

## *Links for Life Africa Forum 2009*

### **Summary of Links for Life Initiative**

PCI is leading a multi-agency initiative, *Links for Life: Promoting Integrated HIV and Food/Nutrition Security Programming*. The initiative aims to bring to scale integrated food, nutrition, and livelihood security along with HIV/AIDS interventions throughout Africa. The three components of the initiative are: Communities of Practice (CoPs); FANSHA (Food and Nutrition Security and HIV/AIDS Advocacy Taskforce); and Africa Forum 2009. Communities of Practice (CoPs) have been established in Ethiopia and Malawi to promote field-based learning on promising practices in integrated HIV and food & nutrition security (FNS) programming, with the ultimate goal of scaling up “what works.” FANSHA is an advocacy group comprised of 25 international organizations with the purpose of strengthening awareness about HIV/FNS and influencing key policy and donor decisions. Information on AF09 is summarized below.



### **Summary of Africa Forum 2009**

Project Concern International (PCI) and partners<sup>1</sup> are hosting *Africa Forum 2009 (AF09): Sharing Integrated Solutions to HIV & Food/Nutrition Insecurity*, scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in Malawi. The Forum will provide an important opportunity for local and international NGOs, public health and development organizations, and select policy makers to share experiences in integrating HIV/AIDS and FNS programming—both to strengthen collective efforts, as well as to inform policy decisions based on ‘frontline’ realities. The Forum will build on the priorities identified by over 200 field-based African practitioners at the PCI-hosted Africa Forum 2006 in Lusaka, Zambia. AF09 will examine the impact that the world food crisis is having on those infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS as a principal theme. The Forum will serve as a platform for relationship-building between implementing organizations to foster collaborative learning and the incorporation of such learning into the design, funding, and delivery of future programs.

### **Specific Objectives of the Forum Are to:**

1. Enhance learning and information sharing between AF09 delegates, key donors, and policy makers and/or influencers;
2. Increase the capacity of practitioners to scale up successful HIV/FNS interventions identified in their countries or the region; and
3. Enhance capacity of AF09 delegates to create country-based mechanisms for sustainable field-based learning and advocacy through CoPs.

### **Planned Strategies and Activities**

To achieve the conference objectives, the following strategies and activities will be implemented based on the conference’s principal themes: presentations; panel discussions; debates; skills building workshops; program site visits; new tool or technology demonstrations; networking and relationship-building events; and post-conference follow-up.

### **Planned Outputs and Outcomes**

- Enhanced sharing of programmatic best practices in HIV/FNS programming, and increased capacity in the ‘how to’ of implementation, among frontline practitioners and key policy makers;
- Enhanced capacity on the ‘how to’ of setting up, implementing, managing, and sustaining CoPs
- New and strengthened networks for information sharing, action, and advocacy;
- Diffusion of documented information between practitioners, donors, and key policy makers/influencers.

### **Registration and Call for Participation**

For more information please contact the organizing committee at [AF09@projectconcern.org](mailto:AF09@projectconcern.org), or Gwenelyn O’Donnell-Blake, Email: [godonnell@projectconcern.org](mailto:godonnell@projectconcern.org); Telephone (USA): 202-662-8991.

<sup>1</sup> Africare, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Concern Worldwide, Food And Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA), Friends of the World Food Program, GAIN, Land O’Lakes, Inc., Oxfam, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Regional Network on HIV/AIDS, Rural Livelihoods, and Food Security (RENEWAL), Save the Children, USAID, World Food Program, World Health Organization, World Vision, and others.