

WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 2007

UN SECRETARY GENERAL, BAN KI-MOON'S MESSAGE ON WORLD AIDS DAY

SAAIDS Southern Africa
HIV/AIDS Information
Dissemination Service



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The theme of this World AIDS Day is leadership. Without it, we will never get ahead of the epidemic. AIDS is a disease unlike any other. It is a social issue, a human rights issue, an economic issue. It targets young adults just as they should be contributing to economic development, intellectual growth, and bringing up young children. It is taking a disproportionate toll on women. It has made millions of children orphans. It does to society what HIV does to the human body — reduces resilience and weakens capacity, hampers development and threatens stability. This does not need to happen. We have the means to prevent young adults from becoming infected. We have the means to treat those who are infected. We have the means to provide care and support. We have made tangible and remarkable progress on all these fronts. But we must do more. Although new data shows that global HIV prevalence has

levelled off, the numbers are still staggering. It is our crucial mission to ensure that everyone can access HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. This includes migrants, sex workers, injecting drug users, and men who have sex with men. It includes people who work in government, banks, legal offices, schools, and international organizations. It includes all people — wherever they live, whatever they do. Overcoming stigma remains one of our biggest challenges. It is still the single biggest barrier to public action on AIDS. It is one of the reasons why the epidemic continues to wreak its devastation around the world. Today, I call for renewed leadership in eradicating stigma associated with HIV. I applaud the brave individuals who live openly with HIV, who advocate tirelessly for the rights of the HIV-positive, who educate others about AIDS. I call for leadership among Governments in fully understanding the epidemic, so that resources go where they are most needed. And I

call for leadership at all levels to step up the work to scale up towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010 — as pledged by all Governments last year. We have only two years left until that target date. We need to show leadership now. As Secretary General, I am determined to lead the United Nations family in this endeavour — to ensure that we prioritize action on AIDS, to encourage Member States to keep the issue high on national and international agendas, and to work to make the UN a model of how the workplace should respond to AIDS. Whatever our role in life, wherever we may live, in some way or another, we all live with HIV. We are all affected by it. We all need to take responsibility for the response. On this World AIDS Day, let us show the leadership required to live up to that responsibility.
<http://appablog.wordpress.com/2007/11/30/un-secretary-general-message-on-world-aids-day/>

Men Called On to Get Involved

New Era (Windhoek)

4 December 2007

Reagan Malumo

The involvement of male citizens in combating the HIV and AIDS pandemic came under the spotlight in the Caprivi Region during the commemoration of World AIDS Day over the weekend.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, out of a total of 12 000 people that have been tested for HIV and AIDS in the Caprivi, only 30 percent are men. Out of 2 600 people put on antiretroviral treatment, only 35 percent are men. Because of the irregular involvement of men in issues of HIV and AIDS, the theme for this year's World AIDS Day commemoration in the Caprivi was "Men take lead to care".

Addressing the public at Katima Mulilo over the weekend, Acting Governor of the Caprivi Region and Councillor of Kabbe constituency Peter Mwala said despite a slight decrease in the region's HIV and AIDS infection rate from 42 percents to 39.4 percent, the region has the highest infection rate in the country.

Mwala said the 2006 sentinel survey showed an increase in the national HIV prevalence rate. He said nearly every day, about 40 people get infected with the virus throughout the country. Treatment for those infected is costly and thus prevention is vital. "This prevention is through education, information and communication campaigns to increase

people's knowledge on how to prevent HIV transmission," Mwala reiterated.

He called on all men and leaders to lead by example by going for testing and building trust within their relationships. He said men should care for their families and community members both affected and infected. He called on them to take the lead in free and open communication about HIV and AIDS in order to reduce stigma and discrimination and to equip children with information that they need to stay safe from the HIV and AIDS virus.

By taking the lead, they would promote consistent condom use and the reduction of multiple and concurrent partnerships and thus encourage responsible behaviour and respect between partners.

He stated that the overall objective of the World AIDS Day campaign from 2005 to 2010 is to give leaders the opportunity to show that they are serious about delivering on promises regarding the HIV and AIDS pandemic. These include increased involvement in HIV prevention efforts and the provision of universal treatment and access to services by 2010.

