



Salamander Trust
TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HIV

Annual Report 2011–2012



Welcome!



Welcome to the Salamander Trust Annual Report for April 2011 to March 2012. Excitingly, we have many successful activities to report due in large to the invaluable assistance of key supporters. This has been a lifeline in the face of challenging funding cuts.

A large component of Salamander Trust's work is the Stepping Stones programme and our coordination of the International Stepping Stones Community of Practice Network. An accompanying annual report for Stepping Stones 2011–2012 can be found online at: www.salamandertrust.net/resources/Stepping_Stones_Annual_Report_Final_March_2012.pdf

The Salamander Trust challenges us to develop greater understanding of the issues, catalyse new initiatives and transform the way we think about HIV. Our activities span three themes: global advocacy; NGO training; and research.

The year in a blink

APRIL	Preparations for visit to Tanzania	Participation in Global Virtual Consultation in preparation for United Nations (UN) High Level Meeting	Application to Charity Commission for charitable status
MAY			
JUNE	Ten-day visit to Tanzania to meet PASADA staff and clients	Attend UN High Level Meeting, New York	Publish Open Democracy article about the UN High Level Meeting
JULY	Attend World YWCA Summit, Zurich	Visit to Stepping Stones programme in India	Attend International AIDS Pathogenesis Conference, Rome. Helped deliver Women's Networking Zone and programme of events. Videos of sessions posted on website
AUGUST	Salamander Trust gets registered charity status	Start of Ning platform for Stepping Stones Community of Practice	Appointment of new Trustees: Jill Lewis and Jane Tewson
SEPTEMBER	Submission of proposal to Comic Relief	Participate in UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women meeting, New York	Administration
OCTOBER	Creative thinking		
NOVEMBER	Participate in National AIDS Control Programme Staff and Civil Society meeting, Istanbul	Round 2 of Comic Relief proposal submission	
DECEMBER	Draft editorial for <i>Reproduction Health Matters</i>	Article 'Of Bombs and Banks and Transformation' appears in Open Democracy	Publish 'Ethical Considerations for an Integral Response to Human Rights, HIV and Violence against Women in Central America' by Vázquez, M. and Hale, F.
JANUARY	Support for francophone virtual consultation on treatment access issues in Sub-Saharan Africa	Meeting at World Council of Churches, Geneva	House of Commons, London presentation
FEBRUARY	Stepping Stones Comic Relief grant success	Produce International Women's Day poster on the Global Fund crisis	Stepping Stones meeting at UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development
MARCH	UNESCO talk, Paris		Three-week research visit to Tanzania with Gill Gordon, Florence Kilonzo and Dr Christine Nabiryo

Global advocacy ■ NGO training ■ Research ■ Operations ■

The year in detail

JUNE 2011: A VIRTUAL CONSULTATION FOR THE UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING

In June the United Nations (UN) held a General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) in New York to review progress in relation to the international HIV and AIDS response. The previous meeting was in June 2001,¹ when heads of state declared a united commitment with targets to the HIV response. The ten-year review was a key political event for the UN in relation to HIV and AIDS.

Salamander Trust became involved in the review in March 2011, to ensure that women's voices from around the world were included. Initially UNAIDS suggested that each region have a small meeting of women to discuss progress and challenges to date. However, realising that only a few women would be able to attend each meeting, Salamander Trust suggested a large scale 'virtual' consultation,² the first of its kind, to enable more women across the world to contribute.

Working closely with key colleagues at the ATHENA Network, we were able to work within an extremely tight timeframe of only two weeks, to produce a summary of 'what women want' from each region, and to feed into eight regional consultation workshops.

We made use of Survey Monkey, together with email listservs to reach out to as many women as possible, and in multiple languages, across a wide range of countries. With the support of translators and through women taking the questionnaire to women's groups in their communities, we received 800 back from 95 countries – representing all continents – and in nine languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Hindi, Arabic, Chinese, Burmese and Bahasa Indonesian). We were able to make use of the regular email listservs contact we have with many inspiring women, which connects us through our common concerns around the world. These include several closed listservs of women living with HIV, as well as the more open ATHENA Network listserv for people concerned about HIV, sexual and reproductive rights and gender equity.

Through the Virtual Consultation process we produced eight regional summary factsheets, all authorised by UNAIDS and UN Women, as well as a Global Summary document. These can be accessed from the WeCare website.³ The Eastern Europe and Central Asia final Regional Summary document is also translated into Russian, the dominant language in this area.

As a result of the Virtual Consultation, the ATHENA Network published *In Women's Words: Action Agenda*, to which Salamander Trust contributed as a lead author. This was launched at a side session organised by ATHENA in New York at the UNGASS meeting on 7 June in the United Nations headquarters. The event was sponsored by the Government of Liberia. Michel Sidibé and Dr Michelle Bachelet of UNAIDS and UN Women led a tremendous panel of speakers including: Stephanie Nolen (Moderator); musicians Annie Lennox and Alicia Keys; ATHENA Network activist Ebony Johnson; activist Frika Chia; HE Prime Minister Sarah Wescott-Williams of Sint Maarten; HE Vabah Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development, Republic of Liberia and the President of Rwanda, HE Paul Kagame. The event can be watched online⁴ and the full document launched at this event accessed at: www.womeneurope.net/resources/InWomen%27sWordsFinal.pdf

With the support of translators and women who took the questionnaire into their communities, we received 800 back from 95 countries representing all continents and in nine languages...

