

GRASSROOTS

FALL 2016

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THE HIV TREATMENT GAP *Reaching Children & Youth*



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Alexis MacDonald/SLF



The following is adapted from a speech Stephen Lewis gave during the Global Fund Replenishment Conference in Montreal this past September. The Global Fund, a multi-lateral organization, is the world's largest funder of AIDS, TB and malaria programmes.

The Global Fund is a tale that starts well, but ends not so well.

I vividly remember sitting in a little ante-chamber in New York in early 2002, with Kofi Annan and Richard Feachem, the first Executive Director of the Global Fund. We were fantasizing at the prospective triumphs of the Fund in confounding HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. History now shows that the fantasies became realities: the Global Fund has made a monumental contribution to the fight against the pandemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. It was a brave, unique, astonishingly inspired creation.

But the Global Fund is now at a crossroads, only partly of its own making. Take HIV & AIDS. The grand plan for 90-90-90 by 2020 is faltering. The chanted slogan "The

End of AIDS" by 2030 is attracting as much derision as it evokes applause. Further, in 2015, there was more than a billion-dollar drop in funding for AIDS from donor nations, and we need a minimum of nine billion dollars more than we currently have between now and 2020. Where is the money to come from?

Something, somewhere, has gone wrong. Very wrong. International institutional donors started losing interest. Extravagant claims of success were counterproductive. The world turned its hearts and budgets to terrorism and refugees and climate change, and the most debilitating infectious disease on the planet is in danger of making a comeback.

Something has to give. I'm not going to dwell on the arithmetic, but you'll never put an end to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria unless the international community pulls its weight... unless the international community decides that expenditure on public health is as important as expenditure on drones or armoured vehicles.

This poses a huge challenge for the Global Fund. And that leads, organically, to one other matter I must address. Financial cut-backs by the largest foundation and bilateral donors are playing havoc

at the grassroots. Community-based organizations are struggling, are starving, are closing. It's crazy that at this most crucial moment in time, the grassroots organizations are under financial siege. It almost feels conspiratorial that we would shred superb community-based initiatives when they're most needed.

It's as though vulnerable human beings no longer matter in the equation of geopolitics; that lives are gratuitously expendable. And the greatest number of those expendable lives are women and girls. Misogyny and AIDS go hand in hand.

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The Global Fund Replenishment Conference was meant to be a celebratory jamboree. And there is a lot to celebrate. But when you remember the countries that resembled cavernous graveyards just ten years ago, the thought of even one more unnecessary death scars the soul.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Lewis".

Stephen Lewis
Chair of the Board
Stephen Lewis Foundation



Community-based organizations support AIDS-affected young people in life-saving ways, ensuring that children's families are able to support them, and addressing the immense social pressures faced by adolescents—and adolescent girls in particular.

An Emerging Crisis: The Child & Youth Treatment Gap

When it comes to HIV & AIDS statistics, the numbers having to do with young people are the most frightening of all. Today, AIDS is the leading cause of adolescent death in Africa, where a shocking 26 new HIV infections occur among 15-19 year olds each hour—7 in 10 of them among girls. And while children account for just 5% of people living with HIV, they represented 10% of all AIDS-related deaths in 2015. To make matters worse, less than half of HIV-positive children currently have access to treatment. Access, however, is only half the battle.

Drugs are Not Enough

The experiences of our community-based partner organizations (CBOs) make it abundantly clear that without holistic, wrap-around support, young people will struggle to adhere to treatment, and their well-being will be dramatically compromised by an HIV diagnosis—even where treatment access is secure.

Like so many aspects of the community-based response to HIV & AIDS, the support CBOs are offering to young people is distinct in a number of critical ways. Without exception, our partners know that treatment for young people – and for teenagers especially – will not succeed on the 'medicalized model' favoured by the international donor community, which places emphasis predominantly on the provision of the antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) used to treat HIV & AIDS. Making drugs available is not enough.

CBOs know that with a generation of parents lost to the epidemic, community structures have been badly compromised. They see that poverty and malnutrition are constant threats for young

people. And they've witnessed how these stresses are coupled with an increased risk of gender-based violence that renders adolescent girls particularly vulnerable. They are also all too aware that orphaned children continue to struggle with the grief and loss they have endured, and that those whose HIV-positive status is revealed still suffer terrible stigma.

"AIDS is the leading cause of adolescent death in Africa, where a shocking 26 new HIV infections occur among 15-19 year olds each hour... and less than half of HIV-positive children have access to treatment."

Supporting Children as Whole Persons

The responses that these community-based organizations are rolling out – through varied interventions – is driven by a single, essential insight: children infected and affected by HIV & AIDS must be supported as *whole persons*. A potentially crippling constellation of challenges must be met by interventions that are just as encompassing—ensuring access to treatment, yes, but

also restoring community bonds, supporting caregivers, enabling continued education, promoting positive living, and fostering a sense of agency in young people.

Above all, CBOs recognize that young people are unique in important ways. Where young children are concerned, for instance, they are committed to ensuring that support systems are operating effectively—engaging with children themselves, but also with their parents, grandparents, older siblings, and the other adults children inevitably depend upon. With adolescents, meanwhile, CBOs address the tremendous social pressures faced by teenagers alongside the medical challenges associated with preventing and treating HIV—talking to them about treatment, but also about sex, substance abuse, and so much more.

