CORE Group
Annual Report 2007
Who We Are

Established in 1997, CORE Group is a membership association of international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of children and women in developing countries through collaborative NGO action and learning. Collectively, CORE Group members work in more than 180 countries. CORE Group offers one-stop access to this network of skilled and effective implementers of maternal and child health programs.

CORE, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charitable organization based in Washington D.C.
In the next 24 hours, 27,000 children under five years old in the developing world will die of largely preventable diseases like pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, or malnutrition. This year, four million will die in the first month of their life.

CORE Group programs work to save these lives through its network of 47 member organizations. We work collaboratively to promote the use of cost-effective solutions, like the use of zinc tablets to treat children suffering from diarrhea or the use of mosquito nets to prevent malaria.

Based on decades of experience in community-health programming, CORE Group has developed a wide variety of tools and resources that have been shown to improve global health knowledge and practice.

We work hard to ensure that our tools and resources are widely shared, so that the knowledge we have gained can be passed on to others. This year, CORE Group began efforts to develop the Community Case Management Essentials Guide, which will further expand our portfolio of tools for the field. The Guide will provide program managers with information to enable them to carry out effective community-based prevention and treatment programs in developing countries.

In 2007, CORE Group also continued to serve as a respected voice for nongovernmental organizations, working to influence key international and national policies effecting child health. Our voice was represented in various global partnerships, including Roll Back Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and the Stop TB Partnership. This year the Board of Directors—in collaboration with the U.S. Coalition for Child Survival—rallied support for the Global Child Survival Act, which aims to increase U.S. funding for child survival programs.

We want to personally thank our members for the hard work they carry out every day. It is because of them that many children have survived and regained their health. In 2008, we look forward to welcoming new members, new country partners, and new donors. It is our hope that with an expanded reach our combined efforts will improve the survival and health of women and children around the world.
Ninety percent of deaths due to malaria occur in Africa—mostly in young children. Yet many citizens of these nations are not even aware of the severity of the problem or the ways in which the disease can be prevented.

Through the VOICES for a Malaria Free Future project, CORE Group educates policy makers about the need to support effective malaria programs and strategies in Kenya and Mali. In 2007, CORE Group conducted advocacy training for KeNAAM, a local NGO network in Kenya, and developed and implemented an advocacy strategy focused on increasing the Kenyan government investment in malaria and ensuring the availability of vital malaria medications to the community. In Mali, CORE Group educated local mayors on the importance of making malaria a top priority in community development plans.

The World Bank recognizes the important role of NGOs in the fight against malaria. CORE Group has played a key role in facilitating our contacts with these organizations in sub-Saharan Africa.

—Maryse Pierre-Louis, Coordinator, Booster Program for Malaria Control in Africa, the World Bank
As a member organization, CORE Group brings a unified NGO voice—promoting a community focus to health interventions—to global partnerships. CORE Group represents this perspective in global health forums such as Roll Back Malaria (RBM), the Stop TB Partnership, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. CORE Group orchestrated civil society meetings in 16 countries to assess the Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria’s partnership environment.

CORE Group is the best NGO forum for civil society organizations working in the health sector that I have been involved in, in my 15 plus years of international development work. It is a highly effective and very well organized network... with powerful intellectual rigor and very experienced development workers.

—Joshua Kyallo, Country Director AMREF Uganda
The rates of success we are seeing in Uttar Pradesh State in India are in large part due to the partnership among CORE Group, UNICEF, Rotary, and the government of India. The field staff of these organizations have been able to successfully mobilize communities and families in even the most hard-to-reach areas—through regular immunization campaigns and routine services—to get the vaccines they need to protect their children from this disease. We are on the verge of seeing an eradication of polio in Uttar Pradesh.

—Ellen Coates, Director, CORE Group Polio Partners Project

India is one of four remaining countries—along with Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—in which polio remains endemic. In 2007, efforts coordinated by the CORE Group Partners Project Polio Eradication Initiative significantly contributed to reductions in the numbers of polio cases in India, reaching nearly 780,000 of the most vulnerable children in Uttar Pradesh.
International experts predict that in the event of a pandemic influenza event, more than 95 percent of the global death toll will occur in the developing world. An effective humanitarian response in countries most vulnerable to high mortality during an influenza pandemic will require collaborative efforts among NGOs, private- and public-sector providers, UN agencies, government, civil society, and international donors.

CORE Group is organizing pandemic preparedness planning efforts in several developing countries. The effort aims to strengthen the capability of NGOs to minimize human morbidity and mortality due to an influenza pandemic in vulnerable areas in which these organizations operate.

