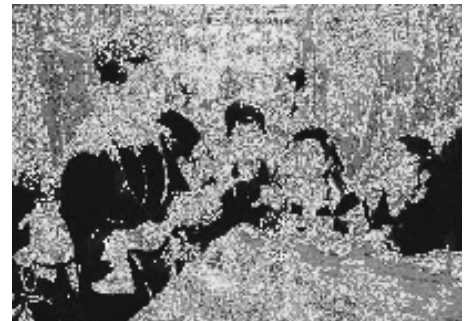




*XVI International AIDS Conference*  
**Time To Deliver**  
**For The World's Children**  
*Toronto Aug 13 -18, 2006*



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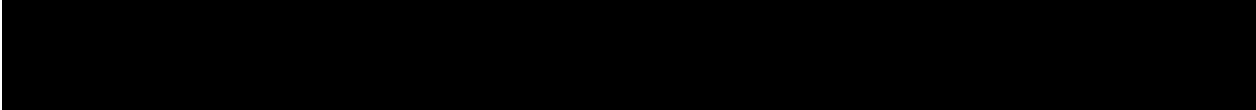
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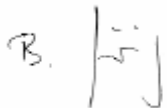
**Fifteen million children have been orphaned by AIDS, and countless more have to endure the loss of family members, neighbours, teachers and friends, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Every day, almost 2,000 babies are infected with HIV through pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding. Many of these infections are preventable. They are all treatable.**

**Save the Children works on behalf of the millions of children affected by the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. Our experience shows that it is possible to fight this disease through education, healthcare and advocacy.**

**Working with local partners, young people and their families helps to prevent infection. Training health practitioners and social workers enables communities to develop support networks. Save the Children also advocates for every child to have access to improved health care services and HIV prevention programmes.**

**Enclosed here, you will find details of this work. We call for others to join us in our efforts, and to find out more about what Save the Children is doing and what still needs to be done.**

**I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing support of our donors, without which our work would not be possible. We should always remember that children are the most vulnerable of all who suffer because of this disease.**



**Burkhard Gnärig  
Chief Executive Officer  
International Save the Children Alliance**

# HIV/AIDS Programming: Save the Children Sweden

## Main strategies

### 1. Promoting children's' right to Sexual and Reproductive Health

The main strategy of Save the Children Sweden in HIV prevention is to increase the access to sexual education and advocate for youth friendly reproductive health services. This is mainly done by developing the method of so called '*boys groups*'. Young boys meet and discuss issues related to gender roles, relationships and sexuality, and challenge existing forms of destructive masculinity. Engaging boys and raising awareness about girls' rights and gender equality have shown to be a method to reduce violence, sexual abuse and the spread of HIV. It also improves the communication between boys and girls in relationships, and involves boys in household tasks traditionally regarded as female. By putting HIV in a wider context, related to sexuality and the real life situation of young people, HIV prevention is integrated in a way children are interested in and can relate to in a meaningful way.

### 2. Strengthening adult support for children

Children living in communities affected by AIDS are at great risk of losing support from parents and other adults. While parents are ill from HIV, teachers and other service providers suffer from AIDS; children are left to fend for themselves both materially and emotionally. By focusing on methods and strategies to strengthen adults: parents, caregivers and professionals, children's situation and rights can be improved, and the effects of HIV/AIDS mitigated. Strategies for strengthening adults are capacity building, organising groups of adults to improve the situation of children and to advocate for governments to introduce social insurance systems for long term sustainability. Examples of services advocated for are comprehensive health care provision for children, free and accessible education and child grants.

### 3. HIV workplace policy

Save the Children Sweden is initiating a HIV- mainstreaming process by implementing a HIV work place policy including all staff and families. By starting to discuss HIV/AIDS, gender and sexuality regularly more openly among staff in all workplaces the goal is to reduce stigmatisation and prevent HIV and increase the understanding of how HIV/AIDS is affecting the development of families, communities and countries. The increased awareness and capacity is then taken one step further into program planning to prevent HIV and mitigate the impact of the epidemic. HIV prevention has to start within the organisation as a first step.

## Programs By Country/Region

### **Ethiopia**

In Ethiopia SCS has developed the method '*Boys Groups*' to work with boys and young men by forming groups discussing gender, sexuality and HIV/AIDS for HIV prevention.

