



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



Richard Lord

CORE Group

Annual Report 2008



Vision: A world of healthy communities, where no woman or child dies of preventable causes.

Mission: CORE Group's mission is to generate collaborative action and learning to improve and expand community-focused public health practices for underserved populations around the world.

Richard Lord

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2008 marked the 30th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration of Health for All, reaffirming that health is a basic human right. The Declaration set a number of critical principles in motion—a focus on equity, community participation, and health promotion—that continue to guide the programs of CORE Group and its 48 member organizations. These principles are essential for ensuring that health services and information reach the hardest to reach, address the underlying causes of poor health, and lead to effective and sustainable interventions in the 180 countries where our member organizations work.

With over nine million children under age five dying each year from largely preventable causes, and nearly 10 million women each year enduring life-threatening complications during pregnancy and childbirth, coordinated action, political will, and increased funding are needed now to improve their survival and well-being.

The community-focused programs and tools of CORE Group and its members bring health care as close as possible to where people live and work, and constitute the essential base of a well-functioning health system. For example, CORE Group products in 2008 demonstrated that in Mozambique, promotion of hand washing and hygiene practices led to a significant reduction in child malnutrition; and in Malawi, organization of community health workers by neighborhood groups increased use of mosquito nets by pregnant women and young children, preventing needless deaths from malaria.

The CORE Group helps its members and the wider child survival community to develop some of the most important skills to end the deaths of women and children. In the 21st century, developing and sharing these persuasion and advocacy skills will be extremely important in the fight against preventable maternal and child deaths. We hope you will join CORE Group in its continued effort to build the capacity of health practitioners and increase the understanding and use of community-based public health interventions to save lives.

Tom Davis
Chair, CORE Group
Board of Directors

Karen LeBan
CORE Group
Executive Director

CORE Group grew out of an informal gathering of NGO child survival health practitioners seeking to learn from one another. Small, intimate gatherings of professionals have grown into a well-respected organization that has been instrumental in forging partnerships among competing organizations. This 'community of practice' model has created an environment where NGO staff, partners, and government entities can work together to achieve better health for women and children around the world.

Field staff and other public health practitioners who are part of CORE Group often otherwise work alone, with limited

resources, and with poor access to information. The chance to communicate with other professionals in similar situations enables them to build their skills and increase knowledge on the most effective ways to implement a program.

As professionals come together and have the chance to talk about their work, solutions and innovative ideas are often born. One of these innovations was the development of Malaria Secretariats, which are local NGO partners who serve as a vehicle for coordinating and information sharing between the NGO community and its other partners.

The CORE Group malaria and polio secretariats are now operating in eight countries and the model has begun to be recognized by CORE Group partners as a successful way to positively influence health practice and policy from the ground up.



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What We Stand For

Collective Capacity

CORE Group values the diversity of its member organizations, promotes collaboration among them, and leverages their organizational strengths and resources.

Openness

CORE Group widely shares information and resources, encouraging constructive dialogue and exchanges among all partners to continually refine state-of-the-art knowledge and best practices.

Equity

CORE Group values equity, intentionally prioritizing policies and strategies to reach the poorest communities.

Local Experience and Knowledge

CORE Group members remain intimately connected with communities, families, mothers, and children, thereby bringing local practitioner-based realities to the policy table.

Participation in Civil Society

CORE Group builds partnerships and strategies that empower families, communities, local civic organizations, and local and national governments to participate in health decision-making.

Impact

CORE Group values accountability and monitors its work to ensure a positive change in health at the local, regional, and global level.





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

Cambodia: A Country Collaboration

In many developing countries around the world, volunteers are an essential part of establishing and maintaining a communications link between health centers and communities.

CORE Group supported the development of a national Community Participation Policy for Health in Cambodia. The new guidance outlines a unified policy on the use of community volunteers. It also enables community volunteers to participate in

a broader range of activities, including: surveillance, reporting, health promotion, community mobilization, and community-based treatment.

The project—one of several country collaboration projects that CORE Group has conducted over the last six years—brought together the American Red Cross, and representatives from the Ministries of Health, Rural Development, Women's and Veteran's Affairs, and Interior; UNICEF; WHO; USAID; and MEDICAM.

CORE Group makes one of the most substantive contributions to global public health work.

*—Sanjay Sinho, Chief Executive Officer (New York),
American India Foundation*





Rina Dey, CGPP-India

CORE polio efforts have benefited over 10 million children under 5 and nearly 20 million children between 5 and 15 in four countries... at the same time it has empowered mothers, families, communities and health systems.

—Ellen Coates, Core Group Polio Project Director

Once thought to be eradicated, polio continues to threaten the lives of children in several countries including Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India, where the disease remains endemic.

