



FACT SHEETS

FACE AIDS Educational Materials

AIDS ORPHANS

“The increased spiral of adult deaths in so many countries means that the number of children orphaned each day is expanding exponentially. Africa is staggering under the load”

- Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa

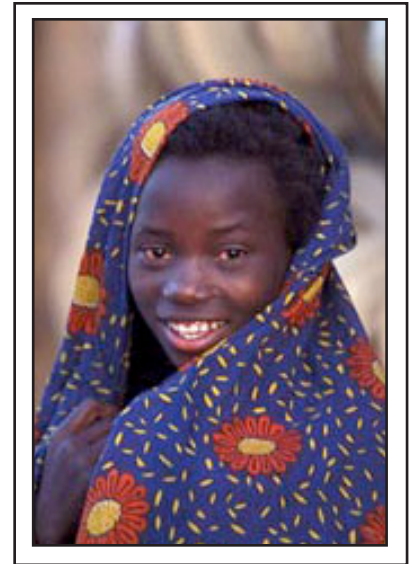
In sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that 9% of all children have lost at least one parent to AIDS.¹ In the last ten years, the number of children orphaned by AIDS has increased from 3.5% to 32%, and numbers will continue to rise exponentially as long as the disease remains unconstrained.²

The burden of caring for such children falls on extended families, or on local faith-based and community-based institutions which have neither adequate resources nor capacity to cope with the

desperate situation. Between 40-60% of orphans in some African countries live in households headed by grandmothers.³

AIDS orphans suffer educationally since they face many barriers to schooling. In many instances, school expenses such as fees and books are too expensive for the care giver to afford. In addition, the stigma involved with being an AIDS orphan result in shame and rejection and many children are unable to cope. Often children who have lost their parents to AIDS are assumed to be infected themselves.⁴

Education can play a powerful role in empowering AIDS orphans. A good school education can lift children out of poverty, create economic independence and also provide them with knowledge on how to prevent HIV/AIDS infection.



AIDS Orphans in 2005

South Africa	1,200,000
Tanzania	1,100,000
Zimbabwe	1,100,000
Uganda	1,000,000
Nigeria	930,000
Zambia	710,000

References

- [1.http://www.avert.org/aidsorphans.htm](http://www.avert.org/aidsorphans.htm)
- [2.http://www.un.org/events/tenstories_2006/story.asp?storyID=400](http://www.un.org/events/tenstories_2006/story.asp?storyID=400)
- [3.http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/08/13/news/aids.php](http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/08/13/news/aids.php)
- [4.http://www.avert.org/aidsorphans.htm](http://www.avert.org/aidsorphans.htm)