AAI Annual Report
2015

For Presentation to AAI Board

24th November 2015

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Holding Leaders Accountable
# Table of Contents

Introduction........................................................................................................................... 3
Beneficiaries.......................................................................................................................... 3
Target Audiences .................................................................................................................. 5
Advocacy and Networking ................................................................................................... 7
Research and Communications ............................................................................................ 11
   AMSHeR African MSM Health Scorecards ....................................................................... 11
   ICASA Conference .......................................................................................................... 12
   The State of the African Youth Report ............................................................................ 13
   Whosemytribe.com .......................................................................................................... 13
Resource Mobilisation ......................................................................................................... 15
Staff ..................................................................................................................................... 15
Conclusion............................................................................................................................. 16
Introduction

2015 has by and large been a transitional year for AAI. This transitional process has been mostly punctuated by two crucial aspects that occurred at the end of 2014. Firstly, AAI adopted a new Strategy Plan document that will last between 2015 and 2019. Secondly, AAI appointed a new Executive Director. The following is a summary report of all AAI activities conducted during 2015. The format of the report is largely based on the key components of the AAI Strategy Plan document. The summary report covers aspects such as the following among others; AAI’s intended beneficiaries, target audience, updates on AAI’s staff compliment, geographical coverage, activities related to the key populations, new and existing programme partnerships and AAI co-ordinated platforms. It also has a brief outlook at some of the forthcoming events and key areas of focus during the next year 2016. However, the most interesting highlight of the year has been the increased focus on resource mobilisation and partnership development for AAI in line with the Strategy Plan.

Beneficiaries

In line with our Strategy Plan, AAI continued to gradually expand the coverage of our work. In particular, AAI continued to focus on the inclusion of the most marginalized in much of its work. Specific efforts were invested that sought to consolidate the current work on key population groups such as women, girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. (LGBTI).

- Women and Girls
  As always, AAI continued to prioritise women and girls during this year. In particular, most of the interventions were derived from the advocacy activities related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).
  As the review process of the Maputo Plan of Action and other African Health policies (i.e. MNCH, Abuja Commitment and African Health Strategy) progressed towards their end, AAI remained committed to conducting research and advocacy throughout this process in order to increase the policy related action toward women, girls and vulnerable groups.
  A special focus was placed on the Campaign to End Child Marriages. In this regard AAI managed to participate in various campaign activities and platforms that sought to highlight the need to end child marriages.

- LGBTI
  Most of the work around LGBTI was conducted through the Destabilising Heteronormativity Project. The project’s pilot phase started in November 2014 and is expected to end December 2015. There are already advanced plans to launch the second phase of the project that will last for at least 18 more months. AAI co-hosted with AMSHER a special event was held at Johannesburg to launch the Country Scorecards focusing on Kenya, Ivory Coast and Nigeria on 5th March 2015.
AAI also engaged in advocacy spaces at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – with women’s caucus, LGBT caucus and South African civil society – engaged in side events, inputting on statements and raising the profile of LGBTI, sexual rights and women’s rights.

Further, AAI participated in various advocacy platforms and meetings such as the regional Advocacy meeting that was hosted by the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA) during April 2015.

- **Young People (Youth)**

AAI continued to play its role as the facilitator of the African Youth Task Force. Most focus was on the High Level meeting that was held at New York in April 2015 in partnership with the Zambian High Commission and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

AAI also developed a special report that focused on the “State of African Youth” and “The Future African Youth Want” as a means to create increased transparency around barriers being faced by African Youths, promote dialogue on the possible recommendations and solutions.

Further, AAI also initiated discussions for increased collaborative work with the African Youth and Adolescent Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN).

- **Prisoners/Inmates**

AAI partnered with SAFAIDS in a project focusing on the development of a special Scorecard on access to healthcare for prisoners in Southern Africa. In this regard, the AAI participated in an international consultation meeting hosted by SAFAIDS at Johannesburg during March 2015.

AAI has also developed a partnership with Justice Detention International (JDI) that sought to open doors for programme collaboration.

AAI has also joined the South Africa civil society platform known as the Detention Justice Forum (DJF).

- **Men and Boys**

AAI partnered with Sonke Gender Justice (Sonke) in the promotion of advocacy interventions focusing on engagement of men and boys. This was done mainly through the Men Engage Africa platform of which Sonke is the co-ordinating partner. In this regard, AAI participated in two regional meetings; one in Johannesburg focusing on social accountability in August and secondly, in Harare at a Men Engage Africa regional meeting during September.

