



Foreword from Egmont's CEO

By 2020, UNAIDS aims to have 90% of people living with HIV diagnosed; 90% of those diagnosed started on anti-retroviral treatment; and 90% of those receiving treatment achieving suppressed viral loads, greatly reducing their infectivity.

This is certainly an ambitious goal. Currently only 59% of those living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa know their status, with less than half of them receiving treatment, and only 38% have achieved undetectable, suppressed levels of HIV. UNAIDS estimates that the scale-up in testing, drug manufacturing and treatment delivery required to reach these targets will cost \$51 billion over the next three years. However, reaching these 90-90-90 targets could halt the epidemic and finally mark the beginning of a decline in the number of people living with HIV in Africa.

Ending the epidemic, though, is only half of the story. It will not undo the effects AIDS has had on societies, communities and families over the past 30 years. Current figures show that, across sub-Saharan Africa, there are 11 million children under the age of 17 who have lost one or both parents to the epidemic. These children are often dependent upon impoverished families, grandparents and relations who struggle to cope. And, with around 800,000 people still dying of AIDS across sub-Saharan Africa annually, many more thousands of children will lose their parents before these targets are achieved.

In the current challenging funding environment, it is important these children are not forgotten. Egmont has now worked with over 85 partner organisations, carefully selected for their ability to bring about tangible improvements in the lives of children affected by HIV & AIDS with their cost-effective, high-impact projects. Since 2005, Egmont's strategy has been to target investment into each of these organisations – be they small community groups or larger established players operating across multiple sites – to achieve the greatest impact from the funds invested.

Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Egmont operates a portfolio approach to our investments, enabling risk to be spread and top performers recognised. For a number of years, organisations have either been supported with a Core Grant of up to £26,000 per annum or a smaller Innovation Grant of up to £15,000 per annum. This grant structure enables organisations, large and small, to be supported, with each one rigorously and regularly assessed to ensure that they are realising consistent results that meet or exceed their project targets. This year, Egmont has also introduced a new grant level – available by invitation only – for a small number of exemplary partner organisations in our portfolio. This Strategic Grant, of up to £75,000, is for the winners in our portfolio, organisations delivering the most bang for buck in terms of improving the lives of children affected by HIV & AIDS. This more substantial grant will enable our partners to scale up highly effective projects, expanding them into new communities and reaching more people, while enabling more efficient project delivery through economies of scale.

The next few pages detail three different projects that demonstrate the range of work enabled by Egmont's three-tier grant structure.

It is thanks to our donors' continued generosity that we are able to develop our grants programme and increase support to outstanding projects in this way. On behalf of the children and families whose lives will improve as a result, our heartfelt thanks.



Colin Williams
CEO

Egmont's portfolio

Egmont is currently supporting 43 projects across three different grant levels, broken down as follows



8 Innovation Grants

→ Up to £15,000 per annum
→ 1 year duration



33 Core Grants

→ Up to £26,000 per annum
→ 1-2 year duration



2 Strategic Grants

→ Up to £75,000 per annum
→ 3 year duration

Innovation Grant

Youth Advocates Zimbabwe

Thirteen years ago, when he was just 17 years old, Tatenda Songore's friend was diagnosed with HIV. Living in Chitungwisa, about 30 kilometres south-east of Harare, Tatenda watched his friend struggle with the disease with little support. Unfortunately, treatment for HIV was not widely available at the time, and Tatenda's friend eventually died of AIDS. The loss of his friend inspired Tatenda to start a school club – called Youth Advocates Zimbabwe – to teach other young people about the disease, the importance of testing and how to live positively with HIV. Over the years, led by Tatenda, YAZ has grown into an impressive organisation.



At 14.7%, Zimbabwe has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. Traditional approaches have had some success in reducing infections amongst people older than 15, with prevalence rates seeing a 12% reduction over a two-year period. However, over the same timeframe, the prevalence rate amongst children under the age of 15 dropped by only half this amount. Egmont is supporting YAZ to deliver a different, novel approach in order to reach these young people with information on HIV.

With mobile phones and social media ubiquitous across Africa, YAZ is taking advantage of adolescents' readiness to engage across these media to reach the under-15 demographic. YAZ has set up a Helpline, manned by trained personnel, which they are promoting through a combination of Facebook, WhatsApp and SMS campaigns, as well as on-the-ground visits to schools, clubs and churches. The Helpline offers young people individual counselling, advice, information and referral to HIV services – all confidentially and from the safety of the young person's home.

Egmont awarded YAZ an Innovation Grant in late 2016 to pilot this new approach with a target of reaching 5,000 young people with information on HIV & AIDS. Crucially, the HIV Helpline also aims to drive

young people who suspect that they may be HIV+ to get tested and receive treatment if they are positive. Just six months into the project, over 7,000 young people have already engaged with the social media campaigns and over 1,600 young people have signed up to receive regular messages on sexual health and HIV.

Core Grant

Kenya Poverty Elimination Network Kenya

Egmont partner KPEN is based in Homa Bay county, Western Kenya, where almost a third of the population is HIV+. The large number of people dying from AIDS has created a generational divide, with many parents and caregivers succumbing to opportunistic infections. As a result, over 75% of people living in Homa Bay are under the age of 15. And over 60,000 households – often headed by a grandmother – are caring for an orphan or multiple vulnerable children. Providing food, schooling and treatment for these children is a constant challenge.

