Zambia - Life on the border - Flagging down passing trucks.
We keep transporters and transport communities healthy and safe.
We keep transporters and transport communities healthy and safe.
Dear readers,
Welcome to our first Annual Overview. In the coming pages we hope to give you a clear and concise overview of a pivotal year for North Star. We will share the highlights of our year, and a look at how we performed operationally and financially. We will zoom in on our activities in East and Southern Africa and introduce you to our Management Team, our Supervisory Board and the Advisory Panel.

Financially, 2009 was the third year we conducted a full audit for Southern Africa activities, the second year for our Head Office activities, and the first year for East Africa. We closed off the year in Southern Africa with a slight surplus of just over €10,000, as compared to a loss of €36,000 for 2008. It should be noted that the financial figures for 2009 are based on 10 months, as we changed our book year in South Africa to align with the rest of the organization.

At the Head Office in the Netherlands, we ended up with a surplus of €237,000, whereas we broke even in 2008. This significantly higher amount can largely be attributed to substantial donations coming in late in the year as well as reservations for planned expansion in Head Office activities for 2010.

East Africa finished the year with a surplus of €65,000, with many late donation commitments coming in at the end of the year due to the fact that one of our major donors, Family Health International (FHI) / USAID, runs a different financial year than North Star.

In 2009, we continued our steep growth trajectory, going from 4 to 12 Wellness Centres and again doubling our operating budget. Let me draw your attention to 4 large developments to give you some scope of the breadth and diversity of the change that North Star has undergone these past 12 months.
East Africa was the first major development. New contracts with FHI and the World Food Programme (WFP) Kenya Country Office opened the doors for our expansion into the eastern part of Africa. Eva Mwai joined our team as General Manager for East Africa in February. Eva’s arrival was quickly followed by the opening of our first Wellness Centre for WFP in Mombasa, Kenya. We combined ceremonial duties for the opening of the Mombasa Centre with a board meeting and our ‘first’ ever team workshop. By the end of the year, Eva and her team had opened an additional four Wellness Centres for FHI, and the first North Star office in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The second major development was the addition of ORTEC as North Star’s fifth core partner. ORTEC, one of the world’s largest providers of optimization and planning software, was no stranger to North Star. Since 2008, ORTEC has been helping us redesign our IT backbone, known as COMETS (Corridor Electronic Medical Transfer System). The team at ORTEC has been focusing on creating a robust and user-friendly system that works like an electronic health passport: allowing patients to access key healthcare information at any Wellness Centre linked into the system. Gerhard de Vries took up his seat on the Supervisory Board on behalf of ORTEC in October.

The third big change for North Star was the arrival of our new Managing Director Africa, Paul Matthew. Paul had been working with North Star on a consulting basis since North Star was only in pilot phase. Paul pioneered the Wellness Centre concept in South Africa as early as 1998. He started off with many a cold night parked in an ambulance at a truck stop along the N3 highway and over a seven year period grew a network of 12 Wellness Centres across South Africa. His experiences served as the starting point for the North Star model first piloted in Malawi in 2005. Paul took up his position on the Management Team in October.

The final major development I wish to highlight for you is North Star’s contract with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands securing us five years’ funding for core investments and activities. After more than a year of negotiations I was pleased to be able to join Peter Bakker, Chair of North Star’s Advisory Panel and CEO of TNT N.V. and Bert Koenders, then Minister of Development for the Netherlands, in September, to sign what has been called a Millennium Accord for €2.5 million in support for North Star. The importance of this donation in terms of its size and stability for North Star cannot be understated. The funds, which are administered through the Ministry’s Regional Health Programme for Southern Africa, will allow us to make critical investments in personnel and infrastructure to support the continued rapid scale up of operations across the region.

In addition to these four “sign posts” of change, there have been many smaller advances that were critical to our development. Our communications approach has been professionalized and back-office processes have been strengthened. Furthermore, we expanded our network of strategic partners to fill gaps in our knowledge and capabilities. For example, a successful collaboration with Nike Foundation has helped us to better address the needs of girls (14-18 years old) visiting our Wellness Centres. A partnership with Shell resulted in road maps for truckers identifying health facilities along the highways in East, West and Southern Africa.

