

HIV AND AIDS IN AFRICA

HIV and AIDS has reached pandemic proportions in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa. The effects of the disease have rippled through all segments of African society and all sectors of the economy. The labor force is dying. Health care systems are overwhelmed. Governments lack the resources to adequately respond. Agricultural production is down dramatically because AIDS patients cannot tend to their fields. Men and women suffering from the disease cannot pay for medical treatment because they cannot work to earn enough money to pay for health care, food, clothing or shelter.

Catholic Relief Services is working to alleviate the effects of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa in partnership with the local Church and local partners while always upholding its commitment to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

For more information on the Catholic Church's response to HIV and AIDS in Africa visit: www.crs.org/get_involved/advocacy.



"...we stand with the Church in Africa; we seek to call attention to Africa's problems and potential; we want to amplify the voices of Africans, so that they can be heard by a sometimes distracted world."

-U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, A Call to Solidarity with Africa, 2001

Africa and HIV/AIDS

Only 10 percent of the world's population lives in sub-Saharan Africa but it is home to 70 percent of the world's HIV positive people.

- 26.6 million people live in sub-Saharan Africa with HIV/AIDS. Of that number 2.1 million are children.
- AIDS is the number one cause of death in Africa: in 2003, 2.3 million people there died from this disease, including some 500,000 children.
- Over 12 million African children have been orphaned because of AIDS, and 40 million orphans are projected by 2010.

Source: UNAIDS, AIDS Epidemic Update

STOP AIDS *keep the promise*

1. Ensure the president's commitment is upheld to provide \$15 billion five years to prevent HIV and AIDS.
2. Ensure sub-Saharan Africa receives at least \$1 billion more per year to fight HIV and AIDS.
3. Promote US policies that deepen debt relief for the poorest countries in Africa.

