

## Support Innovative Agriculture and Micro Finance Programs for families of AIDS Orphans in Uganda

Uganda is primarily a rural nation, with eighty percent of its workforce engaged in agriculture. The country once had the world's highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, but today it is one of the few countries that has succeeded in slowing the spread the epidemic, with HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rates down from over 30% in 1992 to near 4% in 2005. Infection rates, however, remain significantly higher in parts of the country that have been affected by conflict.

The combination of civil strife and the HIV/AIDS pandemic has devastated the ranks of Uganda's farmers. In some areas, the majority of farmers are widowed women working to support their children. Women farmers face particular challenges as they are frequently denied access to land and farming implements.

In Kigezi, in south-western Uganda, children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic are taken in by extended family members, often woman-headed households, who struggle to provide for their needs under conditions of extreme poverty and subsistence agriculture.



Often orphans are HIV positive from birth and need access to healthcare clinics, nutritional support and counselling, creating unsurmountable financial burdens on host families.

As such, currently 97,500 orphans in the Kigezi region (about 95%) are not receiving help in any form. And of the 5000 orphans living with HIV/AIDS in the region, 90% of them receive no help whatsoever.

Change for Children is working with the Kigezi Healthcare Foundation [www.kigezihealthcare.org](http://www.kigezihealthcare.org) to improve the situation for orphans of the AIDS epidemic by providing:

- counselling services for orphans and their extended families including clinical services to HIV + children.
- nutritional support through training in diversified agriculture;
- income support for families through training in sustainable agriculture and improved technology;
- micro-finance programs to encourage diversified income generation in agricultural practises.



### Human Dignity, Healthy Communities, Global Justice

Change for Children is an Edmonton-based charitable organization with a 32 year history of supporting sustainable grassroots community development in Latin America and Africa. In Canada, CFCA provides an award-winning Global Education program that engages the public in a process of awareness raising, analysis and action on issues of global justice.