

World AIDS   
**ORPHANS** Day  
AN FXB INITIATIVE

**8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WORLD AIDS ORPHANS' DAY**

**MAY 7, 2009**



PHOTOS: GEOFF OLIVER BUGBEE, CHRYSsa PANOUSsiADou, ALAIN WICHT FOR FXB INTERNATIONAL

**YOUR VOICE IS THEIR FUTURE**

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## WHY OBSERVE WORLD AIDS ORPHANS DAY?



**BECAUSE 15 MILLION CHILDREN HAVE LOST ONE OR BOTH PARENTS TO AIDS.**

**Few children receive any external support.**

**10% of all HIV and AIDS funding should be urgently directed to support AIDS orphans and vulnerable children.**

**In 2007, there were officially 15 million AIDS orphans.**

**They are the just the tip of the iceberg, as millions more children have been orphaned due to other causes and of millions of vulnerable children, who drift away from civilization.**

**Behind the statistics are millions of stories of children suffering.**

**The AIDS crisis has a catastrophic impact on households and communities deepening poverty and exacerbating hardship. The extended family remains the only safety net for most affected children. Many households, particularly the one living in poverty, are often overwhelmed and unable to meet children's most basic needs.**

### **World AIDS Orphans Day (WAOD)**

- WAOD was initiated in 2002 by Albina du Boisrouvray, President & Founder of FXB, to bring attention to the millions of children affected by AIDS.
- Every May 7, FXB organizes a grassroots campaign to bring attention to the plight of children affected by AIDS and advocate on their behalf.
- FXB initiated a worldwide coalition of Mayors who engage their constituencies to respect and lobby for the rights of the most vulnerable children. **800 mayors and elected officials from 41 countries have joined this coalition.**
- WAOD supporters lobby their home governments to direct at least 10% of all HIV and AIDS funding to support orphans and children made vulnerable by the pandemic.

## HOW THE AIDS CRISIS IMPACTS CHILDREN?



When parents die, the extended family traditionally takes care of the orphaned children.

Approximately 95% of all children directly affected by HIV and AIDS, including those who have lost parents, continue to live with their extended families.

Unfortunately, the double crisis of poverty and AIDS decreases the communities' capacities to take care of them.

Without protection, support and love, without household stability, or educational opportunity, these children would face great risk of malnutrition, discrimination, abuse and HIV infection.

They are easy prey to many forms of ill-treatment and exploitation such as prostitution, forced labor, drug networks, or child soldiering.

**The impact of AIDS on children is a major humanitarian, economic, social and security challenge that our society must urgently address.**

**A Humanitarian Challenge:** because despite the near-universal adoption of child protection norms, more than half the world's children are deprived of their basic needs as a result of poverty, war or HIV/AIDS. They miss out on their childhood and are unable to become the productive and responsible citizens of tomorrow.

**An Economic Challenge:** because HIV/AIDS has a devastating direct economic impact on communities, jeopardizing children's futures. Because of the added financial burden of HIV/AIDS, many children - particularly girls - are forced to drop out of school to work or take care of their families.

**A Social Challenge:** because in highly impacted communities AIDS weakens the larger support system of children. The sick and dying include teachers, medical personnel and other adults on whom children depend.

**A Security Challenge:** because all vulnerable children are easy prey and need to be protected so that they don't fall victim to prostitution or crime or become child soldiers or human bombs.

## WHAT IS THE CALL TO ACTION FOR WAOD 2009 ?

**Governments should direct at least 10% of their overall HIV and AIDS funding to support AIDS orphans and vulnerable children.**

**The needs of children affected by AIDS are neglected :** Despite progress in funding, preventing and treating AIDS, we are ignoring the basic needs of millions of vulnerable children

- Global political commitment and resources are insufficient.
- Poor families are supporting affected children with minimal assistance, including from their governments.
- 90% of the more than 2 million children living with HIV are infected before or during birth. Yet only one in three pregnant women with HIV in low- and middle-income countries receive the treatment they need to help prevent infection of their babies.

**Few resources are reaching the families and communities that provide the front-line response, even though they provide the vast majority of care and support to orphaned and vulnerable children.** A generation will be lost if we do not take urgent measures to support the basic rights of children, and the families and communities that care for them. We can fight AIDS if we organize a long-term response supported by a strong political will.

For the second consecutive year, the call to action on May 7 will be : « 10% for orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS ». This pledge will be reinforced this year by the publication of the final report of ***the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA)***, of which FXB is one of the founding members. The report found:

*«Unless governments and their partners address the underlying issues of family poverty and gender inequality, large-scale aids programmes in severely affected countries will continue to fall far short of what is needed — and of what could be achieved.»*

**The report calls for fundamental shifts in policies, programmes, and funding to squarely refocus the response along four critical lines of action:**

- Providing support for children to and through their families;
- Strengthening community support for families;
- Reducing family poverty;
- Delivering integrated family-centred services in health, education, and social welfare.

