

# Networking as a Strategy to Maximize Long-Term Capacity Building Impact

## National AIDS Commission (NAC) HIV and AIDS Research and Best Practices Dissemination Conference

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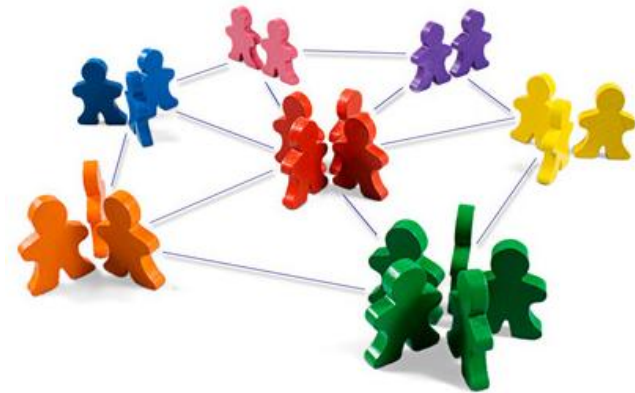
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Capacity Building Specialist  
Pact Malawi

# The value of networking

HIV and AIDS:  
a complex  
development  
challenge

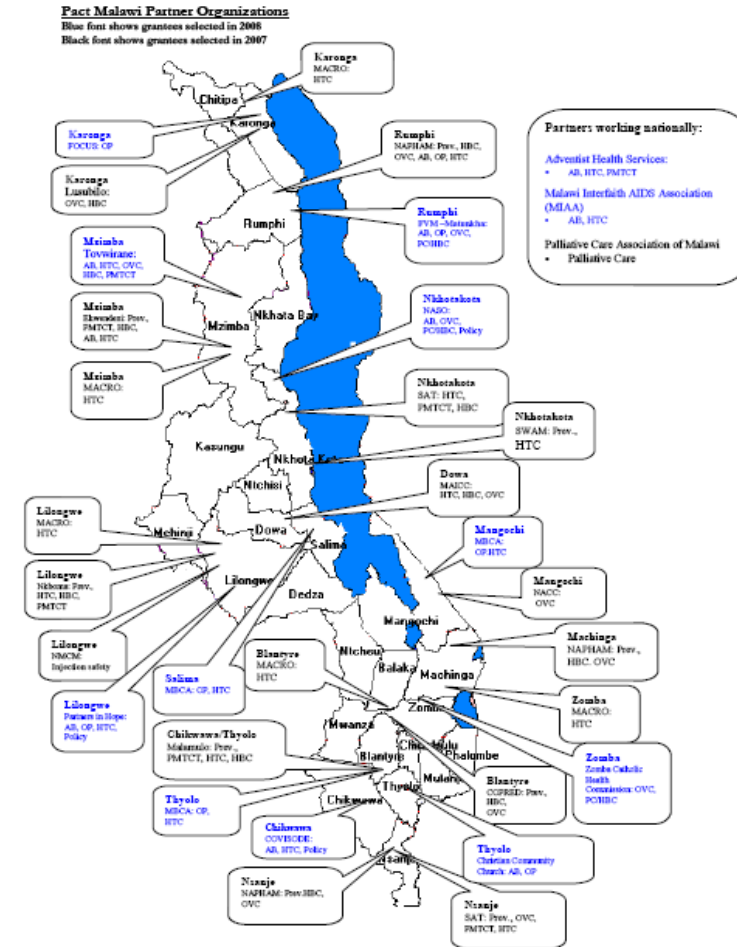
Civil society  
actors bring  
different  
competencies

Actors must  
work together  
to maximize  
impact



# Network of Partner Organizations

- Community REACH (*Rapid and Effective Action Combating HIV/AIDS*) Program
- Twenty-five partners working in HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and support
- Grants management, technical assistance, capacity building



# Networking as a capacity building strategy

**Partner organizations**

Take  
part  
in

**Networking activities**

Allows  
them  
to

**Access shared expertise  
and resources**

Which  
results  
in

**Maximizing sustainability of  
capacity building impacts**



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# Pact partners' networking activities

## Preventing duplication of efforts

- **Three national associations trained a set of facilitators who will serve all three groups**

## Leveraging of limited resources

- **Technical trainings (HTC, palliative care) facilitated for Pact partners by Pact partners.**
- **A partner in Namwera helped mobilize people for an HTC program by the local chapter of a national partner**

