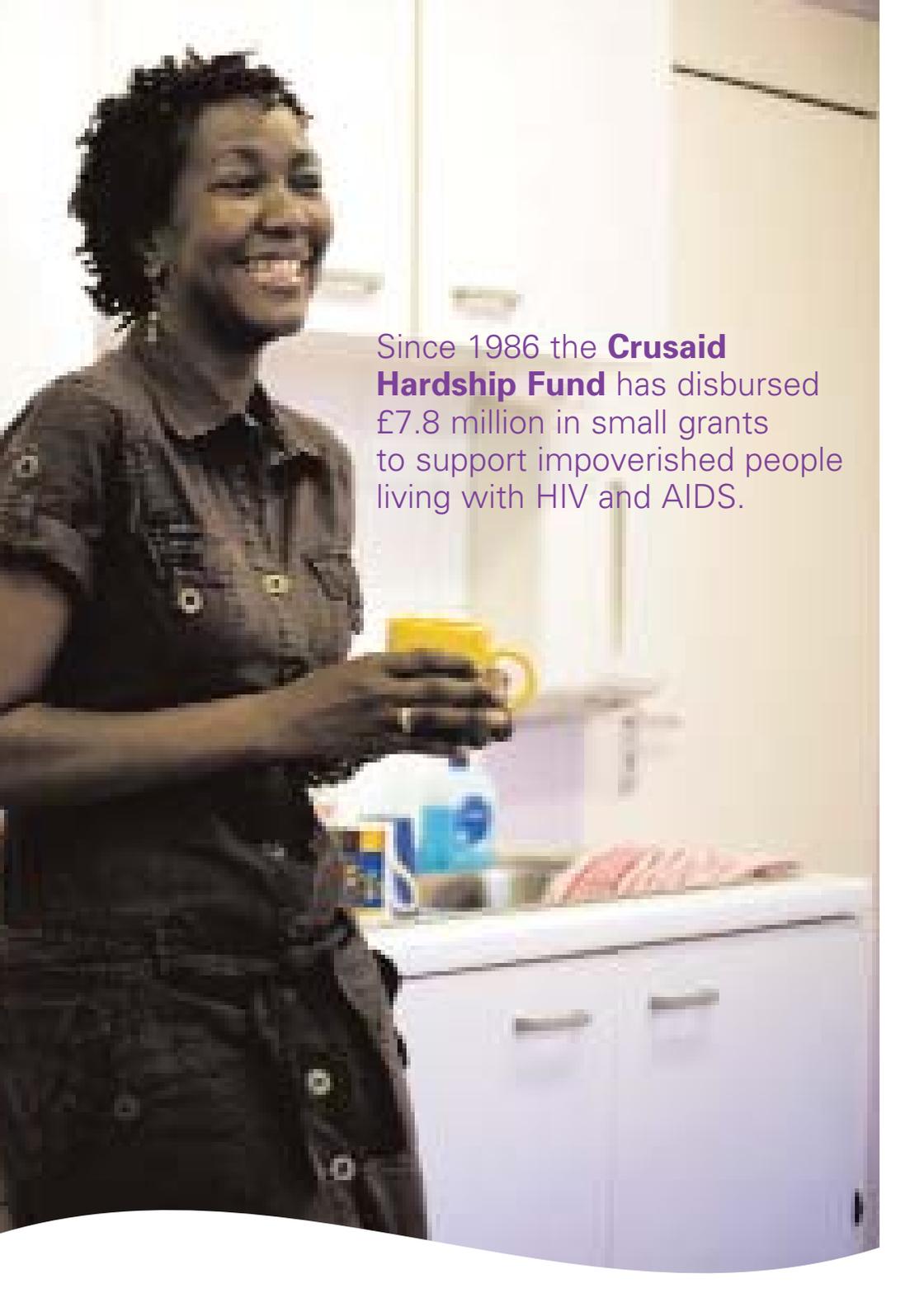


The Crusaid logo is a purple, wavy-edged shape containing the word "Crusaid" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

HIV & AIDS:
help & hope
for people
in poverty

IMPACT REPORT 2006





Since 1986 the **Crusaid Hardship Fund** has disbursed £7.8 million in small grants to support impoverished people living with HIV and AIDS.

