



# The Contribution of Indigenous Faith Based Organizations to African National Health Systems

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# Presentation Outline

- “ Overview
- “ History of Christian Health Care in Africa
- “ Contribution of Faith Based Sector (FBS) to African National Health Systems
- “ Characteristics of FBS
- “ Contribution of the FBS to Health Service Delivery
- “ Success Factors
- “ Conclusion

# Overview

“ **Faith Based Organization (FBO):** An organization that is influenced by stated religious or spiritual beliefs in its mission, history, and/or work.

(A Firm Foundation: The PEPFAR Consultation on the Role of Faith-based Organizations in Sustaining Community and Country Leadership in the Response to HIV/AIDS, US PEPFAR, 2012)

“ **Faith Based Sector:**

1. **Faith Communities** - religious bodies at local levels (churches, mosques, etc.)
2. **Faith Based NGOs**
3. **Faith Networks** - groups of faith communities or FBOs, e.g. Christian Health Associations (CHAs), African Christian Health Association Platform (ACHAP)
4. **Faith Based Institutions** (health facilities and training institutions)

# Milestones in Christian Health Care in Africa

## **Tubingen I – 1964**

Defining role of missionaries in health

Explore uniqueness in Christian understanding of health and healing

## **Tubingen II – 1967**

Formation & support of African CHAs by World Council of Churches, Church Medical Commissions

## **Alma Ata Conference– 1978 (Kazakhstan, USSR)**

Declaration of importance of universal access to primary health care influenced by Christian Missions

## **2005 WHO states commitment to Universal Health Coverage**

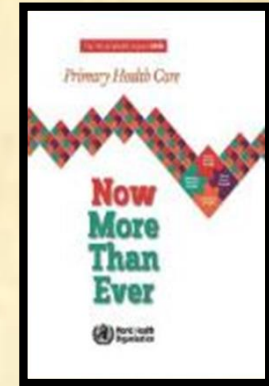
ACHAP created in 2007 registered as a Regional NGO In Kenya - May 2012

## **Tubingen III – 2014**

Christian Responses to Global Health and Development International symposium 50 years after Tubingen I, DIFAEM, June 26-29, 2014

“ ‘Call for health and healing’

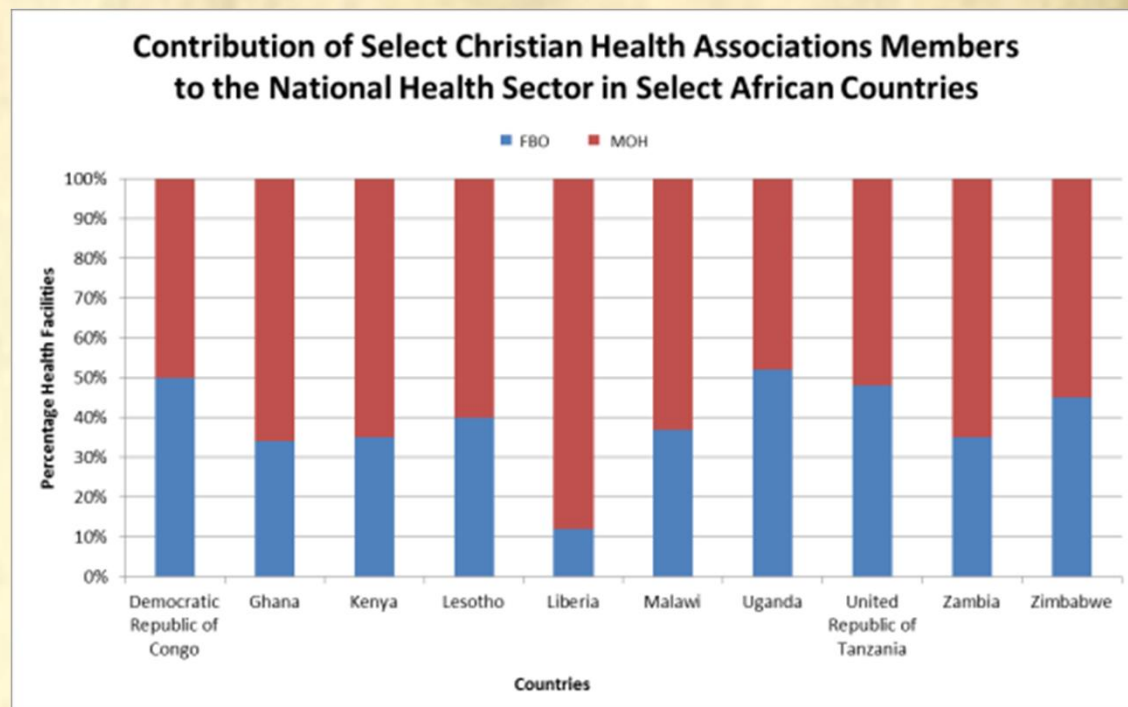
“ ‘Call for global platform for Christian health groups’





