

**Africare Newsletter
Volume #2
June - August 2011**

Africare...40 Years of Helping Millions of Africans Across the Continent

Welcome to the second edition of Africare's e-newsletter!

The last three months have been busy and also rewarding for Africare. We continue to help to improve lives and build futures in partnership with the people of Africa. We held a successful Walk for Water (WFW) for Africa - Africare 5K event on May 15, in Fairfax, Virginia with nearly 250 runners and walkers turning out to support clean water projects for African villages. The WFW for Africa 5k event is the brainchild of a dynamic and philanthropic 16-year old, Stephen Axelson of Fairfax, Virginia, who also went to Ghana in April 2011 with Africare President Darius Mans to see the water wells built with funds from his efforts. Mans and Axelson also saw the water projects completed with the donation given to Africare from President Obama's Nobel Peace Award (see story on far right). [Click here](#) to see comments from runners and walkers about their dedication to this event.

[Click here to see the WFW event on youtube.](#)

In addition, for the second year in a row, Africare was recognized by InterAction's Best Practices Initiative for our receiving our System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Project in Mali. The project increases food production, boosting rural incomes, and strategically managing natural resources. (see story and link at right)

Africare maintained its voice on key policy issues as well by co-hosting several substantive Forums on topical issues ranging from U.S. policy toward Africa and elections in Nigeria (see stories at right).

Our plans continue for the annual Bishop Walker Gala Dinner on November 9, 2011, as our honorees will be former Brazilian President Lula and Brazil's Vale, the second largest diversified mining company in the world ([Read More](#)).

Our other media activities continued apace as well with Dr. Darius Mans being featured on the D.C.-based cable news show "Africa World," on May 18, 2011 to discuss key African development issues including access to clean water and the important of good governance.

Editor's Note: We want to thank all of those who came out to support the Walk for Water for Africa - Africare 5k run event on May 15. It was a huge success. We also want to thank the friends of Africare who have donated to our projects and supported our Policy Forums this year.
- Dr. Robin Renee Sanders

Upcoming Events

June 17th 2011 - World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.

November 9th 2011 - Africare Bishop Walker Gala Dinner

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**Africare's System of Rice Intensification Project (SRI)
Wins InterAction Best Practice Award**



For the second year in a row, Africare was recognized by umbrella group InterAction's Best Practices Initiative (BPI). This year's Best Practice Award went to Africare Mali's System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Project for its success in natural resources management and adaptation to climate change.

With funding from USAID and in continuation of generous support provided by the Better U Foundation, the Timbuktu Food Security Initiative (TFSI) is working with rural smallholder farmers to end the cycle of relief-based food aid distribution by building sustainable, resilient food security systems at the local level. Through a highly participatory approach, the project experimented with the construction of community-managed Village Irrigated Perimeters (VIPs) and the adoption of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). As integrated components of a larger holistic food insecurity intervention, VIPs and SRI empower smallholder farmers to identify local solutions to food production, access value-added market linkages, and eliminate household hunger. ([Read More](#))

Africare Health Program: Integrated Maternal and Child Health (IMCH) Project in Zambia



In Collaboration with the Zambian Ministry of Health, Africare is implementing a \$2.29 million Integrated Maternal and Child Health Project funded by the New Zealand Aid Program. Maternal mortality rate in Zambia is amongst the highest in the world with an estimated ratio of 591/100,000 live births. Causes of maternal mortality include poor access to family planning services and skilled birth attendants, malnutrition, and early marriages. The objective of the project is to improve maternal, neonatal and child health outcomes in four remote districts of Kasama, Mpika, Samfya and Lundazi in Zambia.

Africare has trained Safe Motherhood Action Group (SMAG) volunteers to provide a wide variety of maternal and child health services including family planning, obstetric fistula prevention, maternal and child nutrition, organic farming and other livelihoods activities. The project began in 2008, and as of December 2010, Africare had reached 60,500 people with health promotion messages, and the project is making a real difference ([Read More](#))

Africare Completes the Ghana WASHH Clean Water Project Supported by Funds from President Obama's Nobel Peace Award

On April 20, 2011, in the Wassa Amenfi District of Western Ghana, Africare-Ghana held a commissioning ceremony on the completion of the Ghana Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for Health (WASHH) Project, which was funded by a generous donation from President Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Award. Africare President Darius Mans traveled to Ghana for the occasion.

The WASHH project was implemented in 4 communities of the Wassa Amenfi District, where over 80% of people were dissatisfied with the quality of their water, 90% of the population shared a latrine with up to 30 other people, the incidence of water-borne illnesses among children under 5 was high and knowledge of basic hygiene was limited and in some cases non-existent. They were joined by the traditional leaders and many members of the community, local governments, and Ministry of Water Resources, Works, and Housing, as well as representatives from other NGOs, the World Bank, and USAID. ([Read More](#))

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Dr. Darius Mans**

World Malaria Day - April 25th

Malaria is robbing Africa of its future. About 90 percent of malaria-related deaths worldwide occur on the Continent. It is the number one killer of children in Africa, claiming the life of a child every 45 seconds. It also has a heavy financial cost. ([Read More](#))

Woodrow Wilson Center (WWC), Africare and Constituency for Africa (CFA) Host Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador Johnnie Carson For Forum on Africa Policy



Ambassador Carson (third from right) with (from left to right) CFA President and Chairman, Mel Foote and Stan Straughter, respectively, WWC Africa Program Director Steve McDonald, Africare President Dr. Darius Mans and International Affairs Advisor Ambassador Robin Sanders.

On April 5, the WWC's Africa Program, co-sponsored along with Africare and the Constituency for Africa (CFA), a Forum with the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Ambassador Johnnie Carson. Ambassador Carson delivered a major address entitled, "US Policy toward Africa 2011: Implications of Current Events" to an overflow crowd at the Wilson Center. ([Read More](#))

Africare-Atlantic Council-Carnegie Mellon Forum on Nigeria's Legislative & Presidential Election



From left-to-right: Dr. Gwendolyn Mikell, Mr. Reno Omokri, Mr. Orono Douglas, Mr. El Rufai, Dr. Robin R. Sanders, Nigeria Ambassador Adefuye, Dr. Jendayi Frazer, and Dr. J. Peter Pham.

On April 19, Africare in partnership with the Atlantic Council and Carnegie Mellon University's Center for International Policy and Innovation (CIPI), organized a forum that focused on the "Initial Assessment of Nigeria's 2011 Election." ([Read More](#))

Africare's President and 16-Year Old Fairfax, VA Youth, Founder of Walk for Water for Africa, Observe Ghana Water Projects April 18-20, 2011



Axelson (center) presented with ceremonial kente cloth

What makes a young man in Fairfax, VA want to reach out and help provide clean drinking water in rural Ghana? For 16 year-old Stephen Axelson, a commitment to helping those most in need led him to partner with Africare to organize a 5k run in Fairfax, VA in 2010. His efforts raised \$15,000 to provide clean water to two rural communities in the Wassa Amenfi West District of Ghana - one of the country's most underdeveloped regions. ([Read More](#))