



MEDIA ADVISORY

JLICA AT THE XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Mexico City 3RD – 8TH AUGUST 2008

WHAT: The Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA) <http://www.jlica.org> an independent, multi-disciplinary network of policy makers, practitioners and activists working to improve the global response to children affected by the epidemic, will participate in a number of news making programmes at the upcoming International AIDS Conference. Through the week, JLICA will lead a call for fundamental changes in the global approach to meeting the needs of the many millions of children affected by the epidemic worldwide.

JLICA experts from around the world are available for media interviews throughout the conference. Following are some of the highlights of JLICA participation in the meeting:

Wednesday, August 6

09.40–10.05: Conference Plenary, “No Small Issue: Children and Families”

WHAT: Child welfare expert and JLICA Learning Group Co-Chair Professor Linda Richter (Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa) delivers the first plenary address on the epidemic’s impact on children’s wellbeing in the Conference’s 23-year history. Professor Richter will issue a call for substantial changes in the design and delivery of services to support HIV-impacted children, families and communities.

11.00-11.45: AIDS Conference Official Daily Briefing

WHAT: Plenary speaker Professor Linda Richter discusses her address, “No Small Issue: Children and Families” and takes journalists’ questions.

WHERE: Aztecas Room, Conference Media Centre

13.00-13.45: Press Conference: “Beyond the Orphan Crisis: An Initial Report of the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA)”

WHO:

- Peter Bell, Senior Research Fellow, Hauser Centre for Nonprofit Organisations, Harvard University; President Emeritus CARE USA, and JLICA Co-Chair
- Agnes Binagwaho, Executive Secretary, Rwanda National AIDS Control Commission and JLICA Co-Chair
- Jim Yong Kim, Director, FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, former Director HIV/AIDS Department, World Health Organization

- Michel Sidibé, Deputy Executive Director for Programmes, UNAIDS
- Lorraine Sherr, Professor in Health Psychology, University College London
- Alex de Waal, Programme Director, Social Science Research Council

WHERE: Aztecas Room, Conference Media Centre

18.30-20.30 JLICA SATELLITE: “Beyond the Orphan Crisis: An Initial Report of the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA)”

WHAT: “Beyond the Orphan Crisis” challenges current paradigms on how to improve the lives of millions of children affected by the epidemic and offers fresh vision and concrete strategies to respond. Featuring:

- Julio Frenk, Carso Health Institute, former Minister of Health, Mexico: “Strengthening Families through Cash Transfers: Lessons from the Mexican Experience.”
- Peter Bell, Harvard University Hauser Centre for Nonprofit Organisations, President Emeritus CARE USA and JLICA Co-Chair.
- Agnès Binagwaho, Rwanda National AIDS Control Commission and JLICA Co-Chair: “Focus on the Family: the Key for Ensuring Children's Well-being.”
- Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS: “Advancing the Political Agenda for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS.”
- Jim Yong Kim, FXB Centre for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, former Director HIV/AIDS Department, World Health Organization: “Family-Centred Service Delivery Models for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS.”
- Lorraine Sherr, University College London: “Strengthening Families through HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support.”
- Nathan Nshakira, FARST Africa: “Channelling Resources to Families through Community-Based Organisations.”
- Jerker Edstrom, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex: “Adolescent Vulnerability and Prevention: New Approaches.”

WHERE: Session Room 4 (550), Centro Banamex

JLICA press contacts

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ABOUT JLICA

The Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA; <http://www.jlica.org>) is an independent, interdisciplinary network of policy-makers and practitioners, founded by FXB International, the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Harvard University's Global Equity Initiative and UNICEF, working to increase global responses to the needs of HIV-affected children worldwide.

Over its two-year programme of action, JLICA is mobilizing evidence, encouraging fresh thinking, disseminating practical operational knowledge and making clear, actionable recommendations to protect and support children affected by HIV/AIDS. JLICA will lead a number of children-focused activities at the Mexico City conference, including the plenary address on HIV and children given by JLICA Learning Group Co-Chair Professor Linda Richter. JLICA's final report and recommendations to significantly improve programmes and services for millions of HIV-affected children worldwide, will be released at the end of the year.

JLICA Spokespeople in Mexico City

Peter Bell (JLICA Co-Chair)

Peter Bell is the immediate past President and Chief Executive Officer of CARE USA, where he was responsible for the organization's policy and programmes in 70 developing countries. He is currently a visiting fellow at The Carter Center and visiting professor at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. Previously, Mr. Bell was president of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and president of the Inter-American Foundation, which supports grassroots development in Latin America. Mr. Bell served as Deputy Under-Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare during the Carter Administration. Earlier, he worked for the Ford Foundation for 12 years, including 10 years in Latin America. He is also chair of the ONE Campaign, vice-chair of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, co-vice chair of the Inter-American Dialogue and a World Peace Foundation trustee.

Agnes Binagwaho (JLICA Co-Chair)

Dr. Agnes Binagwaho is the Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Commission to Fight AIDS. She is also a member of the Expert Panel of the Country Coordinating Mechanism in Rwanda for the Global Fund, the National Steering Committee on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, and the Technical Advisory Group for HIV/AIDS in the Ministry of Health. Dr. Binagwaho is a pediatrician specializing in Emergency Pediatrics and the treatment of HIV/AIDS in children and adults, practising part-time in Kigali. She has presented at international conferences and published on the subject of pediatric HIV/AIDS and mother-to-child transmission, as well as participating in developing standards of care for the treatment of HIV/AIDS in Rwanda.