A *Memory Book* has been developed with a group of children who lost parents to AIDS. Issues of grief and psychosocial needs are highlighted from children's perspective. The aim is to use the findings from children for awareness rising among the public and policy makers to increase the understanding and support for children who lost their parents.

### **Sudan**

In Sudan HIV has been mainstreamed in program planning by sexual education for staff and capacity building on HIV/AIDS effects on children and societies. In the Sudan programs there is a well established grass-root structure of Community Support Groups and Parents Teacher Association supported by Save the Children Sweden and the aim is to integrate HIV in the already existing work and structure.

### **South Africa**

Save the Children Sweden is supporting network organisations in South Africa advocating to improve the rights of children affected by HIV/AIDS. One big achievement is the support to the organisation ACCESS that has increased awareness of and accessibility to children's grants in the country. Save the Children Sweden is also working with organisations against child sexual abuse, and for increased access to anti retroviral drugs for children in government roll out programs.

### **Zambia**

Save the Children Sweden's partner organisation ZARAN is working with children's rights in relation to HIV; discrimination, legal guardians, access to information and access to Voluntary Counselling and Testing. They are also involved in the development of the National AIDS Policy, to ensure that children's rights are taken into account. ZASPCAN is a partner organisation working to prevent child sexual abuse and neglect. Children's Press Bureau are young journalist supported to report on issues concerning children, including HIV and AIDS.

### **West Africa**

In Togo, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal Save the Children Sweden is starting up a regional programs to address children living in communities affected by AIDS. HIV prevention is also integrated in the work to prevent female genital mutilation in the region.

### **Vietnam**

In Vietnam Save the Children Sweden is working with a project for street children, and HIV is integrated in the program.

### **Knowledge development**

A study to develop a child rights based way to address orphans and vulnerable children in Africa. By Linda Richter. Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa (August 2006)

### **Under way:**

*Children, Sexuality and Rights in the context of HIV/Aids in Sub-Saharan Africa- A Literature review.* Sarah Thomsen, Family Health International (November 2006)

*Memory Books- What children who have lost parents want others to understand.* An advocacy document from Ethiopia. Mebratu Gebeyehu and Embet Mulugeta (End of 2006)

## HIV/AIDS Programming: Save the Children UK

Save the Children UK is committed to, and actively involved in, promoting and advocating for long term action to support children affected by HIV and AIDS. The global HIV and AIDS crisis is reversing development gains, and threatening social, political and economic stability primarily in the developing world.

Save the Children UK (SC UK) is committed to meeting the challenge to support children affected in all ways by HIV and AIDS, those who become ill themselves or are orphaned as well as children whose responsibilities of caring for ill family members rob them of their childhoods. SC UK's response to HIV and AIDS is underpinned by program delivery and advocacy. We dedicate our efforts to preventing further spread of the epidemic, advocating for access to prevention, treatment, and providing care and support for the millions of children whose lives have been altered by HIV and AIDS.

The global objective of SC UK's HIV and AIDS work is to reduce the number of HIV infections among children and increase access to care and support for children affected by HIV and AIDS. In order to achieve our aims, we use two main approaches - '*mainstreaming of HIV*' and '*HIV specific*' work. To pursue '*mainstreaming*' SC UK has an HIV and AIDS Supporting Strategy which works to create an environment helpful to the achievement of the four objective areas that we focus on: health, education, protection and hunger.

Our '*HIV specific*' work, contributes to the reduction of vulnerability to HIV infection both at the individual and community levels. Based on the growing consensus that the most effective way of fighting HIV and AIDS is through a multifaceted response, SC UK's position calls for urgent action on prevention, treatment, care and support strategies. Save the Children believes that more emphasis must be given to prevention efforts aimed at children and in the poorest countries, more support and care directed at children and their household and communities, and increased access to treatment for HIV positive mothers and children. Our key program work on HIV and AIDS falls into three main areas: prevention, treatment, and care and support.