## Strengthening ties

- **Regular exchange visits, including:**
- **Two partners from the north who work on OVC conducted a fruitful staff exchange**
- **Site visit conducted during Pact's June 2009 Partners Review Meeting**

## Knowledge management

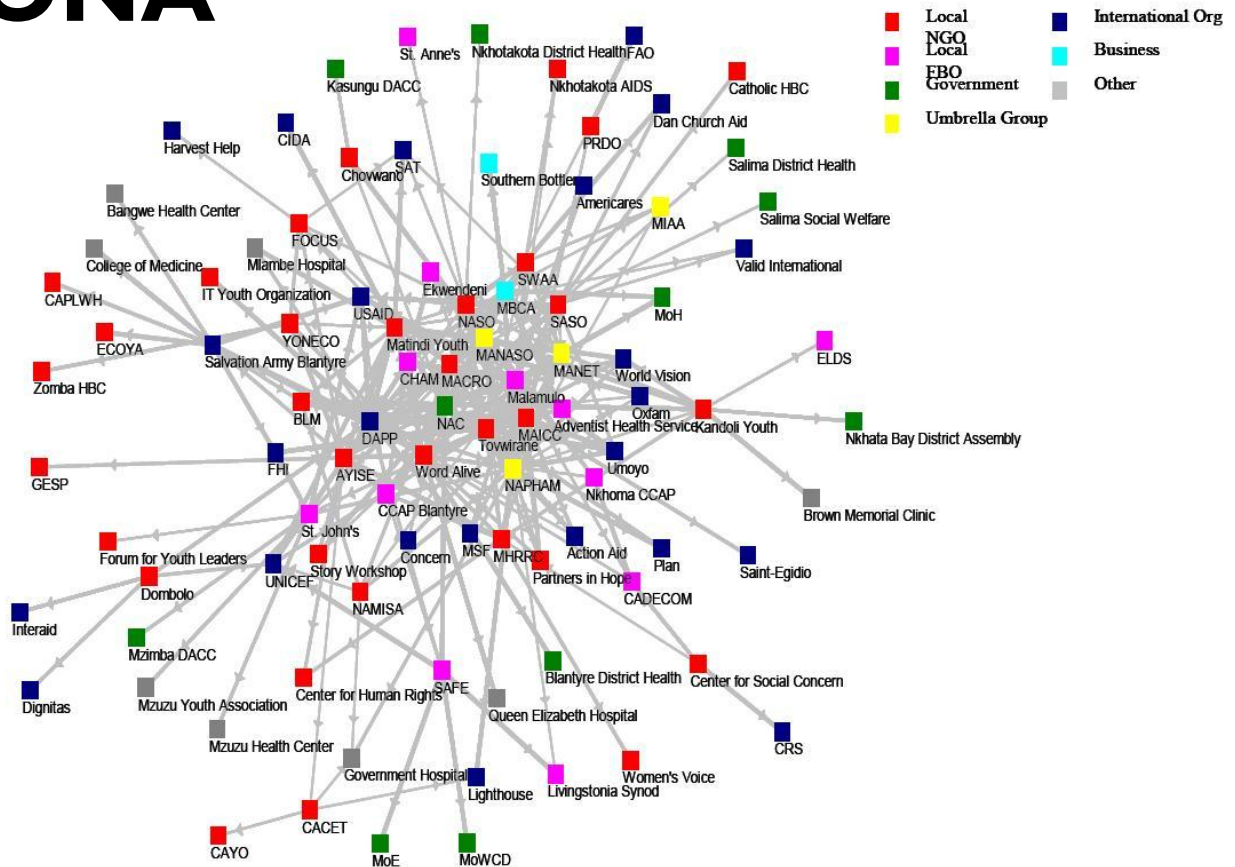
- **A hospital in Lilongwe District shared its M&E forms with another Lilongwe clinic**

# Measuring networking

- **Question: How can we monitor and understand networking over time?**



## • Answer: ONA



- **Helps to visualize, monitor, and build understanding about networks**
- **Measures changes in the strength and density of a network over time**
- **Measurements have data associated with them – allows for quantitative analysis**

