



"When I had my daughter, I was married and very young. I didn't have any social or economic support. I relied on my daughter's father to look after us. That is a problem in places where parents have no money and can't afford to have food on the table or where there is high unemployment. It perpetuates things like domestic violence and abuse and also affects children's well-being. Mothers may default on medication or taking their children to clinics for immunizations. There are issues for these children of being looked after properly, getting school uniforms and just having someone care for them."

Florence Ngobeni, South Africa

As an EGPAF ambassador for many years, Florence worked at an EGPAF-funded clinic in Soweto, South Africa. She also is a trained professional in psycho-social support and is a former member of ICW. She lost her first husband and child to HIV and has since remarried and had two HIV negative children. Originally from South Africa, Florence now lives in the United Kingdom.

The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS (The Coalition) is a unique group of 26 thought-leaders from within global donors, United Nations agencies, non-governmental agencies, and academic institutions. We consolidate and promote learning from the latest scientific evidence in order to advocate for better funding, programming, policy and research. We seek to enable all children affected by HIV and AIDS to survive and thrive at home, school and in their communities. This includes children (aged 0-18 years) infected with HIV; at risk of infection; as well as children affected by the social and economic impacts of others close to them having the disease.

For more information, please visit the Coalition's website at www.childrenandhiv.org and follow us on Twitter at [@childrenandhiv](https://twitter.com/childrenandhiv).



Ambassadors

of the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS



The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS (the Coalition) recognizes that children and their parents and carers have to lead the way to change. They are the experts of their own experiences with HIV and AIDS and more must be done to involve them in decisions around funding, programming and policies.

There are many dynamic networks operating in every region of the world that contain remarkable champions who can speak from first hand experience about HIV and AIDS and their impact on children and families. The Coalition seeks to strengthen these voices by working with a select group of ambassadors representing networks working with children, families and caregivers affected by HIV and AIDS to:

- Participate in global level fora, and
- Mobilise their own networks to prepare for and follow up on opportunities resulting from global level engagement.

Coalition Ambassadors



“The biggest gap is communications skills. Many parents and caregivers still can’t communicate with children. We still have parents who can’t tell their children about their HIV status.”

Jacquelyne Alesi, Uganda

Jacque founded and ran, until recently, UNYPA – an association of young people living with HIV in Uganda. She has mentored many young people as advocates and recently passed over the management of UNYPA to them. She now supports them in an advisory capacity and is passionate about supporting young people to be agents of change. She is an experienced advocate, a powerful speaker and, as a young mother, can provide a care-givers perspective on children affected by AIDS. She was nominated in 2016 for a global award to people under 40 championing family planning. Its living with HIV have been shown to be more likely to access and adhere to treatment if the needs of their children are met first.



“I would love to see more programs done, not just medical, but in the total world of a child — be it nutrition, education, psychosocial support, economic empowerment — so that we are able to raise a generation which is empowered in every aspect of life. If that generation can be empowered in every aspect of life, I think we will be able to defeat AIDS.”

Clara Banya, Malawi

Clara is a mother of two children, one of whom is HIV positive. She also has a husband living with HIV. She is a dynamic and experienced speaker about the problems and solutions to tackling stigma, improving access and adherence as well as how to support caregivers so that their children can survive and thrive HIV. She is part of the Global Fund Advocates Network and National Coordinator for the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW Malawi Chapter).



“One night, the father of my two children burnt to death in a shack fire. My kids were 8 months and 14 months at the time... So my sister introduced me to the oldest profession in the world. She showed me how, as a single mother, I could provide for my children and rebuild my burnt home. That was seven years ago and I’ve worked the streets ever since. In that time I’ve been raped, I’ve been harassed by the police and my children have been persecuted. But I’m not a victim. I chose this profession as a way of supporting myself and my family and I now lobby to get my rights as a worker recognised by the lawmakers in this country.”

Duduzile Dlamini, South Africa

Duduzile Dlamini runs the Sisonke project, a movement of sex workers in South Africa, helping them to fight for their rights and entitlements. This project is part of SWEAT Mothers for the Future, South Africa. Dudu is an experienced global advocate of sex worker rights. She also led field research in South Africa that was used to develop the Coalition’s recent work with the global working group on the children of key populations. Her organisation has also taken up this issue in their programming.