Innovation in Programming

Some of the many, vital innovations of our partners include:

- **Child-Friendly Clinics:** Special clinics for HIV-affected young people, staffed entirely by pediatricians and counsellors trained to relate to children and adolescents.
- **Peer Counselling:** Support systems that engage HIV-positive young people as peer counsellors, who can speak with other infected and affected youth from their own experience, and provide a meaningful link to other services.
- **Capacity Building:** Programmes that train community health workers and home-based care workers to engage more confidently and effectively with children and teenagers, and to support their caregivers in helping them adhere to treatment.
- **Early Childhood Initiatives:** The provision of early childhood learning initiatives which serve as an entry point into HIV care for families who are uneasy about visiting medical facilities because of possible exposure to stigma and discrimination.
- **Grandmother Support:** Programming that supports the grandmothers who have stepped in to care for millions of orphaned children—typically with very few physical, emotional, and material resources of their own.
- **Mutual Support Groups:** Routine gatherings for HIV-positive young people, where they find safety and a sense of community with their peers, free from fear and stigma, and develop the self-esteem they need to take on leadership roles.

“Infection is only one of the many blows these young people have had to absorb.”

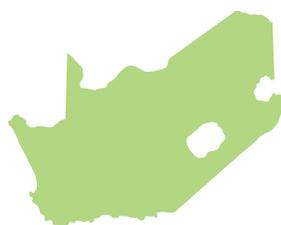
Community-based organizations understand that infection with the HIV virus is, sadly, only one of the many blows these children and youth have had to absorb. As a result, none of their treatment-oriented innovations are taken as stand-alone measures. Rather, they are part of comprehensive systems of support that address every aspect of young people’s lives.

Alexis MacDonald/SIF



Many community-based organizations use play-based therapy as part of the support offered to HIV-infected and affected children and youth.

Here are just a few of the excellent innovations being developed by some of our outstanding African partners as part of their holistic programming...



SOUTH AFRICA

The **Blue Roof Clinic** is home to the ‘Kidz Alive’ programme, which helps build the capacity of healthcare workers to engage with children around HIV-related issues. ‘Kidz Alive’ builds adults’ confidence and skills to engage with and counsel children in

their own language, using play and art techniques, and creating child-friendly spaces. Training is also provided for counsellors and facilitators of HIV support groups, so that they are better prepared to guide children’s caregivers on issues of disclosure and adherence.

Cotlands has found that one of the many challenges facing young children living in disadvantaged, AIDS-affected communities is extremely limited access to early learning opportunities. As a result, the organization runs early learning playgroups, to help

ensure that children do not fall behind before even beginning school. These playgroups are routinely visited by nurses who assess the children's health and screen for HIV, TB, and other illnesses—a reflection of the fact that many families are more open to receiving HIV-related services when the entry point is preschool education.

The **Ekupholeni Mental Health and Trauma Center** runs a 'Bambanani Group' for the caregivers of HIV-positive children in grades 3 to 7. In many cases, these children know that they are taking medication, but do not know why. Their grandmothers are invited to come along to the meetings with the children's medication in hand, for role playing sessions. During the role play, Ekupholeni helps ensure that children can identify their own medication and read the instructions well. The organization also conducts disclosure workshops to help prepare grandmothers to tell the children about their HIV status.

MusicWorks in South Africa runs weekly music therapy sessions for children who have been referred to them by health clinic staff, teachers, nurses, and parents. In their 'Music for Life' programme, they continually see how the spirits of traumatized children and young people who have lost so much because of AIDS are beginning to heal by learning and mastering musical skills, and by making music with one another.

inflicted by AIDS. The organization supports these grandmother caregivers through income-generating activities, agricultural activities, microfinance and savings groups, psychosocial support, and advocacy forums. St. Francis also provides training and counselling on child treatment adherence, nutrition, parenting, and legal issues such as protection from land-grabbing. Routine home-based care visits also ensure regular medical check-ups for all family members.

Peer support is an integral component of **Reach Out Mbuya's** (ROM's) leadership in reaching children and youth affected by HIV & AIDS. Teenage and Adolescent Supporters are selected from among ROM's clients to be trained as peer counsellors, and make over 6,000 home visits to other young people each year. The organization also runs a music, dance and drama group, and a peer-led 'Friends Forum' for their young clients. At ROM, the adolescents who succeed with ARV treatment into adulthood have been embraced within a community network of care, which includes other young people like them.

"The adolescents who succeed with ARV treatment into adulthood have been embraced within a community network of care."

TANZANIA



At after-school clubs run by **Upendi Na Matumaini** (UMATU), teenagers educate each other about how HIV is transmitted, and about sexual and reproductive health. Students share stories about getting pregnant at an early age, and what it means to

shoulder such responsibilities. UMATU reports that as a result, students are becoming more confident, courageous, and aware of high-risk behaviours that can interfere with their schooling and increase their risk of infection.

