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Family is the single most important factor influencing the well-being and outcomes of children...

LG 1 PRESENTS AT THE AIDS IMPACT CONFERENCE, MARSEILLE FRANCE

Members of Learning Group 1 made two oral presentations on the work of the group at the recent 8th International AIDS Impact Conference in Marseilles, 1-4 July 2007 as part of ongoing efforts to inform interested and relevant people and organisations on the process and activities of the JLICA. The first presentation, made by Chris Desmond on behalf of Linda Richter, provided an overview of the JLICA process and outlined the objectives of each of the four Learning Groups. The presentation was well received and further information on the JLICA and Learning Group 1, in particular, was distributed. It is essential for the success of the JLICA that the interest and participation of key sectors relevant to the design and implementation of responses to the impacts of HIV on children is solicited. Both the research community and practitioners are examples of such key sectors and both were in attendance at the conference, which made this a very useful stage to report on the JLICA.

The second presentation was made by Tamsen Roachat on behalf of Linda Richter at the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA) workshop. CCABA is a coalition of funders, researchers and implementation partners concerned with children affected by HIV/AIDS and is a key collaborating organisation for the JLICA. A primary concern of the group is the quality and quantity of evidence being produced, and members of CCABA have been particularly interested in leveraging the support they provide to their grantee partners in order to have impact beyond the projects funded. CCABA hosted a workshop at the AIDS Impact Conference in Mar-



Participants the CABA working group

seille that brought together grantee partners and several invited speakers and guests – academics and programme and policy people. Tamsen’s presentation “Evidence: What is filtering up, what isn’t and why” reiterated the need for a comprehensive evidence base that can guide practice and implementation. The workshop also highlighted the important opportunities and roles a collaboration of implementation partners, researchers, policy makers and funders can play in collating evidence for change. The discussions focused on identifying barriers to narrowing the divide between research, policy, practice and implementation, the

NEWS

The JLICA is at the forefront at an *International Symposium on Children and HIV/AIDS: Meeting Children’s Needs* to be held at Harvard University on the 24th September 2007.

The JLICA Steering Committee will meet for two days following the symposium.

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PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

largest of which was identified as research capacity. The JLICA was agreed to present a major opportunity to begin to address this divide and participants reiterated the importance of the JLICA.

REVIEW: ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY AIDS

Companion to the Framework

UNICEF has released the report "Enhanced Protection for Children Affected by AIDS". This 56-page publication has been widely endorsed by international and non-governmental partners as a companion document to the "The Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children Living in a World with HIV and AIDS". The Framework is the founding document of the JLICA and the key strategies were used as the basis for forming the four learning groups. The companion paper outlines recommended actions for protecting affected children from increased vulnerability, and for reducing their risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect. While it discusses the protection issues facing children globally, its recommended actions speak directly to the findings of "Africa's orphaned and vulnerable generations: Children affected by AIDS", published in 2006 and incorporates new research on the vulnerability of children in the region hardest hit by the epidemic. The five key strate-

gies that are advanced are: **social protection** (implement social transfer programs; invest in family support services; engage and partner with communities); **legal protection** (combat disinheritance; improve civil registration systems; strengthen and/or develop specialized child protective services in police, justice and social welfare systems; strengthen, develop and implement legislation and enforcement policies on child labour, trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation; and support community-based monitoring mechanisms); **alternative care** (develop effective means of supporting and monitoring informal care arrangements; improve the formal care system; develop government and community-based protection and monitoring mechanisms); **address stigma related to HIV, abuse and exploitation** (facilitate open discussion; sensitize the media; train national and community leaders); and **strengthen the state's social welfare sector** (increase budgetary allocations; invest in human resources and develop regulations, guidelines and coordination mechanisms). The framework and the companion document can be downloaded from the Learning Group 1 website on

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/strengtheningfamilies>

SHOWCASE: LEARNING GROUP 1 WEBSITE

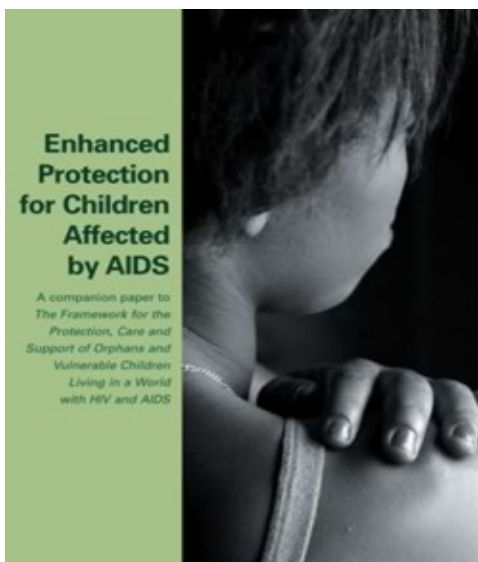
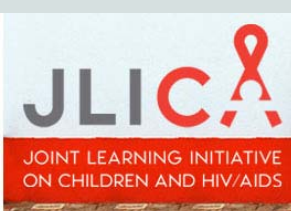
With the goal of maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the global community on the issues affecting children and families, Learning Group 1 recently launched their website, <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/strengtheningfamilies>, which is linked to the main JLICA webpage (www.jlica.org). Hosted by the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa, the website was designed to provide information to the LG1 stakeholder community on the lead papers, background and recent literature as well as to showcase the work of the *Strengthening Families* group. The second phase of the website development will enable people to share their perspectives on the lead papers and critical issues through a community of practice. We welcome high quality, policy related material which could be featured on the website. Your comments and suggestions will also be appreciated, please send these to jlicafamilies@hsrc.ac.za.