A highly infectious disease caused by a virus, polio invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. It can strike at any age, but affects mainly children under three.

Over the last 10 years, CORE Group—in partnership with UNICEF, Rotary,

and the governments of India, Nepal, Ethiopia, and Angola—has worked to mobilize communities through routine immunization campaigns and vaccination services.

CORE Group has operated the project through its secretariat model, which has been instrumental in joining grassroots organizations with government agencies to ensure coordination at all levels.

fostering collaboration

International experts predict that in the event of a pandemic influenza, all countries around the world could be affected, but developing countries will be among the most vulnerable. An effective humanitarian response will require collaborative efforts among NGOs, private- and public-sector providers, UN agencies, government, civil society, and international donors.

CORE Group member NGOs are working with Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies and other partners including government ministries, UN agencies, bi- and multi-lateral institutions, and universities to develop

training materials for first responders that can be used in several countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Nepal, Uganda, and Mali.

Health messages—such as “cover your coughs and sneezes,” “wash your hands,” and “isolate your ill”—will be incorporated into the materials and be used for prevention and care during a pandemic at household and community levels. The materials are being developed so that they can be adapted at country level for language, context, and culture.



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The deaths of 10 million mothers and children around the world each year, mainly from readily preventable and treatable causes, is one of the great tragedies of our time... CORE is a key component of the United States' global leadership in child survival.

—Henry Perry, CORE Group Board of Directors Vice Chair, and Carl Taylor, Professor for Equity and Empowerment, Future Generations

advocating for community-focused health approaches

CORE Group promotes a community focus to health interventions. We believe in strategies that build the capacity of NGOs and community members and empower individuals, families, and local governments to participate in their own health decision-making.

Without the input and voice of the community, a program's long term success cannot be guaranteed. It is only when communities are given the tools, knowledge, and power to uplift themselves that any real change in health status can be achieved.

How community voices are being heard...

Advocating through global initiatives: CORE Group provides a civil society perspective to global initiatives such as the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Stop TB Partnership, Newborn and Child Health, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. These global initiatives bring together a wide range of partners to help alleviate the burden of disease in developing countries.

Advocating at the country-level: Through the VOICES for Malaria-Free Future project, CORE Group supports its local partners in Kenya and Mali in advocating for increased access to quality interventions, community-based treatment, and increased national funding for malaria. This year, the Kenya NGO Alliance Against Malaria developed an advocacy documentary and in Mali, CORE Group's local partner Groupe Pivot worked with the private sector to increase the distribution of bed nets.



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Expanding Community-Based Tuberculosis Efforts

One of the oldest diseases, tuberculosis (TB) is seeing resurgence in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It is estimated that 9 million people become sick with active TB each year. Left untreated, a person with active TB can infect an average of 10 to 15 people every year.

While medical interventions are necessary to treat the disease, CORE Group recognizes that much can be done at the community level to prevent and control the spread of the disease. For example, community health workers and volunteers can be trained to recognize the signs of the disease and talk to others about where to go to get testing or treatment.

This year, CORE Group developed two documents to help other NGOs learn how to integrate community-level strategies into existing programs:

- *Partnering with Grandmothers and Healers to Eliminate the “Disease of Dust” in Senegal*—Outlines CORE Group member Christian Children’s Fund activities in Senegal, which integrated TB prevention services into community level activities.
- *The Expansion of Community-Based TB Programming: Critical Design Issues for New Partners*—Provides information to health professionals on how to ensure that community based health services include TB prevention and control.



promoting community health

Conducting Operations Research in Rwanda

In countries like Rwanda, many children suffer from more than one health problem at the same time. Many children who come in to a health center for treatment of malaria are also discovered to be malnourished. This co-morbidity—the presence of two or more health disorders or infectious diseases at one time—doubles the chances of the child dying.

CORE Group worked with its members IRC, Concern, and World Relief in Rwanda to conduct research that will look at how treatment of co-morbidity in children is currently handled and what can be done to ensure that children receive appropriate, integrated care at the community level.

Promoting Community Case Management

Four diseases account for half of all childhood deaths—pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and newborn sepsis. Many of these deaths can be prevented by implementing community-based programs where health workers from the community are trained in providing treatment for the diseases with proven, low-cost interventions, which is commonly referred to as community case management (CCM).

CORE Group is finalizing a Community Case Management Essentials guide to assist program managers in the design, implementation, and monitoring of CCM.





Richard Lord

working groups

CORE Group is a platform where new ideas and new partnerships have emerged that are changing the way we serve mothers and children. Many of the methodologies that are now standard practice have come out of CORE Group—Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS), community case management—these are all things that came into programming through the CORE Group.”

