

A young girl with blonde hair is shown in profile, blowing bubbles. The background is a soft, greenish-yellow color with many bubbles floating around. The text is overlaid on this image.

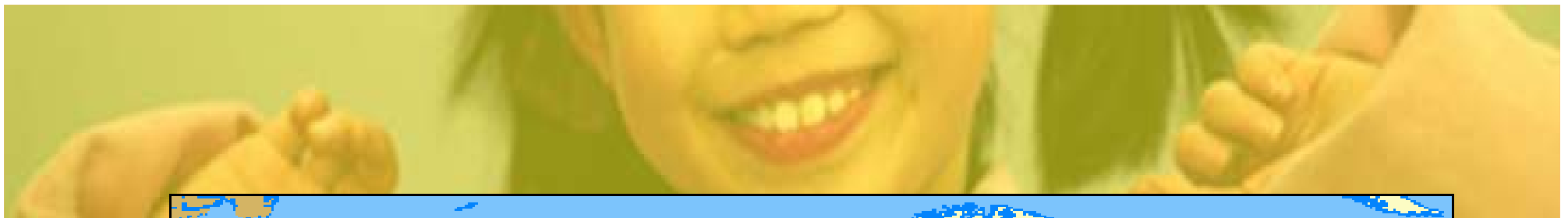
Psycho-Social Support for Children with HIV/AIDS in Ukraine through Day-Care Centers

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**Positive Children Project in Ukraine
Canadian Society for International Health**

