

**AAIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
to the AAIM BOARD on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2020  
at the General Conference Office  
Silver Spring, Maryland**

Praise God for an exciting, action filled and rewarding second half of the year of AAIM's multiple activities. Through His mercies and grace, this report is rendered to the AAIM Board covering the period of October 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

**CURRENT WORD WIDE HIV SITUATION**

**HIV STATISTICS**

The latest statistical reports are based on 2018. Yet there are many African countries where their most current statistics are way back in 2016.

Global HIV & AIDS statistics — 2019 fact sheet based on 2018:

- 37.9 million [32.7 million–44.0 million] people globally were living with HIV.
- 24.5 million [21.6 million–25.5 million] people were accessing antiretroviral therapy.
- 1.7 million [1.4 million–2.3 million] people became newly infected with HIV.
- 770 000 [570 000–1.1 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses.
- 74.9 million [58.3 million–98.1 million] people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic.
- 32.0 million [23.6 million–43.8 million] people have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic.
- 1.7 million children <15 years old [1.3 million-2.2 million] HIV positive
- 79% of people living with HIV know their status
- 8.1 million people do not know HIV status

The 90-90-90 WHO program  
 79% know their status  
 78% have access to treatment  
 86% are virally suppressed.

Countries with the highest 2018 prevalence rate

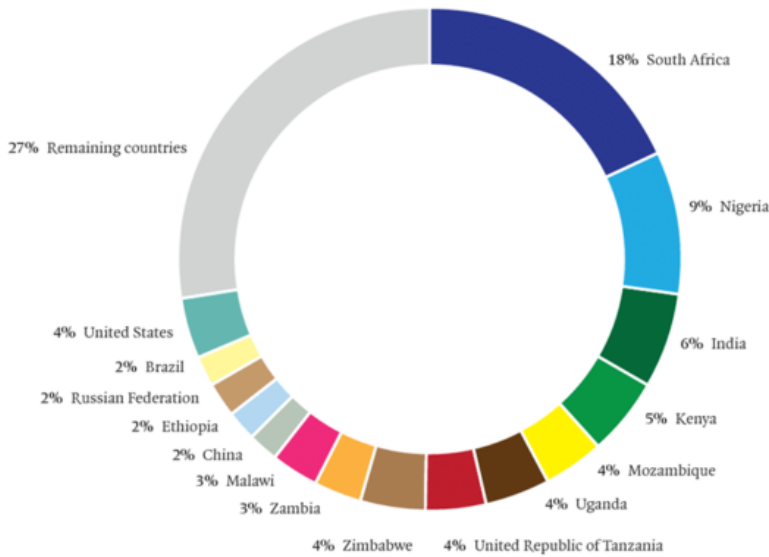
| Country      | Cases   | Prevalence |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| Swaziland    | 210,000 | 27.4%      |
| Lesotho      | 340,000 | 23.6%      |
| South Africa | 7.7 M   | 20.4%      |
| Botswana     | 370,000 | 20.3%      |

Countries with the highest number of HIV cases for 2018

| Country      | Cases | Prevalence |
|--------------|-------|------------|
| South Africa | 7.7 M | 20.4%      |
| Nigeria      | 1.9 M | 1.5%       |

|                |       |          |
|----------------|-------|----------|
| Mozambique     | 1.8 M | 11.2%    |
| Kenya/Tanzania | 1.6 M | 4.7/4.6% |
| Uganda         | 1.4 M | 5.7%     |
| Zimbabwe       | 1.3 M | 12.7%    |
| Zambia         | 1.2 M | 11.3%    |

Percentage Distribution of HIV Cases Worldwide Based on 2016



### APPLICATION OF HIV Statistical Figures

The incidence or the number of cases gives an idea of how many people are suffering in a particular country. This shows the extend of the people who are suffering from the disease. Taking South Africa for instance as the country in study. There are 7.7 million who are HIV infected. What percent is AAIM reaching? How many people have benefited from our programs.

Similarly, the prevalence rate indicates the percent of the population affected. For South Africa, it is 20.4%. Out of 100 persons between 15-49, 20 are HIV positive or 1 out of 5. When the church conducts an evangelistic meeting in South Africa, as per the prevalence rate, if there were 100 baptized, there are 20 who are HIV positive. What are we doing for these people? It is even possible that the number is higher than 20 per 100 considering that those with HIV are more sensitive to the gospel. They can also find comfort and refuge in the church.

Another important question to ask is whether there is a higher or lower HIV prevalence rate in our churches compared to the general population. A survey was done in Mandjou SDA church in Cameroon. There were 246 members tested with 17 individuals positive for HIV. This comes to 6.9% prevalence in the church whereas the prevalence in the province where Mandjou is located is 5.9%. Could this same be happening in our churches? Whatever, there is a need to educate our pastors and laity on this disease so proper attitudes and care be given to those with HIV.

