



The COVID-19

Africa Action Network

for Nurses and Nurse-Midwives



2020 Annual Report



Annual Report 2020

The COVID-19 Africa Action Network for Nurses & Nurse-Midwives (AAN) is a global network of healthcare professionals and development experts, working voluntarily to support nurses and nurse-midwives in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Current target countries are Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Zanzibar, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

AAN was founded in March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was raging in Asia, Europe and the Americas, but just emerging on the African continent. Scientific knowledge and critical personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline healthcare workers (HCWs) was in short supply everywhere; the evolving challenges for the continent were daunting.

AAN Mission

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, AAN's mission is to provide information, technical support and funding for nurse and nurse-midwife projects in Southern and Eastern African countries to produce evidence-based reusable face masks for distribution to nurses, nurse-midwives, other healthcare workers and vulnerable groups.

AAN Vision

AAN's overall vision is to help protect a significant number of nurses, midwives, and other healthcare workers in Southern and Eastern African countries from the COVID-19 virus, reducing transmission and COVID-19 related morbidity and mortality among patients, families and community members, through local production and distribution of evidence-based, reusable face masks.

A linked, longer-term vision is the development of locally based, environmentally sustainable and evidence-based PPE production systems, empowering health professionals, countries, and communities to meet their own PPE needs.

Governance

➤ AAN Board and Administration

The AAN Board is comprised of founding members and representatives of country projects, four of whom serve as co-chairs. The AAN Board receives, reviews and approves project proposals. A core principle is to involve known and trusted partners in target countries. The AAN Board meets weekly (virtually) to discuss and manage network activity. Board meetings include finance, monitoring & evaluation, reporting, media & communication, and strategic development.

The work of the AAN Board and the dynamic progress of the Network's activities are empowered by the many hours of skilled work donated by Gabriel Carrier-Walker of CWI Strategies and Aleksandar Rakanovic Storøy of the University of Bergen, in establishing and running AAN strategic communications, website, and social media platforms. AAN's organizational solidity is safeguarded by the pro-bono partnership with the Norwegian-based company, **V-consultforening**, who ensure the sound financial management and back office of AAN activities.

AAN Board Members



Co-Chair: Judith Oulton BN, MEd, DSc (hon).

International consultant working mainly in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Previously, CEO of the International Council of Nurses, the Florence Nightingale Foundation, and the Canadian Nurses Association.



Kabanyoro Annet, RN, Med.

Dean, School of Nursing, Kampala International University, Uganda. Concurrently a PhD student at University of South Africa and implementor of AAN's first local facemask production project.



Co-chair: Fadwa A Affara RGN, MA, MSc, Med.

Nurse/midwife expert and international consultant, for the International Council of Nurses, the Certification Commission of the American Nurses Credentialing Centre, and consultant for WHO, governments and other NGO's.



Dorothy Gillian Ngoma, RN, RM, MCH

Special Advisor to the President of Malawi on maternal mortality and reproductive health. Previously, National Coordinator and Adviser for Safe Motherhood for Malawi President Dr Joyce Banda (2012 -2014).



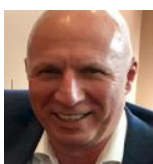
Phetsile Mamba, RN, RM, MPH

Director of the Eswatini Wellness Centre for Health Care Workers and their Families.



Fiona Mutoni, BCP, MdS

CEO of the Rwandan NGO "Open Arms to Golden Years Village".



Co-chair: Michael Paul Vitols, RN, BHA, MPH

CEO of V-consult and International Advisor for Mogadishu University and Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union. Previously, International Development Advisor for National Nurses Associations in Southeastern Africa.



Co-Chair: Linda Carrier-Walker MA

Senior Partner CWI Strategies. Previously, Director Development and External Relations, International Council of Nurses & Manager World Health Professions Alliance.



Kabaliisa Theopista Ateenyi, RN/RM, BScN, MPH

Senior Nursing Officer/Safety Officer/Surveillance COVID-19, EPI-World Health Organization Regional Reference Lab, Entebbe, Uganda.

➤ AAN's Work To-Date

The work of the COVID-19 Africa Action Network for Nurses & Midwives (AAN) is focused on four main targets:

- Developing and testing evidence-based guidelines for the local production of reusable medical face masks.
- Funding nurse-led projects for the local production and distribution of reusable medical face masks in 12 target African countries.
- Convening COVID-19 Q&A sessions for healthcare professionals across borders to exchange knowledge and practices in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.
- Working with the **World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA)** to deliver updated COVID-19 online courses to nurses and nurse-midwives on the WCEA platform.

