

# THE NATIONAL FORUM OF PLHA NETWORKS IN UGANDA



## ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Uganda AIDS Commission  
Civil Society Fund



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# Acronyms

<b>AAI</b>	Action Aid International
<b>AAI (U)</b>	Africa-America Institute Uganda
<b>ACORD</b>	Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development
<b>AIC</b>	AIDS Information Centre
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>AMFIU</b>	Association of Microfinance Institutions of Uganda
<b>ART</b>	Anti-Retroviral Therapy/Treatment
<b>CAAT</b>	Consortium of Advocates for Access to Treatment
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organisation
<b>CCEDU</b>	<b>Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda</b>
<b>CSF</b>	Civil Society Fund
<b>EANNASO</b>	The Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations
<b>EATAM</b>	East African Treatment Access Movement
<b>GIPA/MIPA</b>	Greater/ Meaningfull Involvement of People Living with HIV
<b>GLIA</b>	Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS
<b>HPI</b>	Heifer Project International
<b>IAA</b>	International HIV/AIDS Alliance
<b>ICW</b>	International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS
<b>JAPR</b>	Joint AIDS Programme Review
<b>JAR</b>	Joint AIDS Review
<b>JCRC</b>	Joint Clinical Research Centre
<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MUWRP</b>	Makerere University Water Reed Project
<b>NAADS</b>	National Agricultural Advisory Services
<b>NACWOLA</b>	National Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS.
<b>NAFOPHANU</b>	National Forum Of People living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda
<b>NUMAT</b>	Northern Uganda Malaria, Aids Tuberculosis Program
<b>OIs</b>	Opportunistic Infections
<b>PC</b>	<b>Partnership Committee</b>
<b>PHA/PLHIV</b>	People Having AIDS/People Living with HIV/AIDS
<b>TASO</b>	The AIDS Support Organization
<b>UAC</b>	Uganda AIDS Commission
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNASO</b>	Uganda National AIDS Service Organisations
<b>WAD</b>	World AIDS Day



## Word from the Chairperson



Dr. Stephen Watiti

*“ Together for a Positive Difference ”*

Greetings to you all,

On behalf of the NAFOPHANU secretariat, I would like to acknowledge the collective contribution of various stakeholders who rallied behind activities and achievements of the Forum in 2010.

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to thank all the PLHIV leadership, National Networks, and well wishers who once again put trust in me and voted me back into office of the Chair NAFOPHANU. I thank you all, and I promise to serve you diligently and to the best of my ability.

The 2010 report highlights activities, achievements, success stories, lessons learnt, challenges, and recommendations.

Through the support received from donors, we managed to touch many people's lives, enhanced capacity of district forums, enriched and strengthened livelihoods of PLHIV, thus bringing hope to the voiceless and marginalized groups and individuals.

In this blessed year, the Forum organized National World AIDS Day and Philly Lutaaya Day commemorations, which showcased a lot of commitment by not only the District Local Governments, religious leaders, but also the PLHIV. These widely celebrated days were also commemorated in 40 districts respectively. This brought about amazing results but most important was the Unity built within the HIV/AIDS movement. Let us keep the candle burning!

The above could not have been possible had it not been support from our Partners.

Of recent, new districts are created frequently. And this has posed a threat to the coordination and launching of new district PLHIV Forums. We pray that more advocacy is done at all levels to ensure that as new PLHIV Forums are created, the old ones are not suffocated.

I thank the Staff of NAFOPHANU, its members, donors, friends, and well wishers for the continued support towards the grown and adorable Forum that it is today.

May God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Watiti', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Stephen Watiti  
Chairman, NAFOPHANU



## Message from the Executive Director



I am pleased to present the 2010 Annual Report for NAFOPHANU.

2010 was again an eventful year with greater advocacy creating a lot of impact on the national level. During the course of the year, the Forum streamlined its Governance Structure by electing a new Board of Directors. The two year term plan for the Board was developed to particularly ensure effective program implementation, as well as strengthening the Forum in to a formidable force for high quality service delivery and improving the resource base through lobbying and mobilization.

On the internal structure, following the completion of the Strategic Plan, a lot of changes occurred at the Secretariat, most importantly, the Forum now has a new Executive Director, after the outgoing Executive Director submitted his resignation to pursue other career opportunities. The new positions of Finance and Administration Manager have since come into existence. This is envisaged to enhance the capacity of the Human Resources Department to steer the Organization to greater heights.

At district level, we have managed to support 40 districts in the day to day running of the district forums. This has helped the districts to network better and more efficiently. Six National networks were also supported.