HELP US CREATE
A WORLD WHERE POOR
AND MARGINALISED
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY
HIV AND AIDS LIVE WITH
DIGNITY AND HAVE A
DECENT QUALITY OF LIFE.

CRUSAID IS A CHARITY WITH A VERY CLEAR MISSION

We raise money to support people affected by HIV and AIDS in the **poorest and most marginalised communities**.

Every project supported by Crusaid is working with people most in need – helping them to achieve a decent quality of life.

Last year we awarded grants to **27 projects in the UK and Africa** – the region of the world where the HIV and AIDS pandemic has hit hardest. This report outlines the impact of just some of these grants.

Every donation we receive gives us the power to work harder – to fund more projects and make a real difference to people's lives. Thank you for your support.

FOREWORD

Here at Crusaid every project we fund makes a big difference to the lives of people affected by HIV and AIDS.

Whether it's a small grant that helps someone get back on their feet after a stay in hospital. Or an educational CD ROM and website that teaches South African children aged 8-14 how to stay safe from infection.

All our grants are carefully directed to where they can make the biggest impact on the lives of poor and marginalised people.

This report introduces you to some of the projects we have funded. Or should I say **you** have funded. Because without our supporters, none of this would be possible.

The lives of so many people continue to be devastated by HIV and AIDS.

With your support we can bring help and hope to the people who need our support the most.

Glenys Kinnock, Patron



Our grants are carefully directed to where they can make the biggest impact.

RELIEVING POVERTY CAUSED BY HIV AND AIDS

THE CRUSAID HARDSHIP FUND
CHARITABLE ACTIVITY: £591,602

More people in the UK are living with HIV and AIDS than ever before. Many come from the poorest and most marginalised communities.

The Crusaid Hardship Fund – financed in partnership with the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the M.A.C. AIDS Fund – is a vital lifeline for people experiencing extreme hardship as a result of HIV and AIDS.

Last year we awarded grants ranging from £100 to £250 to 3,000 people. Here are just a few of the ways they helped.

- > **Grants to cover** food, heating bills and other ordinary living expenses to help people survive on a low income.
- > **Help toward the cost of** essential clothing, bedding or childcare to help someone on a low income attend regular hospital treatment.
- > **Provision of white goods**, such as a fridge to keep antiretroviral medication at the right temperature or a washing machine to help with personal hygiene and minimise the indignity which may occur after night sweats.
- > **A start-up grant to help someone made homeless** set up a new home in an emergency.
- > **Respite care** to help people get back on their feet again after a period of severe ill-health.

Applications are made via a social worker and rigorously assessed to make sure they go to those most in need.



'YOU HELPED ME KEEP MY INDEPENDENCE'

NIGEL, 23
CRUSAID HARDSHIP FUND
GRANT: £300

Until Nigel became ill he had been coping reasonably well on £63.96 a week – paying his bills and eating a fairly nutritious diet. He was diagnosed with HIV in 2001.

But a long period of illness rocked his health. He became too weak to walk far and unwilling to leave home. His doctor said he needed a wheelchair but with a 12 month waiting list there wasn't much hope of that.

Nigel's social worker knew urgent action was needed. Nigel was well on the way to becoming depressed and completely isolated.

His social worker appealed to the Crusaid Hardship Fund for £300 which, added to Nigel's small savings of £100, was enough to buy the wheelchair he badly needed.

'This came at a time when I really needed help,' says Nigel. 'You cannot know how much this has helped me keep my independence.'



'I COULDN'T COPE WITH THE LAUNDRY'

ELIZABETH, 44
CRUSAID HARDSHIP FUND
GRANT: £320

Something as simple as a washing machine and dryer has made a massive difference to the life of Elizabeth and her family.

Elizabeth lives in a high rise block of flats with no drying facilities. She is HIV positive and has three children aged 11, six and four.

Because of her illness she was struggling to cope with looking after her family – she has HIV-related peripheral neuropathy which affects the nerves in her hands and feet, making walking and using her hands difficult.

