

Children and HIV/AIDS: Action now, action how

Symposium Review

Health and Development
Networks (HDN)

Process and preliminary comments

- This is a descriptive, topic focused review
- A team of 5 writers from Health and Development Networks (HDN) attended a range of presentations, selected because they reflect key themes
- This is part of HDN's HIV & Children project [funded by Irish Aid and the Bernard van Leer Foundation]
- Colleagues will present reflections from the three 'tracks' they followed, broadly shaped around:
 - Knowledge and skills exchange: organisations and institutions growing stronger through evidence based practice
 - Models that can work right now: in country responses
 - Global cooperation to support in country efforts

Knowledge and skills exchange: growing stronger through evidence-based practice

- Some problems in representation: *‘Whatever you do for me without me you are against me’*
- Evidence based practice and capacity building
- Political commitment
- Integrating families: the need for a holistic approach
- The ‘Russian Doll’ Problem
- Access to treatment
- If prevention works, and if treatment works, what does not work? What are we waiting for? Act now!

In country models that work right now

- ‘We have the medicines, what we need is the political will’ to ensure children’s rights are protected
- There is hope...
- Can lessons be learnt between regions?
- The role of civil society
- Peer pressure on Government – a new catalyst?

Global cooperation: international efforts to support in-country agendas

- Issues around capacity remain
- Political will, effective and transparent accountability systems have contributed to a paradigm shift from viewing the OVC crisis as a “feeling of fatality, to that of hope”
- The vital role NGOs, as part of civil society, play in supporting and pressing Government to provide basic services to the poorest and most vulnerable in society is also acknowledged
- Example of good practice: several development partners have come together In Uganda to pool resources for implementing OVC interventions nationally
- Good governance and political leadership – especially from an enlightened and effective Parliament – are crucial in the development of policies that can have true impact

Conclusion

- ‘the children are in the family –
‘we have seen ourselves as
related to children, and
somehow ignored the families
who are truly related to the
family’ (Linda Richter)



hdn
Health & Development
Networks



THANK YOU

Be the change...
www.hdnet.org