

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Working together for vulnerable children

Regional Interagency Task
Team on Children and AIDS –
eastern and southern Africa

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The Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS – eastern and southern Africa (RIATT–ESA)

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AIDS – eastern and southern Africa





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List of acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AU	African Union
EAC	East African Community
GPF	Global Partners Forum
EMTCT	Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAC	International AIDS Conference
IATT	Interagency Task Team (on Children and AIDS)
ICASA	International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
JLICA	Joint Learning Initiative on Children and AIDS
K4H	Johns Hopkins University Knowledge for Health programme
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
NAC	National AIDS Council
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OVCY	Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PSS	Psychosocial Support
REPSSI	Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative
RIATT-ESA	Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS – Eastern and Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAfAIDS	Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF-ESARO	United Nations Children's Fund – Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office



Message from the Chair

*Noreen M Huni, Chairperson of the Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS
and Executive Director of REPSSI*

On an institutional level, RIATT-ESA has strengthened its structures, sharpened the focus of its work and, with the support of UNICEF and SIDA funding, put an operational plan into action.

Our Strategic Framework guided our work throughout 2011, resulting in a number of collaborative initiatives.

Some of the highlights involving collaborations on studies and policy included the World Vision International and the UNICEF study and policy recommendations for supporting aid-effective responses to children affected by AIDS and the HelpAge International and Partners study and policy recommendations for the Intergenerational issues arising from care and support of vulnerable children under the guardianship of older carers.

In addition, RIATT-ESA continued to promote a better understanding of, and approaches to, child participation by disseminating strategic messages based on its 2010 to 2011 critical review of child participation in the region.

For the management of this knowledge, RIATT-ESA and its Partners now work closely with SAfAIDS, to strengthen online resources and communications strategies around children affected by AIDS in the region. To this end, 2011 saw a new and improved website for RIATT-ESA, with many interactive functions as well as stronger links to regional HIV and AIDS partners and networks.

In 2011, RIATT-ESA's geographical scope, previously confined to the eastern and southern regions of Africa, expanded to incorporate South Sudan, the world's newest country.

RIATT-ESA would like to congratulate South Sudan on its national commitments to protecting children.

2012 promises to be a busy year for RIATT-ESA. Its dynamic advocacy and knowledge management work plan is being implemented within an increasingly challenging global context. Decreasing HIV and AIDS funding, combined with the ever-present challenge of maintaining children's care and support issues as a priority on global agendas, highlights the crucial role that collaborative partnerships such as RIATT-ESA have to play in the region. In response to this, 2012 will be an important year for RIATT-ESA partnership building and increased support to regional institutions working on care and support issues for children.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the following: all the Partners for their active engagements with and contributions to RIATT-ESA processes over the past year. Your contributions make RIATT-ESA what it is today. Special mention goes to SIDA/NORAD, UNICEF and Partners who made financial contributions towards RIATT-ESA's operations; the RIATT-ESA steering committee for the leadership support; to the secretariat and to REPSSI, for the splendid job in coordinating and providing support for project management.



2011 has seen RIATT-ESA make real progress in supporting work for the universal access of children and their families to prevention, care, treatment and support, in the context of HIV and AIDS, in the eastern and southern African region.

Working together for vulnerable children

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*Children's
vulnerability
needs to
be better
understood*

”

RIATT-ESA is a unique, multisectoral partnership of organisations focusing on the care and support for children affected by AIDS in eastern and southern Africa.

RIATT-ESA was formed in 2006 between regional, political and economic bodies, civil society organisations, academia, donors and UN agencies, in response to the Global Partners Forum recommendations to set up Regional Interagency Task Teams on Children. RIATT-ESA works to support the UNGASS declaration of commitment to the universal access for children to prevention, care, treatment and support in the context of HIV and AIDS, by harnessing the power of a multisectoral joint response within the eastern and southern African region.



Creating change for children

A photograph of a classroom in a rural setting. In the foreground, a young girl with short dark hair, wearing a white shirt with a red collar, sits at a wooden desk. She is holding a baby on her lap. The baby is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt with a yellow graphic. The girl is looking down at an open notebook on the desk, holding a blue pen. Other children are visible in the background, some sitting at desks and others standing. The walls are made of red brick.

“ *HIV-sensitive
social protection
frameworks
for children
and their
families help
improve lives* ”

RLATT-ESA is continuously working to ensure that children affected by AIDS in the region receive the protection, care and support that they so desperately need and deserve. We advocate a number of central approaches to policy making and programming, which can improve children's well-being all over the region.

- **Children's vulnerability needs to be better understood.** We need to identify more clearly how being affected by AIDS makes a child vulnerable and how it links to other challenges for children, their families and communities in the region.
- **We need to support the family and the community to care for their children.** Protection, care and support for children affected by AIDS means enabling the family and community to ensure the well-being of their children more easily, by increasing the flow of resources and support to this level.
- **HIV-sensitive social protection frameworks for children and their families helps improve lives.** By providing a broad range of family-targeted social services, including cash grants, children affected by AIDS of all ages benefit from improved protection, care and support.
- **Children's rights need to be ensured and children must be protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and other kinds of harm.** Resources that target HIV and AIDS can also engender responses from a number of sectors such as social services, health and legislation, which can help protect children.
- **Children are not all the same.** Children require different types of support, care and protection depending on their ages and genders. Regional information about and learning around this needs to be increased. Policies and programmes need to take this learning into account.
- **We need to listen to children.** Making decisions about how to improve children's well-being requires listening to children's opinions and supporting their efforts to participate.

