

## HISTORY OF CHAK

The Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK) has a history that dates back to the 1930s when it was started as a Hospital's Committee of the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK). In 1946 the Hospital's Committee became an autonomous body and took on the name Protestant Churches Medical Association (PCMA). The mandate of PCMA was solely to disburse Government grants to Protestant health facilities. In 1982, PCMA's mandate was expanded to that of facilitating the churches' role in health care, and adopted the present day name, Christian Health Association of Kenya.

## MEMBERSHIP

CHAK is an Association of Protestant churches and their health facilities and programs throughout Kenya.

According to CHAK's Constitution (Article 4:1a): "Any Christian church or church sponsored or related non-profit making organisation or community group with the objective of promoting health and health service within the Republic of Kenya shall be eligible for membership of the Association." CHAK has a membership of 414 comprising 24 hospitals, 43 health Centres, 51 churches/church organisations/ church health programs, and 296 dispensaries.

## STRUCTURE

CHAK, as a national network, is divided into four regions covering the whole country:

- Eastern/North Eastern region
- Nairobi/Central/South East & Coast region
- Western/North Rift region
- Nyanza/South Rift region

Each region has an Area Co-ordinating Committee (ACC) which is elected by members of that region.

CHAK's highest body of authority is its membership through the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Every two years the AGM elects the Executive Committee (EXCO). The EXCO meets four times a year and is responsible for formulating policies, review operational plans and monitor progress.



CHAK Chairman, Rt. Rev. Wasonga, addresses delegates of the Annual Health Conference 2004

## ACTIVITIES

CHAK's core functions on behalf of its member are advocacy, capacity building, provision of technical support and networking.

### Advocacy

CHAK health facilities (together with the health facilities under Kenya Catholic Secretariat [KCS]) account for 40% of the total health care services in Kenya. CHAK is therefore a major stakeholder in health sector, complementing government efforts to provide health services to Kenyans.

CHAK is recognised as a reputable representative of the religious sector and represents Faith-based Organisations on several national policy-making bodies. CHAK maintains a proactive approach for lobbying with the Government and other agencies on behalf of its members. Advocacy issues are identified through the ACCs.

### Capacity Building

CHAK facilitates capacity building in member health units by conducting short trainings, seminars, workshops, and providing updates. In addition, the Secretariat coordinates formal training programs. These include: Internship training for doctors and other professionals; nurses training at nursing schools at 8 CHAK Hospitals; postgraduate training for doctors in family medicine conducted through the Institute of Family Medicine (INFAMED) in collaboration with Moi University.



A VCT training session on couple counselling

### Technical Support

CHAK provides technical support in the following areas:

- **Drugs and medical supplies:** CHAK, together with KCS, own and support a drug procurement agency called Mission of Essential Drugs and Supplies (MEDS) which provides essential drugs and medical supplies to church and other non-profit health facilities. The quality of drugs and medical supplies is guaranteed through MEDS' stringent supplier evaluation and laboratory quality analysis. MEDS also provides technical support in drug use and management through field visits by pharmacists and annual training programs which target areas of critical need.

- **Health Care Technical Services (HCTS):** This is a medical equipment maintenance program implemented in both KCS and CHAK hospitals. The program seeks to achieve standardisation of medical equipment through inventory and database maintenance, and providing advice on the procurement and installation of

new equipment. The program has improved hospitals' capacity to service and maintain medical equipment. There are four regional referral workshops in each which provide higher level support.

- **Spare Parts Store:**

A Central Purchasing Spare Parts Store at the CHAK Secretariat was established in April 2003. The Store aims to ensure regular and reliable supply of high quality medical equipment and spare parts to health facilities.



Examining new equipment at the Spare Parts Store

### Quality Assurance in Healthcare

Quality assurance in healthcare is an area of great need particularly in lower level facilities kuje geaktg centres and dispensaries which may not have mechanisms for internal quality assurance. The Ministry of Health has developed standards, protocols and guidelines for quality assurance in healthcare called Kenya Quality Model (KQM). CHAK is collaborating with the the Ministry of Health to facilitate training and orientation in KQM for its member health facilities.

The Health Support Services Department at the CHAK Secretariat is responsible for providing technical assistance and supportive supervision in quality assurance.

### Management Support

CHAK regularly provides governance and management training for its members. To assist small facilities such as dispensaries and clinics, the CHAK Secretariat has a technical advisory team which makes facility visits to assess and advise on quality improvement.