Elizabeth wasn't a high enough priority to receive statutory support and couldn't ask her neighbours for help because she was afraid her HIV status might be discovered. So her oldest child was looking after the entire household, including all the domestic chores.

The Crusaid Hardship Fund became aware of Elizabeth's situation after receiving an application from Lighthouse South London, the referring agency.

The Fund was able to deliver and install a new washer/dryer. Thanks to the grant, Elizabeth now feels more independent and self-reliant, and less dependent on her young children for routine domestic tasks.



One in three people diagnosed with HIV in the UK have been helped by Crusaid's Hardship Fund.

SMALL GRANTS IN A CRISIS

MARCO, 28
CRUSAID EMERGENCY FUND
GRANT: £30

The Crusaid Emergency Fund is for just that – emergencies. When a small amount of money is needed right now.

£30 was all it took to help Marco reverse a downward spiral of ill-health and depression.

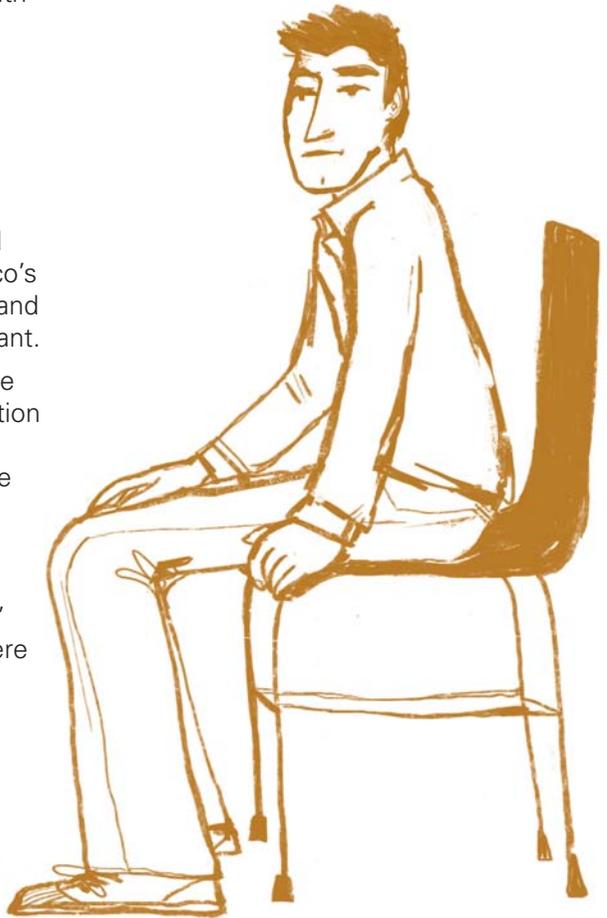
After a spell in hospital, Marco had nowhere to go. He had lost his job, his home and his family, who had completely disowned him.

Fortunately the hospital had an Emergency Payment Centre funded by the Crusaid Hardship Fund. Marco's social worker made the application and Marco quickly got an emergency grant.

£30 was enough to buy Marco some food and a few nights' accommodation for when he left hospital. The social worker also helped him apply for the housing and incapacity benefits he was entitled to.

'Looking back I don't know what I would have done without Crusaid,' says Marco. 'Crusaid's help was there when I really needed it.'

Crusaid currently funds 22 Emergency Payment Centres across the UK.





GCSE MEDIA KIT RAISES AWARENESS

Students across London will learn about HIV and AIDS thanks to a new media kit designed to complement the GCSE English curriculum.

AWARE! The Crusaid Media Kit will be sent to 1,500 schools across London during 2007 following a successful pilot project in eight schools during 2005/06.

The kit features the UK's original AIDS awareness TV advertisements from the 1980s and encourages students to devise their own AIDS awareness campaign aimed at teenagers.

It's the first time a teaching module on HIV has been created for the mainstream English curriculum.

The Head of English in a London School says of the media kit: 'Currently HIV education in our schools is extremely unsatisfactory. The Crusaid AWARE Media Kit allows students to continue working towards their English qualifications whilst also learning important personal lessons which will enable them to make informed decisions about their sexual health for their future.'

Crusaid has funded the pilot project and distribution to London schools, with a view to encouraging the government to provide funding for national distribution.

