

# SPEECH

**FXB** international  
François-Xavier Bagnoud

## **Come Meet the Social Entrepreneurs – At Least One!**

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**By Albina du Boisrouvray, Founder and President**

Yesterday, I had to prepare a three-minute presentation about my organization for the WEF session – “Come Meet the Social Entrepreneurs.” The 40 of us were urged to share our practical strategies, their impact and the challenges that we overcame. Since not all 3,000 forum participants would have fit into our meeting room – even if they wanted to – I will tell them my story now.

In 1989, I created a foundation in memory of my son with 2/3rds of my family fortune and used half the endowment to establish an international NGO, the Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) in his name. Inspired by Dr. Jonathan Mann then at WHO, I traveled the globe to see how I could care for AIDS orphans and all vulnerable children (with HIV/AIDS, on the streets, sexually abused children) With creative local people, I formulated cutting edge activities for these children in homes, with families, replicating the solutions in other countries. To backstop them with the best medical care, the US FXB International Pediatric HIV Training Program was created run by the best doctors and nurses.

Doing all this by myself with one or two staff members, I was spinning out of control. I went to the 1992 AIDS Conference in Amsterdam where Dr. Mann through the Global AIDS Policy Coalition that I set up at Harvard for him and his work released the first true picture of the AIDS pandemic. “AIDS in the World I.” Then I was off to Thailand to deal with a problem with former sex workers whom I was helping. Flew to Myanmar where it was rumored that sex workers that I had freed from brothels were being killed if they had HIV/AIDS. Then, to Colombia, where I walked in its sewers to see what children endured.

There, I broke my foot and collapsed emotionally. I had encountered so much poverty around the world and had so little money to deal with what was needed. And even if I had all the money in the world there were political, social and economic problems that demanded a superior attention. There in Bogota I cried and desperately talked to a dear friend about a solution. Harvard would be the voice to deal with those problems, and Dr. Mann would be the leader. I took a chunk of the endowment and with the Dean of the Harvard School for Public Health, I established the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights there with Dr. Mann as its director.

And it worked. The Center has become the leading advocate and global lobbyist showing the inextricable link between health and human rights. Applying that to AIDS, Dr. Mann wrote: “In each society, those people who before HIV/AIDS arrived were marginalized, stigmatized, and discriminated against become those at highest risk of HIV infection.”

So that is the message that I continue to bring wherever I go and to implement in our grass roots field projects – whether in Bolivia establishing micro-enterprises with its forgotten people in the 4,000 meter high altiplano or in India where FXB India already present in 17 states will expand its AIDS prevention, testing, treatment and education programs to all states so that AIDS will not do to India what it has done to Africa. There would be much more to tell but in a nutshell that’s my story in three minutes.

Now I had my chance to tell my story. I urgently ask forum participants to talk to the other 39 “social entrepreneurs” who have similar stories to tell. You will learn much.