HIV-sensitive social protection for children and families

Children affected by AIDS have the same rights to essential services as non-HIV-affected children but HIV often threatens their access to services because it impoverishes families and reduces the parents' ability to care for their children as effectively as they would like. Efforts are required to ensure that vulnerable children have access to social services and to ensure that these services are HIV-sensitive.

While we know how to boost access to and effective participation in critical interventions such as education, HIV prevention programming and early childhood development for children affected by AIDS, there is much to learn about how to improve the impact and cost-effectiveness of using integrated approaches for all vulnerable children.

Effective child protection systems are essential to address violence, abuse and exploitation, which are risks that affect children affected by AIDS. Finally, strengthening community systems can aid progress towards Universal Access goals, while boosting community resources for all families in need of external support.

Adapted from Taking evidence to impact: making a difference for vulnerable children living in a world with HIV and AIDS, UNICEF 2011

Creating change for children

Understanding vulnerability

There is a growing consensus that HIV must be viewed as one of the many challenges faced by children and that it is not necessarily the main driver of vulnerability. Children can be exposed to a number of stresses over their lifetimes. These can include conflict, natural disaster, family disruption and disease, including HIV. The illness or death of parents has a negative effect on households, families and children because it increases economic hardship, psychosocial distress and HIV-related stigma and discrimination, along with reduced access to services and adequate nutrition.

Analyses have shown that the poorest households are often least resilient to the impacts of HIV and that HIV, in turn, contributes to household impoverishment. As policy makers and programmers increasingly approach HIV as one of the many dimensions of vulnerability, they seek to ensure that services for vulnerable children, which include child protection, education, health, social protection, psychosocial support and legal protection, do include children affected by AIDS. This approach is often described as HIV-sensitive, rather than HIV-specific, programming.

Adapted from Taking evidence to impact: making a difference for vulnerable children living in a world with HIV and AIDS, UNICEF 2011



Strengthening the community response

Strengthening community systems can improve child protection, health and other outcomes for families. A review of child-focused community groups in 60 countries found that those groups effectively improved protection and well-being in different contexts.

Strengthening links between communities and formal systems is necessary to improve access to services for children affected by AIDS and to ensure sustainable HIV responses. District and community-level child protection networks are essential to mobilise resources and to enable effective referrals, including referrals through the formal protection system with the police and justice systems. Linkages with non-formal systems, such as traditional justice systems and religious groups, are also valuable for engaging local networks, building trust and filling gaps where the government is absent or weak.

One challenge to being able to strengthen community systems is a lack of predictable financing. While direct donor funding to community-based organisations has increased in recent years, resource flows often fail to reach intended beneficiaries and get ensnared in complicated delivery mechanisms and absorbed by intermediaries. An additional challenge is the over-reliance of community-based organisations on volunteers. Community support systems cannot compensate adequately for the lack of government infrastructure and services.

Adapted from Taking evidence to impact: making a difference for vulnerable children living in a world with HIV and AIDS, UNICEF 2011



The way we work



Our Goal

Universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support for children affected by AIDS in eastern and southern Africa

Our Mission

Scaled-up, coordinated and more effective responses for children affected by AIDS in eastern and southern Africa

Our Strategic Areas of Focus

Drawn from consultations in the region, RLATT-ESA has four strategic areas of focus:

- *Keep parents and children alive;*
- *Strengthen families' ability to care for children;*
- *Increase the effectiveness of services and funding; and*
- *Ensure child participation and human rights for vulnerable children.*

Our Strategic Approach

RLATT-ESA has developed a strategic framework for 2011 to 2013, which identifies RLATT-ESA as a regional network of diverse organisations with skills, information and resources that can be consolidated, in order to:

- *Improve access to information and knowledge around the care and support of children; and*
- *Advocate on children's care and support issues within the region, at global, regional and national levels.*

The way we work

Supporting regional change

RIATT-ESA aims to support the SADC and EAC development and implementation of a range of frameworks and strategic plans that link to vulnerable children and AIDS. In addition, we are developing new approaches and partnerships, in order to support regional institutions and countries, to effect change at the national level.

Advocating to improve children's lives in eastern and southern Africa

We work globally and regionally to promote RIATT-ESA messages around children and AIDS.

RIATT-ESA has invested significant resources in order to disseminate its key messages. These include:

- Working within the policy environment to promote global and regional prioritisation of our strategic objectives, by engaging with key structures and individual champions, including SADC, EAC, parliamentarians and NACs;
- Developing approaches with Partners, which allow RIATT-ESA to support advocacy work being taken at the national level – for example, promoting the national adoption of regional and global commitments, policies and frameworks around children and AIDS; and
- Convening regional Partners with similar goals, facilitating regional linkages and sharing Partners' planning, information and materials.

