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*“We are more than two decades from the start of the epidemic... however, our thinking about family and household ‘impact’ has not evolved to reflect the long-term presence of HIV in some countries”*

### THE JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE ON CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS

The Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS is engaging scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in collaborative problem-solving research and analysis that addresses the needs of children living in the context of HIV and AIDS.

**Rationale**

Children are a still-neglected face of AIDS, and developing effective and sustainable responses to support children is the next big step in overcoming the pandemic and its impacts, including its spread into the next generation.

**Purpose**

The goal of the JLICA is to ensure protection, support and prevention for children affected by HIV/AIDS by strengthening the scientific evidence base for actions. The initiative seeks to develop an authoritative consensus on the best ways to move forward by producing actionable recommendations for policy and practice. The JLICA will collaborate with researchers, practitioners and policy makers across all continents engaged in different areas relating to children affected by HIV/AIDS and representing a range of disciplines.

**Initiative Co-Chairs**

JLICA is headed by two Initiative Co-Chairs, who oversee its scientific work and advocacy and who represent JLICA in a range of international forums.



Peter Bell is a highly respected leader in global philanthropic and humanitarian endeavors. He is the immediate past President and Chief Executive Officer of CARE USA, one of the world's largest private relief and development organizations. 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 trustee of the World Peace Foundation.



Dr. Agnes Binagwaho is the Executive Secretary of Rwanda's National Commission to Fight AIDS. By training, 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 obtained her medical training in Belgium and France. As a Rwandan citizen, she has been involved in developing standards of care for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

### NEWS

The JLI was formally launched in October 2006 at a meeting at Foxhills in London. The Initiative is expected to continue until the end of 2008.

The JLICA is holding the first meeting of the Learning Groups from 7-8 March 2007 in Durban, South Africa.

Details from the meeting will be published in the next newsletter.

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# THE JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE ON CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS

## Goals of the JLICA

### 1. Mobilizing and generating evidence:

JLICA gathers and assesses scientific evidence on operational, political and public policy issues related to children and HIV/AIDS, as well as documenting experiential knowledge emerging from communities of practice.

### 2. Expanding space for new thinking:

JLICA engenders multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral interaction and synthesis that stimulates innovative thinking and problem solving, while engaging new expertise.

### 3. Advancing action:

JLICA brings practitioners, policymakers and scholars together to examine evidence and forge consensus on what needs to be done, how and by whom. This includes developing recommendations, prioritizing responses, and advocating action.

### 4. Facilitating linkages:

Knowledge generated from research on the one hand and policy and practice on the other must be linked more closely. The HIV/AIDS field can also learn from other bodies of knowledge and practice. JLICA will function as a nervous system connecting people, ideas and sectors.

## The Learning Groups

JLICA has been launched to compile and disseminate research, policy, programme and operational knowledge and advocate for its implementation. This will be done by four thematic Learning Groups whose focus is taken from The Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children Living in a World with HIV and AIDS. In addition to the thematic areas, there will be several cross-cutting topics.

Each Learning Group is coordinated by two Co-Chairs and includes a core of approximately 10-15 practitioners, policymakers and scholars, as well as broader circles of experts working in consultative capacities. The four Learning Groups are:

#### LG1: Strengthening Families:

Linda Richter & Angela Wakhweya

#### LG2: Community Action:

Geoff Foster & Madhu Deshmukh

#### LG3: Access to Services and Human Rights:

Jim Kim & Lydia Mungerera

#### LG4: Social and Economic Policies:

Alex de Waal & Masuma Mamdani

*“Consequently, HIV is no longer loaded “on top” of the prevailing demographic, social and economic trends but has become part of their direction and force”*

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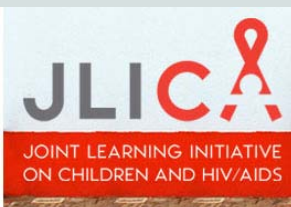
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### LEARNING GROUP 1



## THE JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE (CONT)

### Key outputs of the Initiative and approximate timescale

- JLICA Roadmap: March 2007
- JLICA Landscape analysis: April 2007
- Cross-sectoral policy challenges: May 2007
- Interim Learning Group reports: Sept 2007
- Final Learning Group reports: May 2008
- JLICA Final Report: end 2008

### Additional anticipated outputs

- Website and communications platform
- National and regional workshops
- Published papers
- Policy briefs
- Training materials
- Tools for program design, implementation and evaluation
- A global advocacy and communications campaign

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES SUB-GROUPS

The Strengthening Families Learning Group explores variations in family response on the frontlines of the pandemic, and assembles evidence on models of family support for children as well as the role of systems and services strengthening in protecting children and adolescents from HIV infection and the worst effects of poverty and social disruption. Nine papers have been commissioned to investigate these important issues:

1. *Global trends in family structure and the impact of social factors and emergencies on them.* This paper will summarize prior work relating to the nature of family structures in different parts of the world with a focus on developing countries. It will discuss how, in modern times, family structures have altered and it will identify and analyse events that have been associated with these changes, with special consideration being given to the role of disasters and crises.