At national level, NAFOPHANU has been part of the **NO ARVs NO VOTES** Campaign to have health services as a priority issue during the 2010/2011 political campaigns. CAAT meetings have also provided a platform for advocates to lobby for better treatment services.

We were also privileged to contribute to National HIV response including taking the lead in organizing of the national World AIDS Day and Philly Lutaaya Day in Kampala and Nakasongola respectively. 80 districts were also supported to host Philly Lutaaya Day and World AIDS Day 2010 respectively.

In addition to the above, the media was engaged for mass sensitization on the HIV basics. This has been done using four regional radio stations, and UBC Television.

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone at the Secretariat and every member of the institution for the enormous energy, commitment, dedication and team work displayed in 2010.

I also thank our Development Partners: the Civil Society Fund, Partnership Fund of UAC, Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA), EANNASO, NUMAT, STAR-EC and UNAIDS, for the resourceful support, both financial and technical, that has kept the Forum thriving and we pray that we keep up the spirit as we continue to respond to HIV&AIDS.

NAFOPHANU has had challenges too. However comparatively, and with support we seek to make NAFOPHANU a center of Advocacy, Empowerment and the Influence of Persons Living With HIV, increasingly being recognized locally, regional and internationally.

We regret the demise of former Board member Francis Maganda, and Molly Mulaaza Coordinator Kalangala district forum- both part of the 53 PLHIV who formed the organisation in 2003. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Have a happy and prosperous 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stella Kentutsi'.

**Stella Kentutsi**  
Executive Director



# Acknowledgements

NAFOPHANU is delighted to share the 2010 report. Many Partners and individuals have contributed to our successful and fruitful year.

We wish to pass on our sincere thanks to Civil Society Fund which has been at the helm of implementation of projects at the forum. We also wish to recognize the support received from the Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA), which has enhanced health services along the transport corridor and in the region at large, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), has helped build capacity of the Forum in technical support. Uganda AIDS Commission, through the Partnership Committee, facilitated the Forum to conduct national celebrations PLHIV days, regional PHA SCE coordination meetings, among others.

UNAIDS has shaped, guided the Forum and enabled us to revamp our image which has enabled us to access resources in the region.

Other partners include EANNASO, HEPS-Uganda, International HIV/ Aids Alliance, STAR E/SW, NUMAT, Kiswa Health Centre, national networks and the district forums.

NAFOPHANU looks forward to increasing its capacity to perform through Alliances, Consortiums, and Partnership Development to foster the PLHIV movement in Uganda.



# About NAFOPHANU

The National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU) was established in May 2003 and registered with the National NGO Board in May 2004 with a country wide mandate as an umbrella organization for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) to provide systematic and all inclusive coordination structure for PLHIV networks, associations and support groups in order to play advocacy, policy and decision making roles in the HIV/AIDS partnership. This was after identification, acknowledgement and recognition of gaps among PLHIV initiatives in the National Response. This was reached through a process that involved numerous consultative meetings of PLHIV from PLHIV initiatives in Uganda, with support from UNAIDS and the HIV/AIDS Partnership Committee of the Uganda AIDS Commission.

This annual report highlights the commitment and concerted mandate NAFOPHANU holds towards the HIV National Response.

## Vision

NAFOPHANU envisions a community of People Living with HIV realizing their full potential through mutual support, respect of human rights and positively influencing the HIV&AIDS response at all levels.

## Mission

To unite, support building of capacities and coordinate all networks and groups of PLHIV in Uganda for a concerted effort to the HIV and AIDS national response.

## Goal

To enhance the capacity of the networks and member organizations of PLHIV through training, coordination, information sharing, advocacy and resource mobilization by 2012.

## Strategic objectives

- To strengthen advocacy capacities of the National Forum of People Living with HIV Networks and groups to ensure their wellbeing
- Manage PHA specific information through research, documentation and dissemination at all levels
- To enhance resource mobilization through strengthening financial systems of PLHIV networks
- To build and strengthen partnerships with PLHIV networks and other stakeholders in the national response
- To strengthen the performing capacity of NAFOPHANU to respond to its evolving needs and those of its members.