1. www.un.org/ga/aids/conference.html

2. www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/HLM_June_2011/en

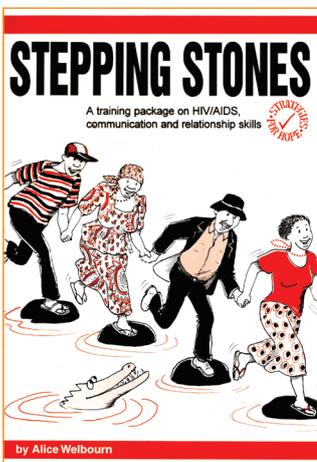
3. www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/HLM_June_2011/en

4. www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/06/hiv-priorities-for-positive-change-in-womens-words-english.html

Meanwhile, Salamander Trust was working with UN colleagues and others to influence the production of the new Political Declaration, to ensure that it reflected the many important issues that had emerged from the Virtual Consultation process. The final Political Declaration⁵ was adopted on 10 June 2011. Whilst we had hoped for an even stronger document, we were glad to see that some of the concerns raised by women around the world were reflected.

On the last day of the New York meeting, Silvia Petretti of Positively UK was invited to address the Special Session as the civil society representative. She gave a rousing and powerful speech, which Salamander Trust had helped develop.⁶

In the following week Alice Welbourn wrote a commentary about the proceedings for the Open Democracy 5050 website (which in 2011 reached a global readership of over 100,000 across 155 countries). Entitled 'The "Calm Down Dear" factor writ large: AIDS, women and the UN',⁷ the article highlighted the lack of women's involvement in the High Level Meeting and the struggle that went into creating the final document. Salamander Trust also compiled a web page of all the relevant reports and webcast links.⁸



JUNE 2011: FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: A VISIT TO TANZANIA

The high-level political arena of the UN world and its pedantic negotiations over words contrasted vividly with the ten-day visit in June to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Alice Welbourn and long-term Salamander friend and colleague, Gill Gordon (recently retired as Senior Technical Advisor on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV linkages at the International HIV/AIDS Alliance) met the staff and clients of PASADA (Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese). At this meeting they considered a joint development of the Stepping Stones manual for use with children aged 5–14 years and their care-givers.

PASADA has been using Stepping Stones for some years in their community outreach work, so was ideally placed to work in partnership on the next development stage. It was inspiring to see their clinical practice and outreach work, which included a visit to a community in a 'slum' area of the city.

The young adults we met described how Dominic, a PASADA outreach worker, had visited them several times to talk about a programme called Stepping Stones, but how they used to chase him away. At the time, they were involved in street crime and used a lot of alcohol, other drugs, guns and knives. They showed us photos of rubbish piled high in the neighbourhood and described their lives as pretty tough. However, Dominic's persistence and talents paid off. In 2007, they finally agreed to let him run a Stepping Stones workshop.

They were proud to show us how the Stepping Stones programme had helped them, taking us to a lively, bright and spotless neighbourhood with loud music blaring and a welcoming committee to greet us.

They described how, once the workshop had finished, they decided to form TAYOPAD, which stands for Tanzania Youth of Paradise in Africa for Development.⁹ Through this self-help group, they have cleaned up the neighbourhood, developed a tree nursery as an income-generation project and have been training young people in neighbouring

5. www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/document/2011/06/20110610_UN_A-RES-65-277_en.pdf

6. www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2011/06/global-network-of-people-living-with-hiv-2011-high-level-meeting-on-aids-95th-plenary-meeting.html

7. www.opendemocracy.net/5050/alice-welbourn/calm-down-dear-factor-writ-large-aids-women-and-un

8. www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/HLM_June_2011/en

9. www.steppingstonesfeedback.org/resources/25/SS_PASADA_Poster_Toronto_2006.pdf

communities to roll out Stepping Stones. The group explained that they initially had problems with the police who hadn't understood that they were trying to move on from their past. So, they decided to run a workshop with the police, using parts of Stepping Stones, in order to gain their support.

We heard a similar story from another youth group in a separate part of town. With PASADA's training support using Stepping Stones they turned from street crime and its related challenges to setting up a car-washers' cooperative. They then bought an acre of land that they are now growing potatoes on. They told us of their plans to build a centre on the site to support younger people in rehabilitation from drug use. Their leader told us, "The police used to chase us in their vehicles, now they bring the vehicles to us to keep them clean."

We were very inspired by these stories and by meeting the young people at first hand, and are delighted to be partnering with PASADA in the adaptation of Stepping Stones for use with children aged 5–14. For more information on PASADA visit: www.pasada.or.tz.

Stepping Stones and PASADA, Tanzania

“ Before Stepping Stones we had a risky style of life and we could have got HIV because of our lives. We had been engaged in unprotected sex, robbery – like watches, rings, bags – and illicit drugs like cocaine and heroine. There is an institute here that taught us the consequences of using drugs also. Before we had low education; we knew nothing before Stepping Stones. We smoked. We lived in a dump. But you can see now how clean it is here. So, it was hard for us to make a good decision about our lives. So, we are thanking PASADA for all they have done for us.

At first it was hard for us to trust Dominic. We chased him away three times as we thought he was a soldier or a policeman, but he kept coming back. After that we sat down and thought – why does he keep coming back? Let's sit and listen to him. Dominic started opening our eyes and our minds. To start with, we felt as if Dominic was pointing fingers at us, but gradually we understood and decided to accept the Stepping Stones training. We started to recognise that what we were doing is wrong and risky, thanks to Dominic's facilitation. In total the Stepping Stones manual is a life. That's why even now we are using it to help people here.

Stepping Stones deals with behaviour change, improving communication and also opening eyes to realise what things could affect us (four boys to one girl is a problem). Before we felt it was very difficult to change our behaviour but when we changed, when we were trained we decided to do so.”

INTERVIEW WITH YOUNG MAN, 15 JUNE 2011, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA



JUNE 2011: NEW SUPPORT STAFF FOR SALAMANDER TRUST

June marked the arrival of intern Nell Osborne as an e-communications consultant. She joined Amandine Bollinger in supporting the Stepping Stones Community of Practice. Nell has strong language skills, with fluent Spanish and French, together with e-communications expertise. She spent time in Ecuador during a gap year as a part of a Stepping Stones programme with young people. She also worked in Ecuador in a women's refuge. Nell's role with the Stepping Stones work is to support the website maintenance, to respond to the regular flow of email requests about the programme, to manage and develop the database and to develop and distribute regular newsletters for the Community of Practice.