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International Symposium**

Mexico, August 1-2, 2008

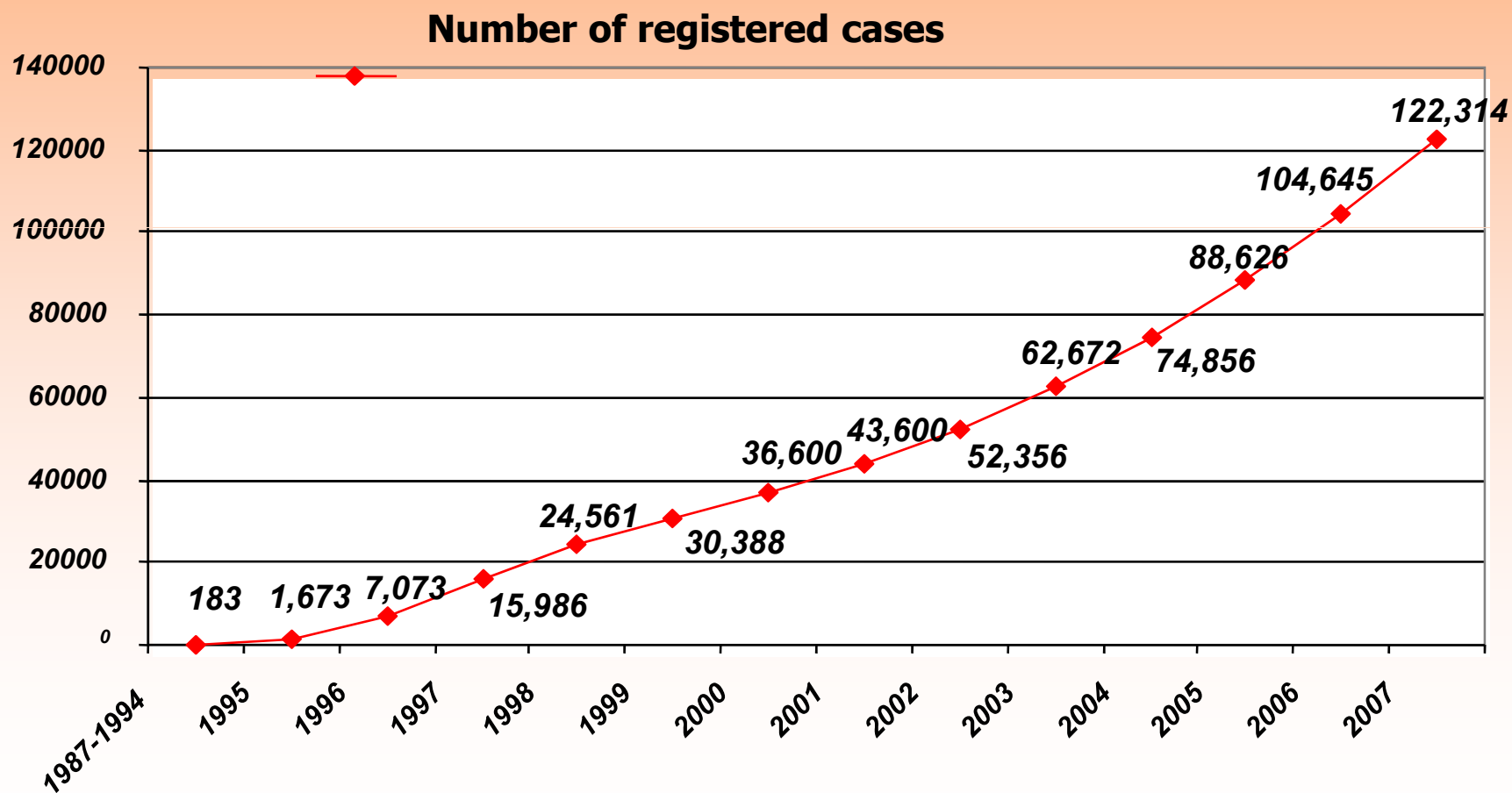


Population of Ukraine is 46.5 mln



Epidemiological situation: registered cases as of February 2008 (cumulative data from 1987)*

