



JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE  
ON CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS

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## **INDEPENDENT EXPERT REPORT FINDS GLOBAL AIDS RESPONSE FAILS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES; CALLS FOR NEW DIRECTIONS IN GLOBAL AIDS POLICIES**

***“Home Truths: Facing the Facts on Children, AIDS, and Poverty”  
Calls for Refocusing of Response to Children at Risk***

### **REPORT LAUNCH TELEPHONE PRESS BRIEFING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10; 12 NOON EST**

**WHAT:** Release of “*Home Truths: Facing the Facts on Children, AIDS, and Poverty*,” the Final Report of the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA) a two-year, independent alliance of researchers, implementers, policy-makers, activists and people living with HIV. Among the report’s key findings:

- Much of the current AIDS response overlooks fundamental realities of the daily lives and the impact of HIV on children and their families
- Families and communities provide the vast majority of care for HIV-affected children, with little or no support
- Extreme poverty in many of the most seriously affected regions is a critical barrier to the uptake of HIV programmes and services
- Current programme design and implementation means external funding frequently fails to reach local communities
- The underlying vulnerabilities that increase the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls are not being addressed sufficiently
- Targeting relief efforts to “AIDS orphans” is ineffective and may be counter-productive

The JLICA report contains a comprehensive set of recommendations to reorient and greatly improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of services for the millions of families and children not affected by HIV. JLICA supporters include the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud – FXB International; Bernard van Leer Foundation; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University; Global Equity Initiative, Harvard University; Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; Irish Aid; Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs; UK Department for International Development; UNAIDS; and UNICEF.

**WHO:** Press conference speakers include:

- **Peter Bell**, JLICA Co-Chair, President and CEO emeritus, CARE, USA
- **Jim Yong Kim**, Harvard University; former WHO HIV Director; CO-Chair of JLICA Learning Group on Expanding Access to Services and Protecting Human Rights
- **Geoffrey Foster**, Family AIDS Caring Trust, Zimbabwe; Co-Chair of JLICA Learning Group on Community Action
- **Lorraine Sherr**, University College London; Co-Chair of JLICA Learning Group on Strengthening Families
- **Elhadj Amadou Sy**, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- **Jimmy Kolker**, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

## **LAUNCH OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE ON CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS**

### **JLICA Spokespeople**

#### **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. Mr. Bell is now a senior research fellow at the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University. Before joining the Hauser Center, he was a visiting fellow at the Carter Center in Atlanta. 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 was formerly chair of the ONE Campaign and is currently vice-chair of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, chairman emeritus of the Inter-American Dialogue, a director of the Global Water Challenge and a trustee of the World Peace Foundation.

#### **Agnes Binagwaho (JLICA Co-Chair)**

Dr. Agnes Binagwaho is Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Rwanda and was formerly the Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Commission to Fight AIDS, a member of the National Steering Committee on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, and Chair of the Rwandan PEPFAR steering Committee. She is currently chair of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism in Rwanda. Dr. Binagwaho has published on the subject of pediatric HIV/AIDS and mother-to-child transmission of HIV. She is a member of the editorial boards of *Public Library of Science* and *Health and Human Rights: An International Journal* (Harvard University). She co-chaired the Millennium Development Goal Project Task Force on HIV/AIDS and Access to Essential Medicines, under the leadership of Professor Jeffrey Sachs, for the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Dr. Binagwaho is a visiting lecturer at Harvard University. She is a pediatrician specializing in Emergency Pediatrics and the treatment of HIV/AIDS in children and adults, and serves as Chair of the Rwandan Paediatric Society.

#### **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. She is an honorary professor in Psychology and an elected fellow of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, an honorary professor in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of the Witwatersrand, an honorary research associate in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Oxford, and a visiting scholar in the School of Public Health at Harvard University. 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, and 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*. In 2003, he was awarded an Order of the British Empire for services to HIV/AIDS in Africa.

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

Madhu Deshmukh is a Deputy Director with the Policy Advocacy Unit at CARE USA. Previously, she was the Director for CARE USA's HIV/AIDS Unit and directed activities including those related to economic development, sexual and reproductive health, and girls' education. 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 holds appointments as François Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health and Professor of Medicine and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a major Harvard teaching hospital; director of the François Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights; and chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. 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 works 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. Uganda Cares now serves 5,000 patients, including children, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and AIDSHealthCare Foundation. Dr. Mungherera also recently founded Mamas Club, a psychosocial support group for HIV-positive mothers and their children, which received the 2008 Red Ribbon Award. 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 senior fellow at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative 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); *Darfur: A Short History of a Long War* (with Julie Flint; Zed Books 2005); and *AIDS and Power: Why There is no Political Crisis—Yet* (Zed Books, 2006). In 2008, he was awarded an Order of the British Empire for services to development.

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

Masuma Mamdani specializes in social policy research in reproductive and sexual health. She also has extensive experience in issues of healthcare provisioning, focusing on access, equity, quality, and financing, with particular attention to practical policy analysis and processes in support of change. She is currently a research specialist in social policy with UNICEF Tanzania and was formerly 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 represented 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.