



AFRICAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE

PERSPECTIVES

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



May 1981	Asfaha Hadera founds the Committee to Aid Ethiopian Refugees
November 1982	Our first office is established at the Community Church of New York in Manhattan
July 1985	Our first grant is made to benefit Ethiopian refugee self-help programs in Sudan
January 1986	Refugee resettlement program is started in New Jersey
January 1987	Refugee resettlement program is started in New York City
March 1991	We begin HIV prevention outreach for African immigrants
December 1994	Our name is changed to African Services Committee
March 1998	African Services begins providing HIV legal services
March 1998	HIV case management program is begun for immigrants and their families
July 1998	The U.N. 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 West Harlem
August 2000	We are accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals
June 2001	African Services plays a key NGO role in the U.N. General Assembly Special Session on AIDS
April 2002	African Services joins an NGO 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 in Addis Ababa
September 2005	African Services-Ethiopia marks an important milestone: over 25,000 free HIV tests provided through our Shola, Merkato and Kombolcha testing centers

DEAR FRIENDS,

Few people have the opportunity to walk through the doors at African Services Committee in Harlem one week and through the gates of their Shola testing center in Addis Ababa the next. Fewer still have witnessed the impact of the AIDS epidemic on these two continents and confronted the unmet needs of people living with HIV around the world. As a board member of African Services, I am one of these fortunate few and have been humbled by the perspective this experience has given me.

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the many challenges this epidemic presents, especially in Africa, which is home to only 10 percent of the world's population and yet struggles with 64 percent of all HIV infections. This threat—along with the myriad others inflicted by war, poverty and political oppression—set people in motion toward opportunities for change that will enable them to build healthy, stable and productive lives.

Some seek this change in New York City as millions of other immigrants have before them. For African newcomers, it is an enormous comfort to discover African Services Committee, a welcoming place that understands what they need to succeed and offers the resources to help them do so. The current political climate, however, has made African Services' mission—to support and empower this African community—more challenging, as legal protections for marginalized immigrants have eroded. It has also intensified the day-to-day struggle of African immigrants in New York City, especially those who are living with HIV/AIDS.

Through my work in international public health, I understand the challenges of an effective AIDS response in the U.S. and around the world. To this end, African Services Committee's dedicated work is an inspiration and their positive impact gives real hope that we will see the end of the AIDS epidemic in our time. In working with colleagues, it has been deeply gratifying to learn the extent of recognition and respect that African Services has earned. It is through the ambitious leadership of co-Executive Directors Kim and Asfaha, and the tireless efforts of staff, that African Services has built such a reputation for dedication and innovation.

It is only through our consistent support that African Services is able to continue this important work and expand their impact. I ask everyone who reads this—friends, funders, individual donors, even perfect strangers—to lend your support and start with a contribution to African Services' capital campaign today. With a strong foundation for African Services, we can preserve a safety net for African newcomers in New York City and continue the fight against HIV in vulnerable communities around the world.

Sincerely,



Awash Teklehaimanot, Ph.D., MPH
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

2005

HIGHLIGHTS

HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS CASE MANAGEMENT AND HOUSING

Tuberculosis and HIV are a double health threat and a double stigma that often leave people homeless when they need help most.

At the helm of African Services' innovative HIV/TB program are Evariste Akpele and Aida Diallo-Diagne. Last year, they helped more than 60 people coping with co-infection to begin tuberculosis and ARV treatment and find stable housing to ensure their health.

Together, Aida and Evariste provide intensive, multilingual support to clients, their partners and families. Working hand-in-hand with Harlem Hospital, they facilitate directly-observed therapy to ensure patients receive the daily TB treatment necessary for a full recovery. For patients who have no support after hospitalization, they find creative housing solutions, often pairing up clients as roommates to serve as a surrogate family.

On the impact of the HIV/TB program, Aida says, "A client recently told me, 'African Services is like a nest to a bird. It is a place that keeps me warm, feeds me and then let's me fly away when I'm ready.' —That makes my day."



Aida Diallo-Diagne and Evariste Akpele of African Services' HIV/TB program.

Joint programs such as this, in poor communities with limited access to healthcare, are considered one of the most cost-effective ways of controlling TB and improving the health of people living with HIV.

