

2 0 0 7 A N N U A L R E P O R T



AFRICAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE

May 1981	Asfaha Hadera founds the Committee to Aid Ethiopian Refugees		
November 1982	We open our first office at the Community Church of New York		
July 1985	Our first grant is made to benefit Ethiopian refugee programs in Sudan		
January 1987	Refugee resettlement program is begun in New York City		
March 1991	We begin HIV prevention outreach for African immigrants		
December 1994	Our name changes to African Services Committee		
March 1998	African Services starts providing HIV legal services		
March 1998	HIV case management is begun for immigrants and their families		
July 1998	The UN Economic and Social Council gives African Services special consultative status to the United Nations		
June 1999	Our HIV housing program begins		
April 2000	African Services Committee moves to Harlem		
June 2001	African Services plays a key role in the first UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS		
April 2002	We join the NGO communities delegation to the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria		
January 2003	UNAIDS appoints African Services as the North American NGO representative to its Programme Coordinating Board		
July 2003	African Services Ethiopia launches its first HIV testing center in Shola Market in Addis Ababa		
December 2004	"Deepening Our Roots" begins—the first capital campaign for African Services		
March 2005	Our Kombolcha clinic opens in Ethiopia, a public-private partnership with BGI to serve their employees and greater Wollo Province		
September 2005	African Services Ethiopia marks an important milestone— 25,000 HIV tests provided		
May 2006	We celebrate our 25th anniversary in New York City		
September 2007	Our capital campaign is completed, deepening African Services' roots in Harlem		
June 2007	Doors open at our third clinic in Mekele, Northern Ethiopia		



On the Cover: Ali, a client of African Services. Originally from Mali, he came to the U.S. in 2001 to develop his import-export business. Soon after, he became ill and was in a coma for several months. Ali was later diagnosed with HIV. With nowhere to turn, Harlem Hospital referred him to African Services for care and support.

Ali has since regained his health and now lives in New York City, where he sells African art, including the piece to the left. Please contact African Services if you are interested in purchasing artwork.

Dear Friends,

Few of us can imagine receiving a life-threatening diagnosis, thousands of miles away from home, without the safety net of family and social support.

For newcomers who learn they are HIV-positive, immigration concerns are paramount, fearing that their condition will make it impossible to return home and that their status will make it impossible to receive treatment. For many immigrants in crisis, African Services is the only place to turn.

As a physician, I have seen more than two decades of the global fight against AIDS reveal the best and worst of our true social nature—fear, denial, xenophobia and prejudice. But it has also demonstrated the human capacity for compassion, care, respect, and scientific innovation and advancement that has thrived despite complex cultural and economic challenges.

A more effective response to HIV/AIDS could be mounted if social fragmentation on the lines of nationality, ethnicity, race, class and gender were not used as obstacles to a comprehensive global approach. Top-down approaches to HIV/AIDS interventions have neglected social and community participation, often compromising the efficiency of the response to the disease.

This is where African Services bridges the gaps through which AIDS programs are slipping, by maintaining a presence at policy and community levels: they have recognized the need to work from above and below a grassroots level.

In Harlem, African Services offers immigrants a safe sanctuary from the fast pace of New York life. For those in need, HIV testing, treatment and support are offered without judgment or prejudice by considering the well-being of the individual in their entirety. With legal support and housing, as well as English classes, support groups and self-sufficiency training, immigrants can rebound from crisis and continue looking forward to a meaningful future.

Inspired by their impact in New York City, African Services initiated its Ethiopia programs in partnership with local government, the private sector and other community-based groups. Unlike many international programs, their HIV testing and care services are directed to communities with the least access to information and support and those living at the furthest reaches of rural Ethiopia.

African Services must be applauded for their strategy: demonstrating bold vision in tackling tough issues, facilitating a north-south collaboration and sharing solutions, while championing human rights and equality—not only on the level of policy, but as practice. Having seen first-hand the unique and invaluable role they play, I am proud and honored to serve on the board.