Protection for children affected by AIDS requires strengthening national and community-level responses for all vulnerable children

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LEARNING GROUP 1



SPOTLIGHT: LEARNING GROUP 4 : SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROCESSES

The Learning Group on Social and Economic Policies examines options at the level of social policy, including how universal access to AIDS treatment can be combined with integrated health and welfare programs to address other dimensions of children's well-being. This group will also cost options policy and programming recommendations of the other Learning Groups and project the economic and social costs of minimal action.

Learning Group 4 has a special position within the JLICA because it plays a supportive and responsive role in relation to the other Learning Groups, while also conducting independent research on a number of priority issues. In terms of support to other learning groups, Learning Group 4 aims to provide direction with regard to the policy implications of the research findings of Learning Groups 1-3. In addition, Learning Group 4 also has a particular focus on questions of policies for HIV prevention among older children and adolescents.

SPOTLIGHT: LEARNING GROUP 4

Research activities in five thematic areas have been commissioned by the Social and Economic Policies Learning Group. These are:

1. Determinants of socio-economic outcomes for children: This will be done by (a) analysing DHS datasets in Africa focusing on the question of living arrangements for children to determine evidence for how the status of each of a child's parents and other carers is related to social and economic outcomes and (b) reviewing relevant studies on children and AIDS globally.
2. Socio-economic policies: The process of adoption and implementation will be investigated in a small number of countries using two case studies that focus on the 'lifecycle' of a policy.
3. The economics of responding to children affected by HIV/AIDS: This paper will investigate the feasibility of responses, in terms of the resources required and the wider impact on national economies. This will be done by (a) costing the response to children affected by HIV and AIDS and (b) a debate on the implications of expended resource flows for national economies

and capacities. This debate will consist of an exchange of essays and then an online forum followed by live debate, amongst others, at the JLICA symposium in Boston on the 24th September 2007.

4. The politics of response to children affected by HIV/AIDS: The reasons governments adopt policies for children affected by AIDS depends upon a host of political factors. Analytical and statistical study of political determinants of policy will be investigated and then complemented by case studies of how the policy-making process actually operates in specific countries and focuses on best-practice.
5. HIV prevention among adolescents: Looking specifically at social and cultural vulnerability to HIV risk, three activities will examine (a) determinants of vulnerability to HIV infection among adolescent girls in Dar es Salaam, (b) review of various causes of vulnerability of older children and adolescents to HIV infection and how these compound vulnerability and policy in Brazil and (c) the same issues will be looked at in India. For more information on LG 4 visit www.jlica.org or email jlicaLG4@ssrc.org

LEARNING GROUP 4: CO-CHAIRS

Alex de Waal

Dr Alex de Waal is a program director at the Social Science Research Council, engaged in projects on HIV/AIDS and Social Transformation and on Emergencies and Humanitarian Action. In his twenty-year career, Alex studied 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.

Masuma Mamdani

Masuma Mamdani is a Senior Researcher at Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA), a non-profit research organization in Tanzania. She has 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. Masuma is a member of the Tanzania Public Health Association and the HIV and AIDS Working Group of the Non-Governmental Policy Forum.



Dr Alex de Waal

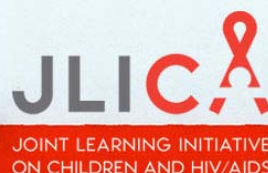


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LEARNING GROUP 1

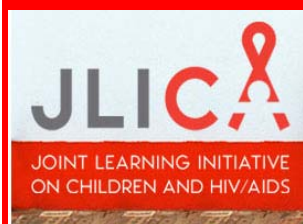


*...the role of men
in child upbringing
and family
life is paramount
and needs to be
promoted if fami-
lies and house-
holds are to fulfil
their obligations
to children*

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LEARNING GROUP 1



UPDATE LG1: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

All the proposals for LG 1 papers have been posted on the HSRC LG 1 website <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/strengtheningfamilies>

- Lead authors have submitted descriptions of their methods of review and analysis, and these will be posted onto the website after revision
- First drafts of all papers will be submitted by the end of September 2007. Once the papers have been revised, second or third drafts will be posted on the website
- A new lead paper on child abuse and neglect is being commissioned, bringing to 13 the number of reviews being undertaken by LG 1
- LG 1 members will be participating in two meetings in London at the end of November and early December to discuss social protection, organised by Save the Children UK and DFID, respectively
- LG 1 will have a face-to-face meeting in Pretoria in January 2008 to work on integrating the findings from the lead papers

PARTICIPATING IN LG1

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 Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS. There are LG 1 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 with NEWSLETTER in the subject line. In the body of the email they should include their name, organisation and contact information. Please keep us posted about meetings and other activities that are relevant to the work of the JLICA and to the work of LG 1: Strengthening Families, in particular. Where possible, we will try and arrange for a member of LG 1 to present the progress of the Learning Group and engage with participants and their responses.

Reference Groups

We are convening telephonic, email and internet Reference Groups of about 10-15 people from a variety of sectors for each of the LG 1 lead papers. If you are a policy maker, programmer manager, donor, community organiser, person living with HIV or AIDS or caring for a child affected by HIV or AIDS, or a stakeholder in another capacity in the work of the JLICA, and you would like to contribute to the work of one of the lead papers by reading drafts and making comments, please send an email to JLICAFamilies@hsrc.ac.za indicating your interest, and the number and title of the particular lead paper with which you would like to work.

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.

For more information visit:

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/strengtheningfamilies>
www.jlica.org



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:

www.fhi.org
www.jlica.org.za