## Core values

⌘ Transparency	⌘ Professionalism
⌘ Team work/spirit	⌘ Participation
⌘ Affirmative action	⌘ Accountability
⌘ Respect for human dignity	⌘ Justice
⌘ Gender sensitivity	⌘ Reliability
⌘ Confidentiality	⌘ Compassionate

## Strategic approaches

- ⌘ Networking
- ⌘ Rights Based Approach
- ⌘ Empowerment of local community organizations/networks
- ⌘ Facilitation and mediation
- ⌘ Advocacy Capacity Building





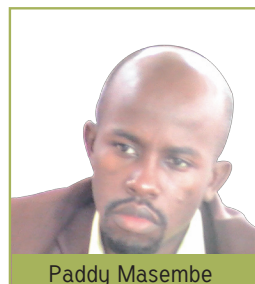
# NAFOPHANU BOARD MEMBERS 2010 - 2012



Molly Okello



Kentutsi Stella



Paddy Masembe



Ogwal Diana



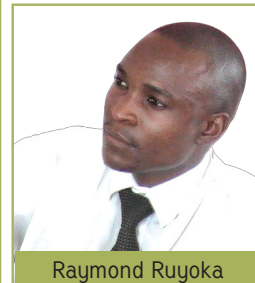
Dr. Stephen Watiti



Christine Obuya



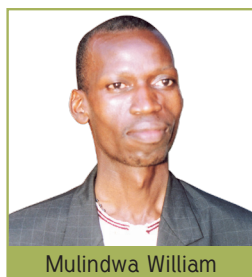
Flavia Kyomukama



Raymond Ruyoka



Grace Namuyomba



Mulindwa William



Dickens Rwabogo



Maj. Kasseti Wamundu

No.	Name	Position
1.	Dr. Stephen Watiti	President /Chairperson
2.	Molly Okello	Vice Chairperson
3.	Paddy Masembe	Treasurer
4.	Grace Namuyomba	Eastern region
5.	Mulindwa William	Central region
6.	Ogwal Diana	Northern region
7.	Dickens Rwabogo	Western region
8.	Maj. Cassette Wamundu	Armed forces
9.	Flavia Kyomukama	National networks
10.	Raymond Ruyoka	Youth representative
11.	Christine Obuya	Women Representative
12.	Kentutsi Stella	Executive Director / Secretary



# Critical interventions in the National HIV Response

The report elaborates on the Work Plan activities, Interventions, Donor Support, Sub Grant Mechanisms and Collaborations that occurred in the year 2010. Additionally, the report indicates the challenges, best practices, lessons learnt, and recommendations encountered. The report covers all donor support including; PC, CSF, STAR EC, NUMAT, Heps-Uganda, and Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS, among others.

## Civil Society Fund

### a) Capacity Building and Technical Support

A guiding principle of the Forum is to build local and regional capacity so that national programs can achieve results, monitor and evaluate their activities, and sustain our programs. CSF funded on-spot trainings and these were conducted for district coordinators and staff of national networks in Financial Management, writing books of accounts, monitoring and evaluation.

**Table 1.1: Capacity Building to District Forums/Networks**

Number of networks provided with technical assistance (training)	01
Number of networks provided with technical assistance (technical support supervision)	40 district networks and 6 national networks
Number of organizations/networks provided with OTHER technical assistance such as On-spot training, mentoring, and Coaching	40 district forums and 6 national networks

**Table 1.2: Trainings Conducted**

Thematic areas of the training conducted	Target audience	Number of people trained		
		Female	Male	Total
TOT training Prevention literacy manual. The workshop was to enhance knowledge of PLHIV and affected on HIV&AIDS Treatment, Care and Support and also served as an important resource for provision of a common focus so that PLHIV can talk openly and informatively as well as meaningfully participate in the national HIV& AIDS response	Community leaders from the HIV fraternity	16	14	30
		5	15	20
Reviewed Finance and M&E Systems training in North and Western Uganda	Sub grantees	40 district forums and 6 national networks		



## **b) Supporting Multi-Sectoral HIV Coordination Mechanisms**

Since the overall mandate of NAFOPHANU is to coordinate networks of Persons Living with HIV, this has been done both at the district and national level through district forums at district level and through national networks at national level.

By facilitating members of the district executive of PLHIV to meet on a monthly basis, PLHIV have had an opportunity to discuss issues affecting them within their districts and come up with possible recommendations. In these meetings, various Partners from the district local government and members of CSOs are invited to participate.

This has given them chance to discuss coordination issues within their districts. In the end, many lower level networks have been formed within the districts and hence easy mobilization of PLHIV constituency.

In a number of Districts, the following departments attended the district coordination meetings;

- District HIV&AIDS Focal Person
- District Community Development Officer
- District Health Officer
- Partners in the district

## **c) Institutional Governance**

### **i) Board Meetings**

There were periodic/quarterly Board Meetings to guide management. The last one took place in November 2010. A new Board was elected and inducted.

### **ii) Annual General Meeting**

Towards the close of the year, an Annual General meeting was held on the 17th September 2010 at Green Valley Hotel in Ggaba. The assembly of PLHIV retained

their Chairperson, Dr. Stephen Watiti and made a few changes within the members of the BoD.

