

# HIV/AIDS and YOUTH: Get the FACTS!

## YOUTH: A critical population

Children and youth, especially between the ages of 15–24, are particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and comprise almost half of new HIV infections

- Every 15 seconds, another individual ages 15–24 is infected with HIV
- Over 1,000 children under the age of 15 are infected with HIV every day

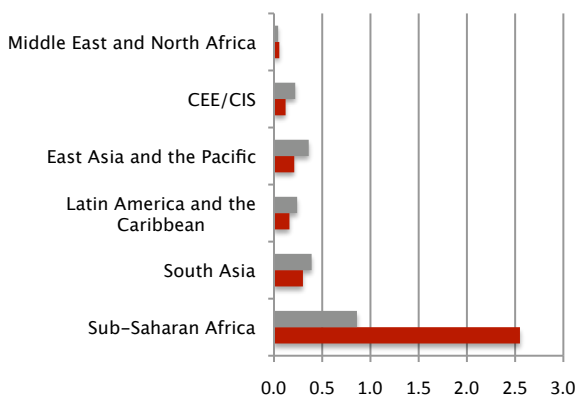
In sub-Saharan Africa, young women represent a critically vulnerable population

- Biologically and socially, young women are more susceptible to HIV infection than young men and are at least TWICE as likely to be HIV positive

Youth are affected indirectly by HIV/AIDS as well

- 12 million HIV/AIDS orphans live in sub-Saharan Africa
- HIV/AIDS orphans less likely to remain in school, have access to adequate nutrition

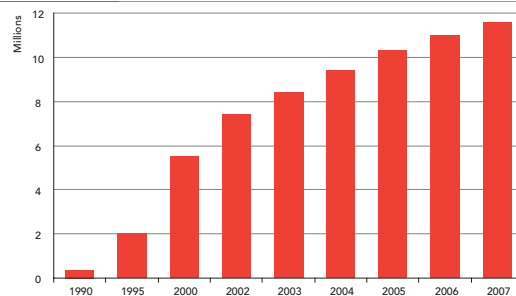
## Millions of Youth Aged 15–24 Living with HIV



## Addressing the issue:

Governments and NGO's worldwide are working to provide medical and social support to infected and vulnerable youth populations

Est. Number of Children Under 18 Orphaned by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa



Source: UNAIDS/WHO, 2008.

Check out these organizations, and their efforts to provide education, clothing, health care, and nutrition to youth affected by HIV/AIDS:

- YouthAIDS: [www.youthaids.org](http://www.youthaids.org)
- SOS Children's Village: [www.aids-children.org](http://www.aids-children.org)
- Street Child Africa: [www.stretchchildafrica.org](http://www.stretchchildafrica.org)
- African Youth Outreach: [www.africanyouthoutreach.org](http://www.africanyouthoutreach.org)
- UNICEF: [www.uniteforchildren.org](http://www.uniteforchildren.org)

## What FACE AIDS is doing to fight HIV/AIDS in young people:

FACE AIDS mobilizes youth to aid fellow youth impacted by HIV/AIDS

- Organizes annual Youth Leadership Forum for vulnerable Rwandan youth affected by HIV/AIDS
- Sponsors secondary school attendance for students
- Focuses on HIV/AIDS education and training, creating leaders with the ability to take action in their communities



Above: Participants in the 2009 Youth Leadership Forum in Rwanda

Find information about HIV testing in your area! Check out:

<http://www.hivtest.org/>

Get more information: Studies on youth, behavior, and HIV/AIDS:

Decision-making in Youth in South Africa: <http://htc.anu.edu.au/pdfs/Varga1.pdf>

Youth, HIV/AIDS, and Culture: <http://htc.anu.edu.au/pdfs/Varga1.pdf>