JULY 2011: WORLD YWCA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUMMIT, ZURICH

In early July, Alice Welbourn took part in the International Women's Summit in Zurich,¹⁰ kindly supported (on an individual basis) by UN Women. This is a four-yearly gathering of over 1,000 members of the World YWCA and their supporters and is always an inspiring event. Alice contributed to a pre-conference workshop of young women living with HIV¹¹ and ran two workshops in the main conference: one about Stepping Stones and the other on the challenges of food insecurity for household harmony and safety¹². She also supported the drafting of the final outcomes document from the Summit – 'A Global Agenda for Action: Women Creating a Safe World – Advancing the Leadership, Empowerment and Rights of Women and Girls'.¹³

The Stepping Stones workshop brought together others who have used Stepping Stones in their programmes, notably Christy Abraham of ActionAid International, India. Sadly, although she has had very positive experiences with the programme, their programme strategy has shifted away from HIV and they will no longer be using Stepping Stones.

“ There are strong discussions in Stepping Stones sessions between men and women – facilitators can find it hard. Once women see the reality of their situation, they get very angry ... but up to 75 percent of men in the programme think, reflect, exchange ideas ... and say 'we never realised ... we never thought about it from this perspective ... 20 years back we never discussed money with our wives ... But now we realise that we should ...' ”

CHRISTY ABRAHAM, INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR, WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL, JULY 2012

JULY 2011: WOMEN'S NETWORKING ZONE AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS PATHOGENESIS CONFERENCE, ROME

In late July, the International AIDS Society Pathogenesis Conference took place in Rome. These bi-annual conferences alternate with the main international AIDS conference, and provide a greater focus on scientific content. As a result, these pathogenesis conferences do not have a global village space. However, with the lead support of ATHENA Network and funding from the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA), we took a booth in the exhibition space in order to create a mini Women's Networking Zone (WNZ).

10. www.worldywca.org/Media-Centre/Press-Release/Three-former-presidents-join-1-000-participants-from-across-the-globe-in-Zurich-Switzerland

11. www.worldywca.org/content/download/67424/809041/file/World%20YWCA%202011%20Popular%20Report-web.pdf

12. www.steppingstonesfeedback.org/index.php/News/Some_Food_For_Thought:_HIV_and_Food_Insecurity

13. www.worldywca.org/content/download/67424/809041/file/World_YWCA_2011_Popular_Report-web.pdf



Salamander Trust was largely involved in coordinating with ATHENA and GCWA to shape five 'critical dialogue' sessions in the WNZ booth, a satellite in the main conference and a Town Hall event in a hotel in central Rome – the sole open-access event for women that we organised at the conference. The seven events brought together women living with HIV and scientific researchers and/or doctors in open dialogue around key women's rights issues. All the events were well attended and videoed. They can be accessed online at: <https://vimeo.com/user7928722/videos>.

The themes covered were:

- ▶ **Vertical transmission in the context of sexual and reproductive health of women living with HIV** (Session 1)
- ▶ **Treatment access for all women living with HIV** (Session 2)
- ▶ **Treatment as prevention** (Session 3)
- ▶ **Involvement of women in the research agenda** (Session 4)
- ▶ **Doctors dealing with violence against women** (Session 5)
- ▶ **New prevention technologies, gender and the greater involvement of people living with HIV (GIPA): complement or collision?** (Satellite session in five parts)
- ▶ **Achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls through the HIV response** (Town Hall session)

Thanks to the support of GCWA, ATHENA was able to bring some young women leaders, largely from Africa, to the conference. Their presence on panels and in discussions greatly enhanced our understanding of the issues faced by young women in their communities. Some were born with HIV, others acquired HIV as young adults and some have HIV in their families: all are from communities deeply affected by HIV. It was terrific to have their involvement. Proudly, this is what Salamander is all about!

Luisa Orza of ATHENA Network conducted a review for GCWA of our involvement in Rome, which was, once more, very positive.



JULY 2011: VISIT TO STEPPING STONES PROGRAMMES, INDIA

Amandine Bollinger visited the Stepping Stones programmes run by ActionAid and Karnataka Health Promotion Trust in India. You can read about her visit online in the Stepping Stones Annual Report, 2011–2012.¹⁴

Extract from the Stepping Stones Annual Report, 2011–2012

In one Indian village, the impact of Stepping Stones was reported as:

- ▶ Many of the participants stopped the practice of dowry payment
- ▶ Participants convinced families not to dedicate female children to the gods as this effectively led them to under-age sex work.
- ▶ Children were being married before 18 years of age; they now wait until the person is 18 even if that means waiting as little as six months.
- ▶ Under-age mass child marriages were stopped.
- ▶ Improved knowledge and awareness
- ▶ Improved capacity to communicate with others and to share learning.
- ▶ Greater awareness of how HIV is transmitted.
- ▶ They now have a condom depot at the Village Information Centre
- ▶ Less anger and violence towards children – “instead we try now to listen more and communicate in ways that are encouraging”.

14. www.salamandertrust.net/resources/Stepping_Stones_Annual_Report_Final_March_2012.pdf

AUGUST 2011: SALAMANDER TRUST GAINS REGISTERED CHARITY STATUS AND WELCOMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES

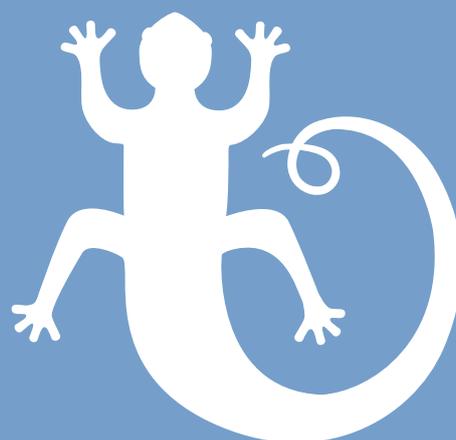
On 16 August 2011, Salamander Trust became a registered charity and formally welcomed two new Trustees, Jane Tewson CBE and Professor Jill Lewis, to join Alice Welbourn (chair) and Nigel Padfield (Treasurer) on to the Board. We feel extremely fortunate to have their involvement.

