

7 MAY  **WORLD AIDS ORPHANS DAY**
INITIATED BY FXB

6th WORLD AIDS ORPHANS' DAY

MAY 7, 2007



PHOTOS: GEOFF OLIVER BUGBEE, CHRYSsa PANOUSsiADou, ALAIN WICHT POUR FxB INTERNATIONAL

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Every 15 seconds, a child loses a parent to AIDS.

There are 15 million AIDS orphans, at latest count.

In 2010, FXB estimates that there will be at least 100 million orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV and AIDS.

FXB has therefore created a worldwide solidarity network to protect these vulnerable and underprivileged children.

Stigmatized, facing profound financial and emotional despair, AIDS orphans have no means of making themselves heard.

Every May 7, FXB gives a voice to these millions of voiceless through a worldwide solidarity and awareness-raising day:

The World AIDS Orphans' Day (WAOD).

The World AIDS Orphans' Day: WHY?

1. To focus public and media attention on the distress of these vulnerable children and the consequences of their social and economic exclusion.

FXB would like to invite the media to support this worldwide coalition of solidarity, and the youth to participate in the WAOD campaign through various events. The WAOD includes actions in France, Switzerland and throughout the world.

2. To lobby governments to consider these vulnerable children as a priority and ensure that urgent measures are taken to reintegrate them back into their society.

FXB calls for the mobilization of Mayors and Politically Elected Leaders. To date, 664 Mayors and Elected Officials from 40 countries have signed the WAOD Proclamation, symbolically engaging their constituencies to the path of respecting the rights of these vulnerable children. It is assumed that the alliance of the largest number of cities is sufficient to put pressure on governments to influence them into respecting and implementing the international rights of the child.

Help us help them! Join the "I Raise My Voice" campaign: www.7may.org

Children of AIDS, social exclusion

Countries severely touched by AIDS are, owing to their poverty, the most vulnerable towards the pandemic. When orphans no longer have parents, when their neighbors and families do not have the means to take care of them and when the villages find themselves in deep poverty, destitution and disease, they face the risk of finding themselves without shelter, stigmatized and exposed to disease as well as to all forms of violence and exploitation. FXB brings a global response to allow these populations to pull themselves out of poverty.

Getting the community involved

The objective of the nongovernmental organization FXB International, is to build a future for AIDS orphans by reintegrating them into society. FXB helps children vulnerable to AIDS to build themselves a place within their society through community-based and sustainable development programs. These improve the living conditions of the communities which, little by little, attain social and economic autonomy, and are able to take charge of their own lives and raise the orphans.

FXB supports children in their own village by offering them schooling and providing them with nutritional, medical, and psychosocial support to the families that take care of them. This strategy is embedded into the logic of the kind of support and aid which is culturally individualized, adapted to the each community, and is sustainable.

Marie's Story



Marie is a young 21-year-old woman. Her dream was to become a journalist. At the age of 15, with both of her parents deceased, she became the “tutor” of her three brothers: François, who was nine at the time, Pierre, six, and Emmanuel, who had just turned three.

All four of them live in Gikondo, one of the many poor neighborhoods in the Rwandan capital. Marie's life was turned upside down the day her mother died. AIDS had already taken away her father, leaving the burden of survival to rest on the frail shoulders of her mother, who was already extremely weakened by the same disease. With neither financial resources, support nor protection, Marie assumed the role of head of the family, going through great lengths to ensure her siblings' survival.

They inevitably fell below the poverty line, into the deepest destitution. Marie and her brothers were then incorporated into one of the FXB Model Villages in Kigali. Thanks to Marie's desire to develop an income-generating activity, which involved selling food products door-to-door, she is now economically and socially independent. She manages her business with skill and diligently attends the meetings organized by FXB, to ensure the sustainability of her project. Her brothers receive normal schooling and the entire family benefits from regular psychosocial and medical support.



YESTERDAY A SMALL STEP, TODAY A WORLDWIDE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT

WAOD 2002 – the launch in New York City

On May 7, 2002, in New York City, alongside the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, Albina du Boisrouvray organized a protest march against the negligence of AIDS orphans and handed over a petition with 2 million signatures to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who joined the cause. New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller declared the day to be “World AIDS Orphans’ Day”.

WAOD 2003 – the first 20 cities

Mayors of 20 cities signed the May 7 Proclamation, and high school students from the Bronx, New York, launched the youth movement by producing a giant fresco about AIDS orphans. FXB Brazil and other national NGOs began to actively lobby to change national laws on generic drugs; this action would be crowned with success the following May 7.

