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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Statement submitted by Grail, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2009/1.



Statement*

As an international movement with members and teams in key developing countries, we recognize the need for greater commitment to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We appreciate and we support all concrete efforts being made by Governments to implement these goals by 2015. The Grail is giving special attention to MDGs #1, 3 and 6.

MDG #1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Duisberg, Germany: provides service to immigrant women and children

Eastern Samar and Zamboanga del Norte, Philippines: trains women for leadership and livelihood and helps them to achieve financial self-reliance. The leadership seminars with younger women are a way to prevent human trafficking.

Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa: presents young women with alternatives to the mindless unsustainable work that poorly educated women do for the lure of cash rewards.

Throughout Brazil: Grail members serve as animators in the popular economic solidarity movement.

MDG#3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Mwanga, Tanzania: runs a school with an emphasis on technical and science subjects, which aims to prepare young women to understand and engage the advanced technology necessary to succeed personally and to bring greater development to their communities.

Maputo, Mozambique: Grail-Mozambique Young People's Group. Some themes for the current year are: drugs, sexuality, STDs and HIV/AIDS; relationships between parents and children; and higher education.

Belo Horizonte, Brazil: Women's Center, which gives leadership and empowerment workshops to grassroots women throughout the state of Minas Gerais.

MDG #6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

The Grail is working directly to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases in Kenya, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda:

Kisumu and Machakos, Kenya

Grail HIV/AIDS activities include counseling infected and affected persons and finding support for orphans and widows.

* Issued without formal editing.

KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

Umsuka Farm HIV/AIDS Project: The Grail Women's Leadership Training Program (WLTP) initiated an HIV/AIDS project in April 2006, to meet the urgent need for HIV/AIDS work on farms in the district. Towards the end of 2006 the Umsuka workers started networking with the Turn Table Trust (TTT) AIDS project, offering their experience of home-based care and workshops using popular education methods.

Farm owners benefited from having AIDS Education and testing on their farms for the first time. Some farm workers grew in self-confidence and were not afraid to talk to their employers. Farmers took more interest in their employees' health and suggested topics for the educators to talk about with their workers. The team attended a workshop on alcohol abuse, and women's health to equip them to deal more effectively with these issues and their direct links with HIV/AIDS.

Mwanga, United Republic of Tanzania

The Grail runs the Neema Dispensary, creating awareness of HIV/AIDS and caring for infected people and orphans. Grail participates in KIWAKUKI, a women's group to fight against HIV/AIDS transmission.

Mushanga, Uganda

The Grail dispensary treats HIV/AIDS patients and trains community based health workers who do home care, and sponsors groups for widows, primary and secondary school orphans.