Jill Lewis

Jill Lewis holds a PhD from Cambridge University. She teaches each Spring semester as Professor of Literature and Gender Studies in the School for Interdisciplinary Arts at Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA. Involved in the Women's Movement and feminisms from the 1970s, since 1986 her interests in cultural representation, theatre, participative educational processes, cross-cultural collaborations and the politics of gender have linked actively with a wide range of initiatives in HIV and AIDS prevention education and capacity building. She has worked on gender-focused HIV awareness and prevention in England, Nordic countries, Estonia, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, DR Congo, Burundi, Sudan, Somalia and Senegal. She led the NIKK Living for Tomorrow three-year project with young adults in Estonia, and her HIV work has included collaborations with the Norwegian Refugee Council, IPPF, Care International and WAGGSS. She is the project initiator and executive producer of the Norad-funded film *Protection* (110-minute creative documentary, 2010) shot in Sierra Leone, Kenya and South Africa, to increase discussion of the challenges and importance of condom protection among men and boys in the era of HIV. Her home base is in England.

Jane Tewson

Jane Tewson CBE has created a number of innovative charitable (non-profit) organisations and initiatives for community strengthening, in the UK and Australia. These include Charity Projects, which gave birth to Comic Relief, Pilotlight UK, Igniting Change, (formerly Pilotlight Australia) and Timebank. Igniting Change proudly returns 15 times the investment in it to support courageous community projects; has produced two best-selling books for social change, *Change the World for Ten Bucks* and *Dying to Know – bringing death to life*; and recently launched a third major publication. Jane believes charity can be “active, emotional, involving and fun”, by building connections between people of different backgrounds, cultures, wealth, and social positions. Her approach argues for “people getting directly involved and giving themselves ...”. This “embraces human connection as a vital part of social change”. Jane has been a trustee of several charities, and currently serves on the boards of Virgin Unite in the UK and Australia; and on the board of the Reichstein Foundation. Jane lives in Melbourne, Australia with her husband and two sons.





AUGUST 2011: STEPPING STONES 'NING' PLATFORM LAUNCHED

A Ning platform is like an internet-based version of Facebook but more oriented towards social justice issues. We learnt from a colleague in Rome about the possible uses of Ning and decided to set this up to see if it would appeal to our Stepping Stones Community of Practice. This initiative was launched by Nell Osborne, our e-communications consultant, who coordinates our Community of Practice, on top of managing the three-language Stepping Stones website. The platform has proved popular, with a membership of 85 by the end of March 2012.¹⁵



SEPTEMBER 2011: PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO COMIC RELIEF FOR ADAPTATION OF STEPPING STONES FOR USE WITH CHILDREN AGED 5–14 AND THEIR CAREGIVERS,

Further to our research trip to PASADA and our registration as a charity, Salamander Trust spent most of August working on a long and complex application to Comic Relief for three years of funding to adapt Stepping Stones for use with children aged 5–14 and their caregivers. This was an idea that had long been in the air and more recently encouraged by doctoral candidate Fabienne Hejoaka who has done significant research with children of this age group and their families in Burkina Faso. A productive two-day meeting held in London, December 2010, with Fabienne, Gill Gordon, Glen Williams of Strategies for Hope and Salamander colleagues, finally led to this application to Comic Relief, which was submitted in early September 2011.

Children orphaned by and/or affected by HIV in the family are especially vulnerable to poverty, abuse and to contracting HIV. Caregivers are often overwhelmed with grief at the loss of the children's parents and do their best with little support to care for these children.

SEPTEMBER 2011: UN TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women invited Alice Welbourn to take part in a meeting in New York in early September, as a resource person for its new grantees. One of these grantees was the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS from Malawi (COWHLA) who have been using Stepping Stones as a resource to support their membership through improving their relationships with their husbands and other partners. Whilst in New York, Alice took the opportunity to interview COWHLA Director, Annie Banda and COWHLA Programme Officer, Steven Iphani, so that others could hear first-hand about their great work and experiences of the using of the package with their members. Funding from UNAIDS and UNDP meant that COWHLA have been able to use Stepping Stones for a year in ten communities in each of eight districts. With their new funding, they plan to expand the programme to another ten communities across another ten districts of Malawi. Their interviews can be viewed online.¹⁶



It's very important that men and women come together for the sake of the woman."

STEVEN IPHANI, COWHLA PROGRAMME OFFICER, MALAWI



"I've seen that the communities where we visited, the women were so free to talk about whatever things they have in their mind ... In other communities it's a taboo ... but here they can talk about the issues that make families break down and help to the spread of HIV ... I see bright faces in these communities."

ANNIE BANDA, COWHLA DIRECTOR, MALAWI

15. <http://steppingstonesfeedback.ning.com/>

16. <http://vimeo.com/29733302>

NOVEMBER 2011: MEETING OF NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMME STAFF AND CIVIL SOCIETY, ISTANBUL

In November, Salamander Trust and the ATHENA Network took part in the second of two annual meetings initiated by several UN agencies. This time the meeting took place in Istanbul. The meetings bring together staff from National AIDS Control Programmes with key civil society staff from the same countries to review their national programmes. The theme of both meetings has been the integration of strategies to address gender-based violence and the engagement of men and boys to advance gender equality through National Strategic Plans on HIV and AIDS.

The Istanbul workshop brought together participants from 18 countries from Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. Salamander Trust was invited to attend as a resource in two key areas: to inform participants about the Stepping Stones programme and to promote understanding of the importance of meaningful involvement of women living with HIV in an effective HIV response. Salamander Trust also provided an online resource for participants through a page on our website. All the presentations made by UN partners, civil society organisers and participants can be found on this page.¹⁷



NOVEMBER 2011: COMIC RELIEF ROUND 2 SUBMISSION AND ASSESSOR'S MEETING

Intensive work and detailed face-to-face assessment followed notification of our success in getting to the second round of the Comic Relief application process. The late night sessions and nerve-wracking waiting period paid off when we learned in January that we would receive funding for three years.

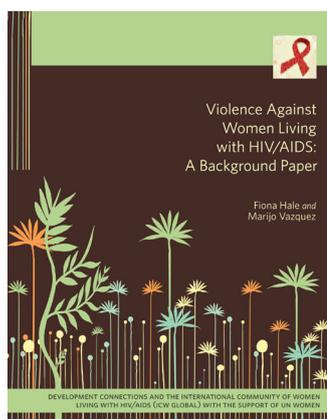
DECEMBER 2011: OF BOMBS AND BANKS AND TRANSFORMATION

At the end of November came the shocking news that The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was not going to fulfill Round 11 of its grants due to a lack of donor commitment. This prompted a world-wide outcry, since the Global Fund is the major funder for these three life-threatening conditions. Alice had an article published for World AIDS Day (1 December) 'HIV: of bombs and banks and transformation ...' for the Open Democracy 5050 site, to explain the crisis.¹⁸

DECEMBER 2011: GROUND-BREAKING ETHICS DOCUMENT PUBLISHED

December also saw the publication of another ground-breaking document by Salamander Trust Associates, Fiona Hale and Marijo Vázquez, entitled *Ethical Considerations for an Integral Response to Human Rights, HIV and Violence against Women in Central America*. It was initially published in Spanish and shortly afterwards in English.

Coordinated by Dinys Luciano of Development Connections, for the Organisation of American States and the Inter-American Commission of Women, this publication is a sister report to the equally ground-breaking report produced by the same authors in March 2011. Salamander Trust feels hugely honoured to be associated with such key documents, which have already been widely cited. Both of these documents are available on our website.¹⁹



17. www.salamandertrust.net/index.php/Projects/GBV_Workshop_Istanbul_Nov_2011/

18. www.opendemocracy.net/5050/alice-welbourn/hiv-of-bombs-and-banks-and-transformation

19. www.salamandertrust.net/index.php/page/Salamander_Associates/

JANUARY 2012: MEETING AT WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, GENEVA

In January, Alice Welbourn was invited to take part in a meeting held at the World Council of Churches in Geneva that brought together leading Christians working in the HIV response from around the world. This meeting focused on how Christian communities might create safe spaces for people living with HIV and other people marginalised by society.²⁰

Three days of rich, honest and at times painful discussion ensued. One key learning point was that people of faith have as much, if not more, to learn from those to whom they offer safety rather than vice versa. Another key point was the enormity of the gender inequity issue facing the traditional teachings of the Church. Most participants openly acknowledged that they had never been challenged to question these issues.

The Old Testament story of the Rape of Tamar was analysed and discussed as an example of a story that most of those present had never previously been asked to consider from a women's rights perspective.²¹ Another participant pointed out that much of the Old Testament is based on a society that took the inequities of slavery for granted. The implications of these traditional attitudes, which have formed the foundations of Church teachings for centuries, on an effective and equitable response to the HIV pandemic were discussed at length. The meeting was a powerful experience for all concerned.

JANUARY 2012: HOUSE OF COMMONS PRESENTATION

In January 2012, a joint meeting was hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group on AIDS and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Maternal Health. Alice Welbourn was invited to be a speaker along with Professor Sebastian Lucas, Head of Department of Clinical Histopathology, St. Thomas' Hospital and Dr Mitch Besser, Founding Director, Mothers2mothers.

The focus of Alice's presentation was the human rights issues facing pregnant women when they learn they have HIV. Many health care settings are places of violence and abuse, due to health workers' attitudes, rather than places of safety. Women in some countries are facing coerced sterilization, possible criminal prosecution for transmitting HIV to their babies, fear that they cannot access antiretroviral medication or infant feeding formula for their babies unless they agree to being sterilized, and other abusive situations.

The *Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive* was launched by UNAIDS and co-sponsors in June 2011.²² However, whilst we support the good intention of the Global Plan, many women living with HIV, and our partners, have concerns about the focus of the Global Plan. For instance, the words 'voluntary' and 'confidential', which are cornerstones of good health practice, are missing from the document, meaning that governments are increasingly giving women who are pregnant no options other than mandatory HIV testing in order to access services.

When women do test HIV-positive, they are often treated with abuse by health workers. This can result in pregnant women avoiding health services for fear of the potential consequences if they are found to have HIV. In our view, there is insufficient attention being paid to these issues in the Global Plan roll-out, highlighting the critical importance of the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV in an effective response to peri-natal HIV transmission issues.

One key learning point was that people of faith have as much, if not more, to learn from those to whom they offer safety than vice versa.

Many health care settings are places of violence and abuse rather than places of safety.

20. <http://tinyurl.com/9u4wjbw>

21. www.womeninthebible.net/Tamar-Daughter-of-David.htm

22. www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2011/20110609_JC2137_Global-Plan-elimination-Hiv-Children_en.pdf

The main messages of Alice's presentation are reiterated in a commentary co-authored by Alice and other women living with HIV from around the world, which is due to be published by the peer-review journal, *Reproductive Health Matters* in August 2012 and her presentation can be viewed online.²³



JANUARY 2012: COMIC RELIEF GRANT ANNOUNCED

At last, at the end of January, came the great news that we were hoping for – that we had been awarded three years of funding by Comic Relief to adapt *Stepping Stones* for use with children aged 5–14 and their caregivers. This was only possible with the huge voluntary inputs from our terrific team of consultants led by Gill Gordon on the technical side and Fiona Hale on the programmatic side, both of whom will continue to be the programme's lead consultants over the following three years.

FEBRUARY 2012: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GLOBAL FUND POSTER,

In response to growing concerns about the future of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as its commitments to funding programmes that promote gender equity, Salamander commissioned the design of a poster alongside a petition to raise awareness of these issues. The poster was produced in English, French, Russian and Spanish, with powerful quotes from women living with HIV from around the world.²⁴ It was launched on 8 March, International Women's Day.

SAVE THE GLOBAL FUND: HOLD DONORS TO ACCOUNT. CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE PETITION!

A decade after the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria we have real hope about bringing an end to the world's three most deadly infectious diseases. The tragic irony is that just as a generation free of HIV is within our grasp, donors are forcing the Global Fund to stall its progress. Are we really going to let this possibility of hope and life that the Global Fund has given to millions just vanish, thanks to the limited world view of financiers and governments? Where are the options for continued and expanded funding for women, girls, gender equality and HIV?

The Global Fund made a commitment to encourage a positive bias towards women, girls and gender equality in their grant portfolio. We need to ensure that this happens despite the recent setbacks.

To help mitigate the impact of the suspension of Round 11 on gender equality interventions, country level partners and governments, should ensure that reprogramming of existing grants includes and maintains a focus on women and girls living with and affected by HIV.

Networks of women living with HIV and women's groups must continue to be supported to advocate for gender transformative HIV responses that accelerate social change for women and girls.

Women's groups and NGOs should be supported to engage with the iterative process of programme development in future rounds.

Increase the presence of women, including women living with HIV, within high level decision-making process at national level, on Country Coordinating Mechanisms and on the Global Fund Board.

SOURCE: "Donor brief: The GFATM: Leveraging the commitment to gender equality in a time of change and austerity," The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (forthcoming).

50% of people with HIV globally are women.¹

59% of people with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa are women.²

48% of all people on HIV treatment depend on the Global Fund to receive their medication.³

3 days of the US defence budget would plug the Global Fund's funding gap.⁴

1 I want to have a baby and there would be no better time than now ... my health is better than ever. But, I live in Bolivia, a developing country that has not made the HIV epidemic a national priority. My government has not allocated resources for medication ... instead we have ARVs donated by the Global Fund. ... Since the Global Fund was implemented in Bolivia (2004), I stopped going to the cemetery as often as before. If the Global Fund stops funding in countries like Bolivia, there is no hope for people living with HIV in these countries. How can I have a baby if the future seems so uncertain and bleak? What possibility of planning a life can I have if there are no medications for HIV? Maybe my child will help bring hope for people living with HIV? Maybe my baby will grow up to invent the cure for HIV?
GRACIA VIOLETA ROSS, BOLIVIA

2 I am alive and well because of the Global Fund grant to Jamaica, which is now excluded as an upper-middle income country ... and transitional funds seem to be fading from the light at the end of the tunnel. My self-saving desire is to have the Global Fund back to its glory days and to have more understanding of the realities of people in countries that are excluded from receiving grants.
OLIVE EDWARDS, JAMAICA

3 The Global Fund is broke because most donors either did not redeem their pledge or cancelled their funding. So while existing programmes will continue, not one new person will get the extended life I have gotten through access to treatment. Not one new baby will be saved, no new HIV averted and no new child prevented from being an orphan, all at a time when we are trying to 'Get to Zero'. I feel like we're at the wake of the AIDS movement and it breaks my heart to imagine what this means for African women. Our five minutes of fame is over and now we all must go wait on the side for a curtain call!
MOROLAKE ODEYINBO, NIGERIA

4 The Global Fund cuts pose a huge threat to Romania's HIV population, not only because over the last years the country has been experiencing ongoing shortages of antiretrovirals (ARVs), but also because new TB and HIV numbers have dramatically risen. So, without funding those who are on treatment or newly diagnosed will soon have no access to their life-saving medication whatsoever, whilst any preventative methods and programmes will be simply unaffordable. The situation will be disastrous.
ANCA NITULESCU, ROMANIA

Care and support for women living with HIV in Tajikistan is minimal. The country cannot provide ART to 2020. Women do not have access to quality health care services because they do not have their own money. Support is aimed at injecting drug users – mainly men – and many women are denied. Women with HIV are in a difficult situation ... if the Global Fund will not support people living with HIV, women in particular will suffer and the death rate from AIDS will be even higher. ... If there is no support for lobbying the interests of women and children and especially pregnant women, the rate of babies born with HIV will be higher year on year. We need support in training and employment ... we need ARVs, PMCT, advocacy and lobbying for the rights of women with HIV.
WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV GROUP TAJIKISTAN

If the Global Fund reduces its support then there is no other option for women to continue their treatment in Nepal. Most of the women living with HIV are single mothers with children with and affected by HIV and they have no source of income to buy medicine, improve nutrition and get medical tests. It will reverse the work that has been done to make life longer and prevent HIV in new people. The Millennium Development goal will remain on the agenda. It will revert to how it was in the early stages of HIV. Programmes are not focused exclusively on women ... although ART is free, many women here are not accessing treatment due to transport costs and dependence on their family incomes.
SITA SHAH, NEPAL

Many services, including funding resources for positive women's networks, are slowly diminishing because the Global Fund can no longer support positive women communities. Just when many of us are living longer to see our children grow up or have a family, we are back to where we started. ... If there are stock-outs of ARVs, many of our positive women, including children, will develop resistance to the drugs. Stigma and discrimination will intensify ... women will have to travel again for days because the district 'treatment hubs' will have no more funding support. Donors are failing us, they need to keep their promise and stop playing God by deciding who should live and who shouldn't!
WAPN - SOUTH EAST ASIA

The Global Fund must continue to invest in women's health because women still bear the brunt of the HIV epidemic. They take care of the sick and the percentage of women and girls getting HIV is still very high. Women still do not have access to information and services – some are forced to walk long distances to go to a health centre. The girl-child is still disadvantaged over the boy-child as her needs are given second priority. In Zimbabwe, poverty and other socio-economic factors prevent significant numbers of women and children living with HIV from accessing treatment. Problems with purchasing ARVs, drug stock-outs and user fees prevent more women from accessing treatment. 51.6% of adults and children are still in need of treatment and women account for half of those.
TENDAY WESTERHOFF, ZIMBABWE

Just when everyone is working together to help – not only us HIV positive women but also the men and children – this is dawning on us. Just when people are starting to get their lives back on track, watching their children and their grandchildren grow, this is happening. Us – the mothers, wives, sisters and grandmothers – who are living with HIV and have not missed the birthdays, weddings, graduations, promotions of our loved ones so far. Now that the Global Fund is contemplating their withdrawal from providing our ARV treatments, we are not so sure that we might be around for the next birthday.
JOANA QERBERETABUA, FIJI NETWORK FOR POSITIVE PEOPLE

Produced by networks of women living with HIV from around the world (for full list see www.womeneurope.net/resources/PolicyBriefing_ENGJuly2011.pdf). Designed by Jane Shephard. Funded by Salamander Trust. Many thanks to ATHENA Network, The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and all the contributors (more than we could list on this poster).

23. www.appg-maternity.org.uk/resources/AliceWelbournHoCJan2012.pdf

24. www.womeneurope.net/index.php/page/Global_Fund_Petition_to_G8/en



FEBRUARY 2012: AN AFTERNOON WITH STEPPING STONES AND THE UK CONSORTIUM ON AIDS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gill Gordon and Alice Welbourn, with preparatory support from Amandine Bollinger, presented a showcase of the amazing work that Stepping Stones has been doing around the world to the UK Consortium in February.²⁵ Much of this information had been gathered during Amandine's visits to Latin America, India and the Pacific and more recently through Nell Osborne's e-communications platform. This presentation marked the end of Amandine's great time with us.

See the full report of Amandine and Nell's work with Stepping Stones between April 2011 to January 2012 online at www.salamandertrust.net/resources/Stepping_Stones_Annual_Report_Final_March_2012.pdf



MARCH 2012: RESEARCH VISIT TO DAR ES SALAAM

As soon as the Comic Relief grant arrived, Gill Gordon, along with highly experienced Stepping Stones trainer Florence Kilonzo (from Kenya) and monitoring and evaluation consultant, Dr Christine Nabiryo (from Uganda), spent three weeks with PASADA staff in Dar es Salaam to work with and learn from their staff and clients young and old. This collaboration enabled them to conduct further research in preparation for writing the new child-focused adaptation. Nell Osborne, Salamander Associate and freelance consultant in e-communications, continued to offer her expertise. Other Salamander Associates, consultants Luisa Orza (monitoring and evaluation advisor) and Silvia Petretti (counsellors' guide) were also enlisted.

MARCH 2012: UNESCO MEETING, PARIS

In March, Alice Welbourn took part in a meeting at UNESCO in Paris, in her role as a member of the UNESCO Global Advisory Group for sex, relationships and HIV education. Alice gave a presentation on Stepping Stones, including information on the forthcoming adaptation for use with children aged 5–14 and their caregivers.²⁶

MARCH 2012: VIRTUAL CONSULTATION REPORT ON TREATMENT ACCESS ISSUES FOR WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

March also saw the launch of the report of a virtual consultation on access to treatment coordinated by the AIDS Legal Network of South Africa with support from the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. Amandine Bollinger, on behalf of Salamander Trust, acted as the francophone liaison person.

The report highlighted concerns from Sub-Saharan Africa, similarly raised by Alice in her presentation in the House of Commons in January. It also highlighted the critical importance of the meaningful involvement of women living with HIV in an effective response to peri-natal HIV transmission issues. Salamander Trust is honoured to have been able to contribute to this important document.²⁷

25. www.stepsstonesfeedback.org/resources/6/SS_An_Afternoon_With_SteppingStones_2012.pdf.

26. www.salamandertrust.net/resources/UNESCOMarch2012Day2Session07_AliceWelbourn.pdf

27. www.womenandaids.net/Resource-Centre/GCWA-Resources/Women-s-Meaningful-Participation-in-the-scale-up-o.aspx

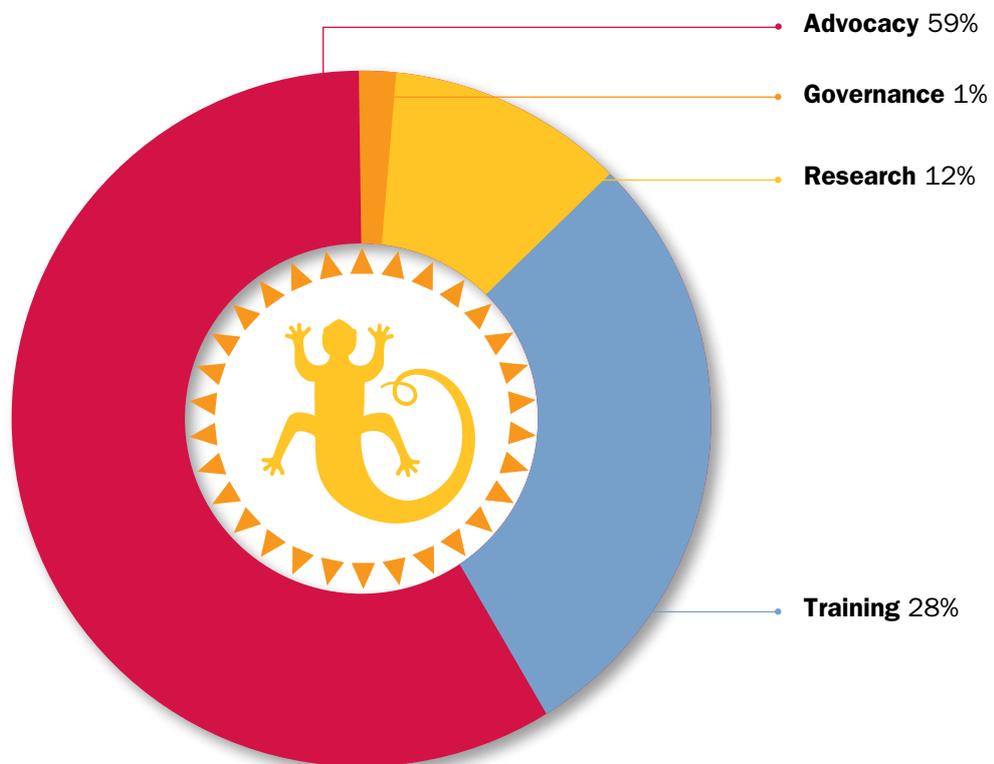
Salamander Trust Annual Accounts 2011–2012

For full details of our accounts please refer to the UK Charity Commission website:
www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends81/0001143381_AC_20120331_E_C.pdf

1 April 2011– 31 March 2012 £

Funds at beginning of year	13,563.00
Total income during the year	<u>89,022.00</u>
Total expenditure during the year	
Advocacy	50,295.00
Training	23,950.00
Research	9,975.00
Governance	854.00
	<u>85,074.00</u>
Net surplus for the year	3,948.00
Funds at end of year	<u>17,511.00</u>

SALAMANDER TRUST EXPENSES 2011–2-12



Appendix 1

STEPPING STONES COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY REVIEW: JANUARY TO MAY 2012

By **Nell Osborne**

INTERNET TRAFFIC TO THE STEPPING STONES WEBSITE

Google analytics data, informed using the correlation between the number of visitors to the site each week between 5 March and 6 May 2012, showed that visitor activity to the Stepping Stones website peaked during the week 5 March, with over 200 visitors. Since then, site traffic has fluctuated but never fallen below 150 visitors per week.

Of the Internet users coming through the Stepping Stones website, approximately 75% are new to the site, the remainder being returning users. Data from the month of May showed a sharp increase in the average time that each web user spent looking at the Stepping Stones website – from just two minutes to over four minutes.

STEPPING STONES NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Contacts are referred to our 900-strong database via the sign up application form on the Stepping Stones website. Since the start of 2012, 20 new contacts have signed up to receive Stepping Stones news and updates. These new contacts are routinely emailed with a 'Welcome to the Stepping Stones Community' template to clarify whether or not they are already using the Stepping Stones methodology or are interested in doing so.

The original sign up application form was very basic. It only asked the applicant to fill in their name and email address. The new 'Newsletter Sign Up' tool has been redesigned to include further information boxes. This helps disseminate useful information regarding the use and purchase of Stepping Stones manuals as well as providing us with further information about the individual, including their organisation and job title.

MAIL CHIMP EMAIL CAMPAIGN, 2012

The biggest email campaign of 2012 was the Stepping Stones M&E Newsletter, translated into French and Spanish with the help of Sophie Wertheimer and MariJo Vázquez respectively.

Analysis of the open rates from this newsletter campaign differ sharply between the different demographics of the Stepping Stones global community. Whilst this may be related to the ability of certain Stepping Stones members to access and maintain email accounts,

there may be other important factors to consider. The demographic with the lowest open rate tended to be the Spanish-speaking 'Paso a Paso' community. Attempts to integrate Spanish-speaking people by involving them in the 'Stepping Stones community' may reverse this trend. In contrast, members from the Stepping Stones contact database that are most receptive to email marketing are those from 'Manual Requests' list. These are people that have actively joined our mailing database via email. This list has an open rate of over 50%. The lowest open rate figure was found in the newsletter sent to 'Paso a Paso' contacts and showed that only 30% of email recipients were opening the newsletter to read it. Both of these figures exceed the industry standard open rate for charity organisation's email marketing, which is only 21.2%.

These figures suggest that more work should be done to engage members of the Paso a Paso contact database list to ensure that the newsletter content is interesting and relevant to them.

NING PLATFORM

Since the creation of the Ning platform in September 2011, we attracted 85 members by the end of March 2011. By systematically targeting demographics, the number of Ning platform participants has increased. Initially this involved creating a space for them, using advocacy resources, group creation, Vimeo links and by establishing key contacts. Secondly by inviting relevant Stepping Stones members to join these spaces. Recently, this has included, Russian, Spanish (Paso a Paso) and French (Parcours) contacts.

Thanks to our colleagues

Amandine Bollinger

Nell Osborne

Fiona Hale

Marijo Vázquez

Luisa Orza

Tyler Crone, ATHENA Network

Jane Shepherd

Gill Gordon

Dan Fletcher

Svetlana Moroz

Sophie Wertheimer

Florence Kilonzo

Christine Nabiryo

Mary Ash, Simon Yohana, Nelson Chizizi, Dominic and team, PASADA

Glen and Alison Williams, Strategies for Hope

TALC

Momodou Conteh

Steph Exton

Jantine Jacobi, Claudia Ahumada, Kreena Govender, Matthew Cogan and Paska Kinuthia, The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

Ann Smith, Harriet Jones and Jane Lennon, CAFOD

Elisabeth Crafer (Director), Allan Anderson, Silvia Petretti and staff, Positively UK

Thanks to our donors

CAFOD

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

Comic Relief





Salamander Trust

TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT HIV

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