### Program Work in Africa

The main, though not sole, thrust of our African programs is providing care and support and promoting livelihood strategies for children affected by HIV and AIDS. Highlights of recent work include the following:

- The production of *Bottlenecks and Drip-feeds*, a report identifying the blockages preventing the smooth flow of funds and resources to communities where they are most urgently needed. While there is an increase in the money pledged to fight HIV and AIDS, very little of it makes its way to the communities and individuals who need it. There are very few examples of effective ways to channel funds to those meeting the needs of vulnerable children, and action must be taken to ensure funding is committed to children and tracked to determine how much reaches communities and children.
- The production of a UNICEF funded study with HelpAge and IDS, *Making Cash Count*, which assesses cash transfers as a means of combating chronic poverty, food insecurity and HIV and AIDS in Africa. It explores the lessons learned from selected schemes in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia, considers the ways children, their carers and families benefit from the transfers, and discusses different design, implementation and management issues.

### Program Work in Asia

*Small Also Have Something to Say* is an April 2006 report produced from a six-country regional research project to assess the effects of HIV and AIDS on children in the region from the perspectives of children themselves. Children in all six countries studied told how they had to drop out of school to work or care

for sick family members and how they experience discrimination and serious poverty as a result of HIV and AIDS. The report also shows how the epidemic places children at increased risks of substance abuse, becoming street children, trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Concerns highlighted by the report are that the children most at risk of infection are the least likely to have access to prevention services. Children voiced the need for greater prevention of Mother to child transmission and fuller prevention education.

We co-sponsored and co-ordinated the participation of children and the First East Asia and Pacific Regional Consultation on Children and HIV and AIDS from 22-24 March 2006 in Hanoi, Vietnam, bringing together UN agencies, national government and civil society organisations to commit to increasing support for children fighting HIV AND AIDS across East Asia and the Pacific. Thirteen children were able to share their experiences with each other and the two hundred other delegates.

We are continuing to integrate HIV and AIDS into the post emergency response in areas affected by the tsunami in Thailand, including in early 2006, the production of a manual supporting local organisations to adopt methods used by Save the Children with teachers and school children.

We are also strengthening efforts to mainstream HIV and AIDS in Mongolia, beginning in February 2006 with a training workshop for all country staff on HIV and AIDS and its impacts on children and SC UK's work in the country.

We are continuing efforts to spread HIV education and mainstream HIV AND AIDS into all policies in China. SC UK is a member of the Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund in China and providing technical support for the government as part of the UN Theme Group. The China program has published *Listen, secrets*, a child-led piece of research done by children in Xinjiang and Yunnan on the impact of HIV and AIDS on children. It highlighted the problems faced by children; particularly the loss of parents yet simultaneously demonstrated the capabilities and resourcefulness of children.

Sustained work in Viet Nam in peer education at community and school level, giving children the knowledge to protect themselves from HIV. Children are also provided care and support through the community volunteer network, which aims to meet the needs of affected children and allow them to live full lives.

## **Program Work in Latin America**

A program plan has been developed with the aim of facilitating access to adolescent friendly programs and services for HIV and AIDS prevention for adolescents living in selected cities in Brazil and Peru. These will be linked to health and education institutions, monitored by adolescents and young people, and will inform policy and practice.

## **Emergencies and HIV and AIDS**

Acknowledging the HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment challenges in emergencies and the increased vulnerability of people in emergency situations, we have been developing preliminary guidelines looking at the ways SC UK can mainstream HIV and AIDS interventions into our emergency responses. The added value of these guidelines is that they are child-focussed and relate directly to our four objective areas: Right to Health, Right to Education, Right to Protection and Right to Freedom from Hunger. This document is in draft form and is currently being reviewed. The next stage will involve presenting the case for mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into our emergency programs and obtaining an organisation-wide commitment.

## **HIV and AIDS Advocacy**

The goals of our international and national advocacy are to:

- **Increase access to prevention, treatment, care and support for children affected by HIV and AIDS by utilising global policy opportunities and program expertise**
- **Ensure funds committed to children affected by HIV and AIDS are sufficient, sustainable and comprehensive. Leverage those resources to support more vulnerable children**

## **HIV/AIDS Programming: Save the Children Canada**

Save the Children Canada recognizes the global threat presented by HIV/AIDS, and drawing on our global experience of working with children and youth, we are fighting HIV/AIDS on four fronts:

### **1. Targeting prevention and awareness education strategies to children and young people**

Around the world, our programs provide prevention education to children and young people. We train young people to become 'peer educators' in their communities to raise awareness about the risks of HIV/AIDS and share practical methods of prevention. Young people are trained in understanding HIV/AIDS, prevention methods, and skills for home-based care for people living with AIDS, and voluntary counselling and testing. In remote areas, mobile units with audio-visual materials have been used to reach children and youth. We are also working with communities and government health providers to set up youth friendly services for young people.

