THE 2012 LARISSA AWARD

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ACPF would like to thank its donors for their continuous support to the cause of the Larissa Award. They have demonstrated their extraordinary commitment to the advancement of the wellbeing of Africa's children by supporting the programme.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge and express our heartfelt gratitude to two very dear friends of ACPF, Prof. Dharam Ghai and Dr Alice Kramer for believing in the cause of Larissa and for their invaluable financial support for the past eight years.

We would also like to thank ICS for supporting this programme since its inception. Our gratitude also goes to all Jury members, nominees and nominators who participated in the nomination processes of Larissa 2005, 2007, 2010 and now 2012.

PROGRAMME

May 30, 2012 – Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel

18:30 **Guests' arrival**

19:00 **Welcome remarks**

Mr David Mugawe, Executive Director, ACPF

19:05 **Keynote address**

H.E Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

19:15 **Vote of thanks**

Assefa Bequele (PhD), Distinguished Fellow, ACPF

19:30 **The 2012 Larissa Award announcement**

Mr David Mugawe, Executive Director, ACPF

19:40 **Presentation of the Larissa Award**

H.E Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

19:45 **Acceptance speech by the winner**

20:00 **Reception**

22:00 **Closing of ceremony**

ABOUT THE LARISSA AWARD

The Larissa Award is dedicated to the memory of Larissa who passed away tragically at the age of five. During her short life, she brought immense pleasure to her parents, grandparents and friends. Larissa was highly sensitive, intelligent, kind and generous in her possessions. The Award symbolizes the tragedy of one in five African children who die before their sixth birthday. Larissa would be content to know that this award bearing her name will advance the wellbeing of African children.

The Larissa Award is an instrument of the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) to inspire the best and draw on the positive impulses in Africa and recognise those that have helped Africa to progress and become a better place for children. The specific purpose of the Larissa Award is to give recognition and encouragement to exemplary initiatives for the wellbeing of children in Africa. The Award may cover a broad range of issues such as health care, education, nutrition, and care of orphans and other vulnerable children. Every two years, a specific issue is chosen. It is hoped that, through appropriate publicity and other means, the Larissa Award will encourage the expansion and replication of such initiatives. Although nominees from Africa are especially welcome, the Award is open to all who have contributed to the promotion of the wellbeing of children in Africa.

The conditions for nominations are that the Award should go to an individual, organisation or a government office that has provided outstanding service to children in Africa. The Larissa Award consists of a Statuette of Larissa and a modest financial contribution towards the winner.

ABOUT THE 2012 LARISSA AWARD

Family is the ideal setting and a natural environment within which children should grow. But there are several reasons that deprive children from familial care and protection in Africa. Loss of parents largely due to the AIDS pandemic, an increasingly crumbling kinship fabric, conflict and violence are some of the main reasons.

A good majority of orphaned children lead a precarious life in households headed by siblings, struggling to make ends meet, deprived of adult moral support and contending with the fierce economic and social realities. Millions of them stay on city streets, subject to untold exploitation, deprivation and abuse by unscrupulous adults and peers (ACPF 2008).

Such realities of the continent make the availability and accessibility of safe and suitable alternative care options a matter of urgency. It is in the midst of such state of affairs that millions of children deprived of parental care have found warm refuge in the profound benevolence of many compatriots who make extraordinary efforts to provide alternative care.

Many organisations and individuals have committed their lifetime savings, mobilised their communities and invested their spirit in ensuring that children deprived of parental care are catered for. They have gone great lengths to pursue – even under severe resource constraints – both formal and informal alternative care options ranging from kinship and community care, and kafalah amongst Muslims, to institutional care, foster care and domestic adoption.

It is in view of these realities that ACPF decided to dedicate the 2012 Larissa Award to individuals or organisations that are providing outstanding service to children in need of alternative care.

THE WINNER: ISIBINDI

Responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis, South Africa's National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) has developed a community-based care and protection intervention option for children, named 'Isibindi'– 'courage' in IsiZulu. Isibindi enables poorly resourced communities to adopt an evidence-based approach to the provision of integrated welfare services, and rapidly develop effective and informed local care and protection services for children.

