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# PLAN INTERNATIONAL

**fax**

3260 Wilson Blvd., Suite 21, Arlington, VA 22201 Phone: (703) 807-0190 Fax: (703) 807-0627

**TO: Cheryl**

**FAX:**

**DATE/TIME: June 23, 2000**

**FROM: Kim Green**

**NO. PAGES:**

**RE: Initiative for Children Affected by AIDS**

Dear Cheryl,

Please see attached background information on the Initiative for Children Affected by AIDS in Africa. As I mentioned, we discussed with Sandy before her trip to Africa ONAP issuing a supportive statement on this Gates funded initiative. We will likely send out a joint Gates, PLAN, Save, CARE and WCRP press release at some point next week. Please let me know if an ONAP statement will be feasible, and if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Kim Green

# BRINGING HOPE TO CHILDREN:

## COMMUNITY BASED SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICAN CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS

**Vision:** AIDS is destroying the future of a generation of African children. We offer to mobilize and equip African *communities* as the best means to both save lives of millions of children affected by HIV/AIDS, and offer them hope for a future with dignity as part of functioning and stable communities.

**Background:** There are over 12 million children in Africa who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS during the past decade. The numbers are growing. Each child is part of a "lost generation" suffering a long list of deprivations and vulnerabilities that include: loss of family, depression, malnutrition, lack of access to education and health care, homelessness, loss of all property, loss of inheritance, abuse and increased exposure to HIV/AIDS.

Over half of the African adults infected by HIV/AIDS are women, the vast majority of whom are of childbearing age. The burden falls not only on the women themselves, but also on their children, who will lose their parents, typically after their life falls apart. Many of these children will be born infected. Of the estimated 400,000 African children under 15 years of age now infected by HIV/AIDS, 90% became infected through mother-child transmission.

African communities are critical to addressing the enormous challenges confronting millions of children affected by HIV/AIDS. Working with African communities, creative responses to care for those living with HIV/AIDS have been proven to extend the life of the parent child relationship, to reduce the social stigma of AIDS upon the child and finally to help her cope with the death of her parents. Yet, these efforts are currently able to offer care for 6% of children affected by HIV/AIDS. We need resources and technical support from a multitude of sources to scale-up these efforts to fully harness the capacity of African communities to care for their children.

Unless we rise to the leadership challenge of an effective and global response to bring together and build upon those diverse efforts, the number of children facing these dire circumstances will increase to more than 40 million within ten years. These children will be impacted emotionally, psychologically and physically long before the loss of their parents.

**Impact:** This initiative, in a number of countries, will mobilize African communities and hence improve the lives up to three million children in those countries now impacted by HIV/AIDS. It will possibly save the lives of up to 200,000 newborn children who would otherwise be infected through maternal child transmission. This initiative will also pave the way for the acceptance and distribution of possible relevant HIV/AIDS technological breakthroughs. Most interventions are low cost with high impact, e.g. advocacy and education efforts. However, some are high cost, such as voluntary testing and follow up of positives, prevention or treatment of opportunistic infections, primary care and vocational training. Preliminary discussions indicate a cost per beneficiary in the order of \$8 to \$14 per child per year. Mobilizing worldwide public and private resources behind the Gates' initiative will leverage the Foundation's resources and impact millions of additional children in other African countries.

### Over Objectives:

- African communities will be equipped to increase their capacity and commitment to care for children impacted by HIV/AIDS. As a result,
  - Up to three million African children impacted by HIV/AIDS will have access to education, nutrition and basic health services, and legal rights on an equal basis with their peers in the community;
  - Pregnant HIV-positive women will have access to interventions, which will reduce mother-child HIV transmission
  - The parent-child relationship of HIV infected persons will be extended by providing access to basic care including drugs to prevent and treat opportunistic infections. Services also will be provided for psycho-social support to families and succession planning at home and community levels.
- African groups will be identified that can provide a broadly based authoritative *moral mandate* to protect children affected by HIV/AIDS. Building on this moral mandate, a coalition of African local, national, and regional institutions, both secular and religion- based, will work together on a number of fronts to reduce the stigma of HIV/AIDS and advocate actions to protect children impacted by HIV/AIDS.

- Communities and organizations responding to HIV/AIDS will be mobilized globally as participants and advocates for leveraging greater public and private resources. A target for raising additional funds over the next five years will be established.

