of OAFLA 2012-2013 and for the OAFLA website to become bilingual * Assistance in covering costs of July 2012 and January 2013 GAs including hiring of rapporteurs * Funded the mission of the Executive Secretary to attend the official closing of the EMTCT programme in Uganda on 21st March 2013 * Technical Advisors meeting and PMTCT themed workshop which was held in the margins of the 12th OAFLA Extraordinary General Assembly in May 2013 | 130,000  11,554  12,352  5,418  18,055  2,843  10,560 |
| Sub total | 190,782 |
| In 2013 agreement with UNAIDS to use unutilized fund from 2010:  Phase 2 PMTCT fund allocated for 6 countries  -supported OAFLA ES to attend president introductory meeting in Ndjamena Chad   * UNAIDS funded OAFLA participation in ICASA 2013, the ES and presidents office | 80,000 |
| Funded the recruitment of a consultant to finalize the OAFLA draft strategic plan 2014-2018 | 10,000 |
| 2014-2015 Directory | 11,544 |
| **2014 PFA:**  Supported the OAFLA secretariats administrative and operational costs for the second half of the 2014 financial year | 80,915 |
| Covered the travel cost of the ES to Ghana(8-11 Sept 2015) for the meeting with UNAIDS and the OAFLA President to discuss about the OAFLA president priorities and UNAIDS support in this regard | 2,454 |
| **2015 PFA:**   * 15th Ordinary General Assembly which was held in South Africa, Johannesburg 11-15 June 2015 * OAFLA 2015 members director * OAFLA round table in the margins of the 70th UNGA held in September 28, 2015: ***‘****’Building on MDG’s to invest in the Post 2015 Development Agenda’’* Roundtable I: ‘*Strengthening Initiatives and Partnerships for the Treatment and Prevention of HIV/AIDS for Adolescents and Youth’* * The OAFLA Gala tool kit * Travel cost of 2 OAFLA secretariat staffs OAFLA session at the 18th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa which was held in Zimbabwe Harare on 30th November 2015 | 12,752  11,506  11,700  706  2,727 |
| Sub total | 39,391 |
| UNAIDS covered the cost of the working lunch, held with ambassadors of countries which are chairing the Regional Economic Commissions , at the Radisson Blu in Addis Ababa November 19,2015 | 272 |
| **TOTAL 415,358** | |

* **Achievements**

Through this partnership, OAFLA member states capacity in terms of implementation of PMTCT related project has increased.

The OAFLA secretariat hosted successful Technical Advisors meetings as well as a General Assemblies which are the only forums whereby TAs and First Ladies meet and share experience on their programs and projects as well as show case their projects to stakeholders. The workshop and round table in the margins of the 69th and 70th UNGA have enabled OAFLA to use the UNGA forum and organize timely discussions on current trends of HIV and AIDS as well as express its commitments to the SDGs.

The ICASA sessions were an opportunities for OAFLA members to increase the visibility of OAFLA on a regional platform and reiterate their commitment to the implementation of SDG’s and to be transformative leaders.

OAFLA Strategic direction has been thoroughly outlined in its strategic plan 2014- 2018, and the OAFLA Members Directory which was as launched in 2012 and has became an annual publication has been supported by UNAIDS since inception, increasing the awareness to different stakeholders about the ongoing projects of First Ladies

Communication gaps have been bridged through the OAFLA Secretariat bilingual communication tools such as the web site and the organizations visibility has increased through its promotional materials.

The OAFLA Secretariat has been able to organize a fundraiser event and its member states equipped with a Gala tool Kit. In 2014, OAFLA’s deficit in terms of its budget have been curbed through the reduction of its Administration costs which has been partially covered by UNAIDS.

UNAIDS Co-hosted a workshop held under the theme “*African First Ladies Advocating for Healt****h”,*** for First Ladies in the margins of 69th UNGA on 23 Sept 2014 UNGA. In this regard UNAIDS brought to the attention of First Ladies a campaign called #AFRICAFIRST to guide the advocacy of First Ladies and create uniformity as well as enhance visibility via the social media, brochure and web stories.

