



Africa's Right to Health Campaign

AIDS in Africa

State of Emergency

"Years from now people will ask about AIDS in Africa, as with the Holocaust or the Rwandan genocide, 'How could the world have known—and failed to act?'"

—Salih Booker, Africa Action



Doctors and interns at a hospital in Kenya.

Africa is “Ground Zero” of the global HIV/AIDS crisis. Home to just over 10% of the world’s population, sub-Saharan Africa has more than 75% of the world’s HIV/AIDS cases. Africa has been hardest hit by HIV/AIDS because poverty has left its people most vulnerable. Inadequate access to health care services in Africa has fueled the spread of the disease. Meanwhile, racism has prevented an urgent international response and continues to cost millions of African lives.

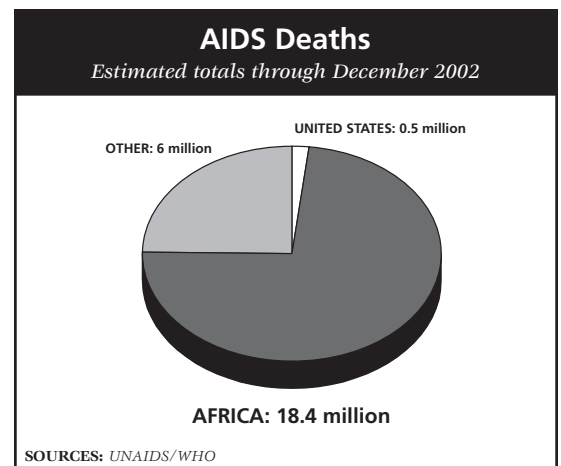
Throughout Africa, organizations and activists are taking action to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to provide care to those already living with the disease. But their efforts are hindered by insufficient resources. These efforts are also impeded by U.S. government policies that block Africans’ own initiatives to fight HIV/AIDS.

Africa's HIV/AIDS crisis is an unprecedented human tragedy. It is all the more tragic because the rapid spread of the disease can be stopped. **Millions of lives can still be saved if the U.S. and other rich countries take action now.**

HIV/AIDS has become the single greatest threat to human security in our lifetime.

AIDS in Africa State of Emergency

- ▶ HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▶ In 2002, almost 3 million Africans died of AIDS. This is equivalent to the entire population of Chicago.
- ▶ Over the past 20 years, AIDS has taken the lives of almost 20 million Africans.
- ▶ AIDS has reduced average life expectancy in Africa by 15 years.
- ▶ One quarter of AIDS deaths in Africa are among children.



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AIDS in Africa State of Emergency (continued from the front)

"AIDS is a war against humanity...this is a war that requires the mobilization of entire populations."

—Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa

Take Action!

If You Don't, Who Will?

EDUCATE!

Plan an event with your church, on campus or in your community to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in Africa. Africa Action can provide speakers and other educational resources.

ORGANIZE!

Join the Africa's Right to Health Campaign! Contact Africa Action to learn about a local coalition in your area.

MOBILIZE!

Plan a call-in or e-mail day to pressure the White House to support greater funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Global AIDS Fund: White House Comment Line: 202.465.1111 President Bush's e-mail address: president@whitehouse.gov

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Africans are Taking Action

- ▶ Across Africa, organizations, activists, and people living with HIV/AIDS are fighting to save lives and prevent new infections. But their efforts are constrained by a lack of resources and external obstacles.
- ▶ **Africa's debts drain money from spending on health care.** Most African governments are forced to spend more money each year repaying debts to wealthy foreign creditors than on fighting HIV/AIDS
- ▶ **Less than 1% of Africans with HIV/AIDS have access to life-saving treatments** that have cut death rates dramatically in the U.S. and other rich countries.

U.S. Policies are Denying Africans the Right to Health

Deadly Debt

- ▶ The U.S. and other rich countries insist that African governments repay old, illegitimate debts to them, even though this takes money away from the urgent fight against HIV/AIDS.

Profits before People

- ▶ The U.S. has supported the Big Drug companies' efforts to keep their profits high. Corporate greed continues to put life-saving treatment out of reach for most of those living with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Stingy Superpower

- ▶ The U.S. refuses to pay its fair share to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS. The Fund can provide the solution to the global AIDS crisis, but the U.S. government has contributed less than one-tenth of its fair share. As a result, the Global Fund is almost bankrupt.

