AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa, where twenty-eight million people are HIV positive, and where some twelve million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. In Zimbabwe, 45 percent of children under the age of five are HIV positive, and the epidemic has shortened life expectancy by twenty-two years. A fifteen-year-old in Botswana or South Africa has a one-in-two chance of dying of AIDS. AIDS deaths are so widespread in sub-Saharan Africa that small children now play a new game called "Funerals."

The Children of Africa Confront AIDS depicts the realities of how African children deal with the AIDS pandemic. Arvind Singhal, W. Stephen Howard, and contributors from many disciplines and agencies draw on compelling personal experiences, interviews, and thoughtful research in describing HIV/AIDS interventions for children. Their insights suggest possibilities for hope and progress in this alarming African public health crisis.

Arvind Singhal is a presidential research scholar and professor of interpersonal communications at Ohio University.

W. Stephen Howard is director of the African Studies Program at Ohio University and director of the Institute for the African Child, which he founded to promote progressive development of children and their families across the African world.

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The children of africa confront AIDS

AIDS
There is a Setswana saying that goes, “A child left in the sun will find a way to crawl to the shade.” I see this book as tracking children’s resilience as well as highlighting the many patches of shade that have sprung up since the start of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. May the patches coalesce into an umbrella!

— Justice Unity Dow, High Court of Botswana

Vulnerable, yet courageous—cling to the possibility of a new day. In compiling these well-researched, harrowing narratives, editors Singhal and Howard remind us that tackling this crisis is an international responsibility.

— Micere Githae Mugo, Department of African-American Studies, Syracuse University

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