AWARE! THE CRUSAID MEDIA KIT
CHARITABLE ACTIVITY: £34,625



It's the first time a teaching module on HIV has been created for the mainstream English curriculum.

FLEXIBLE FOSTER CARE FOR PARENTS WITH HIV AND AIDS

POSITIVE PARENTING AND CHILDREN
SUPPORT CARE PROJECT
CRUSAID GRANT: £25,000

Children whose parents have HIV and AIDS are particularly vulnerable when mum and dad need emergency hospital treatment or respite care.

If family or friends cannot help, the local authority often steps in. This could mean a succession of different foster carers sometimes miles away from home. Siblings might be separated too.

The Support Care Project in Brixton aims to provide a safe alternative for low income families.

Using a Crusaid grant, they are finding, assessing and training a team of flexible foster carers to look after children whose parents need hospital or respite care because of HIV or AIDS.

Caroline Tetteh is one of the foster carers. 'Children sometimes feel their world has tumbled down if their parents can't look after them for a while. They find it hard to talk about it. People like me can offer the security they need at that time.'

Each foster carer will get to know the family, so that the child goes back to the same person each time their parents need support, and siblings can be kept together. At least 30 children will be fostered in the first year of the project.



The support care project provides safe, specialist respite and emergency care for children.

SUPPORTING YOUNG MUSLIM PEOPLE WITH HIV AND AIDS

MUSLIM YOUTH AWARE PROJECT,
SOUTH LONDON
CRUSAID GRANT: £18,975

Musa's life changed when he met people from the African Advocacy Foundation (AFF) – an organisation working with young Muslim people to increase understanding and awareness of HIV and AIDS.

Their latest project, supported by Crusaïd, sees outreach workers spending time in mosques and other Islamic centres. They train educators to talk to young people about HIV and AIDS in sensitive and appropriate ways.

The project is supported by religious leaders and the London Islamic Youth Council.

Musa is pleased that information about HIV and AIDS is reaching young Muslim people. 'There is still a stigma but people are now embracing the knowledge the AFF are giving,' he says. 'They are now coming on board and talking about how to prevent HIV and use condoms properly.'

He believes the project can help to remove fear and stigma. 'I used to have fear in myself but I've learned that there are many people who are affected, and that having HIV does not stop you living positively and going to school and college.'

This project shows the value of culturally appropriate sex education and its success will encourage more projects of this kind elsewhere in the UK.



HIV positive Muslim youths are encouraged to understand and voice their health needs and overcome HIV related stigma.

VITAL HELP WITH DOMESTIC CHORES

POSITIVE HELP
CRUSAID GRANT: £11,000

Positive Help is a small Edinburgh charity offering a domestic help service to people affected by HIV and AIDS.

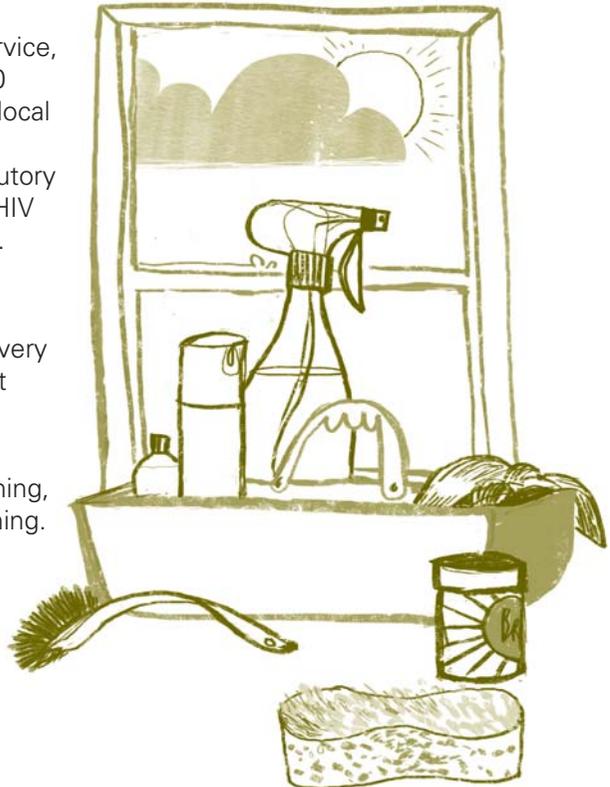
Andrew has bad asthma and chronic fatigue which makes even simple domestic chores impossible to achieve. 'I need to keep the dust levels down because of my asthma,' says Andrew, who is HIV positive. 'But I don't always have the strength to do housework or change the duvet.'