### **2. Enabling communities to provide care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS**

Save the Children Canada supports local initiatives that enable HIV-positive children and those orphaned by AIDS to be cared for by extended family members and in their communities, rather than in institutions. Save the Children Canada works with local organizations and communities to reduce discrimination, to provide counselling and social support, to improve access to treatment, and to help children plan for the future after the death of a family member from HIV/AIDS.

### **3. Advocating for the provision of life giving Anti Retroviral Drugs (ARV) to mothers and children**

Save the Children Canada has been advocating for the provision of anti retroviral drugs to children for the past two years. We have pioneered a community based 'total care' model that demonstrates the possibility and potential for targeting children and mothers with such life giving drugs and care. We are committed to working in partnership with governments and like minded organizations to find solutions to these challenges for the benefit of HIV infected and affected children.

### **4. Protecting the rights of AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS**

Save the Children Canada works closely with community-based organizations to provide support and care to the orphans and vulnerable children once they are identified. In Kenya, caregivers and health personnel in our projects maintain regular contact with the guardians of orphaned children to ensure that the rights of these children are upheld. We are working closely with paralegal community educators to educate guardians about their rights and how they can deal with issues of stigma and discrimination and matters of succession.

## **Program Work in Africa**

### **Ethiopia**

In Ethiopia, Save the Children Canada is working in partnership in Ethiopia with CARE, World Vision and Foster Parents Plan (as part of the Canadian Coalition on HIV/AIDS and Youth in Africa) to mitigate the impact of the disease on an already vulnerable nation. The overarching goals of our projects in Ethiopia are to protect the social and economic rights of children affected by HIV/AIDS by meeting their basic needs. The projects have helped to establish active, community-based councils to promote community participation. The councils are involved in the project planning and implementation and have shown interest in taking ownership in their communities.

#### **Key Successes:**

- Alternative family care arranged for orphans and affected children and youth to pursue their education. As a result, more girls are staying in school, and stigma, discrimination, and other human rights violations are lessened.

- PLWHAs and OVCs are becoming empowered with knowledge, skills and financial assistance for income-generating activities, including 230 orphans who received food, shelter, clothing, tuition fees, and stationary to assist with their education and development.
- CBOs trained in areas such as child rights, project design, implementation, and financial management; local fundraising, and income-generating activities.
- Out-of-school youth began running local mini media events to increase awareness and to involve other out- of-school youth in CRC promotion and activities.

## **Kenya**

Save the Children runs three HIV/AIDS projects in Kenya: the Total Care Project, HIV/AIDS and Youth in Africa, and HIV/AIDS Prevention. Together, they cover the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support, and impact mitigation for PLWHA, families of PLWHA, youth, and orphans and vulnerable children. The main focus has been on peer education by youth leaders. Young people are trained in understanding HIV/AIDS, prevention methods, skills for home-based care of people living with AIDS, and voluntary counseling and testing.

### **Key Successes:**

- Over 11,800 children and youth reached with BCC messages through the Coalition on HIV/AIDS and Youth in Africa program.
- Total Care Program was successfully scaled-up to increase the number of PLWHA beneficiaries to 101 adults and 44 children, as well as 223 OVC beneficiaries.
- In Meru region, 2290 young people actively used youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including 892 young people who underwent VCT
- 288 youth peer educators from three districts were trained to provide adolescent sexual and reproductive health information.

## **Burkina Faso**

As part of Save the Children Canada's partnership in the 'Canadian Coalition on HIV/AIDS and Youth in Africa,' with CARE, World Vision and Foster Parents Plan, Save the Children Canada launched a pilot project in the Comoé region targeting children and youth. The project aims to strengthen highly vulnerable communities, community-based organizations and associations and governments' capacities to reduce the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS upon children and youth using a prevention approach and child rights programming. The project also provides care and support to orphans and vulnerable children and is focusing on integrating systematically HIV/AIDS in the school programs.

### **Key Successes**

- The program successfully delivered HIV/AIDS behaviour-change communication activities consisting of peer education, counselling, theatre forums, film screening, commercials, radio shows and contests, and HIV/AIDS education in primary and secondary classrooms.
- The program sparked an increase in HIV testing among children, and now employs two youth counsellors (one boy and one girl).
- Youth are now included and trained as service providers and are demonstrating very strong commitment to this issue.