Partners include the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Academy for Educational Development, InterAction, UN agencies, and national governments.
In Tanzania, malaria kills a large number of people every year and is endemic throughout much of the country. Pregnant women and children under the age of five years are at particular risk for infection. The disease is the number one killer among children in Tanzania, and mothers who contract malaria during pregnancy run the risk of having low birth weight babies, maternal anemia, impaired fetal growth, spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, and premature babies. One way to protect against malaria is to use insecticide treated nets, which repel the mosquitoes that cause malaria.

In 2007, CORE Group supported the Tanzania National Malaria Control Program through a series of activities undertaken by U.S and Tanzanian NGOs on behalf of the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI). These activities contributed to the PMI goals of achieving 85 percent coverage of infants and pregnant women with insecticide-treated nets (ITNs). CORE Group supported World Vision Tanzania, PSI Tanzania, and the IFAKARA Health Research and Development Centre to implement activities.

As part of the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme (TNVS), a program to enable pregnant women to purchase insecticide treated nets at a subsidized price, the project trained over 6,000 reproductive health nurses on program implementation, developed radio announcements to advertise the life-saving program, procured 300,000 longer lasting insecticide treatment kits to be bundled with the nets, and developed a system for monitoring and evaluation of the TNVS. The longer lasting treatment kits ensure that communities using them are protected against malaria for up to three years.
HOPE worldwide has made serving the neediest of the world’s children one of its key focus areas. We are strong proponents of collaboration and sharing with other like-minded organizations within the development community. CORE Group shares these values and we are eager for the opportunities membership provides for us to share and to learn.

—Marilyn Patton, HOPE worldwide, new member organization in 2007
Tuberculosis (TB) kills 1.5 million people each year and is the most wide-spread curable infectious disease worldwide. One-third of the world’s population is infected with the TB bacterium and nearly 9 million people become sick with active TB each year. NGOs are perfectly positioned to leverage their knowledge of working within communities—using community-based approaches—to increase detection of persons with TB and supporting them to seek and complete full treatment regimens.

CORE Group hosted a two-day conference—Tuberculosis Lessons Learned Exchange: TB Programming from the Community-Based Perspective—where members and representatives from the World Health Organization, USAID, and other key NGO representatives advanced ways to integrate community-based approaches into tuberculosis programs.

As a result of the two-day conference, the TB working group developed a lessons learned document, “The Expansion of Community-based Tuberculosis Programming: Critical Program Design Issues for New Partners,” which outlines nine program design elements. The publication will be available in early 2008.
CORE Group promotes technically sound community health approaches that are flexible, respond appropriately to local needs, and are designed to reduce dependency on insecure resources.

Every year, children in developing countries die of preventable diseases—like malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia—without ever reaching a health facility. Bringing care and treatment closer to the child is known as community case management. With adequate training and supervision, community-based providers can save the lives of these children.

In many places around the world, the link is missing between a sick child and a health provider or community services. Through a foundation of strong membership, CORE Group has worked hard to create practical and innovative solutions to bridge that gap.

—W. Henry Mosley, Professor, Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
In Bolivia, over 70 percent of children who die never get to a health facility for treatment, in large part because such facilities are not accessible.

To address this, CORE Group supported a coalition of NGOs to improve the logistics for restocking life-saving drugs at rural community pharmacies, called boticas.

As a result of collaborative efforts, the Ministry of Health was willing to invest in improving the quality and technical accuracy of the government’s training materials for community health workers who volunteer to run the communal pharmacies.
CORE Group is coordinating the development of a Community Case Management (CCM) Essentials Guide that provides program managers with the information to carry out effective community-based treatment programs. The Guide includes information on how to determine when and where CCM is appropriate to use, training and supervising community health workers, and conducting quality monitoring and evaluation of programs. Tools and resources, as well as sample forms, case studies, and other documentation that build on membership knowledge and expertise, are included in the Guide. The Guide is a collaborative effort of over 20 CORE Group members and other organizations that have community-based expertise in multiple countries across the globe.
Spring and fall CORE Group membership meetings provide an intimate space for members to form communities of practice and strategic partnerships. The meetings are designed to promote peer learning, exchange, and sharing of state-of-the-art innovations.

I am truly impressed with the work and impact CORE Group is having around the world.

—W. Ahuma Adodoadji, President/CEO, PLAN
disseminating innovations

CORE Group identifies and disseminates NGO-tested innovations and local experiences to strengthen the program models that affect child health and development.

A program used successfully by one organization in one country can often be adapted to other places. CORE Group actively identifies and shares innovative best practices used by members to improve the health of mothers and children around the world.

CORE Group also shares information among members and others through its listserves and website. The listserves facilitate communication and exchange among members of the global child health community with notices on new policy guidance, conferences, technical documents, job openings, and other items of interest.

The CORE Group web site, www.core-group.org, provides access to state-of-the-art tools, manuals, resources, and documentation of global maternal and child health programs.