Managing knowledge about children affected by AIDS

We work to consolidate global, regional and country knowledge and learning, making it more easily accessible, as well as identifying gaps in our understanding and learning around children affected by AIDS.

RIATT-ESA has launched a number of initiatives, in collaboration with communications Partners in the region, to facilitate the management and sharing of information on the global, regional and national levels. These include:

- Supporting new studies and research in the region and disseminating the findings and recommendations;
- Supporting regional exchange to share Partner lessons, emerging research and findings;
- The repackaging and dissemination of resources for target audiences;
- The development of an online information source with regular electronic news updates; and
- The joint commissioning of regional overview studies, to guide research, policy and programming.



SADC and EAC initiatives, frameworks and guidance at a glance



SADC:

- **Report of a rapid assessment and analysis of vulnerabilities facing orphans and other vulnerable children and youth (OVCY), and the quality of OVCY projects and programmes in SADC, 2008**
- **SADC Framework and Programme of Action for Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth, 2008**
- **SADC Business Plan on Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth April 2009–March 2015, 2009**
- **Report on the Situation of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Youth in the SADC Region, 2010**
- **Development of a SADC minimum package of services for orphans and vulnerable children and youth: *The situation of orphans and other vulnerable children and youth in the SADC region*, October 2010**
- **SADC Minimum Package of Services for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Youth, 2011**
- **SADC Regional Conceptual Framework for Psychosocial Support for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children and Youth, 2011**
- **Assessment Report on the Status of Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Youth in the SADC Region, 2011**
- **SADC Framework for Monitoring and Evaluating policies and programmes for OVC and Youth in the region, 2011**
- **SADC Capacity Building Plan for Monitoring and Evaluating policies and programmes for OVC and Youth, 2011**
- **SADC Programme for Care and Support for Teaching and Learning**

EAC:

- **EAC Regional Multi-Sectoral HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan, 2008–2013**
- **EAC Strategic Plan for Gender, Youth, Children, Persons with Disabilities, Social Protection and Community Development, 2012–2016**

A year of progress and growth for RIATT-ESA

2011 has been an important year for RIATT-ESA. We have developed and strengthened our institutional structures; we have refined our focus of operations and we have implemented a successful set of advocacy and knowledge management activities.

“Children
require
different types
of support, care
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genders
”



Enhanced strategic direction

In 2011, RIATT-ESA developed a strategic framework that identifies advocacy and knowledge management as its core activities, in order to guide its activities for 2011 to 2013.

This is supported by a set of governance guidelines, also developed in 2011. In addition, RIATT-ESA Partners formed multisectoral task teams to build up more detailed advocacy and knowledge management strategies and plans for 2011 to 2013.

In addition, in collaboration with SfaAIDS, a non-governmental organisation specialising in communications and information on HIV and AIDS, the RIATT-ESA knowledge management task team developed a knowledge management strategy and implementation plan. This collaboration aims to make information and learning around regional children's and HIV and AIDS issues more easily accessible to national, regional and global stakeholders.

Implementation of the advocacy strategy has also been undertaken in close collaboration with a number of RIATT-ESA Partners, including UNICEF, HelpAge International and World Vision International. Working in partnership with RIATT-ESA members has also led to new links being fostered between RIATT-ESA and local or community-based organisations in the region. In 2011, community-based organisations in several countries assisted RIATT-ESA with its research and child participation activities, resulting in the collection of rich data and information about care and support issues for children affected by AIDS in the region.

RIATT-ESA's strategic plans are further supported by a stronger, more comprehensive set of governance guidelines.

Increased financial flows

In 2010, RIATT-ESA was awarded a grant of US\$ 1 million by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) for 2011 to 2013, with an additional two years based on good performance. This grant has allowed RIATT-ESA to implement a set of action priorities defined by our strategic framework until 2013.

In line with RIATT-ESA's multisectoral composition, funds management and work plan implementation management is being led by REPSSI, a regional non-governmental organisation working closely with regional and national structures on children's psychosocial issues.

Targeted, evidence-informed advocacy

In 2011 RIATT-ESA continued to raise its profile and disseminate its messages nationally, regionally and globally by holding Partners' meetings in Johannesburg and Nairobi. The issues disseminated regionally were around RIATT-ESA priority themes. RIATT-ESA's participation in a number of regional and global conferences further raised its profile and disseminated its messages. These conferences included the Global Partners Forum in June in New York, USA, the AIDS Impact conference in September in New Mexico, USA and the ICASA 2011 in December in

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. RIATT-ESA participated by running satellite sessions, presenting recent studies and by supporting children's participation in creative and innovative ways, including a children's photo exhibition of community action.

In addition, RIATT-ESA worked to position itself strategically on select platforms, with the objective of sharing evidence and influencing the agenda for children affected by AIDS. For example, by working with the Global Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS (IATT), we were able to ensure that guidance on child participation from the region was included more comprehensively within the new guidance document, *Taking Evidence to Impact: Making a difference for children living in a world with HIV and AIDS* (UNICEF 2011).

Finally, by entering into a formal partnership with the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS, an influential global collective of private and public foundations and re-granting organisations working to improve the lives of children affected by AIDS, RIATT-ESA is further promoting evidence and learning from the region at the global level.