—Emmanuel d’Harcourt, Senior Technical Advisor for Child Survival,
International Rescue Committee

The working groups are at the center of CORE Group collaboration and creative problem solving. 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.

The eight working groups:

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



disseminating innovations

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

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 shares this information via listservs, its website, online trainings, and in-person meetings.

Here are some of the contributions CORE Group has made this year:

- CORE Group Spring Meeting –Research Focus
- Lot Quality Assurance Sampling: Protocol for Parallel Sampling
- Designing for Behavior Change Curriculum
- Community Case Management Essentials Guide
- Pathways to Appropriate Nutrition Decisions Guide
- Partnership Defined Quality Case Studies
- Basics of Community-Based Family Planning Curriculum
- Series of Family Planning Case Studies
- Pandemic Influenza Elluminate Series
- Community Health Worker Motivation Strategies: To Pay or Not to Pay
- Challenges in Community-Based TB Elluminate Series: Linking TB and HIV/AIDS Programs; Accessing and Working with Marginalized Populations; and TB Infection Control

CRS enjoys a very warm relationship with CORE and uses CORE as a platform for learning and exchanges with other agencies in global health.

—Mary Hennigan, Senior Technical Advisor,
Catholic Relief Services



Richard Lord

help us save six million lives

Your donation to CORE Group supports the most efficient and effective use of international health resources, ensuring that more children, families, and communities receive meaningful help that can make a long-term difference in their lives. Your donation helps CORE Group to:

- Advocate for those without a voice—children and underserved communities. CORE Group connects members with advocates and donors to ensure that the field evolves based on scientific, real world evidence, and that funding is directed to effective approaches.
- Build skills of local, national and international health professionals and leaders. CORE Group supports the long-term development of community health workers, midwives and birth attendants, nurses and doctors, program managers, policymakers, and others through

the creation of training and technical materials; national and global networks that support long-term professional development; and the promotion of supportive national and global policies.

- Collect, create, and diffuse program designs that work. Our members create solutions based on hands-on, practical experience in the field. Through CORE Group, members compare notes from an amazing array of efforts worldwide, discern trends, and connect to research opportunities to find out what is replicable, that is cost effective, and what can reach large numbers of people.

Donations should be made out to “CORE Inc.” and sent to:

Attn: Executive Assistant
CORE Group
666 11th St, NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001



audited financial statement

The audit firm, Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman, Certified Public Accountants, conducted an audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the USA; 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 Government and Non-Profit Organizations. The audit firm stated “CORE, Inc. complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that are applicable to each of its major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2008.”

CORE, Inc. Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

For the Year Ended September 30, 2008, with Summarized Financial Information for 2007

	2008	2007
REVENUE		
Grants	\$2,073,275	\$2,800,261
Contributions	\$3,775	\$1,100
Memberships	\$34,300	\$33,050
Workshop fees	\$ 41,445	\$37,760
Interest and other income	\$12,687	\$9,174
In-kind revenue	\$34,419	\$650
Total Revenue	\$2,199,901	\$2,881,995
EXPENSES		
Pandemic Influenza	\$362,965	—
Maternal and child health	\$789,790	\$479,479
Malaria	\$608,934	\$1,882,193
Tuberculosis	\$86,218	\$81,877
Infectious Diseases	\$174,160	\$178,330
Family Planning	\$87,071	\$65,657
Match in-kind	\$34,419	\$650
Total Program Services	\$2,143,557	\$2,688,186
Management and general	\$5,351	\$8,401
Total Expenses	\$2,148,908	\$2,696,587
Change in net assets	\$50,993	\$185,408
Net assets at beginning of year	\$353,226	\$167,818
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$404,219	\$353,226

CORE Group members

Adventist Development and Relief Agency	International Aid
Africare	International Medical Corps
Aga Khan Foundation	International Relief & Development
AMREF	International Rescue Committee
American Red Cross	International Youth Foundation
CARE	La Leche League International
Catholic Relief Services	MAP International
Christian Children's Fund	Medical Care Development International
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee	Medical Teams International
Concern Worldwide	Mercy Corps
Counterpart International	Minnesota International Health Volunteers
Curamericas Global	Partners for Development
Doctors of the World	PATH
Foundation for Compassionate American Samaritans	Pathfinder International
Food For The Hungry	PLAN USA
Freedom from Hunger	Population Services International
Future Generations	Project Concern International
Global Health Action	Project HOPE
Haitian Health Foundation	Salvation Army World Service Office
Health Alliance International	Save the Children
Helen Keller International	White Ribbon Alliance
Hesperian Foundation	World Neighbors
HOPE worldwide	World Relief
IMA Worldwide	World Vision