# ONA Methodology



Participant  
survey

Data  
analysis

Feedback  
session

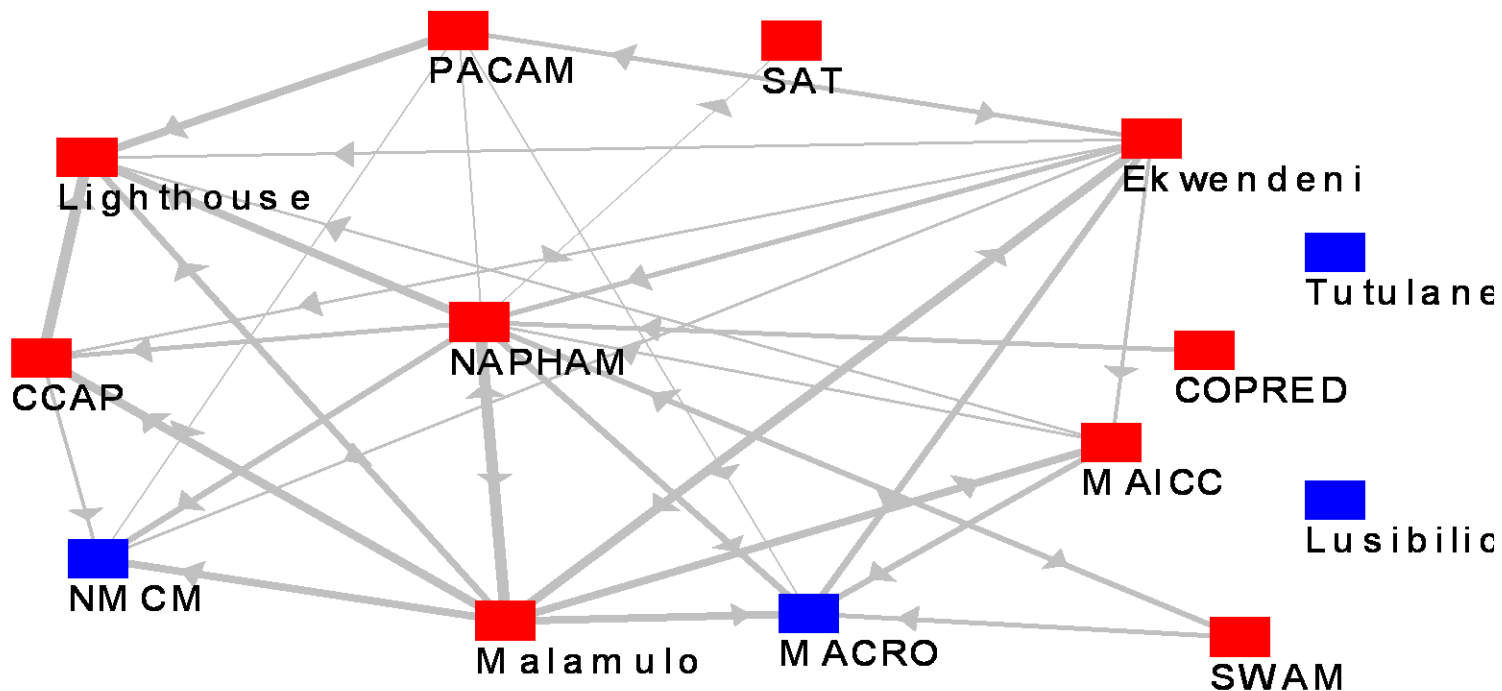


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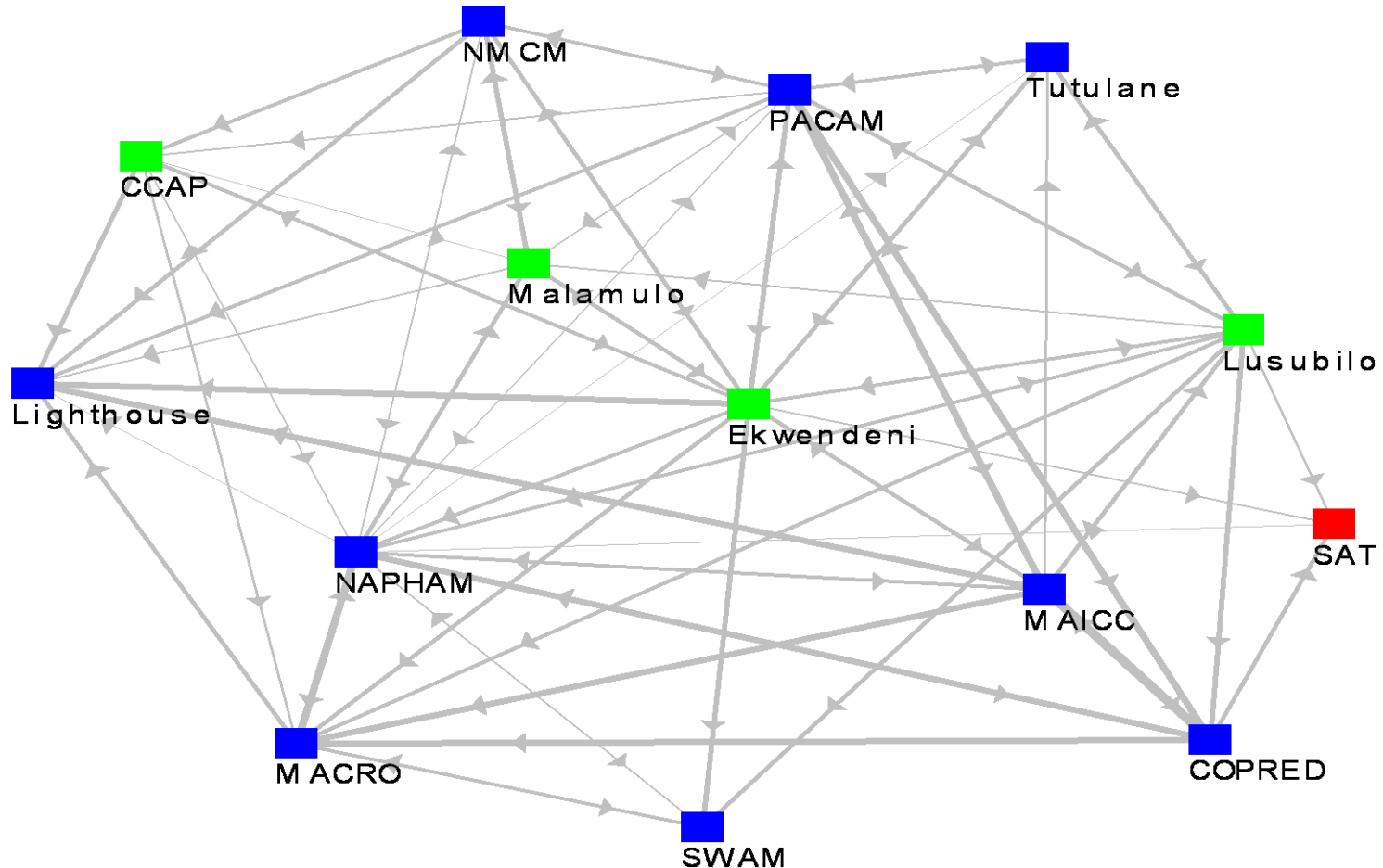
# Measuring Pact's Partner Network

**Q: "In the past 12 months, how often have you exchanged information or resources related to OVC, PLHIV, HTC, or HBC with the organizations on the following list?"**