I wish to thank the many donors who contributed over the last three years to African Services' capital campaign. With your support, they will continue to grow, deepen their roots in the Diaspora and support African communities triumphing against the odds.

Sincerely,

Neeraj Mistry, MD.





In 2007, African Services converted over 5,000 square feet of raw loft space on 127th Street into new offices, a learning annex for clients and a community kitchen.

for Newcomers in Harlem

An oasis for African newcomers in the heart of Harlem—that was the vision that launched *Deepening Our Roots*, African Services' first capital campaign, in 2004.

Three years on, we are now in the final phase of the campaign and last fall completed the renovation and capital expansion of African Services' offices on 127th Street. With all our staff and programs now under one roof, African Services is providing more holistic, accessible service and expanded resources for the growing African community. A ten-year lease deepens our roots in Harlem, a celebrated neighborhood that remains a gateway for immigrants in the Diaspora.

African Services has come a long way from the humble Bronx apartment where it began more than 25 years ago. We are grateful to the H. van Ameringen Foundation and the many capital campaign donors who have supported the continued growth of African Services and the dynamic immigrant community we serve.

Legal Lifeline for Immigrants

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE LEGAL PROCESS

At a time of uncertainty for immigrants in the U.S., African Services is expanding its community-based legal practice to represent more newcomers than ever in need of safe haven, but unaware of their rights or unable to access the legal system.

Last year, staff attorneys took on the asylum cases of three women, living with HIV and raising their own daughters in New York City, who as girls experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)—or cutting—in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali.

African Services' legal team worked with human rights experts to build these cases for FGM as a gender-based form of persecution. They also worked intensively with the women, preparing them to testify on their own behalf and describe in court their trauma and subsequent health problems, as well as the risk their children also face if returned to their native countries.

The support of peers in African Services' women's group was critical in encouraging them to use the court system to stabilize their families and empowering them through the legal process.

While nearly 75 percent of all asylum cases are rejected by U.S. immigration courts, our staff attorneys have successfully argued the case on behalf of one of the women; the others are currently awaiting their hearings. Until they can adjust their immigration status, African Services has assisted the women in accessing health care and housing, as well as public benefits for their children.



Immigrant pastors and imams joined us for a series of community conversations on supporting the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

HIV Stigma with African Religious Leaders

Stigma remains one of the most lethal aspects of the global AIDS epidemic. In communities around the world, the fear of social rejection keeps people from taking an HIV test, seeking treatment and caring for those who are HIV-positive. For immigrants struggling to establish new lives without the safety net of friends and family, this can be especially true.

This year, as part of African Services' ongoing effort to challenge HIV stigma as a barrier to improved health for immigrants, we brought together a group of African and Caribbean imams and pastors in New York City. Through a leadership development series, we worked together to build their knowledge of HIV, encourage them to talk publicly about testing and treatment, and help reduce the isolation of HIV-positive immigrants in their faith communities.

Through community conversations like this, African Services is engaging new leaders and expanding the supportive response to HIV in the Diaspora community.



In Times of Crisis: After the Bronx Fire

Last year, a devastating fire tore through the home the Magassa and Soumare families shared on Woodycrest Avenue in the Bronx. Immigrants from Mali, they lost ten family members in the blaze, most of them children. The tragedy deeply affected New Yorkers and triggered an outpouring of support for the entire Malian community.

African Services quickly mobilized an emergency response to help meet the families' needs and accepted over \$80,000 in public donations from across the U.S. to help them rebuild their lives.

We are deeply grateful to the City of New York for the compassion it again showed newcomers and for recognizing the role African Services plays at times of need in the immigrant community.

We remember, from the Magassa family—Bilaly, 1; Diaba, 3; Abou Bakary, 5; Mohamadou, 8; and Bandiogou, 11. And from the Soumare family—twins Harouna and Cisse, 7 months; Djibril, 3; Hassimy, 6; and their mother, Miriam, 42.