Of course, what the outside world thinks of North Star’s work is just as important as what we think. In this respect, I am pleased to report that the North Star team received numerous compliments on their efforts from well and lesser-known sources.
North Star was mentioned as a “best practice” in programmes targeting mobile populations at the June meeting of the UNAIDS Programming Coordinating Board. Our innovative approach to partnership building was also mentioned as one of the accolades leading to Peter Bakker’s Clinton Global Citizen Award this year. Perhaps the most important compliments we receive are from the clients that visit our Wellness Centres in ever increasing numbers.

Last but not least, 2009 was the year we said “goodbye” to our Foundation denominator. On 1 December, World AIDS Day, we officially changed our name to North Star Alliance. One of the most important reasons for the change is that Alliance is a much better description of the inclusive and mutually reinforcing nature of the relationships we have with our many partners. Long-term solutions to overarching problems like health and safety are beyond the capacity of any one organization or body. As the African wisdom states: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

In three short years, we have come a long way on the road to health. The journey ahead is still long, but we must not forget how far we have come and how we have gotten where we are. On behalf of the Management Team, the staff, our partners and clients: thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Luke Disney
Executive Director

North Star’s Management Team. (from left to right)
Robin Landis (Director Programmes), Paul Matthew (Director Africa), Luke Disney (Executive Director)
Vision and strategy

North Star was established in September 2006 as a platform to unite the transport sector in its response to the threat HIV/AIDS posed to long-haul truckers in Southern Africa.

From the start our approach was based on certain core beliefs:

- Increased HIV prevalence rates among long-haul truckers could be directly linked to their working conditions.
- HIV prevalence was only the most visible health and safety risk truckers faced.
- A truly effective response needed to include transport communities, including sex workers and women at risk.
- A regional approach based on transport corridors was required to effectively reach the truckers in their work environment.
- A sustainable response needed to focus on extending existing local and national health systems, not replacing them.

Over the last three years North Star has grown from one roadside clinic in Malawi, to 12 Wellness Centres in 9 different countries. Along the way we have broadened our operational scope to East Africa. We have expanded our diagnostic and treatment services to include infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, and primary healthcare concerns like high blood pressure, poor nutrition and poor eyesight.

In other respects we have narrowed our focus. We have turned down opportunities to move into more community-based approaches, choosing instead to remain focused on roadside services. We decided against moving to more sophisticated treatment services and so remain an extension of large-scale healthcare facilities, not a substitute for them. We looked at moving into other fields of transport, such as rail and air, but found that trucking is what we know best.

For the first three years of our existence our strategy was similar to that of many start-up operations: discover and exploit opportunities to grow. In North Star’s case this translated into two intricately linked goals:

- Grow our reputation among public and private sector donors as a specialist provider of healthcare services for mobile workers and transport communities.
- Grow our network of Wellness Centres to be able to reach a greater number of clients.

The first goal speaks largely for itself and applies to organizations old and new alike. The second was particularly important for North Star given our regional focus and the need to provide services to our clients at not just one, but multiple locations.

By the end of 2009, we reached a point where we were confident that we had achieved our initial objectives. The Ministry of Development for the Netherlands had committed to providing five years core funding. North Star had also secured several large, multi-year contracts from partners such as Family Health International, the World Food Programme and the Walvis Bay Corridor Group.
Our network of centres had grown from Southern to East Africa and we had opened offices in Kenya and South Africa (officially open January 2010) in the process. We were on to the next phase. It was time to set new goals.

As we enter 2010, North Star will continue to grow. Contracts signed in 2009 will see us opening and managing 5 new Wellness Centres for existing partners by the end of the second quarter. The favourable conclusion to ongoing negotiations with new partners means that that number will likely increase.

However, we are committed first and foremost to making 2010 a year of foundation strengthening. Service quality and sustainability will be our watchwords for the months ahead.

In particular we will work on improving our strategy and operational processes in three main areas:

- Prevention services
- Treatment services
- Long-term operational financing

Our experiences the last three years have made it clear that there is a lack of suitable educational and communications materials, and delivery strategies for mobile workers. North Star will invest significant energy and resources to work with our partners in the coming year to improve this situation.

