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Predictable income transfers can help the poorest families take advantage of HIV and AIDS programmes and services

LEARNING GROUP 1 MAPS THE WAY FORWARD IN PRETORIA

Learning Group 1 together with representatives from Learning Groups 2, 3 and 4 held a meeting in Pretoria, South Africa from the 23 - 24th January 2008. The goal of the meeting was to bring together lead authors on papers for the purposes of identifying common issues and overlaps as well as gaps between papers, both within LG1 and across the JLICA collective.

During the course of the 2 days, lead authors presented their papers. Lively discussions ensued with input from both LG1 members and representatives of the other learning groups. Learning group members reached consensus on the main conclusions of LG1.

Two of the main LG1 conclusions are:

1. HIV and AIDS further impoverishes the poorest families, putting the health and development of children at risk. Regular income transfers can mitigate the worst impacts of the epidemic on children and their families.

2. Family-based HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care would better serve



children and caregivers than individualized services.

NEWS

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) hosted a meeting from the 12-14th March 2008 in Rockville, MD to discuss and identify gaps in the international research agenda related to children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.

The United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) is hosting a high level meeting at the UN General Assembly in New York from the 10-11th June 2008 to discuss the issue of children's voices in the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

LG1 is participating in both meetings and Professor Lorraine Sherr presented a paper on the work of JLICA and LG1 at the NIMH meeting.

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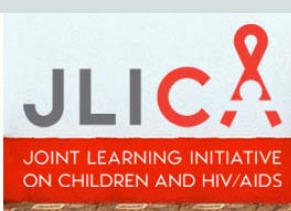
... having parents on ART reduces the likelihood of children's work or labour supply, increases children's school attendance and improves their nutritional intake

(Kimou et al)

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LEARNING GROUP 1



JLICA AND LG1 AT THE XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO IN AUGUST 2008

The JLICA will have a strong collective presence at the upcoming XVII International AIDS Conference to be held in Mexico City from the 3rd to the 8th August 2008. Several JLICA abstracts have been submitted for consideration for both oral and poster presentations.

The JLICA Secretariat & Communications Consultants are also planning a coordinated program of activities and media coverage, including a visible presence in the exhibitor's area and a JLICA poster.

LG 1 ABSTRACTS

The list of LG 1 abstracts submitted is detailed below:

Adato, M. & Basset, L.

The role of cash transfer programs in protecting the education, health and nutrition of children in AIDS-affected families: Evidence to date and key policy debates.

Chandan, U. & Richter, L.

Learning from the evidence: Strengthening families to improve outcomes for children in the context of the HIV epidemic.

Hosegood, V.

Red herrings?: Child-headed households and the disjuncture between the evidence-base and programme responses.

Hosegood, V.

The family and household life-course: Implications for efforts to strengthen families and households affected by HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Hosegood, V. & Haour-Knipe, M.

Disclosing diasporas: family, migration and HIV.

Sherr, L. & LG1 Lead Authors.

Gender, young children and AIDS - Evidence, ignorance and neglect.



Professor Linda Richter has been invited to deliver a plenary address on Children and HIV and AIDS at the upcoming XVII International AIDS conference in Mexico. The scheduled date of the plenary is the 6th August 2008. Apart from the recognition of Linda's scientific expertise and policy influence in the field of children and HIV/AIDS, the plenary offers a unique platform to showcase the JLICA, the Coalition on Children Affected by AIDS (CCABA) and other groups working on behalf of children and families.

The Bernard van Leer Foundation in The Hague will publish Linda's address and make it available at the plenary presentation. Linda, together with co-authors, Professor Jerry Coovadia and Dr Olive Shisana, will submit the plenary address for publication in a high profile journal, still to be negotiated by the International AIDS Society

We congratulate Prof. Richter on this prestigious opportunity and wish her well in Mexico City. She will be addressing an estimated 25 000 delegates.

THE EMERGING STORY: JLICA MEETS OUTSIDE LONDON IN FEBRUARY AND IN DUBLIN IN APRIL 2008

The JLICA Steering Committee met for three days, 13–25th Feb 2008 at The Great Fosters outside London. The purpose of the meeting was to review the emerging evidence and formulate a coherent shared JLICA storyline supported by the research outputs and key messages generated by each of the four learning groups.

A follow-up meeting is taking place in Dublin from the 17th to the 19th April, 2008, at which LG co-chairs will present their overall Learning Group summaries.

The JLICA Report is planned to be launched on the 20th November 2008—International Children's Day.



Geoff Foster, Masuma Mamdani, Linda Richter and Madhu Deshmukh at Great Fosters outside London

... families provide the social context that has evolved for the protection and rearing of? children.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Why Strengthen Families?

1. Families and communities are at the forefront of protection of children affected by HIV and AIDS.
2. The epidemic has compromised the ability of many families to continue to meet the everyday needs of children for food, clothing, shelter, education and health care.
3. HIV and AIDS is a family disease that is spread between partners and from parents to children.

THE JLICA SECRETARIAT— BOSTON AND GENEVA

The JLICA Secretariat is staffed by Drs Alec Irwin and Alayne Adams housed in the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health and Francois-Xavier Bagnoud International in Geneva.

Kavitha Nallathambi is the Project Manager in the Harvard Office.

Communications are directed by Anne Winter, formerly of UNICEF and WHO, together with Mark Aurigemma.

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LEARNING GROUP 1



JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE
ON CHILDREN AND HIV/AIDS



LG1 BIDS FAREWELL TO DR. ANGELA WAKHWEYA

Dr Angela Wakhweya, the former 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, has served as co-chair of LG 1 since the inception of the JLICA in 2005. Dr Wakhweya has since moved to work in government in Maryland. Given both her new responsibilities and health problems which make it difficult for her to travel, Dr. Wakhweya has stepped down from her role as the LG1's co-chair. Professor Linda Richter, together with the members of Learning Group 1 wish to thank Dr. Wakhweya for the invaluable contribution and leadership that she brought to the area of children and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Wakhweya will be replaced by Professor Lorraine Sherr.

.... implementation of family strengthening programmatic activities must either unfold alongside or build upon efforts to economically strengthen families.....
(Chandan et al.)

UPDATE

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

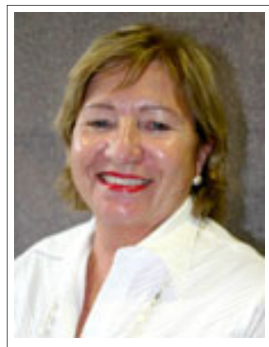
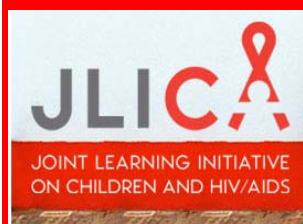
- Lead authors met face-to-face in Pretoria to work on integrating the findings from the lead papers.
- Final drafts of all papers will be submitted for review and sharing with other LGs by the end of March 2008.
- At this time, the final draft papers will be submitted to external reviewers from government, academic and civil society.
- By Mid-April/early May the published papers will be posted on the HSRC and JLICA websites.
- A new lead paper on child abuse and neglect was commissioned, bringing to thirteen the number of reviews being undertaken by LG 1. The draft paper will be posted on the website by May 2008.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES (LG1) CO-CHAIRS

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LEARNING GROUP 1



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



Professor Lorraine Sherr is the Head of the Health Psychology Unit at the Royal Free and University College Medical school. She has been involved in HIV infection work and studying psychological aspects of the disease for the past 25 years. LG 1 welcomes Prof. Sherr as a co-chair

For more information visit:

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