

***SECURE THE FUTURE*[®]**
Care and Support for Women and Children with HIV/AIDS

Community Programs for Infants and Children

Overview

The *SECURE THE FUTURE*[®] initiative to fight HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa includes a broad range of programs providing infants and children with social support and access to education, medical care and treatment. Innovative approaches include:

- education in preventing sexually transmitted disease and infections;
- psychosocial care and support for orphans and vulnerable children;
- psychosocial adjustment for orphaned adolescents;
- training, food security and income-generating projects for caregivers;
- community mobilizations to reduce stigma and foster testing;
- prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV combined with psycho-social support; and
- pediatric AIDS clinical centers with extended reach in impoverished rural areas through a Pediatric AIDS Corps.

Sharing successful strategies and lessons learned with other AIDS service organizations/institutions fighting the disease in the developing world is a major objective of this Bristol-Myers Squibb and BMS Foundation initiative.

An Urgent Need

According to the most recent UNAIDS estimates, 2.3 million children under 15 years of age were living with HIV in 2005. An estimated 540,000 were newly infected, and 380,000 children died from AIDS. Almost 90% of the world's children living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa, where fewer than one in 10 are being reached by basic support services. In this worst-affected region of the world, 2 million children under 17 have lost one or both parents to the disease.

Examples of *SECURE THE FUTURE* Community Programs

- **The Sibambisene Network in Northern Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa** is providing care and support for more than 10,000 of orphans and vulnerable children. The project includes psychosocial support, attainment of official documents, drop-in centers, family support initiatives and income-generating projects to empower women caring for orphans. The program is co-funded by the Southern African Bishops Conference and the Catholic Medical Mission Board.
- **Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Program (BOCAIP) in Botswana**, provided psychosocial support to orphans including child counseling and play therapy to those traumatized by AIDS, with a special focus on trauma and bereavement provided through trained child minders.
- **The Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations (CANGO)**, Swaziland, conducted a program to mobilize policy-makers and to inform civic organizations and providers of resources to establish programs sensitive to the needs of HIV-infected children. Activities included: promoting legal and children's rights with a focus on reducing stigma

and strengthening community responses to assist vulnerable children. A major focus of one part of the program was children's accessibility to major services in urban and rural areas. Another part of the program was devoted to developing a Child Protection Training Manual.

- **The Childcare Imbizo for Civil and Community Action** in Gauteng and Limpopo provinces, South Africa, is designed to increase capacity of caregivers and service providers from non-governmental and community-based organizations to support children. In addition to workshops and training courses, this project included a two-day Children's Health Fair (Imbizo) toward which six government departments from social services, to health and home affairs, ward counselors, 13 NGOs/CBOs and others contributed.
- **The Philippi Namibia Christian Counseling and Training Organization**, provides psychosocial care and support for children in distress through week-long, experiential learning camps that help build coping mechanisms and self-esteem, Kid's Clubs and one-day training sessions. In addition this project is designed to train youth group leaders.
- **GAPA "Grandparents Against Poverty and AIDS"** was formed as an outcome of a *SECURE THE FUTURE* grant that supported 48 grandmothers caring for AIDS orphans.
- **St. Philomena's Children's Home in Kwa-Zulu Natal**, South Africa, provides psychosocial care and support for orphans and vulnerable children through community care families. In this pilot program, orphans are placed in secure home environments with families rather than in institutions.
- **The PORECO Project for PMPCT-Plus, a community-based treatment support program**, in Mbabane, Swaziland, is dedicated to an innovative program to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, combining medical care and treatment with social support. This operational research study includes a clinic providing highly active antiretroviral treatment (HAART) when required, voluntary counseling and testing, and social services such as home visits, infant-feeding counseling, nutrition and food security and support group meetings.

About *SECURE THE FUTURE*

SECURE THE FUTURE is a comprehensive public-private initiative to help alleviate the HIV/AIDS crisis among women and children in sub-Saharan Africa. Launched in 1999 by Bristol-Myers Squibb and its Foundation, the initiative combines multiple approaches to making a measurable impact in fighting HIV/AIDS where the needs of people infected and affected by the disease are great and health care and other resources limited. Through a commitment of \$150 million – the first and largest corporate commitment of its kind to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa - the company has awarded more than 200 grants for medical care and research, community outreach and education and capacity and infrastructure-building in South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire and Uganda.

For more information on these and other programs for children, visit www.securethefuture.com on the World Wide Web.