AAI also sought to continue to invest on its previous year’s successful work around Vasectomy. In this regard a special report based on civil society consultations was published.

Efforts also continued in terms of developing an MoU between AAI and Sonke.

- **People with Disabilities**

AAI also started a partnership with People with Disabilities Afrique Rehabilitation and Research Consultants (ARRC) and other relevant stakeholders involved in ensuring SRHR & HIV Disability interventions are included at all relevant levels.
Target Audiences

During the year, AAI actively sought to work with various relevant stakeholders. These included the following, among others:

- **UNAIDS**
  AAI has been engaging with the UNAIDS regional office for Southern and Eastern Africa in several aspects. UNAIDS has been supporting AAI to host progress review meetings for the civil society platform on the reinstatement of the South African Parliament Joint Committee. Further UNAIDS is presently considering partnering with AAI in terms of providing technical support for civil society and parliamentarians in their respective roles as ‘watchdogs’ in terms of various policy implementation processes.

- **UNESCO**
  AAI has also been collaborating with the UNESCO regional office for Southern and Eastern Africa especially with regards to the implementation process for the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Ministerial Commitment on sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people. The initiative involves 21 member states in the ESA region, specifically ministers of education and health.

- **UNFPA**
  AAI has been working closely with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in several areas. These include collaborative work around the post 2015 agenda and SRHR issues. In particular, UNFPA supported the African Youth Taskforce activities in New York during April 2015. UNFPA has also been the major funding partner for the work focusing on engagement of men and boys through the Men Engage Africa initiative. Specifically, a proposal was submitted by AAI for a national training workshop for civil society members of the Lesotho Men Engage platform.

- **Global Fund**
  AAI has been working indirectly with the Global Fund. During 2015 most of the focus was in South Africa and Swaziland. In South Africa, AAI supported the Concept Note development process under the new funding model. In Swaziland, AAI has also supported the local CCM with regards to giving technical capacity building support for minority key populations in the country.

- **African Union Commission**
  AAI has over the years developed a rich experience in terms of diplomatic engagement of political power or public office holders through working closely with the African Union Commission (AUC). This year AAI continued to work closely with the AUC especially with regards to the Maputo Plan of Action, IPCD and the post 2015 agenda, and also under the Destabilising Heteronormativity Project.
The AUC has invited AAI to attend several of its international consultation meetings and policy progress review processes, including around the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the first African Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa.
There are also plans for AAI to host a special session at ICASA 2015 in which the AUC Director for Social Affairs will be the key note speaker.

- **SADC**

During the year, AAI has invested efforts into collaborative work with the SADC Secretariat. AAI has been invited to attend several of SADC’s international consultation meetings and policy progress review processes. In particular, AAI was actively involved in the validation process for the SADC Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria Integration Strategy for the period 2016 to 2020.

There are also plans to develop some scorecards as a joint effort between AAI and SADC in the near future. The two scorecards will focus on the Minimum Package of Services for Orphans and Vulnerable children, and on SRHR & HIV Integration.
Advocacy and Networking

AAI continued to strongly advocate for a collaborative approach in the implementation of its programmes. As such during 2015, AAI continued to invest into new prospective partnerships and also to consolidate the existing ones.

In so doing, AAI either attended several event hosted by its partners or held meetings with prospective partners to explore opportunities for collaboration. These organisations included the following: the Public Protector’s Office, Corruption Watch, Positive Women’s Network, Democracy Works, SAfAIDS, UNAIDS, Oxfam International, ONE, Sisonke Gender Justice, MSF, AIDS Consortium, SARPAM, Re-Action Consulting, Re-branding HIV (Pty) Ltd, SANAC Civil Society Sector, Southern Africa AIDS Trust, AIDSPAN, Citizen Health Watch, Men Engage, HEAIDS, Africa Healthcare Foundation, EANNASO, AMSHER, Justice Detention International, PATH, among others.

Further, AAI continued to seek to formalize partnerships (where necessary). In this regard, efforts were made sign Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with partner organisations that were short term and specific to a particular programme area/activity. During the year, AAI initiated several MoUs with such organisations as SAfAIDS, Sonke Gender Justice, SAYWHAT, EANNASO, AIDSPAN, ARRC, among other organisations.

