

Resilience



2014
ANNUAL
REPORT



AFRICAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE



OUR MISSION

African Services is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the **African community**. We provide **health, housing, legal, educational, and social services** to over 12,500 newcomers each year in New York City with a focus on **HIV prevention, care and support**. We also work on the frontlines of the global **AIDS** epidemic; operating **five clinics in Ethiopia** and through **advocacy and policy work** in the U.S. and abroad.

ON THE COVER

ROHAN

"The family at African Services is special. They mean so much to me."



DEAR FRIENDS,

Looking back at the impressive work that African Services Committee has accomplished this past year, I thought it worthwhile to reflect on ASC's history. African Services Committee was founded over 30 years ago by Ethiopian refugees fleeing political persecution and hardship. Initially created in an effort to aid other refugees from Ethiopia, its mission rapidly expanded to include aid for immigrants from Africa and the African Diaspora. Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, much of this work focused on providing assistance to people affected by the AIDS epidemic and civil wars throughout the African continent. And over the past decade, the range of services has continued to diversify to include an impressive scope as the needs of the African immigrant community in New York City evolved. ASC represents the voices that governments, our health care system, and society all too often overlook.

I have the privilege of witnessing the impact of ASC's work first hand. I see patients at a community health center in Harlem and care for patients being helped by ASC. Several months ago, I saw a patient who had just arrived in New York. Living with HIV/AIDS, not knowing anyone, and without housing or medications, she had somehow made her way to ASC, which was in the process of helping her find stable housing, connected her to medical care, signing her up for insurance, and was working to obtain asylum for her. When I saw her a couple of weeks later, thanks to ASC's efforts, she was well on her way to having things.

The organization also continues to make strides in providing life-saving care to those most in need in Ethiopia. Currently, ASC operates five primary care health centers in Ethiopia that provide life-saving HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis testing and treatment and reproductive health services, to thousands per year. These health centers serve any patient in need, but focus on those most at risk, particularly commercial sex workers. ASC provides a safe and welcoming environment for this high-risk population to seek care and support.

This year, ASC has played a central role in working to counter the stigma of the Ebola virus through legal work representing clients in Ebola-related Temporary Protected Status legal clinics. ASC has also played an active role in assisting persons displaced by Superstorm Sandy. The legal department at ASC continues to grow rapidly, with increasing need for reliable, trustworthy, and affordable representation.

Since its early focus on HIV/AIDS and its ongoing work in HIV/AIDS screening, case management, counseling, and housing assistance, ASC has expanded its medical services to include viral hepatitis screening, linkage to care, and case management as well as operating a food pantry and nutrition education program.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to an issue that is critical to ASC's long-term stability, growth, and ability to effectively meet the needs of those most in need. African Services Committee's headquarters are currently located in a beautiful light-filled office space in West Harlem; however, the lease will soon expire and the rent will increase significantly, channeling a significant amount of resources away from actual service-provision. In response, ASC recently launched a capital campaign with the aim of the purchasing an equally beautiful permanent space near several public transportation lines and neighborhoods with some of the greatest concentrations of African immigrants and members of the African Diaspora. Owning their own office space is a move that is critical to sustaining ASC long track record of providing life-changing assistance to those most in need. As we look toward ASC's next 34 years, please join us in representing this community, representing this cause, and representing ASC.

Sincerely,

Dr. Demetri Blanas | Board Member

Demetri Blanas

HIGHLIGHTS

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

President Obama's historic Executive Order on Nov. 20, 2014 aimed at granting administrative relief to immigrant communities and protecting millions of immigrants from deportation. But as the year came to a close and the President's initiative faced opposition and delays, the need for comprehensive immigration reform and increased advocacy grew ever more important.

"Many of ASC's clients have been living in the shadows," said 2014 Supervising Attorney Kate Webster. While African Services Committee's dedicated legal team—who provide low-cost or free legal services, for

those who qualify, to families and individuals in need of immigration assistance—geared up to help clients apply for President Obama's "deferred action program," ASC expanded our nominal fee legal clinic to offer a wider variety of legal services needed by the immigrant community in our ongoing quest for immigrant legalization of status and social justice.

ASC advocates, joined by ASC clients, also ramped up ongoing efforts to push for needed reform. The frustrations of immigrants were powerfully voiced in front of 26 Federal Plaza, for example, as African Services' Case Manager and Policy Advocate Bakary Tandia, along with ASC clients, joined immigrant families, area leaders and immigrant rights organizations in a massive human chain of solidarity. Chanting "Immigrant rights are human rights," the group demanded immediate action on the part of the government.