Egmont has supported KPEN since 2006, enabling them to work with over 700 grandparent- and female-headed households. Their approach is simple. Children are supported into education through payment of school fees, uniforms and other school essentials, giving them the chance to complete their studies and gain the skills required to secure employment and break the cycle of poverty. Grandparents are trained in how to grow low-input nutritious vegetables and supported into income-generating initiatives to enable them to adequately meet the needs of the children in their care.



Income-generating activities include bee-keeping, goat-rearing and small-scale agriculture, all of which have minimal labour requirements. KPEN have also trained 180 young people in in-demand vocations such as motorcycle maintenance, tailoring, carpentry, welding and hair & beauty care.

Due to the increase in nutritious food that families are consuming, KPEN report the number of beneficiaries needing referral to local health centres has decreased by 65% over the last year. Over the same period, the sale of 43 goats enabled the purchase of school uniforms and payment of school fees for 120 vulnerable children. Families were also able to sell honey, goat milk and vegetables, increasing household income. The introduction of a savings and lending scheme allowed grandparents and caregivers to expand their businesses. Over 100 members have seen their incomes improve enough to replace the grass roofs on their houses with iron sheets, and all report that they are now able to adequately feed the children in their care.

Strategic Grant

Life Concern Malawi

Unicef reports that one in five young girls in Malawi experiences at least one incident of sexual abuse prior to the age of 18. In areas of high HIV prevalence, like Rumphi District, this abuse not only causes physical, emotional and psychological damage, but also has the added risk of HIV infection.

Many victims do not feel that they can come forward after their abuse, leaving them without medical or emotional support. Modern treatments for HIV can stop the infection from gaining a hold in the immune system, even after exposure. However, these Post-Exposure Prophylaxes (PEP) are most effective in the first 24 hours after sexual contact and almost completely lose efficacy after 72 hours post-contact.

Last year, Egmont supported a one-year pilot project called Edu-Toy, run by established Egmont partner LICO. The project worked with 44 schools, training teachers in delivering a programme using soft toys, drama and fictional situations to help educate young girls about child sexual abuse and create a caring and understanding environment for abuse victims to come forward. Qualified counsellors provided support to children who had been abused, enabling them to be quickly identified.



Some children were even able to be treated within the 24-hour window, reducing the likelihood of HIV infection.

Over this one-year period, 520 cases of abuse were identified, with victims able to receive counselling, and 67 received PEP treatment, greatly reducing their chances of contracting HIV. LICO also developed contacts with 40 local police officers, magistrates and social welfare staff, which led to the prosecution of 46 perpetrators of sexual abuse. These cases were highly publicised in the local community and LICO used this opportunity to conduct campaigns focusing on the importance of child protection, reaching an estimated 17,000 people.

The results of the project – and indeed the high numbers of children affected by abuse – have convinced LICO and Egmont of the need to scale up Edu-Toy to reach more children across the region.

LICO's new Strategic Grant will enable them to work with 500 schools across the Rumphi and Mzimba North districts, providing emotional and medical support to many more children affected by sexual abuse, bringing perpetrators to justice and working to transform attitudes throughout the region.

News & Updates



The Egmont US Foundation

We are delighted to announce that The Egmont US Foundation has been granted tax exempt status under Section 501(c)3 of the US Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to the Egmont US Foundation are now tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Egmont US Foundation is governed by an independent Board of Directors (who volunteer their time and receive no compensation or reimbursement) and shares the Egmont Trust's mission to alleviate the impact of HIV & AIDS on children in sub-Saharan Africa.

All administrative costs of the Egmont US Foundation are separately funded, so that 100% of donors' gifts can support projects working to improve the lives of children affected by HIV & AIDS. If you would like to find out more about how you can support The Egmont US Foundation, please contact USfoundation@egmonttrust.org

Grants Administrator

To meet the needs of Egmont's growing portfolio of partners, Aisha Sterling was appointed to the newly created post of Grants Administrator on 1st April this year. Aisha will assist Nomuhle Gola, Programme Manager, with the grant process and database management, and undertake administrative tasks for the Programme Team. Aisha previously worked in the advice and charity sector as an Energy Advisor.

Wellington College

Egmont would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to the girls and parents of Combermere House at Wellington College for their fantastic support.

On 3rd February, Combermere House raised over £10,000 for Egmont's partners at their Entertainment Night. All of the money raised will be directed to Egmont partner Partners for Life Advancement and Education Promotion (PLAEP), in Zambia. PLAEP is improving the chances of 250 vulnerable children affected by HIV & AIDS in the town of Kitwe, north-central Zambia. These children are being supported through the provision of school fees, extra tuition and a school feeding programme to ensure they are receiving a nutritionally balanced diet.

PLAEP is also working with the children's parents and caregivers to develop income-generating activities and form small savings and lending groups to enable them to take on the costs of educating their children on their own.

On behalf of the children and families supported by PLAEP, well done and thank you!

Partner News

On 30th June this year, Egmont brought together eight of our Zimbabwean partners from across the country for a meeting in Harare. Whilst no two projects adopt the same approaches, many share common themes, and partners can learn from each others' successes and challenges.

The meeting provided an opportunity to share best practice and for project leaders to improve the implementation of their project activities. The next 'country-wide' meetings will be taking place in Malawi and Kenya.

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