## **Program Work in South America**

### **Andean Region: (Peru & Bolivia)**

Save the Children Canada's HIV/AIDS prevention program in the Andean Regions was implemented in areas of high population concentration mainly occupied by indigenous people whose livelihood requires them to constantly migrate from the Andean rural world to Argentina, Brazil and other neighboring countries (Argentina and Brazil have the highest HIV/AIDS infection in the region, placing this population at increased risk). Local understanding by rural youth of HIV/AIDS is low in both Bolivia and Peru. Save the Children Canada's methodology known as DIN (Desarrollo Integral de la Niñez), a child-centered and participatory approach has been adapted to address HIV/AIDS prevention. The adaptation has been proved successful and the project has helped teachers introduce HIV/AIDS prevention into the schools and has trained over 600 youth as peer educators.

- Growth and maturity of many child-led organizations, to the point where young people are beginning to gain genuine recognition as relevant social actors and honourable citizens who carry out positive activities for the community.
- DIN methodology successfully mainstreamed into HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual education program.
- Involvement of government agencies, including the Health Bureau, in the promotion of healthy sexuality and HIV prevention strategies and successful alliances with local, national, and international agencies working in the field of HIV/AIDS and young people.

## Nicaragua

Save the Children Canada began working on the HIV/AIDS prevention programs in Nicaragua over eight years ago through support to a local NGO, Si Mujer and the adaptation of the child-to-child methodology on the issue. As a result, hundreds of teenagers have been trained as community promoters and peer educators in communities and schools about HIV/AIDS and sexual health. Our programs also emphasize public sensitization to ensure communities and governments remain aware of HIV/AIDS and ensure plans to avoid its spread.

### Key Successes:

- Staff sensitized to issues of HIV/AIDS in relation to youth
- SCC has identified potential partners to develop a program in Nicaragua
- SCC has identified opportunities for lobbying and advocacy

## India

SCC's new project in India is designed to develop a sustainable support system for children in one of India's most affected areas. The *Rays of Hope for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS* program is developing a locally-owned support system in partnership with government and non-government organizations and with full participation of affected children. It is a comprehensive program designed to provide health, nutrition, education, care, counselling, and other related services to meet the needs of children vulnerable to the effects of HIV/AIDS.

## **HIV/AIDS Programming: Save the Children USA**

Save the Children/USA (SC/USA) established the HIV/AIDS Office in 2002, in an effort to lessen the global HIV/AIDS epidemic's impact on children and other vulnerable populations in the developing world. SC/USA's HIV/AIDS programs fully embody Save the Children's program principles (child-centeredness, gender equity, empowerment, sustainability, measurable impact, scaling-up) and seek to support Save the Children's mission by supporting children, youth and their communities in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Drawing on our global experience in working with children and youth in crisis, Save the Children has identified two principal goals to address the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic:

- preventing new HIV infections, especially among youth and others at high risk of infection; and
- helping communities provide care and support for the children, families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

In 1995, Save the Children/USA began its flagship HIV/AIDS program in Malawi to assist communities that were being overwhelmed by AIDS. This program began working with communities affected by HIV/AIDS in Mangochi District seven years ago, including children who had been orphaned by the disease, and has now expanded to reach hundreds of villages in five districts of Malawi. Building on this success, Save the Children/USA now mobilizes communities to respond to the disease in Africa (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Uganda four of the most affected countries) and in the Caribbean (Haiti) while also implementing HIV prevention programs in Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Republic of Georgia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Vietnam. Through these programs, hundreds of thousands of children and caregivers affected by HIV/AIDS have benefited. In addition, recognizing the threat HIV/AIDS poses to the progress made in development work in the past few decades, Save the Children/USA has added HIV/AIDS components into other programs, including education, health, food security, economic opportunities, youth, and sponsorship programs.

Save the Children/USA recognizes that families and communities are on the front lines in responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis. The organization works with families, community groups, local governments and nongovernmental organizations to provide much-needed services and support to address the effects of this crisis. Save the Children/USA is committed to the provision of care for these children and youth, to preventing the spread of infection to the next generation and to creating the commitment in local, national and international communities to prioritize the needs of children and young people in addressing this disease.