UGANDA



MUJHU's 'Young Generation Alive' programme runs a support group for HIV-affected young people which meets once a month. Over the past five years, more than 4,500 children have participated in these meetings, and many are

now involved in public advocacy around HIV care and treatment. Among other things, these emerging adolescent leaders work to sensitize local schools with information about HIV transmission, prevention, management, and stigma

Like so many CBOs, **St. Francis Health Care Services** has found that grandmothers are instrumental in mitigating the damage

ZIMBABWE



Chiedza Child Care Centre helps HIV-positive children access health centres, arranging for transport and, where necessary, paying their hospital fees. Chiedza also operates its own clinic focused on child treatment, as well

as a soup kitchen which provides 256 orphaned and vulnerable children with daily meals that help ensure their overall health. As well, Chiedza's volunteer Community Health Workers conduct home visits to provide follow-up support and monitoring to the HIV-positive children and youth in the organization's care.

Mavambo Trust has become an oasis of hope for orphaned children at high risk of child abuse, neglect, and HIV infection. Many of these young people are effectively nomadic, moving from one relative's household to another. Incredibly, however, those supported by Mavambo are nevertheless outperforming their peers in mainstream schools. Thanks to the provision of school uniforms, supplies, nutritional support, and more, these young people are regaining a sense of self-esteem and belonging, and are becoming mentors to their younger peers.

Alexis MacDonald/SIF



Mama Darlina Tyawana delivers the South Africa Grandmothers Statement on the doorstep of the International AIDS Conference in Durban.



Alexis MacDonald/SIF

South African grandmothers march through the streets of Durban to claim their human rights!

The South Africa Grandmothers Gathering

Watching Mama Darlina Tyawana at the podium, it is clear that she is no stranger to the struggle for human rights.

"To the international community we say: You have overlooked us for far too long!" Darlina proclaims, as UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé and International AIDS Conference Co-Chairs Chris Beyrer and Olive Shisana look on.

"Remember," she cries, to enthusiastic cheers from her fellow grandmothers, "Nothing About Us, Without Us!"

A History of Activism

It's not Mama Darlina's first time saying those words, and it won't be her last. The one-time anti-Apartheid activist is now a powerful advocate for the human rights of AIDS-affected grandmothers, and an outspoken AIDS and children's rights activist. Like so many of the other women at the South Africa Grandmothers Gathering, Mama Darlina has been engaged in social justice work in Africa for decades.

That work has now taken her to the doorstep of the world's most attended conference on HIV & AIDS. Inside, the plenaries and panels are filled with academics, world leaders, and other dignitaries, but outside, the scene is altogether different.

Some 2,000 grandmothers are gathered as far as the eye can see, each of them sporting a brightly coloured t-shirt bearing

the locally-designed logo of their Gathering: two fists clasped together in solidarity and a third raised defiantly in the air. They carry signs demanding that their human rights be recognized and their voices heard. And the collective sound of their voices – raised in song and indignation – is undeniable.

A Powerful Call to Action

These grandmothers have gathered from across South Africa to run workshops for one another, and to discuss the pivotal roles they are playing in turning the tide of their country's HIV & AIDS epidemic. These workshops have address their shared concerns as grandmothers and caregivers for orphaned grandchildren— from food security, to sharing expertise on how to raise a whole generation of orphaned children. The grandmothers have discussed how to help children begin to heal from the grief of losing their parents, and navigate the dangers that will confront them in their teenage years. Self-care was also critically high on the agenda. With so many young lives depending on them, the grandmothers are clear that their own strength and well-being must be treated as an urgent priority.

Their historic assembly has culminated in this triumphant march to the steps of Durban's International Convention Centre, where they are issuing a powerful call to the international community and to their own government: "It is time to do right by your grandmothers!"

Bearing Witness to Change

In South Africa – as in so many sub-Saharan African countries – grandmothers have been at the heart of community-based responses to the scourge of AIDS. They have nursed their own dying children, and have parented their orphaned grandchildren through grief, poverty, and illness. They have kept families and communities together.

African Women's Development Fund CEO Theo Sowa has borne witness to the grandmothers' vital work, and beams as she looks out at the crowd of South African 'Gogos' gathered before her. "This movement of grandmothers has grown from strength to strength!" she proclaims to resounding cheers from the crowd. "We have seen a great, great change," agrees South Africa Grandmothers Gathering Organizing Committee member, Cwengi Myeni.

Cwengi is the Gogo Support Group Manager at Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, the Foundation's facilitating partner for the South Africa Grandmothers Gathering. While she is quick to acknowledge the advances of grandmothers, however, she is just as careful to highlight the challenges which AIDS-affected communities continue to face.

"People are still very scared," Cwengi explains. "Even if they suspect that they have HIV, they come very late to be tested... Because there are still people who would rather not know that they are HIV positive."

Thus, grandmothers have also come to play a crucial role in fighting the stigma that continues to account for so many AIDS-related deaths today.

"People must not keep quiet," declares Mama Zodwa Ndlovu, another member of the Gathering's formidable Organizing Committee. "If you are available and known in the community, you can change people's lives."