Number of officially registered cases of HIV/AIDS as of February 2008 – 122,314



* Data of the Ukrainian AIDS Centre, Ministry of Health of Ukraine

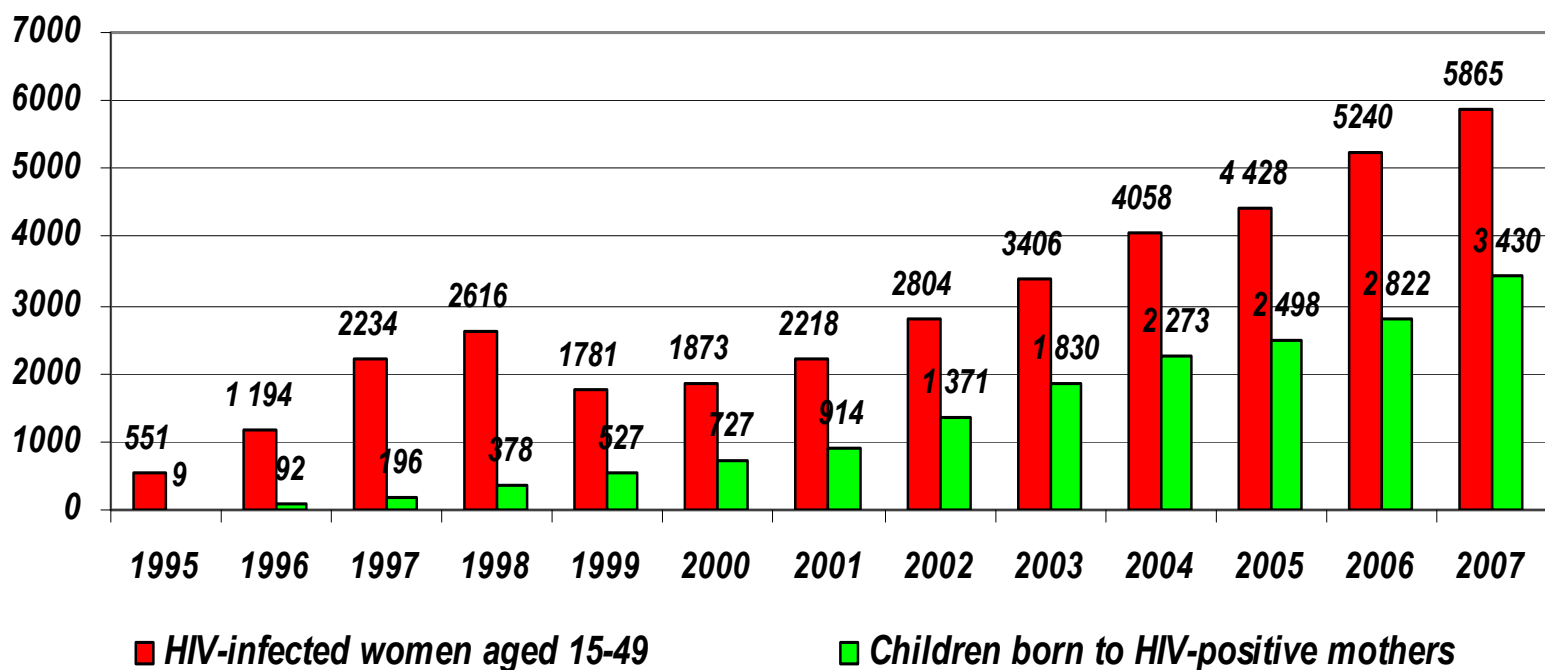


Epidemiological situation of children

(cumulative data from 1987)*:

- Number of children born to HIV positive mothers – 17,077
- Number of children with confirmed diagnosis – 1,624

Dynamics of number of HIV-infected women of reproductive age and children born to HIV-positive women in Ukraine for the period of 1995-2007



* Data of the Ukrainian AIDS Centre, Ministry of Health of Ukraine



Trends

- **At the moment increasing numbers of new cases of HIV infection are registered in children 5-6 years of age**
- **Statistics continue to under-represent children who are deprived of parental care and street children**
- **According to recent data, today from 40,000 to 300,000 of children live and work in the streets. Up to 115,000 of children may be infected with HIV***

** UNICEF research, 2006*



HIV positive orphaned children in Ukraine

- **11%** of children born to HIV positive mothers are abandoned
- As of 2007 there were **418** orphans in state care institutions in Ukraine



Issues facing HIV positive children

- **Lack of proper care from parents/ caregivers and family**
- **Poor adherence to ARV treatment**
- **Stigma and discrimination in preschool and school educational establishments**
- **Psycho-social problems related to lifestyles and HIV positive status of parents**



Supporting HIV positive children

One of the effective models of care and psycho-social support for children and their families with HIV/AIDS in Ukraine are Day Care Centres

Day Care Centres are Centres for temporary (1-2 hours to half a day) placement of children from families affected by HIV/AIDS, where a wide range of services is provided for both children and their parents/ caregivers



Target groups

- **Children of all age groups born to HIV-positive mothers (with confirmed or non-confirmed status)**
- **Parents and/or caregivers**



Services

- **Psycho-social support through individual and group work**
- **Outreach (including home visits)**
- **Consultation by medical workers and lawyers**
- **Counseling by social workers, psychologists and educators**
- **Peer support groups**
- **Early learning and development (games, plays, puppet shows)**
- **Pre-school training**
- **Holidays, celebrations and recreation activities**
- **Food packages**
- **Training for the Centers' staff**



History

- **1st Centre opened in Kyiv in 2003 (All-Ukrainian Network of PLWHA in cooperation with Kyiv City Social Service for Youth and with UNICEF)**
- **Today 17 Centres in 12 regions of Ukraine operate with financial support of All-Ukrainian Network of PLWHA (through Global Fund funding), national and local governments through State Social Services for Family, Children and Youth, as well as international organizations (UNICEF) and other donors**



Positive Children Project in Ukraine (2005-2008)

CIDA – Funded/CSIH – Managed

Objective: to create inter-professional child-friendly, pediatric HIV/AIDS care in Ukraine by:

- **providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment, clinical, management, research, and health professional training in support of children, their families, orphans, and their caregivers, and**
- **providing comprehensive psycho-social support and ensuring integrated care and treatment through evidence-based research, training/education, and social marketing for community outreach programs**

