

Partner Updates, 6/10/25

Kapnek Trust (Phil): The JF Kapnek Trust in Zimbabwe has had great success along with its partners in reducing the Mother to Child transmission of AIDs. In the past 15 years the transmission rate has been reduced from 30% now down to less than 2%. However recent cuts by our Federal government to the USAID program has slashed Kapnek's budget. They will get some funding from USAID but a fraction of what they had up until Feb 12, 2025. One of the specific HIV/AIDs programs cut was for children, adolescents and youth. Not only did that discontinued program provide access to HIV care and treatment, but also included gender based violence response and child protective services. All now terminated. Within the Kapnek area of service, they had over 250,000 children enrolled in this program. Also cut within the umbrella of HIV/AIDs was Kapnek's work to reduce HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women. This included family planning, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, activities to strengthen families and communities and promoting education and retention in school. Also, all now terminated.

Not directly under the HIV/AIDs service umbrella, but related due to necessary treatment for HIV, was the complete cut to TB programs. This program aimed to improve case detection, strengthen case management and prevent new TB infections. In this program Kapnek was contracted to cover over 50% of the national population (over 8 million people). Part of this program was to improve data collection, dissemination and use of delivery platforms to develop new TB programs. All terminated. This is especially critical as TB is a very infectious disease.

Also cut was a malaria assistance program which focused on improved quality of care in pregnancy cases. Part of this program distributed over 110,000 insecticide treated nets annually.

The positive news remains that the fortified porridge distribution, the medical kits for the District nurses and assistance to the Harare Children's Hospital has not been impacted as those funds have come from LOPC and other private foundations. FYI. the next time you fly internationally and have to walk through a Duty Free shop on your way to the gate, that business has a foundation that is one of the major donors to those above mentioned programs.

Fotokids (Marjorie): From Nancy....We did two workshops with professional photographer Chris Viel, from NYC, with the staff in both Antigua and Santiago Atitlán. The workshop used conversion of color photos to Black and white leaving a touch of significant color.

The other significant event was the successful termination of our photography workshops with elementary school kids from a rural area of Florida (5th and 6th graders) and some of the photos will be included in a gallery showing at the Kravis Center for Performing Arts in West Palm Beach. The exhibition features work we did last year in another series of workshops with poor children from the area.

Our contract to work with the rural child in Florida has been renewed for this Fall .

Easter week , thousands of photos were taken by the children, mostly in Santiago Atitlan.