"If you've been in America for more than 5 years; if you have children who are American citizens or legal residents; if you register, pass a criminal background check, and you're willing to pay your fair share of taxes — you'll be able to apply to stay in this country temporarily, without fear of deportation. You can come out of the shadows and get right with the law."

— BARACK OBAMA



ASC'S HEALTH CENTER: A VITAL GATEWAY FOR ALL IMMIGRANTS

From health fairs to yellow taxi garages to bustling markets throughout New York City's five boroughs, African Services Committee's testing center staff was out in force throughout 2014 offering free and confidential health screening to immigrant communities. ASC's on-site testing center at our office in Harlem provided an array of tests for infectious disease, including viral hepatitis, HIV, TB, and sexually transmitted infections, as well as screening for diabetes and hypertension. ASC also took a keen interest in preventing the spread of the deadly Ebola virus, conducting travel history and symptom screens for all ASC clients coming from outbreak-affected countries.

ASC also ramped up targeted viral hepatitis outreach and testing in 2014. Viral hepatitis kills 1.5 million people worldwide each year—as many people as HIV/AIDS. It is the leading cause of liver cancer, which is the second biggest cancer killer. With a grant from the Gilead Foundation, African Services conducted a multifaceted media campaign to build hepatitis awareness among the public, especially within immigrant communities by encouraging all New Yorkers to learn their status.

The most effective element of the outreach campaign utilized hepatitis awareness radio advertisements, created by ASC communications and health center staff in English, French, and African languages, which were played by local African radio hosts, who were often spokespeople of a particular community (e.g., those from a particular nation) or ethnic group (e.g., the Murid Islamic sect).

West African conference call radio listeners were a key component to the success of the campaign and ASC provided short trainings to ensure comprehension of hepatitis B symptoms, causes, risk factors, natural history, treatment, and prevention. The reach of our media campaign extended beyond New York City as our radio advertisements were simultaneously broadcast on Internet radio, accessible throughout the world. Radio ads improved attendance at off-site health screening events held at faith- and community-based organizations. Running the community-backed ads prior to and in conjunction with off-site screening events consistently drew dozens of people per event.

CELEBRATING AFRICAN LITERATURE

It started early June 2014 with an idea in the form of a photocopied map of Africa taped to ASC legal fellow Tsion Gurmu's office wall. Gradually the map filled up with scribbled book titles, such as "Achebe's Things Fall Apart," and "Mathabane: Kaffir Boy," and on and on, country to country. Word spread throughout the office and in no time ASC's book club was born.

Book clubs abound, but there is something special about ASC's new club, which surged in popularity throughout the year — filling up our third-floor conference room with not just ASC staff, but also friends, family and colleagues. Nearly each month ASC celebrates a book about Africa, written by African authors. Attendees were asked to show up with a healthy appetite for informal discussion and national cuisine, which always coincided with the celebrated country.

"The idea for an ASC book club grew out of a collective desire, shared by staff and clients alike, to engage in activity outside of work that could educate, inform and entertain us," Tsion said.

"We found that African literature serves that function. And perhaps more importantly, the book club has provided us with an opportunity to engage with one another on a personal level and challenge our own subjective portrayals of Africa."

Algeria was the first country to be honored with the remarkable book "Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War" by Assia Djebar, followed by Mark Mathabane's powerful account of the horrors of South African apartheid with "Kaffir Boy: An Autobiography," and the Nigerian classic, Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" with a delicious feast of Nigerian jollof rice and fish generously provided by ASC Staff Attorney, Olubunmi Segun.

PORTRAIT OF RESILIENCE



Ostracized and living in constant fear, Rohan bravely left his homeland of Jamaica. He fell critically ill shortly after arriving in New York City. Looking at him now—fully employed and fit, complete with a healthy head of hair—one would never guess more than a year ago Rohan weighed 90 pounds and had lost much of his mobility following a chemotherapy-induced stroke.

Rohan was then, as he is now, a portrait of strength. His resilience, triumph and advocacy in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds have made him a celebrity at African Services Committee.

“Stuck with three life-threatening diseases. I’ve learned to be resilient. Learned to be stronger,” Rohan said. “I’m optimistic now.”

From our Case Management to Housing to Legal to Nutrition departments, nearly every arm of African Services embraced Rohan in an effort to help him recover from circumstances that would have quickly stripped the will to live from most folks. But Rohan fought with uncommon wisdom and diligent determination to survive.

