

Immediate release  
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**ARK LAUNCHES PROGRAMMES  
TO REDUCE MATERNAL DEATH IN ZIMBABWE AND INFANT DEATH IN ZAMBIA  
DEVELOPING NEW SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION PROGRAMME WITH  
HER MAJESTY QUEEN RANIA OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

The international children's charity, ARK, (Absolute Return for Kids), today (13 May 2010) announced the launch of two new health programmes to save the lives of mothers and children in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The charity held its major gala fund raising dinner in Waterloo International station, attended by more than 800 guests and addressed by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

ARK announced it will work with Her Majesty's foundation to develop a new education programme in South Africa, focused on school quality and leadership.

Speaking at the dinner, Her Majesty, Queen Rania of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, said:

"I'm pleased that, in the coming year, my education foundation will partner with ARK to invest in South Africa's teachers, through leadership training programmes, that will turn failing schools into first class institutions."

ARK Chairman, Stanley Fink, said:

"I want first to thank Her Majesty Queen Rania of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for her support for ARK tonight. Her uncompromising work to achieve better education for children is an inspiration. We are delighted that we are working with her foundation to develop a new programme to raise educational achievement in South Africa by raising the quality and leadership in schools.

"This year ARK moved to a new stage in its development. Our seven year programme to provide anti-retroviral therapy in South Africa has changed the lives of more than 115,000 children and treated 10 per cent of all patients on treatment in South Africa. As a sustainable, locally managed programme, it will continue its vital work and is a template for future development in the country.

"So tonight we launch two important new health programmes in Southern Africa to improve infant and maternal health.

"Diarrhoea kills more under-fives than AIDS, malaria and measles combined. Across Africa 700,000 children under five are killed by diarrhoea each year. Those deaths can be prevented. A third of those deaths are caused by rotavirus that can be treated with a \$20 vaccine. We need to take action now. ARK will start in Zambia, where 14,000 children a year, die from diarrhoea. ARK will establish a **comprehensive vaccination and treatment programme**, creating a prevention model which can be rolled out nationally when funding is possible. At the start we aim to vaccinate 250,000 children over three to five years, saving thousands of lives.

"Such a large scale vaccination programme will create a strategic opportunity to open up the vaccine market, pushing prices down to levels that will make country wide vaccination an achievable goal.

This is a game changing opportunity, one that can save lives far beyond Zambia, made possible by the stunning generosity of our guests tonight.

“In Zimbabwe maternal mortality has risen 500 per cent in 20 years. Life expectancy is now just 36 years. Inadequate care at birth is a huge killer of mothers and their babies. Poor hygiene and insufficient staff and medical equipment end the lives of thousands of mothers and babies. And HIV/AIDS, too often detected far too late, is the biggest single cause of maternal death.

**“ARK’s maternal health programme** will dramatically improve maternity and newborn care. ARK will help rural clinics create good quality maternity services with HIV testing, diagnosis and care, giving 45,000 mothers and their babies a better chance of survival.

“To lead these vital programmes ARK today announces the appointment of Charles Abani as Chief International Adviser. Charles is a respected development practitioner with long experience who joins us from being Oxfam’s Regional Director for Southern Africa. I am delighted to welcome him to ARK at this important point in our development.

“Tonight our donors made this work a priority. Once again we asked for support in a tough year. As ever, our guests’ generosity is astounding. This evening our guests pledged £1.1m to fund rotavirus treatment in Zambia, and £1.0m to support maternal health in Zimbabwe, enabling ARK to treat 30,000 mothers and 44,000 children. Once again we thank our donors for their outstanding and generous support.”

#### **ARK DINNER RAISES £14.1m**

ARK announced that it had raised a total of £14.1m at its ninth annual gala dinner,

ARK’s founding chairman, Arpad Busson said:

“I am immensely grateful to our sponsors, in particular to our anchor sponsor, BlueCrest, and to Bloomberg, without whom this evening simply would not have been possible. Tonight we set out our priorities for future development. We launched important new programmes in health and set out our commitment to new education programmes in India and South Africa as well as the next stage in the development of our academies programme.

“Our UK academies and school leadership programmes are outstanding. Our eight academies teach 4,500 pupils in some of England’s most deprived inner cities. By next year they will be teaching 6,000. Our GCSE improvement is already the best of any academy chain and every school is winning praise from Ofsted - but we have to do more.

“The challenges are immense. Our pupils are from the poorest communities. Between them, our pupils speak more than 40 languages and as many as 60% start secondary school a year or more behind in reading. With ARK’s help, they are making heroic progress but the hurdles they have to overcome are what make our work so urgent. But we need to be able to help more children earlier in their school career.

“That is why we are extending the work of our academy network to help tackle primary under achievement to ensure that more children get the start in life they deserve.”

“As trustees we are stunned by generosity of ARK’s supporters. Your support tonight and throughout the year changes the lives of thousands of children. We are extremely grateful for your commitment and trust.”

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### **ARK would like to thank:**

Her Majesty, Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
**The ARK Schools Scholarship Choir**, (pupils from Burlington Danes Academy, Evelyn Grace Academy, Globe Academy, King Solomon Academy and Walworth Academy), who sang to greet guests.  
Our very generous sponsors BlueCrest and Bloomberg Christies.  
Steve Coogan, Groove Armada and The Killers for superb entertainment.  
Gagosian Gallery, New York

### **About ARK**

ARK is an international charity whose purpose is to transform children’s lives. It was founded in 2002 by senior figures in the alternative investment industry, pooling their skills and resources to improve the life chances of children. With a shared vision of collective philanthropy, ARK delivers high social returns on philanthropic investment.

ARK’s strong results-driven model identifies, creates and delivers innovative programmes addressing critical issues in the areas of health care (Southern Africa), Education (UK, India) and Children in Care (Eastern Europe) that are transformative, scalable and sustainable. ARK applies the same principles and disciplines to managing the charity as it would to running a business, focusing on the transformation of children’s lives through rigorous research, monitoring and evaluation. ARK’s work meets high standards of efficiency and effectiveness.

ARK’s Trustees and Patrons ensure that the charity’s central administrative costs are covered so that 100% of donations go directly to programmes that are transforming children’s lives.

ARK’s Trustees are: Arpad A Busson, Paul Dunning, Stanley Fink, Kevin Gundle, Paul Marshall, Jennifer Moses, Mike Platt, Blaine Tomlinson, Ian Wace.

### **ARK in Southern Africa**

ARK’s original target was to enrol 1,500 HIV+ caregivers and children on to antiretroviral therapy (ART). By exit in 2009, ARK supported clinics had treated almost 90,000 patients.

In Mozambique, ARK is treating more than 3,000 HIV+ patients and on track to treat and support 11,500 new patients by the end of 2012.

### **ARK in Eastern Europe**

ARK and its partners have closed 14 institutions and moved more than 1,400 children into family-focused environments and its child protection model is being replicated to prevent children being institutionalised.

### **ARK Schools**

ARK Schools is founding a network of outstanding, non-selective, non-denominational academies offering high quality education to local children. It runs eight academies in London, Birmingham and Portsmouth. ARK aims to have 12 academies open by 2012, transforming the opportunities of more than 15,000 pupils. ARK also develops and runs programmes to help schools succeed, including *Future Leaders* and *Teaching Leaders* which develop outstanding leaders for challenging urban schools.