**ASSOCIATION OF KENYAN HOUSEWIVES AGAINST HIV/AIDS**

NAIROBI CONTACT OFFICE DETAILS

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**About us**

The Association of Kenyan Housewives against HIV/AIDS (AKHA) is a Kenyan indigenous, grassroots community organization. The organization was started by ten women in 1999 as a merry-go-round to help these women pull their small resources together to support themselves with household needs and also to support children who were orphaned by HIV/AIDS in the village. The needs to be addressed by the women grew and demand became high making the tene women to register the organization in the year 2003 and opening it for membership. More women joined after a realization that the community was being wiped out by HIV/AIDS scourge and women were worst affected as most of them only realized they were infected after the death of their spouses. Ms. Risper Pete whose family was affected between the years 2000 and 2003 and other three ladies (all natives of the locality) and graduates of Marquette University in Wisconsin State, USA courtesy of a scholarship offered by USAID for the study of Democracy and good governance; came together to educate women of their community on Human rights, HIV/AIDS and its impact on the local socio-economic development and participation on local governance issues.

AKHA has since become a reference point as ‘safe space’ for women affected and infected by HIV/AIDS and reproductive health and human rights centre for young girls and children. The organization carries out advocacy activities on Human Rights, the prevention of new infections of HIV/AIDS, Home Based Care activities and women economic empowerment. The core areas therefore include Human Rights Advocacy including Gender Based Violence, Child Sexual Abuse, Education and Poverty reduction through income generating activities and promotion of livelihoods. AKHA was registered under the laws of Kenya with the Department of Gender and Social Services as a self help charity organization Number 20819

**Location**

AKHA’s main office is located in the heart of a village in Rachounyo district 500 kilometres from the capital city Nairobi in the western region of Kenya. There is a small fundraising and logistical support office in Nairobi. AKHA has nine (9) full time employees who are all drawn from the community and are either infected or affected by the HIV pandemic. The board members consist of ordinary unemployed and not very educated women but with continued training and exposure to issues of women, they have steered the organization well towards the achievements that the organization has realized up to now.

**A successful Debut**

AKHA has quickly grown in to an activist organization pressing for a society where women and girls are able to enjoy their full cultural, economic, social and political rights. By addressing gender inequality, advocating for education and human rights of women and girls, the organization has curved for itself a niche within community. AKHA provides a safe space for women and girls to discuss matters related to reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, gender and girl- child education; gender based violence especially abuses meted on women but regarded as societal norms that women are not supposed to talk about, such abuses include widow inheritance, wife battering, rape in marriage and early marriages etc.

**Our objectives**

1. To empower rural women to effect social change within their communities through capacity building initiatives and advocacy.
2. Strengthen the livelihoods of women for food security and income.
3. To sensitize the community on human rights and gender related issues especially cultural practices that hinder women’s empowerment such as widow inheritance, early marriage, disinheriting women of their property, domestic violence.
4. To educate women and the whole community on HIV/AIDS prevention and response through community awareness campaigns and Home Based Care for people living with AIDS; improving the quality of life for PLWAS and those affected by the scourge through IGAs that improve domestic income.
5. To impart literacy and awareness on the reproductive health for both women, girls and men
6. To establish a centre where women running away from retrogressive cultural practices and gender based violence can be hosted and trained on Human Rights, mentoring for leadership, self esteem and vocational skills.
7. To conduct research, documentation and dissemination of local governance issues and community development needs.

**Governance**

The constitution of AKHA sets out the organizational Mission and Vision. The organization is governed through Board members and various committees such as the Executive Committee (EXCOM), the Finance and Administration (FINAD), Programmes Management Unit (PMU).

Each committee discharges its duty accordingly and makes decision on behalf of the organization. Election to the board is done after every three years and board performance is evaluated by the members of the organization.

**Our values**

AKHA’s existence is informed by our solid belief in:

1. Transparency and Accountability
2. Non- partisan
3. Participation of girls
4. Equal participation by women members
5. Solidarity with women and men as partners

**Our programmes**

1. HIV/AIDS Programme

This is the backbone of our organization. An awareness and action project that seeks to create mass awareness and build community capacity to cope with the impact of the scourge. It works with women to sensitize community members on Home Based Care for PLWA and the cultural practices that exacerbate HIV/AIDS infection.

1. Women’s Human Rights Campaign Programme

This project mobilizes community around issues of the abuse of human rights of women and the numerous cultural practices and stereotypes that lead to human rights abuse and kill women’s self esteem.