The event was marked with lots of poems, drama and religious songs.

The international theme for this year's World AIDS Day was "Leadership" whereas the national theme was "Leadership is being there to care".

According to Mwala, it is the wish of the campaign that leaders at all levels and sectors of society get involved in the national responses on HIV and AIDS prevention, thereby fostering behaviour change.

Partnerships in fighting HIV and AIDS

The Namibian (Windhoek)

4 December 2007

WORLD AIDS Day, December 1, is an opportunity to remember the more than 25 million people who have died from AIDS and to support the nearly 33 million people who are currently living with HIV around the world.

It is also a time to recommit ourselves to compassionate action and the power of partnerships between Namibia and the United States - partnerships that are creating new hope.

The 2007 US Government theme for World AIDS Day is 'The Power of Partnerships', highlighting the successes and future promise of partnerships in the fight against HIV-AIDS.

Working together, the people of Namibia and the United States can and will achieve much more in the fight against HIV-AIDS. <http://allafrica.com/stories/200712040412.html>

Mandela calls for more cooperation on stopping new HIV infections

The Associated Press
Published: December 1, 2007

[JOHANNESBURG,](#) [South Africa:](#)

The world must not grow complacent about AIDS because the number of new HIV infections still outpaces the number of those being treated for the disease, former South African President Nelson Mandela has said.

Since stepping down as South Africa's first black president in 1999, Mandela, whose son died from the disease, has championed the cause of people with AIDS. On Saturday, he drew a crowd of about 15,000 to his fifth international awareness concert, held this year to coincide with World AIDS Day.

Recent U.N. figures estimate that the number of AIDS cases fell from almost 40 million last year to 33.2 million in 2007.

"This lower figure suggests that prevention programs have been successful in bringing down infection rates," Mandela said at a benefit concert Saturday. "That trend is encouraging but it is still alarming that for every person receiving treatment, four others are newly infected."

"If we are to stop the AIDS epidemic from expanding we need to break the cycle of new HIV infections. All of us working together with government, communities and civil society can make the difference that is needed. Together we have the power to change the course of destiny," he said to rapturous

applause.

Wearing a sweat shirt emblazoned with 46664 — the number apartheid prison authorities gave him — the 89-year-old statesman beamed and waved at the crowd who chanted his name.

Of South Africa's 48 million people, about 5.5 million are infected with the AIDS virus — the highest number in the world — and about 900 people in the country die every day from the disease.

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the center of the epidemic. AIDS is still the leading cause of death there; it particularly affects women and children.

At the event, the singer Annie Lennox expressed her anger at the number of children who die from AIDS-related diseases.

"Why is this happening?" Lennox asked. "It is an outrage and it needs to be dealt with. It is unacceptable that children die from a preventable disease. Treatment works. Get your government to do something about it."

The reference was to South Africa's often confusing message about antiretroviral drugs, and the slow rollout of the lifesaving medicines.

Star after star appealed to the crowd to heed the slogan of the campaign — "It is in your hands" — calling on them to get tested and practice safe sex.

The musician Peter Gabriel likened the fight against AIDS to the fight against apartheid.

Introducing his song "Biko," about the South African activist who died in detention in 1977,

who died in detention in 1977, Gabriel paid tribute to the bravery of those who fought the racist regime.

"We must not forget them. We need to focus the same power and intensity in the struggle against AIDS that was in the struggle against apartheid," he said.

Speaking at a World Aids Day event elsewhere in the country, President Thabo Mbeki, who has been criticized for his handling of the AIDS crisis, said that the government's plea to South Africans to be faithful and use condoms was not being heeded.

"What is really of importance is that we must, all of us, take these messages very seriously, particularly our young people," Mbeki said on SABC radio.

"We don't want our people to be suffering from ill health when they could have handled their own lives in a way that makes for healthy lives."

Mandela launched the AIDS awareness campaign in 2003. Funds raised through the concerts are used to increase awareness of the AIDS pandemic, particularly among young people. More than \$3 million has been raised through the concerts so far.

Other performers included Angélique Kidjo, Ludacris, Corinne Bailey Rae and the Goo Goo Dolls. All performed for free.