The Grandmothers' Agenda for Change

The Grandmothers Gathering in Durban was not only a cathartic exchange of expertise and strategies for coping with HIV & AIDS; it was also deeply political. After such monumental efforts to keep their families and communities from succumbing to the ravages of the HIV & AIDS epidemic, these women know that it is past time for national governments and the international community to step in and finally do their part. The memory of the struggle to free South Africa from the grip of Apartheid is not far from the minds of many of the grandmothers, who were also deeply engaged in that long struggle. They know exactly what must happen next. And – for the sake of the generations they are raising – they raised their voices in workshops, demanding the following and more:

"Gogos have the right to a decent place to live. They shouldn't live in shacks all their lives. We should have proper housing,



South African grandmothers met in workshops to discuss their work and address denials of their human rights.

because we made this country what it is today, and we fought for this country. Right now people apply for housing and they wait for years and years. They wait forever."

"The hospitals don't want to help older people. They make us wait in long lines and then tell us there is no medication. Grandmothers are spending all day waiting for care, tired and hungry. We need more support in the clinics."

"Grandmothers are so vulnerable. There are no safe spaces for us. We are not safe in our homes. There are sexual assaults and robberies, and the government should get involved. We have the right to physical security and protection from abuse."

"The old age pension is far too little: 1000 rand. We have to do everything with this 1000 rand and it is too much to ask. The childcare grants can also take 5 or 10 years to arrive, so we end up using our pensions to pay for school fees."

"The Government needs to give us seats in Parliament. Right now they are making decisions and then telling us about it, forgetting that Gogos are the backbone of our country. We were in the forefront fighting for democracy in South Africa – they forget!"

A Growing Movement

The challenge now, is to ensure that the grandmothers are able to pursue their claims for justice. As Mama Darlina declared at the Gathering, "The Grandmothers Movement of South Africa is born today!" That movement requires concrete support to ensure that grandmothers from across the country can continue to network, build, and advocate for their rights.

South Africa Grandmothers Statement

We stand here today as the guardians of our country's future. For years, we have struggled to raise our grandchildren, and hold together our families and communities. We came together in groups, supported by our community-based organizations, and found strength in unity. Our love has transformed the devastation of AIDS. We thought we were doing our duty. We knew we were demonstrating our love. In fact, we were raising a nation.

And we are not alone. Grandmothers across Africa have been gathering for the past ten years. From Canada, to Swaziland, to Uganda and now in South Africa, we have moved from mourning to a movement. We have been doing our part, and have become experts on how to survive and thrive in the midst of the AIDS pandemic. It takes so much more than ARVs to resurrect a community. South African grandmothers spent two days together in Durban as the world prepares for the International AIDS Conference, 2016. Today we come to insist that we receive increased support and to have our expertise counted.

We have learned how to be parents to orphaned children in a time of crisis, developing new strategies to help them stay safe, heal their emotional wounds, and regain hope. Yet these youngsters are your citizens, and they deserve more, including good quality education that feeds their souls as well as their minds, protection from violence, and opportunities for decent, safe employment. Our government must help nurture these children and youth who will lead Africa out of the AIDS pandemic.

Our country created protections for grandmothers. There are pensions, foster care grants and stipends for home-based care workers. To see these measures put in place to protect our rights, gave us hope that our burden would be less heavy. But they are not working. When it can take years for a foster care grant to be processed, when grandmothers have to travel long distances to visit government offices who turn them away again and again, when pensions are hopelessly inadequate and don't start until 60, then we are dealing with a system that is in desperate need of change.

As older women, we face challenges that are still ignored. The health system is failing us and HIV+ grandmothers have special needs that are not met. We wait in lines at clinics for hours, meet with healthcare workers who are often uncaring and do not have the medication we need. Violence is a constant threat, whether it is rape and assault on our bodies, or physical abuse and intimidation from family members and loan sharks who are after our small savings. We suffer without protection. And when we look to Parliament, there is no one who stands for our interests, no one who speaks for us. We are pillars of our communities, and we live our lives as examples, we are caring for so many children, but who is caring for us?

We will continue to struggle, and we will not give up the fight against HIV & AIDS. We will never give up because this grandmothers movement is powered by love. But we should not have to do this alone.

To the international community we say: You have overlooked us for far too long. Remember – Nothing About Us Without Us. To our own government we say: It's time to do right by your grandmothers!

Africa cannot survive without us. We are not asking for charity, for pity or for favours. Access to healthcare, protection from violence, political representation, food security, shelter – these are our human rights. We have come to claim them.

Amandla!

Profound Thanks...

The South Africa Grandmothers Gathering would not have been possible without the committed leadership of its **Organizing Committee members**: Eunice Mangwane, Daisy Mapheele, Cwengi Myeni, Zodwa Ndlovu, Darlina Tyawana, and Nosintu Yokwe. Nor could this historic Gathering have occurred without the generous financial support of the **Slaight Family Foundation** and the leadership of Gary and Donna Slaight. Finally, we extend a special thank you to members of the **Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign**, and of **Canada's Labour Union Movement**, who travelled to Durban to bear witness to the historic Gathering. Thank you!



Alexis MacDonald/SLF

Brother and sister, Stephen Lewis and Janet Solberg, at the South Africa Grandmothers Gathering in Durban.