**Interventions:** A package of simple, cost-effective and practical interventions work, but have not been implemented on sufficient scale to have a major and ongoing impact. These interventions will be channeled through an existing and expanded network of community-based organizations across Africa to care for people living with HIV/AIDS and children impacted by the pandemic. Training and other tangible resources will be deployed to comprehensively embrace and sustain these children and their families. While the technical package will define the actual activities, the following is a preliminary but illustrative list of interventions:

- Awareness and early identification through community sensitization, voluntary testing, and counseling;
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission through behavior change, reduction in maternal-child transmission, peer outreach, promotion of preventive technologies, dual protection methods, STD detection;
- Succession planning to provide for children during periods of illness and after parents' deaths;
- Opportunistic infection treatment and palliative care, including low-cost prophylaxes to prevent infection, antibiotics to treat the infections, and prevention of malnutrition through dietary management and micronutrient supplements;
- Psychological support for families living with HIV/AIDS;
- Training of home care givers;
- Home visits and social support for orphaned or about-to-be-orphaned children;
- Protection of child rights and property inheritance including prevention of abuse and sexual exploitation;
- Child survival, adolescent and reproductive health interventions for children affected by HIV/AIDS;
- School assistance, vocational education, and teacher training and sensitization;
- Income generation projects for community care givers and affected children;
- Building and supporting networks and coalitions to foster greater levels of advocacy and policy change.

The level of different interventions will depend upon their cost effectiveness. See annex "Circle of Hope"

**Partnership and Management Approach:** Plan International will coordinate a coalition partnership, the Program Policy Council, consisting of Plan International, Save the Children, CARE (collectively these are among the world's largest service delivery organizations operating community-based programs throughout Africa), and the World Conference on Religion and Peace (the world's largest coalition of representatives of the world's major religious communities from senior-most leaders to the grassroots believers in the remotest rural villages). The Program Policy Council is designed to provide overall policy direction, leverage and complement existing strengths to the support of children impacted by HIV/AIDS and to provide the basis for the formation of an extensive network of organizations and initiatives essential to the support of those orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

The Program Policy Council will work collaboratively to design the operations of the five-year project. The Council will engage in a consultative process early on in the project with relevant experts and agencies to inform best practices and technical interventions. An advisory group may eventually be formed (possibly including UNAIDS, CDC, African Council of AIDS Service Organizations, and particularly the African Network of People Living with AIDS, among others). The Core Management Team will manage the initiative with support from a small technical support staff, and will work closely with our existing networks of offices to implement the project.

Childreach, the U.S. Member of PLAN International, on behalf of the Program Policy Council is requesting support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for this Initiative.

Childreach/Gates Release draft #6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Green, Childreach/ 703-807-0190  
Annemarie Hou, Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation/ 206-239-0147

**Childreach, US Member of PLAN International, Receives \$1 Million from  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Develop Initiative for  
African Children Affected by HIV/AIDS**

**Warwick, RI, June 27, 2000** – A \$1 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been given to Childreach, the US member of PLAN International – one of the world's largest child-focused development organizations – to develop an initiative to help the millions of African children and families living with HIV/AIDS. The initiative created by PLAN in partnership with CARE, Save the Children, and the World Conference of Religion and Peace, will result in an unprecedented pan-African effort, offering a package of cost-effective and practical interventions, both medical, psychosocial and educational, for children living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS.

