

MARCH 2025



ACHAP QUARTERLY

Compliments of the new year!

As we advance into 2025, I extend my warmest wishes to all ACHAP members, partners, and stakeholders.

This year presents us with both challenges and opportunities. The recent cessation of USAID funding has had far-reaching consequences on health programs across the continent, disrupting essential services, placing strain on healthcare facilities, and leaving vulnerable communities at even greater risk. However, in the face of adversity, we find an opportunity; a call to unity, resilience, and innovation.

Now, more than ever, we must come together to strengthen the sustainability of our organizations. By fostering regional partnerships, diversifying our funding streams, and leveraging local resources, we can build a more self-reliant and enduring healthcare ecosystem. ACHAP has always been a beacon of collaboration, and this moment underscores the importance of our collective efforts in ensuring that health services continue to reach those who need them most.

Let this be a year of transformation; one in which we harness our collective strength, share solutions, and create lasting impact.

May this year bring renewed energy, collaboration, and impactful strides toward our shared mission of advancing healthcare across Africa.

Dr. Djékadoum Ndilta,
ACHAP Board Chair.

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ACHAP has a new website! Find us on www.africa-chap.org

An alliance is formed!

25th March 2025 marked a significant milestone in the journey toward stronger, faith-led healthcare in Africa. On this day, the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform (ACHAP), the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding; a landmark agreement that formalizes their commitment to working together in advancing health and wellness across the continent. This partnership is not merely a document; it is a shared vision for a healthier Africa. At a time when collective action is more crucial than ever, we stand united in our mission to strengthen health systems, promote access to care, and uplift communities. The signing of this MOU reaffirms the power of faith-based collaboration, grounded in the biblical truth: *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9).

ACHAP, EPN, and AACC are building on a longstanding collaboration rooted in a shared commitment to health and healing for all in Africa. Each organization brings unique strengths to this alliance: ACHAP offers robust expertise in capacity building, networking, advocacy, and policy influence across faith-based health networks; EPN contributes its leadership in drug supply, quality assurance, and advocacy for responsible medicine use, including tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR); while AACC serves as an influential convening partner, uniquely positioned to mobilize religious leaders and leverage its observer status at the African Union.

Together, we have successfully responded to major health challenges; most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic and in advancing equitable access to immunization. Our collaboration has led to tangible outcomes in resource mobilization, policy engagement, and targeted support for vulnerable communities.

This renewed and formalized partnership through the MOU signifies a deepened commitment to collective action. We will work jointly to advocate for stronger health policies, enhance service delivery in faith-based facilities, improve access to essential medicines, and implement community-driven health initiatives that respond to Africa's evolving health needs.



The beaming faces of the tripartite alliance: Dr Richard Neci- Executive Director of EPN; Rev. Fidon Mwombeki- General Secretary of the AACC; and Nkatha Njeru- ACHAP CEO.

Strengthening Leadership for Sustainable Health Systems.

This February, Executive Directors from Christian Health Associations (CHAs) across 15 African countries gathered at the breathtaking Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. This was a rare and meaningful opportunity to pause, reconnect, and reflect on what truly matters: why we lead, how we serve, and the direction in which we are moving together.

Over the course of three days, participants listened, shared, questioned, and inspired one another. From discussions on governance and leadership to digital transformation, financial compliance, and advocacy, each session offered practical insights and thoughtful reflection. The strength of the gathering lay in the shared learning, recognizing that while our contexts may vary, our mission remains deeply aligned.

One message came through clearly: capacity building is not about repairing what is broken, but about strengthening what already works. It is a means of remaining prepared, resilient, and faithful to our calling, serving with compassion, rooted in faith, and equipped to lead through change.

ACHAP's role was evident, not as a distant umbrella organization but as a trusted companion journeying alongside CHAs, providing tools, encouragement, and solidarity at every step. This retreat was a powerful reminder that we are part of a wider community of faith-driven institutions, deeply committed to service and to growing stronger together.

We return home with more than just notes and presentations. We carry with us a renewed sense of mission, new relationships, and a quiet determination to continue moving forward for our institutions, our communities, and the people we are called to serve.

Looking ahead, ACHAP envisions playing a more active role in nurturing this kind of leadership across our network. We are excited to announce that we will be rolling out more training opportunities on governance and leadership designed to equip our members with the tools and support they need to lead with confidence, clarity, and purpose.

Stay tuned for updates!



Plenary discussion during the retreat.



The beauty of Victoria Falls in February.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

HHA 2.0: CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT IN COTE D'IVOIRE

Since 2021, ACHAP has led the Healthy Heart Africa (HHA) initiative in Côte d'Ivoire, focusing on hypertension awareness, screening, and management. Over two million people have been screened so far, with many initiated on treatment.

Building on this success, ACHAP, in partnership with our in-country member ICPH, and the Ministry of Health's Department of Non-Communicable Diseases, recently conducted a national assessment of chronic kidney disease (CKD) services across 56 facilities in 17 districts. This marks a key step in expanding HHA to include CKD care under phase two of the program.

