**HOW IT BEGAN**

In 2002, the media finally began to write and speak about the realities of the African HIV epidemic. Clinical work in the United States had already demonstrated that acupuncture is able to significantly aid in the treatment of the symptoms associated with HIV. Thus, our first inclination as licensed acupuncturists was to travel to Africa to treat those who were suffering. However, the immensity of the problem made it clear that we needed a larger, more sustainable solution. From this, The PanAfrican Acupuncture Project was born.

As we reached out to those on the African continent, Uganda reached back. A small group of volunteer trainers went to Uganda for the first time in 2003 to train local health providers how to use acupuncture to reduce pain and suffering and improve quality of life.  The training was a success. The trained health professionals embraced their new skills and continued to practice after the training, thereby helping thousands of patients.

**THE GLOBAL**

**ACUPUNCTURE PROJECT**

At the core of our mission is our commitment to empower local health professionals by teaching them how to use simple and effective acupuncture treatment protocols to help people in their own communities.

An acupuncture training manual was written that explains the basic theory of acupuncture and details how to use these theories to provide effective treatments. The core of the manual is the presentation of acupuncture protocols that specifically address the symptoms of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, dengue, and other debilitating conditions, as well as the side effects associated with the medications used to treat these illnesses. Highlighted and stressed is the use of Clean Needle Technique.

At the invitation of host communities, GAP recruits acupuncturists from around the world to teach local health-care providers how to use the manual. The Project maintains contact with the communities to provide ongoing support through direct contact and other electronic means.

**MAKING AN IMPACT**

PAAP has conducted trainings in Kenya, in 16 districts in Uganda, and more recently in Mexico thereby certifying 350 Acupuncture Protocol Specialists. These Trainees have provided tens of thousands of effective treatments.

We have been invited to conduct trainings in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tanzania, and El Salvador.

**EL PROYECTO DE ACUPUNTURA**

**DEL PUEBLO**

To expand upon our successes in Mexico, GAP is establishing a permanent presence in Tehuantepec, Mexico. With the creation of El Proyecto de Acupuntura del Pueblo, our Trainees will be able to offer acupuncture in a clinic in Tehuantepec as well as within the surrounding communities. This will also provide a central location for continued education and training.

**THE ORGANIZATION**

In 2014, to more accurately reflect our worldwide growth, we adopted the name The Global Acupuncture Project (GAP).

The Global Acupuncture Project is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation and is thus able to apply for and receive funding. It is a registered Foundation in Uganda.

GAP has collaborated with Doctors for Global Health, the Uganda Ministry of Health, the Uganda AIDS Commission, Makerere University Institute of Public Health, the AIDS Support Organization, Traditional & Modern Health Practitioners Together Against AIDS (THETA), and the Society of Women against AIDS in Africa (SWAA).

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

**YOU CAN HELP**

We depend on your ongoing support. Your donations make a significant difference in the lives of those suffering from HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, diabetes, dengue, and other conditions. Your support makes it possible for us to educate our Trainees so they can reduce pain and suffering, improve quality of life, and instill a sense of hope within their communities.

Go to our website [globalacupuncture.org](http://globalacupuncture.org) and make a donation today. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Licensed acupuncturists and student interns interested in learning how to become Trainers should visit our web site and/or contact us via email.

**Acupuncture makes a difference**

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**OUR VISION**

This Project embraces public health in the largest sense and has clearly demonstrated to the world the vastness and depth of the human body’s own healing ability. By training local health-care providers, GAP aims to increase access to acupuncture and thus reduce pain and suffering and improve quality of life among those who live in areas where conventional medical care is ineffective, limited, or nonexistent.

