



AMERICAN FOUNDATION
for CHILDREN *with AIDS*

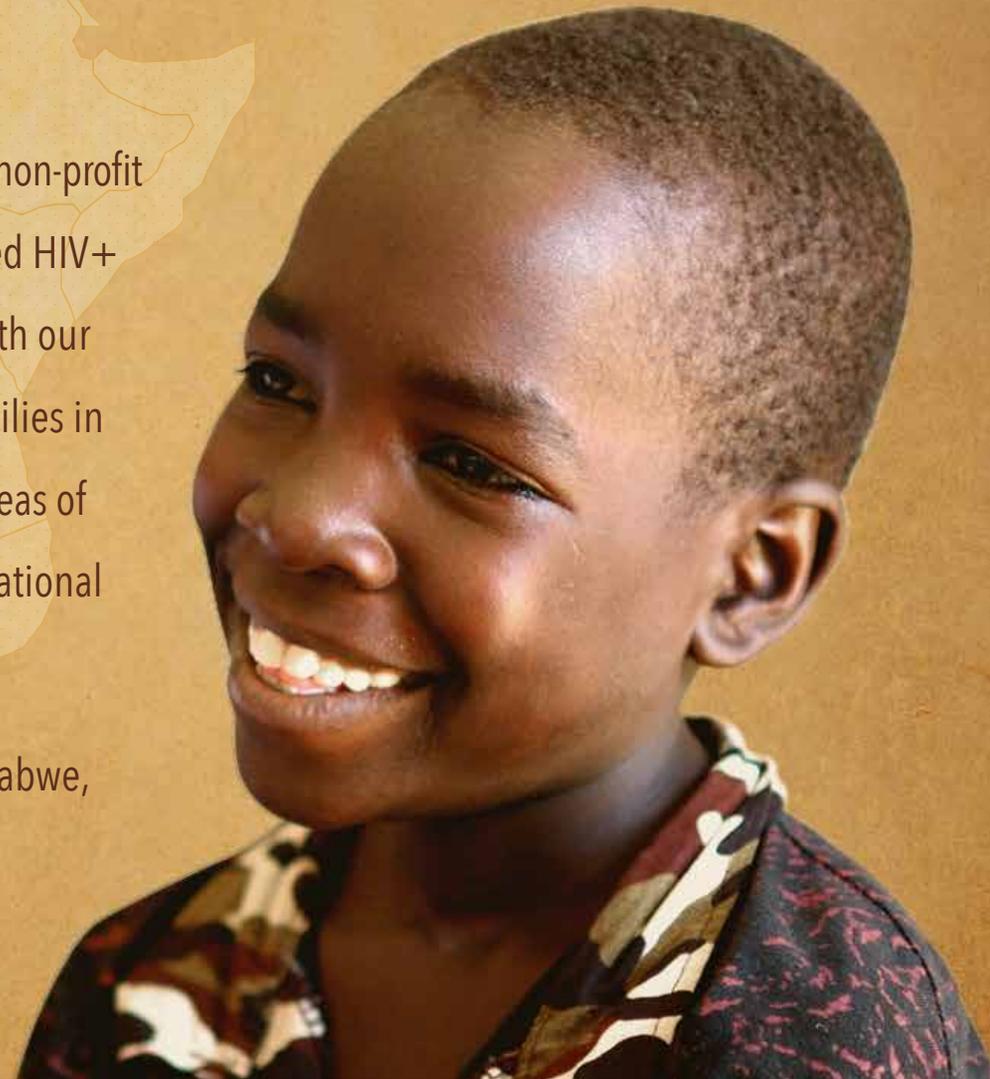


MISSION

OUR

The **American Foundation for Children with AIDS (AFCA)** is a non-profit organization providing critical support to infected and affected HIV+ children and their caregivers. Since 2005, in collaboration with our in-country partners, we have served tens of thousands of families in underserved and marginalized communities in Africa. Our areas of impact include: medical support, livelihoods, nutrition, educational support and emergency relief.

Currently, AFCA is transforming lives in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



CORE VALUES

WE DELIVER

1

Efficient and sustainable programs that promote self-reliance, with measurable results

2

Comprehensive services for children and their families/caregivers

3

Support in regions that are under-served and marginalized



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MEDICAL SUPPORT

MEDICINE & TESTING KITS

While AFCA does not diagnose, prescribe nor fill prescriptions, we partner with local clinics and hospitals that are approved by their government's Ministry of Health. The trained doctors and medical directors are the ones who request help from AFCA and we fill their requests by supplying their pharmacies with requested medications.

AFCA provides medicine for HIV+ children to combat opportunistic infections, such as pneumonia, cancers specific to AIDS, thrush, etc.