Linda Richter (Co-Chair, Strengthening Families Learning Group)

Linda Richter is the Executive Director of Child, Youth, Family and Social Development at the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa, and a consultant in the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA). Professor Richter has conducted both basic and policy research in the fields of child and youth development, and has published more than 150 papers in the fields of child and adolescent development, infant and child assessment, and the effects of HIV/AIDS on children and families. She is the former Chair of the Technical Steering Committee of the Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development at the World Health Organization. Professor Richter is

also the Principal Investigator of Birth to Twenty, a longitudinal study of the maturation and development of more than two thousand young people, born in Soweto-Johannesburg in 1990.

Lorraine Sherr (Co-Chair, Strengthening Families Learning Group)

Professor Lorraine Sherr is a Clinical Psychologist at University College London. She is the editor of the International Journal AIDS Care as well as Psychology Health and Medicine and Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies. Professor Sherr's research focuses include women, children, risk behavior, pregnancy, mental health provision, testing and prevention, and fatherhood. She is the author of several text books on HIV/AIDS (e.g. HIV/AIDS in Mothers and Babies; AIDS and Adolescents, AIDS and the Heterosexual Community; Grief and AIDS) and has contributed chapters to over 30 texts. Professor Sherr has advised governments, foundations and international bodies such as the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Save the Children, WHO and the British Psychological Society. She has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship for work on HIV/AIDS and mothers and babies.

Geoff Foster (Co-Chair, Community Action Learning Group)

Geoff Foster took up his current appointment as specialist pediatrician with the government of Zimbabwe in 1985. Two years later, he founded Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT), a faith-based, non-governmental organization and one of Africa's first AIDS service organizations, which he currently chairs. In 1992, Dr. Foster designed the FOCUS programme, considered by UNAIDS as a model approach to community-based care for orphans. He conducted a six-country UNICEF/WCRP study on faith-based responses to orphans and vulnerable children, and a four-country SCF(UK) study, Bottlenecks and Dripfeeds, examining funding mechanisms for community-level responses for vulnerable children. He is co-editor of A Generation at Risk: The Global Impact of HIV/AIDS on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2005) and co-editor of the international journal Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies.

Madhu Deshmukh (Co-Chair, Community Action Learning Group)

Madhu Deshmukh directs global HIV/AIDS activities, including those related to economic development, sexual and reproductive health, and girls' education, for CARE USA. Before joining CARE, Ms. Deshmukh worked with UNAIDS in Geneva, and with grassroots organizations and the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) in India, as well as with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and UNDP. Ms. Deshmukh's expertise ranges from designing HIV/AIDS interventions for populations at risk to strategy development, project management, and strengthening community-based networks and networks of people living with HIV, with specific emphasis on community empowerment, gender and human rights.

Jim Yong Kim (Co-Chair, Expanding Access to Services and Protecting Human Rights Learning Group)

Jim Yong Kim has 20 years experience in improving health in developing countries. He is a co-founder of Partners In Health, a non-profit organization that supports a range of health programmes in poor communities worldwide. In 2004 and 2005, Dr. Kim served as director of the World Health Organization's HIV/AIDS department, including leading the "3x5" initiative designed to put three million people in developing countries on AIDS treatment. He currently leads a new Harvard University-based initiative in Global Health Delivery, which is designed to discover and widely share knowledge about health programme implementation in poor communities. Dr. Kim has received a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship; was named one of America's 25 best leaders by US News & World Report; and was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by TIME magazine.

Lydia Mungherera (Co-Chair, Expanding Access to Services and Protecting Human Rights Learning Group)

Dr. Mungherera has worked in HIV/AIDS and TB as a clinician, health educator and patient advocate. Since 1999, Dr. Mungherera has worked with The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) in a variety of clinical and advocacy-related capacities, focusing on empowering communities and developing programs on TB/HIV coinfection, human rights, and policy. Her many accomplishments include founding Uganda Cares, the first treatment centre to provide free ARVs in the Masaka District, which now serves 5,000 patients, including children, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and AIDSHealthCare Foundation. Dr. Mungherera also recently founded The Mamas Club, a psychosocial support group for HIV-positive mothers and their children. Dr. Mungherera received her medical degree from Makerere University in 1985. She has been living with HIV since 1997.

Alex de Waal (Co-Chair, Social and Economic Policies Learning Group)

Alex de Waal is a writer and activist on African issues. He is a programme director at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), engaged in projects on HIV/AIDS and Social Transformation and on Emergences and Humanitarian Action. In addition, de Waal is a fellow of the Global Equity Initiative at Harvard and a director of Justice Africa, London. In his twenty-year career, Alex de Waal has been at the forefront of mobilizing African and international responses to the social, political and health dimensions of famine, war, genocide and the HIV/ AIDS epidemic, especially in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. His books include: *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan, 1984-5* (Oxford University Press, 1989), *Islamism and Its Enemies in the Horn of Africa*, (Indiana University Press, 2004), and *Darfur: A Short History of a Long War*, (with Julie Flint; Zed Books 2005).

Masuma Mamdani (Co-Chair, Social and Economic Policies Learning Group)

Masuma Mamdani specializes in social policy research in reproductive and sexual health. She is a Senior Researcher at the Tanzanian nonprofit Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA). Ms. Mamdani participated in the preparation of Tanzania's Second Poverty Reduction Strategy (2005-2010) and represents REPOA in the National Public Expenditure Review Working Groups on HIV/AIDS and on Social Well-Being. She is also a member of the Tanzania Public Health Association. Previous postings include ten years as a Research Fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her works include: "Social Protection of Vulnerable Children in Tanzania: Evidence, Limits and Challenges," "Poor People's Experiences of Health Services in Tanzania," "Community- Based Programmes Addressing Women's Reproductive Health Needs in India," and many others.

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