

**CHILDREN AND AIDS: A STOCKTAKING**  
FACT SHEET #4

**PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS:**

*Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS target: By 2010, reach 80 per cent of children most in need.*

Globally, as of 2005, an estimated 15.2 million children under 18 have lost one or both parents to AIDS; about 80 per cent of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa.

By 2010, more than 20 million children will have been orphaned by AIDS.

In addition to these orphans, many more children are left vulnerable by AIDS, including those who live with parents who are chronically ill, those who live in households that have taken in AIDS orphans, or those who have lost teachers and other adult members of the community to the disease.

Orphans and other children affected by AIDS face grave risks to their education, health and well-being. To counter this threat, at least 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa have completed national plans of action (NPA) on orphans and vulnerable children, and several others have nearly completed and launched their NPA.

In South Africa, the country with the largest number of orphans due to AIDS, more than 7.1 million children under 14 living in poverty were benefiting from a government child support grant by April 2006. Botswana and Namibia also provide child grants and other benefits to children affected by AIDS.

A rising number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa have begun to provide social protection in some form of external support for children affected by AIDS. The highest levels of support are seen in:

- Botswana, where 95 per cent of households receive support;
- Namibia, where 33 per cent of households receive support;
- Lesotho, where 25 per cent of households receive support;
- Uganda, where 23 per cent of households receive support;
- Zambia, where 13 per cent of households receive support;
- Kenya, where 10 per cent of households receive support;
- Togo, where 10 per cent of households receive support;

A 2006 survey of NGO actions in 28 sub-Saharan countries found that between 3.3 million and 5 million orphans and vulnerable children were receiving services in the form of education, health care, food, economic or psychosocial support.

Access to education for orphaned children is improving in several countries. Currently, for every 100 per cent of children living with a parent who attend school in sub-Saharan Africa, an average of 79 per cent of orphaned children are enrolled. Progress is partly attributed to the abolition of school fees.