“I don’t drink; I don’t smoke; I don’t do drugs, and to have cancer just took me by surprise. It shows me that no matter what you do or don’t do, sickness is for everybody.”

African Services Committee’s Senior Case Manager, Claudette Francois, was the first at African Services to meet Rohan. “I remember it was 4 o’clock on a Friday. I went to Queens Hospital for Rohan’s intake because he didn’t have the strength to come to African Services,” Claudette said. “He was skin and bones.”

“Many people in his situation would have been discouraged and think this is the end, but Rohan is a fighter,” Claudette said. “He has big dreams.”

“The day Rohan arrived he had no place to go. Shelter is so vital and there was a big winter storm.” Aida Diallo-Diagne, ASC’s HOPWA Housing Coordinator said. “I made some calls; he saw the rental space with Claudette and said he’d take it.”

“Aida was so quick. By Monday she placed him in an apartment,” Claudette said.

“Health is primary,” said ASC Staff Attorney Jessica Greenberg, who rushed Rohan’s asylum application with ASC Legal Fellow TSION Gurmu so he would be eligible to receive much-needed benefits, such as Access-a-Ride and Medicaid.

Over the course of 2014, Rohan would undergo many hospitalizations and suffer frightening setbacks, including a cancer diagnosis followed by a debilitating stroke, which cost him the use of his left arm and leg for many months.

“Despite everything, one thing about Rohan, whenever you go to visit him, is that he always kept his sense of humor,” Claudette said. “He’d say: “Miss Claudette, I thought you brought me some jerk chicken.”

Rohan routinely met with ASC Mental Health Counselor, Nathalie Weeks, Claudette, Aida, TSION and Jessica, who would often travel to the hospital, or to his Brooklyn apartment if he wasn’t able to meet at African Services’ Harlem headquarters.

“The team at ASC: Nathalie, Claudette, Jessica, TSION, Aida and Shana, all kept in close contact,” Rohan said. “They would call constantly make sure everything was alright or stop by. They would joke with me about wanting jerk chicken. That cheered me up a bit.”

“The family at African Services is special. They mean so much to me.”

Rohan



Shana

Jessica

Claudette

Also key to his recovery, Rohan had a healthy appetite for a nutritious diet. He participated in ASC's food pantry and weekly nutrition program even when very weak. Often fellow ASC clients would lend a helping hand, preparing nutritious food to supplement Rohan's diet and help keep up his strength.

"He is the type of person who would offer to help or participate in a cooking demonstration, no matter what he was going through," said Shana Johnson, Nutrition Education Coordinator at African Services Committee. "He put others before him."

"He would show me meals he would cook at home - they were always exactly as I demonstrated and modeled in my classes. Identical. No matter what he cooked, he would make it with the correct nutritional proportions," Shana said. Remarkably, Rohan cooked many of these meals with the use of only one hand. "Over time you could see him getting stronger. Amazing," Shana said. "Absolutely amazing."

Rohan did indeed become stronger, regaining much of his mobility. He was granted an asylum interview. "Everything came through so fast," Rohan said. "There are people who've been waiting for years to get an asylum interview date and I was nervous going in, but I knew I had a good case. They drilled me, but my answers were very forthcoming."

Tsion has recently begun a two-year LGBTQI - focused legal fellowship at African Services Committee. "At the core of many LGBTQI asylum stories is a love story and a love you were punished for. This is very much Rohan's story. He lived in Jamaica and suffered extreme violence. He was ostracized."

"At the end of the interview, the asylum officer asked if there was anything else Rohan wanted to say," Jessica said. "Rohan said something very interesting: 'I don't understand why I'm hated for who I love. Loving someone should only bring more love not hate.' And the asylum officer looked at Rohan and said, 'you're right.'"

Two weeks later he was granted asylum and started looking for work. "I never wanted to sit at home and depend on the government," Rohan said. "I want to work."

"This is why I became an attorney," Jessica said. "It was a real honor to work with Rohan. He was such a great self-advocate."

Don't let his cool demeanor fool you; Rohan is a very outspoken advocate for those who have also suffered similar human-rights violations.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about working with Rohan as a client is just how proactive he was with his own case and what a deep understanding of the inherent injustice he has faced. Rohan has a deep understanding of the fact that anti-homosexuality legislation is a huge problem for lot of men and women who have been in his position. He is an advocate for himself to make a change in his own life and he is also very active at reaching out to help other people in need," Tsion said.