A Donation that Goes Beyond the Here and Now

My name is Janet Solberg and I've been working with the Stephen Lewis Foundation for many years. At my age, I can't help but think about wills and legacies. In my own experience, making a will is a thoughtful process. I had to take into account what I care about, whom I care about, and where my hard-earned money will be going. And after all my closest ones were accounted for, I started to think about a donation that goes beyond the here and now, and beyond my own intimate circle of family and friends.

That led inexorably to my decision to make a donation to the Foundation. And not just because I happen to work here! But, because I know that the money will be allocated with care and due diligence. That it will go to our African partners on the front-lines of the global AIDS epidemic. And that they will use it with all the expertise and knowledge at their command.

The AIDS epidemic is not over, not even close. The work of our partners – as they save lives, resurrect families, transform communities – remains crucial, indispensable, and reaffirming of life itself. This work must and will continue for generations to come. It's a legacy of change and hope, and I am proud to be part of it.

Janet Solberg
Senior Advisor
Stephen Lewis Foundation

P.S. In the spirit of total transparency, let me say that I am Stephen Lewis' sister. Proud of that as well!



Alexis MacDonald/SLF

Since I started working at the Stephen Lewis Foundation over ten years ago, I have witnessed communities affected by the global AIDS epidemic returned from the brink through the care, innovation and courage of grassroots organizations.

Where there was once devastation, there is now a return to resilience and life. But there is still so much that needs to be done. Even if the cure is found tomorrow, the scars of the last 30 years will not heal overnight. The work of community based organizations needs to continue for many years to come. I believe in this work, that's why I've included the SLF in my will; so that my support remains as steadfast as their commitment.

Margaret Wright
Director of Operations & Legacy Giving
Stephen Lewis Foundation

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Or visit us online at:
stephenlewisfoundation.org/legacy-giving

Alexis MacDonald/SLF



Donated Aeroplan Miles facilitate the Foundation's efforts to collaborate with partner organizations such as Reach Out Mbuya in Uganda.

Building Partnerships with Donated Aeroplan Miles

 The Foundation's Field Representatives are at the heart of our work to deliver resources directly into the hands of the community-based organizations responding most effectively and determinedly to the global AIDS epidemic. Their routine travel – facilitated by donated Aeroplan Miles – to visit SLF partner organizations across the African continent turns the conventional donor/grantee relationship on its head. Here, some of the Foundation's Field Representatives share their expertise on fostering partnerships in contexts as diverse as rural Tanzania, peri-urban Zimbabwe, and the hearts of major cities such as Addis Ababa and Kampala. This is all done with the generous support of individuals who donate miles through the Aeroplan member donation programme!

The SLF's Field Representatives Weigh In

Alexis MacDonald/SLF



Ghana Matolengwe: "The Foundation is an organization that is very passionate about people's circumstances, especially poor people, especially people who are infected and affected by HIV & AIDS. It's an organization that wants to make an impact, albeit in a very humble way. The nature of this organization... is that it wants to have a dialogue with people, it wants to engage

with people. And through that engagement, it learns about people's circumstances. It learns about how people need to be taken out of those circumstances. I want to stress the word engagement. The Foundation is at the forefront, but it does not

leave people behind. It's an organization that listens to people. I've noticed this working with other agencies: sometimes there are emerging needs, emerging circumstances, pressing circumstances. The SLF encourages people to come up with those emerging needs... and to come up with solutions. It does not dictate to them. It's a collaborative exercise."

Alexis MacDonald/SLF



Ruth Ochieng: "I'm honoured to be part of the team of visiting representatives who go out to see the community-based organizations (CBOs) supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. And these organizations are not waiting for someone to give them instruction. They look at the situation as it is, and they plan together... and if you have the opportunity to interact with any

of these programmes, these small CBOs, you will wonder why the world hasn't taken their approaches. From my perspective, the most important thing is walking with the infected and the affected. When you look at dealing with any problem, you should be dealing with those who know it best."

Alexis MacDonald/SLF



Winnie Sseruma: "It is so important for people to open up and tell you how things really are, rather than putting up a front and telling you what you 'need' to hear. And with our visits we are able to put them at ease. We are able to say: 'If we don't know what the challenges are, what the uncomfortable truths are, then we can't really help you the best way that we

need to.' So it's not about asking to find fault; it's about asking to support you in the best way possible. And now when you go out there and say, 'I'm a Field Representative from the Stephen Lewis Foundation,' people's faces light up. And that's beautiful to see because it means they know that the Foundation has their best interests at heart."

Alexis MacDonald/SLF



Allan Muhaari: "For me it's always about power. And the grantee/donor relationship is typically skewed because the power is held by the donor. So many funding partners sit in ivory towers, make a decision about the areas they want to fund and say: 'Write proposals to us and respond to our agenda.' So it's always so refreshing to see an organization like the SLF work with

communities and set the agenda together, responding to the local issues and the local context. I think that's revolutionary."

To donate Aeroplan miles, please visit:
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org/aeroplan

Celebrating a Decade of Solidarity!

At the launch of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign in 2006, Canadian and African grandmothers welcomed the dawn of the *Grandmothers Movement*. In Canada, four grandmothers groups quickly became 40 and then 100 over the course of just a few months – growing to 240 groups today – as older women found shared identity, purpose and sisterhood in grandmotherhood.