# Contribution of FBS to National Health Systems

- “ **WHO:** 30% - 70% health infrastructure owned by FBOs<sup>1</sup>
- “ **World Bank:** Up to 50% market share (beds and health facilities)<sup>2</sup>
- “ **IMA:** 12% - 50% contribution to the health sector (beds and health facilities)<sup>3</sup>



1. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2007/np05/en/>, ARHAP, APPRECIATING ASSETS: THE CONTRIBUTION OF RELIGION TO UNIVERSAL ACCESS IN AFRICA. *Mapping, Understanding, Translating and Engaging Religious Health Assets in Zambia and Lesotho: In support of Universal Access to HIV/AIDS Treatment, Care and Prevention*, 2006
2. *The role of faith inspired health care providers in Sub-Saharan Africa and public-private partnerships strengthening the evidence for faith inspired health engagement in Africa Vol 1 of 3*, Wodon, Quentin, Oliver Jill, 2012
3. Consultancy, unpublished survey findings of CHAs, 2012

# Characteristics of FBOs

- “ Guided by values and mission
- “ Faith affiliation can influence governance and guidelines for delivery of services
- “ Key role in community mobilization for increasing demand and uptake of services
- “ Broad constituency and potential sources of funding
- “ Varied organizational capacity
- “ Strength in developing and managing through partnerships

# Christian Health Associations (CHAs)

- “ Network of Christian hospitals, health centers, clinics and training institutions providing health care and related services.
- “ **CHA Core Functions** (vary from CHA to CHA):
  - Advocacy, Networking and communication
  - Capacity building/Institutional strengthening
  - Resource mobilization (recipient of donor funding)
  - Implementation of health programs
  - Supply chain management
  - Health Information



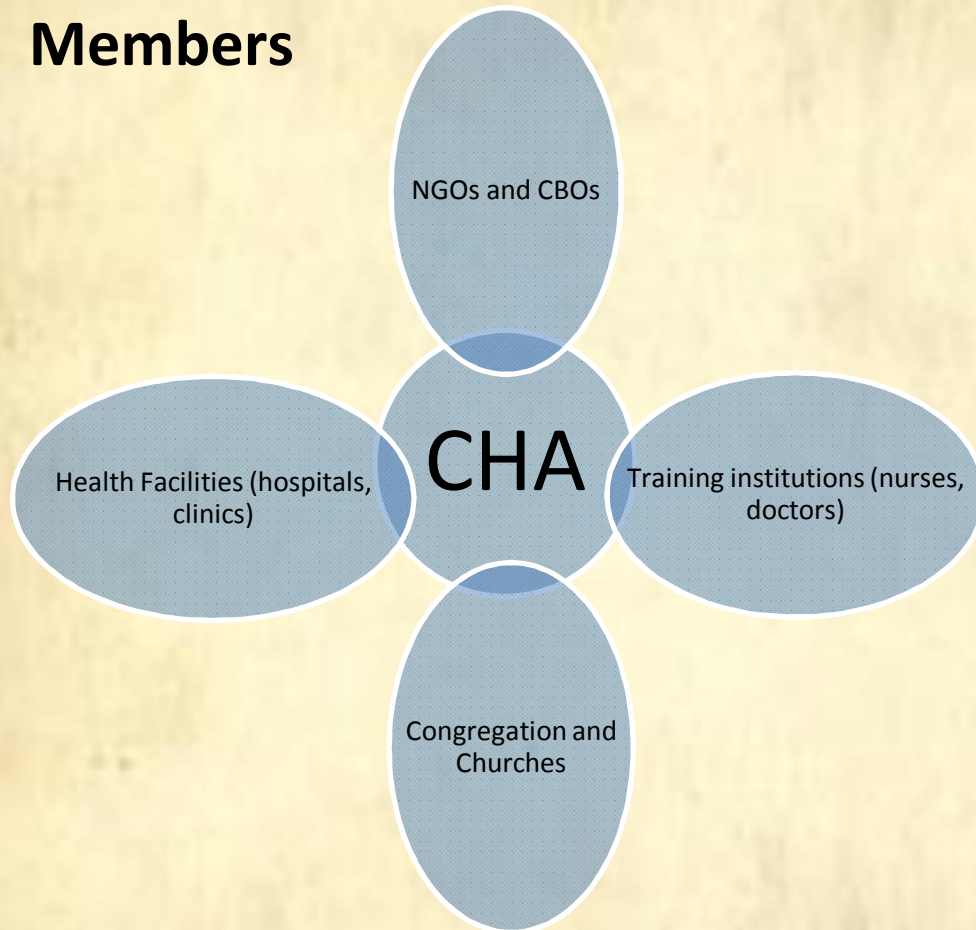
CHRISTIAN HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION OF LIBERIA

