

The Kicking AIDS Out Network 2001-2010



A Historical Overview



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Acronyms and abbreviations

CGC - Commonwealth Games Association of Canada

C-HLP - Caribbean Healthy Lifestyle Project

EMIMA - Elimu, Miche zo na Mazoezi

FFAV - Football for All Vietnam

MYSA - Mathare Youth Sport Association

NCSZ - National Sports Council of Zambia

NIF - Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sport

NORAD - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

NOWSPAR - National Organization for Women in Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation

ONOC - Oceania National Olympic Committees OSEP - Oceania Sports Education Program

OYAP - Olympafrica Youth Ambassador Programme

PAY - Physically Active Youth

PNGSF - Papua New Guinea Sports Foundation
RTP- Right to Play

SCORE - Sports Coaches OutReach

SEDYEL - South East District Youth Empowerment League

SCSA - Supreme Council for Sport in Africa Zone VI

SiA - Sport in Action

SRC - Sport and Recreation Commission of Zimbabwe

STOP HIV - Sports Training and Outreach Program on HIV

TTASPE- Trinidad & Tobago Alliance for Sport and Physical Education

YES - Youth Education through Sport

1.0 Introduction

The aim of this paper is to give a historical account of the Kicking AIDS Out Network. It has examined what happened back then and why. The main focus will be on the introduction and development of the Kicking AIDS Out Network from 2001, when the concept was developed, to date. This will be done by looking at what led to the formation of the Network and how it has developed or evolved over time.

Information for this paper was mainly generated from both formal and informal interviews, minutes, reports and strategy documents. The interview sample consisted of individuals from both partner and member organizations.

1.1 Definition of Terms

There are some expressions in this paper that need clarification for the reader to understand the context in which they are applied. These terms are Partner, member and associate member. Partners are funding agencies and donors that provide strategic, financial, programming and/or organisational assistance to members to the Kicking AIDS Out Network.

Members, on the other hand are non-governmental (NGOs), governmental and/or registered development through sport organisations that are currently implementing sport and physical activity programs to achieve relevant development goals. These organisations integrate Kicking AIDS Out training and concept into their existing programs.

Associate members are non-governmental and/or agencies working in the field of sport and/or community development. They offer expertise, skills and knowledge that can further strengthen the goals and the objectives of the Kicking AIDS Out Network (Kicking AIDS Out 2010).

2.0 Kicking AIDS Out Concept and Network

Kicking AIDS Out is both an approach and a network. As an approach Kicking AIDS Out combines sport activities with HIV/AIDS interventions. The Kicking AIDS Out concept is a holistic and comprehensive approach that aims at integrating sport and physical activity with HIV/AIDS education. It intends to build awareness about HIV and AIDS while also encouraging peers to discuss issues affecting their lives and their communities. The concept goes beyond HIV/AIDS education; it also places a strong emphasis on facilitating the development of life skills in the youth. The concept offers an innovative, inclusive, high energy approach that integrates sports, physical activity and traditional movement games with HIV and AIDS prevention and education (Kicking AIDS Out 2010).

Kicking AIDS Out is also an international network of organisations working together using sport and physical activity to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and motivate behavioural change. The Network was established to share information and best practices, promote policy development, and support local projects. It provides a forum for exchange between organisations from different countries and continents, and promotes the use of sport as a tool for development. Sport and physical activities are used to build awareness about HIV and AIDS through educational games and activities which encourage peers to discuss issues that affect their lives and their communities. Programmes implemented by member organisations integrate sport skills and life skills through movement games, drama, role plays, and other cultural and recreational activities. Kicking AIDS Out develops programmes to train coaches, trainers and leaders, in a bid to build capacity at the individual, organizational and community level (Kicking AIDS Out 2010).

In a meeting held in London in September 2005, the Kicking AIDS Out goal, objectives were spelled out as follows:

Goal:

An international Network of organizations using sports and Physical Education to raise awareness and address issues around HIV/AIDS and other health related issues.

Objectives:

- (a) Establish and maintain an efficient, effective and influential network.
- (b) Strengthen the capacity of the network's members to deliver Kicking AIDS Out programmes.
- (c) Develop and maintain quality delivery methods, materials and standards for the network (Kruse 2006).

3.0 Origin of Kicking AIDS Out

It is hard to pinpoint an exact year in which the talks to establish the Kicking AIDS Out Network started. However, it is a known fact the Kicking AIDS Out Network was established in November 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya. Using this date as an entry point, an attempt could be made to trace backwards the origin of the Kicking AIDS Out concept as well as identify individuals/organizations which were involved in the formation of the Network. Despite the challenges of gaps in documented records, a combination of available written and oral information gathered from minutes of meeting, marketing materials and interviews with some individuals who were directly or indirectly involved in the process of forming the Kicking AIDS Out Network respectively, complemented each other to give important directions which influenced the development of Network.