1. The Give Girls Education Initiative

This project seeks to increase girls’ access to education both as a human right, and as a Millennium Development Goal that must be achieved for education for all and gender equality. AKHA also views this project as a strategy for poverty reduction and empowerment tool for girls and future women.

1. Women Economic Empowerment

Our organization takes cognizant of the fact that financial incapability is the main hindrance of women’s participation in all spheres of development. AKHA’s income generating activities have transformed the women’s lives and built their self esteem as they come with a mentoring component. The economic empowerment project is aiming at providing assistance for financial stability for women who are affected and or infected by HIV/AIDS so that they can effectively negotiate and defend themselves against cultural abuse and participate in decision making arena.

**Counting our achievements**

Despite having taken about 3 years without proper funding during the formative stage, the organization has registered a number of impressive achievements mainly with funds from the African Women Development Fund based in Ghana.

2006-2007:

* Organized voluntary two days workshop on capacity building and leadership education on women’s human rights and leadership skills at the local community level.
* Conducted a successful community sensitization and training workshop on women’s rights with an emphasis on women’s reproductive health rights and HIV/AIDS
* Established a good working relationship with the local council of elders, local government administration including the local chief and the social development officer.
* Successfully established a network of girls and young married women and formed a club called ‘Girls Together’ for mentorship and savings and credit.
* Implemented a project on Stigma, Discrimination and Denial among HIV/AIDS affected women, orphaned girls who head households and orphaned school children
* Trained women living with AIDS and young orphans in Home Based Care and Peer education.
* Trained women and girls and established income generating activities that has continued to change lives
* Currently raising funds for the following projects
1. Construction of a VCT Centre and shelter for women running away from widow inheritance as they await redress
2. Continued support for the Income Generating Activities
3. The ‘Girls Together’ Micro- finance Fund
4. Conducting research in to the Traditional practices and customs and their effects on women and girls to inform further intervention
5. Carry out internet connection for our digital village project; all computers and other equipment are already purchased.

**Financial Information**

One of our major goals in the year 2008-2009 was to put in place appropriate accounting system and procedures to ensure prudent and timely financial administration and management practices across the organization. We recognized that the absence of such procedures could throw AKHA’s programmatic work in to jeopardy as well as undermine our credibility, particularly given that much of our technical assistance promotes openness and accountability.

Accordingly we enlisted the expertise of a young woman financial consultant who helped us check our accounts. This was done in the year 2006 when we first got funding from the AWDF. We are very pleased to present our audited account in this annual report. Like any grassroots organization we incurred start up costs, paying office rent, purchasing furniture and office equipment. Initially our fundraising was basically from individual and well-wishers donations, funds did eventually come in thanks to the work being done for African women by African Women Development Fund (AWDF) and our concerted effort to carry out community development research and needs assessment as well as proposal development.

Support from AWDF has formed the largest share of our income, followed by the local funding from the National Aids Control Council (NACC). The local community and church have been able to chip in with in-kind donations.

We are currently contacting partners who we believe will be keen to support the organizations listed programmes. Other fundraising priorities for the years ahead will include further diversifying our sources of income, partly by appealing to local, regional and international partners.

AKHA is extremely grateful to all our financial donors and also appreciate the in-kind support we have received from numerous well- wishers. Thank you to our local community and local government administration that believe in us to deliver.

**Board Members**

Chairlady- Margaret Juma

Vice Chairlady- Sylvia Diang’a

Secretary- Mary Ojuang’

Vice Secretaty- Imelda Omolo

Treasurer- Agnes Manga Mwakiga- Otieno

**Other Board Members:**

Risper Pete- Executive Director and Secretary to the Board

Emily Owuor

Kezia Pete

Julia Muga

Phrancisca Anyango

Penina Nyakado

**Volunteers**

Orpa Ondigo

Granny Awuor

Warda Juma

Pamela Nelson

**Staff Members**

Risper Pete- Executive Director

Teresa Anyango- Acting Programmes Coordinator

Joyce Omulo- Social Worker

Faith Adhiambo Programmes Officer- HIV/AIDS

Judith Awuor- Programmes Officer- IGAs

Grace Anyango- Programmes Officer- Human Rights

Mauvin Atieno- Programs Officer- Reproductive Health

Belinda Okoth- Accountant

Quinter Night- Office Assistant