CHURCHES HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA  
He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and  
heal the sick  
LUKE 9:2



# CHA Network

## Members



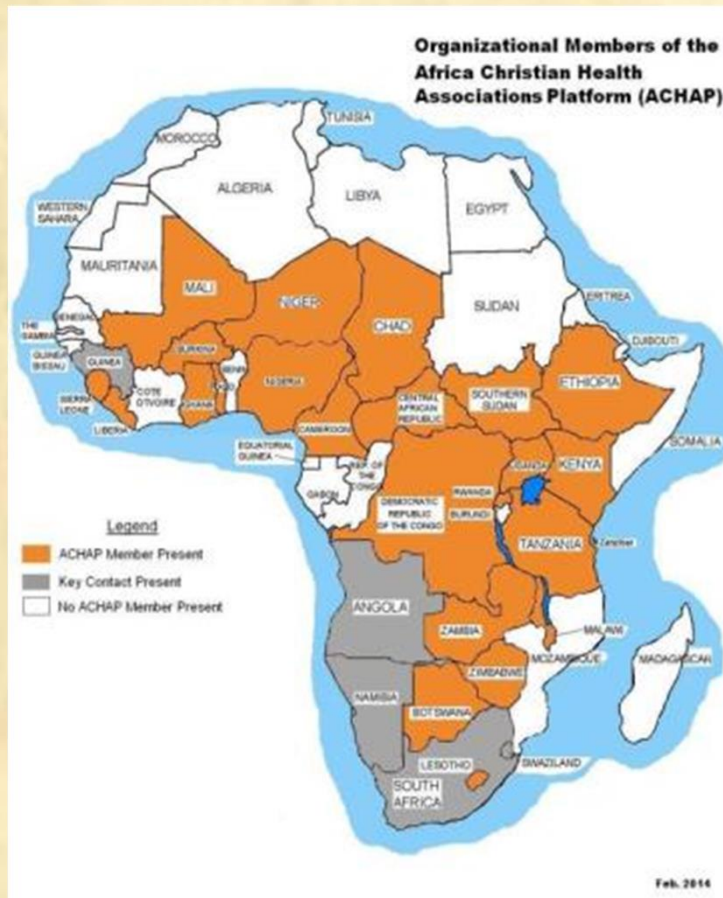
## Member Functions

Training of health workers  
Service delivery  
Community mobilization  
Supply chain management  
Grant and project management



# African Christian Health Association Platform (ACHAP)

**Members:** 34 Representatives from 26 countries






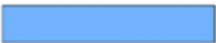
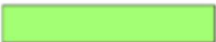







