



CONTACT:

Alison Fast, Outreach Director
310.652.8833/ 310-497-7109
alison@globaltribenet.org

WORLD AIDS/HIV ORPHANS DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2005

FACTS SHEET

All of the following facts are excerpted from the fourth edition of Children on the Brink 2004: A Joint Report of New Orphan Estimates and a Framework for Action, generated by The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and available at www.unaids.org, www.unicef.org, or www.usaid.gov

- By the end of 2003 it was estimated that there were 143 million orphans from 1-17 years old in 93 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Of the 143 million orphans in three regions, more than half of all orphans are ages 12-17.
- (17.5 million or 12 percent are below age 6; 47 million or 33 percent are ages 6-11; and the remaining 79 million or 55 percent are ages 12-17).
- In two year (2001-2003), the global number of orphans due to AIDS increased from 11.5 million to 15 million (estimated range of 13-18 million).
- Worldwide, more than 16 million children were newly orphaned in 2003. 5.3 million in Sub-Saharan Africa. 800,000 in Nigeria alone.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the region most affected by AIDS/HIV in the world. Hardest hit in this region are: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South Africa.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 24 of the 25 countries with the world's highest levels of HIV prevalence.
- Between 1990 and 2003, sub-Saharan Africa's population of children orphaned by AIDS increased from less than 1 million to more than 12 million.

- There are an estimated 12.3 million children orphaned by AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa out of 43 million orphans total in the region.
- While Africa is proportionally the region hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, the total number of orphans is the largest in Asia.
- Asia has 87.6 million orphans due to all cause versus 43.4 million orphans from all causes in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The number of children orphaned by AIDS will continue to rise for at least the next decade.
- In 2003, 12.3 percent of all children in Sub-Saharan Africa were orphans. This is nearly double the 7.3 percent of children in Asia and 6.2 percent in the Caribbean.
- With 20% of its children orphaned, Botswana has the highest rate of orphaning in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 11 of the 43 countries in the region, more than 15 percent of children are orphans. Of these 11 hardest hit, AIDS is the cause of parental death between 11-78 percent of the time.
- Maternal orphans now outnumber paternal orphans in five of the most affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Before HIV/AIDS became a leading pandemic, orphans were more likely to lose a father. Today 60 percent of orphans have lost a mother.
- Extended families have assumed the responsibility for more than 90 percent of orphaned children in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Today, 20 percent of households with children in southern Africa are caring for one or more orphans. These family networks will continue to be the central social welfare mechanism in most countries.

FACTS ON CHILDREN WITH AIDS/HIV

- Every day about 1,700 children become infected with HIV.
- There are an estimated 2.1 million children under age 15 living with HIV in the world today.
- In 2003, about 630,000 children under the age 15 became infected.
- In some of the most affected countries, the ratio of HIV-infected girls to boys is 5 to 1.
- Adolescent girls are more vulnerable to sexually transmitted HIV infection due to a number of factors, including, coerced sex, unsafe sex with older men, and a lack of skills and information about how to protect themselves.