After the presentation of the ‘’All In’’ initiative at the 14th GA in January 2015 OAFLA member states have endorsed the initiative and have been focusing on preventing HIV among adolescents.

In the margins of the 2015 China-Africa Forum (FOCAC) OAFLA along with UNAIDS ,Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Chinese authorities organized the **Africa-** **China HIV Advocacy Event under the theme *Africa- China Partnership: Caring for an AIDS-free Generation held on December 05 ,2015*** *in* Johannesburg-South Africa.

* **Way Forward**

Based on the outcome of Africa- China HIV advocacy event which is a joint statement from OAFLA and the First Lady of China, UNAIDS is currently facilitating the allocation of funds from the Chinese authorities for OAFLA projects pertaining to HIV/AIDS as well as a long term collaboration between OAFLA and the Chinese First Lady.

OAFLA and UNAIDS will be working on a PFA for 2016 which will among others cover cost of 2016 General Assemblies, other events, publications etc..

UNAIDS will also assist OAFLA in its endeavor to organize OAFLA events in the margins of Regional Economic Communities meetings.

As the United Nations High Level meeting (HLM) will be held in 2016 UNAIDS and OAFLA will work together to develop an OAFLA Common Position to the HLM focusing on EMTCT an young people

## **United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)**

UNFPA has been working in partnership with OAFLA on maternal and child health issues since the establishment of the OAFLA Secretariat in 2012.

UNFPA has provided financial and technical assistance for the following projects/activities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Amount allocated in USD |
| Financial support for the printing of the 2013/2014 OAFLA Members Directory | 3,248 |
| Covered the cost of the High Level Dialogue on Maternal Health Focusing on Adolescent Girls which was held in the margins of the 69th UNGA on September 23, 2014 in NYC | 5,664 |
| Covered the travel cost of one OAFLA Secretariat for the round table in the margins of the 70th UNGA held in September 28, 2015:  *’Building on MDG’s to invest in the Post 2015 Development Agenda’’*  Round table II: ‘’*Investing in Women’s and Adolescents’ Health in a Post-2015 Development Framework’’* | 3,604 |
| The travel costs of the ES to attend theRegional Consultation with Faith-Based leaders on the demographic dividend organized by UNFPA in Dakar, Senegal(26-28 Oct 2015) | 1,268 |
| **TOTAL 13,784** | |

* **Achievements**

The OAFLA –UNFPA partnership has enabled the improvement of the efficiency of the Office as well as increase OAFLA’s visibility by increasing the awareness of different stakeholders including the private sector about the ongoing projects of First Ladies.

The high level dialogue as well as the round table in the margins of the 69th and 70th UNGA have enabled OAFLA to host for the first time under its banner, meetings in the margins of UNGA, to use the UNGA forum and organize timely discussions on current trends of MNCH and particularly on adolescent’s health.OAFLA issuedcommuniqués following the two events which will be used as an advocacy tool by First Ladies and partners.

At the regional consultation with fait based leaders, OAFLA noted the importance of the Faith bases leaders work in maternal and child health with relevance to the demographic dividend and recommended them as champions in their communities to work together with other champions such as First Ladies and traditional leaders to advocate on the same issues.

**Way Forward**

OAFLA will continue to work with UNFPA to materialize OAFLA events in the margins of the UNGA. As the leading organization on maternal and adolescents health, OAFLA will brainstorm with UNFPA liaison office to the AU and ECA on how OAFLA member states can maximise the collaboration with UNFPA country and regional offices. In this regard there is a plan to involve First Ladies of some of the SWEDD countries (Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Chad**)** in the project*on women empowerment and the demographic dividend in the Sahel*financed by UNFPA, West Africa Health Organization(WAHO) and the World Bank.

UNFPA is also looking into the possibility of OAFLA members participating in the upcoming high level International Women Deliver Conference, scheduled for May 2016.

