Thursday 14th July 2016

SENTEBALE’S FOUNDING PATRON, PRINCE HARRY HEADS TO DURBAN TO TALK AT THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

• ON THURSDAY 21ST JULY 2016, PRINCE HARRY AND SIR ELTON JOHN WILL JOIN A PANEL OF YOUNG ADVOCATES TALKING ABOUT THE ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

• JOINING THE SPECIAL SESSION, PRINCE SEEISO WILL MAKE OPENING REMARKS ON THE SITUATION IN LESOTHO

Today, Prince Harry took an HIV test at Guys and St. Thomas’ Hospital, London, to show how easy it is to get tested. The visit came as part of Prince Harry’s on going efforts to raise awareness of issues surrounding HIV/AIDS in the UK and around the world; in particular the damaging effects of stigma.

The next stop will be The International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Durban on Thursday 21st July, where Prince Harry will represent his charity Sentebale to discuss the impact stigma and discrimination have on youth. With remarks from co-founding patron of Sentebale Prince Seeiso, Prince Harry and Sir Elton John, and a panel of young advocates will describe what is and what is not working for the HIV response among young people, and what needs to change to truly address the needs of youth with HIV.

The International AIDS Conference first convened during the peak of the epidemic in 1985, the largest conference on any global health or development issues in the world. Returning to Durban for a second time since 2000 underscoring the magnitude of the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. The conference continues to provide a unique forum for stakeholders to discuss where we are in the fight against AIDS, what we have learned, and how we move forward. Around 30,000 scientists, activists, policymakers and advocates working on HIV/AIDS will attend.

During the conference, Sentebale will also present the charity’s model of psychosocial support for adolescents living with HIV, which has grown exponentially over recent years in Lesotho and is now being rolled out in Botswana. The session will detail Sentebale’s residential camps, monthly Saturday clubs held across all ten districts of the country, along with caregiver days aimed at educating families and communities about how to support young people in their care with HIV.
The conference follows on from the Sentebale Concert held on the 28th June at Kensington Palace, London, headlined by Coldplay to raise funds and awareness of the challenges faced by adolescents living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa.

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Notes to editors

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About Sentebale www.sentebale.org
Sentebale is a charity co-founded by Prince Harry and Prince Seeiso of Lesotho – a country bordered by South Africa. Prince Harry visited Lesotho in 2004 and was struck by the devastating effect the HIV/AIDS epidemic was having on the nation and particularly its children. Prince Harry and Prince Seeiso founded Sentebale, meaning 'forget me not' in Sesotho in 2006 – a charity aiming to rewrite the future for the impoverished population of Lesotho, providing the thousands of children and young people affected by HIV/AIDS with vital access to accommodation, care, education and critically psychosocial support.

Additional information from the UNAIDS 2016 Global Aids Update
Since the first global treatment target was set in 2003, annual AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 43 per cent and there has been a 26 per cent decline since 2010, from 1.5m deaths to 1.1m but huge challenges lie ahead. In 2015 there were 2.1m new HIV infections worldwide, adding up to a total of 36.7m people living with HIV. In 2015, 72 countries have laws allowing for HIV criminalisation. HIV remains the number one cause of death amongst adolescents living in Africa.