

# Africa's Orphaned Generations B-roll 2003

Embargoed until 0900 on November 26, 2003

UNICEF video B-Roll  
Total Running Time: 8'07"

1. Kenya: Orphan 08'07"

*Note to broadcasters:* This B-roll story will be fed on Reuters World News Service (all paths) from 0640 to 0650 GMT on November 26, 2003.

**This story is intended to help publicise the launch of a new UNICEF report on "Africa's Orphaned Generations". The story is embargoed until 0900 GMT on November 26, 2003**

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[www.unicef.org/aids/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/aids/index.html)

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**Please note that the UNICEF report “Africa’s Orphaned Generations” is embargoed until 0900 GMT on November 26, 2003**

**Background information:**

The staggering number of African children already orphaned due to AIDS is only the beginning of a crisis of gargantuan proportions.

AIDS has already orphaned more than 11 million African children, half of whom are between the ages of 10 and 14. The countries that will see the largest increases in the number of orphans are those with HIV prevalence levels already higher than previously thought possible.

In these worst affected countries more than one in five children will be orphaned by 2010; more than 80 per cent of whom will have lost one or both parents due to AIDS. Even in countries where HIV prevalence has stabilized or fallen the numbers of orphans will stay high or rise as parents already infected continue to die from the disease.

According to UNICEF’s report “Africa’s Orphaned Generations,” even without HIV/AIDS the percentage of children who are orphans would be significantly higher in sub-Saharan Africa than in other regions of the world. Because of HIV/AIDS, the number of orphans is now increasing exponentially rather than declining.

Extended families are caring for 90 percent of all orphans. Overstressed and in many cases already overwhelmed, these networks will face ever-greater burdens as the number of orphans continues to spiral upward.

Children and young people in an HIV/AIDS-affected household begin to suffer even before a parent or caregiver has died. Household income plummets. Schooling is often interrupted and many children are forced to drop out either to care for a sick parent or to earn money. Depression and alienation are common. Survival strategies, such as eating less and selling assets are intensifying the vulnerability of households.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, works closely with young people on preventing new infections.

Young people are clear on what they need to make healthy and informed choices: knowledge and life skills, youth-friendly and gender-sensitive services and a protective familial, social and legal environment.

UNICEF also works to prevent parent-to-child transmission of HIV and helps communities provide care, protection and support to children orphaned and made vulnerable by the disease.

### **Suggested Video Script:**

Twelve-year-old Esther Wamboi lives in Nairobi's Kibera neighborhood, one of Africa's poorest and most notorious slums. Six years ago, Esther's mother died of AIDS, and her father deserted the family. Esther became one of 890,000 Kenyan children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

Esther lives with her older sister and brother-in-law in a shanty they built from discarded tin and wood. Food and clothing have been scarce. But this year, when Kenya's government abolished school fees in primary schools, Esther was thrown a life line.

#### Esther Wamboi, 12, Student:

I was in school before but it wasn't so regular because there was a problem with school fees. My caregivers had no regular income so I'd go to school only for about a month at a time and then had to quit.

I was in my village last year when I heard the news on radio about free education. Then a neighbor who sometimes looks after me brought me to the school to fill out the application. I started school this year and have been very happy.

Esther attends the Ayany School, where enrollment jumped from 1200 to 1800 students after the Kenyan government enacted a free basic education policy in 2003. On this mid-November morning at Ayany, more than 70 students -- ranging in age from seven years to eleven -- are crammed into a first-grade classroom to study math.

It's the same situation in other schools. Nationwide, the abolishment of school fees drew an additional 1.3 million Kenyan children and teenagers to classrooms this year, many for the first time.

The policy opened an urgently needed window of opportunity for millions of disadvantaged and marginalized children, many of whom had never enrolled or had dropped out because they could not afford school fees. The abolition of fees was particularly significant for Kenya's AIDS orphans. For most orphans, free schooling offers a real chance of breaking out of a vicious cycle of poverty.

Leah Asego, a teacher at Ayany and National Trainer on Free Primary Education, said schools can offer orphans not only education, but other essential things -- like guidance, support, structure, and the chance to be with other children in a healthy environment.

#### Leah Asego, Ayany School teacher:

Free education has changed their lives because now they have a place which is child-friendly. And teachers are also friendly with them. I have started HIV AIDS club in school, giving them hope for future. We have 400 orphans in school, though the number of kids in school is 1800. But these orphans have to be given hope, support, told that life

must continue. With or without the parents, life must continue, and that is the hope we have given them.

Under the previous government, schools charged enrollment fees ranging from \$20 to \$350 per student per year. In Kenya, where the average annual per capita income is \$250, the fees were beyond the means of most families. For children orphaned by AIDS, who are more likely to be raised in poorer households, school fees made education a luxury – something not even to be considered.

But even now, primary education in Kenya is not entirely free. Tuition may have been abolished, but there are still fees for things like school uniforms, transportation and maintenance. For Esther, who is being raised by her 22-year-old unemployed sister, Lois Muthoni, the \$30 in annual costs is one of the family's biggest expenses. Still, Lois says Esther's education is a family priority.