## Mandate

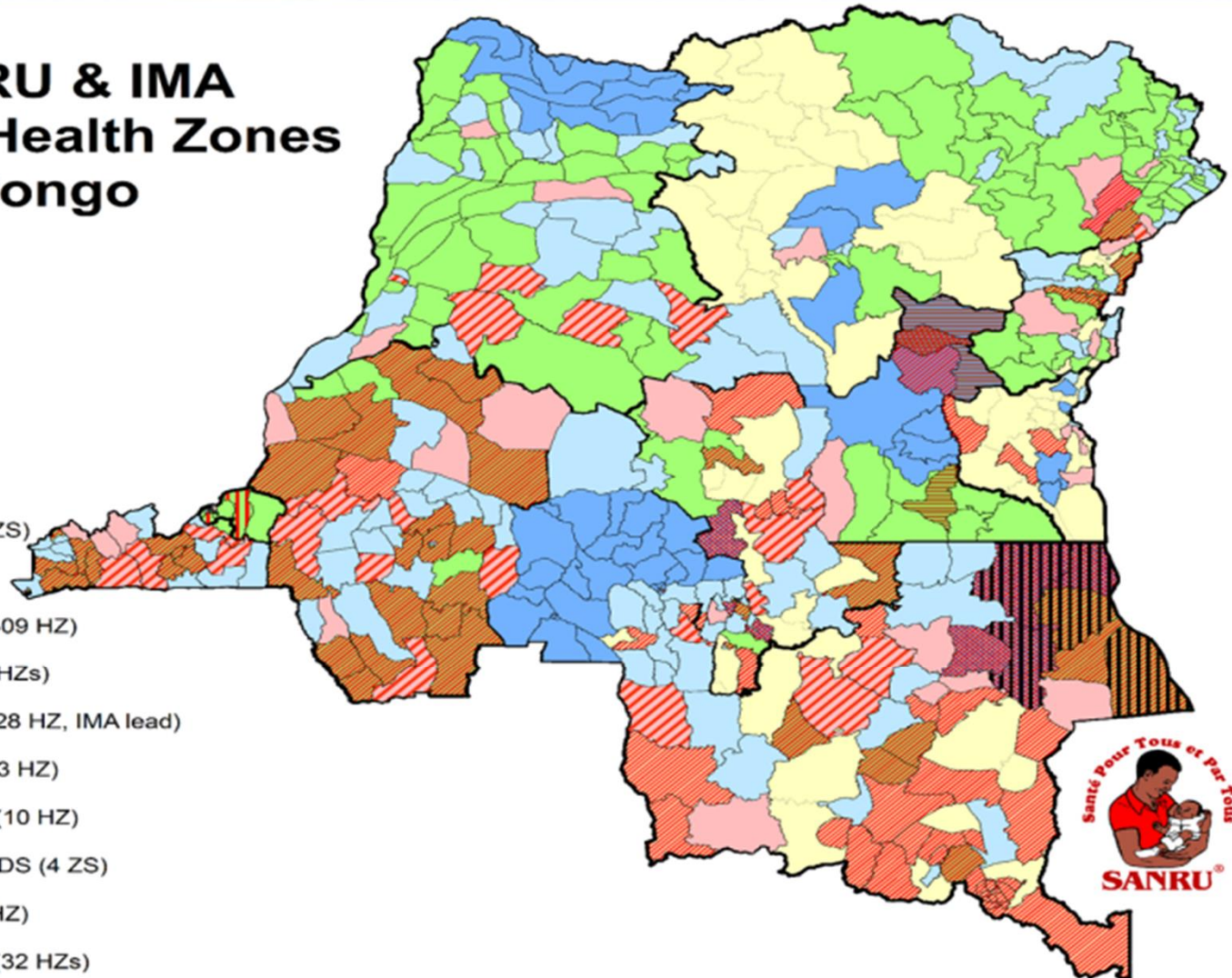
- Advocacy (national & international)
- Information Sharing for CHAs e.g. through biennial conferences
- Promoting partnerships (north/south; south/south)
- Facilitating regular dialogue on technical issues
- Partner collaboration

# Contribution of FBOs to Health Service Delivery

## FBO, SANRU & IMA Assistance to Health Zones in DR Congo

### Legend:

	Protestant
	Catholic
	USAID USHINDI (10 ZS)
	DFID ASSP (56 ZS)
	SANRU GF Malaria (309 HZ)
	SANRU GF HIV (179 HZs)
	SANRU DFID ASSP (28 HZ, IMA lead)
	SANRU GAVI OSC (33 HZ)
	SANRU ACQUAL FP (10 HZ)
	USAID ENVISION NTDS (4 ZS)
	SANRU CDC HIV (5 HZ)
	IMA Member Interest (32 HZs)





