



In Kenya the HIV/AIDS epidemic still constitutes a catastrophe, especially amongst the poorest of the poor. Women in particular suffer the synergist effects of this illness, poverty and unequal opportunities. The HIV infection rate among adult women in Kenya is 8%. As a woman, particularly when living in the slum, an HIV diagnosis can easily be a death sentence for her and her children.

In the fight against HIV/AIDS, ChildsLife developed a unique and comprehensive re-integration program for HIV mothers: The **ChildsLife Live Learn Earn program**. The goal of the program is to create a self-sustainable future for HIV+ mothers who thought they no longer had a future. By offering women support, training and encouragement ChildsLife offers them a chance of a longer, healthier and financially independent life together with their children.

ChildsLife operates the Live, Learn, Earn program in Kibera and Mukuru Slums in Nairobi and partners with clinics and other local organizations.

The Program

The women embark on a 12-month program to help them to take control of their lives with HIV/AIDS and regain their independence. Women are placed into groups of 30, all carrying responsibility for a family.

The program consist of 3 phases:

Phase 1 Live: Medical care, psychological support and counseling, food packages and supplements to regain strength.

Phase 2 Learn: Group therapy and a wide range of workshops, including AIDS prevention and family planning.

Phase 3 Earn: Business training and upon successful completion women are offered a micro loan, which is used to start their own business.

ChildsLife provides:

- Health, nutrition and knowledge
- Social acceptance, moral support and encouragement
- Business training
- Micro loans

Results

- ⇒ **1800 women** successfully graduated from the program, regained their independence and rebuilt a future for themselves and their children.
- ⇒ **9000 children** reached through supporting their mothers.

Impact

- ⇒ The financial, physical and psychological state of 1800 HIV mothers has drastically improved.
- ⇒ Many women successfully started their own business.
- ⇒ Women contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS by informing others about infection.
- ⇒ 9000 children have the chance to a better future.