## **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

## **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**

IPPF and OAFLA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May 2013. UNFPA has provided financial assistance for the following activities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Amount allocated in USD |
| Sponsorship of OAFLA Secretariat participation to:   * Pre-Conference on Population and Development (CPD) and post 2015 meeting in Nairobi from 5 to 7 March2014 * The Reproductive Health Advocacy Network for Africa (RHANA) General Assembly as well as the meeting of CSOs on ‘’Action 2015’’ in Johannesburg, South Africa (18-20 November 2014 | 1,286  3,580 |
| In the margins of the 69th UNGA on 23 Sept 2014 , IPPF co-organized a workshop for First Ladies on ‘Africa First Ladies Advocating for Health’ in which it organized and financed a session on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and ICPD focusing on maternal health | 11,725 |
| Support to organize the 14th  Ordinary GA in January 2015 and presentation made to TAS on ICPD in post 2015 | 10 000 |
| Financial support to cover the OAFLA Secretariat accommodation costs for the OAFLA round table in the margins of the 70th UNGA held in September 28, 2015:  *’Building on MDG’s to invest in the Post 2015 Development Agenda’’*  IPPF Africa Region Director moderated the Round table II: ‘’*Investing in Women’s and Adolescents’ Health in a Post-2015 Development Framework’’* | 3,700 |
| **TOTAL** | **30,291** |

* **Achievements**

The cost of the OAFLA GA which is the only forum that enables the First Ladies, technical advisors and stakeholders to meet, represents a considerable amount in OAFLA’s budget. Thus it is through partnerships such as IPPFs that the OAFLA Secretariat is able to reduce its costs. Furthermore the UNGA being a crucial period to organize side events, IPPF was able to co-finance the workshop organized for OAFLA members.

The partnership with OAFLA has also impacted positively on the work of IPPF as it has access to OAFLA advocacy tools such as communiqués and call for actions to promote its work as well as First Ladies championing issues in areas of mutual collaboration. The OAFLA secretariat has also endorsed the IPPF with its partners and donors and has facilitated meetings with IPPF management and OAFLA members.

OAFLA has been a member of RHANA since March 2013, the network was introduced to OAFLA through IPPF as part of the joint activities stated in the MoU . By participating in RHANA and IPPF meetings the OAFLA Secretariat was able to send minutes and relevant documents on SRHR to Technical Advisors which has permitted a wider comprehension on population and development issues particularly on SRHR.

First Ladies have been championing SRHR within their respective countries and communiqués issued by First Ladies were also used as tools to ensure that ICPD issues have priority in the post 2015 agenda.

**Way Forward**

IPPF will introduce its campaign called ‘Joining voices’ to OAFLA members which aims to rally First Ladies on family planning initiatives. As a key partner in the MPoA review, IPPF will present the document as well as the OAFLA role in implementation thereof.

# **Regional Organizations**

## **African Union Commission (AUC)**

The AUC and OAFLA used to collaborate to organize OAFLA General Assemblies in margins of the AU Heads of State summits without an agreement. In order to institutionalize OAFLA GAs as well as partner on programmatic issues, OAFLA and AUC signed a MoU in January 2014.

The AU and OAFLA worked in collaboration on the following areas:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Amount allocated** |
| The AUC provides conference rooms as well as interpretations services for the OAFLA GA (excluding TA meetings) which is held twice a year in the margins of African Union Heads of State summits | 80,000 (estimation) |
| The ES was fully sponsored to attend the meeting to validate the revision of working documents which were set to expire in 2015. The documents include the AU Roadmap, the Maputo Plan of Action, the MNCH Strategy and the Abuja +12. | 1,260 |
| Supporting the AU in launching and implementing the campaign to end child marriage:   * co-organizing a breakfast meeting of Head of States, First Ladies and partners on Ending Child Marriage in the margins of the 14th ordinary General Assembly **of OAFLA** * Assisting in mobilizing FLs and particularly the FL of Zambia for the Africa Girls Summit which was held in November 2015 in Zambia * Assisting in mobilizing the FL of Sudan in launching and championing the campaign * Facilitating the participation of the First Lady of Kenya in the CARMAA week held in Nairobi | N/A |
| **TOTAL** | **81,260** |

* **Achievements**

The MoU has strengthened the partnership particularly at programmatic level with the Department of Social Affairs (DSA), which now involves OAFLA in its activities and consider the Organization as an implementing partner.

