

# OAFLA UPDATE

ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN FIRST LADIES AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Quarterly Newsletter– June 2016



## VISION

*An Africa free from HIV and AIDS, maternal and child mortality where women and children are empowered to enjoy equal opportunities.*

## MISSION

*First Ladies of Africa advocate for effective policies and strategies towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, reduction of maternal and child mortality and the empowerment of women and children, through strategic partnerships in the spirit of solidarity.*

## GOALS

- Contribute to the national effort in preventing, managing and eliminating HIV and AIDS
- Contribute to the national effort in reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality
- Contribute to the national effort in controlling cervical cancer
- Enhance organizational visibility, organizational learning and stakeholders' commitment,
- Ensure program and financial sustainability

## Breaking the Silos: Empowered Adolescent Girls and Young Women Accessing Integrated Services

An OAFLA side event was organised on 08 June 2016 in collaboration with UNAIDS, GAVI Alliance and PEPFAR, in the margins of the High level meeting on AIDS held in New York. First Ladies from Africa were joined by the First Lady of Haiti and the First Lady of Panama in calling for the empowerment of young women and adolescent girls in the HIV response.

They urged providers of health care services to better integrate service delivery and programme design to support the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women to make informed life choices and keep themselves healthy, including protecting themselves from HIV infection.

# **DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT OF AFRICAN FIRST LADIES MEMBERS OF OAFILA ON BREAKING THE SILOS: EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TO ACCESS INTE- GRATED SERVICES**

We, the First Ladies of Africa, members of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFILA) working towards our vision of “**An Africa free from HIV and AIDS, maternal and child mortality where women and children are empowered to enjoy equal opportunities**”;

**Reaffirming Our Commitment** to the “Call to Action for Routine Immunisation for Every Child” as part of our Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018.

**Highly Committed** to the implementation of the SDGs and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS which will be agreed upon at the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in New York on 10th June 2016.

**Acknowledge** the renewed leadership and commitment of United Nations Member States, community members including organisations of women living with HIV, and partners in ensuring we fast track the response to HIV, leaving no one behind, over the next five years to achieve our set targets.

**Remain Concerned** about the continued lack of engagement of adolescent girls and young women.

**Recognize** that without programmes addressing the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent girls and young women, millions of girls will continue to be trapped in a cycle of poverty and inequality.

**We, therefore, reaffirm and expand our commitment:**

- To continue to advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women ensuring we end all gender-based violence.
- To support intersectoral, multilevel, and multicomponent actions to ensure all adolescent and young people's health and wellbeing.
- To champion communities access to an integrated package of preventive and curative services that address the needs of adolescent girls, including immunisation, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health and rights, education and livelihood generation.
- To advocate for increasing domestic investment for adolescents and youth ensuring sexual and reproductive health services free from discrimination and comprehensive sexuality education, including gender equality, is accessible to all youth.
- To ensure adolescent girls and young women particularly and youth overall are engaged and empowered to be part of the change and accountability mechanisms, such as All In and other youth-led platforms.

We the First Ladies of Africa, together with First Ladies from Latin America and Asia Pacific will work with and for adolescent girls and young women to provide opportunities for equal rights in order to realize their full potential; creating a safe and prosperous environment for their wellbeing and good health. Together we will achieve the end of the AIDS epidemic in 2030, and realize the promise of the SDG Agenda.



## Mother and Child Social Entrepreneurship Luncheon

General Electric (GE) in partnership with the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship invited OAFLA members to the launch of a social entrepreneurship program across Africa designed to help existing entrepreneurs develop innovations to improve the lives of African mothers and babies. The event was held in the margins of the 2016 HLM at the Waldorf Astoria New York hotel.



On the occasion GE and the Miller Center expressed their interest to partner with OAFLA on the program. First Ladies of Namibia, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire and the Minister of Basic Education of Gambia attended the event. The First Ladies present at the event indicated that the program will benefit Africa by bringing innovative approaches to improve maternal and child health. The partnership request by GE was considered positively and the mandate to pursue this further was given to the OAFLA secretariat. Hence the OAFLA Secretariat and the GE team will work together to present a concept note on the partnership at the 18th OAFLA GA in January 2017.



## African Vaccination Week

OAFLA members have adopted a call to action on "Routine Immunization: Reach Every Child". In line with the Call for Action GAVI has provided a tool kit for First Ladies which provided member states with ideas and activities for African Vaccination Week (April 24 – 30, 2016) as well as other suggestions for immunisation advocacy and engagement throughout the year.

The tool kit as well the social media package for the African Vaccination week were sent to member states as well as to WHO country offices which coordinated the implementation of activities during the said week

## Additional donation from Increasing Love for Decreasing AIDS Fund (ILDAF)

The CABC has since contacted the OAFLA secretariat with a further donation of USD 100 000 to OAFLA member states. OAFLA has requested a flexibility on the thematic areas of the donation and include paediatric AIDS and adolescent SRH issues, as per the 2016 focus area of OAFLA and to allow application for the fund from more OAFLA members.