"African Services is like a nest to a bird. It is a place that keeps me warm, feeds me and then let's me fly away when I'm ready."

— HIV/TB program client

WOMEN'S ADVOCACY AND IMMIGRANT ACTIVISM

African Services continues to blaze new trails through passionate and informed advocacy, speaking out on issues that affect African communities around the world.

"...the betterment of immigrants is to the benefit of all people..."

— Kadiatou Diallo

In 2005, peer counselor Sombo Mweemba and community advocate Amanda Lugg expanded African Services' newest initiative mobilizing African immigrant women and linking them with other grassroots women's groups working on HIV. They focus on developing leadership skills and creating opportunities for African immigrant women to share their perspectives and promote a broader understanding of AIDS and its impact in their community.

Our advocacy work is supported by a network of allies and supporters, including Kadiatou Diallo, who became a dedicated, visible and outspoken advocate on behalf of African immigrants after the death of her son, Amadou Diallo. It was a pleasure to welcome her to African Services in December to learn more about our work building bridges between African immigrants and their communities.



Sombo Mweemba at Uganda's UN Mission in New York City. African Services demonstrated in solidarity with AIDS activists in Uganda protesting their country's policy shift promoting abstinence over condom use.

At rallies in Washington, legislative visits in Albany, and demonstrations in New York City, African Services staff and clients remain a strong voice for humane immigration policy and universal health rights.

AFRICAN SERVICES IN ETHIOPIA

Building on the strength of our HIV testing program in Addis Ababa, African Services expanded its operations, its partnerships and its vision in Ethiopia in 2005.

Broadening AIDS care and support services at the community level in Ethiopia is vital. With the support of Becton Dickinson, we have integrated CD4 testing at our Shola center and are providing referrals to care through a growing network of adult and pediatric AIDS treatment sites.



The staff of African Services' Shola Market testing center in Addis Ababa.

To further meet the public demand for free and confidential HIV testing, African Services opened a second testing center in Merkato, the largest market in Addis. To bring testing beyond the capital, African Services partnered with BGI, a French bottling company, to open a third testing center in the provincial town of Kombolcha, serving employees of the company's plant as well as local residents.

Having provided HIV testing to more than 25,000 people since July 2003, African Services is now working to implement ARV therapy at the community level in Ethiopia.

"I made my way through Shola Market and saw a large gate with African Services' familiar red, yellow and green sign...It is an exciting example of a wealth of knowledge and experience applied judiciously in a resource-poor setting."

— Pamela Brown-Peterside,
Board Member

KEEPING THE PROMISE: WORLD AIDS DAY 2005

On December 1st, African Services and UNAIDS brought thousands of people together at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine for New York City's largest World AIDS Day commemoration. Musicians, artists and activists from around the world took the stage, calling on leaders to "Keep the Promise" and honor their commitments to reverse the global AIDS epidemic.

Anita Bhattacharjee, a client of African Services, was among the evening's speakers and spoke about her experiences as a mother in Africa, immigrating to New York City, learning that she is HIV-positive, and becoming an AIDS activist.

"A promise is an assurance of help when it is needed. I've made a promise to my children—that I will live long with the HIV virus—but have the world's leaders kept their promises?" —Anita Bhattacharjee



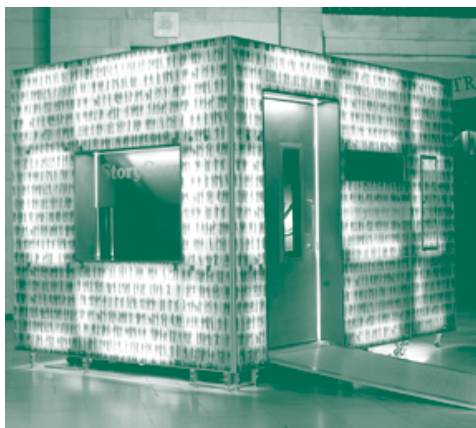
Mrs. Kofi Annan visits African Services Committee on World AIDS Day.

To honor the efforts and achievements of African Services, Mrs. Kofi Annan spent World AIDS Day with staff and clients at our offices in Harlem. She expressed her support for communities around the world most impacted by the epidemic and her commitment to providing leadership in the fight against AIDS.