With the help of our strategic partner PharmAccess, we will be running full treatment service audits on five Wellness Centres being managed by North Star. Through these audits we hope to improve treatment facilities across the network by streamlining and standardizing treatment offerings, strengthening our referral network, and improving our monitoring and evaluation processes.

North Star firmly believes that the key to long-term sustainability lies with local ownership and demand-driven services. We are developing products and services, which will help our partners transition Wellness Centres from short-term donor-funded projects to long-term social franchises. By the end of 2010 we aim to pilot the first of these services and by 2012 we hope to make them available across our entire network.

Looking back at 2009, we can close the first chapter of North Star’s strategy. We have established ourselves as a regional specialist and we have laid down a sizeable operational footprint in a short period of time.

We are much more aware of what our added value is to our clients and partners, and we know what we need to do to continue to increase this value. We also have a much better understanding of our own limits, and have a much clearer idea of what ‘out-of-scope’ means for North Star.

Our core beliefs remain unchanged, as does our commitment to them. Through our experiences over the last three years – the good, the bad and the ugly – we can now add to them a simple, clearly articulated purpose:

We keep transporters and transport communities healthy and safe.
## Financial review 2009

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North Star Head Office</th>
<th>North Star East Africa</th>
<th>North Star Southern Africa</th>
<th>Sub-total</th>
<th>Elim</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td>1,947,000</td>
<td>28,279</td>
<td>3,919</td>
<td>34,144</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account receivables</td>
<td>186,232</td>
<td>138,852</td>
<td>4,259</td>
<td>329,343</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>329,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current account</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>14,859</td>
<td>27,714</td>
<td>43,609</td>
<td>42,573</td>
<td>1,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
<td>172,125</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>84,838</td>
<td>257,143</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>257,143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total assets**

|                      | 361,340                | 182,605                | 120,530                   | 664,475   | 42,573 | 621,902|

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North Star Head Office</th>
<th>North Star East Africa</th>
<th>North Star Southern Africa</th>
<th>Sub-total</th>
<th>Elim</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted fund balance</td>
<td>87,141</td>
<td>65,972</td>
<td>102,605</td>
<td>255,719</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>255,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted fund balance</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency translation adjustment</td>
<td>15,267</td>
<td>1,378</td>
<td>19,204</td>
<td>54,840</td>
<td>42,573</td>
<td>12,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade payables</td>
<td>54,840</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54,840</td>
<td>42,573</td>
<td>12,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current accounts</td>
<td>54,092</td>
<td>115,255</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>169,347</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>169,347</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total liabilities**

|                      | 361,340                | 182,605                | 120,530                   | 664,475   | 42,573 | 621,903|

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North Star Head Office</th>
<th>North Star East Africa</th>
<th>North Star Southern Africa</th>
<th>Sub-total</th>
<th>Elim</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>430,000</td>
<td>392,009</td>
<td>190,590</td>
<td>1,012,518</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,012,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations in-kind</td>
<td>460,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>460,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>460,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total income**

|                      | 890,009                | 392,009                | 190,633                   | 1,472,651 | -    | 1,472,651|

### Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North Star Head Office</th>
<th>North Star East Africa</th>
<th>North Star Southern Africa</th>
<th>Sub-total</th>
<th>Elim</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting and audit fees</td>
<td>28,215</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>2,549</td>
<td>31,286</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank costs and FOREX</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,605</td>
<td>1,529</td>
<td>17,134</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>22,753</td>
<td>3,041</td>
<td>21,890</td>
<td>47,684</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>47,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container purchase and refurbishment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>163,521</td>
<td>11,016</td>
<td>174,536</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>174,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development COMETS</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head office support to operations</td>
<td>56,013</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56,014</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>9,397</td>
<td>3,684</td>
<td>5,663</td>
<td>19,664</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management fees</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>87,647</td>
<td>87,647</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>87,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing and communications</td>
<td>27,610</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27,686</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical supplies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,249</td>
<td>7,671</td>
<td>19,921</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office expenses</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,430</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>14,080</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages</td>
<td>184,309</td>
<td>80,524</td>
<td>15,059</td>
<td>279,892</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>279,892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and capacity building</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,424</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,424</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and accommodation</td>
<td>41,569</td>
<td>28,811</td>
<td>21,928</td>
<td>92,308</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness Centres operational costs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>2,227</td>
<td>2,376</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total expenses**

|                      | 652,868                | 326,036                | 180,298                   | 1,160,422 | -    | 1,160,422|