The findings, shared with the Director General of Health Services, highlighted the need for integrated care pathways. The Ministry's NCD Director, Dr. Adouane, praised the collaboration and noted the inclusion of hypertension medications in the National Health Insurance Scheme as a major achievement. He also recognized the impact of faith leaders in promoting health within communities, especially in rural areas.

ACHAP's strong partnership with the Ivorian Ministry of Health continues to position us as a leader in NCD policy and health systems strengthening. As the preparations to roll out HHA 2.0 continue, ACHAP will support the development of updated clinical protocols for hypertension, diabetes, and CKD, while continuing to advance public, private, and faith-based collaboration for improved health outcomes.



Meeting with HHA partners and Ivorian MOH representatives during the CKD protocol development exercise.



Assessment exercise at district health facilities.

SAVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS: ONBOARDING AND MICROPLANNING FOR THE NEW PROJECT PHASE

ACHAP is strengthening pandemic preparedness across Africa through its extensive network of faith-based health platforms. Drawing from lessons learned during COVID-19, ACHAP continues to combat misinformation, support frontline response, and equip health workers and faith leaders to manage health emergencies effectively.

Its earlier initiative, Promoting COVID-19 Vaccine Equity through Faith-Based Networks in Africa, led to over 2.7 million vaccine doses administered, more than 1,000 healthcare workers trained, and nearly 200 faith leaders engaged across eight countries.

In February 2025, ACHAP launched the second phase of Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) with partners in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho. This phase focuses on protecting vulnerable groups, integrating COVID-19 into routine immunization, and strengthening health systems. With strong collaboration from Ministries of Health and Africa CDC, ACHAP is now accelerating implementation and advancing equitable access to immunization across the continent.

EYE HEALTH

Clear vision has the power to change lives, and ACHAP is at the forefront of this transformation. Through the Africa Clear Sight Partnership (ACSP), ACHAP and its partners have made significant strides in improving eye health across the continent.

To date, more than 375,000 people in Kenya, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Malawi, and Nigeria have been screened for presbyopia, a common age-related vision condition. As a result, over 192,000 individuals, many receiving glasses for the first time, have been equipped with near-vision spectacles, empowering them to read, work, and live with greater independence. In addition, 15,000+ people were referred for further eye care, ensuring comprehensive follow-up and support.

Building on this success, the program expanded in Q1 2025 to Eswatini, with plans underway to reach even more communities in Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Cameroon, and Zimbabwe later this year.

ACHAP's commitment to strengthening eye health doesn't stop there. The organization recently joined The Coalition for Clear Vision Kenya (TCCV Kenya), a vibrant network of 22 organizations united to advance eye health through shared learning, joint advocacy, and deeper community outreach. This partnership especially leverages the reach and trust of faith-based health systems, aligning with ACHAP's long-standing mission to integrate eye care into primary health services and national health policies.

With every pair of glasses and every referral, ACHAP is helping to restore sight and dignity across Africa.



The TCCV team meeting ACHAP at our office in Nairobi.



An artisan in Nigeria using his new eye glasses for his carpentry work. .

FROM OUR MEMBERS

KENYA

The Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK) is pleased to officially welcome Dr. Chris Barasa as its new General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the organization's leadership.

During a recent gathering, the CHAK Trustees, together with the Board and Management Team, formally received Dr. Barasa into his new role, expressing their full support and confidence in his ability to lead the organization into its next phase of growth and impact. With a strong background in health leadership and a clear vision for the future, Dr. Barasa brings fresh energy and strategic insight to CHAK's mission of advancing quality, accessible healthcare through faith-based institutions.



Ushering in Dr. Barasa as the new CHAK General Secretary.

The ACHAP team takes this opportunity to recognize and honor Dr. Samuel Mwenda, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service. Dr. Mwenda leaves behind a remarkable legacy, having steered CHAK with wisdom, commitment, and a deep passion for health equity. His leadership has been instrumental in expanding CHAK's influence both nationally and across the region.

NIGERIA

The Christian Health Association of Nigeria (CHAN) is proud to announce a new collaborative effort aimed at strengthening neonatal care through the development of a Comprehensive Newborn Care Course. In partnership with the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), CHAN is committed to building the capacity of human resources for health by equipping frontline workers with both the knowledge and practical skills needed to improve newborn outcomes.

In alignment with partners such as NEST360 and HATCH Technologies, CHAN is also working to ensure that newborn care units are equipped not only with the right functional tools but also with staff who are proficient in their use.

This new course goes beyond traditional training. It emphasizes hands-on, practical learning designed to empower health workers with tools they can pass on to mothers and caregivers, ensuring that life-saving practices extend beyond the health facility and into the community.



Training of healthcare workers on Comprehensive Child and Newborn Care in Nigeria.

CAMEROON

ACHAP celebrates the upcoming construction of a state-of-the-art children's hospital in Mutengene, Cameroon- the first of its kind in the country and Central Africa. Set to begin in November 2025, the project will be built at the our member CBCHS' Complex and is expected to take three years.

A recent working visit brought together health experts and construction firms to ensure the hospital meets world-class standards. Local authorities have pledged support, including plans to improve road access to the site.

This initiative is driven by a deep commitment to ending preventable child deaths due to lack of access to quality healthcare. ACHAP commends this bold vision and wishes CBCHS godspeed and blessings as they bring hope and healing to children across the region.



Assessment of the construction site.



CBCHS ED, Dr. Samuel Ngum, leading a discussion on groundbreaking plans.

REFLECTIONS ON THE USAID STOP WORK ORDERS AND WHAT THIS MEANS FOR HEALTHCARE IN AFRICA.

Sub-Saharan Africa was the largest recipient of US health aid in 2024

Total US foreign aid, in millions, for health initiatives



Source: [ForeignAssistance.gov](https://www.foreignassistance.gov)

The recent stop work order by the US Government has placed critical health programs in Africa at risk, particularly those supporting HIV care and maternal health. For years, organizations like the ACHAP have relied on USAID funding to deliver life-saving services to vulnerable communities. USAID’s support has been central to expanding access to antiretroviral therapy, HIV prevention, antenatal care, and skilled birth assistance in rural and underserved parts of the continent, efforts that have saved countless lives and drastically improved health outcomes for women, children, and people living with HIV. Now, with funding abruptly cut, clinics face shortages of essential medicines, staff layoffs, and reduced services. The impact is immediate and severe, especially for mothers, newborns, and those managing chronic conditions like HIV.



**It is time for action:
A call to rethink
sustainability.**

Amid this uncertainty, the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform is leaning into the strength of its faith-based networks to sustain critical health services where they are needed most. ACHAP is empowering community health workers and scaling up community engagement initiatives to continue providing essential services such as immunization and antenatal care in underfunded and underserved areas. Through our member CHAs, we are ensuring that care remains accessible by strengthening local capacity and supporting those on the frontlines.

A good example of this capacity in action is in Uganda, where health workers are volunteering their time to deliver emergency care and outreach services to communities that might otherwise be left behind.

This is also an opportunity to work more closely with religious leaders, recognizing their unique role as trusted champions for community health. By equipping them with accurate information and tools, we support their efforts to mobilize communities, counter misinformation, and encourage the uptake of vital health services.

As the healthcare landscape in Africa shifts, we must remember that the strength of our efforts lies not only in external funding but in the resilience, creativity, and dedication of our organizations.

Together, we can create a more sustainable model of healthcare; one that is less reliant on external aid and more rooted in local capacity and collaboration. We urge all organizations, both within the ACHAP network and beyond, to start rethinking their sustainability strategies, seek partnerships that enable resource sharing, and build stronger local networks. The road ahead may be uncertain, but through unity, innovation, and shared commitment, we can ensure that the progress we have made in healthcare is not undone.

Now, more than ever, we must stand together. The future of healthcare in Africa depends on our collective action.

GALLERY



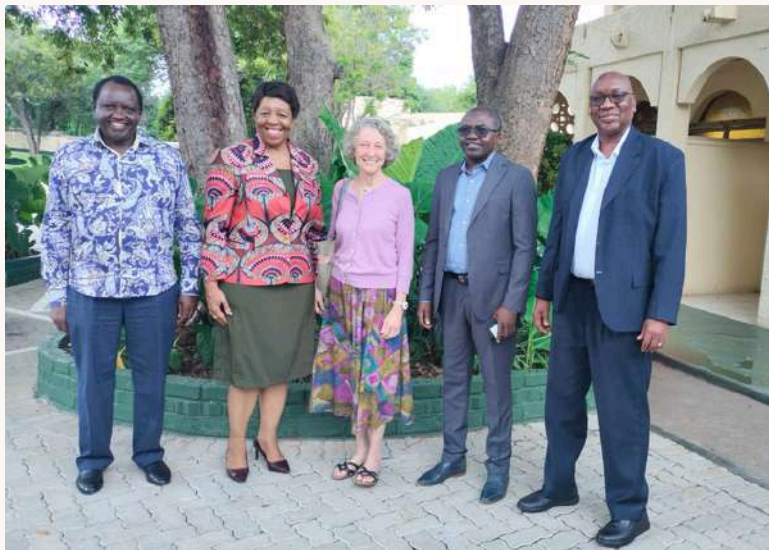
Partners meeting to finalize the tripartite MOU.

Consignment of reading glasses arriving as the ACSP project kicks off in Eswatini.



The CHAZ team screening for presbyopia and dispensing reading glasses at a bus station in Lusaka.

GALLERY



Some light moments during the EDs retreat in Zimbabwe.

ACHAP team annual planning workshop.



SAVE THE DATE!



SALUT MADAGASCAR!

We are delighted to announce the ACHAP 12th Biennial Conference, which will take place in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 23rd to 27th February 2026.

Join us as we gather leaders, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen faith-based health systems across Africa.

Watch our website and socials for details in the next few months.

See you there!



AFRICA CHA PLATFORM

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