2011 highlights

Supporting families to care for their children



© Leila Amanpour/HelpAge International

Evidence-informed advocacy

A study was completed in 2011 entitled *Intergenerational issues between older caregivers and children in the context of AIDS in eastern and southern Africa*. Through collaboration between HelpAge International and RIATT-ESA, this study has proved to be an important step in better understanding the psychosocial issues and needs of older people who care for children, and the children themselves. The report highlights findings gathered from children and older people in seven countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania), providing a clearer

understanding of the gaps and way forward for policy and programming around older carers and the children for whom they care.

The report was subsequently presented at the AIDS Impact conference held in September and at the HelpAge ICASA 2011 pre-conference in December. In 2012, RIATT-ESA will publish an advocacy version of this study in hard copy, which will be used to influence policy and programming for older people and the children for whom they care at the national, regional and global levels.

Intergenerational issues between older caregivers and children in the context of AIDS: A study by the Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS – eastern and southern Africa and HelpAge International

In a region where an estimated 40 to 60 per cent of orphaned children are cared for by grandparents, the well-being of children affected by AIDS in southern and eastern Africa is inextricably bound to that of older carers. Despite this, there is a noticeable lack of adequate legislation, policies and programming to protect and address the needs of older carers and the children for whom they care.

This study found that:

- As the relationship between children and older people is largely reciprocal, every effort should be made to support intergenerational households, as a positive alternative form of care for children who are orphaned. This is also recommended as a preferable arrangement for the older people themselves. The approach should be family-centred and integrated in terms of its response to HIV and AIDS.
- A focus on the rights of older caregivers and the children in their households at national, regional and local levels is required.
- Programmatic support for older-headed households should include: making programming more family-centred; social protection measures, including social transfers to support households that are headed by older people; psychosocial support targeted at older carers and at the emotional needs of children living in these households; and education and support for older carers in parenting and communication skills.
- Older carers and children should be involved in designing, implementing and monitoring programmes that concern them. Formal structures and systems should be created for meaningful older-caregiver-and-child participation at national, district and community levels.



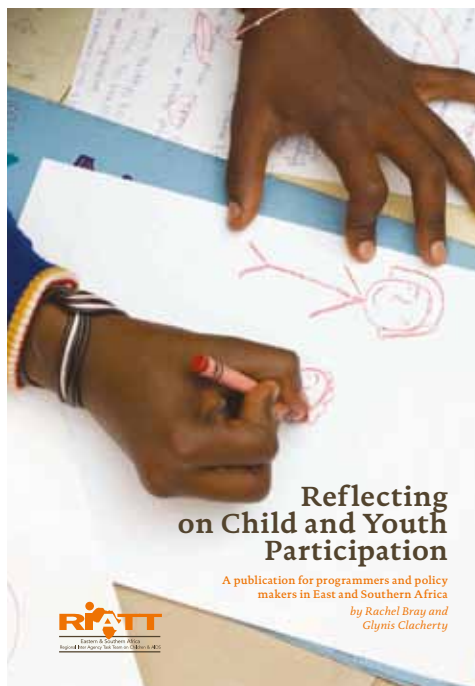
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*We need to
support the
family and the
community to care
for their children*
”

© Antonio Olmos/HelpAge International, 2008

2011 highlights

Listening to children

“ Making decisions about how to improve children’s wellbeing requires listening to children’s opinions and supporting their efforts to participate ”



Evidence-informed advocacy

Following the publication of Child and Youth participation in East and Southern Africa: Taking stock and moving forward – An analytical review of the literature in 2011, a shorter, hard-copy version for advocacy was published. The target groups for this advocacy are policy makers and programmers at the global, regional and national levels.

Recommendations and case studies from this critical review formed the basis of RIATT-ESA's input on child participation in the UN global document, *Taking Evidence to Impact – Making a difference for vulnerable children living in a world with HIV and AIDS*, which was launched at the Global Partners Forum (GPF) on Children Affected by AIDS in June 2011.

A presentation of this critical review was given during the plenary session of the June 2011 GPF, a high-level meeting which brings together senior representatives from international and non-governmental organisations and governments. The goal of the GPF is to build up practical responses to the impact of the AIDS pandemic on children and young people. By taking the opportunity to present on child participation at the GPF, RIATT-ESA further promoted the need to engage children in the decision making that affects them, by adding some valuable regional learning to the discourse.

RIATT-ESA will continue to promote the learning and recommendations emanating from this report. This will include incorporating learning into RIATT-ESA's own child participation planning in future.





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Child and youth participation in East and Southern Africa: Taking stock and moving forward – An analytical review of the literature and five case studies

The intention of the review was to delve beneath the surface of the rhetoric around child and youth participation and to ask some tough questions about what we, as development professionals in our various roles, understand about this topic and how we perceive our own involvement. The study used select case studies to illustrate how children can be involved in addressing issues that affect them.

