

**Partners In Health and the John M. Lloyd Foundation
Interim Progress Report**

1. Were the conference goals achieved?

The aim of the *2009 Bridging the Gap Between HIV/AIDS and Primary Health Care Conference* was to bring together these two communities advocating for the progressive realization of the right to health to develop a unified, global movement around a framework for and funding of the comprehensive right to health. This conference was conceived to 1) expand the successful strategies of the HIV/AIDS activist community in fighting for resources to a broader right to health agenda, 2) unify groups focusing on different areas of health under the same principles, 3) end the dangerous pitting of one health advocacy group against another based on constituency or disease, 4) secure and grow the resources available for HIV by ending the debate about whether there is “too much money for HIV/AIDS”.

We achieved these goals by gathering representatives from several different global health constituencies including: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, primary health care (PHC) sexual and reproductive health, women’s health, and child health. After much discussion, attendees reached consensus on a shared agenda that advocates for the development of a framework and funding strategy for achieving the comprehensive right to health, which does not pit one disease or constituency against another, but rather, promotes solidarity in the global health community.

A clear plan with specific action steps was put in place to move forward with this agenda.

2. Who attended the conference? Representatives from the global North and South, academia, and non-governmental organizations involved in service, training, research and advocacy attended the conference. (Please see attached excel spreadsheet.)

3. Please attach any pertinent conference materials. Pre-conference materials, the conference agenda, the outline of a strategy drafted during the last session of the conference, the conference declaration and a draft of the conference report are attached.

4. What unanticipated issues/challenges/successes were raised at the conference? And how do you plan to follow up on them?

Our main challenge was the tension between the different communities who have long been forced to compete for insufficient resources for health. Because the HIV/AIDS community has been vocal and successful at raising awareness and funds, programs for HIV/AIDS have been scape-goated as siphoning money from other areas. Yet, there is evidence that the gains in funding for HIV/AIDS are currently under threat. Bridging this gap between moderate, yet insufficient, success in one area versus little or no attention to others (such as maternal mortality reduction) occurred by re-framing this debate. There was a general consensus that constraints set up by the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions have contributed to a profoundly weakened public sector in which the international crisis in human resources for health has forced groups of good will to operate in an environment of perceived scarcity. It is this environment that has pitted different health interests against one another and

the notion of scarcity, it was agreed upon, must be rejected by all advocates. Rather than debating the allocation of scarce resources, participants agreed that a unified fight for larger and longer-term commitments to global health was in order.

This commitment from health activists to integrate and coordinate their work and areas of expertise will be followed up by joint statements at conferences, coordinating phone calls and meetings, and a joint approach to confronting the G-8, the U.S. government and other groups.

5. Were any conference proceedings or papers generated as a result of the conference? If yes, how will they be distributed and to whom.

In addition to the background paper shared with all participants preceding the conference, a declaration highlighting the major points of the conference has been drafted and recently distributed to all participants, a copy of which is attached. As a part of our planned next steps, this declaration has been posted on our webpage at <http://act.pih.org/page/s/declaration> where individuals and organizations can sign-on in support of, view, download and forward on the document. This link has been circulated to a larger audience that includes people who attended the 2008 Abuja Meeting (which brought together like-minded activists in Africa), representatives of the People's Health Movement, participants from the 2009 AIDS Backlash meeting in Amsterdam, and members of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights constituency, as well as PIH supporters. To date, we've seen an overwhelming response from over 840 individuals and 225 organizations (the list of signatories is attached).

An op-ed, written by Joia Mukherjee and Brook Baker, was submitted shortly after the conference and published in the Boston Globe on June 1, 2009 (attached and available online at: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/06/01/the_danger_of_inf_policies/). The Rapporteur for the meeting also drafted a paper based on the conference (please see attached), which will be widely circulated within the next few weeks, as well as posted on the webpage: http://www.pih.org/inforesources/IHSJ_Stony_Point_Conference_2009.html created in preparation for the conference, which will be linked directly to the declaration sign-up form.

6. What are the next steps?

One of the next steps that came out of the 2009 *Bridging the Gap Between HIV/AIDS and Primary Health Care Conference* is to engage a Secretariat who will be devoted to moving this agenda forward. Attached, please find the job description for this position. We have decided to ask Lauren Spahn of Partners In Health to serve in this role. Lauren will be responsible for ensuring that we reach our longer term goals, which include disseminating the results of the meeting at other meetings and conferences and through listservs (such ITPC, HealthGAP, GAA, etc). Our ultimate aim is to increase funding for global health over the next five years and beyond. We feel strongly that the most effective means of pushing our collective agenda forward is to have a dedicated person to drive it.

Two follow-up meetings, both of which were planned by participants of this conference, have already occurred. Ann Starrs, Serra Sippel and Joanne Carter convened a group of global health

NGO representatives from several fields to discuss joint asks of the U.S. government and Congress for FY 2010 and 2011. A few weeks later, Peter van Roojen and Anton Kerr from The International AIDS Alliance organized a meeting in Washington D.C., which engaged other NGOs in our overall mission with a focus on discussing how gain approval for and direct funding from a potential currency tax levy as additional funding for global health. Neither of these meetings would have had the breadth of participation without the connections made at Stony Point. Additionally, Gorik Ooms is organizing a meeting following the upcoming conference on “Global Responsibility for Global Health Rights” in Brussels to discuss the mandate of the Global Fund. All members of the Global Fund working group established in Stony Point are invited and they plan to fully fund the travel for 6-8 other people representing an array of health constituencies in the global South.

In an effort to keep the momentum going, we have had conference calls with both the *Bridging the Gap* participants as well as a broader group of activists, which includes more representatives from each of the health focused areas. As a direct result of one such call, the attached press release calling for world leaders to honor their funding commitments was drafted and presented as the product of a unified movement at a press conference during the International AIDS Conference in Cape Town on July 21, 2009. The press release recognizes the significance of the *Bridging the Gap* conference and quotes many of the conference participants. These conference calls will continue on a monthly basis with a continued focus on the strategic use of opportunities such as international conferences and the passing of major legislation to further our shared global agenda.