

# education and HIV & AIDS



## the facts

- As recently as 2005, 15 million children had lost parents to AIDS.
- Orphans are 13 percent less likely to attend school than other children.
- In sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, young women ages 15 to 24 are six times more likely to have HIV than young men.
- Globally, fewer than one in three young people have comprehensive knowledge about HIV.



## CARE's Response

CARE recognizes that HIV & AIDS is much more than a health problem. It touches on all aspects of a family's life, including education. Throughout countries in sub-Saharan Africa, HIV & AIDS is thinning the ranks of teachers, severely disrupting educational systems, and leaving behind hundreds of thousands of orphans and vulnerable children with bleak prospects for attaining a basic education. Millions of children in the region have lost one or both parents to HIV & AIDS. Many are forced to leave school and their childhood behind, heading up households and caring for others affected by the epidemic.

To address these critical challenges, we have intensified our efforts to diminish the effects of the epidemic on learning. We focus on the care and support of orphans and vulnerable children, as well as on overcoming the multiple obstacles posed to teachers, educational planners and caregivers because of HIV & AIDS. CARE's four-pronged strategy tackles the daunting impact of HIV & AIDS on educational systems, aiming to:

**Remove barriers to education** through programs that reach vulnerable children during their early years, assisting them with all aspects of their development and easing their transition to primary school.

**Improve the quality of education** with updated, relevant curriculums, active student learning, improved classroom and teacher materials, and involved communities.

**Prevent the further spread of HIV** by empowering women and girls through measures such as peer support programs, literacy and life-skills programs, curricular interventions and capacity-building of civil society organizations.

**Mitigate the impact of HIV & AIDS on education** by training teachers, defining HIV & AIDS curricular approaches and content, developing models for filling teaching gaps, and helping governments increase their capacity to ensure that policies are established, adequately funded and implemented.

## Education and HIV & AIDS Highlights

The following are the highlights of CARE's current work in Education and HIV & AIDS:

**In Rwanda**, a CARE community-based initiative has benefited thousands of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV & AIDS. Volunteers are trained to guide and care for children living in households without adult support. As a result, fewer children are absent from school and more children who head their households are attending than before. Children are mastering literacy and vocational skills, and gaining access to health insurance, voluntary HIV counseling and testing and peer education.

**In Zambia**, CARE is helping to improve access to a quality primary education for thousands of disadvantaged Zambian children. We are working with communities to improve the teaching and learning environment in community schools and focus on the well-being of marginalized children. Additionally, a collective project helps families, communities and the government better protect and care for orphans and vulnerable children.

**In Burundi**, CARE helps strengthen nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations. Our efforts empower orphans and vulnerable children – especially girls affected by HIV & AIDS – to fulfill their right to a quality basic education. Hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children have enrolled in school, and healing and counseling sessions have been held for those traumatized by their circumstances.

## Contact

To learn more about CARE's work in Education and HIV & AIDS, please contact Pamela Young, Senior Technical Advisor for Education and HIV & AIDS, Basic and Girls' Education Unit, CARE USA, [pyoung@care.org](mailto:pyoung@care.org), 404-979-9399.



## Where We Support Education and HIV & AIDS Projects

CARE currently manages education projects to support children affected by HIV & AIDS in the following countries:

### Sub-Saharan Africa

Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

### Asia

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Thailand

### Latin America

Ecuador