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 Advocates
ACCESS Project	Global Health Council
ACDI-VOCA	Grandmothers Project
Africa's Health in 2010	Groupe Pivot
African Methodist Episcopal Church Service and Development Agency	Handicap International
American Indian Foundation	Healthy Environments for Children Alliance
American Public Health Association-Intl. Section	Houghton College
ANERA	Hygiene Improvement Project
BASF	IMMUNIZATIONbasics
Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival	India Institute of Health Management & Research
Bayer Environmental Science	INFO Project
Boston University/Country Research Activity	Implementing Best Practices in Reproductive Health Initiative
Catholic Medical Mission Board	Infant and Young Child Nutrition Project
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Institute for Reproductive Health/Georgetown University
Child Survival Technical Support+ Project	InterAction
Christian Relief and Development Association	International Centers for Research on Women
Columbia University	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Cornell University	International Child Resource Institute
Deliver Project	International Union Against TB & Lung Disease
Development Finance International, Inc.	John Snow Inc.
Emory University	Johns Hopkins University
Engender Health	Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Programs
Episcopal Relief & Development	JHPIEGO
European Alliance Against Malaria	Kenya NGO Alliance Against Malaria
Extending Service Delivery Project	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
Family Care International	Macro International
Food Aid and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project	Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences
Fourth Sector Health Project	
Frontiers Project	
GAVI Alliance	

CORE Group partners

Malaria and Childhood Illness Secretariat (MACIS)/Uganda
Malaria Consortium
Malaria No More
Mama Project
Management Sciences for Health
Maternal & Child Health Integrated Program
MEASURE Project
MEDICAM-Cambodia
MIDEGO
Nets for Life
New Jersey Medical School
Open Society Institute
Pan American Health Organization
Partners in Health
Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health
Physicians for Peace
Population Council
Positive Deviance Initiative
PROCOSI
Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus Project
Relief International
Roll Back Malaria Partnership
Rotary International
Saving Newborn Lives
Search Institute/India
Society of Family Health in Nigeria
Stop TB Partnership
Sumitomo Chemical
Tanzania National Malaria Movement
Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance
VALID International
United Nations Agencies

United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Foundation
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Coalition for Child Survival
University Research Corporation-Quality Assurance Project
Vestergaard Frandsen
World Bank Malaria Boosters Program
World Health Organization
World Learning
World Lung Foundation
Zambia Malaria Foundation

Donors/Fiscal Year 2008

Individuals

Jean M Capps
Emmanuel D'Harcourt
INJOY Productions, Inc.
Network for Good

Amy Metzger
Regina Rutka
William Yaggy

In-Kind

TechSoup
United Nations
Vestergaard Frandsen

Institutional

Johns Hopkins University Center for Communications Programs
Macro International

*USAID

World Vision

**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

Director of Partnership Development

Malaria Program Manager

Communications Manager

Executive Assistant

Controller, Finance & Admin

Staff Accountant

Karen LeBan

Ann Hendrix-Jenkins

Shannon Downey

Houkje Ross

Hilary Mock

Unjum Pervez

Komi Adjonke

CORE Group Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness Initiative

Project Director

Deputy Director

Community Mobilization Advisor

Public Health Advisor

Kathryn Bolles

Veronica Triana

Whitney Pyles

Eric Starbuck

CORE Group Polio Project

Project Director

Deputy Director

Technical Coordinator

Special Advisor

Ellen Coates

Sara Smith

Dora Ward

Bill Weiss

A special thank-you to Lynette Walker, Norma Floriza, Jennifer Pearson, and Eldred Hill.



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CORE Group Working Group Chairs

HIV/AIDS

Janine Schooley/Project Concern
International

Ronnie Lovich/Save the Children

Shannon Senefeld/Catholic Relief Services

IMCI

Laban Tsuma/Plan International USA

Barmak Kusha/International Medical Corps
(formerly)

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

Judy Lewis, Haitian Health Foundation

Ruth Madison, Project HOPE

Social and Behavior Change

Marilyn Patton, HOPE worldwide

Mitzi Hanold, Food for the Hungry

Will Story/Christian Reformed World Relief
Committee

Tuberculosis

Elena McEwan/Catholic Relief Services

Khrist Roy/CARE

Dennis Cherian/World Vision

2008 Annual Report Editor

Houkje Ross



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



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CORE Group fosters collaborative action and learning to advance the effectiveness and scale of community-focused public health practices. Established in 1997, CORE Group is a 501c(3) membership association based in Washington, DC that is comprised of citizen-supported NGOs that work internationally in resource-poor settings to improve the health of underserved populations.

Visit us at

www.coregroup.org

contact@coregroup.org