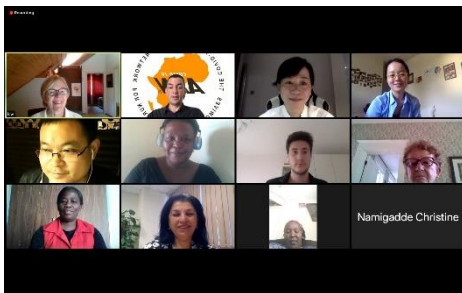
➤ Timeline 2020

March: Continuing COVID-19 Education for Nurses and Nurse Midwives Commencing in March Of 2020, AAN partnered with the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA), to produce a COVID-19 syllabus of courses and up to date information for nurses and nurse-midwives free of charge, on the WCEA learning management system platform and app. The WCEA platform provides health care professionals in low and middle-income countries access to CPD resources from leading educators.

AAN also supported WCEA's impactful *Project 2020 - Year of the Nurse & Midwife*, a sustainable e-learning mobile platform for Ministries of Health, health professionals' councils and associations in the developing world, with the goal of building capacity in CPD & lifelong learning. *Project 2020* saw 2.2 million courses taken by more than 300,000 nurses and midwives (<https://wcea.education/>)

April-May: [Guidelines on the Production of Reusable Face Masks](#) The AAN Network consulted with global experts, including Dr Janine Jagger, to establish evidence-based guidelines for locally made reusable personal protective equipment (PPE). Dr Jagger is a renowned expert in PPE and HCW safety. [Wear a Mask session](#) + [Following Q&A](#)

May /ongoing: AAN initiated 'China Africa Live' an online weekly Q&A forum linking nurses and doctors in China who were first responders during the Wuhan stage of the pandemic, with healthcare professionals in Eswatini, Uganda, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia. Subsequent forums have addressed PPE needs and access, emerging COVID-19 treatments, HCW stigma and vaccines.



China-Africa: [Session 1](#) [Session 2](#) [Session 3](#) [Session 4](#) [Session 5](#) [Session 6](#)
[Dr Florence and Dr Chorigo Session](#)

May: AAN's first in-country PPE project is launched in partnership with the Kampala International University (KIU) School of Nursing, culminating in the production of 130,000 reusable medical masks, donated to Ugandan healthcare facilities in dire need of PPE. The KIU Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Patrick Kyamanywa said "This pandemic is a test of our common humanity. AAN stands out with the torch of solidarity to fight COVID-19 across borders." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwFEnqUwz7c> .

June: The *Stop Covid-19 in Africa! Support Nurses! Save Lives! AAN crowdfunding campaign* was launched - focused on funding projects to locally produce essential PPE for front-line nurses and nurse-midwives. [Sheila Tlou video](#) and [Stephen Lewis video](#)



July: AAN initiated and funded a local PPE production project in partnership with the Malawi Association of Retired Nurses & Midwives and the Malawi Nursing Council, to produce and distribute evidence-based reusable medical masks for HCWs.



September: In partnership with the Rwandan Association of Neo-natal Nurses and the Open Arms Golden Years Village, an ANN project to produce evidence-based reusable medical masks for neo-natal nurses, seniors and other vulnerable groups was launched.

October: The AAN Award for Innovation and Sustainability in Health Worker Safety was



conferred on the Kampala International University School of Nursing Students' Association, for its trailblazing work designing and producing 130,000 safe, reusable medical masks for HCWs. [Ugandan Nursing Students Garner AAN Award for Innovation and Sustainability in Health Worker Safety in the Context of COVID-19](#)

November: Direct Relief and BD awarded a substantial grant to ANN to enable emergency funding and technical support for local production of evidence-based reusable medical facemasks in 11 African countries (Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia) during the COVID-19 pandemic. [AAN Partners with Direct Relief and BD to Support Locally Produced PPE for Frontline Health Care Workers in Southern and Eastern Africa](#)



December: AAN issues updated Evidence-Based Guidelines for Locally Produced, Reusable Medical Masks, in cooperation with Dr Janine Jagger of the University of Virginia School of Medicine and published as part of the World Continuing Education Alliance’s CPD resources made freely available to nurses and midwives in LMICs. [Guidelines on the Production of Reusable Face Masks](#)

➤ AAN Members and Advisors

Membership in the AAN network is global in reach and voluntary. Recent developments in the fight to mitigate and eventually eradicate the virus have underscored the need for a global, unified approach in tackling the pandemic. Failure to do so will result in continued loss of human life, disruption of the social fabric of communities and an increasing global financial burden.