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/12/02/arts/AF-A-E-MUS-South-Africa-Mandela-Concert.php#end_main

Annie Lennox launches single for World AIDS Day

Mail & Guardian Online reporter / Johannesburg, South Africa

30 November 2007

Scottish singer and one-time Eurythmics member Annie Lennox is launching a new charity single titled *Sing* on Saturday, World Aids Day. The singer -- who is a global ambassador for charity Oxfam -- will be performing at former president Nelson Mandela's 46664 Aids-campaign concert in Johannesburg on Saturday. She was also on stage at the first 46664 concert, held in Cape Town in 2003.

The single calls on women to "sing out" on issues of HIV and Aids, Oxfam said in a statement on Friday. It features the vocal talents of 23 major female artists, including Angeli-que Kidjo, Madonna, Melissa Etheridge, Dido, Pink, Shakira, Fergie and Céline Dion.

The song aims to raise international awareness of the impact

of HIV and Aids in South Africa, particularly the pandemic's toll on women and children.

Money raised by the single will go to South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign (TAC).

"I've seen the devastating effects that HIV and Aids has on families and communities, and I know we won't overcome poverty unless we win the fight against Aids," said Annie Lennox.

"That's why I'm working with organisations like Oxfam to demand that rich and poor country governments live up to their promises and deliver healthcare for everyone, especially women. I've written a song, called *Sing*, about the Aids crisis -- watch it today and be part of the fight against Aids."

Featured on the single are the members of the TAC choir The Generics, whose 2001 song on preventing mother-to-child transmission, *Jikelele*, is featured on *Sing*.

The TAC has become the leading civil society force behind HIV and Aids treatment, prevention and care in South Africa. Since its inception in 1998, it has campaigned against Aids denialism, challenged the world's leading pharmaceutical companies to make treatment more affordable, and cultivated community leadership on HIV and AIDS.

Oxfam works directly with people affected by HIV and AIDS and also lobbies for change through campaigns such as Health and Education for All, pressing governments and other donors to provide the \$10-billion a year needed for universal HIV and AIDS prevention work, treatment and care.

Other artists on the line-up for Saturday's 46664 concert include Ludacris, The Parlotones, Live, Corinne Bailey Rae and Peter Gabriel.

http://www.mg.co.za/articlepage.aspx?area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_national/

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Mozambique : Every year on World AIDS Day people in hundreds of countries stand up to be counted, and take action on the urgent issue of HIV and AIDS. December 1st is a day to show solidarity with people living with HIV. It's a day where people raise awareness of HIV and AIDS issues, and take action to improve the lives of people affected by HIV and AIDS. It is a day where the world recognizes that HIV is a life and death issue, and that solutions are needed before many more lives are lost.

This year World AIDS Day is about leadership. Oxfam works with people around the world who are showing leadership on HIV and AIDS. People like Nhararai in Mozambique who is a home-based carer giving vital support to communities. People like Cazu, a Brazilian actor who has become an inspiring activist on HIV and AIDS since finding he was HIV positive.

But personal leadership is not enough to fight HIV and AIDS on its own. Governments must do more to provide health systems for all

people.

Without well trained doctors and nurses, well equipped hospitals and clinics, and the right medicines HIV will continue to spread. Governments must do everything in their power get everyone the treatment and care they have the right to receive. Leadership is needed at the highest level to overcome this global crisis.

http://www.oxfam.org/en/programs/campaigns/health_and_education/aids/wad07

“Lets all take the lead in HIV and AID Prevention and Care”

By Gloria Ganyani
ZIMBABWE

The high levels of stigma and discrimination in the country are hampering efforts in the response to HIV and AIDS, despite the declining HIV prevalence, according to John Nkomo.

Speaking during the World AIDS Day commemorations at Tshovani stadium in Chiredzi last Saturday, the guest of honour, Speaker of the House of Assembly and ZANU PF national chairperson, John Nkomo applauded Zimbabweans for the declining HIV prevalence which has gone down from 29% in 1999 to 15,6% in 2007.

“People should by now feel free to talk about HIV and AIDS,” said Nkomo.

Due to stigma and discrimination people do not feel free to go for HIV testing or to talk openly about their HIV status.

