

» HIV/AIDS



Tragic numbers

- 36.1 million infected
- 22 million dead
- 10.4 million orphaned
- 5.3 million newly infected in 2000
- 50% of new infections found in young people aged 15-24

Unparalleled challenge

HIV/AIDS has emerged as a health and development crisis over the past decade. Sub-Saharan Africa is devastated, bearing close to 70 per cent of the world's infected people and about 90 per cent of children orphaned by AIDS. The disease is spreading rapidly in parts of Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean, leaving in its wake a trail of death, misery and loss.

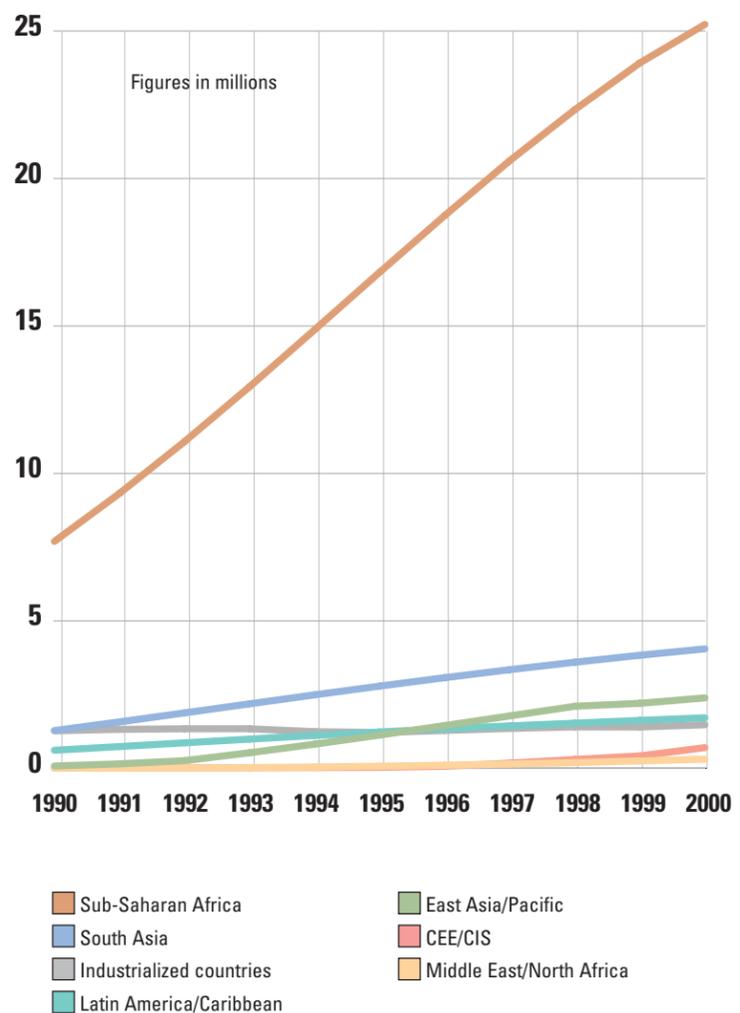
By 2000, an estimated 36.1 million people were infected worldwide, 50 per cent more than the most pessimistic projections a decade earlier. About 16.4 million of those infected are women and 1.4 million are children under age 15.

The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) in the worst-affected areas is expected to increase by over 100 per cent by 2010. Of the more than 5 million new infections in 2000, 50 per cent were among young people aged 15-24, with adolescent girls and young women being especially vulnerable.

Ignorance about the epidemic remains pervasive among young people, many of whom do not know how to protect themselves.

BURDEN OF DISEASE

Number of people living with HIV/AIDS, 1990-2000



1.8 million pregnant women infected, 1.5 million in sub-Saharan Africa



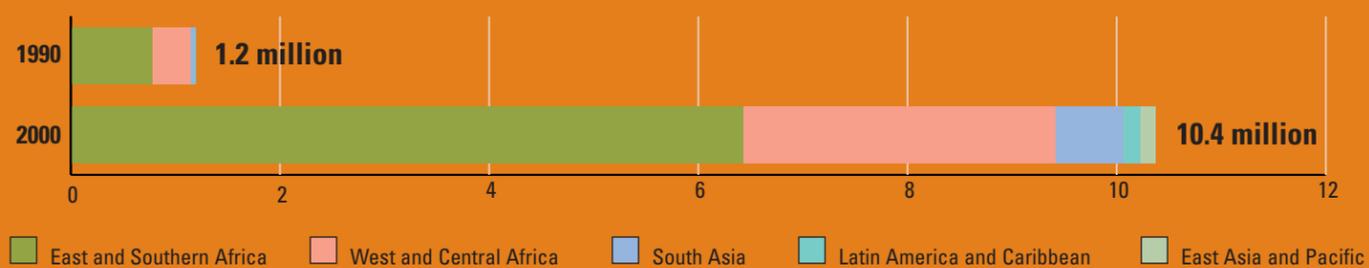
CHILDREN ORPHANED BY AIDS

Children orphaned by AIDS comprise the majority of the millions of children under 15 whose mother or both parents have died. There are about 10.4 million children orphaned by AIDS now and the figure is expected to double by 2010.