**Dr Saangetha Madhavan (U of Maryland, USA)**

2. *A review of existing programmes to strengthen families, assessing their evidence base, strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for learning and expansion.* The paper will be broader than HIV/AIDS, but will indicate how programmes are or can be adapted for HIV/AIDS, and with what learning.

**Dr Angela Wakhweya (FHI, USA) & Dr Upjeet Chandan (HSRC, SA)**

3. *An outline of conceptual frameworks for understanding families in terms of the socialization of children and providing for their developmental needs.* These frameworks should be helpful in advancing the response to the impact of HIV/AIDS, while at the same time facilitating an understanding of the similarities and dissimilarities of HIV/AIDS impacts with those associated with poverty.

**Dr Mark Belsey (Consultant, USA)**

A literature and programme review, together with a case study of parent planning for children.

**Dr Scott Drimie (IFRPI, USA & Prof Tim Quinlan (HEARD, SA)**

4. *Anthropological accounts of family and household changes in response to the effects of HIV/AIDS and how these can be taken into account in efforts to strengthen families.* This review of existing work will draw on accounts from a variety of contexts and examine how regional and cultural differences may be important in the design of responses.

**Vuyiswa Mathambo (HSRC, SA), Prof Wiseman Chirwa (U of Malawi) & Gertrude Musondo (Save the Children, Zambia)**

5. *Demographic evidence of family and household changes in response to the effects of HIV/AIDS, and how these can be taken into account in efforts to strengthen families.* Regional and time variations, in terms of epidemic stage, are important considerations.

**Dr Vicky Hosegood (LSHTM, UK)**

6. *An analysis of current programmatic efforts that may handicap appropriate responses to strengthening the capacity of families to care for vulnerable children.* The paper will discuss the roots of such programs and the role played by the manner in which problems are conceptualised in shaping handicapping responses.

**Dr Lorraine Sherr (RFH, UK)**

7. *A review of work on economic strengthening, including cash transfers, and evidence on how they may need to be adapted to strengthen families affected by HIV/AIDS.* The paper will also consider evidence on the appropriateness of conditionality vs. non-conditionality and grants vs. services in the context of HIV/AIDS.

**Dr Michele Adato (IFPRI, USA)**

8. *A discussion of family considerations in the design and implementation of ARV treatment programmes, identifying aspects of service provision which weaken or strengthen families*

**Dr Jo e Kimou, Dr.Cl ement Kouakou (U de Cocody) & Paul Auguste Assi (FHI, Cote d'Ivoire)**

9. *A review of short- and long-term implications of both negative and positive impacts on the family associated with migration and HIV/AIDS.*

**Dr Mary Haour-Knipe (IOM, Geneva)**

*“The exclusion of young adults from the family and HIV/AIDS research and policy agenda is an unfortunate paradox... young adults are the drivers of family”*

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LEARNING GROUP 1



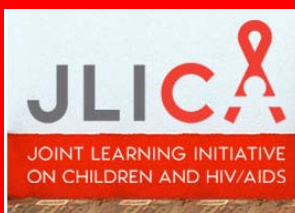
JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE  
ON CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS

*“Families have always dealt with crises of various types, so to what extent does HIV present new challenges?”*

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LEARNING GROUP 1



## CALL FOR INTEREST & PARTICIPATION: ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ISSUES

Strengthening Families (LG1) extends a call for engagement to practitioners, policy makers, programme managers and researchers who would like to participate in the current Initiative.

There are a variety of ways for people and groups to get involved and to ensure that their knowledge and experience becomes part of the Initiative. There are LG1 Advisors, Companion and Parallel Initiatives, Stakeholders and other interested groups and individuals. Everyone connected to the Learning Group will receive Newsletters and other communications, and we welcome your input.

If you know others who would like to receive this electronic Newsletter, please ask them to send an email to [JLICAFamilies@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:JLICAFamilies@hsrc.ac.za) with NEWSLETTER in the subject line. In the body of the email they should include their name, organisation and contact information.

In addition, we would like to convene telephonic, email and internet interest groups for each of the nine LG1 sub-group papers. If you would like to contribute to the work of one of the sub-group papers in this way, please send an email to [JLICAFamilies@hsrc.ac.za](mailto:JLICAFamilies@hsrc.ac.za) indicating your interest.

We are also trying to raise additional funds for face-to-face meetings for some of the Sub-groups in LG1, as well as for meetings in different regions of the world. One way we can do this is through conferences, workshops and seminars at which we can get together.

Please keep us posted about meetings and other activities that are relevant to the work of the JLICA and to the work of LG1: Strengthening Families, in particular. Where possible, we will try and arrange for a member of LG1 to present the progress of the Learning Group and engage with participants and their responses.

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES (LG1) CO-CHAIRS

Professor Linda Richter is the Executive Director of the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development Programme at the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa. She has over 25 years of experience in child and adolescent research, as well as programmatic experiences relevant to children affected by HIV and AIDS.



Professor Linda Richter



Dr. Angela Wakhweya

Dr Angela Wakhweya is a Senior Technical Officer in the Orphans and other Vulnerable Children Unit in the Prevention and Mitigation Division at Family Health International (FHI), based in Arlington, VA. Dr Wakhweya has a strong background in international public health, especially in the area of

HIV/AIDS.

For more information visit:

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For more information visit:

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