At present, the AAN network consists of several hundred members from more than 20 countries. Members contribute to network activities professionally, financially, and morally. International solidarity is a core principle.

AAN’s wide range of expert advisors and collaborators provide precious advice and support. Many of these Founding Members and Advisors are efficient “door openers” enabling the network to expand its reach and activities.



Dr Naeema H. Al-Gasseer, RN, RM, PhD, FAAN.

World Health Organization country representative for Egypt and former WHO Chief Nursing Scientist and country representative for Iraq and Sudan.



Thembeke Gwagwa, RN, RM, 2nd Vice President, International Council of Nurses and Africa Representative. Founding General Secretary of the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa.



Dr Janine Jagger, MPH, PhD

Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia School of Medicine; founder of the International Health Care Worker Safety Center at the University of Virginia. She was awarded the Becton Dickinson Healthcare Worker Safety professorship for her work on the prevention of needlestick injuries and was named Commonwealth of Virginia Eminent Scholar.



Pastor Masitsela Mhlanga RN, PhD

Director of the Eswatini Emergency Preparedness Response, former President of the Swaziland Nurses Association and the Southern Africa AIDS Network of Nurses and Midwives.



Liu Zhiyong, MD

Deputy Chief Director & Assoc. Prof. of Central South University Xiang Ya Hospital Dept. of Intensive Care; Secretary, Hunan Medical Doctor Assoc. Supported Sierra Leone for Ebola in 2015; Xinjiang conflict in 2018; Wuhan for COVID-19 in 2020.



Flavia Moetsana-Poka, MSN, BCurletA, DOHN

Currently the Registrar and CEO at the Lesotho Nursing Council. As such she works directly with the International Council of Nurses, the International Confederation of Midwives and the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation.



Gabriel Carrier-Walker, BA McGill University, Canada. Senior Partner and General Manager at CWI Strategies. Co-Director AAN Secretariat.



Aleksandar Rakanovic Storøy

Based in Norway. University graduate in International Relations/ Cross-Cultural Communication. Co-Director AAN Secretariat.



Daad Shokeh, Advisor to HRH Princess Muna of Jordan and the Jordan Nursing Council. *“I support the COVID-19 Africa Action Network for Nurses and Nurse-Midwives.”*



Shan Jiang, BA

Exhibition Art Design, Donghua University, Shanghai, **MBA** Culture Art Fashion, EAC Institute, Paris.



Graham Hellier, MBE Founder and Chairman of the World Continuing Education Alliance (wcea.education), Graham is an entrepreneur who is focused on financial outcomes/sustainability whilst positively impacting the planet and its inhabitants.



Cao Lan, MA Head Nurse of Critical Care and Neurology Section, Nursing Department, Xiangya Hospital, Central South University, Changsha, China.

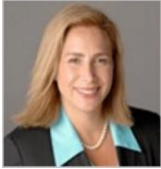


Craig Fitzpatrick, MBA Director, World Continuing Education Alliance. WCEA assists countries to build capacity in lifelong learning via sustainable and innovative tech solutions. Responsible for stakeholder relations in LMICs, the International Council of Nurses and the World Medical Association.



Kaen O. BSc

Recent graduate from Smith College, working as a medical scribe and interpreter in Washington DC, including with AAN.



Paula R. DeCola RN, MSN Recently retired from Pfizer Inc., where she held varied positions including Global Lead for Healthy Ageing, member of External Medical Affairs, and clinical education and research. Previously, she was a research and critical care neurology nurse.

➤ **AAN Core Principles**

- Qualified health care professionals and development experts working voluntarily across borders, recognizing the need for a global, unified approach in tackling pandemics.
- Support for nurses & nurse-midwives in their fight against pandemics, with current focus on the production of evidenced-based, reusable locally produced PPE in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Project management is established at country level with known and trusted partners in target countries in Eastern and Southern Africa*.
- Production and distribution of personal protective equipment is supervised by senior nurses in close cooperation with government healthcare authorities.

**Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Zanzibar, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.*

➤ AAN Financial Statement 2020

| Revenue: | amount USD | notes |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Direct donations | 73 948.73 | DR – BD grant (62 488) and individual gifts. |
| GoGetfunding donations | 12 398.31 | |
| Sum: | 86 347.04 | |
| Expenses: | | |
| Project Uganda | 10 174.12 | includes award ceremony support |
| Project Rwanda | 2 516.14 | |
| Project Malawi | 9 033.09 | |
| Administrative | 104.09 | bank charges |
| Sum: | 21 827.44 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Result (transferred to 2021): | 64 519.60 | |



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