## **Program work in Africa**

### **Regional (Ethiopia & Mozambique)**

#### **SCALE-UP HOPE**

Funded by the US Government/PEPFAR, the SCALE-UP HOPE project expands community responses to the needs of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in Ethiopia and Mozambique. SCALE-UP HOPE uses field-proven methods to mobilize and improve community programs for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS, by building access to educational opportunity, improving livelihoods, and providing psychosocial support to affected children and their caregivers. SCALE-UP HOPE is implemented through Save the Children Alliance partners in Ethiopia and Mozambique and the Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI) program partners in each country.

*SCALE-UP HOPE is a \$5.86 million, three year program funded by the US Government/PEPFAR and implemented in collaboration with USAID/Ethiopia and USAID/Mozambique.*

### **Ethiopia**

#### **Positive Change: Children, Communities, and Care (PC3)**

Save the Children, with its partners CARE, Family Health International, World Learning, World Vision and the Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI), has recently launched the PC3 program throughout Ethiopia. Designed to reach 500,000 children affected by HIV/AIDS over five years (OVC), PC3 will strengthen program interventions in core areas focused on improving the lives of orphans and other vulnerable children and their households, including psychosocial support, health and nutrition, livelihood, life skills, and educational support. With local civil society organizations and community groups, PC3 will work to increase the availability, quality and consistency of community-based care and support services for OVC and HIV/AIDS-affected families, through intensive capacity strengthening of local groups and organizations.

*PC3 is a \$20 million, five year program funded by the US Government/PEPFAR. 75% of this funding is channeled through local organizations.*

## **High Risk Corridor Initiative (HRCI)**

The HRCI program is responding to the prevention, care and support needs of higher-risk mobile populations and communities along the transport corridor between Addis Ababa and the Djibouti border, through an innovative package including HIV/AIDS information centers, peer education activities, school- and community-based prevention outreach for young people and others at risk of infection, VCT and STI service strengthening, and positive living and community home-based care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Initiated as a prevention program to address the high transmission rates of HIV among transport workers and commercial sex workers along these corridors, the program has expanded to link prevention with strategies for care and support for persons living with chronic debilitating illness and to broaden its prevention program to new target audiences, especially high-risk youth.

*The initial phase of HRCI, (2001- 2004), was a \$3 million three year program funded by USAID/Ethiopia. The current phase of the program is a \$4 million, 4 year program funded by the US Government/PEPFAR.*

## **Mozambique**

### **Mother's Hope**

The Mother's Hope project in Nampula and Gaza provinces of Mozambique offers prevention and support options for women living with HIV facing pregnancy and possible transmission of the virus to their newborns. HIV prevention measures are coupled with healthy practices for maternal and child well-being practices. The project is being implemented in district hospitals in areas with high HIV prevalence, in partnership with provincial and district health authorities of Mozambique's Ministry of Health.

*Mothers' Hope is a \$1 million; two year program funded the Elizabeth Glazer Foundation and USAID/Mozambique.*

## **Malawi**

### **Tisamalirane**

Previously known as COPE, and then STEPS, Save the Children's innovative Tisamalirane program in Malawi has effectively mobilized local communities to develop sustainable and comprehensive community-based interventions for prevention, care and mitigation. Working directly with district and village leaders to develop and manage programs that help hundreds of communities and thousands of families, Tisamalirane addresses the nutritional, emotional, educational and economic needs of children and families affected by the epidemic. Tisamalirane works directly with local government authorities to strengthen their capacity to lead and sustain community-based efforts to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. *STEPS is a \$7 million, four year program funded by the National AIDS Commission of Malawi, and the Global Fund (GFATM)*

### **Umoyo Network**

The Umoyo Network program builds the capacity of local non-governmental and community-based organizations to provide prevention and care services while working to increase the utilization of these

services to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in Malawi. The Umoyo Network program delivers a comprehensive package of technical assistance for HIV/AIDS-related services in order to increase the capacity of Malawian NGOs to implement programs for the prevention of new infections and provide care and support for those living with HIV/AIDS, exercising a range of interventions including voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), positive living and prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). *Umoyo Network is a \$13 million, four year program funded by USAID/Malawi.*

## **Bridge**

In Malawi, Save the Children implements the BRIDGE Program in partnership with Johns Hopkins University (JHU). BRIDGE targets youth with Behavior Change Communication (BCC) activities that aim to increase skills and dialogue on HIV/AIDS among young Malawians and their partners, children and peers. The program seeks to give beneficiaries an accurate sense of personal risk and with it, a sense of hope and self-efficacy in prevention while promoting a supportive environment for protective practices. At the district level, community action groups made up of religious leaders, chiefs, NGOs and government officials help mobilize communities. Through a practice called twinning new action groups are matched with successful, older action groups for a rapid training process that quickly and efficiently activates and equips groups to coordinate efforts in their communities to fight HIV/AIDS.

