



*Working Together in Health for  
Mothers, Children, and Communities*



# 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.

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## **CORE Group Board of Directors**

### *Chair*

Tom Davis  
Food for the Hungry

### *Vice Chair*

Henry Perry  
Future Generations

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Project Concern Int'l

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CARE

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Kathryn Bolles  
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Carolyn Kruger  
World Vision

Karen LeBan  
Executive Director  
CORE Group

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.

Tom Davis  
Chair, CORE Group  
Board of Directors

Karen LeBan  
CORE Group  
Executive Director





Anthony Kofi Odoom/World Vision

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

## ***CORE Group fosters active participation of civil society at the community, national, and global level.***

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



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J. Warren/ World Vision

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 Polio 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.

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

## ***CORE Group fosters strategic alliances for in-country collaboration to increase the impact of community-focused child health and development programs.***

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.



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# *fostering collaboration*



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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



M. Socorro Melic/World Vision

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.

# *promoting community health*

***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*







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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.

# *promoting community health*

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.





J. Graham

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



## ***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](http://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 devel-

oping 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.



# working groups

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](http://www.coregroup.org)**.





# audited financial statement

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

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grants	\$2,800,261	\$1,041,146
Contributions	\$1,100	\$8,855
Memberships	\$33,050	\$21,800
Workshop fees	\$37,760	\$25,734
Interest and other income	\$9,174	\$41,900
In-kind revenue	\$650	\$34,658
Total Revenue	\$2,881,995	\$1,174,093
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Maternal and child health	\$479,479	\$665,204
Malaria	\$1,882,193	\$267,273
Tuberculosis	\$81,877	\$75,478
HIV/AIDS	-	\$23,016
Family planning	\$65,657	\$61,204
Infectious Diseases	\$178,330	-
Match in-kind	\$650	\$34,658
Total Program Expenses	\$2,688,186	\$1,126,833
Management and general	\$8,401	\$1,823
Total Expenses	\$2,696,587	\$1,128,656
Change in net assets	\$185,408	\$45,437
Net assets at beginning of year	\$167,818	\$122,381
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$353,226</b>	<b>\$167,818</b>

# CORE Group members

Adventist Development and Relief Agency	Interchurch Medical Assistance
African Medical Research Foundation	International Aid
Africare	International Eye Foundation
Aga Khan Foundation, USA	*International Medical Corps
American Red Cross	International Relief and Development
CARE International	International Rescue Committee
Catholic Relief Services	La Leche League International
Christian Children's Fund	MAP International
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee	Medical Care Development International
Concern Worldwide	Mercy Corps
Counterpart International	Minnesota International Health Volunteers
Curamericas Global, Inc.	Medical Teams International
Doctors of the World	Partners for Development
Food for the Hungry	PATH
Foundation for Compassionate American Samaritans	PLAN International
Freedom from Hunger	Population Services International
Future Generations	Project Concern International
Global Health Action	Project HOPE
Haitian Health Foundation	Salvation Army World Service
Health Alliance International	Save the Children
Helen Keller International	White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood
Hesperian Foundation	World Neighbors
*HOPE <i>worldwide</i>	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	Global Health Council
ACCESS Project	Groupe Pivot
AFFORD Project	Handicap International
Africa's Health in 2010	Healthy Environments for Children Alliance
African Communities Against Malaria	Hygiene Improvement Project
American College of Nurse Midwives	IMMUNIZATIONbasics
American Public Health Association-Intl. Section	India Institute of Health Management and Research
Axios International	INFO Project
BASF	Implementing Best Practices in Reproductive Health Initiative
Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival	Infant and Young Child Nutrition Project
Bayer Environmental Science	Institute for Reproductive Health/Georgetown University
Boston University/Country Research Activity	Interaction
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent
Center for Global Development	International Union Against TB and Lung Disease
Child Survival Technical Support+	International Youth Foundation
Christian Relief and Development Association	John Snow Inc.
Constellation for AIDS Competence	Johns Hopkins University
DataDyne	Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Programs
Deliver Project	JHPIEGO
Development Finance International, Inc.	Kenya NGO Alliance Against Malaria
Embassy of the Republic of Angola	LINKAGES Project
Engender Health	Loma Linda University
Episcopal Relief and Development	Macro International
Extending Service Delivery Project	Malaria and Childhood Illness Secretariat (MACIS)/Uganda
Family Care International	Malaria Consortium
Fleishman-Hillard	Management Sciences for Health
Food Aid and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project	Ma-Play Uganda
Frontiers Project	
GAVI Alliance	
Global Health Advocates	



# CORE Group partners

## 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](http://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

Deputy Director

Communications Manager

Malaria Coordinator

Child Health Coordinator

Executive Assistant

Director, Finance and Administration

Assistant Controller

Karen LeBan

Lynette Walker

Houkje Ross

Areana Quiñones

Anna West

Jennifer Pearson

Norma Floriza

ATM Unjum Pervez

### **CORE Group Polio Partners Project Staff**

Director

Deputy Director

Technical Coordinator

Special Advisor

Ellen Coates/World Vision

Sara Smith/World Vision

Dora Ward/CARE

Bill Weiss/John Hopkins University

### **CORE Group Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Project Staff**

Project Director

Public Health Advisor

Community Mobilization Advisor

Kathryn Bolles/Save the Children

Eric Starbuck/Save the Children

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



*Working Together in Health for  
Mothers, Children, and Communities*



World Vision

*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](http://www.coregroup.org)**  
[contact@coregroup.org](mailto:contact@coregroup.org)