### **iii) Staff Restructuring**

A number of staff were laid off due to drastically reduced funding from our current donors. The staff that was retained had their job descriptions reviewed to take on other roles, and also basing on the implementation of the Forum SP. The Executive Director, Mr. Kibanga, Samuel James, resigned from his position to pursue other career options. The Program Manager, Stella Kentusi, has since been promoted to the position of Executive Director effective January 2011.

## **d) Information Management**

Information Management at national level through Internet support conduits such as website and mailing list is managed by the I.E.C Office at the Resource Center. In many districts, the information is still stored manually except in a few districts like Gulu, Kampala, and Lira where there is availability of computers to store such information.

Disaggregation of information is done based on the design of the report, newsletters formats i.e. by sex, region, Sub County, and so on. This information is used in the planning process and for reporting obligations. This information was used for the following:

- Re-focusing the ongoing projects
- Meeting the Reporting obligation to stakeholders
- Planning and designing future projects

AGM 2010



Dr. Zainab Akol, PM ACP addressing the Annual General Assembly

**Table 2: Advocacy/IEC materials developed**

Type of IEC/BCC products/materials produced or sourced	Number of IEC/BCC products/materials produced and distributed/disseminated	Support organization
News Letters	2000	CSF
Annual report	115, 100 on CDs	CSF
HIV Prevention & Treatment Awareness Manual	4000 translated in four major local languages (Luganda, Runyakitara, Luo and Ateso)	CSF
Fliers	1000	GLIA
Posters	1000	GLIA
Community Advocacy Guidelines	1000	PC



Dr. Kivumulo Apuuli, Director General UAC, at 2010 Candle Light Commemoration in Entebbe

## e) Advocacy Interventions

### i) Radio programs

Following the success of radio talk shows on local FM stations in 2007/2008, bimonthly radio talk shows were continued on local FM stations to cover major regions. These included Kaboozi Kubiri for the Central region, Radio West for Western and South-Western regions, Open Gate (OPG) FM for Eastern and North-Eastern regions and Mega FM for Northern region. These were hosted by the district PLHA Forums and other partners. The radio programmes advocated for the needs and rights of PLHIV at all levels using local languages.

### ii) TV talk shows

Monthly TV talk shows and documentaries continued to be broad-cast as NAFOPHANU furthered her Advocacy role of disseminating information regarding PLHIV and HIV/AIDS generally. For continuity and due to wider national coverage, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation

(UBC) Television was used. The TV programs were coordinated by NAFOPHANU but run jointly with The Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGA-NET), Uganda Network of AIDS Services Organizations (UNASO) and other Partners.

### iii) Monthly Consortium of Advocates for Access to Treatment (CAAT) meetings

NAFOPHANU has hosted the Consortium of Advocates for Access to Treatment (CAAT) since 2007. CAAT stands for evidence based advocacy and lobbying and over 30 HIV related organizations come together every month to discuss issues related to availability and consistency of drug supply especially ARVs, change of regimen without prior notice to PLHIV, bouncing at health centers with drug stock outs or missing files, client monopoly among other issues. The district forums and PLHIV networks as well as district focal point persons are selected from various regions to represent others and report on the status of treatment. This is done on a rotational basis. This has





Hon. Loyce Biira Bwambale (left) the Chief Guest at the WAD 2010 National celebrations, Mr. Julius Byenkya UNAIDS, and Dr. Tabifor Henry - UNAIDS at Kitebi Primary School.

and continues to help to get information from across the country that is used to lobby policy makers and other relevant stakeholders for reliable and consistent access to treatment.

#### iv) Dialogue Meetings

Held harmonization meetings with ART providers, NMS, MoH in the country, this was as a result of concerns which were coming up from People Living with HIV&AIDS in different corners of the country as regards to the status of treatment which include stockouts of ARVs, closure of ART centers, not enrolling PLHIV in ART Center among others.

## Partnership Fund

### i) World AIDS DAY

The Forum with support from Uganda AIDS Commission-PC, was honored to organize the national commemoration of World AIDS Day.

The ceremony was commemorated at Kitebi Primary School in Kampala. Hon. Loyce Biira Bwambale was the Guest of Honor at this World AIDS day commemoration. She thanked participants including; Representatives from Development Partners, Uganda AIDS Commission, Ministry of Health, The Head teacher, Kitebi Primary School, Kampala City Council, the entire community.

Hon Biira also appreciated the national theme; **“I HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT EVERY CHILD FROM HIV AND AIDS...DO YOU?”** that Ugandan AIDS partners had adopted and said that it’s in line fighting for the rights of children and will work to commit government and all other concerned partners towards HIV and AIDS national

response.

