

HEALTH ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

Global Connections

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2007

New Leadership For HAI's Third Decade

2007 marks the twentieth anniversary of HAI's founding by a small group of Seattle activists who took up the cause to support the rebuilding of Mozambique's public health infrastructure in 1987 after a ten-year struggle for independence.

At this threshold into a new decade of public health programs in developing countries, HAI finds itself making another leap forward. The last half of 2006 and beginning of 2007 witnessed organizational shifts as new leadership positions were created and new people accepted leadership roles for HAI's future.

Aaron Katz became president of HAI's Board of Directors, and two new Board members have increased the number of Board members to 11: Welcome to **Ruth White** and **Marlow Kee**.

Aaron is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Health Services; Director for the Packard-Gates Population Leadership Program; and Editor-in-Chief for *Northwest Public Health*, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington. Ruth is an Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work, Seattle University. Marlow is the Director of Finance at PATH, an international non-profit organization in Seattle.

Two new directors at the Seattle office bring to HAI their business and management skills, as well as

experience in international public health issues. **Daniel Chang** is the Director of Headquarters Operations. Since last July, he has been learning the complex issues surrounding HAI's grants management, budgeting, financial, and human resources systems, and is steering the organization toward new streamlined systems that will enhance information flow and communications between locations as the HAI world expands.

Wendy Johnson accepted the position of Director of New Initiatives. Her first assignment was to move her worldly possessions from Cleveland to Seattle. While her belongings were enroute she was dispatched to Cote d'Ivoire to research funding possibilities to start a Child Survival program there.

She will be assisting HAI's expansion into new countries and is taking the lead on outreach activities to raise the organization's public profile. Potential new countries for 2007-2008 include Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia. She brings valuable experience as HAI's former Central Mozambique Field Director to the organization in Seattle.

In the field, **Kenny Gimbel-Sherr** and **Sarah Gimbel-Sherr** have returned to Maputo with their three daughters. Kenny has resumed his role as Mozambique Country Director, and Sarah's role is supporting the Ministry of Health as the Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor for the national HIV treatment and care scale-up.



HAI's Chimoio staff models special tee shirts to celebrate World AIDS Day. The banner reads: *HAI in the fight against AIDS*. See article on p. 4.



HAI News in Photos: Travels in Africa

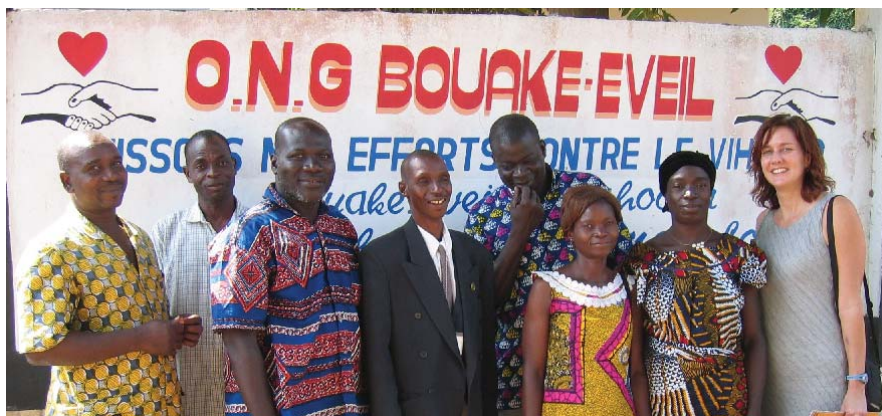


In Sept. 2006, the Sudanese National AIDS Program (SNAP) invited HAI to visit Khartoum to discuss possibilities for HIV/AIDS work.

(Left to right) Wisal Hassan, a former UW student and IARTP Scholar; Steve Gloyd, HAI Executive Director; El Tayeb, Director of SNAP and former Population Leadership Program (PLP) Fellow; and Dr. Maowiya, Khartoum Provincial Hospital and former PLP Fellow.

Wendy Johnson, HAI's Director of New Initiatives, traveled to Cote d'Ivoire in Dec. 2006 to explore opportunities to expand HAI's work in this western African country. Consultant Ahoua Kone accompanied Wendy.

(Photos clockwise from right) A Cote d'Ivoire women's support group with Ahoua Kone (third from right). Members of Bouake Eveil, a local activist group with Wendy (far right). Ivorian girl selling palm nuts on the street.





Conferees at the OR Center: exterior and interior views.



HAI and UW Host OR Conference in Beira

With financial support from the University of Washington's Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), HAI and UW hosted a three-day conference entitled "Operations Research: Supporting Policy Decisions and Strengthening Primary Health Care." Over 40 attendees came to Beira on Feb. 5 - 7 from three provinces and the city of Maputo, including representatives from national and provincial Ministry of Health offices, Eduardo Mondlane University, the Catholic University in Beira, the CDC, and various NGOs.