AAI Co-ordinated Programme and Advocacy Platforms

- **National Accountability Forums (Southern Africa)**

AAI developed a concept note focusing on the development of National Accountability Forums (NAFs). With the active support of prospective partners such as Aidspan and Transparency International, AAI then initiated the process of setting up of the NAFs in several African countries. The countries included Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, among other

- **The African Civil Society Platform on Access to Medicines**

AAI successfully set up a new advocacy platform known as the Pan African Civil Society Platform on Access to Medicines. The platform has a massive mailing list and also a data base of over 30 different civil society organisations that are active in over 25 African countries. The platform seeks to promote increased access to medicines for the majority African population through the promotion of relevant policies such as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the SADC Pharmaceutical Business Plan.

In this regard, AAI has also managed to form a formidable partnership with the Southern Africa Regional Programme on Access to Medicines (SARPAM). The partnership recently got funding for one of its joint projects from the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA)

AAI has also initiated efforts for collaborative work with the relevant civil society platforms in India.

- **The African Civil Society Platform on a Co-ordinated Response to Ebola**
AAI continued to co-ordinate the Pan African civil society platform for a co-ordinated response to the Ebola epidemic. An African civil society database has been developed. A growing partnership with Oxfam International enabled AAI to be invited to Addis Ababa during the African Union Summit week at the end of January 2015.

AAI and Oxfam also developed a joint concept note that they plan to use to mobilise resources for this platform.

Further, AAI has started discussions focusing on collaborative work with the recently launched ‘No More Epidemics’ global campaign.

- **The South African Civil Society Platform for the Reinstatement of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on HIV and AIDS**

  AAI continued to co-ordinate activities of this platform. This included hosting its progress review and strategy meetings, media campaigns and engagement of relevant stakeholders such as the office of the Deputy President, Speaker of Parliament and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

  The major highlight for the platform this year was the hosting of a public panel discussion in Cape Town during August 2015. The event was fully funded by the Ford Foundation.

- **Global Fund – Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs)**

  AAI continued to invest work on to the Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) under the Global Fund. In particular most of the work in 2015 focused on supporting the South African CCM with its Concept Note development process.

  AAI was appointed as a consultant through the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) in February.

  At the start of March, AAI facilitated the hosting of the national meeting on the adoption of the Civil Society Priorities Charter as part of the consultation process for the Concept Note development.

  During April and May, AAI facilitated the hosting of public consultation meetings for some key populations such as Sex workers, MSM, Transgender and IDUs. Then in June and July, AAI was part of the Drafting Team that helped to finalise on the Concept Note document for South Africa.

  AAI as a technical partner for the Global Fund, also continued to the support Swaziland Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) in the development of Work-plan focusing on KAPs and PLWDs as identified special groups in the country.

  Towards the end of the year, AAI was approached by the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO) to be a partner in the development of a Tool Kit to enhance the effective participation of civil society under the new funding model of the Global Fund. The tool kit is expected to be funded by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations. (ICASO)

- **The Maputo Plan of Action**

  As part of its on-going work on strengthening the responses towards the African health policies, AAI has continued to work closely with African Union Commission. In 2014, most of the African health policies came to an end. Thus commencing the review period for these health policies.
In particular, AAI participated at the CSO Validation Meeting and African Union Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya on 16 to 17th February and 24 to 25th February respectively. These two meetings provided a platform for advocacy and a call for increased accountability to women, girls and vulnerable groups prior to the June 2015 Heads of States Summit.

AAI will be further attending first validation meeting for the revised MPOA to be held in Lusaka, Zambia from 23 – 26 November, 2015. This meeting will once again bring all stakeholders together including civil society to provide input into the new continental framework on sexual reproductive health and rights.

- **ICPD + and Beyond 2015**

AAI participated at the Global CSO and UNFPA Global Strategy meeting with a focus on the “ICPD Beyond 2014 & the Post 2015 Development Agenda" that was held in Istanbul at the end of January 2015.

AAI then facilitated a side event through the African Youth Task Force (AYTF) on the Post 2015 at the forthcoming 48th Commission on Population and Development in New York. This event was co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations and UNFPA.

During this event AAI was able to launch the Realising the Future We Want: The State of African Youth Report. The "Realizing the Future We Want: The State of the African Youth Report" examines the State of African Youth Issues in the context of the Post 2015 Agenda and is an analysis of the principal issues being faced by African Youth today.

