

CABA Working Group Netherlands



CABA **Working Group**



Children affected by HIV and AIDS

Worldwide, it is estimated that more than 15 million children under 18 have been orphaned as a result of AIDS. Around 11.6 million of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Apart from orphaning children, the pandemic has left many millions of other children in a highly vulnerable position. They are living in households with aids-affected family members. Their rights and well-being are compromised, jeopardizing the overall prospects of the countries they live in.

Traditional systems of taking care of children who lose their parents, for whatever reason, have been in place throughout the world, and especially in sub-Saharan Africa for generations. But HIV and AIDS are eroding such practices by creating larger numbers of orphans than have ever been known before. The demand for care and support is simply overwhelming in many areas. HIV reduces the caring capacity of families and communities by deepening poverty, through medical and funeral costs as well as the loss of labour. Studies in sub-Saharan Africa have repeatedly demonstrated that growing up in a family environment is more beneficial to a child than institutional care, which should be considered as a last resort and should only be temporary.

The community needs to be supportive of children when they are orphaned or in other ways vulnerable, making sure that they are accepted and have access to essential services, such as health care and education. This means improving existing services and reducing the stigma surrounding children affected by AIDS so that they do not face discrimination when trying to access these services.

CABA Working Group

The Children Affected by AIDS (CABA) Working Group is an informal network of organisations and individuals in the Netherlands that have a commitment towards CABA.

Vision

All boys and girls affected and infected by HIV and AIDS in all parts of the world must grow up in an enabling and safe environment, addressing their physical, psychosocial and socio-economic needs without discrimination and stigma.

Mission

The CABA Working Group (WG) aims to contribute to the development of a collective, coherent and multifaceted response to the CABA crisis. In order to contribute to the respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of CABA, the Working Group aims to increase the quality, speed and scale of right-based responses of the Dutch government and development agencies.

Objectives

1. **Increase knowledge** of relevant stakeholders of the magnitude and nature of the CABA crisis, including the rights of children that are violated.
2. **Increase awareness** among all relevant policy makers, Dutch development actors and the general public on the CABA crisis.
3. **Mainstreaming of CABA** by Dutch development agencies and government in their policies and programming.
4. **Increase scale, efficiency and effectivity** of targeted CABA interventions of the member organisations in collaboration with others.
5. **Mobilisation of resources** available for addressing the CABA crisis.

Target groups

The CABA WG works with/through/for:

- The member organisations and other relevant development agencies in the Netherlands
- Their respective counterparts and civil society in the South
- Policy makers at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The general public
- The ultimate target group is:
- Children affected and infected by HIV and AIDS in developing countries

Strategies and activities

- Advocacy and lobby to get CABA-related issues on the Dutch political agenda
- Increase and exchange of expertise and knowledge of relevant stakeholders on issues concerning CABA by annual expert meetings and frequent workshops.
- Collaboration with other relevant national and international networks to access and exchange (new) knowledge and expertise and jointly lobby.
- The CABA WG links expertise worldwide on CABA with available expertise in the Netherlands.

The CABA Working Group Action Agenda¹:

- Children should be supported through their families
- Institutional care can only be considered as a last resort and should be temporary
- Community Action that backstops families needs to be strengthened
- Family poverty needs to be addressed through Social Protection
- Children's needs should be met by integrated, family-centred services

Member organisations

STOP AIDS NOW!

www.stopaidsnow.org

International Child Support (ICS)

www.ics.nl

PLAN NL

www.plannederland.nl

UNICEF NL

www.unicef.nl

Save the Children NL

www.savethechildren.nl

Bernard van Leer Foundation

www.bernardvanleer.org

World Vision NL

www.worldvision.nl

Wereldkinderen

www.wereldkinderen.nl

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs -
Department for Social Development –
Health and AIDS Division

www.minbuza.nl

PRISMA

www.prismaweb.org

¹ Based on the New Action Agenda of the Joint Learning Initiative on Children and HIV/AIDS (JLICA); www.jlica.org