

Central Africa – filling the gaps

The King Baudouin Foundation responded to a call from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to join the global fight against HIV/AIDS. The foundation earmarked € 1 million for initiatives in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It identifies projects to be implemented by international partners and local NGOs.

KBF also funded 'HIV/AIDS in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda', a report produced by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) to guide donors on how to fill the gaps in prevention and treatment.

Targeting the worst hit

UNAIDS reports that sub-Saharan Africa remains by far the region worst affected by the AIDS pandemic. The region has just over 10% of the world's population, but is home to two-thirds of all people living with HIV. Yet international funding has tended to neglect some of the Francophone countries of the region.

In Rwanda, KBF supports youth information campaigns, as well as grants to enable patients to provide for their families. In the Congo, KBF supports projects that reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission. In Burundi, it is helping AIDS orphans find new homes with foster families and is supporting awareness campaigns targeting men, women and young girls.

A helping hand on the path to self-reliance

A € 100,000 grant to the Foundation François Bagnoud (FXB) is helping almost 400 families in Kigali become self-reliant. FXB has reached 538 people, including 247 children who had their school tuition paid.

Training was given to the adults – generally women. Today, many children and mothers now sell vegetables, fruit or meat on the markets. Others sell charcoal, do sewing work or run a small restaurant.

In the past three years, FXB has accompanied 160 families in Kigali, 85% of whom overcame great medical challenges to become self-reliant.

Information and tests in youth centres

KBF's € 300,000 grant allowed the Adolescent Reproductive Health Project of the United Nations Population Fund to expand one youth centre in Kibuye and keep three others operating. A network of peer educators, often scout leaders, organises activities and invites young people to come to the youth centres.

Sports and other activities are accompanied by information about reproduction, safe sexual practices, and health. Supervisors ensure that young people can be tested in nearby hospitals or medical centres, free of charge. In 2004, UNPFA reached more than 47,000 young people.

Healthy babies born to HIV-positive mothers

KBF allocated € 280,000 to support three centres in the Congo where future mothers can be screened. Those who test positive receive treatment as well as information on how to prevent transmission. The foundation collaborates with a German development organisation (GTZ) and Antwerp's Institute for Tropical Medicine, which developed a screening test to detect the virus shortly after birth.



The mission of the King Baudouin Foundation is to help improve living conditions for the population by encouraging the different players in society to be committed to working together to bring about lasting changes that will promote justice, democracy and development.

The foundation supports five major HIV/AIDS projects in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as three projects in the Balkan region.

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KBF works jointly with the AIDS programme of the Katanga province on a new centre to reduce the risk of MTCT. A second centre, set up in Bukavu with a Congolese NGO for HIV-positive women, has tested 724 patients; about 11,000 people have participated in information meetings.

Orphans and young women targeted in Burundi

Two projects in Burundi help AIDS orphans find new homes, inform women and young girls of their rights, and alert them to the dangers of risky sexual behaviour.

Working with The Family to Defeat AIDS, KBF launched a project that helps about 200 orphans. Specific initiatives are aimed at improving a desperate economic situation. In Kanyosha, 1,200 chickens have been distributed to provide families with income from selling eggs. KBF funding allows the Society for Women Against AIDS in Africa (SWAA) to finance initiatives such as distributing condoms at information stands in public markets. SWAA also provides food and medical assistance if necessary.

A valuable resource

Few foundations or private individuals can dedicate in-country resources to support grantmaking activities. NPC's 'HIV/AIDS in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda' report provides the detailed, contextual information and analysis prospective donors need to understand the extent of the pandemic, social needs, and the outcome of responses.

It identifies organisations working in each country, describes projects, and advises donors how they can best target their resources.