Five case studies of child participation in the region

- *Child-led research – empowering children through research.* The story of a child-led research project with child carers in a rural village in central Uganda.
- *Children doing advocacy – empowerment through using media.* Growing up in a time of AIDS: The Abaqophi BakwaZisize Abakhanyayo children's radio project in Ingwavuma, South Africa.
- *Children interacting with government processes – empowerment through participation in government.* The Child Parliament in Zambezia Province, Mozambique: An effective agent for change on behalf of children?
- *Social support clubs for children – empowerment through belonging to a club.* What makes children's groups effective? Sustained inter-age group work that empowers the young. A case study of a children's group linked to the Children's Resource Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.
- *Child-led orphan support groups – empowering children affected by HIV/AIDS through child-led organisations.* A case study of a collective of child-led projects, based in the Nshamba area of north-eastern Tanzania.

2011 highlights

Children advocating for themselves

As part of RIATT-ESA's commitment to supporting child participation, a children's photography exhibition was organised at the ICASA 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Children from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Uganda took photos using disposable cameras around the theme, 'What I do for my community and what my community does for me.'

The aim of the exhibition is to give children a stronger voice on World AIDS Day and at large conferences such as ICASA 2011, where discussions about children take place and commitments and decisions that affect them are often made. The theme of the photo exhibition emphasises the importance of community-level action in the care and support for children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. In addition, by giving children the opportunity to show how they also contribute to their communities, the exhibition helps dispel the assumption that African children are powerless victims of the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

Having been launched at ICASA 2011 and online on RIATT-ESA's website, the children's photo exhibition will travel to several other regional and global conferences in 2012, notably the International AIDS Conference in Washington DC, USA. Feedback is gathered at each conference, in order to report back to the children on the reactions and thoughts their photos provoked among those visiting the exhibition.





3



4



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7



10

1 "On the picture is myself and my friend up a hill from school. We come across elephants and hyenas in this area and it is scary. I team up with friends so that we are able to walk through thick bushes to school. We work as a team. We leave home while it is dark and get back home in the dark again." (Photographer: Learnmore, 15, Zimbabwe)

2 "My name is Agent. I was born in a deep rural community known as Ramotshinyadi in Bolobedu near the farms. Our councillor from the government helps our community. We now have electricity in our houses and the people are busy making the road. All we need now is good water supply." (Photographer: Agent, 17, South Africa)

3 "This lady is like a grandmother to me and so I always go and help her water her garden. Sometimes she tells me stories and I always want to go and spend time with her especially when I have problems at home." (Photographer: Simbarashe, 12, Zimbabwe)

4 "The boy on the left is Justice and Learnmore is on the right. Justice had been depressed for some days. We talked to him because we know about peer counselling from UNICA. His father was ill and had gone missing. They are laughing in the picture because they had heard news that Justice's father had been found and was alive." (Photographer: Patience, 15, Zimbabwe)

5 "I am living with my grandfather, his two wives and his brother and his sister. They are very old. My grandfather's eyes are blind. I go to school but I have to do work for money for food. This is my grandfather's sister planting groundnuts. When she is feeling better she helps me." (Photographer: Tony, 17, Uganda)

6 "I took a photograph of my friend Gyagenda cutting his brother's hair. He looks after two brothers and a sick grandfather. He makes bricks and cuts pieces of wood to sell and get money. The money he gets is for buying drugs for his grandfather. His neighbour gives them food and his head teacher helps him." (Photographer: Kasiriye, 12, Uganda)

7 "Here I am giving my sick mother her pills to take with water. I asked my sister to take the photograph to show how I look after my mother." (Photographer: Brenda's sister, 13, Uganda)

8 "Hi, my name is Prince. I live at ga-Ramotshinyadi Village. I teach young people about Scouts. Scouts is good because it teaches you to do things for yourself. That is why I like to teach the other young ones about it. My friend took this photo when I asked him." (Photographer: Simon 15, South Africa)

9 "I took this picture to tell about how Naddamba looks after the young ones. She bathes them and buys books for them, takes them to hospital when they are sick and washes clothes for them. When they are sent away from school she has to sell a hen or a goat to be able to buy a uniform." (Photographer: Lydia, 16, Uganda)

10 "This is Benuka, he is peeling potatoes that he has grown. He told me that farming is very hard work. You dig to plant so that you can get food. You go out with the hoe, you plant potatoes, wait for six months and you eat. You go and dig, you plant beans and wait for three months and eat." (Photographer: Brenda, 15, Uganda)

11 “In this photo one person is missing. It is the big sister who was showing her young sister and brother. She said she was too shy to be on camera. But I took the photo because the young ones are happy to be looked after by their shy sister.” (Photographer: Prince, 16, South Africa)

12 “These ladies help the community. They grow vegetables to support their families. They also donate some to the project that feeds orphans at the village.” (Photographer: Prince, 16, South Africa)

13 “This is my house, my neighbour is not seen clearly but she is giving porridge to my small sister. I look after seven children and a grandmother with a bad leg. My neighbour gives me salt, paraffin and gives food to the young ones until I come back from school.” (Photographer: Olivia, 14, Uganda)

14 “This is my teacher. She teaches us bible knowledge and she likes children. She helps a lot of depressed and abused children in the community. I like her because she likes us.” (Photographer: Nqobani, 16, Zimbabwe)