The introduction of the Kicking AIDS Out concept was simultaneous with

the formation of a non-profit making organization implementing sport for development programmes in Zambia, called Edusport Foundation¹. The concept² was initiated by Oscar Mwaanga, the founder of Edusport Foundation. The Edusport Foundation was started in 1996 as a minor project under the National Sports Council of Zambia's (NSCZ) Sports for All Programme. It was during this period that Mwaanga while working at the National Sports Council of Zambia began testing out the Kicking AIDS Out movement games. In 1998, Mwaanga demonstrated the developed Kicking AIDS Out movement games at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (Norges Idrett Høyskole, NIH) in Norway while doing his Sport studies there.

Since then, Edusport Foundation has been using movement games in their effort to tackle HIV/AIDS in local communities in their work in Zambia. The Foundation was later registered as a sport NGO with the registrar of societies in 1999. However, it is believed that as much as the Kicking AIDS Out concept was coined by Oscar Mwaanga, the founder of Edusport Foundation, the actual use of sport as a tool to share HIV/AIDS information was already, or at the same time, used by the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) and the Sports Recreation Commission of Zimbabwe (SRC).

Oscar's idea was based a lot on what MYSA and SRC (YES program) were doing. Of course, Oscar did a lot of research on the games. The idea of sport for AIDS education, and promoting it through games is what started the Network... The interests of different organisations to share resources, that was really what drove it... everyone wanted to work together and share, come together and learn from each other...NIF responded and drove it and made sure that it happened.(Diane Huffman).

¹ Edusport initially started as HIV/AIDS education through sport

² The idea of using sport for HIV/AIDS education was already being used in most sports organizations during this period however the name and the structure of kicking aids out was coined by Oscar Mwaanga

During the Norway Cup in 2000, an informal meeting was organized by NORAD and NIF, with the aim of bringing together the African sport organizations that received financial support from NORAD through NIF that had attended the Norway Cup. Among those organizations present were Mathare Youth Sport Association (MYSA), Edusport, Sports Coaches Outreach (SCORE) and Sport Recreation Commission of Zimbabwe (SRC). Oscar Mwaanga explained the concept of Kicking AIDS Out to the people present. This led a firm foundation and support for the concept among organisations which were involved. At the same meeting, Anne Skjelmerud was engaged by NORAD to facilitate and support the process from an HIV/AIDS technical perspective. During the meeting, she gave a talk in the meeting on HIV/AIDS.

I gave a talk about what AIDS was about and the relationship between AIDS and Sport and I also asked them (people present at the meeting) a number of questions. I found that the level of reflection at that point was quite low and they didn't have an awful lot of knowledge on HIV/AIDS and the feedback I got was that it was really useful to start discussing and learning more about the dynamics around HIV/AIDS (Anne Skjelmerud).

In February 2001, over 700 youth marched through the streets of Lusaka to celebrate the Kicking AIDS Out Concept. The initiative was later the same year adopted by NORAD in cooperation with the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (Kicking AIDS Out 2010).

As the implementation of the concept gained ground, the peer leaders under Edusport Foundation were invited by NIF to participate in the Norway Cup in August 2002. They demonstrated the movement games during the Norway Cup (Kicking AIDS Out 2010). This was very exciting and it provided an opportunity for the organizations present to see how the Kicking AIDS Out activities were executed. Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) and

the African Sport organizations present agreed that the concept could be transferable to other countries.

They (peer leaders) exhibited the games; the people present were very impressed. In fact, some Norwegian players also participated. It was quite colourful ...We then had a partners' meeting and an idea was born that this is something that could be replicated in most of the sports organizations which were supported by NIF (Matilda Mwaba).

4.0 Formation of the Network

In 2001, after the Kicking AIDS Out initiative was adopted by NORAD in cooperation with the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF), NORAD organized a follow up meeting/workshop in November the same year in Nairobi, Kenya, that was hosted by Mathare Youth Sport Association (MYSA).

MYSA was formed in 1987. Its initial focus was integrating sport with garbage collection in the slums of Mathare in Nairobi. As time went by it started looking at other social development issues as well, such as drug abuse and HIV/AIDS education. By the late 1990's MYSA was a well established sport organization dealing with social development issues and had set a good example for others to follow. This led Sports Recreation Commission of Zimbabwe (SRC) to send a delegation to Kenya in 1999 to observe what MYSA was doing, and that consequently led to the formation of the YES programme in Zimbabwe.

