

SATELLIFE Supports Kenyan Pediatricians with Vital HIV/AIDS Information

With support from SATELLIFE, healthcare workers in Kenya are banding together to support the medical care of an overlooked population devastated by the HIV/AIDS epidemic - children.

2.5 million children worldwide are infected with HIV or ill with AIDS, with East Africa home to 500,000 of this population. The United Nations predicts that currently fewer than five per cent of HIV-positive children will ever receive any treatment. Pediatricians know that children are not just small adults; their treatment is complicated. The Kenya National Pediatric HIV Training Program, comprehending the need to keep healthcare workers informed of developments in treating children living with AIDS and managing their care, asked international health information and technology leader SATELLIFE to set up an electronic hub for vital knowledge-sharing. Launched April 18, 2006, the “KEN-PED-HIV” forum connects Kenyan healthcare professionals to the information they need to improve the lives of children suffering from HIV/AIDS.



Moderated by Kenyans expert in the field of pediatrics, this electronic discussion group enables students, graduates, and teachers in the Pediatric HIV Training Program, and Kenyan healthcare providers working with children living with HIV/AIDS, to share experiences and challenges or ask questions related to their work. Relevant news, training opportunities, conference summaries, clinical case discussions, and recent research findings will be exchanged via the forum to help healthcare workers increase their knowledge and provide the best possible care to their fragile young patients.

Initial feedback after the launch of the forum expressed appreciation toward the effort, and recent discussion has focused on the correct usage of anti-AIDS drug formulations in small children.



Recognizing that not only Kenya, but the entire continent of Africa, must invest in the welfare of its children in order to create a healthy, prosperous, and self-sustaining society, it is envisioned that in the future participation in the forum will be expanded throughout eastern Africa. Through these efforts, the startling rate of 1800 children worldwide newly infected each day will be reduced and the quality of life for those already living with the disease improved.

The forum, referred to as “KEN-PED-HIV,” is a collaboration between the Kenya Paediatric Association, CDC Kenya, ANNECCA, NASCOP, the Ministry of Health Kenya, and SATELLIFE. Other partners include Gertrude's Garden Children's Hospital, Department of Paediatrics, Nairobi University and Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi.

For more information about SATELLIFE, please visit www.healthnet.org, or email info@healthnet.org.