*BRIDGE is a four year program, with SC funding of US\$3 million from USAID through Johns Hopkins University.*

## **Uganda**

### **Breaking Barriers**

Save the Children is implementing a project that provides psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), as well as their caregivers in Uganda. The overall program goal of Breaking Barriers is to expand equitable, effective, and high quality OVC programs in education, psychosocial support and home-based care for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS, using school networks as a coordinated platform for expansion and sustainability. Using the non-formal primary schools developed through a Save the Children education program (CHANCE), Breaking Barriers will provide psychosocial support and community-based care to OVC and their families in order to improve access to quality education, and to strengthen the capacity of community organizations to mobilize internal and external resources.

*Breaking Barriers is a \$1.6 million, four-year program funded by the US Government/PEPFAR. The program is led by the Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI), and implemented by Plan USA in partnership with Save the Children US, and the World Council on Religions and Peace (WCRP).*

## **Program Work in Asia**

### **Bangladesh**

#### **Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Young People**

Save the Children is working with the Government to prevent HIV infection in young people (ages 15-24) in order to avert a generalized epidemic in Bangladesh. Activities implemented in this broad program include providing HIV/AIDS education prevention information to young people through mass and print media, life-skills education through youth organizations and clubs. The program also integrates HIV prevention education into secondary schools and higher secondary curriculum, and is making facility-based health services more "youth-friendly". A social marketing program for condoms targeted to young people is also being introduced. In addition, advocacy and sensitization programs involve religious and community leaders, parents, and policy makers. This program also provides for research to be done on the awareness and the impact of program activities, to provide the strategic information required to respond more effectively to the epidemic.

*The 'Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Youth' program is a \$19.7 million, five year project funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), and carried out in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and local NGOs.*

## **Myanmar**

### **Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission**

Together with the National AIDS Program of Myanmar (NAP), the Department of Health (DOH), and UNICEF, Save the Children launched a community based program focused on the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). Through an integrated approach, this program incorporates services for the prevention of MTCT with essential reproductive health care, in an effort to reach more women who are, or may become pregnant, as well as new mothers. The goal of this program is to strengthen access to information and care/support in communities, raise awareness about HIV, and engage community members in overcoming barriers to the use of antenatal care (ANC) and HIV testing. Partner testing is critical to the program, and therefore male involvement is highly encouraged. This program is designed to reinforce public sector services and build local capacity, ensuring that its efforts and activities will endure even after the program has ended; a cornerstone of all Save the Children's Programs.

*This PMTCT project is a \$130,855, one year program funded by UNICEF, and implemented in cooperation with the National AIDS Program, the Department of Health and local partners.*

### **HIV/AIDS Prevention Intervention for High Risk Groups**

Save the Children is implementing an HIV/AIDS prevention project with funding from the UN Development Program and the United Nations joint program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The Program seeks to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS among high risk groups in Myanmar, with a special focus on youth. Key elements of the program include peer counseling & education, increasing access to quality preventive services, and referrals for Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT). Community Mobilization and experience based advocacy strategies are put to work to reinforce support for protective practices. Knowledge Centers (KC) are another key aspect of the Prevention Intervention program. Save the Children is building a network of key information and service sources that will ensure access to accurate, relevant HIV-related information. The Knowledge Centers are staffed by counselors, and linked with networks of peer educators and youth friendly medical practitioners.

*The HIV/AIDS Prevention Intervention for High Risk Groups is a \$413,000, two year project funded by UNAIDS and the UNDP.*

## **Nepal**

### **Safe Migration Initiative in the Far West**

In partnership with Family Health International/Nepal and local Nepali NGOs, Save the Children is implementing the Safe Migration Initiative in the Far West. The goal of this program is to prevent HIV transmission and lessen the impact of HIV/AIDS on migrants, potential migrants, and their families. The cornerstone of this program is Behavior Change Communication (BCC), the dissemination of information about HIV/AIDS and how to prevent its spread. With support from USAID, Save the Children is producing a weekly radio show which addresses HIV/AIDS/STI prevention. The radio show is broadcast in Mumbai, India and Nepal. Save the Children is also organizing listener groups within communities to ensure that target audiences are reached. In addition to the radio show, Save the Children is supporting the production of a Stigma Reduction toolkit, and is performing assessments of key areas for prevention intervention which will inform future HIV/AIDS program design in Nepal.