"The family at African Services is special," Rohan said. "They mean so much to me."



"Loving someone should only bring more love not hate."

Dream Team

Ethiopian refugee, Asfaha Hadera, founded African Services Committee out of a tiny Bronx-basement apartment more than 30 years ago, with the dream of providing a hand to serve the immigrant community in New York City.

Today, African Services Committee's reputation as the go-to, multi-service organization providing numerous forms of **sanctuary to the most vulnerable** populations in NYC, reaches shores across the globe. This sort of viral, word-of-mouth popularity is perhaps most apparent with ASC's housing department, which has become a household name over the years in communities throughout Africa, the Caribbean, New York City, and beyond.

"Just the other day someone from Togo came straight from the airport to African Services Committee with my business card in hand and a suitcase in the other. They were looking for help because a former client referred them to ASC's housing department and they had no place to stay." Said Aida Diallo-Diagne, ASC's HOPWA Housing Coordinator.

"This happens all the time."

The typical ASC housing client was referred to ASC by a former client who told them that if they come to African Services they could get help with housing, food, navigation to healthcare and legal services, according to Aida who, for 14 years at ASC, has been helping immigrants find homes in a city with one of the most daunting housing markets in the world. The program receives support from a variety of sources, including HOPWA, which is administered by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the MAC AIDS Fund.

Aida is the first to say she doesn't change clients' lives alone: "I think my staff is incredible and this is not your typical nine-to-five job. **You need to be creative**, you need to be empathetic and you need to be able to multitask." Aida said. "You have 24 burners on at the same time, because even as you place people you have emergencies."

The ASC housing team's combined experience and expertise play a critical role in the department's year-after-year ability to meet housing targets: Irma Jimenez, Coumba Gueye and Carmen Hernandez comprise the rest of the department. Irma has been with ASC housing for 14 years, Coumba, for nearly a decade, and relative newcomer Carmen has been the team's "eyes

and ears on the ground" for more than two years.

The challenges the team faces trying to place clients in NYC's five boroughs each year are staggering. Clients often lack documentation, a credit score and increasing numbers of senior African immigrants come to ASC who are not able to work, have no fixed income and are in dire need of an apartment. ASC's housing team also insists they won't place clients in "just any apartment." Apartments must pass inspection, be within Fair Market Rate guidelines—keeping in mind NYC's ever-soaring costs—and be a place they'd be happy to call home. "I don't want anyone placed where I wouldn't want to live," Aida said.

"Housing was especially difficult to find in 2014," Coumba said. So how have they placed more than 100 clients each year for 14 years, even though each year costs rise and a paucity of available affordable apartments in the city grows? Experience, teamwork, and creativity, as well as a long-established rapport with landlords and brokers.

"We have to convince a landlord to rent to someone who cannot show how much he or she earns because work is off the books and they have no credit score," Aida said.

"Landlords have come to really trust ASC," Coumba added. **"Brokers and landlords like working with us** and often reach out to us because they know we will consistently send responsible clients."

When an eligible client comes to African Services Committee's Harlem headquarters with a suitcase in hand, the department does everything they can to find a place for them for the night until a viable solution can be found.

"This is an emergency situation and **every case is different**," Aida said. See the story "Rohan: Portrait of Resilience," pages 4 to 7, for a closer look at how ASC's housing team helped one asylum-seeker find and furnish a space to recover from three life-threatening diseases.

But ASC's team does much more than find apartments. They find homes—meaning they don't just place a client in a good space, they help furnish it by making trips to quality discount furniture retailers. The team also routinely **monitors clients' living conditions** post-placement and makes referrals for further supportive services based on individual needs.

"I record every detail in terms of housing," Carmen said—referring to home visits she makes once a month to Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and the Bronx. "I analyze the situation and let the landlord know if something needs to be fixed."

"Housing is health care and food is medicine," Aida said, referring to the motto of the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit in Canada she attended to a few years ago. "[The motto] reminds me of the Haitian Proverb 'Giving medicine without food is like washing your hands and drying them in dirt,' and that housing is a foundation—without it there is nothing."

"Housing is a foundation. Without it there is nothing."



AFRICAN SERVICES HOUSING DEPARTMENT





ASC'S SUPERSTORM

Since beginning our partnership with New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance through the New York Rising Super Storm Sandy Recovery program in 2013, African Services Committee has been sending staff into some of the hardest hit areas offering critical legal, health and housing assistance to immigrants currently living in, or displaced from areas affected by Superstorm Sandy.

