

# Report on the 2009 National Coordinator Meeting

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

Hosted by the Global Health Council

January 30-February 1, 2009

Methodist Guest House

Nairobi, Kenya

## Summary

The 2009 National Coordinator meeting for the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial program – the first meeting of the program’s national representatives – took place January 30 to February 1, 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare national coordinators for their new roles and to provide an opportunity for international exchange of best practices. In sum, the meeting was dynamic and productive, drawing out ideas and feedback that will help to move the program forward and broadening participants’ understanding about their mission.



Participants of the 2009 National Coordinator meeting.

The 2009 National Coordinator meeting was hosted by the Global Health Council and co-facilitated by three of the program’s regional coordinators representing Africa and Asia. The meeting took place at the Methodist Guest House in Nairobi where participants – representing some 21 countries in all – engaged in a series of sessions designed to foster discussion and learning about the Candlelight Memorial program and the national coordinator initiative. In addition to the sessions, the group visited local organizations focusing on HIV/AIDS in the Nairobi area to expose participants to how local groups are addressing the issue in Kenya.

The Global Health Council is particularly thankful for support by the Ford Foundation and the Abbott Fund to host the meeting.

## Facilitators

**Todd Lawrence**, International Outreach Coordinator, Global Health Council

**Duncan Rollason**, International Outreach Assistant, Global Health Council

**Bernadette Otieno**, St. Rita’s Orphan Care, Kenya

**Mayowa Joel**, Communication for Development Center, Nigeria

**Soledad Perpiñan**, Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, Philippines

### Participants

**Mwansa Katunga**, Ajuda De Desenvolvimento De Provo Para Provo (ADPP), Angola  
**Mwilima Juma**, Prevention Group, Burundi  
**Andremans Mansadila**, Amans Foundation International (AFI), Democratic Republic Of Congo  
**Sherif Arafa**, Health Education (Healed), Egypt  
**Arinze Obiefuna**, Afro Global Alliance International, Ghana  
**Philippe Jean Daniel Louis**, Prevention Unit Of Centre De Solidarite, Mauritius  
**Edmond Baganizi**, Rwanda Village Concept Project, Rwanda  
**Peter Wonderlik** New Hope Swaziland Foundation Swaziland  
**Kahabi Isangula**, Wailo Katika Mapambano Na Aids Tanzania (WAMATA), Tanzania  
**Martin Okia**, Uganda Assemblies Of God, Uganda  
**GM Mourtoza**, Center For Communication And Development (CCD), Bangladesh  
**Nabeel Mangadankonath**, Solution Exchange Aids Community, UNAIDS, India  
**Azamat Baialinov**, Y-Peer National Network, UNFPA, Kyrgyzstan  
**Genita Perera**, Plan Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka  
**Theresa Daniel**, Ministry Of Health and The Environment, St Vincent And The Grenadines  
**Sahrul Syah**, Indonesian Harm Reduction Network (IHRN), Indonesia  
**PR Selvarajan**, Community Aids Service Penang (CASP), Malaysia

### Goals



The national coordinator meeting provided an opportunity for a wide geographic range of coordinators to talk in an intimate setting.

The following are goals agreed upon by the Global Health Council and the regional coordinators for the meeting. During a welcome session, participants had an opportunity to express their own expectations, as well as fears or concerns.

- Get to know each other.
- Explain the Global Health Council & Candlelight Memorial.
- Understand national coordinators' experiences with Candlelight.
- Define roles of national coordinators (new national coordinators).
- Examine and shape work plans for the 2009 Memorial.
- Share strategies for partnerships, fundraising, and communication.
- Explore the Kenyan context – site visits.

## Activities

The group engaged in the following discussions, sessions, and activities during the meeting (see the attached original meeting agenda):

- The Candlelight Memorial Program Presentation & Discussion – Todd Lawrence (GHC) gave a presentation on the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial program and the Global Health Council. Participants raised questions and discussed issues regarding the program’s structure and functions.