GIVING VOICE TO EXPERIENCE: HIV STIGMA

Last year, a dozen African immigrants from all walks of life stepped into a recording studio to share stories from their lives with StoryCorps, an oral history project documenting life in the U.S. today.

In interviews facilitated by African Services' staff, clients spoke about their lives in Africa, the search for opportunity and the experience of building a new life in New York City. For many, it was also a unique opportunity to talk candidly about the impact of the AIDS epidemic on their lives.



The StoryCorps recording booth at Grand Central Terminal, New York City. Photo by Christopher Weil Photography.

African Services' clients gave voice to African immigrants today and despite the diverse perspectives, the recordings share an unyielding sense of optimism and possibility in American life. Their interviews join thousands of others archived in the Library of Congress by StoryCorps.

This oral history project was part of African Services' HIV Stigma Initiative funded by the Ford Foundation to examine and challenge HIV stigma as a barrier to improved health and quality of life in the African immigrant community.

"I am most proud of my brother. By working and sending money to Zimbabwe, I helped him complete medical school. Now he sees hundreds of patients a day."

—Sabina M.

DEEPENING OUR ROOTS: A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR AFRICAN SERVICES

Through the generous support of our many friends and allies in 2005, African Services reached the half-way mark in its \$535,000 capital campaign. Deepening Our Roots is an ambitious fundraising initiative launched in 2003 to complete the process of establishing a strong foundation for African Services in Harlem through a long-term lease and expansion of our office space at 429 West 127th Street.

The plan includes a drop-in community center, ESL classroom, additional counseling and office space, and an elevator to make African Services accessible for all our clients. We are particularly grateful to Henry van Ameringen for believing in our vision and investing in the dynamic community that has taken shape at African Services.



Establishing a strong foundation in Harlem with the expansion of our office space at 429 West 127th Street in New York City.
Photo by Jake Price.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING MAY 31, 2005 AND 2004.		
SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2005	2004
SUPPORT		
Grants and Contracts	2,211,316	2,296,111
Contributions	111,927	53,499
Total Other Revenue	2,323,243	2,349,610
REVENUE		
Miscellaneous Income	39,206	38,280
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE EXCLUDING GIFTS IN KIND	2,362,449	2,387,890
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES		
Health Services	981,278	1,398,505
Housing Services	516,707	593,211
Legal Assistance	64,877	69,001
Refugee Program	8,931	16,798
Social Services	106,684	81,459
Total Program Services	1,678,477	2,158,974
SUPPORTING SERVICES		
Management and General	569,582	254,123
TOTAL EXPENSES EXCLUDING GIFTS IN KIND	2,248,059	2,413,097
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Period (as adjusted)	341,358	426,576
Change in Net Assets	114,390	(25,207)
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	455,748	401,369

FUNDING & SUPPORT

GOVERNMENT

Federal

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

State & Local

- Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence
- New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- New York State Attorney General's Office
- State of New Jersey, Department of Youth and Family Services

FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & CORPORATIONS

- Academy for Educational Development
- Aidspan
- Altria Corporate Services
- American Jewish World Service
- Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
- Bronx-Lebanon Hospital
- Centers for Disease Control
- Champion Courier
- Children's Hospital at Montefiore
- Compu-Count
- Corkery Group
- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- Empire States AIDS Ride
- First Data Western Union Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- GM Automotive
- GMHC AIDS Walk
- God's Love We Deliver
- International Foundation

- Koonyeung's Corp.
- Nah We Yone
- Nextstep Realty
- New York City AIDS Fund
- New York Community Trust
- New York Mercantile Exchange Foundation
- Saint-Gobain Corporation
- United Way of New York, CMC, SEFA

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$30,000+

- Henry van Ameringen
- \$1,000 - \$4,999
- Sam Avrett
 - Herbert Fox
 - Addie Guttg
 - Asfaw Hailu
 - Alessandra Johnson
 - Jack Rich

\$500 - \$999

- Mebrat Ambaye
- Pamela Brown-Peterside
- Darren Lake
- Grace Nkenke
- Ann Preston
- Jon Stout
- Jane Wessel
- Wendy Whitman
- Betty Williams