October 2007 baseline ONA for FY2008 partners: **19% network density**

# Measuring Pact's Partner Network



October 2008 midterm ONA for FY2008 partners: **44% network density**

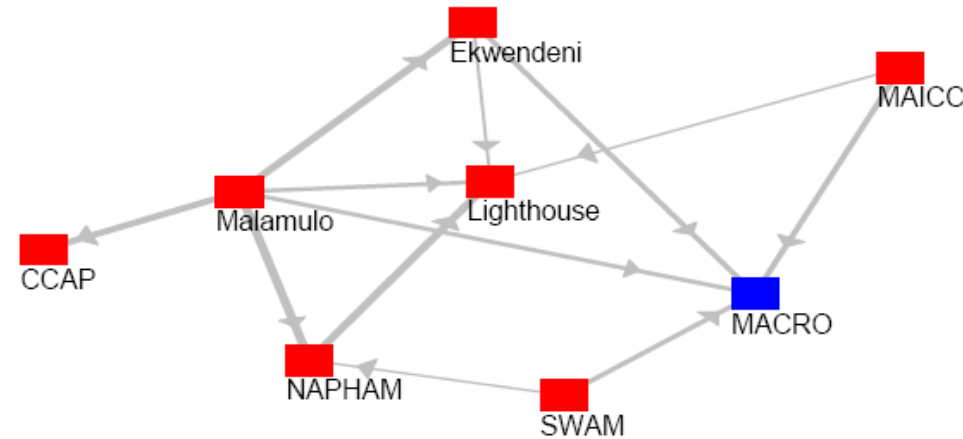


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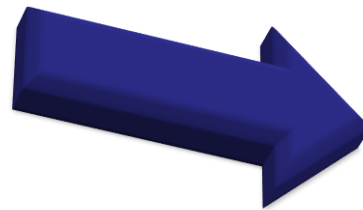
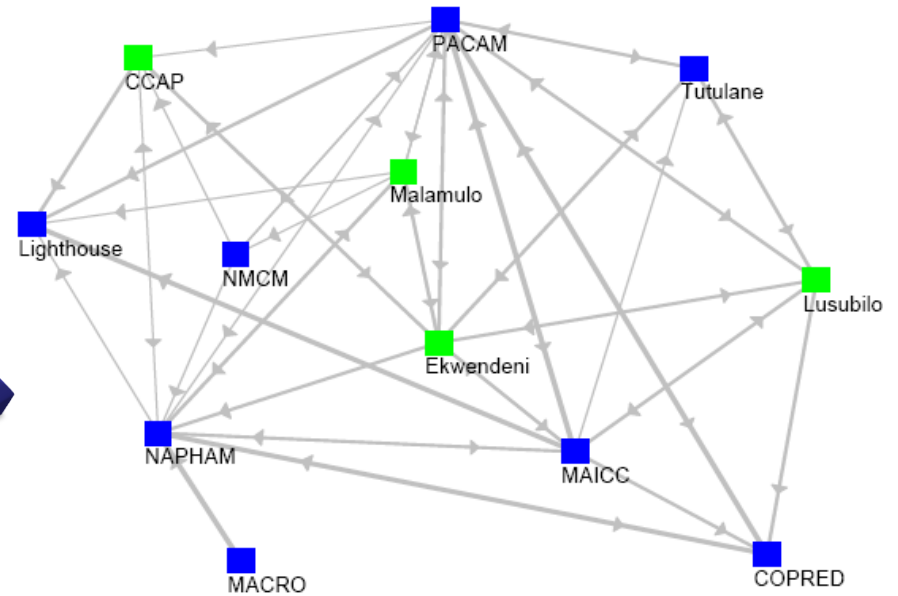


# An increase in HBC networking

Baseline HBC



Midterm HBC



# Conclusions

**Networking is a mechanism for leveraging resources, preventing duplication, and improving knowledge management.**

**Networking efforts that strengthen ties among CSOs contribute to the sustainability of capacity building impacts.**

**Monitoring networking, such as through Organizational Network Analysis, can track this progress and inspire network members.**

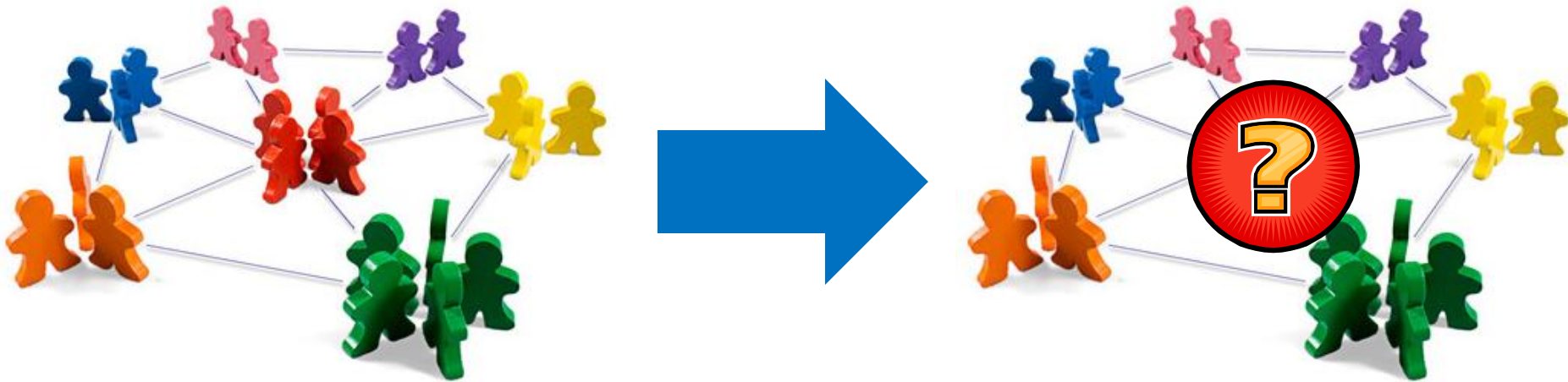


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# Challenge

- **How will the network be sustained, once the “hub” (i.e., Pact) is removed?**



# Thank you for your attention!



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