



area is the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. There are places where Canada's clout can become quite memorable when historians look back on the pandemic. I think we took such a dramatic step in giving \$50 million to this, but it would be appropriate to double the Canadian contribution. Finally, I think Canada has been remiss in not making a significant contribution to the International Partnership for Microbicides to develop female-controlled HIV prevention methods. HIV/AIDS truly is a women's issue, it's a gender issue with which Canada has always felt itself associated. Microbicides are within probably five to seven years from emerging but they do give women an opportunity to prevent infection.

Applying leadership

There are individual issues, like the abolition of school fees, that would make a huge difference to the numbers of AIDS-orphaned children who are now prevented from going to school because they can't afford the fees or the books or the uniforms. If a country like Canada were to take the lead in the campaign to abolish school fees in Africa, it would be a magnificent contribution. The World Bank has already indicated that it's prepared to raise the funds to compensate the governments for the loss of funds that school fees yield. Therefore, Canada's role might well be a brokerage role between governments and the Bank. What is missing is a voice and some political leadership. For a country like Canada, that is something that doesn't require expenditure, it requires the clout of a G7 country.

Doing what matters

I feel best when I know that public advocacy, which is always necessary in generalities, is translated into the mother you meet in a clinic who has received treatment as a result of advocacy. There she is: she was at death's door and now she's alive, and her two kids are playing at her feet. Or you go to the home of a child-headed household where a little girl of 12 is looking after her three orphaned siblings and you find a way, in working with the community, to get a really nice foster family arrangement for those kids so they're no longer on their own. Or you're part of an effort to bring blankets to a village where people are freezing at night or they simply don't have anything in the hut for those who are ill to cover themselves with. These absolutely concrete matters are what sustain me personally and make me feel that life is not merely ephemeral. I can say to my children as my father said to me, "Not in my lifetime son, but perhaps in yours," meaning the triumph of a more just society. 🍁

You can find out more about the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS at www.unaids.org and contribute on-line to the struggle against HIV/AIDS through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria at www.theglobalfund.org.

HIV Positive: AIDS Through a New Lens

When a group of Canada's top photographers called PhotoSensitive travelled to Zambia to document the AIDS pandemic, they knew they would encounter suffering. But they were not prepared for what else they found: hope. They documented their discoveries in moving photographs that were grouped into four categories: crisis, courage, hope and future. PhotoSensitive joined with CARE Canada through the assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency to create a widely travelled exhibit of photographs called HIV Positive.

- 1 These three AIDS orphans are among more than 10 million children worldwide who are left vulnerable by the disease.

photo: Andrew Stawicki, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 2 **Crisis**
Lusaka's mortuary is overloaded. The PhotoSensitive photographers could not recall meeting a single Zambian who had not lost friends or family to HIV-related illnesses.

photo: Steve Simon, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 3 **Courage**
Grandmothers are raising a second generation in Africa. Children are often left in the care of the elderly when parents grow sick or die. On the day the photographer visited, this grandmother was feeling ill. She worried about what would happen to her grandchildren after she was gone.

photo: Dick Loek, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 4 **Hope**
Youths are key in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The message—Be Proud! Abstinence "ili che" is one of the HEART campaign messages that is becoming popular and receiving acceptance among youth.

photo: Tony Hauser, PhotoSensitive/CARE

- 5 **Future**
AIDS has allies in Africa, chief among them poverty. But the stigma surrounding the virus is deadly too. Myths about transmission, derogatory attitudes toward women, taboos that prevent sex education for children—each helps AIDS infect the next generation. These are social hurdles that Africans can and must overcome in their own way. There is no time to lose.

photo: Dick Loek, PhotoSensitive/CARE

View the HIV Positive photo exhibit at www.care.ca