15 “These are my younger sister and brother. We were so happy to be able to have time to go back to school again after my father had been ill for a long time. He could now walk and do some things for himself.” (Photographer: Patience, 15, Zimbabwe)

16 “These are the friends that work with me. This is the work I do to get money to support the home and to pay my school fees. I have to buy food because our land was sold by relatives when my father died.” (Photographer: Patrick, 16, Uganda)

17 “Every day we can come to the Ramotshinyadi Youth Centre to use the computers. This picture is young children at their first lesson at the computer. We come here to study. It is quiet and the caregivers help with homework. This is a good service to us.” (Photographer: Prince, 16, South Africa)

18 “I love my friends. They help me with homework, we study together even when there is no electricity we use candles. We play soccer at weekends and they support me when I am in problems. They all live in the same community where I live.” (Photographer: Simba, 12, Zimbabwe)

19 “This lady comes every day to help at the Ramotshinyadi Youth Centre. She gives the children food. There are many ladies at the centre who have passion to help the community. Some ladies are caregivers and go every day to help sick people to take their medicines. I took this photo because we are grateful.” (Photographer: Smangile, 12, South Africa)

20 “I asked my friend to take a photograph of me with this boy. Many people say this boy is mad. This makes me angry because I think God does not like it. I play with him so he does not feel lonely and unloved.” (Photographer: Tafadzwa, 14, Zimbabwe)

21 “Nakanya is young but she looks after the family. Her mother is sick. She goes to the neighbour and some relatives for help but gets little from there. Some dodge her and are not straight forward, they have a bad heart.” (Photographer: Robert, 17, Uganda)

22 “I am always committed to develop young people in our community. I help them to play soccer during the week. Playing games helps sad children to feel better.” (Photographer: Agent, 17, South Africa)

23 “On the picture is Kedibone and Thulane. They are happy to get food every day at Ramotshinyadi Youth Centre. The caregivers help Fhatwani, the manager, to give us food every day.” (Photographer: Mapula, 12, South Africa)



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2011 highlights

Getting the money to work



Information sharing and advocacy

In May, a regional workshop was organised in Johannesburg, South Africa, in partnership with World Vision International and UNICEF. The workshop brought together around 30 national level stakeholders, including government, national AIDS committees, INGOs and other national bodies from six countries, Kenya, South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The theme of the workshop was 'Supporting effective aid responses to children affected by AIDS'. Information and learning was shared between countries and it

created an opportunity to advocate on the issues identified by collaborative research undertaken in 2010.

The resulting 2011 workshop report, along with the findings and recommendations from the collaborative research undertaken in 2010, was presented at the Global Partners Forum in June, with a view to promoting further how funds spent on children can be used more effectively.

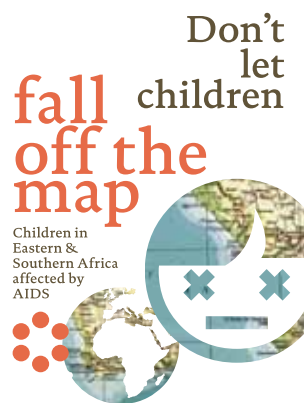
The current crisis in funding, combined with new models and approaches to funding the HIV and AIDS response is embodied by the UNAIDS 2011 guidance document, A New Investment Framework for the Global HIV Response. It requires that regional stakeholders increase their understanding of how resources and services can benefit children affected by AIDS more effectively within this new environment. RIATT-ESA will continue to advocate for changes that ensure that care and support issues feature strongly in these emerging paradigms.

RIATT-ESA 2011 collaborative reports on increasing effectiveness of services and funding

- *Supporting aid-effective responses to children affected by AIDS – Lessons learnt on channelling resources to CBOs.* IATT/RIATT-ESA/RIATT-WCA, 2011
- *The role of civil society in tracking resources for CBOs caring for children affected by HIV.* RIATT-ESA/World Vision International/UNICEF, 2011
- *Regional workshop on supporting effective aid responses to children affected by AIDS Workshop Report, 4th May 2011.* Regional Interagency Task Team on Children and AIDS – Eastern and Southern Africa; World Vision International; AIDSTAR-One USAID; UNICEF 2011

Sharing what we know

*In 2011 RIATT-ESA
launched its new website,
www.riatt-esa.org.*



This dynamic and regularly updated website was developed by the Johns Hopkins University Knowledge for Health (K4H) programme. In conjunction with our new knowledge management partner, SAfAIDS, we are now able to keep our Partners, subscribers and other visitors to the site up to date with RIATT-ESA news and the latest regional information about children and AIDS.

A visit to the site will reveal numerous articles and links to children and AIDS-related news, research, resources and events in the region. There are also opportunities for Partners and

other subscribers to blog and add content to the site. In addition, the site holds its own database of select resources on children and AIDS.

RIATT-ESA also started circulating short, thematic newsletters to its subscribers in 2011. Our launch edition of the newsletter focused on the ICASA 2011 and featured articles and information about community action, the funding crisis and regional progress updates on 'getting to zero' through supporting family-centred initiatives.