*The Safe Migration Initiative is a \$244,992, one year program funded by USAID, and led by Family Health International (FHI).*

## **Vietnam**

### **HIV/AIDS REACH**

In partnership with the Government of Vietnam, Save the Children is working to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to better understand the situation of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) nation-wide. In order to foster safe and protective practices among the nation's youth, Save the Children is working

with the Ministry of Education and Training to develop a national strategy on HIV and Education for primary and secondary schools. Using schools as an avenue for reaching young people, Save the Children is developing and disseminating HIV prevention messages throughout the country. Save the Children is also carrying out a study in order to assess the situation of OVC nation-wide. This study will enable the Vietnamese Government and civil society organizations to better respond to the needs of children living with and/or affected by HIV/AIDS. Save the Children will provide technical and financial support to Vietnam's Committee on Population, Families and Children (CPFC) to conduct this national survey.

*The REACH Program is a \$250,000, one year program funded by the US Government/PEPFAR. It is being implemented in cooperation with PACT and the government of Vietnam.*

## **Program Work in the Caribbean**

### **Haiti**

#### **Consortium for the Fight against HIV/AIDS**

With funding from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria (GFATM), Save the Children and four other non-governmental organizations joined together to create a consortium for the fight against HIV/AIDS in Haiti. With the goal of improving the well being of Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) and People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and their families, this collaborative effort seeks to establish a comprehensive continuum of care in 13 provinces throughout the country. The Consortium works to increase the availability of and access to services including prevention, care and support for PLWHA, OVC and affected households, by mobilizing and strengthening communities.

*The Consortium is a \$3.6 million, five year program, funded via the Sogebank Foundation, the primary recipient of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria funds in Haiti. Save the Children partners with Concern Worldwide, Catholic Relief Services, FOCAS, and World Vision on this project.*

#### **SAFENET Plus**

In partnership with World Vision, Save the Children aims to reduce the risk of infection among youth and most at risk populations (MARPs), and to improve the well-being and quality of life of OVC and PLWHA through its SAFENET Plus program. Target groups are offered a package of services that provide proven medical and social interventions, including; age-specific prevention services, risk-reducing interventions, and care and support for families affected by HIV/AIDS (with a special focus on women and children). The Care and Support measures include strengthening community infrastructure and capacity to provide health services, especially those that are youth-friendly. The technical capacity of civil society organizations will also be improved for better prevention, protection, care and support over the long-term.

*SAFENET Plus is a \$3 million, 12 month program funded by the US Government/PEPFAR, in partnership with World Vision, and the Management & Resources for Community Health (MARCH), a Haitian NGO.*

#### **Maissade Community Mobilization for Children & Families**

With funding from UNICEF and private donors, Save the Children is mobilizing community-based preventive, care and supporting activities addressing the health, psychosocial and social needs of HIV/AIDS-affected children and families in Haiti's impoverished Central Plateau area of Maissade. Expanding on our current youth education and health programs in Maissade, this program helps communities mobilize to cope with HIV/AIDS, with the specific purpose of helping families affected by HIV/AIDS to remain together for as long as possible. One-third of Maissade's population is comprised of youth (aged 10-19); Save the Children aims to reach 80 percent of this group through school and community-based prevention and support approaches.

*This is a \$50,000, 12 month program funded by UNICEF and other private donors. Save the Children has been working in Maissade in cooperation with key community leaders and local civil society*

organizations for many years, and is adding the HIV/AIDS education effort through its existing partners there.

## **Program Work in Eurasia**

### **Georgia:**

#### **STI/HIV Prevention Program**

Save the Children also works in the Republic of Georgia to reduce the rate of infections among individuals at high-risk. The **STI/HIV Prevention (SHIP)** program conducts outreach to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS and other infections among populations at high-risk, and establishes peer education and counselling networks to teach preventive practices and behaviours.



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