After months of on-the-ground outreach, the program went into full swing in early 2014 with the Superstorm Sandy team forming key partnerships with organizations such as Staten Island Alliance, Staten Island Liberian Community Association (SILCA), Staten Island Long Term Recovery Organization (LTRO) and the Staten Island Mental Health Society (SIMHS), while carefully embedding themselves in the most **vulnerable communities**.

With this newly-formed foothold in place, ASC's Sandy team began commuting, rain or shine, by train, ferry, and bus—often in that order—from ASC's Harlem

headquarters to various strategic locations on Staten Island. The team held satellite legal office hours throughout the week, took part in housing-related **community meetings** and site visits, and conducted **mobile health screenings**.

The desperate need for legal services became quickly apparent with attorneys reaching full case-load capacity within a few short months. Legal-team clients received counseling and assistance with a variety of immigration-related issues, including DACA, U visas, adjustment of status, deferred action based on HIV/AIDS status, derivation of citizenship, naturalization, and a newly announced Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The team helped victims of various housing-related legal matters as well, from defending tenants in **eviction proceedings**, to representing homeowners facing **foreclosure**, to assisting a family to respond to a FEMA recoupment letter alleging duplication of benefits.

SANDY TEAM



One client unknowingly moved into a home in need of multiple repairs, which the landlord refused to make. The client subsequently learned that the house had been “red tagged” after Superstorm Sandy, meaning the house was deemed uninhabitable by the New York City Department of Buildings. She ceased making rental payments and began to look for a new rental with assistance from **ASC's Sandy housing specialist**, Carmen Hernandez. In September 2014, the landlord filed a case against the client in Smalls Claims Court, demanding \$2,000 in rental arrears. In Small Claims Court, ASC's Superstorm Sandy legal team successfully argued that the landlord had no standing to make rental demands for a home that had been red tagged, resulting in a resolution of the case with no rental arrears due to the landlord.

“The client was so grateful for the services she received from the Sandy team that she made a \$500 donation to African Services,” 2014 Superstorm Sandy program coordinator Corina Bogaciuc said.

Housing opportunities remain dire for Hurricane Sandy victims throughout Staten Island. ASC's Sandy housing specialist provided on-the-ground housing assistance to folks living on or displaced from the island. Her work included **evaluating client's finances** to set a realistic rental budget; **searching for rental properties** within the client's budget, including properties that accept NYC's Temporary Disaster

Assistance Program (TDAP) vouchers for victims of Sandy; educating clients on how to interview for and inspect potential rental apartments; accompanying clients on apartment visits as needed; assisting with TDAP housing applications and escorting clients to TDAP appointments; referring clients to Catholic Charities for disaster case management and TDAP assistance; and referring clients to HOPWA for rental assistance.

Rounding out the Sandy program were ASC's health team members, who served clients from Sandy-impacted neighborhoods in Staten Island and Queens, through ASC's Testing Center in Harlem and mobile testing unit. Clients received a variety of services, including: free and confidential testing for HIV and hepatitis B, and C; blood glucose, and blood pressure; healthcare navigation, enrollment and referrals to care; and **mental health counseling** and referrals to care.

Given ASC's contacts within **Staten Island's large West African community**, ASC's Sandy team was also ideally positioned to mobilize the community to access time-sensitive immigration benefits related to Ebola when the crisis reached its peak in late 2014 – hitting home for many of the Staten Island residents who had family in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea— the West African countries most heavily impacted by the Ebola epidemic. Read more about how ASC served as a go-to organization in New York City during the Ebola crisis of 2014 on page 12.



EBOLA OUTBREAK



The Ebola outbreak of 2014 rapidly spiraled at horrific scale to become the **largest in history**, ravaging multiple West African countries while causing global fear and hysteria. Controlling the largest Ebola epidemic the world has ever known required a **coordinated, global response**. Nations, non-governmental organizations and local communities across the globe rallied in a historic effort to control a seemingly unstoppable nightmare.

Serving as the **go-to organization** for the African Diaspora in New York City, ASC acted fast, initiating monitoring and referral protocols for Ebola screening, per CDC and NYC DOHMH published guidance, many months before the Ebola epidemic reached its peak in severity. ASC continued to screen travelers from Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and other West African countries that were added to the travel advisory list.

