



The face of AIDS is the face of a child

Twenty years after AIDS was first reported, it has become the most devastating disease humankind has ever faced.

More than 60 million people have been infected with the virus. Ten people are infected each minute ... 95% of these in developing countries.

Of the nearly 40 million people living with HIV, nearly 3 million of these are under the age of 15. More than 13 million children have lost their mother or both parents to AIDS, and that number is rising fast – especially in Africa.

The face of AIDS in Africa is the face of a child: scared and yet full of hope for a better future.

THE CRISIS IN AFRICA

Of all the children and adults infected with HIV/AIDS, 70% live in sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated 8.8% of adults in Africa are infected. In Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Zambia, South Africa, and Namibia, at least 1 adult in 5 is living with HIV. But AIDS is more than just a medical crisis. Its impact on world economies is crushing too; estimates indicate that by 2020, heavily affected African countries could lose more than 20% of their GDP. Additionally, HIV/AIDS attacks breadwinners in the family – leaving children and the elderly to provide financially. Affected families cope by cutting costs on things such as food, health care, and education.

THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

While adults account for nearly 90% of all AIDS, the greatest victims of AIDS are children. The disease is wiping out an entire generation of providers and nurturers for children, leaving households run by the oldest sibling who is sometimes no more than 10 years old.

By 2010, the effect of AIDS is estimated to leave 40 million orphans in Africa alone. Nearly 6,000 kids are orphaned each day. That's 2.3 million a year. At that rate, all of Chicago would be orphaned in 15 months. (Orphaned is defined as losing a mother or both parents.) 90% of AIDS orphans live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

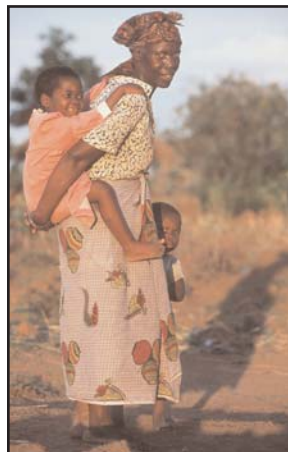
CARING FOR THE ORPHANS AND WIDOWS

“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God... is this: to look after orphans and widows in their trouble...” (James 1:27, *MLB*)

The 12 million orphans, the youngest victims of HIV/AIDS represent the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time. A failure to respond is a failure to be obedient to Scripture's clear message on caring for those in desperate need.

AN ORPHAN LEARNS TO SMILE AGAIN

Orphan Flossy Paulo, age 7, has spent the last two years of her life battling tuberculosis, malaria, and meningitis, all indicators of HIV/AIDS. At one point, she was so ill she could barely move. Now, with the help of her grandmother, Flossy is learning to walk, and smile, again. Her grandmother hopes Flossy's ability to speak will one day return as well. Because Flossy lives in an area where World Vision is working, she has access to medical care and resources to support her and her grandmother.



WORLD VISION'S HOPE INITIATIVE: TANGIBLE RELIEF FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

World Vision has committed itself to the challenge of alleviating the impact of AIDS because it is the biggest obstacle to transforming communities and improving the lives of children around the world. World Vision's HOPE Initiative is our global response to alleviate the worldwide impact of HIV/AIDS.

Caring for children: In areas where the rate of HIV/AIDS infection is the highest, many children must meet their own physical needs alone, while also coping with the emotional burden of caring for a parent who is chronically ill. World Vision comes alongside these children, offering, where possible, this essential assistance for the children and their families:

- Counselors who monitor a child's health and well-being;
- Nutritional support in emergencies;
- Protection against abuse and neglect;
- Spiritual and psychological counselling;
- Community-managed day care for young children;
- Assistance preparing for the loss of a parent;
- Training in household management, agricultural, and vocational skills;
- Care for chronically ill adults in the household.

Protecting children: HIV/AIDS is a preventable disease, but for a new generation of children to be healthy, teaching prevention is vitally important. World Vision focuses on teaching prevention to children and young adults through community counselors, youth clubs, sports and recreation activities, and drama and music.



SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE FOR ORPHANS

Orphans Angelique, 18, and Dative, 15, are two of thousands of children left to live alone as the AIDS epidemic sweeps through their country, Rwanda. They survive by farming and working odd jobs. This year, Angelique and Dative have planted a small

field of Irish potatoes. The field represents a newly formed partnership between child-headed households in their community and World Vision, who helped provide seeds, tools, and agricultural advice. It is a first step toward greater income and well being.

HOW CHICAGO CAN HELP

Educate yourself, friends, and opinion makers about the issue and the need for more support for HIV/AIDS sufferers and their communities.

Pray for the children who are orphaned and vulnerable because of HIV/AIDS, and for the relatives, community members, and aid workers who help them.

Organize your friends, family, or church to offer prayer or financial support to organizations that are working with AIDS orphans and vulnerable children.

Sponsor a child in an AIDS infected area. For just \$26 a month, you can meet a child's basic needs while improving the health of the entire community.

Support programs in Chicago and around the world that provide care, counselling, education and income generation in communities suffering the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Call World Vision Chicago at the number below to learn of more local activities to fight HIV/AIDS.

WHAT IS HIV/AIDS?

Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is the end result of most cases of infection with a human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV). HIV progressively damages the body's immune system, preventing the body from protecting itself against infection.

HIV is transmitted through contact with certain bodily fluids (including blood, semen, vaginal fluid, and breast milk). Transmission can occur through sexual activity, blood transfusions, or sharing needles or syringes with an infected person. A mother can also pass the virus to her baby during pregnancy through the placenta and during childbirth by exposure to the mother's blood.

AIDS knows no geographic, economic, racial, religious, or gender boundaries. Though Africa has the most people living with HIV/AIDS, Asian, Latin American, and North American countries also have a high number of infections. More men are infected than women; over 70% of HIV infections worldwide occur through sex between men and women.

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