AFCA provides testing kits to partners who find they don't have enough to test mothers and children in their programs. This is in an effort to test pregnant mothers so that the best care can be given to her and her unborn child, as well as treating the baby once born, if they test positive. Of course, AFCA also supplies testing kits to guardians of children in our programs, as well as to the children themselves, at the request of our partner hospitals.



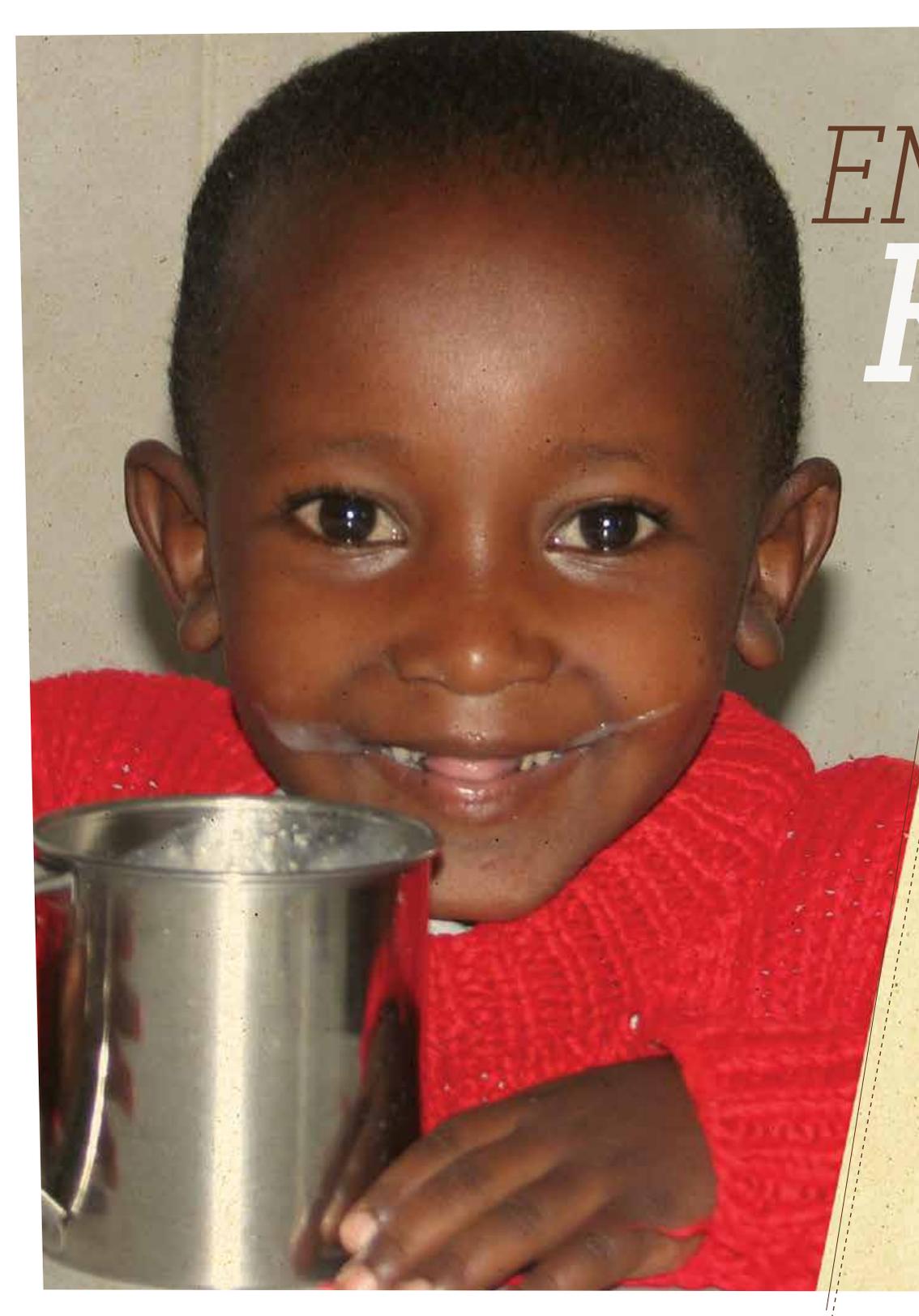


MEDICAL SURPLUS PROGRAM

AFCA collects opened but unused and new but unneeded medical supplies and equipment from hospitals, manufacturers, and distributors, diverting them from landfills and shipping them for use in the countries where we work.