### General fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North Star Head Office</th>
<th>North Star East Africa</th>
<th>North Star Southern Africa</th>
<th>Sub-total</th>
<th>Elim</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General fund</td>
<td>237,141</td>
<td>65,972</td>
<td>10,335</td>
<td>312,230</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>312,230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 February  Ms Eva Mwai takes up her duties as General Manager for North Star Foundation East Africa.

2 March  Beitbridge Wellness Centre opens at Beitbridge, Zimbabwe. Batsirai Group contracted as operational partner.

26 March  Mombasa Wellness Centre opened for WFP at Gate 18 of the Port of Mombasa in Kenya.

27-29 March  First-ever North Star full team workshop takes place in Mombasa, Kenya.

30-31 March  North Star Board Meeting in Mombasa, Kenya. Ms Rose Verdurmen takes up her seat on the Board representing TNT taking over from Mr Ludo Oelrich.

29 May  Nike Foundation - sponsored diagnostic of girl-friendly Wellness Centre services completed.

21-23 June  North Star attends UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meeting in Geneva, Switzerland and is recognized as a best practice example of programmes targeting mobile populations.

1 July  North Star signs MoU with Federation of East and Southern Africa Transport Associations (FESARTA) to promote health and safety issues through National Transport Associations.

6-9 July  North Star attends High-Level Segment of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

1 August  North Star East Africa Office opens on Dennis Pritt Road, Nairobi, Kenya.

3 August  North Star and the Swaziland Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS start mobile testing at Matsapha Industrial site as part of a three-month pilot project.

5 August  Board Meeting hosted by International Transport Workers’ Federation at ITF House in London, United Kingdom.

14 August  North Star signs a three-year MoU with Walvis Bay Corridor Group to extend operations of Walvis Bay Wellness Centre and to open a new Wellness Centre at Katima Mulilo, Namibia.

8 September  North Star opens Wellness Centre at Malaba, Uganda for FHI.

10 September  North Star opens Wellness Centre at Katuna, Tanzania for FHI.

12 September  Version 1.0 of COMETS (Corridor Medical Electronic Transfer System) was delivered for installation.

13 September  North Star opens Wellness Centre at Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo for FHI.

26 September  North Star signs Millennium Accord with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for €2,5 million in core funding over five years.

1 October  Mr Paul Matthew takes up his duties as Managing Director, North Star Africa.

5 October  ORTEC becomes official core partner in North Star Foundation. Mr Geerhard de Vries takes up seat on the Board.

23 November  North Star opens Wellness Centre at Tunduma, Tanzania for FHI.

1 December  North Star changes name from North Star Foundation to North Star Alliance.

2 December  WFP hosts Board meeting in Rome, Italy.

17 December  Chirundu South Wellness Centre opens in Chirundu, Zimbabwe. Batsirai Group is local operational partner.

21 December  North Star opens Wellness Centre at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, for FHI.

31 December  Version 2.0 of COMETS delivered including new function allowing Wellness Centres to synchronize patient data with central server.
## Visits and treatments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Southern Africa</th>
<th>East Africa</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck drivers</td>
<td>11,622</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>13,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex workers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,892</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community members</td>
<td>4,981</td>
<td>3,005</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total visits</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,603</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,897</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>30,960</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(HIV counseling and testing)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>641</td>
<td>211</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STI treatments</td>
<td>1,102</td>
<td>912</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary health care</td>
<td>4,830</td>
<td>3,736</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>109</td>
<td></td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total treatment</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,193</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,757</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13,446</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condoms distributed</td>
<td>136,776</td>
<td>4,918</td>
<td></td>
<td>159,595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Visits and treatments