He urged everyone to extend their leadership qualities even in home-based care activities. “The

response to care work falls mainly on women and girl children,” Nkomo said. There is need to involve men and provide incentives so that care givers don't reach the burn-out stage.

He added that this year's national theme, ‘Let's all take the lead in HIV and AIDS Prevention and Care’, is not limited to political leaders but includes everyone, from individuals to church leaders, non-governmental organisations, youths and women among others.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, a councillor for Ward Six in Chiredzi South constituency, Mr Morgan Chauke, said this year's theme gives everyone the responsibility to be a leader and impart information on HIV and AIDS whenever there are three or more people gathered.

“Some people do not have access to information and leaders have a platform to address people so they can make effective awareness campaigns, he said.

“Leadership starts from low

levels such as the youths going up to parents, church leaders, traditional leaders, schools to anyone with a responsibility and anyone who can influence people,”

Speaking at the same event, Zimbabwe's Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Dr David Parirenyatwa said although HIV prevalence was declining, there remained a need to increase efforts in the fight against TB, which has become a major health problem.

There is a high rate of TB and HIV co-infection. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 70 to 80% of people with TB are also infected with HIV.

This year's WAD commemorations were marked by speeches, dance, music and poetry, as well as exhibitions by various HIV and AIDS Service organisations. Since 1987, Zimbabwe and the rest of the world commemorate WAD every year on the 1st of December to raise awareness of the impact of HIV and AIDS throughout the world.

Education Sector Suffers Tremendously Due to HIV and AIDS

New Era (Windhoek)
4 December 2007

Frederick Philander

"The first World AIDS Day was held in 1988. Who knew then, that the fight against AIDS would be such a long-term struggle, that behavior change would come so slowly, that two decades into this we would still be seeking leaders, heroes and heroines in the struggle against AIDS."

This was said on Thursday by the USAID director, Gary Newton, during the Ministry of Education's commemoration of World AIDS Day that was staged under the

theme: 'Leadership, at Government Park'.

"All of us need to step up on the leadership front and do what's urgent, right, fair and humane, but leadership in the education sector is of particular importance. The AIDS epidemic is having a significant impact on education, and education can have a significant impact on the epidemic," Newton said.

According to him, there is cause for despair when in this year AIDS continued to impact on teachers, administrators, learners and parents.

"But there's cause for hope when we see the initiatives you are taking in the education sector to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS.

You have developed and are ready to launch today; a "Workplace HIV and AIDS Policy for the Education Sector;" a Positive Living booklet with practical information and guidance for employees living with HIV/AIDS; and a support group for teachers affected by HIV/AIDS," he said.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200712040525.html>

Hope, Triumph At Auxillia Chimusoro Awards

**Financial Gazette (Harare)
6 December 2007**

Zimbabwe

In honour of World AIDS Day, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) last week presented the Auxillia Chimusoro Awards to individuals and organisations that excelled in mitigating the stigma surrounding HIV and Aids in Zimbabwe.

Dr Geoff Foster, a consultant Paediatrician with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare based at Mutare Provincial Hospital, won a new special award at the awards.

Unveiling the new award, selection committee chairperson, Dr. Jabulani Nyenwa, said the "award is given only to a deserving individual or institution whose actions have made a remarkable impact on the tide of the epidemic in Zimbabwe" whose selection was "subjected to rigorous assessment to measure impact, relevance, integrity and quality."

However, in a grim reminder of the situation prevailing in the country's hospitals, Foster could not attend the awards ceremony presided over by James McGee, US Ambassador to Zimbabwe and David Parirenyatwa, the Minister of Health and Child Welfare, citing the shortage of doctors at the hospital.

The arts and media awards went to Patsimeredu Edutainment Trust and Bhangi Werks Unlimited. Both theatre groups were honored for using theatre for developing strategies to engage the public on HIV and AIDS.

"The media is a key factor in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The panelists were encouraged by evidence that several community-based journalists have now taken a keen interest in reporting HIV and AIDS. However, the organisers

responded to the need to acknowledge other media forms such as theatre," said Nyenwa.

The award for breakers of silence went to Pastor Maxwell Kapachawo whose "actions and interventions have significantly contributed to breaking the silence around HIV and AIDS in the church." Kapachawo publicly disclosed his HIV positive status to the nation through the media becoming the first religious leader to openly acknowledge his status. Bulawayo College of Education lecturer Davis Mazodze was also honored in the same category.