WAOD 2004 – a worldwide event

This 3rd event aimed at encouraging governments, the UN, donors and companies, to give priority to the millions of orphans and vulnerable children living with HIV and AIDS.

WAOD 2005 – political pressure

160 mayors and municipalities around the world supported this day, which for the first time in France, was placed under the patronage of Mr. Christian Poncelet, President of the Senate. This year was also marked by WAOD’s influence on public policies related to children’s rights and more particularly via the call launched at the G8 by FXB and other civil society activists to abolish schooling fees in countries in transition.

WAOD 2006 – the spread of the movement and youth mobilization

Last year was particularly marked by the mobilization of young people and children. Thousands of children around the world initiated Circles of Hope to support FXB’s Call to Action and reminded governments of the goals they had set in 2001 when they signed the United Nations’ Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

WAOD 2007

May 7 is marked by sensitization actions among the population, particularly among the youth and governments. It will also include such events as concerts, seminars, the release of balloons, exhibitions, etc.

The lists of events taking place worldwide, are available under the section
“Events 2007” under www.7may.org

THE ACTIVITIES OF FXB INTERNATIONAL

The association carries the name of François-Xavier Bagnoud, a helicopter pilot specialized in rescue operations, who dedicated his life to providing assistance to others. He lost his life at the age of 24 years during a helicopter-borne mission in Mali. In 1989, his mother Albina du Boisrouvray, his family and their friends founded the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) in order to pursue, in the field of development, the rescue missions that he led and perpetuate the values of generosity and compassion that guided his life.

FXB activities include:

- Reintegration of AIDS orphans within foster families
- FXB Homes for vulnerable children and orphans
- Development of income-generating activities
- HIV prevention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Medical care and access to antiretroviral therapy
- Nutritional support
- Access to schooling and vocational training
- Psychosocial support
- Training through savings and micro-credit
- Legal support and the protection of children's rights
- Construction of houses and the relocation of vulnerable families
- Construction and renovation of schools
- Water, sanitation and environmental management
- Palliative care

The mission of FXB is to fight poverty and AIDS, and to support orphans and vulnerable children left in the wake of the AIDS pandemic, by offering comprehensive support to the families and communities that care for them and by fighting for their basic rights.

Active in 18 countries, FXB runs 87 programs and 21 FXB Village Model Programs. The NGO has up to 400 field staff, including volunteers.

The strategies drawn up by FXB depend on the social, cultural, economic and political conditions of the regions in which the programs are implemented.

All FXB programs aim to reduce the consequences of HIV and AIDS in societies in general and on vulnerable children in particular.

FXB Village Model Programs help communities to become autonomous and able to take care of AIDS orphans. Each Village Model is a comprehensive service that, over a three-year period, provides socioeconomic self-sufficiency to over 80-100 families.

The FXB Village Model Program has been developed and perfected over the years, particularly thanks to an ongoing dialogue with the various stakeholders in the field, starting with the communities themselves.



QUOTES

« Votre action contribue indéniablement à soulager les souffrances de milliers de victimes innocentes frappées par les conséquences de l'extension de la pandémie du SIDA. »

Micheline Calmy-Rey, Conseillère Fédérale et Présidente de la Suisse en 2007

« On n'est pas orphelin d'avoir perdu père et mère mais d'avoir perdu l'espoir. »

Christian Poncelet, Président du Sénat en France

« Des pouvoirs locaux unis pour régler les grandes questions du monde. »

Jean-Marie Bockel, Sénateur du Haut-Rhin

“All children, no matter where they live, have the right to education and a safe and secure environment in which to grow. The FXB Villages help children orphaned and affected by AIDS, and their guardian families, to enjoy these rights.”

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

“Albina has been a strong advocate of children orphaned by AIDS since the early days of the pandemic, at a time when few people had the understanding, courage and determination to make their voices heard.”

Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

“FXB’s well-established model of poverty alleviation and supporting AIDS orphans in Rwanda and Uganda is a grassroots solution that turns despair into hope.”

Stephen Lewis, United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Africa

« FXB est une organisation généreuse, durable et efficace, un levier extraordinaire pour faire reculer tous les problèmes. »

Matthieu Zeller, Directeur général de Kiehl's

« FXB est une association dans laquelle on se reconnaît, le 7 mai on sera là ! »

Extrait du message des Yamakasi

« Seuls, nous ne pouvons rien. Tous ensemble dans le même engagement, nous pouvons tout. »

Albina du Boisrouvray, Fondatrice et Présidente, FXB International