Reminiscent of the AIDS pandemic in recent decades, Ebola awareness quickly spun into mania, even in New York City where only one case was confirmed—a Doctors Without Borders physician who had recently treated Ebola patients in Guinea. Public understanding of modes of transmission and prevention remained poor. Hate crimes soared and people stopped shopping at African businesses.

African Services became a **primary information resource** and bellwether for media and public health institutions investigating the West African immigrant community response to the Ebola outbreak.

As the crisis was beginning to peak in West Africa, November 20th, 2014 marked an important day for

nationals of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea living in the United States. On that historic day they woke up to news regarding immigration relief in the form of **Temporary Protected Status**, or TPS.

"The general rationale behind TPS is that in circumstances of conflict or natural disaster, it is not safe for a national of the designated country to be returned to their country during the crisis, so they should be granted status in the United States," said ASC Supervising Attorney Kate Webster.

ASC's legal team began holding free legal sessions about the immigration implications of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa with partner organizations, such as the United States Sierra Leonean Association of Staten Island, the Guinean Association of Staten Island and the Staten Island Community Association. These events also involved **community conversations** about Ebola and ASC's health screening team was on hand, providing free health screening for hepatitis and HIV in addition to following protocols for Ebola screening.

As 2014 came to a close the spread of Ebola seemed to be under control, although far from over. ASC began developing a robust **health-promotion campaign** with a grant from the NY Community Trust and partnership with Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health ICAP and the Columbia University Institute for African Studies. ASC used lessons learned in the wake of the outbreak, as well as feedback from health officials and West-African community leaders, to build a campaign that would remain relevant during the ebbing epidemic and which could be retro-fitted quickly for other crises.

you are

we are

ASC ESL MODEL OF EXCELLENCE

I am
it is

*Comment dites-on "incroyable" en Anglais?
ASC's ESL instructors, that's how.*

Lauded as a model for community-based ESOL programs, ASC is proud to provide an exemplary program flexible to the needs of students of all nationalities, languages and academic backgrounds. 2014 staff included TESOL Coordinator Amy Kaiman, along with volunteers Jonathan Parker, Ryah Parker, Sanae Nakayama (current TESOL Coordinator), Ayesha Rehman, Kethan Takkellapati Rao, and Devon Golaszewski.

"To say that our students show incredible enthusiasm, motivation and aspiration would be an understatement. They are such a joy to work with and as they progress, their joy in what they are achieving is palpable," said Jonathan Parker, who began volunteering in 2012 after retiring from a corporate consulting firm. "The **sense of community** and camaraderie among our students is wonderful and when class ends, the energy one feels is often electric."

Roughly 25 students were taught each week in 2014 with each finding a program appropriate to their level. **Multiple proficiency levels are offered**, beginning with basic phonics in pre-literacy to emerging readers, all the way to a more traditional and more advanced English as a Second Language level.

Kaiman started in 2010, just when ASC's ESOL program was nearing the end of a major Department

of Youth and Community Development, or DYCD, grant. "We lost that grant and had to cut way back," said Kaiman. "The silver lining is that we were able to set up a more flexible and targeted program."

And the results of this restructuring have been brilliant: ASC has since been named a **"model for excellent community-based ESOL programs"** by the Lexington Institute and received an "Excellent" rating from a recent DYCD site visit.

The challenges of teaching on a **tight budget** are overshadowed by the rewards. Two students from West Africa, who have been in ASC's program for many years and had their green cards, weren't able to take their citizenship test because they couldn't do the reading and writing piece of it. They recently received their citizenship after attending ASC's ESL classes, along with tutoring from Ryah, which enabled them to complete the written exam section of the U.S citizenship exam.

"We are working on discretionary funds from the City Council -- we don't even have a real grant anymore," Kaiman said. If this **passionate staff** somehow manages to do all this without a grant, imagine what they could accomplish with more funding.



ASC ETHIOPIA

EMPOWERING THE MOST VULNERABLE



African Services Committee has saved and improved hundreds of thousands of lives in its more than twelve years in Ethiopia, providing free health services to the poorest of the poor in five regions, in full partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health. With 90 local staff on the ground, we're embedded in the fabric of local society.

ASC Ethiopia persisted on its success trajectory in 2014 by scaling up its five clinics to higher levels of service, providing diagnostics, state of the art laboratory monitoring, and treatment for patients with HIV and TB, as well as supporting patients coming to these clinics with supplemental nutrition, new shoes for children, and micro-lending for small business development for the most destitute of HIV affected households.

