

# In the Spirit of Hope



## Counselling youth

**AFRICA:** In central Nigeria, YARAC, the Youth, Adolescent, Reflection and Action Centre, based in Jos, promotes HIV and AIDS awareness. YARAC stresses health, civic education and self-discipline. They use soccer as a way to emphasize teamwork, respect, integrity, and hard work.

WOMEN FOR CHANGE in Zambia reaches rural communities, instructing over 161 community HIV/AIDS trainers, 81 women and 80 men. Three-member teams hold community workshops where people speak openly about AIDS, reducing prejudice and the stigma of the disease.

## Building self-esteem

**LATIN AMERICA:** In Brazil, CEDAP is a community group working in Campinas, a large city northwest of Sao Paulo. Poverty and social tension run high especially among young people faced with insecurity, unemployment and crime.

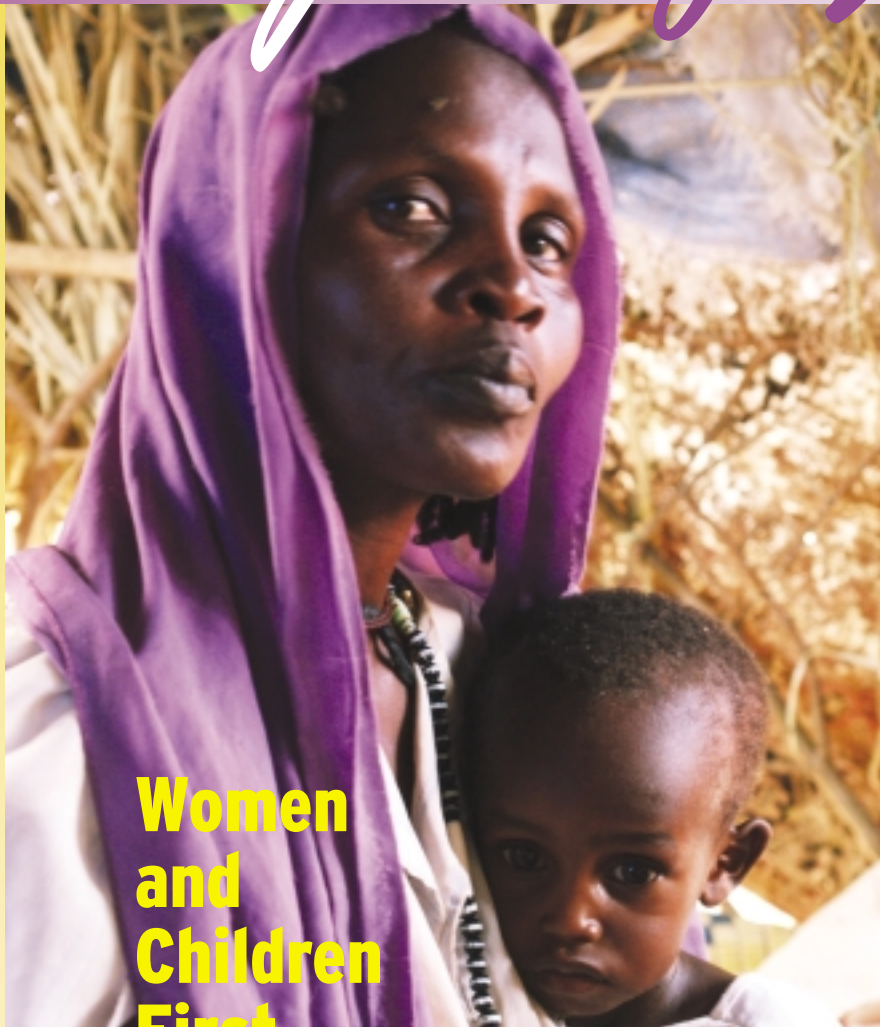
CEDAP works in the poorest areas to reduce and prevent AIDS, creating spaces through their "Speaking to the Gang" program. Here young people can reflect on their situation, share concerns and solutions to problems, build self-esteem and promote involvement in their community. CEDAP also supports youth workers in taking action to confront the AIDS pandemic.

## Working with communities

**ASIA:** DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE is helping in Cambodia which has Asia's highest HIV infection rate. The number of people dying from AIDS is rising, leaving thousands of orphans and social problems.



In Cambodia, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE supports a program that helps people fight against the AIDS pandemic through community education, training and HIV-awareness.



## Women and Children First

**A child under 15 becomes infected with HIV every minute of every day, usually transmitted by an HIV-infected mother. Of the more than 5 million infected children, 90% were born in Africa. About 43% of all children under 15 living with HIV are in southern Africa. There were some 12 million orphans living in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005.**

**In 2005, there were an estimated 13.2 million women or 59% of adults living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. An HIV-positive pregnant woman can pass the virus to her baby in the womb, during childbirth or through breastfeeding. The risk is reduced if mother and baby receive anti-retroviral drugs, but few have access to them.**

Source: UNAIDS

HACC, the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee, in Phnom Penh is reducing the HIV infection rate by providing care and support to people living with HIV and AIDS, while alleviating the social and economic impact on families and communities.

HACC also links all organizations in the country involved in the national response to HIV and AIDS. Under its umbrella, people's organizations, health workers, and village volunteers provide care, support and counselling.



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## Taking Action on AIDS

### Church Leaders Propose Six-Point Plan

In Canada, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE together with other churches is hosting an Ecumenical Pre-Conference, **Faith in Action: Keeping the Promise**, from August 10-12, 2006. Participants from around the world will evaluate actions taken on HIV and AIDS and plan for future strategies needed for a Christian response to HIV and AIDS.

As Canada plays host to the Sixteenth International AIDS Conference from August 13-18 in Toronto, leaders of Canada's Christian churches, including the Catholic Bishops, sent a letter in May to the Prime Minister expressing grave concern about the mounting human cost of the global AIDS pandemic and what Canada must do to confront it.

### The leaders urged the Prime Minister to:

- lead a multi-lateral initiative to cancel 100% of the debt owed by countries with HIV rates above the world average of 1.1% of their adult population.
- untie debt remission from IMF / World Bank conditions on forced privatization of health care services, limits on hiring of health care workers and user fees for public services.
- make its contribution of 5% of the funds needed by the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and set a timetable for increasing Canada's Official Development Assistance to 0.7% of Gross National Income by 2015.
- amend pharmaceutical laws to remove disincentives for exporting less expensive medicines to countries without pharmaceutical production capabilities.
- give priority to women and children in all efforts to address HIV and AIDS, and to address the fundamental gender and age inequalities that fuel the pandemic.
- ensure adequate health care for all people in Canada with HIV including immigrants and refugees.