

# Africa Health Research Organization Progress Report 2010

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Abbreviation

Message from the CEO

Executive Summary

Governance & Planning

Communication & Events

Research & Publication Activities

Community Engagement

Resource Mobilization & Financial Management

Forthcoming Plans

AHRO	Africa Health Research Organization
AL	Africa Lens
AU	Africa Union
ATMPH	Annals of Tropical Medicine & Public Health
ECOWAS	Economic Organization of West Africa
MOU	Memoranda of Understanding
IJCPC	International Journal of Cancer and Palliative Care
UN	United Nation
WHO	World Health Organization

## **MESSAGE FROM ABUBAKAR YARO**

“2010 has been the most trying moment of the organization as we tried to re-build after the issues of the past year and our ambitious implementation of some of our programs. But the will of the staffs and the desire to make a change drove us through the difficult period”

The Africa Health Research Organization as passed through some turbulent waters. Some organizations may have folded but to us it was not the time to let the dream die. We will continue to work hard and support the WHO, AU, ECOWAS and the UN Millennium Development Goals as well as national programs wherever we have offices for the overall benefit of humanity especially Africans.

In 2010, our internal review showed that most of programs were well accepted and patronized. We put in place series of mechanisms to enable us achieve our overall goals of self-reliance and networking. On research, we initiated some evidence based studies whose recommendation will help shape the future research activities we hope to undertake. Our networking drive saw us strike some wonderful MOU with some reputable organizations. We joined the Global Compact initiative. Africa Health Research Organization will continue to support the initiative and always renew its commitment to the initiative and its principles. The Africa Health Research Organization will support the Global Compact principles on environmental issues. For this, the forthcoming magazine Africa Lens will focus on health, environmental and social issues.

Overall, 2010 has been the most trying moment of the organization as we tried to re-build after the issues of the past year and our ambitious implementation of some of our programs. But the will of the staffs and the desire to make a change drove us through the difficult period. Now we can look at the future with hope.

**Dr Abubakar Yaro**  
**CEO & Chair**  
**Africa Health Research Organization**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The evaluation of 2009-2010 showed that the organization is finally finding its feet. This is a big plus after the 2008 fiasco. The suspended official journal of the organization: ATMPH was re-started with a new pro-active drive. A very strong marketing and sales team was put in place. The new aim is to turn the journal into the main fund-raising medium of the organization. The organization's activities increased with the initiation of 4 major projects: Project Cancer, GHAFa, Project Malaria and Africa Journal of Cancer and Palliative Care. Each of the projects has specific goals.

In 2010, the organization failed to organize any professional event due to the past administrative issues. It was decided that AHRO has to put its house in order. However, four well attended events were organized in Ghana for the community: Black-tie Dinner, A community awareness lecture on HIV/AIDS, A cancer sensitization forum for religious and political leaders and a free medical screening exercise in Tantra Hill, a suburb town in Accra where about 1000 people took part.

Process to register the US office was initiated. The UK office which is the first registered office is to be revamped to take its rightful position within the organization. The Board of experts was re-organized with a more engaging mandate. An advisory Board was formed to advise the Chair of the Board of Experts.

### **Governance & Planning**

In 2010, dynamic and vibrant Board of Experts was formed to assist the CEO & Chair to review activities of the organization, explore funding and cooperation opportunities as well as networking.

The newly constituted board which will run the organization from 2010 to 2015 are:

- Abubakar Yaro
- Anne Phiri
- Salma Kolo-Toure
- Mamadou Coulibaly
- Farnia Parissa
- Mustapha Kamate
- Kathryn Chu

A new structure was put for the daily administration of the various offices of the organization. Termed “Board of Country Directors”, they will be in charge of recruiting staffs, training and country-based fund-raising activities. They will also take part in the Annual Board of Experts meeting.

### **COMMUNICATION & EVENTS**

The strategy for 2010 was centered on effective communication and partnership. The organization appeared on series of educative program in some leading media house in Ghana. Notably were:

- Sunrise @ TV3
- Iqra @ TV3
- Breakfast Show @ GTV
- Zongo issues @ Vibe FM
- Health Issues @ Uniq FM
- Daily News @ Joy FM

- **Ghanaian Spectator**

A review paper on Antimalaria Drug Resistance written by the CEO was published in ATMPH. The suggestion of the paper was used in drafting the organization's Project Malaria which will be launched in Abuja Nigeria in 2011.

### **Research & Publication Activities**

The backbone of the organization is research. For now the focus is on evidence-based research. A paper on malaria drug resistance was undertaken by the CEO which was published in the Annals of Tropical Medicine & Public Health. The recommendation of the study is the focus point of the organization's malaria project. The suspended journal Annals of Tropical Medicine & Public Health was re-started after series of calls. However in consultation with the Publisher, it was agreed that the 2010 issues will be out only twice: Jan-Jun and Jul-Dec. There were lots of submission and the office of Editor in Chief therefore recommended that from 2012, the journal should be out 6 times a year.

### **Resource and Financial Management**

The organization is still building its financial background. The CEO uses his own fund to run the organization while all funds generated during events have been transferred to a bond account to enable it mature.

Building for the organization's office was donated by the CEO. The office is an 8 office building based in Accra Ghana. Based on the desire to turn it into a meaningful AHRO complex, the service of a qualified architecture has been engaged to re-design a new AHRO complex. The complex when completed will house the Administration block, Office of the CEO, Conference Hall with a capacity of 1000 delegates, a training hall and a restaurant.

### **Upcoming Plans**

The organization has taking a critical look at its activities for the past years and developed strategic plans for it to build it financial capacity. With its membership to the Global Compact as a yardstick, the organization will continue to play its role in social development of the African people. The following plans have been agreed upon:

- **AHRO Academy of Excellence:** This institution will provide training programs for Health workers and Scientists. The following centers have been adopted for the next 5 years: Ghana, Nigeria and United Kingdom. Courses will be Diploma, Certificate, Continuous Development Programs and Distance Masters courses.
- **Publications:** while frantic effort will be made to improve the ATMPH, the Publication department has completed procedure to come out with 2 outstanding publications: AL and IJCPC. More information about the journals can be found on the organization's website.
- **Clinical Research Training Program:** The organization is to final join the clinical research club with its Clinical Research Training Program. The activities will be divided into two: Study and Training. The organization will establish partnership with major clinical research institutions with the aim of developing the clinical capacity of developing countries health workers. Clinical study will be run in three AHRO sites: Ghana, Mali and Nigeria with AHRO UK acting as International Partnership and Data Management Site.