



Grandmother and grandchildren orphaned by AIDS in South Africa

**Hello!** Welcome to the newsletter of international HIV and AIDS charity AVERT. Over the last six months, AVERT has been putting an emphasis on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, or PMTCT. One aspect of this emphasis is the campaign we have launched.

## THE AVERT STOP AIDS IN CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

Every year, around half a million babies become infected with HIV during pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding. Mother-to-child transmission of HIV can be prevented with just a few simple drugs given to both a mother and her baby, yet worldwide, less than 10% of women have access to this vital intervention. At AVERT, we think this is totally unacceptable, so earlier this year, we launched the Stop AIDS in Children campaign to encourage all those who have the power to improve services for pregnant women with HIV to take action. If you'd like to add your voice to the campaign, find out how you can help, or learn more about mother-to-child transmission, please visit:

[www.avert.org/stop-aids-children.php](http://www.avert.org/stop-aids-children.php)



## AVERT'S

### PMTCT WORK

AVERT has also started funding treatment for pregnant women with HIV in Manguzi hospital, South Africa. This project not only allows HIV positive pregnant women access to treatment that cuts the likelihood of transmission of HIV to their child to around 2%, but also serves an important role in advocacy, as it shows the practicality of providing these drugs in very rural areas, and thus it could have a positive impact on future legislation. To learn more about this project, or any of AVERT's projects, visit:

[www.avert.org/aids-projects.htm](http://www.avert.org/aids-projects.htm)

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS !

AVERT has seen some great fundraising over the last six months. Here are some of the people who have helped us.

**KATE POMPHREY** spent a year as “May Monarch” at Roehampton University, and over the course of the year raised over £3000 for AVERT. Our sincere thanks to Kate, and to everyone who contributed to her fundraising.

**MATT and SARAH HALL** celebrated their wedding in July, and took that opportunity to support AVERT, by asking for donations to AVERT as gifts. They managed to raise over £700, a sum that will be of great help for our HIV and AIDS work. Congratulations, and a massive thanks to you both!

**TRACY and JODIE ALLAN** were prevented from doing the Windsor half marathon by an outbreak of foot and mouth, but persevered gallantly to run the Clapham 10km race on the 29th October. You can still support their run by going to [www.justgiving.com/tracyandjodie](http://www.justgiving.com/tracyandjodie).

A huge thank you to all our supporters, without you our work would be nowhere near what it is today. We hope that all our readers can help us in the future!

## ABOUT AVERT

AVERT is a small, UK based, international AIDS charity, working to AVERT HIV and AIDS worldwide.

We fund projects in countries with a particularly high rate of HIV infection or a particularly increasing rate of infection. Our aim is to prevent HIV transmission and to improve the lives of those who are HIV positive or seriously affected by HIV, through education, care and research.

Currently, we have projects in South Africa, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique and India, as well as operating our informative website, [www.avert.org](http://www.avert.org). We have a permanent staff of 8 and a small office in Horsham, West Sussex. Our running costs are kept to a minimum, and they are already covered, so 100% of all donations goes straight towards our HIV and AIDS work. We rely on your support to continue and develop our lifesaving work, so please help us! To find out more about our projects, go to [www.avert.org/aids-projects.htm](http://www.avert.org/aids-projects.htm)



AVERT staff ( I'm Alex, the one with the red hair )

# AVERT's

## PROJECTS

Sisonke is a project in rural South Africa that AVERT has been funding for several years now. It's extremely successful and has already benefited thousands of people with HIV or severely affected by HIV. It is still growing, providing education and care for HIV positive people and for many, many children affected by HIV and AIDS, with the provision of food, community supervision and help in attending school.

AVERT has been funding an HIV and AIDS education project in Sangli, India. Several years ago the Sangli hospital basement was flooded beyond repair, leaving no space for the provision of HIV testing, counselling and treatment. AVERT has been funding the building of an antiretroviral clinic, a place for people to receive testing and treatment for HIV and AIDS. This clinic has now been completed!

To find out more about these projects and AVERT's other projects,

go to [www.avert.org/aids-projects.htm](http://www.avert.org/aids-projects.htm)



*Community action feeding the AIDS orphans at the Sisonke project, South Africa.*



*Completed antiretroviral clinic, Sangli.*



The [avert.org](http://www.avert.org) website, providing comprehensive information about HIV and AIDS, goes from strength to strength. During August and September our pages were accessed around 80,000 times per day – up by 50% since the same time last year. According to all available statistics we have the most popular AIDS-related website on the Internet.

But we're not stopping there! AVERT staff are working tirelessly to make the site even better by writing new pages and updating old ones. Recent additions include articles about AIDS in Asia, AIDS in Swaziland, and HIV and men who have sex with men.

Due soon is a new-look quizzes section, with a fresh design and lots more questions. We're also working on articles tackling topics as diverse as AIDS treatment in America, palliative care and bogus "AIDS cures". And work continues to expand our online photo library, which now contains nearly one thousand AIDS-related pictures from around the world.



AVERT.org  
World AIDS Day 2005  
in London

# HELPING

# AVERT,

# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

We rely on donors to keep our projects running, to develop them, and to fund more, so we need donations! Our running costs are already met, so 100% of your donation will go directly towards our HIV and AIDS work. With your help we can really make a difference in fighting against the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Fundraising can be a great motivator to do something you may have always wanted to do, like parachuting, or something that everyone else has wanted you to do, like cutting off your hair or stopping smoking, or just a good reason to bake a lot of cakes.

You can contact me (Alex) on 01403 210202, or at [info@avert.org](mailto:info@avert.org), and I can provide you with help, collection tins, badges and t-shirts.



Dan raised over £500 for AVERT by having a sponsored haircut, losing his five year old dreadlocks for charity.

The quickest and most direct way to help AVERT is by donating. You can donate securely online at [www.avert.org/donate](http://www.avert.org/donate), or you can cut out the form below and it with a cheque to:

**4 Brighton Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 5BA, UK**



*If you are a U.K. tax payer and if you also complete and return this form to us, the government will add 28p to every £1 you donate.*



Name :

Make a donation by post  
Send a cheque or postal order to:

Address :

**AVERT**  
**4 Brighton Road, Horsham**  
**West Sussex RH13 5BA**

Email :

I am a U.K tax payer and would like AVERT to claim back the tax on my donations until further notice. Please tick, sign opposite and fill in your address.

Signature & Date :

*( To qualify for gift aid you must pay enough income or capital gains tax in the financial year to cover the amount we will reclaim on your gift )*

Reg. charity no: 1074849