## **DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF HIV TRIAL VACCINES**

The National Institute of Health stopped the HVTN 702 vaccine trial for HIV conducted in South Africa with more than 5,000 person involved. The vaccine did not contain HIV and did not pose any danger of giving the virus. One group was given the vaccine and one group a placebo. The results showed:

129 infections among the vaccine recipients  
123 infections among those given placebo.

The results are a bitter disappointment but research continues.

## **AAIM PROGRAMS**

### **A. Youth Alive**

At the start of the quinquennium, AAIM purposely made the youth as its priority. When HIV first started, 1 out of 4 infections was with young people ages 15-24. Today, in some countries, between 30-50% are from young people. One of the HIV preventive programs is Youth Alive. This was done in the SID and in the ECD. The General Conference Health Ministries together with ADRA International provided funding of USD 13, 335.00 for each division. Negotiations are being made with WAD to have two separate YA: one for the English speaking and one for the Francophone. Since this is a training session at the division level, the Unions are expected to have a follow-up in their respective territories. The SID came up with a resolution to this effect.

There was a massive participation from ADRA during the SID YA. ADRA saw the need to be acquainted with YA since it has 4 HIV related programs in this division. The program funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) first started as HIV AIDS Training of Trainers lasting for 12 years. Currently the program continues with the emphasis on Empowering Youth and at the same time HIV prevention.

During the two Youth Alive trainings, ADRA also took the opportunity to promote Every Child to School Everywhere. Participants signed the petition.

This program is in collaboration with Health Ministries, Youth, Education, Family Life, AAIM, Global Missions and Adventist Campus Ministries.

### **B. Children's Ministries**

Preventive HIV programs should also be directed to the children. By the time the child becomes a teenager, many of them have already been exposed to sex.

In Zimbabwe, according to South African Today News of January 1, 2020, 8.4% of the children have sex before 15 years of age. This is from the Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency. The age of consent in Zimbabwe is 16 years old but many are already practicing sex before that age.

In South Africa, according to the 2007 Sexual Offence Act, consensual sex at ages 12-15 has been decriminalized. SA also uses 16 as the age of consent. It is also noted that the age a child is sexually initiated has been steadily falling in South Africa:

| Year | Male Child   | Female Child  |
|------|--------------|---------------|
| 1995 | 15 years old | 12 years old  |
| 2005 | 13 years old | 11 years old. |

AAIM is collaborating with Children’s Ministries in conducting HIV prevention programs. Last year AAIM had discussions with Dr Linda Koh GC Children’s Ministries Director and D Sausten Mfunne for possible collaboration and material development. This resulted in the invitation of AAIM to be part of the SID Children’s Ministries Convention in Victoria Falls last August 2019. AAIM could not be present as YA SID was held at the same time. However, Dr Mfunne has come up with a very valuable HIV AIDS material designed specifically for children. The cartoon comic illustrations are catching to the children. It is well researched and written at the level of children. This material will help children understand about HIV, how to keep away from the disease, the effects of taking medication and loving those with HIV. The material is going to be planned to be mass printed by AAIM.

AAIM was given the opportunity to participate in the Cape Conference Children’s Ministries Convention where leaders were introduced to its various programs. There were more than 400 in attendance. Leaderships from the highest level of the church in the presence of Dr Sausten Mfunne up to the local churches were well represented. Mrs Nomthando Papu did very well in its organization.

AAIM is also taking the opportunity to teach children about HIV AIDS through the efforts of Esther going to many primary schools.

#### C. Collaboration with Women’s Ministries

This has taken off very well in the ECD and SID. During the WAD Women’s Convention in Kumasi, Ghana last August 2019, AAIM was invited by Mrs Omobonike Sessou to be one of the resource speakers. When she referred this issue to the Unions, the ladies decline to have the AAIM Executive Director with the reasoning that they would prefer a woman discussion issues of HIV and sex. This is the prerogative of the organizing entity but AAIM will continue its efforts in WAD.

Last January ECD had its division wide Women’s Convention held in Kampala, Uganda. This was attended by more than 3,500 women. Dr Debbie Maloba- ECD Women’s Ministries Director, is a very good supporter of AAIM. Also many of the ECD Union Women’s Ministries Directors are also Health and HIV Coordinators.

#### D. Youth Ministries

AAIM was able to reach the Adult Youth of the church in the three divisions through the Pan Africa Youth Convention done in The University of Eastern Africa in Baraton on the 22-29 of December 2019. More than 4,00 young people from the African continent were present. AAIM was well represented with Dr Abner Delos Santos giving the nightly devotionals.