First Ladies have been recognized in major policy documents as champions for role they play on issues of MNCH. Several First Ladies are championing the launch of the campaign against early child marriage and are ensuring the enforcement of the campaign in their respective countries.

* **Way Forward**

African First Ladies have been championing the CARMMA since its launch and the AUC along with OAFLA is currently sensitizing FLs on the situation of CARMMA post 2015. It is foreseen that First Ladies will continue to champion the issues that are lagging behind in terms of the reduction of maternal mortality in Africa.

Since several countries have launched the campaign on early child marriage, the AUC and OAFLA will work together to ensure that the campaign is being implemented at national level.

The OAFLA Secretariat has approached the Secretariat of the African Committee of Experts On the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) within the Department of Social Affairs (DSA) to make a presentation on the Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child to Technical Advisors and solicit member states on the ratification and implementation of the charter.

As stated above OAFLA is working closely with DSA, the OAFLA secretariat will strive to broaden this collaboration towards other relevant departments of the AUC such as Gender and Youth.

# **International Financing Organizations**

## **The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria**

The Global Fund has been approached by the OAFLA Secretariat to collaborate with OAFLA on issues of common interests. Mr Mark Dybul the Executive Director of Global Fund was a guest speaker at the 13th and 15th OAFLA GA respectively and participated in the OAFLA high level event held in September 2015 in NYC.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Amount allocated in USD** |
| The Global fund covered some of the costs of the 15th OAFLA GA which took place in June 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa | **9,908.00** |

* **Achievements**

The Global Fund has recognized OAFLA member’s projects to be potential recipients of the fund allocated to their respective countries as well as capable of seeking accountability from those who received funds and are implementing projects within countries.

The Global Fund ED has called upon OAFLA members to make their voices heard at country level to implement programs concerning cervical cancer and adolescents.

Some First Ladies participated in the film which was used as an advocacy tool in support of women and girls during the Global Fund’s Replenishment period in December 2015.

* **Ways forward**

OAFLA and Global Fund will work together to advocate for the allocation of funds for projects concerning HIV/AIDS particularly for adolescents and cervical cancer which has been recently added into the mandate of the global fund.

The Global Fund is also actively promoting OAFLA to its own network of partners for possible further collaboration and funding.

# **Private Sector**

## **Fashion 4 Development (F4D)**

OAFLA was introduced to F4D during the 2014 UNGA, whereby F4D had invited the OAFLA members to its First Ladies luncheon. Thereafter the OAFLA Secretariat held a discussion with F4D to collaborate and design an agreement for the 2015 UNGA event.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Amount allocated in USD** |
| An agreement was convened between F4D and OAFLA in which F4D will support the costs of the venue and refreshments at Hotel Pierre in NYC in which was held the OAFLA *UNGA High Level Event ‘Building on MDG’s to invest in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.*  Subsequent to the OAFLA event , OAFLA members attended the 5th annual First Ladies luncheon hosted by F4D | 18,500 |
| **Total** | **18,500.00** |

* **Achievements**

During the UNGA, meeting venue cost in NYC are very costly hence by partnering with F4D OAFLA was able to organize its event. OAFLA benefited from the F4D media who were also invited to the event thereby creating further international awareness for the organization and OAFLA Vice President made remarks during the F4D event, which added to the visibility of the organization by introducing OAFLA to the larger audience and partners that F4D invited at its luncheon.

* **Way Forward**

Upon further discussions on the needs of OAFLA, it was decided to have a joint resource mobilization event in 2016. The modalities of the event are under discussion.

## **Alere Inc**

Alere’s representatives approached the previous OAFLA President H.E Mme Hinda Deby Itno in Tchad. Subsequent to Alere’s presentation of their company to Technical Advisors, the OAFLA Secretariat and the Alere administration worked upon an agreement for the donation of 100 000 HIV/Syphilis test kits for OAFLA member States which was signed in January 2015. The donation was later on increased to 200 000 test kits.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity** | Amount allocated in USD |
| Donation of 200 000 test kits | Estimated value of the test kits: 400,000 |

* **Achievements**

In the framework of OAFLA member states EMTCT programmes, as the need for more test kits were visible, Alere has increased its donation to 200,000 test kits. So far out of 15 member states which have been selected to receive the donations 11 countries have received the test kits.