Our clinics are providing more than 20,000 children, women, and men with HIV and TB testing and treatment each year, nutrition for

more than 7,000, reproductive health for over 6,000, new shoes for nearly 18,000 (improving school attendance and helping to prevent the spread of intestinal parasites), and income-generating support for nearly 100 families.

"In the past decade African Services Committee has supported hundreds of thousands of vulnerable women in Addis Ababa, Kombolcha, Zeway, Hawassa and Mekele. Wholly focusing on women who do not have sustainable income, we have helped with health care and social development." ASC Ethiopia Country Director, Hana W/ Gebrial, said. "We prioritize women because women are the pillars of family."

ASC's target constituency is the most at-risk population of vulnerable children, adolescents and mothers. ASC helps them to learn their HIV status, prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, access pre-ART or ART with fully equipped laboratory services (CD4 count, chemistry and



hematology tests), adopt safer sex practices, receive support to enhance the life of people living with HIV/AIDS and integrated health and family planning and TB testing and treatment services.

ASC utilizes four mobile tents, taking them into remote rural areas throughout the country. Totalling 28 rooms, these tents can be easily dispatched to different regions simultaneously to provide rural poor and marginalized communities with critical access to counseling, screening and treatment referrals for HIV/ TB, reproductive health and family planning.

ASC has had a nearly zero loss of ART clients, due to the provision of integrated health and development services, with fully equipped laboratory monitoring and diagnostics. Additionally, ASC's case managers are responsible for providing patient appointment reminders. Clients have developed a strong trust in African Services Committee, and often say they feel like a part of the ASC family.

ASC has helped empower many women and young girls over the last decade through income generation programs. In a 2014 partnership with PEPFAR U.S. Embassy Small Grants Program, for example, 65 economically vulnerable people living with HIV/AIDS, young girls and single mothers living in Addis Ababa, Zeway and Kombolcha either received the necessary materials to bake and sell Injera or received

sheep and sheep-feed for three months, which helped beneficiaries support themselves and their families.

A recent partnership with the Embassy of France-Ethiopia led to the training of more than 100 commercial sex workers in traditional and modern hair styling—helping participants leave behind work in sex industry by using these income-generating activities as sustainable sources of income. Commercial sex workers are regular clients who come to our clinics for free condoms, to participate in peer support discussions, as well as for care and support services.

ASC also distributes multi-vitamins and mineral supplements, donated by Vitamin Angels, to children and pregnant and lactating mothers. ASC often helps pregnant women living in deep rural areas by referring them to nearby clinics and hospitals – ensuring the safest pregnancy and delivery possible.

4.6 percent of children and 4.2 percent of women tested at ASC are HIV+. These children have no access to health care and most are not enrolled in school, because they are too poor or too sick. Our work is crucial to combating HIV/AIDS, TB and other transmitted diseases in Ethiopia and protecting women, children, and the most vulnerable. "We would like to see a healthy productive generation that is HIV free and also to see that those who are HIV positive already get ART treatment and have a good life," Hana said.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DEC 31, 2013 – DEC 31, 2014

SUPPORT & REVENUE

SUPPORT

Grants and Contracts	3,724,489	2,979,190
Contributions	388,692	564,960
Total Support	4,113,181	3,544,150

REVENUE

Service Income	88,817	0
Miscellaneous Income	6,341	9,543
Total Revenue	95,158	9,543

Total Support & Revenue **4,208,339** **3,553,693**

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Health Services	559,754	1,054,469
Housing Services	426,200	383,647
Legal Assistance	748,052	538,192
Social Services	491,619	252,252
International Program	628,237	546,952
Total Program Services	2,853,862	2,775,512

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General	595,875	575,066
Fundraising	106,549	102,815
Total Supporting Services	702,424	677,881

Total Expenses **3,556,286** **3,453,393**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Change in Net Assets	652,053	100,300
Beginning of Period	1,122,322	1,022,022
Net Assets at End of Year	1,774,375	1,122,322

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

GOVERNMENT

FEDERAL

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

STATE AND LOCAL

New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute
United Way of New York City State Employees Federated Appeal
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
New York City Council
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
New York City Human Resources Administration

