Alexis MacDonald/SLF

The Stephen Lewis Foundation

Since 2003, the Stephen Lewis Foundation has partnered with 300 community-based organizations in 15 different countries—the ones that have been hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic.

All of them are south of the Sahara desert: Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Our community partners are lifelines to families. They provide counselling and education about HIV; distribute food and medication to families; visit the sick with home-based health care; help orphans and vulnerable children get into school; and support grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren.

A Growing Movement

The Stephen Lewis Foundation has been supported by more than 100,000 Canadians who make individual donations, take part in the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, do a Dare, and organize fundraising events in their communities.

How you and your school can GET INVOLVED!

Learn about HIV and AIDS in Africa. To find grade- and subject-specific resources including videos, visit *stephenlewisfoundation.org* for our School Resources section and/or contact *community@stephenlewisfoundation.org*

Increase awareness in your school and community. The Stephen Lewis Foundation is often able to send a staff person or a member of the SLF's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign to speak to your class, group, or school assembly. Just contact us at *community@ stephenlewisfoundation.org*

Raise funds. Bake sales, bike-a-thons, sponsored walks. Your support will make it possible for community-based organizations to reach even more people with their innovative and successful programmes.

Join the SLF movement. Read about the AIDS pandemic from people on the frontlines. Think about Africa differently. *Engage meaningfully as a global citizen.*

Our Partners in Africa

The Stephen Lewis Foundation partners with community-based organizations that work in five broad areas.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

More than 17 million young people in sub-Saharan Africa have been orphaned by AIDS and many others lead a precarious existence. Community-based organizations support these children by meeting their basic needs for food, water, school, housing and psycho-social therapy. They also teach HIV prevention, help them stay on treatment, and promote gender equality.

Grandmothers

In many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 40% to 60% of orphans are cared for by their grandmothers who have very little, if any, money. Community-based organizations give support to their grandchildren and offer grandmothers support for themselves: access to grief counselling, support groups, and training and small loans to earn their own income.

Home-based Care

In rural areas in Africa, communities are far from medical centres. That's why community-based organizations train volunteers to visit and provide care to people in their homes. They dispense drugs and food, carry out household chores, and offer comfort. Because they visit the communities regularly, they are able to identify families and children who are struggling.

Positive Living

Many HIV-positive people courageously speak out about their status, helping break down stigma and discrimination in their communities. They are important role models to others living with HIV, and use their leadership to establish community-based organizations, offer peer support, and raise awareness about HIV testing, prevention, treatment and care.

Gender-Based Violence

Unprotected sex and sexual violence by men can transmit the HIV virus to women and girls. Initiatives developed by community-based organizations offer safe houses and legal recourse, educate girls and women towards sexual autonomy, promote economic independence, and advocate for women's equality and laws against violence against women.

QUESTIONS

1. Why should students in Canada and elsewhere care about HIV and AIDS in Africa?

2. Why is supporting community-based organizations in Africa important?

3. What can students do to support the work of community-based organizations in Africa?

4. How can we think differently about supporting community based-organizations? What's the difference between social justice and charity? Solidarity and aid? Partner and beneficiary?

Where we work

ETHIOPIA
UGANDA
KENYA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
RWANDA
TANZANIA
MALAWI
ZAMBIA
NAMIBIA
ZIMBABWE
MOZAMBIQUE
BOTSWANA
SWAZILAND
LESOTHO
SOUTH AFRICA