* **Way Forward**

Alere country representatives and the OAFLA Secretariat will oversee the utilization of the test kits. Alere and the OAFLA secretariat have also brainstormed on the next project which will consist of tailored donations to member states for their projects particularly on those focuses on adolescents. To this end a survey which will be distributed for member states in order to assess their needs is being prepared by Alere.

A discussion is underway regarding the content of the 2016 OAFLA Members’ Directory which will have a partnership focus. With regards to Alere there is a plan to include projects of member states in which the test kits have been used as well as other commodities which will be donated by Alere. Other communication mediums such as filming of PSAs are also under discussion.

# **Others**

## **High Level Task Force for Women, Girls and Gender Equality and HIV for Eastern and Southern Africa (HLTF)**

The Task force which includes senior government officials and CSO representing the three Regional Economic Communities, a group of eminent persons and the four Regional Directors of UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN Women and UNICEF, was introduced to OAFLA through UNAIDS. The HLTF and OAFLA signed a MoU in July 2013. The essence of the partnership is high level political advocacy on the reduction of new HIV infections, SRHR and empowerment of girls and women.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Amount allocated in USD** |
| On the side lines of the regional symposium on: Adolescent sexual reproductive health right (SRHR) and HIV in Africa held in Zambia on Dec 7-10 2014, OAFLA and HLTF organized a meeting on cervical cancer, HIV and violence prevention and response. | 3,544 |
| In the framework of the 18th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) the HLTF and OAFLA co-organized an ICASA **non-abstract session, a panel on -** *Transformative leadership: The role of African Women in sustaining the AIDS response in the post 2015 era –* | N/A |
| **Total** | **3,544** |

* **Achievement**s

The OAFLA-HLTF side meeting in Lusaka had an outcome document which is the Lusaka communiqué: *Gender and Health: Intersections with Cervical Cancer, HIV, and Violence Prevention and Response’*. The communiqué was approved by the 14th OAFLA GA, and is being used as an advocacy tool for issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS, cervical cancer and GBV. As a result of participating in the symposium of Adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights and HIV, best practices on ASRHR were shared with member states

In the framework of the international women day on March 08, 2015, the HLTF in collaboration with OAFLA drafted a statement to be read by African First Ladies in celebrations held within respective countries. Elements of the statement were used in statements read by First Ladies.

The ICASA session was an opportunity for OAFLA members to express and reiterate their commitment to the SDG’s and to be transformative leaders.

* **Way Forward**

As the OAFLA-HLTF work plan will terminate in 2015, a new work plan for 2016-2017 will be drafted in order to implement joint advocacy programmes.

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

## 

In the effort of eradicating polio in the continent, CDC contacted OAFLA to co-organize a working lunch in the margins of January 2015 General Assembly.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **Amount allocated** |
| At the January 2015 GA, working lunch on polio eradication was organized in collaboration with UNICEF and Rotary. | **11,975** |

* **Achievements**

The working lunch was organized under the theme “Let’s End Polio and Build a Healthier Future”, in partnership UNICEF and Rotary. It was attended by OAFLA members and invited guests as well members of the media.

African First Ladies endorsed a declaration on ‘’polio eradication in Africa’’ and reiterate their commitment to the goal of global polio eradication, and help deliver a polio-free Africa as a historic legacy to children of all future generations.

* **Way Forward**

In the framework of the adopted declaration, a work plan is being drafted to involve OAFLA members and the Secretariat in activities pertaining to the eradication of polio.

# **Conclusion**

Projects and activities in line with the strategic direction of OAFLA, will be implemented alongside OAFLA’s current partners.

OAFLA has been intensively networking with relevant stakeholders which have the potential of partnering with OAFLA. Thus final modalities of the partnership with AMREF, WHO and IGAD will be reviewed at the OAFLA 16th ordinary General Assembly in January 2016. The status of these partnerships as well as others will be reported upon in OAFLA’s quarterly and annual reports.

The establishment of new partnerships will be a trend that will continue and remains one of the core undertakings of OAFLA.