CANADIAN SOCIETY
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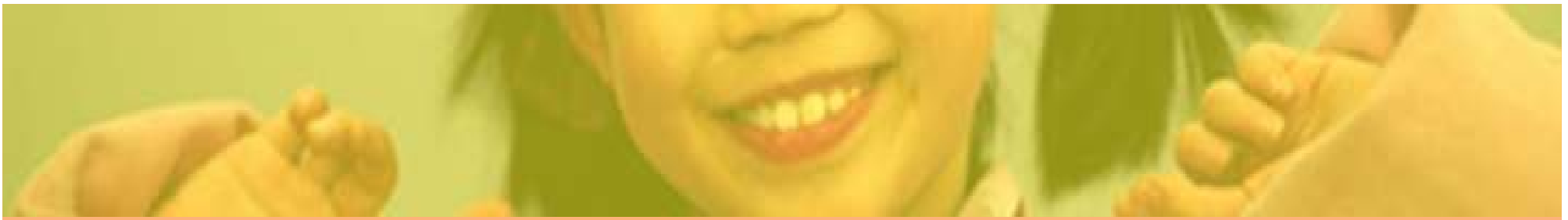
Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

Main Project Components

- **Interprofessional Training Program and Internships**
- **Clinical Demonstration Project**
- **Capacity-Building Grants for the Project's AIDS Service Organizations**





The project established and supported several Day Care Centers through its grant component providing:

- **funding**
- **staff training**
- **methodological support and guidance**



Opportunities

Children:

- **Communicate with their peers**
- **Receive essential education and training**
- **No need to go with parents who have their testing and doctor appointments**
- **Enjoy fun activities and holidays celebrations**

Adults:

- **Have access to psychological support activities and training**
- **Respite**
- **Have free time to visit doctors and labs, pay bills, attend training courses, etc.**
- **Safe place to come to**
- **Spend quality time with families and peers**



Examples of topics discussed at the parents/caregivers support group

- adherence to ART and ART side effects
- adoption
- HIV and pregnancy
- placement of children into public daycare
- care and education of children and parents' responsibilities
- developmental and educational games
- registering for social service programs (pension, disability insurance)
- personal /social growth of parents
- impact of time spent together on family environment
- positive management of stress
- speech development in children, etc



Results

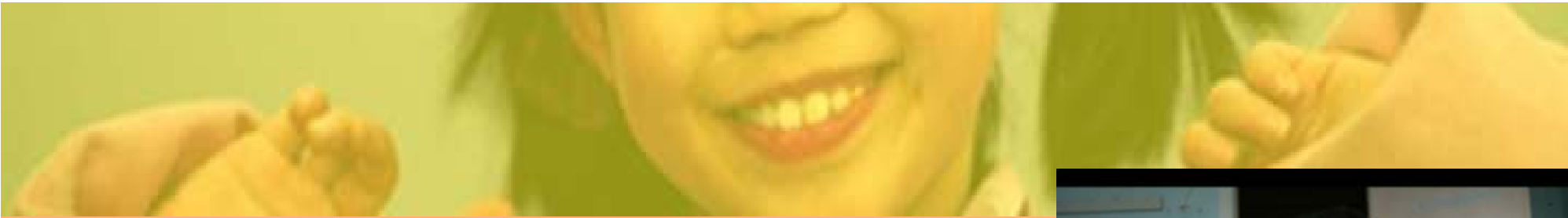
- **creation of favorable conditions for working with children and families affected by HIV/AIDS**
- **establishing partnerships with municipal governments to provide services for families affected by HIV/AIDS**
- **improvement of psycho-social services for families with HIV**
- **increased knowledge of HIV positive women on living with HIV, parenthood, etc**
- **development of new practices for working with children, conducting individual educating sessions, arts therapy**
- **development of activities for mothers and children to reduce their isolation, to increase socialization, and to spend quality time with families and peers**



Challenges

- **Lack of or no funding for opening new Centres**
- **Difficulties with finding suitable premises to rent**
- **Ineffective mechanisms for collaboration between government and NGOs**
- **Families with low income cannot afford transportation to visit Centres regularly**
- **Difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff**





**“The test of the
morality of a society
is what it does for its
children”**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Acknowledgements

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