

The Church Can Answer the Greatest Humanitarian Crisis of Our Time...

World Vision



AIDS is killing Africa—and this massive continent is only the first stop in the pandemic’s relentless tour through the world’s impoverished countries. With more than 22 million dead from the disease, another 42 million infected, and no end in sight to the spread of HIV/AIDS, the disease is an urgent issue in missions and politics.

Today more than 14 million children younger than 15 are

orphans because of the spread of AIDS. This statistic can be overwhelming. Yet each digit represents a life—and as millions of parents die, their children are left to feed, clothe, and comfort themselves.

In countries where the crisis threatens to wipe out the adult population, local churches are rising to the challenge. But they need help. They need concerned Christians and churches from around the world to come alongside them in prayer and action.

The Desperate Needs

AIDS is the greatest humanitarian disaster of our time. It threatens to reverse decades of mission work benefitting children and communities as it increases instability and worsens the extent and impact of poverty because of the economic burden it places on families. The effects of AIDS endanger a family’s health, a child’s future, and a community’s efforts to provide reliable food, clean water, education, and economic development.

In the 30 seconds it took you to read this insert, another two children were orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

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Consider this:

- Each day, 1,800 HIV-infected babies are born worldwide.
- In some African nations, life expectancy has plummeted by 10 to 20 years.
- By 2010, an estimated 25 million children are projected to lose one or both parents due to AIDS.



These four Ugandan cousins, ages 8 to 13, are living with their elderly grandmother after their parents died. Their blind and widowed grandmother can offer little more than shelter and some guidance. The boys do all the chores, including working the field to put food on the table. Yet it is seldom enough. "Most days we eat just supper," 13-year-old Daniel explained.

How to Get Started

World Vision has been on the front lines of the battle against HIV/AIDS for more than a decade in Africa. Through its Hope Initiative, World Vision is a bridge to connect church communities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and other hard-hit areas with churches and concerned citizens around the world in a biblical response to this pandemic.

Through World Vision's Hope Initiative, your congregation can bring nurture and hope to widows, orphans, and vulnerable children affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis. To join in this ministry of caring, talk to your church leadership, or contact World Vision at **1.888.303.2003**, or visit **www.worldvision.org/churches** online.

*"Religion that
God our Father
accepts as pure
and faultless is
this: to look after
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James 1:27a

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