Other guests included representatives from, National Council for Children, UAC, MoH, UNAIDS, ICW, Members of Parliament, Kampala District PHA forum Representative, and the Special Guest Ruth Awori, a child living with HIV, among others.

Other districts that were financially facilitated to celebrate WAD were:

- South Western:** (Bushenyi, Ibanda, Kiruhura, Rukungiri, Mbarara, Kanungu, Ntungamo)
- Western:** (Kabarole, Bundibugyo, Kyenjojo, Kamwenge)
- Central:** (Wakiso, Mpigi, Mubende, Kampala)
- Central II:** (Luwero, Kiboga, UPDF, Kibaale)
- Eastern:** (Kaberamaido, Kamuli, Budaka, Mayuge, Kaliro, Namutumba, Manafwa, Pallisa)
- Northern:** (Oyam, Amolator, Dokolo, Pader, Gulu, Kitgum)
- West Nile:** (Nebbi, Koboko, Adjumani, Moyo)
- North Eastern:** (Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Katakwi)

The theme for 2010 World AIDS Day was:

**“UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: I HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT EVERY CHILD FROM HIV AND AIDS...DO YOU?”**

### ii) Philly Lutaaya Day

The national celebrations were held in Nakasongola District in November 2010. The Guest of Honor, Rev. Gerald Wamala was delighted for the district having had the opportunity to host this memorable function. He also in a special way appreciated those who have come up openly to disclose their HIV sero-status. He thanked UAC and NAFOPHANU.





Band procession to Boma grounds, Nakasongola District where the Philly Lutaaya Day National Celebrations were held.

In his speech, he said as a church, they are much involved in advocacy especially to children in regards to abstinence .

He asked all people to stay pure and holy and that all HIV and AIDS organizations should as well include religious issues in their HIV interventions. He further called upon people to stop discrimination and stigma as well as blaming each other for positive results after getting tested. He urged to all people to use the talking tool to sensitize and educate every one and provide them with accurate and concise information about HIV and AIDS.

Other districts supported to celebrate PLD were:

- **Kasese** (joined by Kabarole and Kyenjojo)
- **Bugiri** (joined by Tororo, Busia, Iganga and Jinja)
- **Lira** (joined by Dokoro, Apac Oyam and Amolrata)
- **Kumi** (joined by Soroti, Kaberamaido and Katakwi)
- **Isingiro** (joined by Mbarara, Bushenyi, Kabale, Ntungamo)
- **Yumbe** (joined by Koboko, Moyo)
- **Masaka** (joined by Sembabule, Rakai, Lyantonde, and Kalangala)
- **Nakasongola** (joined by Masindi, Luweero)
- **Mukono** (joined by Kampala, Wakiso, Kayunga and Mpigi)

The theme for the 2010 Philly Lutaaya Day was:

**“HIV Negative or Positive, Let’s all Live Positively”**

### iii) Advocacy Guidelines

Under PF, the Forum developed and disseminated Community Advocacy Guidelines which are targeted to enable Advocates/Activists to utilise information and services available to reduce transmission of HIV, and also reduce the impact of HIV on individuals, communities and organisations. It is a guide developed from the Advocacy Strategy to lobby multiple partners

### iv) Coordination Meetings

The Forum held Youth and Women coordination meetings where the representatives to the Board of Governors were chosen from each cluster.

## Other Advocacy activities done

### NMS

Visited National Medical Stores in February 2010 in to verify the availability of ARVS in Uganda. This was after complaints of drug stock outs in the country yet Global Fund had released money to procure drugs for people living with HIV&AIDS. It was revealed that drugs were procured and stocked in the store but they were not reaching people who needed them as a result of a complex supply chain.

### Forum Launches

Formed and launched new sub county PLHIV Forums in Wakiso District. The sub counties included Nangabo, Busukuma, Gombe and Namayumba Town Council and the executive committees were elected so as to strengthen the networks to have evidence based information starting from grass root level.

### Advocacy Team

An Advocacy Team was formed to strengthen the Advocacy of the Forum and to also have a strong united voice of PLHIV at national level. The Team includes PLHIV representatives on various committees of Ministry of Health (HPAC), PC, CCM who forward PLHIV issues after discussion for further interventions.

### HIV Bill

The Forum was part of the consortium of CSOs coordinated by UGANET to sensitize PLHIV on the HIV Prevention and Control Bill for the populace to be well informed



about that Bill and how it infringes on the rights of People Living with HIV&AIDS in some clauses like criminalization of HIV Transmission, HIV Disclosure and Mandatory Testing among others.

