
2002 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE ON AFRICA

Introduction

The Washington Office on Africa (WOA), the only Washington-based ecumenical advocacy organization focused on Africa, continues to be a strong voice for justice in US policy toward Africa. Supported by a wide range of national church bodies and individuals, we monitor Congressional legislation and executive policies and actions and issue action alerts and take other actions to advance progressive legislation and policy. We work in partnership with colleagues in Africa, the Africa advocacy community in the United States, and grassroots organizations concerned with various aspects of African affairs.

In 2002 our Board continued our Millennial Campaign for Africa under three rubrics,

Economic justice
Peace and reconciliation, and
Health and human welfare.

- ❑ Under *Economic justice* we continued to be engaged in the international debt cancellation campaign, but we gave heightened emphasis to US trade policy. The latter included especially the intellectual property rights issue as it applies to access to affordable medicines, the rights of African smallholder farmers and local communities, and water privatization.
- ❑ Under *Peace and reconciliation* we not only focused upon the child soldiers protocol, now ratified, landmines, and the conflict diamonds legislation now passed, but also upon peace initiatives in Sudan and the Congo.
- ❑ Under *Health and human welfare* we continued our emphases on HIV/AIDS and development assistance, especially as the latter addresses the proposed Millennium Challenge Account.

We initiated our series of educational packets for congregational and small group use on the various themes of our Millennial Campaign. Those in 2002 included resources on *Conflict diamonds*, *Sudan*, *AIDS*, and *Development assistance*. All remain accessible through our website. We planned for two concluding packets in 2003, on *Trade* and *the Legacy of conflict*.

We also began to plan for an “advocacy days” event in Washington in February 2003, essentially a culminating event to our Millennial Campaign.

We published our full complement of issues of *Washington Notes on Africa*, including an issue updating our Millennial Campaign for Africa agenda and a special issue on US trade policy toward Africa. WOA continued a bi-monthly theological reflection letter, *Just Faith and Action*, with the full six issues for the year.

There were few changes in our Board in 2002. Lynda Tidemann of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America retired, to be replaced by her colleague, Gaylord Thomas. Bonganjalo Goba joined the Board representing the Africa Office of the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ. Our Board again held a joint meeting with the Board of the Africa Faith and Justice Network in December.

Sylvia Stern joined our staff early in 2002 under the auspices of the United Methodist Church's Mission Volunteer Program. Lia Testa joined our staff later in the year through the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. Catrina Owino of Uganda, a student at Howard University Law School, served as a summer intern, providing an analysis of the effects of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Advocacy

During 2002 WOA gave particular attention to

- ☐ *Sudan*: WOA continued to advocate for capital market sanctions on Sudanese oil, a provision in the House version of the Sudan Peace Act.
- ☐ *AIDS*: Our initiatives were largely directed toward the new Global Fund and toward adequate appropriations for it. We also sought a US commitment to full implementation of the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, adopted at the WTO meetings at Doha.
- ☐ *Debt*: We supported the Debt Relief Enhancement Act, and saw the replenishment of International Development Association (IDA-13) as an opportunity to address debt issues.
- ☐ *African small-holder farmers' rights*: We joined with the African Faith and Justice Network in securing the introduction of a House resolution, introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters, seeking US support for an OAU initiative to support local communities and small farmers, especially in relation to intellectual property rights.
- ☐ *Conflict diamonds*: WOA opposed the emasculated House version of the Clean Diamond Trade Act (HR 2722) and supported a Senate alternative.
- ☐ *Child soldiers*: WOA participated in demonstrations in support of ratification of the protocol.
- ☐ *Landmines*: WOA issued action alerts calling for US support of the landmines treaty.
- ☐ *Development assistance*: WOA monitored maneuverings in the administration and in Congress, including the Bush proposal for grants rather than loans through the international financial institutions, and Bush aid statements in Monterey.
- ☐ *New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)*: WOA was instrumental in preparing an Advocacy Network for Africa analysis of NEPAD, seeking to establish indicators that would demonstrate that this African governmental initiative – flawed though it may be – was being taken seriously by the US government.

Solidarity

WOA continued to work in solidarity within a variety of structures, especially the Advocacy Network for Africa, which our Executive Director now facilitates. Our staff was actively engaged in various coalitions, including the Africa Trade Policy Working Group, the AIDS and Health Care Working Group, the Sudan Working Group, the Congo Working Group, the Inter-Faith Working Group on Trade and Investment; Jubilee Network USA, the conflict diamonds coalition, and the US Campaign to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

Administration

In 2002 staff and Board continued to promote our Millennial Campaign for Africa and joined in planning for the advocacy days in 2003. We expanded our website, www.woaafrica.org. We also completed the organization and transfer of inactive records to the Washington Office on Africa archives held at Yale University.

Sponsorship and support

We acknowledge, with gratitude, our sponsoring organizations, who continue to be generous in their support of the Washington Office on Africa:

Church of the Brethren	Missionaries of Africa
Disciples of Christ	Presbyterian Church USA
Episcopal Church	Reformed Church in America
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	Society of African Missions
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	United Church of Christ
Mennonite Central Committee	United Methodist Church

WOA continued its practice of twice-yearly appeals both for financial contributions and for increased involvement in our advocacy efforts, especially through our Rapid Response Network. We are grateful for the loyalty and support of many individuals. Individual contributions increases substantially in 2002.

We include on the next page what we consider to be the most informative financial tables from our 2002 audit.

2002 Audit

Statement of activities and of functional expenses for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001.

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Support and revenue		
Sponsors	\$ 76,000	\$ 76,500
Contributions	17,352	11,276
Grants	19,544	9,730
Publications and subscriptions	485	934
Contributed services	13,298	0
Miscellaneous	2,395	4,452
Total support and revenue	129,074	102,892
Expenses		
Program services	108,785	92,871
General and administrative	25,178	23,591
Total expenses	133,963	116,462
Changes in net assets	(4,889)	(13,570)
Net assets, beginning of year	32,497	46,067
Net assets, end of year	27,608	32,497

	<u>Program services</u>	<u>General/ Admin</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Salaries and benefits	\$ 57,891	\$ 12,708	\$ 70,599	\$ 63,202
Consultants and professional fees	3,376	3,500	6,876	4,235
Donated services	13,298	0	13,298	0
Rent and storage	11,316	2,484	13,800	14,652
Office expense	5,832	1,704	7,536	5,013
Accounting services	738	3,481	4,219	4,565
Conferences and meetings	831	0	831	100
Equipment leasing	466	155	621	692
Equipment maintenance and repairs	656	497	1,153	0
Office supplies	2,994	492	3,486	3,373
Printing	6,489	6	6,495	5,116
Travel	1,895	0	1,895	2,480
Complimentary publications	1,794	0	1,794	11,729
Depreciation	856	151	1,007	771
Miscellaneous	353	0	353	534
Total expenses	\$ 108,785	\$ 25,178	\$ 133,963	\$ 116,462

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