Throughout the year, CORE Group arranges for experts to use the internet to present on topics related to HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, nutrition, and other issues central to maternal and child health in the developing world. These interactive presentations showcase the work of CORE Group members and others and update the child health and development community on recent technical advances.

This year CORE Group offered sessions on topics, including: Recent Studies in Infectious Disease in Maternal and Child Health; Community Case Management for Newborns; Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets for Malaria Prevention; Situational Analysis on the Botica Community Pharmacy Program in Bolivia; and Pandemic Influenza: Epidemiology, Prevention, Treatment, History, and Current Threat.
Some of the technical workshops CORE Group working groups sponsored this year include:

**Community-Based Family Planning—Uganda**
The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health working group co-sponsored, with the Child Survival and Technical Support Project (CSTS+), a two week Essentials of Community-Based Family Planning Regional Workshop in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop explained the key technical and programmatic concepts of community-based family planning service delivery and a six-step process for developing a project design using a results framework and a monitoring and evaluation plan that is linked to the project design.

**Estimating the Costs of Scaling-Up—Washington, DC**
The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive working group conducted a workshop in collaboration with the Frontiers Project on estimating costs of scaling-up. The workshop explored the methodologies that NGOs can use to estimate the costs of taking innovations to a regional or national scale.

**Designing for Behavior Change—Mali**
The Social and Behavior Change working group sponsored a five-day training on Designing for Behavior Change in Bamako, Mali. All of the participants expect to train others in the methodology.

**Infant Feeding Options for HIV+ Mothers—Washington, DC**
The HIV/AIDS and Nutrition working groups presented a technical update, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission and Infant/Young Child Feeding (IYCF): Options for HIV+ Mothers. The event provided updates on the evidence base related to IYCF and HIV transmission and included highlights from the latest World Health Organization technical consultation.
CORE Group working groups are the “heart and soul” of our organization. These groups are what CORE Group was founded upon—professionals coming together to exchange and spread best practices in maternal and child health.

—Karen LeBan, Executive Director of CORE Group

CORE Group’s eight working groups are made up of individuals from member and partner organizations interested in contributing to further development and understanding of technical topics. The working groups sponsor workshops, trainings, and other activities designed to make maternal and child health programs more effective. The groups are self-directed and self-governing, and members participate on a voluntary basis.

There are currently eight working groups in the following topic areas:

- HIV/AIDS
- Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
- Malaria
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Nutrition
- Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health
- Social and Behavior Change
- Tuberculosis

For more information on individual working group activities, visit any one of our working group web pages at www.coregroup.org.
The audit firm, Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman, Certified Public Accountants, prepared CORE Inc.’s financial report and stated, “CORE Inc. complied, in all material respects, with the requirements that are applicable to its major federal program (auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations.”

### CORE, Inc. Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets
For the Year Ended September 30, 2007, with Summarized Financial Information for 2006

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>Maternal and child health</td>
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<td>Malaria</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>Infectious Diseases</td>
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<td>Match in-kind</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
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<td>Net assets at beginning of year</td>
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<td><strong>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>$353,226</strong></td>
<td><strong>$167,818</strong></td>
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CORE Group members

Adventist Development and Relief Agency
African Medical Research Foundation
Africare
Aga Khan Foundation, USA
American Red Cross
CARE International
Catholic Relief Services
Christian Children’s Fund
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
Concern Worldwide
Counterpart International
Curamericas Global, Inc.
Doctors of the World
Food for the Hungry
Foundation for Compassionate American Samaritans
Freedom from Hunger
Future Generations
Global Health Action
Haitian Health Foundation
Health Alliance International
Helen Keller International
Hesperian Foundation
*HOPE worldwide

Interchurch Medical Assistance
International Aid
International Eye Foundation
*International Medical Corps
International Relief and Development
International Rescue Committee
La Leche League International
MAP International
Medical Care Development International
Mercy Corps
Minnesota International Health Volunteers
Medical Teams International
Partners for Development
PATH
PLAN International
Population Services International
Project Concern International
Project HOPE
Salvation Army World Service
Save the Children
White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood
World Neighbors
World Relief
World Vision

*New members in 2007
The following partners participated in working groups, presentations, workshops, or donated their time to help develop CORE Group products and/or services:

Academy for Educational Development
ACCESS Project
AFFORD Project
Africa's Health in 2010
African Communities Against Malaria
American College of Nurse Midwives
American Public Health Association-Intl. Section
Axios International
BASF
Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival
Bayer Environmental Science
Boston University/Country Research Activity
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Global Development
Child Survival Technical Support+
Christian Relief and Development Association
Constellation for AIDS Competence
DataDyne
Deliver Project
Development Finance International, Inc.
Embassy of the Republic of Angola
Engender Health
Episcopal Relief and Development
Extending Service Delivery Project
Family Care International
Fleishman-Hillard
Food Aid and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project
Frontiers Project
GAVI Alliance
Global Health Advocates
Global Health Council
Groupe Pivot
Handicap International
Healthy Environments for Children Alliance
Hygiene Improvement Project
IMMUNIZATIONbasics
India Institute of Health Management and Research
INFO Project
Implementing Best Practices in Reproductive Health Initiative
Infant and Young Child Nutrition Project
Institute for Reproductive Health/Georgetown University
Interaction
International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent
International Union Against TB and Lung Disease
International Youth Foundation
John Snow Inc.
Johns Hopkins University
Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Programs
JHPIEGO
Kenya NGO Alliance Against Malaria
LINKAGES Project
Loma Linda University
Macro International
Malaria and Childhood Illness Secretariat (MACIS)/Uganda
Malaria Consortium
Management Sciences for Health
Ma-Play Uganda
How to Get Involved

CORE Group offers many avenues for learning, information sharing, and taking action on issues related to maternal, newborn, and child health and infectious diseases. Sign up for a listserve. Participate in a CORE Group workshop or activity. Be part of CORE Group’s in-country efforts. Or provide a financial contribution. To find out more, visit www.coregroup.org.

**MEASURE Project**
**MIDEGO**
**Nicasalud**
**Open Society Institute**
**Pan American Health Organization**
**Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health**
**Partnerships in Health-Foundation PH Suisse**
**Pathfinder International**
**Peace Corps**
**Population Council**
**Positive Deviance Initiative**
**PROCOSI**
**Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus Project**
**Roll Back Malaria Partnership**
**Rotary International**
**Saving Newborn Lives**
**Search Institute/India**
**Stop TB Partnership**
**Sumitomo Chemical**
**Tanzania NGO Alliance Against Malaria**
**Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance**
**VALID International**
**United Nations Children’s Fund**
**United Nations Foundation**
**Uphold Project/Uganda**
**U.S. Agency for International Development**
**U.S. Coalition for Child Survival**
**University Research Corporation-Quality Assurance Project**
**Vestergaard Frandsen**
**Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children**
**World Bank**
**World Health Organization**
**World Learning**
**World Lung Foundation**
**Zambia Malaria Foundation**

**Donors/Fiscal Year 2007**

*In-Kind*
- Arvind Singhal
- BASF
- Vestergaard Frandsen
- Sumitomo Chemical

*Institutional*
- John Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs
- Macro International
- U.S. Agency for International Development

*CORE Group’s Child Survival and Health Network Program is funded through a cooperative agreement with USAID’s Child Survival and Health Grants Program.*
CORE Group Staff
Executive Director Karen LeBan
Deputy Director Lynette Walker
Communications Manager Houkje Ross
Malaria Coordinator Areana Quiñones
Child Health Coordinator Anna West
Executive Assistant Jennifer Pearson
Director, Finance and Administration Norma Floriza
Assistant Controller ATM Unjum Pervez

CORE Group Polio Partners Project Staff
Director Ellen Coates/World Vision
Deputy Director Sara Smith/World Vision
Technical Coordinator Dora Ward/CARE
Special Advisor Bill Weiss/John Hopkins University

CORE Group Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Project Staff
Project Director Kathryn Bolles/Save the Children
Public Health Advisor Eric Starbuck/Save the Children
Community Mobilization Advisor Whitney Pyles/CARE

Thanks to Eldred Hill and Christine Chumbler for their contributions to CORE Group in 2007.
CORE Group Working Group Chairs

**HIV/AIDS**
- Janine Schooley/Project Concern International
- Ronnie Lovich/Save the Children
- William Oscar Fleming/Christian Children’s Fund

**IMCI**
- Laban Tsuma/Plan International USA
- Barmak Kusha/International Medical Corps

**Malaria**
- Luis Benavente/Medical Care Development Inc.
- Amanda Rives/Christian Children’s Fund
- Eric Swedberg/Save the Children

**Monitoring and Evaluation**
- Todd Nitkin/Medical Teams International

**Nutrition**
- Paige Harrigan/Save the Children
- Rebecca Magalhaes/La Leche League International
- Mary Hennigan/Catholic Relief Services

**Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health**
- Lisa Bowen/PLAN International USA
- Winnie Mwebesa/Save the Children

**Social and Behavior Change**
- Will Story/Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
- Bonnie Kittle/Project HOPE

**Tuberculosis**
- Ann Hendrix-Jenkins/coordinator
- Elena McEwan/Catholic Relief Services
- Khrist Roy/CARE
- Dennis Cherian/World Vision

**2007 Annual Report Editor**
- Houkje Ross
The CORE Group promotes and improves the health and well being of children and women in developing countries through collaborative NGO action and learning.

Visit us at
www.coregroup.org
contact@coregroup.org