### HEPS- Uganda

Participated in a Campaign to end Pediatric HIV&AIDS which was officially launched in Uganda in 2010 by The Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development, HEPS-U.

Participated in A Medicine Transparency and Monitoring Survey in Kisoro district under Medicine Transparency Alliance to monitor the availability and delivery of medicines in the districts down to final consumer and a report was done. The Forum is also a member of Stop Stockout Campaign.

### Platform 2011

NAFOPHANU was part of the The 2011 Election Campaign to Stop AIDS Through Treatment and Prevention, which was a Coalition of Networks of People Living with HIV, Civil Society Organizations, Religious Leaders, and health workers calling on all candidates for Presidential and Parliamentary elections, and all political parties, to commit to achieving national HIV Treatment and Prevention Goals that will ensure Uganda's AIDS response is not merely good, but great. The Campaign was spearheaded by ICW/EA. This will be concluded after the General elections of 2011.

## Collaborations and Partnerships

### 1. UNAIDS

UNAIDS supported the Forum to complete and review the Strategic Plan. Dr. Sekiwanuka James a consultant was hired to execute this task. The SP forged a way forward for the PLHIV constituency for 3 years.

### 2. University of KwaZulu Natal

The institute of Professional and Legal Studies in the



Stella Kentutsi, Executive Director NAFOPHANU (standing right) and other participants on the program.

University of KwaZulu Natal, with support from Open Society Institute and UNDP sponsored individuals from Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa for a course in South Africa.

The 2 week course focused on intellectual property and access to medicines without hindrances from manufacturers especially regarding Generics including ARVs. Stella Kentutsi represented the Forum in South Africa in July 2010.

### 3. Networks of African People Living With HIV-East Africa NAP+ EAR

The Network that brings together 11 countries at the close of 2010 held a delegates conference in Arusha, Tanzania. The Forum was delighted to be represented by 6 delegates, five of whom were board members. The conference's critical agenda was to recognize their leadership to further boost the network advocacy work.

Flavia Kyomukama was elected as the new Board Chairperson for NAP+ EAR.

### 4. ACORD Uganda

Apart from housing our Gulu District PLHIV office, ACORD conducted training for PLHIV executive members from Mbarara, Isingiro, Ibanda and Kiruhura. Covered topics like Procurement, Internal Control, Financial Management, Communication Skills, Monitoring & Evaluation among others. This took place in February 2010.

### 5. NUMAT

Northern Uganda Malaria AIDS Tuberculosis Programme (NUMAT)'s goal is to expand access to and utilization of HIV, TB and malaria prevention, treatment, care and support activities in Northern Uganda. NAFOPHANU, in partnership with UGANET and with support from NUMAT and as part of ongoing support to PLHIV in their organized groups, conducted trainings in Succession Planning and Will Making. NUMAT and NAFOPHANU co-organized training for TOTs in Succession Planning and will making which lasted for 5 days.

Participants were selected from the sub-counties of the 9 district PHA Forums that make up Lango and Acholi sub-regions and also came from the UPDF divisions of Acholi Pii (Pader) and Fourth Division (Gulu). A total number of 30 participants were trained.

NAFOPHANU and NUMAT conducted a joint M&E exercise that covered 9 districts including selected sub-counties. This was intended to assess capacity gaps, capture advocacy issues and provide on-spot coaching.

### 6. STAR EC

The 5-year project is based in East Central Uganda. Its main objective is to strengthen responses in the fight against TB and AIDS. It operates in the six districts of Busoga namely Kaliro, Mayuge, Kamuli, Namutumba, Iganga and Bugiri. PLHIV are involved in the project largely as Community Support Agents (CSAs), coordi-





NUMAT-NAFOPHANU M&E exercise in Lira District

nated by NACWOLA.

As part of ongoing support to people living with HIV (PLHIV) networks, STAR-EC supported an orientation for PLHIV network leaders on coordination district and sub-



Creation of Sub county PHA Coordination structures in Mayuge District supported by STAR EC.

county levels in the districts of Bugiri , Kaliro, Mayuge and Iganga. New structures of PLHIV leadership were put in place.

STAR EC has been and continues to be involved in the day to day running of Naluwerere Wellness Centre, a facility which was established by GLIA project and funded by World Bank.

## 7. EANNASO

EANNASO is a network of 15 national networks in 14 countries. It has been in existence since 2002, working in networking, advocacy, information and communication, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

In September 2010, The AIDS Budget Unit (ABU) of the Governance and AIDS Programme (GAP), in partnership with The Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO), convened a five-day capacity-building workshop on HIV & AIDS budget analysis and resource tracking for EANNASO staff and members in East Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya. The training was attended by participants from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zanzibar. Florence Nagawa, the Forum Advocacy Officer was one of the participants.