The MYSA meeting was the first Kicking AIDS Out initiative meeting. It brought together thirty people from seven countries to look at the role sports organizations have to play with regard to HIV/AIDS, paying particular attention to movement games, developing policy and forming a cohesive effective network. The workshop was facilitated by Anne Skjelmerud. The meeting aimed at establishing a Kicking AIDS Out Network in the south and increasing cooperation and collaboration between Partners. This was meant

to share experiences in the area of sports and AIDS in a structured and systematic way, to test the movement games on a broad basis in Africa, and to develop a policy on AIDS for sports clubs (Kicking AIDS Out Workshop Report, November 2001). Everyone present at the workshop was convinced that sport could be used as a vehicle for social change.

The Kicking AIDS Out Network was formally established in Oslo during Norway Cup in 2002 with participants from Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Norway, Nigeria³, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The main focus in this meeting was how the Network would operate, how it would be governed and who would be members. It was underlined that the organizational structure would not be too advanced as Kicking AIDS Out was supposed to be a network and not an organization. Working groups focusing on different areas were formed (Kicking AIDS Out Workshop Report, 2002). The working groups operated out of interest and skills. Several working groups/committees were established, these included:

Management of the Network (Norway)

Program research, monitoring and evaluation (Norway and Tanzania)

Fundraising (Norway and South Africa)

Marketing and promotion (South Africa)

Sports and Kicking AIDS Out leadership education (Zambia and Zimbabwe)

Mr Mwaanga who had initiated the idea of Kicking AIDS Out concept was unanimously chosen as the chairperson, while a steering committee⁴ comprising representatives from member organizations was selected. The main tasks of the committee were to co-ordinate and spearhead the growth of the Network. The following representatives were selected as committee members:

³ Currently not a member

⁴ In a meeting in Lusaka 2002, Members agreed that the steering committee should be called the executive committee

Members

Oscar Mwaanga (Chairperson)
Prudence Nyamayaro
Cyprian Maro
Stefan Howells
NIF

Substitutes/Deputies

Matilda Mwaba
Elias Musaangeya
Stella Maganga

NIF was then asked to fund and support the Network and it was agreed by all present that the Secretariat's office should be at NIF, in Oslo (Kicking AIDS Out Workshop Report 2002).

A follow up meeting was held in Lusaka at Ndeke Hotel in 2002. In this meeting, it was reaffirmed that the Kicking AIDS Out was a network but would operate like a club. A draft constitution was developed which was to be adopted at a later date. Mr Mwaanga offered to step down as the president of the Network. Ms Matilda Mwaba⁵ from NSCZ was seconded as the acting president and was deputised by Mrs Angela Nyaundi from SRC.

At the same meeting, the structure of the Network was confirmed, as well as the working groups. The budget was discussed as well as the location for the secretariat. NIF was to be in charge of the secretariat while the chairmanship would be with a country which at that particular time was Zambia since Ms Matilda Mwaba was chairperson of the Network. It was also agreed that the Network would not recruit new members because it was young and a lot of structures were not in place. An amount of 1000 United States (US) Dollars was agreed upon as membership fee. This was not agreeable with members from the south. But it was agreed that if members felt that they could not afford the membership fee, they could apply for exemption to the Network (Kicking AIDS Out Executive Committee Minutes, November 2002).

⁵ Matilda Mwaba remained the chairperson for the Kicking AIDS Out network from 2003 - 2005 when the network structure was dissolved

In July 2003, in a meeting in Oslo, the draft constitution was dropped. Both partners and members felt that using the constitution would be too rigid. As such, the secretariat was to formulate the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's)⁶. After the Oslo meeting, the Network organized other meetings and workshops in Europe and Africa, discussing the objectives and organization of the network, membership, branding and ownership of the Kicking AIDS Out logo.

5.0 Partners and Members of the Kicking AIDS Out Network

The Kicking AIDS Out initiative has developed over a 10 year period into an international network of supporting and implementing organizations from Canada, the Caribbean, Kenya, Namibia, Norway, the Pacific, South Africa, Tanzania, Vietnam, the UK, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These organizations come together around the power of sport to influence positive change in communities (Kicking AIDS Out 2010). Benefits of being a member of the Network include:

- Support from the Kicking AIDS Out Secretariat
- Access to curriculum resources and a wider network of trainers and organizations
- License to use logos and branding trademark (Kicking AIDS Out 2010).

From the inception of the Network, NIF has provided administrative support for the longest time. It has been undoubtedly the major funder of the Kicking AIDS Out Network. It would be interesting to imagine how far the Network could have gone without the financial support from NIF. Kruse explains that

⁶ These MOU's were finalised in 2009

What seems clear... is that a network of mainly organizations from poor member countries will not be able to sustain a Secretariat, finance international meetings, production of materials, training, etc. without an external donor. NIF has been and is still the custodian of the Network(2006:40).

