

**FXB CEO Bilgé Ögün Bassani  
presents  
FXB International Model Village program in China, Zhengzhou**

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**Geneva, September 10, 2007** – François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) International's CEO, Bilgé Ögün Bassani presented the FXB Village Model Program at the International Seminar on Children Orphaned and Made Vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Zhengzhou, China. This was the first international seminar on children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS in Henan Province organized by the Henan Provincial Government, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and UNICEF.

Announcing the initiative at the Seminar, Bilgé Bassani said that “we are pleased to share the successful village-based FXB Model of income generating grants and supportive services developed in 18 years of fieldwork, to enable families and communities in China who have taken in these children to become self-sufficient in caring for their expanded responsibilities.”



FXB International, the Clinton Foundation and Half the Sky Foundation were the only three nongovernmental organizations invited to participate in the Seminar.

Under the direction of FXB China Executive Director Janice Secord Neilson, implementation of the FXB Village Models began in 2006 in Yunnan province. The holistic, community-based programs provide a comprehensive package of health, education, psychosocial and permanency planning services to children orphaned by AIDS. In addition, families committed to providing permanent care for these children receive small grants to initiate income generating activities to support the expanded families.

“The projects provide hope and opportunity to orphaned children; enable committed families to care for them; and provide a cost-effective and replicable model of intervention services,” said Janice Neilson. Using integrated development strategies, each community-based project costs US\$150,000 and helps beneficiaries regain social and economic stability over three years.

FXB China, the Yunnan Women and Child Development Center (YWCDC) of the Yunnan Provincial Women's Federation and UNICEF are collaborating on the innovative program with major micro-finance components, which enables families to become self sufficient within three years. FXB has formalized collaborative working relationships with national, provincial and county level governmental and private organizations which support and enhance FXB's work in China.

"Today, developing and implementing low-cost, high-impact solutions is an invaluable solution to saving the lives of millions of children," said Bilge Bassani. "The Seminar was effective in identifying best strategies and learning from each other's experiences to reach this end. It also highlighted the significant steps taken by the Chinese government to address this through sustainable national and provincial policy and programs that support prevention and treatment for people affected by AIDS."