

## STOP AIDS NOW!

### About STOP AIDS NOW!

The fight against AIDS is closely related with the fight against poverty. Based on this idea the Aids Fonds and four Dutch development organisations, Hivos, ICCO, Cordaid and Oxfam Novib, decided to join forces and found STOP AIDS NOW! in 2000. As the HIV and AIDS problem is so far-reaching and has such fundamental consequences, no party or organisation is likely to find the ultimate solution alone. Therefore STOP AIDS NOW! works as much as possible with other players in the field. Such as governments, other NGOs, networks and various companies. The STOP AIDS NOW! mission "working together towards a world without AIDS" reflects this way of working.

### Improving existing methods and cooperation

STOP AIDS NOW! aims to create more effective responses to the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The Dutch partners and their partners in the South work together to improve existing methods and come up with innovative forms of cooperation. This innovation is channelled into 'development projects', each with an applied research component. One of the current project themes is "Orphans and Vulnerable Children".

### The OVC development project

[\[http://www.stopaidsnow.org/our\\_work\\_article/orphans\\_and\\_vulnerable\\_children\]](http://www.stopaidsnow.org/our_work_article/orphans_and_vulnerable_children)

The OVC Development Project helps partnerships of non-governmental, community-based and faith-based organisations to jointly develop innovative strategies that will improve the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children. The project focuses on 2 themes: "Effective prevention of HIV infection" and "Strengthening mechanisms in communities to provide comprehensive protection, care and support for OVC". Within the general OVC Development Project the focus is on 2 major themes:

#### A. *Effective prevention from HIV infection*

The objective of this thematic approach is improving the effectiveness of programmes aimed at the reduction in HIV infection among young people. The STOP AIDS NOW! partner organisations are strengthened with knowledge and tools to assess the effectiveness of interventions. One of the activities within this theme has been the development of the Evidence-based Planning and Support Tool for SRHR and HIV-Prevention programmes for young people (E-PAT)

[\[http://www.stopaidsnow.org/our\\_work\\_article/ovc\\_evidencebasedinterventions\]](http://www.stopaidsnow.org/our_work_article/ovc_evidencebasedinterventions). This tool, developed to design and evaluate SRHR/HIV prevention/life skills programmes for young people will be tested this year in a pilot project in Pakistan.

#### B. *Strengthening of mechanisms of communities to provide comprehensive protection, care and support for OVC.*

AIDS is putting tremendous pressure on single parents, extended families and traditional community safety nets. These kinds of systems no longer seem adequate to address the growing number of OVC. STOP AIDS NOW! aims to devise innovative strategies to this complex problem. In the pilot project in Malawi for example, linking and learning projects are developed. The idea behind it is to bring together multi-sector partner organisations to link and learn from their experiences working with OVC. Enabling the development of better responses to the problem.

OVC partnerships are active in South Africa, Malawi and Pakistan