Of course, other Partners like CGC and UK Sport have as well played important roles by providing mostly indirect support in the form of strategic, programming and organisational assistance to the Network and members. Commonwealth Games Canada joined the Network during the Norway Cup in 2002 when it was formally established. UK Sport, on the other hand, officially joined the Network in 2003. The two Partners CGC and UK sport have made some financial contributions to the Secretariat in recent years.

The founding organisations of the Kicking AIDS Out Network were NIF, Mathare Youth Sport Association (MYSA), Sport Coaches OutReach (SCORE), Zimbabwe Sport Recreation Commission (SRC), Edusport, EMIMA, Sport in Action, Norwegian Football Association (NFA) and the National Sports Council of Zambia (Kicking AIDS Out Workshop Report, August 2002).

6.0 Growth of the Network

Since the establishment of the Network, more organizations have joined, turning Kicking AIDS Out into a global Network working in several countries and continents. In one way or the other, most Members and Associate members in the Network were/are in partnership with one or more of the funding Partners. Partners have played a huge role in bringing new Members into Network.

Two organizations, Caribbean Healthy Lifestyle Project (C-HLP) and Trinidad 86 Tobago Alliance for Sport and Physical Education (TTAPSE), from the

Caribbean, officially joined the Network in 2006. The Caribbean was introduced to the Network by CGC in 2004. CGC, a partner in the Kicking AIDS Out Network, is also in partnership with CHLP and TTPSE. So this became the entry point for the Caribbean into the Kicking AIDS Out Network. Following the introduction of Kicking AIDS Out to the Caribbean, a number of workshops were conducted in Trinidad 86 Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, St. Lucia, and Antigua in 2005 and 2006. As these workshops were being conducted, it was discovered that the Kicking AIDS Out training pathway had some gaps. As such, the Caribbean came up with strong recommendations for the Network regarding the training pathway. A first ever regional office under the secretariat was established in the Caribbean in 2010. An intern from Caribbean worked with the Secretariat in Cape Town South Africa for two months from April to June 2010. Two individuals from Southern Africa (SCORE Namibia and SEDYEL) are currently working at the Secretariat as interns.

In 2008, two organizations from the Pacific joined the Network. Papua New Guinea Sports Foundation (PNGSF) and Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) located in Fiji became members of the Kicking AIDS Out Network in 2008. In the same year, a Kicking AIDS Out training for peer leaders and leader level 1s with participants from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu and Kiribati was conducted in Papua New Guinea, coordinated by PNGSF. Two facilitators were selected to conduct the training, Justin Mukumbo⁷ (Sport in Action, Zambia) and Jacqueline Wanyonyi (MYSA). Thereafter in 2010, STOP HIV, a programme managed by ONOC developed and published a new manual based on the Kicking AIDS Out Curriculum, Reproductive and Sexual Health, Gender Approaches and General Principles of Coaching. The OSEP/ STOP HIV Community Coach Training (equivalent to Peer Leader Level) has since been conducted in the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Fiji.

⁷ Justin Mukumbo died in May 2010. He was involved with the Kicking AIDS Out Network since its inception. He was a respected leader and facilitator who was very passionate about the youth and sport development. Mukumbo has contributed immensely to the Network, especially the development of training and curriculum materials.

At present, the Network consists of the following organisations, EduSport Foundation, Education, Sport and Physical Activity Promotion Programme (EMIMA), Mathare Youth Sport Association (MYSA), National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ), Physically Active Youth (PAY), Sport and Recreation Commission of Zimbabwe (SRC), Sport in Action (SIA), Sports Coaches' OutReach International (SCORE), Caribbean Healthy Lifestyle Project (C-HLP, CHRISC International, Coaching for Hope, Football for All Vietnam (FFAV), Leaders in Training, NOWSPAR, Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC), OlympAfrica, Youth Ambassador Programme (OYAP), Papua New Guinea Sports Foundation (PNGSF), Response Network, Right to Play (RTP), TTASPE, South East District Youth Empowerment League (SEDYEL), Norwegian Football Association (NFA), Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA), Zone VI, NIF, Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC) and UK Sport.

7.0 Kicking AIDS Out Alliance in Zambia

After the 2002 Kicking AIDS Out meeting in Oslo, another meeting was held in Lusaka to facilitate closer cooperation between Zambian members which included Edusport, Sport in Action, National Sports Council, Right to Play and SCORE Zambia. This happened almost immediately after the Network was established in Oslo. A Kicking AIDS Out secretariat with, an office at the National Sports Council of Zambia, was established. NIF provided financial support for establishing and running of the Secretariat, while Commonwealth Games Association of Canada supported an Alliance Programme Coordinator (Kruse, 2006). The Alliance and its Secretariat accomplished a number of things among them:

- Sharing of information.
- Acting as a unifying force between the members
- Promoting Goodwill Ambassadors
- On two occasions preparing teams for the Norway Cup and Helsinki Cup

By 2006, the Secretariat was almost inactive, though the Chairperson was still maintaining the functions of the Secretariat. The Zambia Kicking AIDS Out alliance was later dissolved. According to Kruse (2006), the Alliance had been experiencing some challenges prior to its dissolution namely:

- Lack of clarity regarding the tasks of the Alliance
- A tendency to keep out new small grassroots organizations.
- The Alliance was being run as a powerhouse driven by personal agendas.
- Competition between the organizations and fights for funding.
- None of the members were willing to invest resources for maintaining the Alliance.