# Contribution of FBOs to Health Service Delivery

## Improving Maternal and Child Health Outcomes

- ” CHAM has Service Level Agreements with MOH
- ” Removal of user fees in CHAM facilities
- ” Reaching universal coverage
- ” Production of a significant number of nurses and midwives





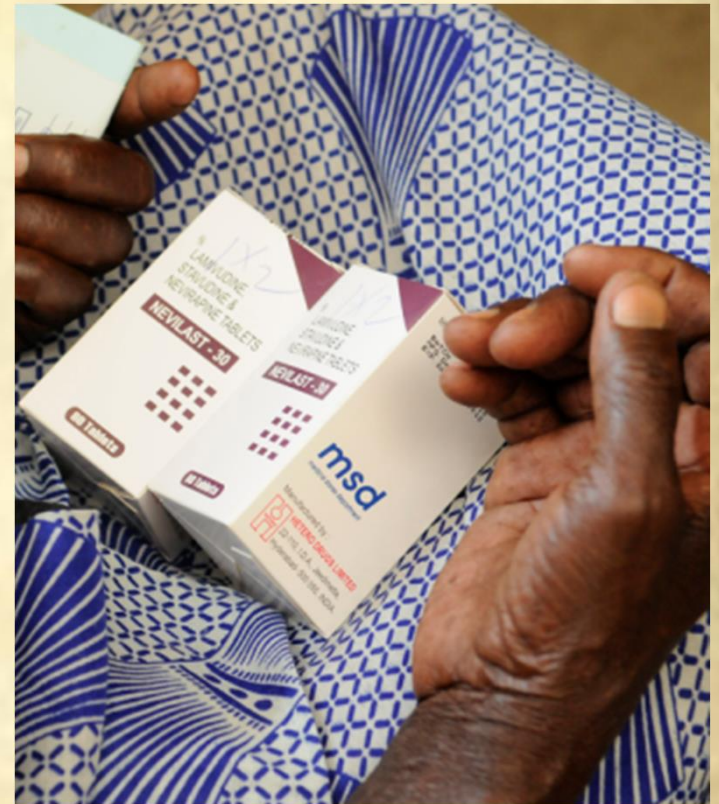
# Contribution of FBOs to Health Service Delivery

## Immunizations: Powerful Voices in Social Mobilization

- “ Collaboration of Islamic and Christian leaders in the Marklate Social Mobilization Program in Sierra Leone
- “ Improvement in vaccination rates 6% to 75%  
(UNICEF. 2004. *Building trust through immunization and belief*. New York, NY, United Nations Children's Fund)
- “ The Nigerian Polio Vaccination Boycotted in 2003 and 2004 reduced the uptake of polio vaccinations

# Contribution of FBOs to Health Service Delivery

- “ FBOs Play a Major Role in the HIV/AIDS Response
- “ Key Roles as Principal Recipients of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
- “ Contributing to Behavior Change and Increasing Uptake of HIV Services





# Contribution of FBOs to Health Service Delivery

**Supply Chain Management:** Provide affordable, life saving medicines to 40% of people living in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia (Joint Medical Stores, Mission for Essential Drugs and Supplies, CHAN Medi-Pharma, CHAZ Pharmaceutical warehouse, Ecumenical Procurement Network)

**Training of Health Workers:** Own a significant amount of training facilities





# Success Factors

Declared mission of being engaged in health care provision as motivated by faith and Christian values hence clear commitment to improved health outcomes

Ability to mobilize independent sources of income

Long standing health service delivery networks and infrastructure

Abiding trust of local communities

Flexibility to pilot new methods and strategies

Ability to integrate into national health systems

# Conclusion

- “ Faith based organizations in Africa and other parts of the world have had major impact in building and maintaining health systems
- “ FBOs are catalysts, can create a bond with Governments, the private sector, Civil society and the general population
- “ Religion is a powerful social force that influences health behaviors



THANK YOU!