Country examples

Preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)

- **Botswana**, a country with a strong health-care system, has effectively integrated services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and for maternal, newborn and child health. Its coverage of antiretroviral prophylaxis for PMTCT is now the highest in Africa. In 2006, Botswana reported that only 7 per cent of infants born to HIV-positive mothers became infected with HIV, compared to 35–40 per cent before the PMTCT programme began.

- **In Jamaica**, nurses have successfully been trained to raise community awareness about PMTCT and encourage people to use PMTCT services.

- **In Kenya**, the non-governmental organisation Women Fighting AIDS in Kenya launched the Male Plus PMTCT Champions project, recruiting 12 people living with HIV who were especially gifted at counselling and community mobilization for work in selected antenatal clinics and villages in the Mombasa and Kisumu districts. The ‘Champions’ held discussion groups, counselling sessions for individuals and couples, and rallies and meetings to raise awareness about PMTCT, with remarkable results. Attendance at antenatal clinics soared, and 98 per cent of programme attendees agreed to be tested for their HIV status.

Paediatric care and treatment

- **In South Africa**, mortality was reduced by 75 per cent in HIV-positive infants who were treated before they reached 12 weeks of age.

- **In Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**, the mother’s HIV status is documented on a child card as a way of informing health workers of HIV infection so that the necessary care and support are given.

- **In Uganda**, The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO) recognizes that the easiest and cheapest way to deliver care is to bring it to people’s homes. With support from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, TASO employs community health workers with motorbikes to deliver AIDS treatment along with a range of other outpatient and preventive health services, including mosquito nets, clean-water tablets, tuberculosis treatment and the antibiotic cotrimoxazole as preventive treatment.

- **Cambodia’s** national system for paediatric HIV services provides HIV care and treatment to around 70 per cent of children in need. The National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and Sexually Transmitted Diseases coordinates a network of 150 HIV-testing facilities for children above the age of 18 months. Treatment is provided to children in need, with antiretroviral drugs and cotrimoxazole procured at prices negotiated by the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative.

Preventing infection among adolescents and young people

- **In Latin America and the Caribbean**, MTV has been working with UNICEF to produce ‘Sexpress Yourself’, a one-hour special in which young people talk openly and honestly about sex, sexuality, gender roles and HIV.
• In Namibia, an extracurricular life skills-based intervention initiated in 1997 has trained more than 170,000 adolescents through a programme that is peer-led and focuses on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention.

• In Uzbekistan, under a UNICEF-supported programme for integrated health services provided within existing primary care clinics, staff are trained to care for adolescents and protect their confidentiality. The programme is the first in the country to link outreach services with clinics in order to reach adolescents most at risk of HIV infection.

• Since 2000, the Islamic Republic of Iran has had nationwide Counselling Centres for Behavioural Diseases to reduce the level of risk among injecting drug users. In 2005, the Ministry of Health opened adolescent-friendly service centres in seven cities where former drug users, young men having sex with men and especially vulnerable adolescents are trained as peer educators to talk to young people about HIV risks.

• In India, focused peer outreach programmes, youth-friendly health services and communication activities in 43 high-prevalence districts are helping to reach adolescents, young people and especially girls at high risk.

Protecting and supporting children affected by AIDS

• In Zambia, a pilot cash transfer scheme which identifies extremely poor, AIDS-affected households and provides them with a monthly stipend has led to an increase in food consumption and a decline in the incidence of illness among children and adults.

• Swaziland has 665 neighbourhood care points providing basic services like food, social support and a safe place to play to 30,000 vulnerable children throughout the country. These organizations identify and refer children who are out of school, in poor health or victims of abuse.

• A pilot programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo assisted about 50,000 orphans and vulnerable children in 2006. It uses a pre-existing network of volunteers to identify children to be integrated into primary schools and provided with health services – at no cost to their parents.