\$300 - \$499

- Edo Born
- Dudley Taw

\$100 - \$299

- Tesfaw Abayneh
- Geraldine Adams
- Judith Baker
- Kim & Barbara Beach
- Alan Berkman
- William Bernhard and Catherine Cahill
- Virginia Brobyn
- Kevin Crawford
- Monica DiGrado
- Jim and Solveig Elios
- Jennifer Flynn
- Elizabeth Gabre-Sellassie
- Leopoldo Gout and Caitlin Miesen

- Tigist Hailu and Mesfin Lemma
- Ken Halajian
- Ephraim Issac
- Jonathan Jacoby
- Newton Kanhema
- Richard Kaplan
- Bill and Emily Kennedy
- Tom and Karen LaFond
- Joel Maxman
- Yohannes Mengesha
- Susan Minkowitz
- Kenneth Monteiro
- Girma Mulugetta
- Christine and David Nichols
- Greg Nichols
- Khalid Saifullah
- Carla Savoy
- Pete Seeger
- Marguerite Sheehan
- Sue Simon
- Al Hadji Sow
- Alan and Emily Rosenthal
- Fred Ssewamala
- Bill Stackhouse
- Awash Teklehaimanot
- Clovis Thorn
- Greg Trupiano
- Barbara Turk
- Donald Wessel

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS:

- ACRIA
- Salman Ahmad
- Nane Annan and Her Staff
- Becton, Dickinson and Company
- Anita Bhattacharjee
- Bronx-Lebanon Hospital
- Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture Program
- Citarella
- City Council Member Robert Jackson
- City Council Member Bill Perkins
- Empire States AIDS Ride
- Community Resource Exchange
- Ethiopian Airlines
- Jan Eliasson
- Roberta Flack

- Dr. Thomas Frieden
- Dr. Bob Fullilove
- Harlem Hospital
- HealthGAP
- HIV Law Project
- Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS
- Jessica Care More
- Bill T. Jones
- Mpule Kwelagobe
- Lawyers Alliance for New York
- Joel Maxman
- New York Cares
- New York Immigration Coalition
- Julia Ormond
- Rosie Perez
- Dr. Peter Piot
- Billy Porter
- Joe Pressley
- Jake Price
- Anthony Rapp
- Eric Sawyer
- StoryCorps
- Marjorie Tiens

VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS & INSTRUCTORS

- Siaka Alhassan
- Jean Assamoa
- The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
- Giselle Christ
- Sinead Hunt
- Hohteberhan Getachew
- Guido Grasso-Knight
- Miriam Greenleaf-Miller
- Stan Grier
- Marc Gustafason
- Zoe Kiefer
- Tanya Madenyika
- Blanche Manago
- Anesu Mandisodza
- Yoko Matsumoto
- Mark Milano
- Mojisola Ojo
- Robert Oliver
- Sara Riese
- Sharon Rose
- Yushua Sibaway
- Christina Ward
- Wendy Whitman