The conference was a milestone in HAI's effort to support operational research activities in the Central Region

of Mozambique. The goals of the conference were to review the role of operations research in health services delivery, define how the ORC can best support research activities, and establish research priorities at the provincial and regional levels.

The conference began with a reception at the ORC where participants toured the facility, viewed the available resources, and discussed the potential for future opportunities and collaborations. After returning to the Hotel Mozambique, attendees met for panel discussions and presentations defining operations research and its role in improving health care delivery system.

On Day Two, attendees formed work groups and defined research priorities in Manica, Sofala and Tété Provinces. Day Three opened with presentations on basic research methodologies applicable to OR and ended with work groups writing research proposals outlining projects to be completed in each of the three provinces.

With good attendance, lively discussion, and the completion of strong research proposals, the conference can only be classified as a success. Kudos to those who planned the program: Pablo Montoya, Kenny Gimbel-Sherr, Mark Micek, James Pfeiffer and Ben Stubbs; and to Susana Knip for handling conference logistics.

HAI and the UW look forward to continuing active support of the Ministry of Health and the ORC for the implementation of operations research projects and the strengthening of the health care systems in Mozambique.

HAI's Beira staff hold a meeting at the Tropicana Restaurant. Standing is Field Director Pablo Montoya.



Meet New Employee: Jennifer Hulme

Born and raised in Montreal, Jennifer Hulme is now at home in a remote village on a little island between Indonesia and Australia. She has joined HAI's Timor-Leste staff as the District Office Coordinator and is working to expand the Child Survival Program in Ainaro and Manufahi Districts.

Jennifer is thrilled to be working with HAI: to have the opportunity to strengthen the existing health system to improve the quality and coverage of essential health services, and to be working with HAI's experienced team. Her new position involves establishing operations in two districts to expand the existing maternal and neonatal health program. She will work directly with the District Program Officers for Maternal and Child Health and HAI's technical staff to heighten supervision, data management and planning, and community demand for maternal health care.

Her studies in biochemistry at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, provided Jennifer with a scientific background for her public health work. She had always been interested in the underlying determinants of health, but literally stumbled upon her career in her final year of studies when she came across an old UNICEF publication on infant mortality and breast milk substitutes.

With support from the Canadian So-

Please contact us with your comments, questions and suggestions:

E-mail: hai@u.washington.edu
www.HealthAllianceInternational.org

Newsletter Contributors: Loreen Lee, Andrea Chateaubriand, Ben Stubbs, Wendy Johnson, Candice Middlebrook, Wendy Prosser.

ciety for International Health, she interned with the Center for Global Health at the University of Ottawa and the National Public Health Institute in Mexico.

Before attending Johns Hopkins to complete a master's degree in public health, she worked with the University of California, San Francisco, and Samuha, a local NGO in Karnataka, India, conducting research on gender-based power and reproductive health among adolescents. Most recently, she worked for Catholic Relief Services in Timor-Leste.

World AIDS Day in Mozambique

Each December brings opportunities to increase awareness of AIDS and to promote prevention, testing, and treatment. Wendy Prosser, HAI's Program Manager for HIV/AIDS, reports that the Dec. 1, 2006, activities for World AIDS Day in Central Mozambique surpassed the successes of previous years.

Wendy noted the enthusiastic response to numerous public activities in Manica and Sofala Provinces including theater competitions for up-and-coming theater groups to perform pieces about AIDS, mural competitions, and a theater and dance competition in Beira, which drew 750 adults, youth, and children.

The biggest success was a concert in Chimoio featuring a range of music from hip-hop to traditional. The performers were hugely popular local singers and musicians such as Carlos de Lina, Djipson, Celio Figueiro, and Paulinho. Admission was free for those with cards showing they had received HIV testing, and crowds of young people showed up at testing centers in November to get their cards.



On a typical weekend, Jennifer may be found on a hilltop, twenty meters below the ocean's surface, plucking her guitar, cooking, and entertaining. Her household includes two lovable Gumby cats.

The concert was full to capacity with many who couldn't get in.

The focus for this year's activities was the importance of HIV testing and treatment. For World AIDS Day, the Director of the organization American Friends took an innovative approach to publicize the importance of getting tested. He went to be tested and brought reporters from the local radio and television stations in Chimoio and gave an interview that was later broadcasted to encourage others to be tested.

The well-attended events resulted from a highly coordinated effort by local and international organizations and government entities, involving all districts and many partnerships with HAI taking the lead. Kieta Taylor, a Peace Corps volunteer working with a local orphan-care association was especially instrumental in making this year's World AIDS Day celebrations so successful. Collaboration and partnerships were key to increasing awareness for these important messages.