This seems to be consistent with Lindsey and Banda (2010) whose study examined the nature of partnerships involving NGO'S that use sport as a tool for HIV/AIDS prevention in Zambia. They concluded that by and large 'relationship disintegration', mistrust and bickering between NGO members are some of the reasons that led to the dissolution of the Zambia Kicking AIDS Out Alliance in Zambia.

8.0 Development of Training Materials

In 2002, when the Network was officially formed, a Sports and Kicking AIDS Out leadership education working group was selected. It was a sub-committee of the Network that was tasked to compile a universal set of materials to be used by all members. The working group was headed by Mrs Angela Nyaundi from SRC, Zimbabwe. The members of the Network shared resources and expertise with the end goal of combining existing materials to create a training package. The working group comprised selected individuals with knowledge and experience from the organizations within the Network,

mainly from Zambia and Zimbabwe. The two countries were the ones tasked to develop the materials for the Network.

The first Kicking AIDS Out resource book 'Kicking AIDS Out, Through Movement Games and Sport Activities' was written by Oscar Mwaanga on behalf of the Network and published in 2002. This book was also a result of the great teamwork from the member organizations in the Network. The book was a collection of ideals, models, examples and experiences. It presented a comprehensive, holistic, equity participatory oriented and empowering approach. Therefore, the first Kicking AIDS Out manual was based on Mr Mwaanga's resource book and so were the 2nd and 3rd editions of the manuals.

Marlene Fourie, whose competencies were in the field of HIV/AIDS curriculum development, was contracted to assist the Network in developing the first Kicking AIDS Out manual. Within the working group, three individuals Fourie, Mr Chileshe⁸ and a NIF member of staff were identified to head the process. Mr Chileshe narrates:

..I was privileged to be among the three man team that was called in to develop the curriculum of the Kicking AIDS Out Network. There was a consultant, based in South Africa and there was a colleague working with NIF based in Norway and I based in Zambia. Having had as a bigger team (working group) identified the needs in terms of training, human resource and implementation...I took up mostly the aspects for social change and leadership while Marlene took up the HIV/AIDS part ...We worked mostly on internet but at one point we had to work together for a few days in Pretoria, South Africa to put our work together...and we came up with the different modules for training peer Leader and Leader level 1... (Clement Chileshe).

⁸ In 2008, Mr Clement Chileshe initiated a 'Peer Leader book' project and assisted by the Secretariat. The project has collected stories about the peer leaders from several member organizations in the network to highlight the most significant change through sport in their lives. This project is yet to be completed

The first edition of the Kicking AIDS Out manual was developed in 2004. After the first manual was developed, the first training for Kicking AIDS Out Leader level 1 was held at Willow Park Conference Centre in Johannesburg. Mr Chileshe and Fourie facilitated the workshop as they had worked closely together on the first manual. Participants for the workshop came from both partner and member organizations.

As the first manual was being implemented by the member organizations, it was discovered that it had some limitations and, therefore, needed to be revised which resulted into the 2nd edition in 2005 which was compiled by Eli Jacobsen. Eli had been actively involved with the implementation and training within SCORE and the Kicking AIDS Out Network since 2002. The second edition was based on the first edition and included inputs from member organizations that were implementing the first manual. In the same year, Mr Musheke Kakuwa, a lecturer of Physical Education at the University of Zambia, produced a resource book, "Zambian Traditional Games and Activities" which was to be used as an additional resource to the Kicking AIDS Out Manual.

In January 2006, a 3rd edition of the Kicking AIDS Out manual was compiled by Sverre Aarsand who was then working with the educational materials for the Kicking AIDS Out Secretariat. Minor adjustments were done throughout the manual. In addition, a new section was included.

8.1 Sexual and Reproductive Health Guidelines

Following the biennial meeting which was held in November 2006 in Dar es Salaam, it was discussed that the 3rd edition of the Kicking AIDS Out manual was still lacking a component in sexual and reproductive health and, therefore, needed to be supplemented. A small working group of individuals from member organizations was formed to collect the materials and resources that could be used to develop a guideline. The group had its

first meeting in 2007. The City of Toronto Public Health Department⁹ was identified to have the expertise that the Network needed in order to develop the sexual and reproductive guidelines. With the help of Commonwealth Games Canada and NIF, the group was brought together in Botswana. They were hosted by SEDYEL a member of the Network which was training its leader level 1's to observe how the City of Toronto could deliver a sexual and reproductive health workshop.