#### E. Education

The ECD Education Department is a valuable partner with AAIM. Dr Andrew Mutero together with Dr Tsegaye Fesaha came up with the initiative to have all educational institution do one week of health emphasis per year. It would be great if the other two divisions will come up with a similar program. AAIM did 3 years with University of East Africa in Baraton (UEAB). For 2020, it has done one for the Adventist University in Central Africa in its two separate campuses under the leadership of Vice Chancellor and Rector Dr Roger Rutahagusha. Four students were baptized at the end.

In Cameroon, AAIM promotion has been done in Cossendai University. Dr Jean Paul Assam Assam is the Education Director of Cameroon Union as well as the Health and AAIM Coordinator. Asokore College in Accra, Ghana has also received AAIM.

#### F. ECD Uganda Extravaganza

ECD closed the activities of the quinquennium with the Uganda Extravaganza celebrating what was accomplished within the 5 years from 2015-2020. One major reason for this triumphant celebration is its accomplishment in soul winning evangelism. From being the third largest membership in the world, ECD is now the number division having the most members.

AAIM participated in this joyous occasion with the presence of Dr Peter Landless giving weight to the health message. In addition, AAIM Uganda organized a booth for free HIV counseling and testing. More than 150 were served.

#### AAIM PROJECTS

##### A. Zambia North Union Conference

In 2017, AAIM NZUC made a partnership with John Snow Inc (JSI)- and NGO contracted by USAID to give Women- Children Health and HIV services. JSI realized that it can effectively accomplish the task by utilizing church premises. A memorandum of understanding was signed with NZUC starting initially with 3 churches. This has now grown to 17. The program has been very effective that for the next three years NZUC was given a grant of USD 250,000. Thanks to the efforts of Dr Mwate Mwambazi- NZUC Health and AAIM Coordinator for this great accomplishment.

AAIM is encouraging other Unions to do the same. Discussions with JSI show their willingness to have the same program in the different countries where they are in.

##### B. East Kenya Union Conference

Nellie Llaguno made some donor contacts to fund some of our projects. Luz Swanson of Iowa wanted to see some of the projects where she can sponsor. She came with two other ladies. Nellie decided to take them to East Kenya. The visit resulted in interest plus monetary donation to fund the following:

1. Program against female genital mutilation in Masai Mara
2. Ten girls under the Adventist Center for Care and Support (ACCS) were sponsored to undergo the 6 month hair dressing course
3. Masai goat project- An addition of 15 goats were added to their current flock
4. Eagle Njeema- Received USD 2,000 for their income generating projects.

##### C. Bertoua Grandmothers Club in Cameroon

The highly active Bertoua grandmothers continue to assist 72 orphans in their physical, spiritual and health needs. From the initial seed money granted by AAIM in 2016, the program continues to be strong and varied, addressing the needs of the community working hand in hand with the local church. This group also participated in a march stressing the Right of Children. These ladies also held an awareness program against stigma and discrimination. Money was released by AAIM for the expansion of their programs under the care of Pastor Landry Mevack.

UNICEF visited the orphans and donated food, clothes and other needs for the orphans

ADRA also donated a water pump for the children while promoting the ADRA program of Every Child In School. The children were also given school bags plus food supplies.

Ngaoundere is towards the northern part of Cameroon which took 15 hours by slow train with deficient sanitation to reach the place. The national prevalence for Cameroon is 3.6% but in Ngaoundere, it is about 5% hence the AAIM seminar. There were about 80 participants all eager to learn how to handle HIV and to impart their knowledge to the community. The Cameroon Union Mission President Pastor Assembe Minyono Valere Guillaume was also there to challenge the church to do its part against the HIV scourge.

#### D. Gasanzi Kigali

There are more than 15 HIV support groups in Rwanda. These are remnants of the ADRA HIV Training Program which ended in 2015. AAIM visited Gasazi Dufatanyi program to encourage and monitor its progress. It was very sad to hear 2 tragic stories of HIV. One was of Lydia who has been with the group since she was a child. She got HIV through birth. She is being supported by this group. The other one is Justine Abela who contracted HIV due to rape which also made her pregnant. She is thankful that the child is HIV free but she struggles from day to day for their sustenance.

#### E. Zimbabwe

It is sad that the current political situation and drought in Zimbabwe have devastated this beautiful country. AAIM income generating projects such as nutrition gardening and poultry have been wiped out. The support groups had to use the produce of these projects for personal consumption. AAIM has sent food to these poor folks.

#### F. Direct Personal Involvement

These are some of the orphans whom AAIM have helped:

1. Faith Alolo- partial HIV orphan and has now completed her Flight Attendant 3 year course
2. Mpolokeng Masiela- AAIM in conjunction with Maluti School of Nursing has made it possible for Mpolokeng to have a government scholarship. She will graduate by the end of November 2020 as an Enrolled Nurse
3. Fungayi Metakairi- Assisted with tuition fees for Certificate in Accounting. He now is employed
4. Tome Francisco- Assistance given has resulted in his employment as a Teacher Assistant.

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