Lois Muthon, Esther's sister and caregiver:

I want Esther to finish her primary education because it will be better because she can then get a better job and be able to help us. So long as Esther goes to school there's a chance of our lives getting better.

The Kenyan government's primary education initiative has been endorsed strongly by the international community. Non-governmental agencies have responded to the influx of students by training staff and donating much-needed supplies.

UNICEF, the United Nations agency for children, has provided \$2.5 million in basic education kits for several hundred thousand students, as well as intensive training programs for five thousand educators in key communities. The Ayany Primary School was an early beneficiary of international support and UNICEF assistance.

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, UNICEF's representative in Kenya, is determined to see the education initiative succeed. He believes that from 20 to 25 percent of the students who enrolled after school fees were abolished are orphans.

Dr. Nicholas Alipui, UNICEF Representative in Kenya:

Our challenge now is to keep these children in school. We have to make sure that they don't drop out. The school environment has been overwhelmed by this new intake of children. The facilities are outstripped by the new numbers. The teaching materials are insufficient in parts of the country. The number of children per teacher is unmanageable in some schools – you have 80, 90 children per teacher. We have to move very quickly to look at the whole school environment: teacher training, sanitation, water supply, food – to be able to sustain the positive emergency we have had in trying to implement free primary education in Kenya.

Esther's hopes for the future depend on school remaining free, even as she continues into secondary school.

Esther Wamboi, 12, Student:

I look forward to finishing primary school because it's free, but I worry what I'll do for secondary school because it's not free.

I will go on with education as much as I can, as long as I can, so long as it's free. But it's given me hope to continue with further education.

**Shotlist**

<b>TIMECODE</b>	<b>Image / Soundbites</b>
1:00:01—1:00:16	Esther Wamboi, 12, Primary School Student, walking through slums of Kibera, one of Nairobi poorest communities.
1:00:17—1:00:22	Esther passing a shopkeeper, who sells soap and coal, and occasionally looks after young children when their parents are working.
1:00:23—1:00:44	Esther leaves the makeshift shanty that she shares with elder sister and brother-in-law. She straps on bookbag and heads to school
1:00:45—1:01:10	SOT Esther: I was in school before but it wasn't so regular because there was a problem with school fees. My caregivers had no regular income so I'd go to school only for about a month at a time and then had to quit.
1*01:14—1:01:41	SOT Esther: I was in my village last year when I heard the news on radio about free education. Then a neighbor who sometimes looks after me brought me to the school to fill out the application. I started school this year and have been very happy.
1:01:48 – 1:01:49	Esther walking to Ayany Primary School
1:01:51 – 1:01:55	Esther in Standard 4 class
1:02:00—1:02:22	Standard 1 class, ages 7 to 11 learning math
1:02:23—1:02:38	Ayany Primary School exterior with students
1:02:39—1:02:49	Standard 4 studying English, Esther in class
1:02:50—1:03:08	Leah Asego, Ayany Primary School Teacher, National Trainer on Free Primary Education, checking students' work.
1:03:09—1:03:39	Leah Asego: Free education has changed their lives because now they have a place which is child-friendly. And teachers are also friendly with them. I have started HIV AIDS club in school, giving them hope for future. We have 400 orphans in school, though the number of kids in school is 1800. But these orphans have to be given hope, support, told that life must continue. With or without the parents, life must continue, and that is the hope we have given them.

1:04:00 – 1:04:16	Students entering Ayany Primary School grounds
1:04:17—1:04:28	Standard 1 Math lesson
1:04:32—1:04:38	Esther and Lois Muthoni, 22, Sister and Caregiver to Esther, walking through streets of Kibera, Nairobi
1:04:43—1:04:55	Esther and Lois buying beans for dinner from street vendor
1:05:00—1:05:02	Lois: I want Esther to finish her primary education because it will be better because she can then get a better job and be able to help us.
1:05:03—1:05:11	Esther and Lois continuing to buy provisions from street vendor
1:05:13—1:05:17	Lois: So long as Esther goes to school there's a chance of our lives getting better.
1:05:19—1:05:31	Standard 4 English lesson with teacher
1:05:33—1:06:13	Standard 1 students with UNICEF workbooks and slates
1:06:15—1:07:18	Dr. Nicholas Alipui, Resident Representative, Unicef Kenya: Our challenge now is to keep these children in school. We have to make sure that they don't drop out. The school environment has been overwhelmed by this new intake of children. The facilities are outstripped by the new numbers. The teaching materials are insufficient in parts of the country. The number of children per teacher is unmanageable in some schools – you have 80, 90 children per teacher. We have to move very quickly to look at the whole school environment: teacher training, sanitation, water supply, food – to be able to sustain the positive emergency we have had in trying to implement free primary education in Kenya.
1:07:19 – 1:07:27	Esther during writing practice in Standard 4
1:07:27 – 1:07:34	Esther: I look forward to finishing primary school because it's free, but I worry what I'll do for secondary school because it's not free.
1:07:35 – 1:07:39	Tracking shot of students in Standard 4
1:07:40—1:07:50	Esther: I will go on with education as much as I can, as long as I can, so long as it's free. But it's given me hope to continue with further education.
1:07:51—1:08:07	Leah Asego, Ayany Primary School Teacher, checking work of students in Standard 4

ends