Through this project, AAI has continued to increase transparency by providing evidence on the state of SRHR for young people. In addition, its create space on the global stage for increased dialogue and identification of action.

- **Beyond 2015 and SDGs**

In May 2015, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) offered AAI 20,000 USD to conduct work on the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights within the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

This grant was aimed at developing a regional advocacy brief on SRHR and the Post 2015 development agenda. It further aims at the development of an execution plan for Post 2015 advocacy.

Since this grant was made, AAI has attended a workshop hosted by ARROW in Malaysia aimed at developing the advocacy brief.

To date AAI has been able to finalize the advocacy brief and made preparations for a workshop on the Integration of SRHR within the Post 2015 with African civil society on 28th November, 2015 prior to the international Conference on AIDS and STIs (ICASA) to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe. This workshop is aimed at building capacity of civil society on the Post 2015 development agenda and identification of advocacy opportunities at national, regional and global level for the successful implementation of the Post 2015 development agenda.

Through this project, AAI in partnership with ARROW will be increasing transparency on the Post 2015 development agenda to fellow civil society. It will ensure future opportunities for dialogue between civil society and national as the former advocates for policy implementation.
• **SRHR and HIV Integration Project**

Since February 2015 the SRHR and HIV Integration project has moved to almost completion.

A development team was held and the meeting decided, based on the fact that many resources and curricula already exist for SRHR & HIV Integration, that a toolkit rather than a curricula should be developed.

A survey monkey was done to ascertain the contents for the toolkit and a draft toolkit was compiled. The draft toolkit was piloted in September 2015.

Currently, the project is compiling the changes recommended by the pilot participants as well as the development team. Thereafter the final draft of the toolkit will be reviewed by the development team. The final toolkit will be reviewed soon and printed for distribution. Final distribution to commence in January 2016 and submission of final report to donor end January 2016.

• **Budget Monitoring**

Efforts focused largely on the development of a partnership with International Budget Partnership (IBP). Some of the activities of the proposed partnership include the training of AAI staff on the budget monitoring process. However, the actual staff training is only likely to happen during 2016.

Further, towards the end of the year, AAI initiated discussions focusing on opportunities for programme collaboration with the Centre for Economic Governance and AIDS in Africa (CEGAA). This partnership is likely to result in budget monitoring training for AAI’s various civil society partners across Africa.
Research and Communications

In 2015 AAI completed a number of publications, campaigns and other communications work, the most high profile of which are:

AMSHeR African MSM Health Scorecards

On a global level, men who have sex with men or MSM are 19 times more likely to be infected by HIV than people in the “general population”. Several key studies have shown that MSM in Africa are about 19% more susceptible to acquiring HIV than the general population. Although both of these 19s mean different things, both show alarming disregard for the health needs of MSM in Africa. Despite the grave need for urgent attention to their health needs, they remain at the margins of HIV interventions. This is evidenced by the lack of service provision to meet the specific health needs of MSM as well as the lack of comprehensive data analyzing the HIV epidemiology occurring amongst MSM, and this exclusion occurs in all regions of the continent.

The MSM Health Advocacy Project (MHAP) is run by AMSHeR and aims at improving the policy and health environment for the delivery of HIV services to MSM at all levels. The objectives of the project are: establish a baseline of current MSM health services in Cote D’Ivoire, Kenya and Nigeria; increase capacity to collect data, analyze, and report on MSM health disparities by AMSHeR member organizations in those countries; develop an advocacy program for improvements in health outcomes; build a community network for health advocacy between the three countries. The MHAP is a three years project and will utilize an MSM Health Scorecard as the tool for establishing a baseline and building accountability for MSM health services.
ICASA Conference

AAI had various activities on at ICASA in 2015:

- 3 poster presentations
- A panel on Destigmatising Sexual and Gender Diversity in Africa
- Launch of the DH Whosemytribe.com campaign
The State of the African Youth Report

Realising the Future We Want: The State of the African Youth: Examining the state of African youth issues in the context of the post 2015 agenda. A report on the principal issues being faced by African youth today to create transparency, and a set of recommendations to add to dialogue and call stakeholders to action.

Whosemytribe.com

In November/December AAI launched the WMT website.