For more information, please visit: [www.jlica.org](http://www.jlica.org)

## RAISING VOICES FOR WORLD AIDS ORPHANS DAY 2009



World AIDS Orphans Day brings together mayors and elected officials, organizations, concerned individuals and press to ensure that 10% of HIV and AIDS gets urgently directed to support orphans and vulnerable children affected by AIDS.

An interactive website allows individuals to join the movement, get information, testimony, mobilize, lobby their governments, organize an event, or to access videos and photos:

[www.worldaidsorphans.org](http://www.worldaidsorphans.org)

### FXB CALL TO ACTION :

- **Mayors and elected officials** : as guarantors of the Rights of the Child in your municipalities, you engage your constituencies to respect the rights of the most vulnerable children and to lobby your governments. **More than 800 mayors and elected officials from 41 countries joined this coalition.**
- **The media** : WAOD relies on you to draw the attention to the needs of orphans and vulnerable children affected by AIDS and the consequences of ignoring their needs.
- **Like-minded organizations, young people and concerned individuals** : you are absolutely essential to mobilize and advocate on behalf of all these children.

**AS PART OF WAOD 2009, FXB WILL ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, FOCUSING ITS ENERGIES ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS – NOTABLY DURING THE 2009 G8 IN SARDINIA – AND INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES.**

To be credible we need to raise our voices together and influence the governments to respect and implement the international standards of protection for the rights of the child.

FXB is in charge of the logistic and the coordination of WAOD through the website [www.worldaidsorphans.org](http://www.worldaidsorphans.org)

# **YESTERDAY A SMALL STEP, TODAY A WORLDWIDE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT**

## **WAOD 2002 – the launch in New York City**

On May 7, 2002, in New York City, alongside the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children Rights, Albina du Boisrouvray presented the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, with a petition containing 2 million worldwide signatures asking governments to take urgent measures to care and support the millions of orphans and children made vulnerable by AIDS. New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller declared the day to be “World AIDS Orphans’ Day”.

## **WAOD 2003 – the first 20 cities**

Mayors of 20 cities began the mayors and elected officials coalition, and high school students from the Bronx, New York, launched the youth movement by producing a giant fresco about AIDS orphans. FXB Brazil and other national NGOs began to actively lobby to change national laws on generic drugs.

## **WAOD 2004 – a worldwide event**

In 2004, efforts were made to encourage governments, the UN, donors and companies, to give priority to the millions of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV and AIDS.

## **WAOD 2005 – political pressure**

160 mayors and municipalities around the world supported this day. For the first time in France, WAOD was placed under the patronage of Mr. Christian Poncelet, President of the Senate. WAOD had an important influence on public policies related to children's rights and more particularly via the call launched at the G8 by FXB and other civil society activists to abolish schooling fees in countries in transition. In June, G8 adopted a resolution to insure free and universal access to basic medical care and education. In Brazil, the Chamber of the Deputies approved a legislative modification to allow pharmaceutical industries to create antiretroviral generics. The efforts of FXB Brazil through WAOD 2005 contributed to the global lobby to increase access to antiretroviral therapy, and reduce treatment costs.

## **WAOD 2006 – the spread of the movement and youth mobilization**

In 2006, WAOD focused on the mobilization of young people and children. Thousands of children around the world initiated Circles of Hope to support FXB’s Call to Action and reminded governments of the goals they had set in 2001 when they signed the United Nations’ Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

## **WAOD 2007 – the mobilization of mayors and elected officials**

The number of mayors and elected officials grew exponentially as 795 mayors and elected officials of 41 countries joined the worldwide coalition. Hundreds of events were organized in 19 countries and a particular effort was made to mobilize youth through seminars, games and exhibitions.

## **WAOD 2008 – 10% for children**

The main objective of WAOD 2008 was a call to direct at least 10% of all HIV and AIDS funding to support AIDS orphans and children made vulnerable by the virus. This call to action was discussed by the media and our partners. In 2008, President George W. Bush signed the new PEPFAR initiative, which allocate \$30 billion to the fight against AIDS. Of this amount, \$3 billion was allocated to create programmes for children. The lobbying action of WAOD and other activists worldwide was critical in this decision.