**Male and female visitors**

- Male: 13,142
- Female: 7,897

**Total visitors**

- Truck drivers: 16,603
- Sex workers: 7,897
- Community members: 12,200
- **Total:** 30,960

**HIV counseling and testing**

- Male: 3,020
- Female: 1,128
- **Total:** 4,148

**Treatments**

- STI treatments: 1,526
- Primary health care: 5,330
- Malaria: 437
- **Total:** 7,493

**Treatments male and female**

- Male: 17,794
- Female: 107
- **Total:** 17,901

**Condoms distributed**

- Male condoms: 17,794
- Female condoms: 107
- **Total:** 17,901
### Donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head Office</th>
<th>East Africa</th>
<th>Southern Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNT</td>
<td>550,000</td>
<td>Chevron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>Walvis Bay Corridor Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTEC</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>92,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 930,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FHI/USAID</th>
<th>WFP Kenya</th>
<th>WFP Rome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>337,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>33,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 392,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jordanian Land Transport and Mechanical Union</th>
<th>Nike Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77,000</td>
<td>in kind $20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 191,000

---

13,142 truckers reached  
5,618 sex workers and women at risk reached  
12,200 community members reached  
13,446 people treated  
159,595 condoms distributed
The Northstar Wellness Centre at Chirundu, Zambia, is open at night.

Photography by Gideon Mendel
‘The Centre makes me happy and the sister listens to my problems. She also tests my blood pressure which is very high because I stress a lot about money, my family and being away from them for so long. The centre is like a bright star ... it gives me hope.’ (Truck driver Swaziland)
Southern Africa update

The Southern Africa sub-regional office was busy expanding and consolidating its activities. The experiment that began in 2005 with a single Wellness Centre in Malawi has spawned an additional 12 centres, 6 in Southern Africa and 6 in East Africa, creating anchor points for the network to roll out.

With Wellness Centres now operational in Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, North Star’s footprint in southern Africa is growing as is its reputation for delivering quality health and safety services for truckers and truck-stop related communities. The North Star brand has become known throughout the region and is highly regarded within the international community of organizations working in HIV/AIDS and on health and safety issues related to mobile populations.

The busy year was characterized by many successes, a few bumps in the road and new opportunities for North Star to shine. North Star staff rarely had a moment of down time these past 12 months as there was constant need for site visits and partner interactions to ensure that new centres came online and existing operations ran smoothly. Thanks to the tenacity of our staff and the commitment of our donors and partners, all Wellness Centres are now performing well and the road ahead looks clear.

Highlights of the year include the extra support received from the Nike Foundation for an examination of the unique vulnerabilities of girls and young women engaged in sex work in Swaziland and how we can better meet their needs. Another important donation was received from the Jordanian Land Transport and Mechanical Union, under the Patronage of Their HRH princess Haya. North Star also used funds from a private donation to work in conjunction with the Swaziland Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, to implement a three-month targeted prevention project among transport companies. The pilot project provided HIV counselling and testing, blood glucose, blood cholesterol and TB screening services at two locations, Oshoek-Ngwenya border post and Matsapha, a new transport hotspot where sex work is flourishing and many of the girls from the Nike study were interviewed. The success of the pilot project indicates the relevance of North Star’s work and its acceptance by the transport companies is a positive sign for future sustainability.

The Malawi, Namibia and Zambia Wellness Centres experienced staff and operational partner turnovers that resulted in a few unexpected delays as the one partner was phasing out and the new partner was coming in. The turnovers have resulted in a stronger team on the ground and have reinforced commitments from donors and partners. In the case of Malawi, the handover from WFP and the implementing partner represents a maturing of the operations as North Star has assigned a full-time manager to oversee the Mwanza centre and execute a planned expansion.

The year ended on a high note with forward-looking discussions underway in Botswana and Mozambique. In both cases, North Star was independently approached based on its excellent reputation and in each country there is engagement by a wide range of partners. Most notably, in Mozambique, the Ministry of Transport is taking the lead role in convening partners, planning and implementation.
The East Africa sub-regional office witnessed tremendous growth in its short existence. To go from zero centres to six in one year is credit to the energy and competence of North Star’s Nairobi-based staff. The regional expansion was made possible by two separate funding sources: World Food Programme (WFP) and Family Health International (FHI), through the USAID-funded ROADS II programme, each with its own requirements, challenges and opportunities.