The human and social consequences of this tragedy are staggering. Orphans face uncertain futures in which they are denied opportunities for school, health care, growth, development, nutrition and shelter. They are also at great risk of abuse and exploitation.

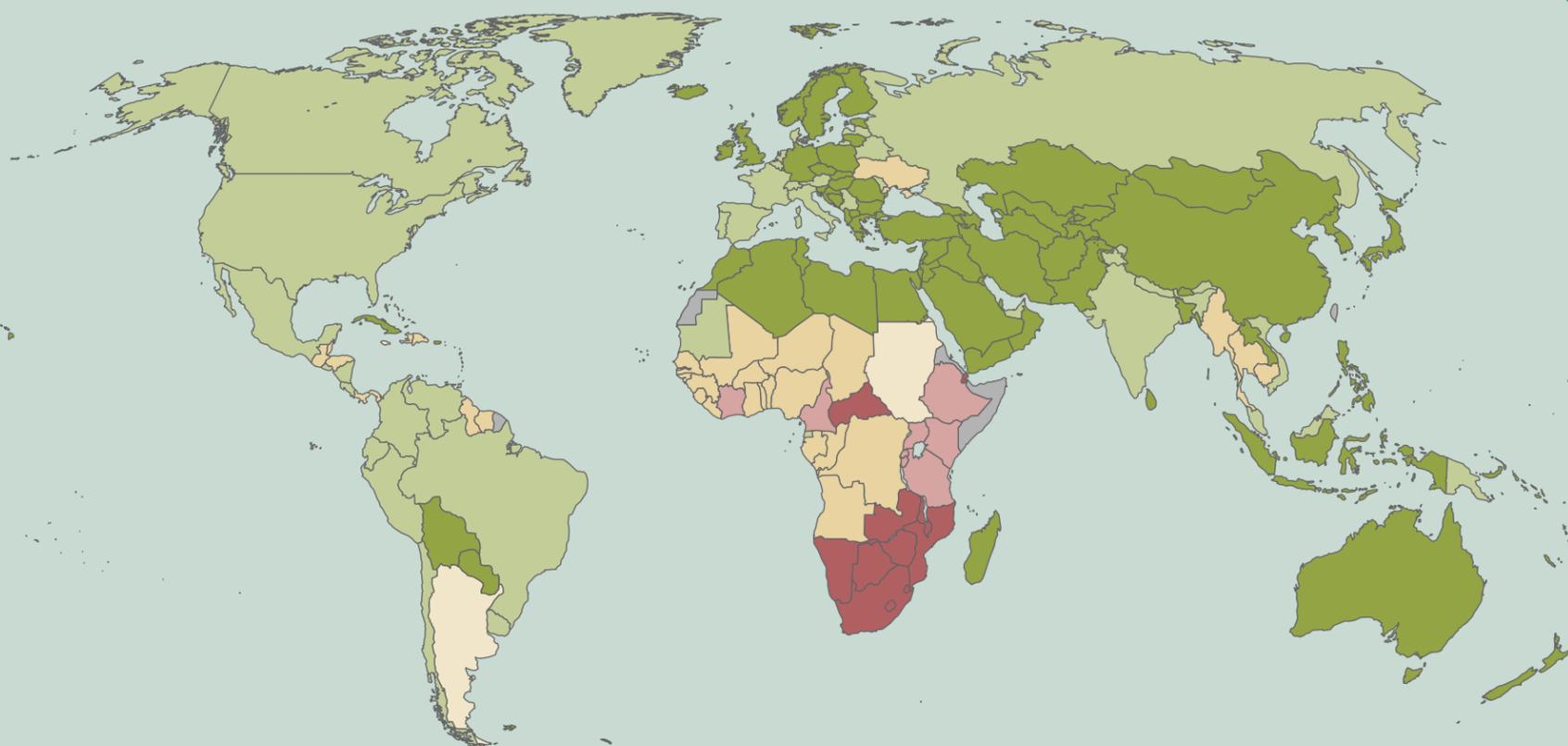
Large-scale, long-term strategies and increased resources allocated to those who care for orphans are needed to address this extreme challenge that children, families, communities and governments face, to ensure that orphans enjoy their full rights equally with other children.

Millions of children under 15 lost their mother or both parents to AIDS, 1990-2000



PREVALENCE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15-24

Percentage of young people with HIV/AIDS



10% and more 5.0-9.9% 1.0-4.9% 0.5-0.9% 0.1-0.4% <0.1% No data

10.3 million HIV+ young people
6.4 million young women
3.9 million young men

Declaration of commitment from the June 2001 UN Special Session on HIV/AIDS

By 2005:

- Reduce HIV prevalence among young people aged 15-24 by 25 per cent in the most affected countries;
- Ensure that at least 90 per cent of young people aged 15-24 have access to information, education and services necessary to develop the life skills to reduce their vulnerability to HIV;
- Reduce the proportion of infants infected with HIV by 20 per cent by increasing the information, counselling, testing and treatment services available to pregnant women to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV;
- Implement national policies and strategies to strengthen capacities to provide a supportive environment for orphans and children infected by HIV/AIDS and ensure that they have access to education and to health services on an equal basis with other children.

Source for all graphs and map: UNAIDS/UNICEF, 2001.