

CHILDREN IN CRISIS: THE PLIGHT OF AFRICA'S INVISIBLE CHILDREN



THE FACES OF AFRICA'S "INVISIBLE CHILDREN"

Between poverty, starvation, water and other resource shortages, political unrest, armed conflicts, lack of educational opportunities, and a rapidly spreading HIV epidemic, Africa's children face innumerable challenges as Africa struggles to find its equilibrium in a rapidly changing 21st century landscape. Today's Children in Crisis event is a fundraiser to benefit a number of different relief agencies that work to:

- 1) *Provide food, sanitation, medical care and educational opportunities to Africa's impoverished.*
- 2) *Put a permanent end to the practices of using children as slaves and soldiers*
- 3) *Implement strategies to make Africa's abundant groundwater supplies available to those who need them most.*

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

- 1) **Donate!** The proceeds of today's *Children in Crisis* event will go to support the efforts of UNICEF, Invisible Children, and Groundwater Go's Africa initiative.
- 2) **Get Involved!** Volunteer or host an event or film screening to raise awareness of the situation in Africa.
- 3) **Spread the word!** If we work together as a global community, we can find solutions to many these problems. But the first step is getting the word out and making people aware of the situation.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, VISIT:

www.childrencrisis.wordpress.com
www.fightpoverty.mmbriico.com
www.unicef.org
www.invisiblechildren.com
www.groundwatergo.com/blog/the-july-2012-series-on-groundwater-in-africa

THE HEARTBREAKING STATISTICS

- **200,000 child slaves** are sold every year in Africa. There are an estimated 8,000 girl-slaves in West Africa alone. (sources: BBC 5 October, 2001 & Anti-Slavery Society)
- About **120,000 African children** are participating in armed conflicts. Some are as young as 7 years old. (source: Africa Children's Charter)
- Children account for **half of all civilian casualties** in wars in Africa. (source: Africa 2015)
- **One in six** African children dies before the age of five. Most of these deaths could be prevented. (source: Africa 2015)
- **Nearly one third** of children in Sub-Saharan Africa are underweight. (source: UNICEF)
- In sub-Saharan Africa, measles takes the life of a child nearly **every minute** of every day. An effective measles vaccine costs as little as **\$1 per child**. (source: UNICEF)
- Between **12 and 14 million** African children have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. (source: World Bank/UNICEF)
- Nearly **2 million** children under 14 years old are HIV positive. (source: UNICEF)
- **43% of children** in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have safe, accessible drinking water. (source: UNICEF)
- **64% of children** in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have adequate sanitation. (source: UNICEF)
- Only **57% of African children** are enrolled in primary education, and one in three of those does not complete school. (source: Africa 2015)
- For every **100 boys** there are only **83 girls** enrolled at primary school. (source: World Bank/UNICEF)