With funding from WFP Kenya through the UNAIDS joint country programme, the first of three Wellness Centres opened in Mombasa. The WFP-supported Wellness Centres are a model of cross-sectoral cooperation with support coming from the Government of Kenya, National AIDS Council, transport companies, transport workers and civil society. The firm commitment by the government is evidenced by the fact that Wellness Centres have been incorporated into the national HIV/AIDS five-year strategic plan.

Funding from FHI enabled North Star to establish five other Wellness Centres in the region. One centre opened in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and two each in Uganda and Tanzania. They are in various stages of raising awareness, delivering services and building their reputation among the target populations. Centres were also planned for Burundi and Rwanda, but have been rescheduled to open in 2010.

Looking forward to 2010, additional FHI centres are planned for Tanzania and Uganda. The next two WFP centres are being planned for Kenya and North Star has been contracted by WFP to open up to seven additional centres in DRC. Although still young, North Star East Africa is running at full pace and on track to grow.
Status and structure

Status
North Star Alliance is an independent non-profit organization with its international headquarters in Utrecht, The Netherlands. North Star has a regional office for Africa in Durban, South Africa, and a sub-regional office for East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya.

North Star is currently registered as a non-profit or public benefit organization in the following countries (in order of registration):
- The Netherlands
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Namibia
- Kenya

North Star is in the process of registering itself for operational purposes in the following countries:
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

North Star is in the process of registering as a 501(c)(3) charity in the United States of America.

Structure
North Star Alliance is an open platform enabling transport and public health organizations to deliver health and safety services to mobile workers.

Governance and oversight duties are carried out by five core partners:
- The International Transport Workers’ Federation
- The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- ORTEC N.V.
- TNT N.V.
- The World Food Programme (WFP)

Through our Advisory Panel, North Star can also call on a network of ambassadors around the world to promote the cause of a healthy and safe transport sector. Current members of the Advisory Panel can be found on the adjoining page.

North Star is funded through a combination of public and private sector contributions.

Core funding for key non-operational activities is provided by five core partners with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands.

North Star establishes and manages Wellness Centres for several partners including:
- Chevron
- Safe-T-Stop (Family Health International)
- Walvis Bay Corridor Group
- World Food Programme DRC
- World Food Programme Kenya
Advisory Panel

Peter Bakker
Chief Executive Officer TNT

David Crockroft
General Secretary International Transport Worker’s Federation

Lee-Nah Hsu
Expert on Mobility and HIV/AIDS

Elizabeth Mataka
Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa / United Nations

Peter Piot
Director of Institute for Global Health at Imperial College, London

Josette Sheeran
Executive Director World Food Programme

Supervisory Board

From left to right: Gerhard de Vries (ORTEC), Robin Jackson (UNAIDS), Nils Grede (WFP) sitting in for Dr Martin Bloem (WFP), Dr Syed Asif Altaf (ITF), Rose Verdurmen (TNT).
Annual review North Star Alliance
May 2010

Printed on lynx, FSC certified and TCF produced paper
Photography Gideon Mendel
Portraits Anne-Claire de Breij
Design Willemijn Staal, être Amsterdam
Print Imprimo Bussum
North Star Alliance is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to keeping transporters and transport communities healthy and safe.

Core partners:
ITF*, ORTEC, TNT, UNAIDS, WFP

Strategic partners:
FESARTA, FHI / Roads II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, PharmAccess, SADC

Supported by:
ALCO, AmoCongo, Batsirai, Chevron, Corridors of Hope, GLIA, Heineken/Bralima, Jordanian Land Transport and Mechanical Union, ILO, IOM, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, KNCV, MAERSK, Nike Foundation, PEPFAR, PMAESA, PSAMAO, PSI, RTFP, Shell, SIDA, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USAID, as well many Ministries of Health and National AIDS Control Programs and many regional and local health service organizations.

* International Transport Workers' Federation