### Networking

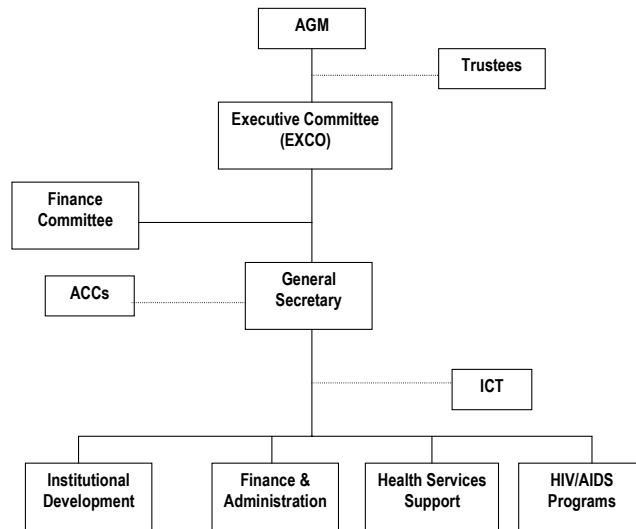
CHAK provides a good forum for networking across denominations in matters related to health. The Secretariat maintains a database of its members and facilitates sharing of experiences at workshops and through inter-facility visits. A network newsletter, *CHAK Times*, is published and distributed three times a year, while the website ([www.chak.or.ke](http://www.chak.or.ke)) provides information to a broader national and international audience.

### HIV/AIDS

Through its members, CHAK is has began establishing and scaling up comprehensive programs to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic. An HIV/AIDS department was established at the Secretarita (July 2004) to provide leadership and spearhead the implementation of HIV/AIDS activities within the CHAK network. PMCT and VCT services are already being provided at several facilities and scaling up of these services to more CHAK facilities particularly at lower level has already began. CHAK also facilitates other activities that aimed at building capacity of health workers in all areas of HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support.

CHAK has a Secretariat located in Nairobi, which co-ordinates the day-to-day functions of the Association. The Secretariat carries out its operations under the leadership of the General Secretary and a management team.

#### CHAK ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



#### OBJECTIVE

The CHAK Secretariat exists for the purpose of enabling member health units deliver accessible, quality health services to Kenyans in accordance with Christian values and professional ethics.

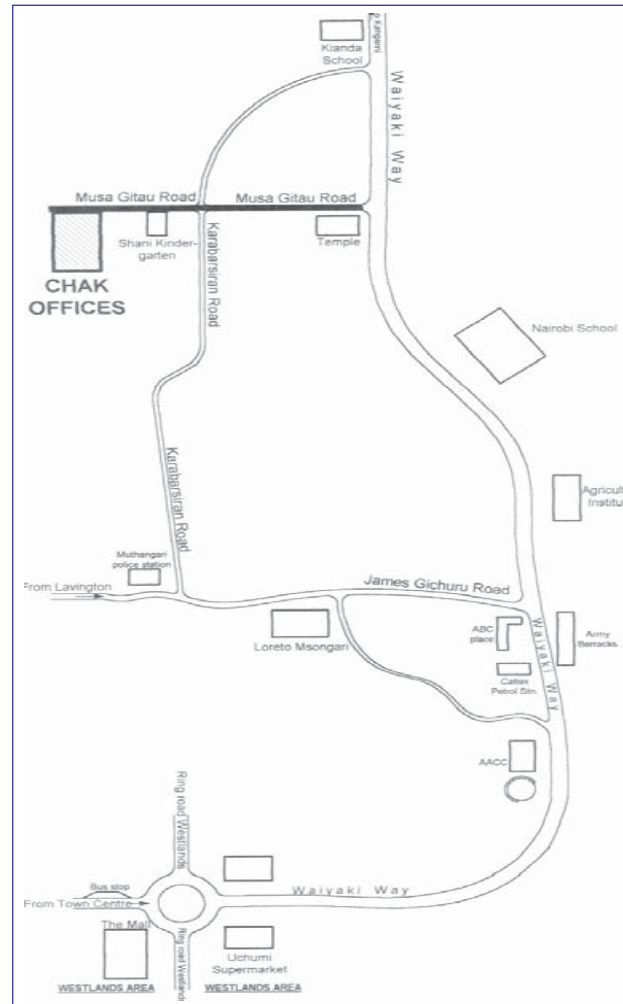
#### Our vision

*All member units and the Secretariat are fully equipped, maintained and soundly managed with committed, skilled staff, providing comprehensive, sustainable and affordable quality health services to all, and witnessing to the healing ministry of Christ.*

#### Our mission

*To serve and assist member health units in their implementation of the holistic health ministry of Jesus Christ through advocacy, capacity building, technical support, networking, innovative health programs and witnessing for a just and healthy nation.*

#### Where to find us



#### Contact us at:

##### Physical address:

Musa Gitau Road, off Waiyaki Way,  
Lavington, Nairobi

##### Postal Address:

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00100 GPO  
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**Website:** www.chak.or.ke

# CHRISTIAN HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF KENYA



#### Revelation 22:2

*"...and on either side of the river was there the tree of life, which bore twelve kinds of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."*