Since launching our HIV testing program in Ethiopia five years ago, African Services is increasingly focused on bridging gaps in HIV/AIDS care across the country and expanding clinical services at the community level.

Last year, we opened our third HIV clinic in Mekele, in Tigray Province. The region is home to nearly four million people, most of whom have no access to a doctor. With a staff of local community health workers, African Services is providing HIV outreach and testing, referral to care and CD4 monitoring. To reach further still, our new mobile services brought HIV testing to 3,000 people in the most rural, underserved areas of southern Ethiopia.

Our pediatric HIV program also grew significantly last year with the support of friends Sue and Judy Greenwald and a growing family of allies. This program, staffed by an ART physician and a dedicated pediatric case manager, helps families of HIV-positive children access antiretroviral treatment and provides the intensive care and support they need to nurture their children back to health.

African Services Ethiopia is demonstrating the strides that can be made—even in the poorest communities—by small, local initiatives working at the grassroots to combat AIDS. We are grateful to the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health, the Tigray and Amhara Regional Bureaus of Health, Becton Dickinson, BGI and Ethiopian Airlines for their donation of essential equipment, supplies and support.

Financial Statement

Summary of Financial Statements for the years ending May 31, 2007 and 2006.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2007	2006
Support		
Grants and Contracts	2,267,279	2,316,080
Contributions	340,750	110,047
Total Other Revenue	2,608,029	2,426,127
Revenue		
Miscellaneous Income	162,692	19,786
Total Support and Revenue Excluding Gifts In Kind	2,770,721	2,445,913
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Health Services	$1,\!450,\!954$	1,020,489
Housing Services	380,016	490,425
Legal Assistance	376,350	88,278
Refugee Program	0	5,377
Social Services	133,137	$252,\!114$
Total Program Services	2,340,457	1,856,683
Supporting Services		
Management and General	415,873	378,130
Total Expenses Excluding Gifts In Kind	2,756,330	2,234,813
NET ASSETS		
	439,262	455,748
Beginning of Period (as adjusted)	437,202	
Beginning of Period (as adjusted) Change in Net Assets	14,391	211,100

Funding & Support June 2006 - May 2007

GOVERNMENT

Federal

- US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC
- US Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development, HOPWA
- Federal Emergency
 Management Agency

State & Local

- New York State AIDS Institute, NY State Department of Health
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
- City Council Member Robert Jackson
- City Council Member Inez Dickens

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- · Champion Courier
- Community Action for Prenatal Care Initiative
- · Howard Gilman Foundation
- · Knickerbocker Warehouse
- · Koonyeung's Corp.
- MAC AIDS Fund
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- · New Field Foundation
- New York City AIDS Fund
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- The Emanuel & Anna Weinstein Foundation

- · The HAT Foundation
- · Women's Sports Foundation
- · The United Way of New York City
- · Ethiopian Airlines
- · American Jewish World Service
- Broadway Cares/ Equity Fights AIDS
- First Data Western Union Foundation
- · BGI Ethiopia
- H. van Ameringen Foundation
- Ms. Foundation for Women, Women & AIDS Fund
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- · The Tides Foundation

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- City Council Member Inez Dickens
- · The Fresh Air Fund
- · Dr. Thomas Frieden
- Global Business Coalition on AIDS, TB and Malaria
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- · GMHC
- · Harlem Hospital
- HealthGAP
- · HIV Law Project
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- · Rebekah Kebede
- · Monique Millane
- N N I C
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ New York Cares
- New York Immigration Coalition
- · Non-Profit Finance Fund
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- · Seeds of Change
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- Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC)
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Founded in 1981, African Services Committee is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the African community. We provide health, housing, legal, educational and social services to over 10,000 newcomers each year in New York City through a focus on HIV prevention, care and support. We also work on the frontlines of the global AIDS epidemic operating HIV clinics in Ethiopia and through advocacy, policy work and technical assistance in the U.S. and abroad. African Services Committee, Inc.

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