

CRS' WORK IN UGANDA

CRS' work in Uganda began as an outreach activity by the CRS Kenya program to aid Sudanese refugees living in the northern part of Uganda. In October 1996, CRS officially opened an office in Kampala to better respond to the needs of internally displaced Ugandans in the north affected by fighting between the Lord's Resistance Army rebel group and the government of Uganda.

CRS continues to work in northern Uganda while expanding projects to other areas of the country. CRS now focuses on helping communities grow more food, increase incomes and improve overall health. Current programs combine long-term development programming with emergency aid to help people survive during times of crisis while building more solid economic foundations.

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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CRS OVC PROGRAMMING

Making an Impact in Uganda





HIV AND AIDS IN UGANDA

Uganda is home to over 2,000,000 children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS. CRS' largest HIV initiative in Uganda is the AIDSRelief program. AIDSRelief is a five-member¹ consortium led by CRS and funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDSRelief (PEPFAR). The AIDSRelief program provides high quality care and antiretroviral therapy (ART) to people living with HIV in Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. In Uganda, AIDSRelief supports 18 health facilities in 11 districts, reaching over 62,420 people, including more than 20,785 on ART.



HOW IS CRS HELPING OVC IN UGANDA?

Thirteen thousand orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) benefit from services provided by CRS with funding from PEPFAR in Uganda. Services include ART, home-based care, educational support, food security support, child protection services and psychosocial support. While these services are helping individuals living with and affected by HIV, they are also tools used to empower communities and individuals to stop the spread of HIV.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PEPFAR funding, as well as support from UNICEF, enables CRS and its partners to work with district health authorities to prevent transmission of HIV from pregnant mothers to their babies. In addition, CRS' private funds and funding from the Better Way Foundation allow CRS and its partners to provide medical treatment and emotional support to more than 2,000 children. AIDSRelief provides psychosocial support to 7,315 OVC and links them to needed HIV care and support.

To prevent new infections, CRS provides Abstinence and Be Faithful education to more than 186,000 people in six of Uganda's dioceses. In October 2009, 6,965 individuals participated in The Faithful House training, a curriculum focused on increasing mutual fidelity, and 6,451 individuals participated in Value for Life trainings, which include onsite counseling, testing and referral services. During the four years the program has been in place, the Value of Life program has reached over 32,000 OVC aged 15 to 24.



¹ Members include CRS, the University of Maryland, School of Medicine-Institute of Human Virology (IHV), Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), Futures Group, and International Medical Assistance (IMA).

NORAH: AN AIDSRELIEF SUCCESS STORY

INTRODUCTION

Eighteen-year-old Norah was perinatally infected with HIV. At the age of seven, Norah lost her mother to an AIDS-related illness. This experience, an unfortunately too common situation among OVC, was very emotionally stressful for Norah.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

CRS aims to improve the overall wellbeing of the children in its programs. Norah wanted to belong, but was bullied by classmates. Then through AIDSRelief, she received medical assistance including ART, which helped her regain physical strength and hope. Norah received psychosocial support through the program and began to realize that she was not alone.

Norah leads a peer support group called "Famous Unique Sisters", which has a membership of 28 girls and young women. Norah's involvement in her community is impacting and changing new generations.



NORAH'S GRATITUDE

"You have been very helpful. We feel proud whenever you would visit Nsambya Home Care and we ("the Famous Unique Sisters") would be called upon to present some music, dance and drama. Be blessed a thousand times because you love us children and young people as we struggle with HIV and AIDS.

My dream is to become a lawyer."