We work with hospitals in USA to set up recovery programs, so the hospital staff can efficiently recycle their surplus medical supplies. This program includes regular pick-up service of donated supplies. We also work with hospitals in Africa so that we are not sending items they don't need – why create a landfill problem by sending items that are useless to them? We visit the hospitals and communicate closely through email, noting what is lacking and what we should send. Our biggest need is for maternity wards, as we are working closely with partners who are determined to stop the transmission of HIV from mother to child.



A close-up photograph of a young child with dark skin and short hair, wearing a bright red sweater. The child is smiling and looking directly at the camera. They are holding a silver metal cup with both hands. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

NUTRITION

In times of famine or drought, AFCA provides nutritional support in the form of fortified porridge to children in our programs. Because we work with HIV+ children, we know that without proper nutrition, it is difficult for them to take their prescribed medicine for various reasons:

- + Their stomach might hurt
- + They might experience nausea throughout the day
- + They might become constipated or, on the flip side, get diarrhea
- + There may be absorption changes, as medicines are absorbed at different rates, depending on the type of medicine. If a medicine is supposed to be taken with food but isn't, it may be absorbed too rapidly into their system, or they may absorb more than the intended dose.

With their bellies full of the nutritious porridge, the kids can take their medicines as indicated by their doctors and they can continue to stay healthy. When the food situation in their area stabilizes and they can, once again, purchase or grow food, we stop the supply of emergency rations.



SUPPLIES

During times of unrest, AFCA has been called to aid our partners and we do our utmost to help them. We have donated blankets, cleaning supplies, sheets, beds, and other items when floods have destroyed medical housing and a partner hospital. We have donated blankets, baby supplies, toys, and other requested items when violence erupted in one of our countries and children lost their homes due to fire and forced relocation.



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Children who've been orphaned find it difficult to pay for things such as school fees. Yet, we at AFCA know that staying in school is vitally important for any child, especially one who wants to get out of the cycle of poverty. To this end, AFCA pays for school fees, uniforms and books for some children in our programs.

Children in some of our programs also receive school supplies and backpacks so they can start their school year with the items they need – erasers, pens, pencils, notebooks, file folders, scissors, and glue make up the kits and the children love them.

AFCA also helps keep girls in school by providing reusable sanitary pad kits for them. With so many girls dropping out of school because of days missed due to their period, something as simple as feminine products changes their future. Not only do we donate these kits, but we also conduct trainings and teach older girls and women how to make the kits so they can start small businesses.

AFCA provides books for some small school libraries. Reading allows the children to imagine things they didn't think possible and to dream of things they might see and/or become someday.



LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMS

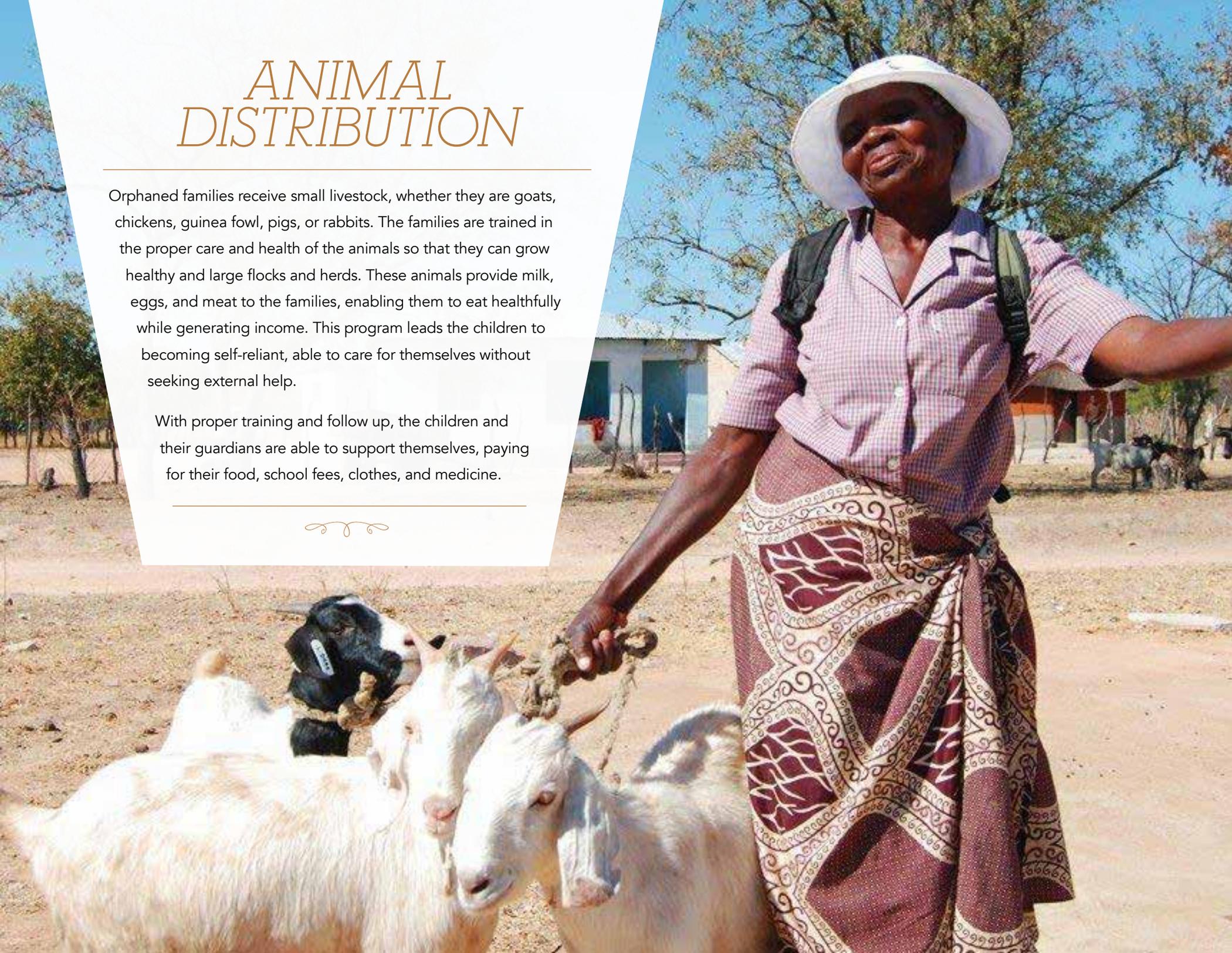


Because most orphan households have no financial resources to purchase livestock or seed, this program makes resources available to them in order to support their efforts at building their capacity to sustain themselves. Thus, the project will leave orphan families better positioned to actively participate in livelihood activities and for children's nutritional levels to improve. The strength of this project lies in that it is rooted in communities in which it is implemented. Since the needs were identified at the lowest community level and solutions also originated from the beneficiary communities, the sense of ownership that is gained through this process motivates beneficiaries to succeed and sustain benefits.

ANIMAL DISTRIBUTION

Orphaned families receive small livestock, whether they are goats, chickens, guinea fowl, pigs, or rabbits. The families are trained in the proper care and health of the animals so that they can grow healthy and large flocks and herds. These animals provide milk, eggs, and meat to the families, enabling them to eat healthfully while generating income. This program leads the children to becoming self-reliant, able to care for themselves without seeking external help.

With proper training and follow up, the children and their guardians are able to support themselves, paying for their food, school fees, clothes, and medicine.





VETERINARY TRAINING & KITS

One of the important objectives of our livelihoods program is to improve access to services to vulnerable people. Therefore, another activity is to improve access to basic livestock medicines by giving veterinary kits to a trained community. In all areas where animals are distributed, a detailed training on care of small livestock is carried out for five to ten para-veterinary assistants. These are in charge of the veterinary kits provided through this program.



GARDENS

Orphan families receive drought resistant seeds and training in conservation farming so that small, personal gardens are built and maintained. The vegetables provided by these gardens, complemented with eggs and milk from animals, allows the children to eat healthfully and to stay healthy. Excess vegetables can be used for sale or to nourish the animals in their care. Manure from the animals is used in compost for the gardens, as are egg shells.

Seeds provided to the families are both for traditional local vegetables, as well as new vegetables which are proven to do well in areas with little rain fall. This allows the families to eat what they know while introducing them to new, nutritious food, as well.





SUSTAINABILITY

We believe that sustainable programs are the best programs to support. Yet, when working with orphans or children, it is sometimes difficult to create sustainable programs right away. We give medicine and food away to children who need it even though we know that is not sustainable (but, it sure is life-saving!) because there is a place for such help in our mission to help children affected and/or infected by AIDS. Yet, AFCA does, indeed, want the clinics, hospitals and projects we support to be able to carry on their work in a sustainable manner.

With this in mind, AFCA is supporting a large gardening/farm program in Kenya. Greenhouses and open land are producing food which can be sold at restaurants, hotels and in the open market. The clinics that are benefiting from this project can use the proceeds to pay for items AFCA usually supplies.

Along those lines, AFCA has created a multiplication center in the Democratic Republic of Congo and is creating one in Zimbabwe so that our Livelihoods Programs can continue long into the future. In fact, this entire program was created to help orphans become self-reliant, no longer needing external help to pay for their medications, food, schooling, or other needs.



HOPE

IS A
SPARK
THAT
CHANGES LIVES.

AFCA provides hope to thousands of children in Africa.

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To find out more, go to: AFCAIDS.org

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