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THE AFRICAN BUREAU COLLECTION
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Dates	2000-Present
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Acquisition/Appraisal	This collection comes in-house from the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and materials acquired from past and current employees starting in 2000.

Description Control

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Subject Heading

AIDS Healthcare Foundation
AHF Africa Bureau
Africa
South Africa
Uganda
International Conference on STD and AIDS in Africa
Children of AIDS patients—Care—Africa, Sub-Saharan
AIDS (Disease)—Africa, Sub-Saharan
AIDS (Disease)—Patients
AIDS (Disease)
Nonprofit organizations
HIV-positive persons
Clinics

Historical Note

The AIDS crisis in Africa was under AHF's radar when Michael Weinstein went to Durban, South Africa, to attend the 2000 International AIDS Conference. After the president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, stated that HIV was not the cause of AIDS, Michael Weinstein met with local South African AIDS Activists to find out what AHF could do to help. The activist group NetCom SA led by Nomaswazi Mlaba joined with AHF to build the Ithembalabantu Clinic (meaning People's Hope in Zulu), the first clinic that provided antiretroviral drugs in South Africa. The South African government was hostile towards AHF and did not support their endeavor to provide ARV's to those dying of AIDS related complications. Terri Ford headed the building of the clinic, and in 3 weeks the Ithembalabantu Clinic in Umlazi was complete despite the roadblocks from the government, the expense of the clinic, and the time restraint. At the time, 1 in 3 adults were infected with HIV in Umlazi. The initial goal of the clinic was to prove that the antiretroviral drugs would work, and after the first year one hundred men, women, and children survived when they almost certainly would have died after they received the free ARV's from Ithembalabantu.

AHF then opened a clinic in Masaka, Uganda. There was more support from the government, as President Yoweri Museveni had already established a significant AIDS policy in the 1980s. By 2001, AHF had created the Global Immunity Division which then created "Uganda Cares" for all of the work done in Uganda. Mary Adair oversaw and participated in the opening and running of the clinic, with the Masaka native Hope Katete as the clinic's first nurse. The opening of the clinics and the free ARV's provided helped those who were on the brink of death to survive and have hope for the future. The current head of the African Bureau is Dr. Penninah lutung.

Since the founding of the African Bureau, AHF has rapidly expanded its global program. Currently AHF is located in 45 countries, including the United States of America, and 13 countries in Africa, including Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.