2011 highlights

Strength in unity

RIATT-ESA recognises the need to coordinate and link with other child-focused platforms and groups operating globally, regionally and nationally. To this end, RIATT-ESA continued to build and strengthen strategic alliances with a number of regional and global groups in 2011.

Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS

In 2011, RIATT-ESA was elected as a member of the Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS (the Coalition). The Coalition is a collective of private and public foundations and re-granting organisations in the north and south. It works to improve the lives of children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, aided by key technical experts. Coalition project work demonstrates how the intersection between family-centred services, community systems-strengthening in support of children, and social protection for children are the keys to achieving an end to vertical transmission by 2015. The Coalition is already known for its child-focused pre-conference, prior to the biannual International AIDS Conference.

RIATT-ESA is proud to be part of this dynamic coalition. This strategic alliance allows the Coalition, its Partners and RIATT-ESA to work more closely together, in order to coordinate with, strengthen and influence each others' agendas and activities for children affected by AIDS. In 2011, RIATT-ESA worked with the Coalition to coordinate and promote jointly our ICASA 2011 satellite sessions on care and support and the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV to children.

Children and media regional reference group

RIATT-ESA is excited to be part of the children and media reference group initiative because we consider increased, ethical media representation of children to be a key component in advancing children's rights and

providing another avenue through which children can participate in issues regarding their own well-being.

In recognition of the issues that surround ethical reporting on children, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) and REPSSI facilitated the establishment of a Regional Reference Group on Children and the Media in 2011. The membership of the Reference Group is a multisectoral base of organisations with expertise in children and media issues, as well as experts from the education and funding sectors.

The purpose of the Reference Group is to provide regional guidance on child participation and protection matters in relation to media activities, both for media workers and child organisations. The goal of the Reference Group is to have a medium that effectively represents the interests of children in African society and encourages and enhances collaboration between organisations working with children, with the aim of promoting ethical standards for reporting on issues about children.

At the July meeting of the Reference Group, RIATT-ESA committed to participate in this initiative, by building an online resource toolkit around children and the media as part of its information strategy. Looking forward, RIATT-ESA is committed to supporting the ongoing work of the Reference Group, which includes developing a set of guidelines to ensure that children can participate in and be protected by the media.

Keeping children on the agenda

A conference highlight for RIATT-ESA was the ICASA 2011 in December in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and our satellite session on the theme of: Community action for care and support across the life cycle of a child.

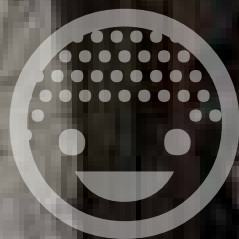


The purpose of the satellite session was to highlight the role of the community, including children, in the response to children and families affected by AIDS.

The satellite session consisted of a keynote address by Dr Chewe Luo of UNICEF, followed by the screening of a film and a panel discussion, with comments from the floor. The discussion stimulated much debate from the floor and provided some strong recommendations in terms of issues to be addressed in order to advance care and support issues for children and AIDS.

The notable progress made in the last few years towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (EMTCT) is laudable and, increasingly, is central to discussions around children and HIV. Supporting satellite sessions and other events that focus on children's care and support and aspects of children's lives that at once link into and go beyond EMTCT, at conferences such as ICASA, is crucial in efforts to ensure that key learning and messages do not slip off the agenda.

RIATT-ESA moving forward



Anticipated 2012 highlights

The momentum generated in 2011 will continue in 2012, with a focus on building onto the progress made in research and advocacy. Further focus will be on rolling out additional advocacy and knowledge-management activities, as part of our ongoing implementation plan. RIATT-ESA looks forward to strengthening existing alliances and partnerships, as well as fostering new partnerships with the collective goal of improving care and support for vulnerable children in the region.



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Evidence-informed advocacy

RIATT-ESA will continue to collaborate with a number of existing research projects in the region.

Vulnerable children's and young people's voices will be heard nationally, regionally and globally on the care and support issues that affect them. For example, regional children's groups will be supported, to contribute to the development of guidelines and policies affecting them. The children's photo exhibition will go global, with planned visits to at least two more regional and global conferences, including the International AIDS Conference.

The conference highlight of 2012 will be the International AIDS Conference in Washington DC in July. RIATT-ESA is planning active participation in this conference, to keep children's care and support strongly on the HIV and AIDS agenda. This will include working to coordinate Partner activities at the conference, running a shared exhibition stand, collaborating with Partners on events and supporting creative child participation.

Knowledge management

In collaboration with its knowledge-management partner, SAfAIDS, RIATT-ESA will be supporting a number of activities, to strengthen the regional knowledge base on care and support for children affected by AIDS. This will include developing our website, reaching out to new Partners and links, using innovative social media, circulating regular newsletters and

leading e-discussion groups for practitioners and youth.

RIATT-ESA will also be prioritising the development of its online resource base and resource "road map". This will make information and literature, including less well known information from the region, more easily accessible to searchers.

Global and regional sets of guidelines and frameworks are often required to be further promoted at the regional and country levels, where they matter most. To this end, RIATT-ESA will focus on repackaging and promoting select guidelines and frameworks, to highlight key messages, and then using its network to disseminate these messages deeper into countries in the region.