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

AJG Foundation	High Mowing Seeds
Al D. Rodriguez Liver Foundation	Home Storage
American Association of University Women	IBM Employee Services
American Express Employee Giving Program	International Foundation
Bank of America Matching Gifts	Janus Partners
Bank of America / US Trust Black and Fuller Fund	Kikkerland Design
Bank of America United Way Campaign	Koonyeung's Corporation
Becton Dickinson and Company	Lucky Dog Vodka
BGI Ethiopia /Castel Winery	MAC AIDS Fund
Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS	Mailman School of Public Health
Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center	Columbia University ICAP
Chembio Diagnostic Systems, Inc.	Metro Flooring and Interior Design
The Community Foundation For Greater New Haven	New York Community Trust
Community Church Of NY - Ethelwyn Doolittle Fund	NonProfit Finance Fund
Emergency Food Assistance Program	Pension Wealth Consultants
Ethiopian Airlines	Rockefeller Foundation Matching Gift Program
Fairway Market	Skadden Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP
The F.B. Heron Foundation	TEEN INK
Ford Foundation	Tides Foundation
Fund For Public Health In New York	United Way Of New York City
Gilead Sciences	United Way of New York City, Combined Municipal Appeal
GMHC - The Tisch Building	United Way of NYC Public Sector Campaign
Greater Horizons	
H. Van Ameringen Foundation	

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Ayesha Rehman
Janie Richardson-Dabre
Society for African Health Initiative / Columbia University
TOMS Shoes
Treatment Action Group
UNAIDS
UNITAID
United Way of NYC
United Way of NYC, Combined Municipal Campaign
Vitamin Angels
Edward Wake
West Harlem Local Development Corporation

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STAFF

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK CITY

Aaron Vanderhoff

Hepatitis Program Coordinator
aaronv@africanservices.org

Adama Traore

Patient Navigator
adamat@africanservices.org

Aida Diallo-Diagne

HOPWA Housing Coordinator
aidad@africanservices.org

Alizata Traore

Family Case Manager
alizatat@africanservices.org

Amanda Donnell

Family Case Manager
amandad@africanservices.org

Amanda Lugg

Director of Advocacy
amandal@africanservices.org

Amy Kaiman

ESOL Program Coordinator
amyk@africanservices.org

Asfaha Hadera

Founder & Co-Executive Director
asfahah@africanservices.org

Bakary Tandia

Case Manager and Policy Advocate
bakaryt@africanservices.org

Berhane Gebre Selassie

Testing Center Coordinator
berhaneg@africanservices.org

Carlos Camilo

Testing Center Assistant
carlosc@africanservices.org

Carmen Hernandez

Housing Assistant
carmenh@africanservices.org

Claudette Francois

Senior Case Manager
claudettef@africanservices.org

Corina Bogaciu

Superstorm Sandy Program Coordinator
and Staff Attorney
corinab@africanservices.org

Coumba Gueye

HOPWA Housing Assistant
coumba@africanservices.org

Daouda Ndiaya

Patient Navigator
daoudan@africanservices.org

Dierdre Stradone

Staff Attorney
dierdres@africanservices.org

Eirik Omlie

Communications Director
eiriko@africanservices.org

Fatime Sonia Ndiaye

Case Manager
sonian@africanservices.org

Fatimata Kourouma

Family Case Manager
fatimatak@africanservices.org

Irma Jimenez

HOPWA Housing Assistant
irmaj@africanservices.org

Jesse Rockoff

Law Fellow
jesser@africanservices.org

Jessica Greenberg

Staff Attorney
jessicag@africanservices.org

Kate Webster

Supervising Attorney
katew@africanservices.org

Kim Nichols

Co-Executive Director
kimm@africanservices.org

Mulusew Bekele

Director of Program Operations
mulusewb@africanservices.org

Muna Hamouie

Administrator
munah@africanservices.org

Niat Amare

Legal Advocate
niata@africanservices.org

Ndeye Gueye

Food Pantry Coordinator
ndeyeg@africanservices.org

Olunmi Segun

Staff Attorney
olunmis@africanservices.org

Ralph Goulbourne

Fiscal Manager
ralphg@africanservices.org

Rokhaya Gueye

Testing Center Assistant
rokhayag@africanservices.org

Shana Johnson

Nutrition Education Coordinator
shanaj@africanservices.org

Simone Burrell

Data Entry Specialist
simoneb@africanservices.org

Steven Sacco

Staff Attorney
stevens@africanservices.org

Youma Nafo

Receptionist
youman@africanservices.org

Yuhanissu Godje

Paralegal
yuhanissug@africanservices.org

Yvonne Mbewe-Palmer

Supervising Case Manager
yvonnem@africanservices.org

ETHIOPIA

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AFRICAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

429 West 127th Street

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www.africanservices.org

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