NEW YORK CITY STAFF

Evariste Akpele (Ivory Coast)
TB/HIV Case Manager

Erin Augis (US)
ESL Teacher

Mulusew Bekele (Ethiopia)
Health Programs Director

Virginia Brobyn (US)
ESL Teacher

Catharine Bufalino (US)
Director of Communications

Aicha Camara Brown (Guinea)
Health Educator/Medical Interpreter

Ibrahima Cisse (Ivory Coast)
Peer Counselor

Aida Diallo-Diagne (Senegal)
TB/HIV Housing Coordinator

Amadou Diao (Senegal)
Risk Reduction Counselor

Fred Figures (US)
HOPWA Housing Coordinator

Claudette Francois (Haiti)
Senior Case Manager

Getachew Fikremariam (Ethiopia)
Client Legal Advocate

Asfaha Hadera (Ethiopia)
Co-Executive Director

Audria Rochester (Jamaica)
Administrator

Irma Jimenez (Honduras)
HOPWA Housing Assistant

Martha Kahirimbanyi (Uganda)
Access to Care Coordinator

Alpha Kassogue (Mali)
Health Educator/Medical Interpreter

Marie Lopy (Senegal)
Risk Reduction Counselor

Amanda Lugg (UK)
Community Advocate

Alexis Miesen (US)
Development Associate

Daouda Ndiaye (Senegal)
Outreach Worker

Sonia N'Diaye (Senegal)
Receptionist

Salem Fisseha (Ethiopia)
Assistant Health Programs Director

Marguerite Sheehan (US)
ESL Teacher

Debritu Sisay (Ethiopia)
Food Pantry Coordinator

Aissata Sylla (Mali)
Health Promoter

Bakary Tandia (Mauritania)
Case Manager

Adama Traore (Mali)
Outreach Worker

Jocelyn Harris (US)
Independent Living Skills
Coordinator

Bley Zaguehi (Ivory Coast)
NJ Program Coordinator

Alice Clomegah (Ivory Coast)
Access to Care Program Assistant

Sombo Mweemba (Zambia)
Peer Counselor

Mouhamed N'Diaye (Senegal)
Medical interpreter

Kim Nichols (US)
Co-Executive Director

ETHIOPIA STAFF

Shola Market Office
Alemseged Girmay
Program Coordinator

Ejegayehu Tadesse
Outreach Coordinator

Elizabeth Menon
Counselor

Desalegn Beyene
Counselor

Tsigemariam Abebe
Outreach Worker

Gedion Ambaye
Counselor

Kokeb Tamirat
Accountant/Receptionist

Gebre Egziabher Berhe
Security Guard

Sblewongel Tamiru
Janitor

Habtom Aboye
Outreach Worker

Teshome Mengistu
Guard

Bekele Belachew
Guard

Mesfin Tekle
Lab Technician

Dejene Shiferaw
Counselor

Mulue Aregawi
Administrative Director

Merkato Office
Sblewongel Berhanu
Site Coordinator

Genet Ligaba
Counselor

Haregewoyen Asrat
Lab Technician

Enat Moges
Receptionist

Shimeles Mengiste
Guard

Belaynesh Teka
Janitor

Kombolcha Office
Gulelat Kebede
Site Coordinator

Mohamed Adem
Lab Technician

Amelewok Tesfaye
Accountant/Receptionist

Tigist Kefle
Janitor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sam Avrett, MPH
Co-Chairperson
Independent Consultant

Awash Teklehaimanot, Ph.D., MPH
Co-Chairperson
Professor, Earth Institute,
Columbia University

Fred Ssewamala, Ph.D.
Professor, School of Social Work,
Columbia University

Clovis Thorn
Director of Development,
Drug Policy Alliance

Pamela Brown-Peterside, Ph.D.
New York Blood Center

Agba Mangalabou
Client Representative and
Chair, Client Advisory Board;
Founder, Association Espoir pour
Demain (Kara, Togo)

Ephraim Isaac, Ph.D.
Professor, Institute of Semitic Studies,
Princeton University

Geraldine Adams
United Nations Radio

ETHIOPIA ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Mesfin Minas
Chairman of the Board

Medical Subcommittee

Dr. Eyessusawit Shewangzaw
Chairperson

Dr. Senait C/ Yesus
Vice Chairperson

Ms. Zerfinesh Daggnew

Captain Haile-Selassie Haleforn

Dr. Tsegazab Kebede

Dr. Nega Kiros

Dr. Mesfin Menas

Administration & Finance Subcommittee

Ato Teshome Mulugeta
Chairperson

Ato Ermias Kebede

Captain Aynom Mesfin

Resource Mobilization Subcommittee

Ato Dawit C. Egziabher
Chairperson

Ato Esaias Hadera

Ato Sileshi Demmisse

Ato Mengistu Zemene

AFRICAN SERVICES IS A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN 1981 AND DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF NEW YORK CITY'S AFRICAN AND CARRIBEAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES. WE PROVIDE HEALTH, HOUSING, LEGAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO OVER 10,000 NEWCOMERS EACH YEAR FOCUSING ON HIV PREVENTION, TESTING AND CARE. WE WORK ON THE FRONTLINES OF THE GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIC, OPERATING THREE HIV TESTING CENTERS IN ETHIOPIA AND THROUGH ADVOCACY, POLICY WORK AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD.

AFRICAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, INC.
429 WEST 127TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10027

TEL 212-222-3882

FAX 212-222-7067

www.africanservices.org



AFRICAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE