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CIFA Leadership

Edward W. Scott, Jr.	<i>Founder and Chairman</i>
Jean F. Duff	<i>Executive Director</i>
Tom Woods	<i>Senior Advisor</i>
Andreas Hipple	<i>Deputy Director for Africa Programs</i>
Margaux Bergen	<i>Special Advisor: Development and Communications</i>
Heidi Christensen	<i>Interfaith Relations Manager</i>
Cindy Paska	<i>Manager of Operations</i>



Top: December 2008, Leadership Consultation on Scaling up Faith Community Impact against Malaria, Washington, DC
 Second from Top: Mosque in Mozambique
 Second from Bottom: Elementary Schoolgirl
 Bottom: Church in Nigeria

Increasing the Impact of the Global Faith Community against Disease and Poverty



NIFAA Co-Chairs Archbishop John Onaiyekan and Sultan of Sokoto Muhammad Sa'adu Abubakar at the Faiths United for Health Launch in Abuja, December 2009.

CIFA Mission

CIFA's mission is to improve the capacity and effectiveness of the faith community in its collective effort to reduce poverty and disease. Operating at the intersection of faith and development, CIFA is committed to harnessing the potential of the faith sector as a positive force for global development. CIFA does this through increased interfaith coordination, best practices and model sharing, innovative mobilization of resources, and influential advocacy to governments and the general public.

Letter from CIFA's Founder and Chairman, Mr. Edward W. Scott, Jr.

Dear Friends,

I started CIFA in September 2008 because I saw a huge gap in the development landscape and believe that the faith community, with its reach, credibility and moral authority, has the capacity to go the last mile to serve its congregations — in effect acting as a complementary global health delivery system.

With significant help from our partners in the faith and development communities, CIFA has made great progress in fulfilling its mission to improve the capacity and effectiveness of the faith sector in its collective effort to reduce poverty and disease. CIFA has done this by developing an effective and sustainable national-scale coordinating mechanism between the faith community and the public sector so the full capacities of the religious institutions can be engaged in national social welfare programs.

CIFA's innovative approach has been to create and shape a new model for action to systematically support and shape the work of faith leaders and faith-based organizations to more effectively address critical health issues in the developing world.

Our programs have made noteworthy advances in meeting their goals to promote interfaith action, while demonstrating the effectiveness of the faith sector as a credible development partner, securing and mobilizing resources for the sector, and supporting the communities' voice to build capacity both domestically and in the developing world.

CIFA, through its creation of a local NGO partner, the Nigerian Inter-faith Action Association (NIFAA), is now operating a malaria eradication program in Nigeria. We have engaged Nigeria's top Muslim and Christian leaders, the Sultan of Sokoto and The Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, to co-chair NIFAA, in what may be the largest development partnership between the two faiths in history. NIFAA has also developed a strong partnership with Nigeria's national malaria control program, and will play a key role in helping the government increase mosquito net distribution and utilization.

Other critical areas CIFA has been supporting are helping to make the case for investment in the faith sector through our series of consultations, with leaders of faith-based development organizations and other development visionaries.

I look forward to reporting back to you on CIFA's progress and the activities of our partners in the coming months. It is sure to be a promising future as we all seek to reach the Millennium Development Goals and end poverty and suffering around the world.

Edward W. Scott, Jr.
CIFA Founder and Chairman

“Around the world, we can turn dialogue into interfaith service, so bridges between peoples lead to action — whether it is combating malaria in Africa, or providing relief after a natural disaster.”

— President Barack Obama
Cairo, Egypt June 4, 2009



Top: NIFAA Secretariat
Middle: December 2009, Faiths United for Health Training Participants, Abuja, Nigeria
Bottom: Maranatha Wells, Mozambique

CIFA works in four complementary ways to increase the impact of the global faith community's work against disease and poverty

Accomplished

Upcoming

INTERFAITH ACTION: Leveraging the capacity of the global faith sector to effectively support delivery of global health systems and improving the effectiveness of the religious sector through interreligious collaboration, scaling-up and replication.

- Hosted the Leadership Consultation on Scaling up Faith Community Impact Against Malaria, Georgetown University.
- Launched the Nigerian Inter-faith Action Association (NIFAA) to train and mobilize 300,000 + Muslim and Christian faith leaders to partner with national malaria campaign.
- Co-convoked the Women, Faith and Development Alliance and the Asia-Pacific Women, Faith and Development Alliance.
- Launch the Faiths United for Health campaign.
- NIFAA mobilizes implementation to coincide with malaria net distribution in first two Nigerian states.
- Launch the Liberian Interfaith Action Association (LIFAA).
- Support PIRCOM: Interreligious campaign against malaria in Mozambique.
- CIFA announces commitments at Clinton Global Initiative's Annual Meeting.
- CIFA launches two more IFAAAs.

VOICE: Giving voice to the sector's strategic priorities to global public and private stakeholders.

- Co-hosted with UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the One World Against Malaria Summit and a Post-Summit Consultation for interfaith international religious leaders.
- Presented at the Parliament of the World's Religions on malaria and gender justice.
- Hosted The Faith Sector: Challenges and Opportunities, consultation among CEOs of US faith-based organizations to coincide with InterAction's annual CEO Retreat.
- Participate in The US-Indonesian Government Bilateral Consultation on Interfaith Action.
- Co-host One World Against Malaria Summit in Abuja, Nigeria.
- Convene Interfaith Action Summit, Washington, DC
- “Learning from the Leaders” — feature length video on the voice of Nigeria's faith leaders.

RESOURCES: Securing new financial resources for Interfaith Action Associations identifying and securing resources for the sector.

- Hosted The Case for Global Interfaith Action on Malaria, a consultation on resource mobilization.
- Consultation on Roman Catholic Engagement in Interfaith Action.
- Present interfaith action work at World Congress of Muslim Philantropists' Third World Conference “Building a Better World.”
- Consultation on Jewish Engagement in Interfaith Action.
- Consultation on Muslim Engagement in Interfaith Action.

EVIDENCE: Improving the quality and availability of data relating to faith-based activities in health and poverty reduction. Make the case for the interfaith sector as an effective, credible development partner creating foundation for global advocacy and outreach to increase share of public and private resources.

- Promoted the case for interfaith action at “Global Conference of Health and Lifestyle,” in Geneva.
- Co-hosted with the World Health Organization International Consultation on “NGO Mapping Standards Describing Religious Health Assets.”
- Launch report: “Making the Case for Investment in the Religious Sector” in collaboration with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation.
- Country-specific Mapping of Religious Health Assets.