Sessions allowed national coordinators to share ideas, concerns, and feedback among each other and with the Global Health Council.

- National Coordinator Memorial Presentations – Bernadette Otieno (Kenya) facilitated presentations by national coordinators about their experiences with the Candlelight Memorial in their countries. Participants were asked to share how they organize their events and lessons learned.
- Roles of National Coordinators Discussion – Duncan Rollason (GHC) gave a presentation and led a discussion on the roles of national coordinators, including regional coordinators.
- National Work Planning Sessions – Led by regional coordinator co-facilitators, participants divided into regional groupings (mainly Africa and Asia) and exchanged best practices from memorials as well as strategies for supporting community coordinators in their countries.
- Strategic Partnerships Discussion – Duncan Rollason (GHC) led a discussion on partnerships and best practices. In particular, the group defined partnerships, listed examples of strong partnerships in the Candlelight Memorial, and discussed strategies for developing partnerships for the program.
- Leadership Structure & Terms Discussion – Mayowa Joel (Nigeria) proposed revisions to the current leadership structure substituting “community coordinators” with “Candlelight Coordinators” and recommending national leadership should be managed by institutions rather than individuals, which is more sustainable. Todd Lawrence (GHC) reviewed terms of service and the process for renewing leadership at each level.

- Site Visits – Participants visited two community-based programs in the Nairobi area to explore how Kenya is addressing HIV/AIDS at the community-level. Participants visited Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK) and the Forum For Community Mobilization (FOFCOM), an organization focusing primarily on orphans.

## Outcomes

The meeting resulted in the following more significant recommendations and resolutions to improve the Candlelight Memorial program:



Daniel Philippe, national coordinator for Mauritius, joined his colleagues in presenting his experience with the Candlelight Memorial in his country.

- Clarity on Candlelight Memorial & National Coordinator Roles – Through presentations and discussions, national coordinators gained clarity on their roles as national coordinators and the overall Candlelight Memorial program.
- Certificate of Community Mobilization – It was agreed that the Global Health Council will issue a special certificate of community mobilization or participation for community coordinators who successfully host a candlelight memorial (according to certain criteria) and submit an online final report. The certificate will be posted electronically.
- Regional Distribution Centers – In order to prevent problems shipping coordinator packets from Washington, D.C. in the future – a number of packets shipped to coordinators each year do not reach their destination – the idea was raised to ship packets regionally or nationally through coordination between the national coordinator, the Global Health Council, and a contracted distribution center.
- Reporting Structure Among Coordinators – It was agreed community coordinators will submit electronic reports to the Global Health Council, which will then share the reports with national coordinators (community paper reports should be sent directly to national coordinators). National coordinators will submit electronic reports to the Council, which they will share with regional coordinators. If coordinators are serving multiple roles, multiple reports should be submitted.
- Poster Revisions– It was agreed the Council will forward electronically elements of the international poster so national coordinators may reconfigure it with local language;

however, the core components of the poster must remain. It was recommended that the Council translates the poster in the United Nations languages and revise the community coordinator registration so that registrants have a language option.

- Communications Recommendations – National coordinators will have an opportunity to share their ideas with the Council about the upcoming theme and poster, which the Council will share with the International Advisory Board. It was also proposed that the Council create country web pages for the national coordinators to share reports, best practices and other important information online.
- Promoting the Candlelight Memorial at International & Regional Events – The suggestion was raised that national coordinators should promote the Candlelight Memorial at other relevant international and regional meetings, such as World TB Day or the Day of the African Child.
- Integrating Candlelight into National Frameworks – To sustain and expand the Candlelight Memorial in countries, several members independently raised the notion of integrating the program into national frameworks and plans.
- Indicators of Success Discussion – It was agreed that a separate discussion on the Candlelight Memorial program's indicators of success (for final reporting purposes) should be held on leadership listserves in the spring.



Dorothy Onyango, founder and executive director of Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya (WOFAK), greets the national coordinators during a site visit.

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