And if 2006 was that dawn, then the 10 Year Anniversary of the Campaign shines on a movement in full swing—vibrant and unwavering! The Campaign has raised over \$25 million. Canadian grandmothers have been joined by grandmothers in Australia and the United Kingdom, all equally committed to creatively raising funds and awareness for the community-based organizations that are run for and by African grandmothers. The movement is one of solidarity – not charity – and grandmothers in Africa, Canada, and elsewhere are pushing back stereotypes that marginalize and silence older women. African expertise and agency are at the centre of the movement.

On the occasion of the Campaign's 10 Year Anniversary, grandmothers pause for a brief moment to celebrate their accomplishments, but more importantly they recommit and redouble their efforts to raise funds and awareness for African grandmothers, who are truly turning the tide of AIDS in Africa.



Reflecting on the Campaign's Milestones



Eric O'Donnell



Peter Bregg



Christine Scott

First Grandmothers Gathering

In August 2006, just five short months after the press conference that launched the Grandmothers Campaign, the Foundation held the first International Grandmothers Gathering in Toronto. One hundred African and two hundred Canadian grandmothers gathered for three days of solidarity building, and unveiled the Toronto Statement—a proclamation that has guided the Campaign in the decade since. It was here that Canadian grandmothers first issued the powerful pledge which continues to ground their work today: "We will not rest until they can rest!"

African Grandmothers Gathering

For three extraordinary days in May 2010, hundreds of grandmothers from 13 African countries and 42 Canadian members of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign gathered for the first time on the African continent in Swaziland. They came together to share their experiences and concerns, and to lay the groundwork for a regional network of grandmothers turning the tide of AIDS. Culminating with a march by 1,000 grandmothers through the streets of Manzini, African Grandmothers Gathering participants declared: "We are strong, we are visionary, we have faith and we are not alone!"

Fundraising Innovation

From art auctions, to fabric sales, to fashion shows, to scrabble tournaments, the fundraisers held by grandmothers groups across Canada have been astonishingly diverse and equally successful. Since the Campaign's inception in 2006, Campaign members in Victoria and Ottawa have participated in annual cycling fundraisers, biking nearly 300 kms each year, and raising roughly \$925,000 thus far in support of African grandmothers and their community-based organizations.

Grandmothers Campaign Anniversary



Alexis MacDonald/SLF



Jane Farrow/SLF



Cathie Archbould

Stride to Turn the Tide

Each June, grandmothers groups across the country take part in 'Stride to Turn the Tide' in support of the grandmothers of Africa who walk every day—to attend far-away clinics and markets, to collect water and deliver grandchildren safely to school, to provide home-based care, and to protest violations of their human rights. Through their own annual walks, Campaign members collect pledges and have raised more than \$1.9 million dollars all told.

Care in Crafting

Like so many grandmother support groups across the African continent, grandmothers groups affiliated with the Grandmothers Campaign routinely make crafting a part of their activities together—engaging in sewing, card-making, and much more. For the CanGo Grannies in Kamloops, this includes the annual creation of beautiful holiday wreaths and arrangements, the sale of which contributes to the funds raised by the group in support of grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa, and the children in their care.

African Grandmothers Tribunal

In 2013, the Stephen Lewis Foundation hosted an historic people's tribunal to shine a public light on the denial of African grandmothers' human rights, and to issue a call to action. Attended by hundreds of Grandmothers Campaign members and supporters, the Tribunal featured testimony by six grandmothers from across sub-Saharan Africa, before four high-profile judges: Theo Sowa, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, Joy Phumaphi and Gloria Steinem. The Tribunal amplified the voices of African grandmothers, and charted a new path for advancing African grandmothers' human rights.

Spotlight on Grandmothers Groups



Being a small group does not stop us from hosting some very unique and successful events. For 5 years we have hosted a curling bonspiel. Fergus is a Scottish town and our curling club is the longest, continuously running curling club in Canada. We meet often to focus our attention on the courageous, resilient and remarkable grandmothers who overcome significant barriers and challenges every single day and who inspire us to continue to stand in solidarity with them.

- Grandmothers of the Grand, Fergus, ON

Our members have continued to stand in solidarity with African grandmothers partly because we are inspired by their diligence, determination, courage and resilience, but also because we are inspired by each other! We realize that the grandmothers of the world have much to offer society and we have an important role to play in improving our world.

- Ujamaa Grandmas, Calgary, AB

Enthusiasm, generosity and compassion are contagious in the Royal City Gogos. At our monthly meetings a member presents a "Focus on Africa" talk or slide show. This helps to keep us focused, not only on our purpose, but also on giving us a personal way of rekindling our initial enthusiasm. We have a great spirit of "do what you can" which makes us even more generous with our time.

- Royal City Gogos, Richmond, BC



Zanne Cameron



Emmanuel Musenka



Buffy Goodman

Challenging Stereotypes

In addition to supporting community-based organizations over the last decade, the Grandmothers Campaign has transformed the lives of its own members—giving older women a shared sense of purpose and identity, and creating whole new communities across Canada and the world, centred on the notion of grandmotherhood. Like so many of its fellow grandmothers groups, Edmonton’s “the GANG” (Grandmothers of Alberta for a New Generation) routinely challenges stereotypes about gender, about charity, and about aging through its ongoing work.