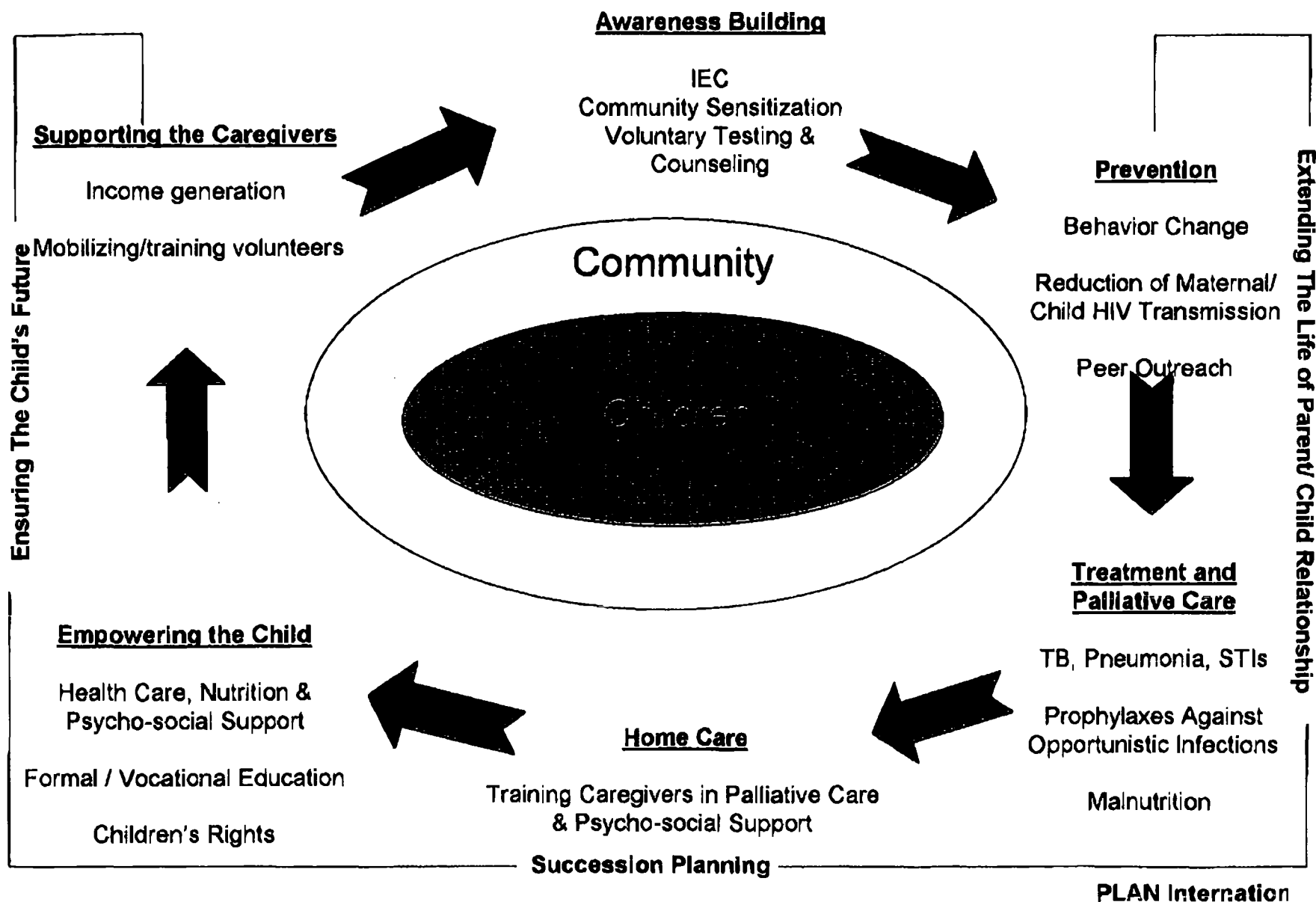
In designing the initiative, PLAN and its partners will involve many organizations, particularly community-based groups and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS, and African regional and national institutions, both secular and religious, that are caring for children and families devastated by the virus.

According to Samuel Worthington, CEO of Childreach, "Excellent local programs exist across Africa that assist children whose lives have been affected by the disease. However, these efforts are currently only able to offer care to approximately six percent of children affected by HIV/AIDS. Support from a multitude of sources is needed to make the fullest use of the abilities of African communities to care for their children. The Gates Foundation grant will allow us to develop a strategic program that will be the framework for the successful implementation of a major campaign for African children affected by HIV/AIDS."

Close to 24 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa are infected with HIV, and more than 11 million African children under the age of 15 have been orphaned by the disease, and millions more live in families where one or both parents are infected. Although only ten percent of the world's population is in Africa, it accounts for 70 percent of the world's HIV infections. HIV/AIDS, the region's leading killer, claims the lives 5,500 of sub-Saharan children, women and men every day. Without a major response to this challenge, an estimated 40 million African children will be orphaned by AIDS by 2010, the equivalent of 50 percent of America's children orphaned during that same period.

# Children Impacted By AIDS

## Circle of Hope





# PLAN INTERNATIONAL®

PLAN  
Int'l

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## National Organizations

Australia  
Belgium  
Canada  
Denmark  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Japan  
Republic of Korea  
The Netherlands  
Norway  
Spain  
Sweden  
Thailand  
United Kingdom  
United States

## Program Countries

Albania  
Bangladesh  
Benin  
Bolivia  
Burkina Faso  
Cameroon  
China  
Colombia  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador  
Egypt  
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India  
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Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Togo  
Uganda  
Vietnam  
Zimbabwe  
Zambia

July 24, 2000

Ms. Sandra L. Thurman  
Director, Office of National AIDS Policy  
The White House  
736 Jackson Place  
Washington, DC 20503-0007

Dear Sandy:

This is just a letter of deep appreciation for your supporting comments on the announcement of the \$1 million grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to Childreach/PLAN International to develop a Pan-African Initiative for African children affected by HIV/AIDS. We realize that a tremendous amount of work had to go into this by your staff in coordinating this with us, the Gates Foundation, and with you while you were deeply engaged in the Durban Conference.

We are all working to achieve a common vision to provide the resources, support and tools for community-based organizations throughout Africa to embrace these children and help put an end to this pandemic. Your leadership has been instrumental in mobilizing a response from the American public and private sectors. As Childreach/PLAN and its partner organizations design the Initiative, we will work closely with you to help ensure assure that the passion and commitment, which evolved from the Durban Conference, is sustained and strengthened.

Thank you again for your support and leadership in bringing hope to children affected by HIV/AIDS throughout Africa. We truly value how great a champion you have been for these children.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. Worthington  
National Executive Director and CEO

Donald D. Cohen  
Managing Director of  
International Development