



For Immediate Release

Tanzanian youth working with international NGO wins global design competition

April 23, 2013 – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – A Tanzanian youth, with links to a non-governmental organisation working in Dar es Salaam, was today announced as having created the winning logo design for **AIDS 2014** - the 20th International AIDS Conference – being held in Melbourne, Australia in July 2014. This follows a global competition for youth aged between 10 and 30 years old launched by the International AIDS Society.

Yohana Haule (21) is a young artist who has been working with the organisation **Africa's Children-Africa's Future (AC-AF)** since October 2011 through their office in Dar es Salaam. AC-AF first met Yohana at his Form IV graduation at Kambangwa Secondary School in Kinondoni where his talent had been encouraged by the teachers. Current Executive Director, Dave Christie and founder of AC-AF, Gita Jaffe, were attending as guests of the school and another youth in their programming. Drawn to Yohana's talent, he would become the first recipient of the AC-AF Youth Leadership Award. The award looks to strengthen the youths' skills to develop promising talent into concrete actions that can help the youth achieve their dreams. Since then, he has become the resident artist for the organisation, producing artwork used in programming resources for children and in awareness materials currently being used by the organisation.

As Christie explains, "This is an incredible achievement for a young man from Dar es Salaam who, like many youth in Tanzania, has faced many hardships to get to where he is today. When we first met Yohana, we were not only struck by his talent, but by the messages that he was portraying through his art. One of the first images he showed to us was a depiction of the roles women play in Tanzania – both in the strength they bring to the country but the burdens they also face. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the burden on women in the AIDS epidemic is particularly harsh, and here was a young man willing to confront some of those issues."

For AC-AF, this provides a moment of pride in the accomplishments of the youth they work with and the hope that this will give him the opportunities to make his passion for art into a career. At the heart of their programmes and ethos is a continual focus on the potential of children and youth. As Christie explains, "Our programming does not look to just help children; it is aimed at ensuring children and youth help themselves, both now and in the future. They need encouragement to increase their independence, ensuring that they can support themselves, their families and their community, while fulfilling their dreams. Yohana exemplifies this. Although we are able to provide him with some of the initial opportunities, it is ultimately his effort and talent that has brought him this recognition by the International AIDS Society."

Yohana will continue to work with AC-AF before travelling to Australia in July 2014 to be officially thanked at the conference for his design. This will be the first time that he has travelled outside of Tanzania.

About AC-AF

Africa's Children-Africa's Future (AC-AF) is an international non-governmental organisation registered in Tanzania and Canada. AC-AF provides programming encouraging the empowerment of children and youth in response to the AIDS epidemic. This includes educating and raising awareness of HIV and AIDS globally, as well as working with orphan and vulnerable children in Tanzania. To date, AC-AF has worked with over 7,500 children and youth, mainly in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

For more information about Africa's Children-Africa's Future (AC-AF) visit: www.ac.af.com.

About AIDS 2014

Melbourne will host the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) in July 2014. The conference is organized by the International AIDS Society (IAS) in partnership with a number of international bodies and local partners.

Over 18,000 delegates from nearly 200 countries, are expected to attend this biennial gathering for those working in the field of HIV, policymakers, people living with HIV and others committed to ending the epidemic.

Part of the conference is the global village and youth programme aimed at strengthening the participation of affected communities and young people at AIDS 2014. The International AIDS Society, the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with more than 16,000 members in 194 countries, is organizing AIDS 2014 in collaboration with international and local partners.

For more information about the conference visit: www.aids2014.org

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