## THEY SUPPORT FXB AND WORLD AIDS ORPHANS DAY

« On n'est pas orphelin d'avoir perdu père et mère mais d'avoir perdu l'espoir. »

*Christian Poncelet, Président du Sénat en France*

« Des pouvoirs locaux unis pour régler les grandes questions du monde. »

*Jean-Marie Bockel, Sénateur du Haut-Rhin*

«All children, no matter where they live, have the right to education and a safe and secure environment in which to grow. The FXB Villages help children orphaned and affected by AIDS, and their guardian families, to enjoy these rights»

*Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations*

«Albina has been a strong advocate of children orphaned by AIDS since the early days of the pandemic, at a time when few people had the understanding, courage and determination to make their voices heard.»

*Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)*

«FXB's well-established model of poverty alleviation and supporting AIDS orphans in Rwanda and Uganda is a grassroots solution that turns despair into hope.»

*Stephen Lewis, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa*

« FXB est une organisation généreuse, durable et efficace, un levier extraordinaire pour faire reculer tous les problèmes. »

*Matthieu Zeller, Directeur général de Kiehl's*

« At FXB, the answer to the increasing number of children in need in global action towards families and communities. For this reason, FXB works on the reintegration of orphans in stable households and on the global reconstruction of the social fabric of families and communities so that the work of social contributors with these children and with all the vulnerable children dashed into poverty - can be made effectively in the long run. If I quote Albina du Boisrouvray, it is because I think that the philosophy of her fight is the right one, and that we are all been inspired by it, for a long time.»

*Extract from the speech given by Daniel Rondeau, French Ambassador in Malta, International Day for Poverty Eradication, La Valette Conference, October 17th, 2008.*

« Alone, we can nothing. All together in a common engagement, we can do everything.»

*Albina du Boisrouvray, Founder and President, FXB International*



[www.worldaidsorphans.org](http://www.worldaidsorphans.org)

FXB International carries the name of François-Xavier Bagnoud, a helicopter pilot specialized in rescue operations, who dedicated his life to providing assistance to others. He lost his life at the age of 24 during a helicopter-borne mission in Mali. In 1989, his mother Albina du Boisrouvray, his family and their friends founded the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) in order to pursue, in the field of development, the rescue missions that he led and perpetuate the values of generosity and compassion that guided his life.



## ASSOCIATION FRANÇOIS-XAVIER BAGNOUD - FXB INTERNATIONAL

### 20 years of action for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children

The mission of FXB is to fight poverty and AIDS, and to support orphans and vulnerable children left in the wake of the AIDS pandemic. FXB offers comprehensive support to the families and communities that care for them and fights for their basic rights.

FXB is represented in 18 countries and involves more than 450 collaborators and 1,400 volunteers. It currently operates around one hundred programs and FXB-Villages. The overall strategy of FXB International is the practical implementation of the inextricable link between Health and Human Rights in the daily lives of its beneficiaries. FXB provides sustainable and grassroots solutions that combat the dual crises of poverty and AIDS.

The FXB approach is best characterized as a participative program of community-based sustainable development. Each FXB-Village is a network of more than 80 families who have been devastated by poverty and AIDS. The program allows them to achieve economic and social independence within three years. Emerging from poverty with reinforced capacities, caregivers can take care, protect and raise the orphans and vulnerable children in their communities.

FXB-Village programs center around the income generating projects undertaken by each participating family. FXB's financial input is scaled down each year as participants increasingly contribute to their families' school and medical costs, taking an active role in building lives of greater stability and self-sufficiency. FXB guides participants until they are independent and provides them with food, medical and psychosocial support, education and professional training, legal support and lessons in financial literacy.

FXB holistic programmatic approach combines efficiency and low intervention costs. Approximately \$175,000 is enough to enable 500 people to escape poverty within just three years – with lasting results. A recent external evaluation of the long term socio-economical impact of the program - done by the Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa) - showed that 86% of beneficiaries still have a standard of living above the poverty line four years after leaving the program and 97% have successfully maintained their income-generating activity.

#### FXB programs and services include all or several of these components:

- Reintegration of AIDS orphans within families and reconstruction of the social fabric of families and communities
- Development of income-generating activities
- Nutritional support
- Education and vocational training
- Medical care and access to HIV and AIDS treatment
- Psychosocial counseling
- HIV education and prevention
- Financial training in savings and micro-credit
- Legal support and children's rights advocacy
- FXB Houses for vulnerable children and orphans
- Rehousing of vulnerable families
- Water, hygiene and sanitation
- Environmental management
- Palliative care

[www.fxb.org](http://www.fxb.org)



**They support our work :** Solidarité internationale de la République et Canton de Genève, the City of Paris, Addax Petroleum Foundation, Suez Foundation, King Baudoin Foundation, Arcanum Foundation, Air France Foundation, Pro Victimis, Firelight Foundation, Hindustan Construction Company, Kiehl's, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Aréva, SDC - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Asian Development Bank, Banque Frank Galland SA, Clark CARES Foundation, Colombian National STD/HIV/AIDS Program, etc.