Uganda Grandmothers Gathering

The 2015 Uganda Grandmothers Gathering signified the first in a series of national-level gatherings of African grandmothers, and was attended by 22 Grandmothers Campaign delegates from Canada and the U.K. They bore witness to the release of the powerful Ugandan Grandmothers’ Statement, which declares: “We are not young, but we are strong... We have breath to sing and energy to dance. We are moving forward! Join us!”

10 Year Anniversary

Over the course of the past year, Campaign members have been celebrating a decade of solidarity, sisterhood, and achievement. Most recently, Ugandan grandmothers Mariam Mulindwa and Immaculate Nakyanzi, and Zimbabwean grandmothers Regina Dongo and Maude Nhau participated in regional Grandmothers Gatherings in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Halifax, Toronto, and Vancouver, marking ten years together. African grandmothers are changing the course of the AIDS epidemic in their communities and beyond, and the Grandmothers Campaign is with them every step of the way.

Spotlight on Grandmothers Groups

“ We have a few favourite events but our longest-standing and most successful is our Chili Dinner Fundraiser - “EAT THE CHILI, KEEP THE BOWL.” Local potters provide 200 bowls, local restaurants provide a variety of chilis (including elk and bison!) and we have two sittings of 100. Grannies make desserts, cornbread and provide the wine. We sell things and have a draw for a local artifact. After 8 years, we have ironed out the wrinkles and it is fun for all!

- Mountain Grannies, Canmore/Banff, AB

We are at a time in our lives where sitting back and admiring our accomplishments are not options. Our age has given us perspective, our insights allow us to have empathy towards others and our strength has allowed us to set new goals. We hope to be an example for the next generation!

- Grassroot Grannies, Ottawa-Gatineau, ON/QC

We chose our group name of Ranges Aid because we live in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges in Victoria, Australia. Our group formed in 2014 after a talk by the SLF in Melbourne. We are unique because we were the first group to be established in Australia! Our proudest accomplishment is our first group donation to the SLF. We were able to double our fundraising goal for the year!

- Ranges Aid, Melbourne, AU

What we do

Since 2003, the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) has been delivering resources directly into the hands of the grassroots organizations turning the tide of HIV & AIDS in Africa. Led by experts at the more than 300 community-based organizations with which the SLF has partnered, over 1400 innovative and inspiring initiatives have been successfully undertaken in the 15 African countries hardest hit by the global AIDS epidemic. We know from experience that these community-based organizations effect positive and lasting change, tangibly improving the lives of those infected and affected by HIV & AIDS in their communities.

How we do it

The principles of social justice, equality, and partnership guide our process. Before partnering with an organization, one of our experienced Field Representatives (Monitoring and Evaluation Officers) visits to assess the organization's connection to the community, its ability to implement programming, and the strength of its financial accountability systems. Importantly, the organizations with which we partner recognize that gender inequality drives the AIDS epidemic and have dedicated programmes that support grandmothers, girls and women. Once an organization partners with the SLF, our Programme Officers communicate regularly with its staff to ensure that our approach remains informed, responsive, relevant and effective.

Why we do it

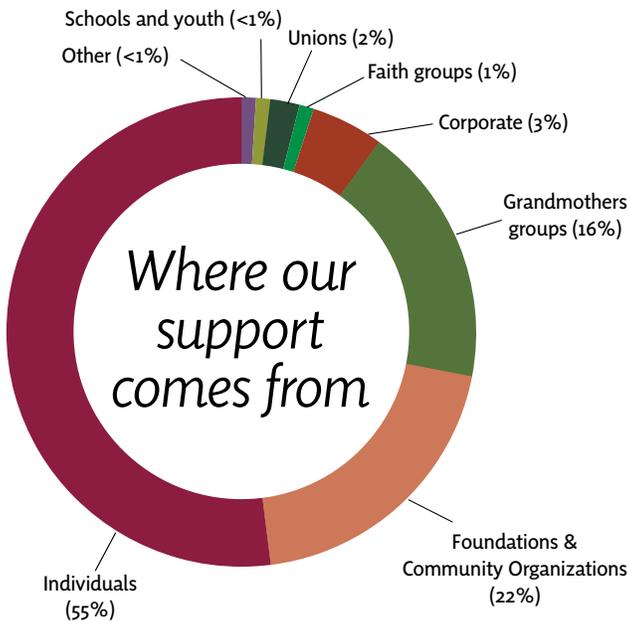
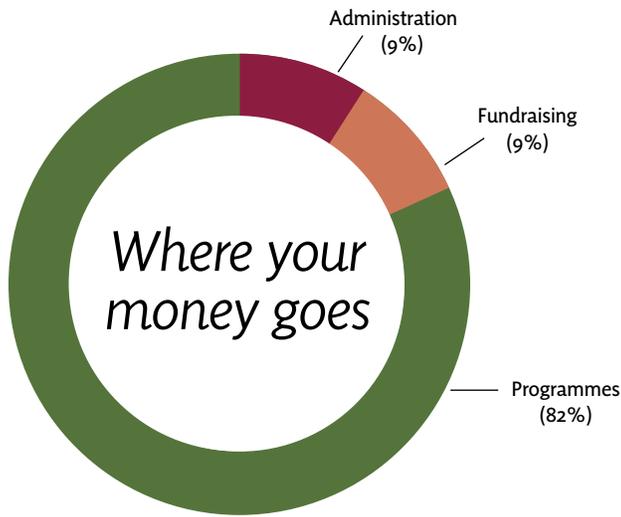
The grassroots groups with which the SLF partners are lifelines for their communities. They provide everything from education and counselling about HIV prevention, to care and treatment for those infected with the virus. They distribute food, medication, household supplies and other necessities. Home-based care workers—often with little to no pay—visit the homes of the sick and vulnerable, bringing comfort and care to struggling families. Support groups give vulnerable children, including the many orphaned by AIDS and the grandmothers left to care for them, a safe place and counselling to help them cope with their grief. They tirelessly advocate for the human and legal rights of women and children. Children are sent to school, and child-headed households are given the support they need. The staff and volunteers in these community-based organizations are unwavering in their commitment to save lives and restore hope in every home and community. AIDS will not be defeated without them.