67 *Isibindi* projects have been replicated across South African provinces, serving over 100,000 children who would otherwise have fallen outside of the care and protection matrix. The *Isibindi* model has received public acclaim, and is currently being scaled up through a South African government initiative.

The core of the *Isibindi* model is the provision of child and youth care services to children and youth in their homes by trained and supervised child and youth care workers. They cook together with children, teach basic life skills and build resilience – using ordinary human interaction as a context and a means for transcending basic care to meet the emotional needs of children – especially in child headed and parentless families.

Currently being replicated in Zambia, the *Isibindi* model is adapted by grassroots implementers to suit local conditions and cultural contexts – within the framework of the overarching commitment to the realisation of children's rights – even in the most remote and poorly resourced communities.

REPORT FROM THE JURY

The 2012 Larissa Award acknowledges effective and sustainable initiatives that provide alternative care for children without parental care or who are at risk of losing parental care. It does so with a view to promoting such good practices and encouraging others to emulate the same in protecting, caring and providing quality care and protection to the huge number of children in Africa who are deprived of family care and are still in dire need of such services.

The Call for Nominations for the 2012 Larissa Award was disseminated through various networks in Africa. A total of 38 nominations from 17 African countries were received.

Jury members from different regions of Africa were designated for the final selection. In their report, jury members have acknowledged all organisations and individuals that have been nominated and all those who have nominated them.

They have very much appreciated the diversity of the nominations submitted for the 2012 Larissa Award in terms of approach, vision, geographic scope; etc. They have also noted that the nominees are of a very high standard and they have had a hard time in rating them.

Among the five finalists, Isibindi, a South African initiative from the National Association of Child Care Workers is nominated as the winner of the 2012 Larissa Award.

In their report, the Jury members stated that the *Isibindi* initiative has been chosen for its unique multi-actor involvement in the provision of comprehensive care for orphans and vulnerable children including positive linkages with Government structures that guarantee sustainability.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE LARISSA AWARD

2005 – L'Espoir d'Adjouffou, Côte d'Ivoire

Ms Lotti Latrous, founder of L'Espoir d'Adjouffou receiving the Award

L'Espoir d'Adjouffou is a health care organisation providing shelter, respect and love to a number of orphans. The objective is to give children a decent and autonomous life through health care, education, counseling and training. L'Espoir d'Adjouffou places the approach to the protection and care of orphans in a broad context of health care and wellbeing for a wider community.

2007 – Kembatta Women's Self-Help Centre, Ethiopia

Dr Bogalech Gebre receiving the Award

The Kembatta Women's Self-Help Centre (known as KMG) and its founder Dr Bogalech Gebre have successfully campaigned against Female Genital Mutilation and reduced its prevalence from approximately 100% to less than 10% in 10 years in Kembatta area. Their work includes empowering women and teaching their communities to abolish customary practices and other forms of abuse.

2010 – Katalemwa Cheshire Home, Uganda

Ms Constance Kekihembo, representative of KCH, receiving the Award

For the last 40 years, Katalemwa Cheshire Home (KCH) has been remarkably innovative and engages parents, as well as experts on provision of care for persons with disabilities. KCH has reached 52,000 children in 2009 through its services including medical and social services, economic empowerment of parents, etc. KCH also produces disability appliances and undertakes campaigns and peer sensitisation for promoting inclusive education and HIV/AIDS awareness programmes.

THE AFRICAN CHILD POLICY FORUM (ACPF)

Who we are

ACPF is an independent, not-for-profit, pan-African center of policy research and dialogue on the African child.

Mission

ACPF aims to specifically contribute to improved knowledge on children in Africa; provide a platform for dialogue; collaborate with governments, intergovernmental organisations and civil society in the development and implementation of effective pro-child policies and programmes and also promote a common voice for children in and out of Africa.

Vision

ACPF was established with the conviction that putting children first on the public and political agenda is fundamental for the realisation of their wellbeing and for bringing about lasting social and economic progress in Africa.

ACPF's work is inspired by universal values and informed by global experiences and knowledge. Its work is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and other relevant regional and international human rights instruments.

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