

CRS' WORK IN KENYA

Catholic Relief Services has been working in Kenya since 1965. Initially, activities focused on emergency relief to help communities survive drought and food shortages. Today, CRS' primary programming areas in Kenya include HIV and AIDS, water and sanitation, agriculture, microfinance, justice and peace building, emergency response and education. CRS Kenya collaborates with partners on comprehensive development programming to strengthen communities. Working with local partners, CRS assists more than 500,000 Kenyans through a variety of innovative and effective programs.



Since 1943, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has held the privilege of serving the poor and disadvantaged overseas. Without regard to race, creed or nationality, CRS provides emergency relief in the wake of natural and man-made disasters. Through development projects in fields such as education, peace and justice, agriculture, microfinance, health, HIV and AIDS, CRS works to uphold human dignity and promote better standards of living. CRS also works throughout the United States to expand the knowledge and action of Catholics and others interested in issues of international peace and justice. Our programs and resources respond to the U.S. Bishops' call to live in solidarity — as one human family — across borders, over oceans, and through differences in language, culture and economic condition.

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Written by: Nathalie Piraino
Edited by: Ashley Rytter
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CRS OVC Programming

Making an Impact in Kenya





CRS AND HIV PROGRAMMING IN KENYA

Many CRS programs in Kenya support people living with HIV and AIDS and children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. CRS has developed strong and positive working relationships with six local partners and works in the most HIV affected area of Kenya, the Nyanza Province. CRS and its partners implement The Child Behind (TCB) project, which is funded by private funds. The project's activities reach approximately 19,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The project incorporates the use of the OVC Wellbeing Tool (OWT), a tool designed by CRS to address OVC's entire wellbeing by looking at access to food, nutrition, education, shelter, economic opportunities, protection, mental health, family, physical health, spirituality, and community cohesion. CRS' partners work with OVC and the local community to improve attitudes and actions towards OVC.

HOW IS CRS HELPING OVC IN KENYA?

The prevalence of HIV in Kenya was estimated to be 1.4 million cases at the end of 2007. Currently, 22,500 OVC have benefited from TCB. The services OVC receive include antiretroviral therapy (ART), general health care, home care, school assistance, education, food security, and psychosocial treatment. While these services are helping individuals living with HIV, they are also helping communities and individuals fight the spread of the AIDS pandemic.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TCB is striving to reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS in various communities in Nyanza Province. TCB has developed a community based volunteer group to assist OVC and their care givers. In 2008-2009, TCB reached 19,000 OVC and 7,000 caregivers as well as other community members.

EFFIE: A CRS SUCCESS STORY

INTRODUCTION

Effie's life in Kenya was challenging. She lost her parents at a young age, and she and her brother were raised in two different households by their extended family. Effie became a beneficiary of the TCB project. Despite the many challenges Effie faced, she managed to obtain a high school diploma. She will attend the University of Kenya and intends to major in education. The TCB project helped Effie regain hope and dignity which allowed her to realize her childhood dream of being a teacher.

PROVIDING SUPPORT

TCB is helping OVC regain a sense of the life they lost when their parents died. The project offers children like Effie educational support, food and nutrition counseling, basic needs and shelter, medical care, education on HIV, (ART), financial assistance through village savings and internal lending communities, agricultural assistance, and training on basic hygiene. With this assistance, OVC can hope for a sustainable future that will allow them to make a difference in their community.



EFFIE'S VICTORY

"At my mother's death, I felt like my world was over. I was only seven. When my father died, I thought the pain would be less. It wasn't. In my mind, I thought at ten I could hold my tears to keep my brother strong! As I struggled to see what to do, it was grandma's turn to go. My brother and I were left to wonder if we were next. To my surprise we survived and were brought up by our extended family. Thanks to the care and love we received from the Children Behind Project, I manage to live and got through high school."