Partner and resource mobilisation

Recognising that RIATT-ESA's strength lies in an active and broad membership, and that activities require ongoing funding, RIATT-ESA will also be working to mobilise new Partners and funding as well as strengthen existing partnerships.

There will be a focus on working to ensure that RIATT-ESA can sustain itself in the long term through both external and increasingly, Partner contributions.

Finally, we will be working to ensure that RIATT-ESA continues to respond to and supports the priorities and strategic plans of multi-sectoral organisations operating in the region.

RIATT-ESA expenditure for 2011



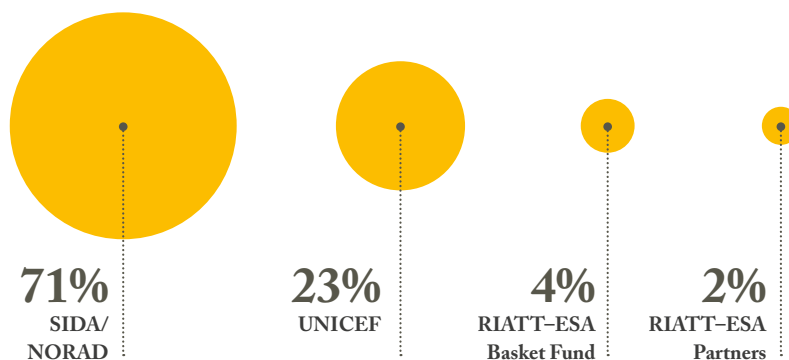
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RIATT-ESA income and expenditure 2011	Euro	US\$
Income¹		
SIDA/NORAD	234 710.00	334 249.50
RIATT-ESA Basket Fund	14 459.00	17 777.81
UNICEF	77 739.00	109 495.95
RIATT-ESA Partners ²	7 117.79	9 964.91
TOTAL	334 025.79	471 488.17
Expenditure		
SIDA/NORAD	92 287.61	119 374.24
RIATT-ESA Basket Fund	14 459.00	17 773.81
UNICEF	77 739.00	109 495.95
RIATT-ESA Partners	7 117.79	9 964.91
Total expenditure	191 603.40	256 608.91
Balance	142 422.39	214 879.26

1. Income indicates funds received in 2011 and those carried over from 2010

2. RIATT-ESA Partner income indicates funds spent by RIATT Partners on collaborative activities with RIATT-ESA

RIATT-ESA income by donor, 2011



RIATT–ESA Steering Committee

Chairperson

Noreen M Huni, Executive Director of the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)

Deputy Chairperson

Rouzeh Eghtassadi, Head of New Business Development and Special Projects of the Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS)

RIATT–ESA Secretariat

Nankali Maksud, Specialist, OVC, Child Protection Section, UNICEF–ESARO

Steering Committee

Eastern Africa National Network of AIDS Organisations (EANNASO)

Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD)

HelpAge International

Hope Worldwide

Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)

Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS)

Save the Children

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

UK Department for International Development (DfID)

UNICEF

World Vision International





RIATT-ESA Partners

RIATT-ESA comprises multi-sectoral Partners with a regional focus. Currently our membership includes UN agencies, bilateral donors, regional and continental civil society organisations (CSOs) and platforms, academic institutions and regional economic clusters.



*The Regional Interagency Task
Team on Children and AIDS
– eastern and southern Africa
(RIATT-ESA)*

*To contact RIATT-ESA please visit
our website on www.riatt-esa.org*

Africa Platform for Social Protection • CSO
African Child Policy Forum • CSO
African Network for Care of Children Affected by HIV and AIDS (ANECCA) • CSO
International HIV/AIDS Alliance • CSO
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) • Bilateral Donor Agency
CARE International • CSO
Centre for the Study of AIDS – University of Pretoria, South Africa • Academic Institute
Children's Institute – University of Cape Town • Academic Institute
Disability HIV and AIDS Trust • CSO
Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO) • CSO
Egmont Trust • Grant-making Trust
Enhancing Children's HIV Outcomes (WITS-ECHO) • Academic Institute
Global Youth Coalition on AIDS • CSO
HEARD, University of KwaZulu Natal • Academic Institute
HelpAge International • CSO
Hope Worldwide • CSO
Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) • Academic Institute
International Federation of the Red Cross • Humanitarian Aid Organisation
International Network for Caregiving Children • Academic Institute
Irish AID • Bilateral Donor Agency
Media in Education Trust Africa (MIET Africa) • CSO
Media Monitoring Africa (MMA) • CSO
Nelson Mandela Children's Fund • CSO
Network of African People Living with HIV and AIDS Southern Africa Region (NAPSAR) • CSO
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) • Bilateral Donor Agency
Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) • CSO
Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods and Food Security (RENEWAL) • CSO
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) • CSO
Restless Development • CSO
Save the Children • CSO
Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS) • CSO
Southern African AIDS Trust (SAT) • CSO
Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) • Regional Economic Cluster
Swedish International Development • Bilateral Donor Agency
Cooperation Agency (SIDA) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) • Bilateral Donor Agency
UNICEF • Multilateral Agency
Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO-RAISA) • CSO
World Vision International • CSO