

# Children and HIV/AIDS

## Key Statistics

### Global Statistics on HIV/AIDS<sup>1</sup>

*(Statistics in parentheses are for sub-Saharan Africa)*

- Number of people living with HIV in 2010: 34 million (22.9 million)
- Number of children under 15 living with HIV in 2010: 3.4 million
- Adults and children newly infected in 2010: 2.7 million (1.9 million)
- Adult and child deaths in 2010 due to AIDS-related illnesses: 1.8 million (1.2 million)

### Orphans and vulnerable children

- Of the 16.6 million children (aged 0–17) who have lost one or both parents to AIDS, 14.8 million are in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>2</sup>
- The vast majority of orphans and vulnerable children are cared for by extended family members. In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 40–60% of orphans live in grandmother-headed households.<sup>3</sup>
- A recent study in Malawi found that most of the orphaned children surveyed would choose to live with their grandparents over other adult relatives or community members. In a study of 10 sub-Saharan African countries, orphans living with their grandparents had better school attendance than those living with other relatives.<sup>4</sup>
- Families and communities continue to bear approximately 90% of the financial cost of responding to the impact of HIV and AIDS on children.<sup>5</sup>

### Prevention and Treatment

- An estimated 3.4 million children under 15 were living with HIV in 2010, with more than 90% of them in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>6</sup>
- Only 21% of HIV-positive children in sub-Saharan Africa who need antiretroviral treatment were receiving it in 2010.<sup>7</sup>
- Without treatment, an estimated one-third of infants infected with HIV die before reaching age one. Half die before the age of two.<sup>8</sup>
- An estimated 2 million adolescents (aged 10–19 years) are living with HIV; most of them are unaware of their HIV status.<sup>9</sup>
- In sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 1,360,000 pregnant women were living with HIV in 2010. Only 42% received HIV counselling and testing.<sup>10</sup>
- More than a quarter of all new HIV infections globally are in young women aged 15–24.<sup>11</sup>

## Education

- Each additional year of a girl's education dramatically lowers vulnerability to HIV. They gain independence, confidence and critical information about HIV and are better able to negotiate safe sex.<sup>12</sup>
- Only 30% of children in sub-Saharan Africa can expect to enrol in secondary school.<sup>13</sup>
- HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people who do not finish primary school as those who do.<sup>14</sup>

## UNAIDS country estimates for children in sub-Saharan Africa (2009):

Source: UNAIDS ([www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries](http://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries))

The ranges around the estimates in this list [given in square brackets] define the boundaries within which the actual numbers lie, based on the best available information.

### Botswana

- Population: 2,065,398 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 16,000 [9,900–20,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 93,000 [71,000–120,000]

### Democratic Republic of Congo

- Population: 71,712,867 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: [33,000–86,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: [350,000–510,000]

### Ethiopia

- Population: 90,873,739 (July 2011 est.)
- *HIV/AIDS country stats not available.*

### Kenya

- Population: 41,070,934 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 180,000 [98,000–260,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 1,200,000 [980,000–1,400,000]

### Lesotho

- Population: 1,924,886 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 28,000 [17,000–37,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 130,000 [110,000–160,000]

### Malawi

- Population: 15,879,252 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 120,000 [68,000–170,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 650,000 [540,000–780,000]

### **Mozambique**

- Population: 22,948,858 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 130,000 [69,000–180,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 670,000 [400,000–620,000]

### **Namibia**

- Population: 2,147,585 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 16,000 [9,100–23,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 70,000 [50,000–96,000]

### **Rwanda**

- Population: 11,370,425 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 22,000 [11,000–34,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 130,000 [98,000–180,000]

### **South Africa**

- Population: 49,004,031 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 330,000 [190,000–440,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 1,900,000 [1,600,000–2,400,000]

### **Swaziland**

- Population: 1,370,424 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 14,000 [8,300–18,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 69,000 [55,000–86,000]

### **Tanzania**

- Population: 42,746,620 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 160,000 [83,000–240,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 1,300,000 [1,100,000–1,500,000]

### **Uganda**

- Population: 34,612,250 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 150,000 [80,000–210,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 1,200,000 [1,000,000–1,400,000]

### **Zambia**

- Population: 13,881,336 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 120,000 [64,000–160,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 690,000 [570,000–810,000]

## Zimbabwe

- Population: 12,084,304 (July 2011 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 150,000 [92,000–200,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 1,000,000 [910,000–1,200,000]

Revised January 2012

1. UNAIDS. *Global HIV/AIDS Response Progress Report 2011*. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. November 2011.
2. UN Secretary-General. *Uniting for universal access*. Report of the Secretary-General. 28 March 2011.
3. HelpAge International. “Older women lead the lead response to HIV/AIDS.” 8 March 2006
4. UNICEF. *Africa’s Orphaned and Vulnerable Generations: Children Affected by AIDS*. New York: UNICEF, August 2006. P. 16.
5. Richter, Linda M. & Desmond, Chris. “Targeting AIDS orphans and child-headed households? A perspective from national surveys in South Africa, 1995–2005.” *AIDS Care*. Vol. 20, no. 9: 1019–1028. October 2008.
6. WHO, UNAIDS and UNICEF. *Global HIV/AIDS Response: Epidemic update and health sector progress towards Universal Access*. Progress Report 2011. Geneva: November 2011. P. 19.
7. WHO, p. 102.
8. Newell ML, Coovadia H *et al.*, “Mortality of infected and uninfected infants born to HIV-infected mothers in Africa: a pooled analysis”, *The Lancet*, 364 (9441): 1236. 2 October 2004.
9. WHO, p. 80.
10. WHO, p. 144.
11. United Nations General Assembly. A/65/L.77. 8 June 2011. P. 4.
12. The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. “Educate Girls, Fight AIDS”. Fact Sheet. Issue 1.
13. Joint Learning Initiative on Children and AIDS. *Home Truths: Facing the Facts on Children, AIDS and Poverty*. Final Report, 2009. P. 10.
14. The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. “Educate Girls, Fight AIDS”. Fact Sheet. Issue 1.