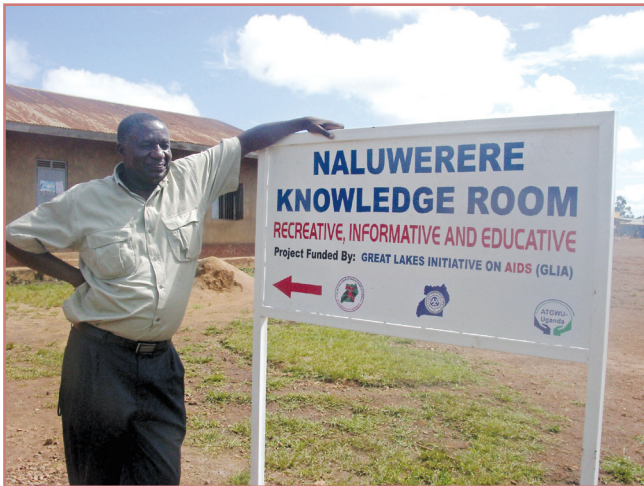
## 8. GREAT LAKES INITIATIVE ON AIDS

The World Bank funded project, GLIA, is a regional initiative and has been in existence in Uganda since 2006. The project runs four components with categorized implementers.

The mission of GLIA is to contribute to the reduction of HIV infection and to mitigate the social-economic impact of the epidemic in the Great Lakes Region. Among other components, GLIA Component 2 deals with HIV/AIDS support along the northern transport corridor, and implemented by both the Amalgamated Transport and General workers Union (ATGWU) and the National Forum of PHLA Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU) with coordination from Uganda Aids Commission.







Mr. Romano Ojiambo Secretary General ATGWU at Naluwerere WC during GLIA Secretariat Mission.

This component focuses on support to HIV/AIDS related networks with the main activity as establishment and functioning of Wellness Centers (WCs) which also act as Resource Centres. These WCs were established in three pilot districts of the country which include; Mbuya – Kampala, Naluwerere-Bugiri, and Rubaare-Ntungamo. The main purpose for these Wellness Centres is to provide Information, Education and Counseling, Guidance and Hope to the target population; who are the community, PLHIV, and truck drivers. The centers are also used as communication centres through the Internet. Other activities carried out included SALT visits, Self Assessments, and trainings. The funding from World Bank toward the project ended December 31st 2010 and now the networks still with co-ordination from UAC, are in control and mainly mobilizing resources to ensure the project sustainability.

### 9. UGANDA CARES

In the bid to enhance health services especially those of HIV, Uganda Cares worked with NAFOPHANU at national and district levels. The collaboration engaged the media through a press conference that brought together District Health Officers, PHAs, HIV service providers, donors. The press briefing emphasized the removal of ‘CAPS’ that had been indicated by different donors in as far as funding treatment on HIV is concerned.

### 10. AMFIU

The Association of Microfinance Institutions of Uganda (AMFIU), which is the national umbrella organization of microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Uganda, implemented a one year pilot project on microfinance and HIV/AIDS supported by HIVOS in the Netherlands. AMFIU, is working in partnership with two national organizations namely NAFOPHANU, the umbrella body of all organizations, networks and groups of People living with HIV and AIDS and ACORD (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development).

The pilot project aimed at enabling MFIs and organi-

zations working with, and for People Living with HIV in Uganda to jointly face the challenges posed by HIV & AIDS and will be the basis for rolling out a 5year project. The ultimate aim of the 5year project is to enhance capacities of microfinance institutions in Uganda to reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on their clients and the microfinance industry.

### 11. CCEDU

NAFOPHANU was a member of the Health Cluster under the Citizen’s Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda that trained PLHAs as election monitors in Gulu, Arua. I.E.C materials were provided.

### 12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government helped to house PLHIV District Forum coordination offices in most districts and also engaged PLHIV on District Committees on HIV & AIDS.

## Program Monitoring and Evaluation

The following activities were conducted;

- Built the capacity of the national M&E officer in various M&E techniques like Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS)-STAR E.
- M&E mentoring and coaching of beneficiary networks
- On-spot training to member networks
- Work plan review
- Finance management review meetings.
- End of project evaluation planned for the first quarter of 2011.