Imagine Canada Standards Program

The Foundation is committed to transparency and accountability. With this in mind, we are proud to be accredited under Imagine Canada's National Standards Program. Through rigorous peer-review, the Standards Program awards accreditation to charities and nonprofits that demonstrate excellence across 73 standards in the areas of board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, staff management, and volunteer involvement.





Programmes

From 2003 until June 2016, the Stephen Lewis Foundation has disbursed and committed \$97.9 million to programme spending, including direct support to over 1400 initiatives with 300 community-based organizations in 15 African countries. To read more about our work with African partners, visit: stephenlewisfoundation.org/what-we-do

Administration

While we are deeply committed to getting the majority of revenue to the projects with which we work, the hard reality is that every charitable organization has overhead costs—in part, costs associated with day-to-day operations (office supplies, rent, etc.) and in part ensuring that we can be accountable for how funds are being delivered and administered (financial and monitoring systems). We are committed to keeping these administrative costs as low as possible with in-kind donations and pro-bono support. We are proud to report that, again this year, our administrative costs are under 10% of our total revenue. For more information about this, please visit: stephenlewisfoundation.org/financials

Funds development

In order to continue to support the innovative programming developed by our African partners, the SLF has increased its fundraising capacity to engage supporters through a variety of recognizable initiatives, such as special events that feature the voices and work of our partners, and encouraging critical monthly donations. You will see from the adjacent diagram that we spent 9% of our revenue to support awareness-raising and fundraising, ensuring that 80% of funds raised goes to Programmes.

Every year we post our audited financial statements and Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) returns online. For these full reports, please visit stephenlewisfoundation.org/financials. The Foundation's fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Our auditors are Grant Thornton LLP Chartered Accountants.

The Foundation's charitable number is **89635 4008 RR0001**. If you have questions about our financial statements, please call **1-888-203-9990 ext. 244** to speak to Esther Vise, Director of Finance.

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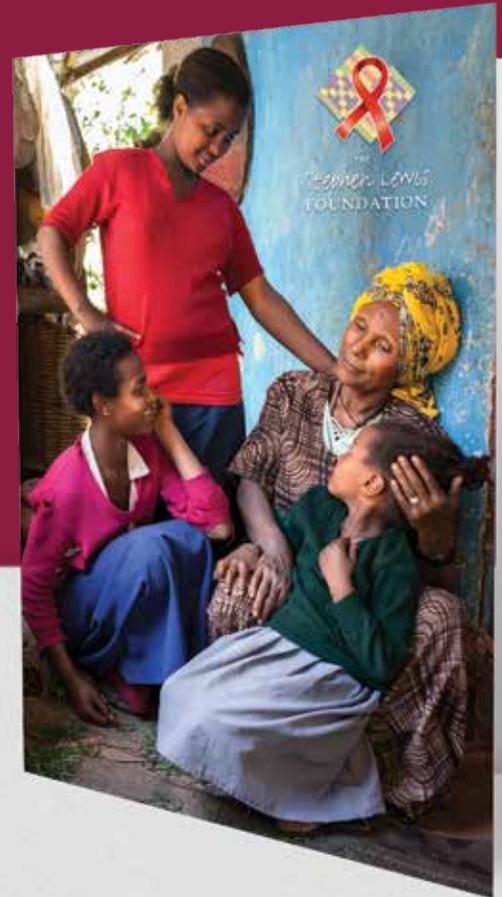
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The holiday season is almost here, and our holiday tribute cards are now available! Make your donation in lieu of a gift, and send a beautiful printed or electronic card to your family member, friend or colleague. We can send you one of our colourful tribute cards to personalize and deliver yourself, or we can mail it on your behalf. Or donate online and send an e-card for easy and immediate delivery. Strengthen the work of our grassroots partners by giving a gift that is truly meaningful!

Order your holiday cards today.

stephenlewisfoundation.org/holidays



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