## **HER EXCELLENCY THE FIRST LADY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA MADAM ZINEB JAMMEH LEADS CRUSADE TO FIGHT CANCER.**



Recognizing the fact that Cancer is becoming a growing concern accounting for millions of deaths worldwide and has evolved to be the third highest killer disease in the world, Her Excellency The First Lady of the Islamic Republic of the Gambia Madam Zineb Yahya Jammeh as part of activities marking world cancer day 2016 led a national crusade to combat cancer a disease which has ravaged the African continent.

The first of its kind, Her Excellency Madam Jammeh initiated a cancer walk coinciding with world cancer day with the theme "You can, I can, and Gambia can fight against cancer". The event attracted thousands of people

from all walks of life marching through the capital city, Banjul to significantly raise awareness on cancer issues.

### **H.E FIRST LADY JAMMEH ADVOCATE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

The important role played by women in national development cannot be over emphasized. Her Excellency Madam Jammeh has firm believe in empowerment women in various disciplines such as agriculture, health, entrepreneurship and education. On a recent tour of the Gambia Women Federation market in Sukuta, First lady Jammeh shared valuable time interacting with them to identify needs of growth and business expansion opportunities.

The Gambia's remarkable advancements and achievements towards attaining food self-sufficiency is shown through the hard work and utmost dedication of Gambian women in providing for their families and earning a living, first lady Jammeh remarked during events marking international women's day celebration 2016. She hailed efforts of women in national development as the driving force behind the country's economy. First lady Jammeh actively takes part in most activities organized by the women of her country and this is why say Gambian women say "Bravo" to her.



### **CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF THE GAMBIAN FIRST LADY**



Her Excellency First Lady Madam Zineb Jammeh dearly values children who are tomorrow's future leaders. Frequently spending time with children, First lady Jammeh believes that development can only be sustainable when it is equitable and inclusive. On events marking international day of persons with disabilities Madam Jammeh called on everyone to break barriers and open doors of opportunities for all persons with disabilities.





## AUC Chairperson and Ethiopian First Lady discuss upcoming Cervical, Breast Cancer Conference



The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and the First Lady of the Federal Democratic

Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Madam Roman Tesfaye, have discussed plans for the upcoming Conference on Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer scheduled to take place on 26-27 July 2016, at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The First Lady of Ethiopia briefed the AU Commission Chairperson on her advocacy initiatives against cancer since she began championing it for over three years now. She equally highlighted the challenges and the critical importance of holding such a conference in Addis Ababa, during the Year of Human Rights with a particular focus on women's right. The

First Lady noted the advanced stage of preparations of the conference and invited Dr. Dlamini Zuma to grace the conference with a keynote address during the opening.

The Chairperson of the Commission expressed delight for the AU to hosting such a conference of critical importance. She welcomed the First Lady's initiatives and congratulated her for championing the cause, which she described as extremely noble. "I'm very pleased to see First Ladies embarking on such huge and challenging initiatives. You have all our support," Dr. Dlamini Zuma said, throwing her weight behind the upcoming 10th conference.

The Conference, entitled, "Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa" is organized by the Office of the First Lady of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia, in partnership with the Princess Nikky Breast Cancer Foundation. It will bring together present and former First Ladies, Heads of State and Governments, AU Ministers of Health, UN Agencies, Civil Society Organisations and representatives of the private sector

## Dialogue with Spouses of Traditional Leaders on Eliminating HIV/AIDS, GBV, Child Marriage and Open Defecation in Zambia



Under the honour of the First Lady of Zambia, the ever first event was organised with Royal spouses as a primary audience in Zambia. This was the first development advocacy event attended by three ministers (MOG, MOH, MOCTA) and Permanent Secretaries and Departmental Directors of the Ministries.

The First Lady Mrs Easter Lungu officially opened the program by welcoming all and highlighting the important role that wives can play in making decisions by the husbands especially when it comes to a decision affecting women and children. She highly recognised the enthusiasm shown by the Royal Spouses in contributing to achieve the national goals of eliminating HIV/AIDS, child marriage and gender based violence as equal partner in country's development and thanked them for their time to participate in the program. She committed personally to advocate to the president himself to bring out required policy support to empower women. In remarks, the first Lady thanked UNAIDS and cooperating partners for supporting the event and the senior government officials for being together in the efforts of the First Lady and the Royal spouses.



### 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly

14-15 July 2016 Technical Advisors Meeting  
16 July 2016 Steering Committee Meeting  
17 July 2016 General Assembly (Closed Session)  
18 July 2016 General Assembly (Open Session)

### First Lady of Ethiopia to Host the 10<sup>th</sup> Stop Cervical Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa Conference



Preparations are underway for the 10<sup>th</sup> Stop Cervical Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa Conference which will be hosted by the First Lady of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E Madam Roman Tesfaye. Prepared in partnership with Princess Nikky Cancer Foundation and taking place **24 – 28 July 2016** at the African Union Conference center, under the theme “A DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE CHALLENGES AHEAD” the conference will offer strategic guidance based on concrete lessons learned in the field of cancer prevention and control over the past decade. The conference also aims at galvanizing and harmonizing efforts to strengthen country level programmes and initiatives to end cancer.

More on: <http://10thstopcervicalcancerinafrica.org/>

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