In March 2008, CGC organized and funded a course in Toronto with City of Toronto Public Health Department, Schools Without Borders and Concrete Hoops. Four Leader Level 2 facilitators from Botswana, Kenya, and the Caribbean participated in the course.

Given that there was not so much progress made as regards to the development of the sexual and reproductive health guidelines, a new working group was formed in August 2009. It comprised Kicking AIDS Out Leader Level 2's, Seodhna Keown from CGC and George Nange from the Secretariat. This guide has been finalized and was launched at the Kicking AIDS Out biennial meeting in November 2010 in Cape Town. It will be incorporated in Kicking AIDS Out trainings in 2011.

8.2 The Activity Book

In 2009, Right to Play signed an Associate agreement with the Kicking AIDS Out Network. Right to Play was among the first organisations in the Network and had been very involved and contributed a lot of input especially to the resource working group. Around 2004, Right to Play was no longer actively involved in the network but now, it is back as an Associate member.

⁹ The City of Toronto later developed tools that could capture what was relevant to the Kicking AIDS Out Network.

Upon signing an associate agreement, Right to Play embarked on a collaborative project of developing an Activity Book with the Kicking AIDS Out Network. The activity book comprises games and activities gathered from the communities by Right to Play and Kicking AIDS Out Practitioners, and designed in a manner that learning can be taken from them. The purpose of the Activity Book is to present diverse methodologies of involving young people into activities that have been designed to trigger discussion on HIV/AIDS and other health-related issues with a focus on life skills development. The Activity Book has been supported by partners: NIF, CGC and UK Sport. The project has been finalized and launched at the biennial meeting in November 2010 in Cape Town.

8.3 The Training Pathway

The training pathway was finalized and promoted within the Network in 2010. The Kicking AIDS Out training pathway begins at the Peer Leader Level. These youth are taught fundamental HIV and AIDS information. The focus at this level is on how to integrate a life skill or piece of HIV and AIDS information into a sport or specially designed Kicking AIDS Out activities. Selected youth move along the training pathway to become a Leader Level 1.

The Leader level 1s are then introduced to more advanced facilitation skills. They assume the responsibility for training and supporting, mentoring and advising Peer Leaders in their communities. They also have the responsibility of initiating discussions around sensitive issues that arise when talking about sex, sexuality, HIV and AIDS. More senior and competent trainers are given the opportunity to become Leader Level 2s.

The Leader levels 2s assume the responsibility of training and supporting Leader Level 1s. These Leaders have a more strategic role in the management of Kicking AIDS Out activities and training plans at their

member organisation. It is a priority of the Network to continue to bring

Leaders at this level together to share important learning and assist each other with overcoming challenges and developing new skills.

Master Trainers are the most qualified trainers in the Network who actively participate in the continued development and enhancement of the Kicking AIDS Out objectives. They contribute to various working groups that address issues such as Curriculum Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, Marketing and Research. Master Trainers are Leader Level 2 trainers who are often specialists in unique fields such as Coaching, Sport for Development, Sexual Health and Public Relations (Kicking AIDS Out 2010).

9.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

In the NORAD review of the Kicking AIDS Out conducted in 2006, it was concluded that:

NIF and Kicking AIDS Out members have few and weak M86E tools for measuring and documenting results. They need to be improved, but even more important - there are unclear and open ended objectives with few targets and indicators. Appropriate methods are required to measure results, but it is even more fundamental to have a clear understanding of where to go (Objectives) and what the expected results are (Outcomes)... (Kruse 2006:40).

In this review, it was identified that reporting the influences of Kicking AIDS Out by NIF and its Kicking AIDS Out Network members would require a common evaluation framework with core aspects that could be identified and measured. NORAD offered external assistance to NIF to develop an approach for measuring results of Kicking AIDS Out efforts. To do so, Stein-Erik Kruse was requested by NIF to do preliminary research for the new

M&E tool in Cape Town in 2008 with the aim of developing a tool that would monitor and evaluate Organizational Development, Sports Development and Life Skills Development. To achieve this, an M86E steering committee was established. Members recommended people from their organizations for the committee; 15 people in total. The first M86E workshop was held in Cape Town in February 2008, followed by the second one in May. The new tool was later thoroughly discussed and reviewed with all organizations at the biennial meeting that was held in Botswana in November 2008. Despite the M86E tool having been developed jointly by Members, Associates, Partners and the Secretariat; some member organizations are not using this tool. They have developed alternative M86E tools for their organizations.

In 2008, a database project, which brought about a web based information sharing system for the Network, was initiated. To develop the database, Ilona Simomaa from the Accenture Development Partnerships, joined the secretariat in Cape Town. The project was officially launched in 2009. This, though, proved to be a challenge in some areas in countries like Papua New Guinea, Zambia and Botswana, due to limited infrastructure. This challenge was later resolved in 2010 when the database was updated.

For the database to be used effectively, Member organizations required training. Therefore, a follow up and support training of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tool was held with 23 participants from Member, Associate and Partner organisations in 2009. This will in the long run, help to track quantitative and qualitative data more effectively.

The Kicking AIDS Out Secretariat started visiting member organizations in the Network in 2008, and it has continued doing so to date. These visits were initiated to enable the Secretariat to interact with the Members and get firsthand information on how things are progressing. This has provided an opportunity for the secretariat to identify the gaps in the Kicking AIDS Out

programme which led to the development of the Assessment Tool in 2009.

The tool was developed by a team of practitioners, in the Network and will assess the coaches and leaders who grow through the Kicking AIDS Out Training Pathway.

10.0 Changes in the Network

In the history of the development of the Kicking AIDS Out Network, 2005 is a crucial year. Initially, the Secretariat was playing a coordinating and administrative role for the Network. With an executive committee headed by Ms Matilda Mwaba, the committee was to execute the tasks and co-ordinate the implementation of the vision and mission of the Network. In 2005, in an executive meeting held in London, it was agreed by those present that the current structure of the Network was not working and, therefore, needed to be dissolved. For lack of other and better alternatives, it was also agreed that the Secretariat would remain in NIF and act on behalf of the Network. Sverre Aarsand and Anna Kristen Solvedt¹⁰ started working full time for the Secretariat in Norway 2005. One of the reasons the Network was facing so many hurdles were the politics surrounding resources. The Network was perceived as a means for securing resources by some individual organizations.

The partners in the south couldn't agree on anything and that's why NIF played an important role than it actually should. The idea in the beginning was to have the Secretariat in the South but that became impossible because of internal fighting (Bjørn Omar).

¹⁰ Anne Kristine Soltvedt was in charge of marketing, information and contact with new members form 2005 - 2006

The Network being reformulated in London was a positive step because finally it was resolved that the Network was primarily being run by NIF. So once that was sorted out, NIF had a clearer idea of which direction it wanted the Network to head. The Network thereafter started running more smoothly.

“Things started taking shape because there was a Secretariat now. The Secretariat started controlling resources. And we started seeing some organizations and some individuals taking a backseat. That's when we realised that this fight was not for the network to benefit or to grow, but it was a fight for resources. Member organizations were fighting to control resources”. (Joseph Muchechetere).

On the other hand, others argue that as much as the London meeting brought progress, it has also propelled the Network more and more towards an organisational hierarchical structure with partners sitting at the helm. That said mutual respect, strong friendships and some level of trust have been developed along the way among the partners and members.

It brought partners together that wouldn't have come together otherwise for the first time. It turned the idea of regional collaboration in to a reality and it gave donors a lot of experiences... It raised the opportunity for the voice in the South in a real way, we debated, disagreed, argued. It has lead ultimately to a real better understanding of one another in the South. We could have only got there by fighting as well as through the good stuff. In the end it has been a really good journey, I think we understand each other much better as organisations and as people than we had before (Stefan Howells).

The period that followed after the executive committee was dissolved, could

be referred to as one that brought about a lot of change and transformation for the Network. Towards the end of 2007 and early 2008, the Kicking AIDS Out Network Secretariat was formally established in Cape Town, South Africa, headed by Sverre Aarsand from NIF who was supported by Matte Hesjedal. During 2008, the Secretariat took a much more active role in coordinating the Network and supporting member organizations. Different types of organizations involved were identified and Memorandums of Understanding were finally developed for each membership type i.e. Partner, Member and Associate (For explanations of terms 'Partner', 'Member' and 'Associate Member' see page 4). By 2009, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU's) and the two Kicking AIDS Out policies (i.e. Child protection policy and HIV and AIDS policy) were finally signed by 14 member organisations. Right to Play and Coaching for Hope signed Associate agreements with the intention to closer collaborate locally and on certain curriculum and leaders/coaches tools development.

Sverre Aarsand, who was heading the Secretariat, returned to Norway and was replaced by Linda Torége in 2009. Another new member of staff, George Nange, from MYSA in Kenya who had been working in Botswana to develop a community sports programme (SEYDEL) joined the Secretariat as the new Training and Development Officer for the Network. In addition, Caroline Wanjiku Nange was engaged by the Secretariat as an intern to work at the Secretariat to support them with the newsletter, website¹¹ and logistics.

10.1 AIDS vs. Sport

There is a general feeling among Partners and Members that the Network has focused so much on HIV/AIDS content than that of quality sport and that it is maybe time for the Network to turn towards the sport aspect of the Kicking AIDS Out. The NORAD review of the Kicking AIDS Out Network

¹¹ The Kicking AIDS Out website was changed from Norwegian editing mode to English in 2009

concluded that Kicking AIDS Out activities seem to have limited importance in disseminating new knowledge and information about HIV/AIDS but they do have the ability to effectively introduce and convey important life skills (Kruse, 2006). The review helped the Network to retract.

...We all started as sport organisations but as we chased the money we turned into development organisations forgetting about sport. The Kicking AIDS Out Network took a different turn as well, it became focused on peer leader training. Most of it was on content on HIV/AIDS and that was the brand so that's where we developed. An assessment done by Kruse helped the Network to pull back... There was a realisation that maybe we should put our sport house in order (Stefan Howells).

In the same line of thought; Bjørn Omar Evju also pointed out that:

... My concern has been all along that we have been too concerned about AIDS life skills instead of sustaining quality sport... I felt that we lost focus for a couple of years as a network, NIF as well. I think we are back to the right position now where we rather talk about youth development than Kicking AIDS Out... (Bjørn Omar).

A number of things have been put in place to tilt the Network towards sport. In August 2009, the Secretariat coordinated a joint Sport Education Accreditation Framework (SEAS) seminar in Johannesburg. Representatives from SCSA Zone VI (8 of 10 countries in the Zone were represented) worked together with 16 representatives from 13 organisations in the Network as well as the two personnel from the Secretariat to look at the Community Sport Coaching Framework. The funders of this joint meeting were NIF and UK sport jointly. The aim was to ensure that non-governmental sports for development organisations make a contribution towards a regional Sports Education and Accreditation System (SEAS) being developed by SCSA Zone

VI.

Following the SEAS meeting, the Kicking AIDS Out Secretariat brought together coaches, sports instructors and practitioners at Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, to work towards the development of sport specific training modules in Football, Volleyball, Basketball and Netball as tools to communicate life skill messages to participants. The purpose of the meeting was to develop modules that would provide coaches with skills on how to reflect on sport-specific activities, derive learning from it and apply it in a practical manner. That would, in turn, enable children and youth to learn and develop fundamental skills through play and games, while encouraging maximum participation and enjoyment.

The Kicking AIDS Out Secretariat approached Community Development and Resource Association (CDRA), Centre for Development Studies to facilitate this workshop. The workshop focused on understanding how to develop materials using the Action Learning Cycle methodology. The participants in the workshop provided content that was used to develop a booklet. The first draft of the document has been developed and sent to all organizations and practitioners to use and give feedback and input.

11.0 Conclusion

Due to its successful branding and marketing, the Kicking AIDS Out Network has evolved into a global Network. It has produced quality materials, trained a large number of peer coaches. These coaches are now a valuable resource in a new and extended network focusing on sharing of information and capacity building. The Secretariat has played an increasing constructive role in supporting the Network. As a result, the Network has moved beyond the realm of politics to a much more fluidly organizational structure. There have been site visits, interaction with the partners and members, which have facilitated the sharing of information and relations.

The Secretariat has visited events and given feedback and provided funding

at times that organizations have requested for. That has in some way settled down the Network. That said, the Network still has some challenges for example, there is need to get clear and sincere feedback from both members and partners and female representation among the Kicking AIDS Out trained peer leaders/trainers is low and needs to be addressed by the Network. Ownership of the Network by its members remains a challenge.

Initially the general trend was that there was so much mistrust among the members and partners and as a result sharing ideas and experiences was very limited. The coming in of the Secretariat and new members has however, brought in new ideas and put the Network on the global stage. On the other hand, a network whose initial objective was to share resources, exchange best practices and raise HIV awareness, it seems that the Network now stands for more than it used to. There is need, consequently, for the Network to reflect on what it has become and possibly redefine itself to pave way for the future.

A brief history of the Network seems to portray a big success story. As many have indicated the Network has not been an apolitical one. Like any group of people, the Network has had its ups and downs, most importantly; the Network has experienced some major successes. This is evident by its achievements in terms of competitive training materials, big numbers of trained and competent Leaders and trainers and an influx of new Members and Associate members.

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13.0 Photos



Delegates at the Kicking AIDS Out Biennial Network Meeting in 2004 Dar es Salam, Tanzania



Delegates at the Kicking AIDS Out Biennial Network Meeting in 2006 in Dar es Salam, Tanzania



Delegates at the Kicking AIDS Out Biennial Network Meeting 2008 Gaborone Botswana



Delegates at the Kicking AIDS Out Biennial Network Meeting in 2010 with SCORE staff and community members in Khayelitsha, South Africa.