Batsirai Group received an award for its contribution to HIV and AIDS prevention and support of the infected and affected in Zvimba district. The organisation was established in 1988, and since then, has selflessly built the capacity of smaller community based groups in an effort to scale-up community based HIV and AIDS interventions. Sister Itayi Marembo was honored for her work in empowering girls in her community, using creative and sustainable ways such as poetry and drama to provide information on HIV and AIDS.

Rebecca Chiroodza, won the community award for her outstanding and consistent contribution to mitigating the pandemic. Mwema Adam was runner up in the category. Mwema established many support groups and built their capacity to provide psychosocial support.

Sister Pia Chikava also scooped an award in the Orphaned and Vulnerable children and Youth category for going "beyond the normal call of duty for the past 40 yrs to provide humanitarian assistance especially around

HIV and AIDS services to orphans and vulnerable children including the youth in the Midlands province. Farm Orphan Support Trust (FOST) were runners up in the category for its commitment to finding sustainable ways to reducing the impact and mitigating the effects of HIV and AIDS on children and young people in farm communities.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador McGee said thanks to UZ-Zim partnerships, strong HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs were having an impact, as evidenced by the downward trend in HIV prevalence.

"Today's Auxillia Chimusoro award is an occasion that honours the results of the strong partnership between the US government and the committed leaders and people of Zimbabwe. Results have been achieved through the work of talented and dedicated in the country, including faith-based, community-based and other humanitarian organisations," said McGee.

Health and Child Welfare minister David Parirenyatwa was the guest of honour at the ceremony, where he commended the efforts of the award winners and thanked the US government for continued support and cooperation in the area of health. However, the minister also noted that the country was yet to achieve its HIV prevention and treatment targets and expressed hope that the US government would release more funds towards HIV work in Zimbabwe.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200712060812.html>

“Leadership—Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise”

The theme for this year's World AIDS Day is Leadership. From the 1st of December which was World AIDS Day into the next year this theme will be promoted with the slogan Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise.



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*HIV/AIDS Information: The power
to make a difference.*



It is widely accepted that when there is a strong and committed leadership, significant progress in the response to HIV and AIDS can be achieved.

Leaders should be distinguished by their action, innovation and vision; their personal example and engagement of others: and their perseverance in the face of obstacles and challenges.

While looking at the theme of leadership, the World AIDS Campaign (WAC), which has determined the theme for World AIDS Day since 1997, says it is important to realize that leadership does not just mean governments or leadership at regional and international levels but in our communities as well- the church leaders, heads of AIDS Service organizations, the media, headmasters, fathers, mothers, teachers, and us as individuals, whether living with HIV or not, among others.

In one of its campaign messages WAC says “Each of us has a role to play in HIV prevention. You do not have to be a top scientist working on a cure or vaccine, by just knowing your status, stopping the spread of HIV and AIDS, welcoming someone living with HIV into your home or talking about HIV and AIDS, you can make a difference.”

Are those the kind of leaders we are seeing in society?

Between 2001 and now, political leaders in the region and continent have signed, endorsed and committed to several conventions and declarations for universal access to HIV and AIDS preven-

tion, treatment, care and support. They committed to developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care with the aim of coming as close to possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it.

When we look at the theme of leadership it will be important to look at the different targets leaders in different countries have set, be they treatment targets or issues of food security and evaluate how realistic they are and to what extent they have been met.

Apart from the policy makers, at community level it would be crucial to see what those leading AIDS programmes have done to ensure that treatment for HIV and AIDS and other support services are available.

Millions of people failing to access Anti-retroviral therapy, which can prolong and improve the quality of a person living with HIV. There are still high levels of stigma and discrimination, poverty, gender inequality, violence and not enough access to counselling and testing or even information in societies.

The theme challenges each of us to ask what we are going to do now and over the next year, whether it is talk to a friend, write a letter, write and distribute a fact sheet to educate others about HIV and AIDS or volunteer or donate to an AIDS cause in a bid to Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise.

Sources:

www.worldaidscampaign.inforworldaidsday.org
www.empowerindia.net
www.avert.org/worldaids