WHO’SMYTRIBE is an online media campaign, led by Africans, which aims to reduce stigmatisation and discrimination against sexual and gender diversity including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The campaign has been developed by AIDS Accountability International as a means to show that sexual and gender diverse people are no different to others and must have equal rights and access to education, health, housing, work and other rights. WHO’SMYTRIBE is an African campaign led by Africans. Images of African lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are almost non-existent both locally and internationally and if they are portrayed in the media it is generally from a very negative or stereotypical perspective. These inaccurate depictions do not portray lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Africans as human beings and as African citizens who deserve equality, respect and dignity. This project seeks to change that.
Through this campaign, AAI hopes to change perceptions through basic information which assists all people to realise that human sexuality is diverse and that heterosexuality is not the only sexuality which exists. We aim to be a small contribution to Africans understanding and accepting that there are African people who are attracted to the same gender. In the same way gender is also diverse; not all individuals identify with being male or female, and some people are transgender or gender non-conforming, somewhere on a spectrum of gender and not stuck in what we call a binary of one or two (male and female). We hope to encourage thinking around human diversity which includes sexual and gender diversity on the African continent and that all Africans regardless of their sexuality or gender identity are human beings and are part of African society and should be treated as such by others.

The Aims of WHO’SMYTRIBE

1. Humanize African sexual and gender diversity including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and gender non-conforming people.
2. Challenge the negative stereotypes, stigma, discrimination and images of sexually and gender diverse Africans.
3. Show that sexually diverse and gender diverse communities are a normal and natural part of any society including African society.
4. To provide basic information and interesting facts about sexual and gender diversity.
5. To demystify fears regarding sexual and gender diversity.
**Resource Mobilisation**

The key focus of AAI during this year was mostly on fundraising or resource mobilisation initiatives. Most of the organisation’s efforts was invested in consolidating the relationships with the existing funders but also at the same time investing for opportunities for new funding partners. In this regard, AAI participated in several multi-stakeholders meetings convened by some of its partners. AAI also held face to face meetings with several prospective funders. Further, AAI submitted funding proposals in response to calls for proposals. Last but not least, AAI developed a number of concept notes that were submitted to prospective funders during the year.

The second half of the year saw an even more emphasis on resource mobilisation per project. A peer reviewed proposal process was conducted amongst staff within the organisation where each staff member presented their own proposal ideas and were given feedback.

Resource mobilisation efforts are set to be the key focus area for the organisation during the first part of 2016. A more detailed report on resource mobilisation will be attached separately.

**Staff**

AAI continued to retain a passionate, highly skilled, knowledgeable and hardworking team that helped to implement its various programmes and projects. During the year, the team constituted mainly of the following persons:

- Daniel Molokele – Executive Director who is based at Johannesburg
- Phillipa Tucker – Former Executive Director and now Co-Founder and Director for Research and Communications. She is based at Cape Town
- Henry Chang – Senior Advisor for Partnerships Development and Networks Management and is based at New York. Chang was available mostly during the first quarter of the year.
- Lucinda van den Heever - Senior Researcher and Advocacy manager who is based at Cape Town
- Yumnah Hatta – Senior Researcher and Advocacy manager who is based at Pretoria
- Bob Munyati – Researcher and Advocacy manager who is based at Cape Town
- Maria Penderud – Finance and Administration Manager who is based at Stockholm
- Gemma Oberth – former AAI Senior Researcher and now part time consultant who is based at Cape Town
- Nomvuyo Mabusela – former AAI Senior Researcher.
Conclusion

It is submitted that 2015 has been a year of systematic progress in the context of a transitional process for AAI. The major highlight of the year was an increased focus on the long term viability and sustainability of AAI though a massive investment in terms of resource mobilisation efforts.

It is now anticipated that these fundraising efforts will bear fruit in 2016. Indeed as the year 2015 drawas to an end, there are already signs of prospects of increased funding for AAI as represented by the new grant from OSISA focusing on access to medicines and also the possibility of the funding from Ford Foundation for the next phase of the Destabilising Heteronormativity Project.

Further, AAI is expected to end the year on a high note through its major participation at ICASA 2015. AAI will be well represented at the event and will be expected to speak in panel sessions, make poster presentations and also host its own side events and special sessions.

The heavy investment of AAI at ICASA will be a spring board for 2016 where the major programme focus is likely to be defined by the Durban HIV conference hosted by the International AIDS Society.