Table 3: Member Networks Programme

Number of organizations/ networks submitting timely quarterly reports to the national Secretariat.	6 National Networks 40 District Forums
Proportion of reports from districts endorsed by District HIV/AIDS Focal Person	Still Gaps

## 2010 Achievements

- Conducted the Annual General Assembly where new Board members were elected.
- Prevention and treatment awareness manual was completed and translation into 4 major languages of Luo, Luganda, Runyankore and Ateso has been.
- Advocacy Strategy was completed and is guiding the Advocacy work at district and national level.
- 40 District Forums and 6 National Networks have



been financially and technically supported and this has made PLHIV movement more visible in the national response. This is further supported by MIPA and GIPA principle

- The capacity of PLHIV have been built in different areas especially in writing books of accounts and financial management.
- The Management and Administrative systems of 40 district forums have been strengthened. This has greatly improved the method of work and operations.
- The transition at district levels was concluded with the election of new office bearers in 20 districts. This happened not only to improve service delivery for PLHIV constituency but also solve the problem of leadership wrangles that had dogged most districts forums. The changes in Human Resources at the Secretariat has also improved on the efficiency of work at the national level.

## Major Technical Gaps

- Some District Forum Coordinators could not correctly write books of accounts and this was addressed by the Accounts Department through on-spot training.
- Report writing was also a challenge to some coordinators. With time, they have improved with guidance from the secretariat and partners in the region.
- The reports are not shared with District Local Government leadership and this has had implications on the coordination system at local levels. However, it should be noted that most district HIV&AIDS committees are non functional and yet this is the very critical point were these reports are suppose to be discussed.
- Inadequate skills in proposal writing were also identified which have made districts unable to access funds outside from what is being sent from the National Secretariat. This is also the same when it comes to Government programmes like NAADS, NUSAFII and many others.

## Success Stories, Lessons Learnt and Best Practices Success Stories

- Income Generating Activities for PLHIV in Mityana
- PLHIV Networks are more visible in districts across the country
- Continuous and consistent extension of Financial and Technical support to district forums across the country.
- Enforcement of GIPA and MIPA principle in the national response.
- Continuous and consistent flow of information among stake holders informs implementation and operations

- Timely accountability to the project beneficiaries and other stakeholders like donors improves confidence to management.
- Microfinance Institutions will work with PLHIV networks

## Lessons Learnt

- Livelihood support to PLHIV is very crucial amidst high level of poverty even beyond the PLHIV fraternity.
- District AIDS coordination structures such as Task force/Committee (DAT/DAC) and Sub-county AIDS Taskforce/Committee (SAT/SAC) are non functional or meet irregularly and this has a direct bearing on the functionality of PLHIV networks within the district.

## Constraints/Challenges

- Low technical capacity among the leaders and staff of district forums across the country. This has not only resulted into poor accountability, but also to delay in effectively using the money released to them.
- Ever increasing cases of drugs stock out across the country which is putting the lives of most PLHIV at jeopardy.
- The increased number of districts across the country is stretching the abilities of the National Forum in terms of coverage. Even then, district forums have been sub-divided which calls for launch of the new networks to fit into the coordination structure.
- Accountabilites and reports from a number of districts are not delivered in time
- The area of coverage and needs of networks are too big compared to the resource base.
- Delays in release of funds from donors
- Inadequate skills among PHA networks in handling project funds
- Dormant network accounts
- Inadequate staffing at the secretariat for effective implementation of activities.
- Limited feedback/communication system to and from the secretariat
- The advocacy issues are too many and usually un budgeted for.
- Funding from the donors has reduced for most projects and thus limited resources for HIV/AIDS players in the country.

## Way Forward

- Consolidating the available resource base and exploring new funding opportunities
- PLHIV National Conference scheduled for 2011 to foster the PLHIV Advocacy Agenda
- Revitalizing the Advocacy Agenda for the PLHIV movement in Uganda



# Pictorial



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1. Former ED NAFOPHANU, Samuel J. Kibanga and Rtd. Rev. Balagadde Sekadde at the launch of Nabweru PLHIV Forum in 2010
2. Joanita Kawalya performing at Candle Light 2010 in Entebbe
3. Frank Rwekikomo, PLHIV Services Manager, NUMAT and Stella Kentutsi, ED NAFOPHANU during joint support visit in Oyam District.
4. Co-SAVE scheme in Mityana District during an auction of products in 2010

5. Forum Board 2010 induction.
6. GLIA Secretariat Kigali, during a supervision visit at Naluwerere WC in 2010.
7. (Left) late Willaim Bagaala attending the launch of "CAMPAIGN TO END PEDIATRIC HIV/AIDS", July 2010 organised by HEPS - UGANDA
8. HEPS - Uganda Press conference to end Stock-outs in Uganda
9. Together Against Against AIDS Positive Association (TAAPA) members doing hand crafts - beads as an IGA in Wakiso District



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