Positive Help's domestic support service, backed by Crusaid, helps around 150 people across the city – referred by local hospitals, social services or welfare units. It fills an important gap in statutory services, helping people living with HIV and AIDS to manage their daily lives.

Andrew asks for help every couple of weeks with cleaning and dusting. 'It saves my breath,' he says. 'It's a very good service and flexible too, so that if it's not convenient one week I can rearrange the time.'

Other people use the service for ironing, laundry, shopping, cooking or gardening.

'We empower people to keep control of their lives,' says Moragh Reid, Director of Positive Help. 'We respond to requests for help and when we're no longer needed we go away, until we're needed again! People like the fact that they remain completely in control.'



'I NEEDED TO GET AWAY AND RECHARGE MY BATTERIES'

Being HIV positive caused Chris periods of deep depression. He became isolated. His self-esteem hit rock bottom. Life seemed to be getting out of control.

What Chris needed was respite care. A few days away to take stock and recharge his batteries. But the cost made it unaffordable.

Tyddyn Bach in Wales came along at just the right time.

Tyddyn Bach is a very special house in Conwy, Wales – offering a week's respite in friendly, comfortable surroundings. There are ten rooms (including one sponsored by Crusaid) and beautiful grounds.

But it's the people that make Tyddyn Bach so special – offering support in completely non-clinical surroundings.

'Tyddyn Bach was very much about relaxing in a homely, non-fussy setting. The staff treated me like a life-long friend. The pent-up stress I had previously endured started to lift,' says Chris.

'My one week of respite allowed me to take stock of life in an empowering environment and move forward.'

TYDDYN BACH TRUST
RESPITE CENTRE
CRUSAID GRANT: £15,000

Crusaid's grant of £15,000 will sponsor one room for one year – enabling 52 people to benefit from a week's respite care who could not afford it otherwise. It has also paid for a stair lift to make first floor rooms more accessible.



'This new partnership ensures clients with low incomes are able to receive the best possible care.'

**Steven Inman,
Head of Grants and Projects**

MEDICAL CARE TO REMOTE VILLAGES



UMDONI AND VULAMEHLO
HIV AND AIDS ASSOCIATION,
SOUTH AFRICA
CRUSAID GRANT: £18,812

In the Umdoni and Vulamehlo districts of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, many villages are only accessible by all-terrain vehicles.

A 4x4 vehicle and driver, paid for by Crusaid, carries nurses and volunteers to remote villages which would otherwise have no medical care for people with HIV and AIDS.

Crusaid's £19,000 grant also pays for three staff nurses. For many people with HIV and AIDS in the region it is the only medical care they will receive.

As well as providing medical care, the teams bring food, cleaning materials, soap, condoms and other essential supplies to villages with no other access to healthcare.

Nurses work with a team of 120 volunteers to make sure that essential care and supplies get through.

This year alone over 300 people have been supported by this amazing project.



The Umdoni and Vulamehlo driver and project coordinator with the Crusaid sponsored vehicle.

'WE COULDN'T REACH OUR NEAREST CLINIC'

Silindile Patience Ngcobo was just 15 when she gave up school to look after her mother who was dying of AIDS.

With her mother too poorly to work, Silindile was responsible for feeding and clothing her two younger brothers too. A heavy burden for a child.

Fortunately the Umdoni and Vulamehlo HIV and AIDS Association heard about Silindile's situation and took immediate action.

Using a 4x4 vehicle provided by Crusaid, one of their staff nurses visited Silindile's mother every week or so.

For seriously ill people like Silindile's mother, nurses help to diagnose opportunistic infections such as skin rashes, malnutrition and HIV-related cancer and bring essential medical, food and hygiene supplies, also funded by Crusaid.

Silindile's mother died of an AIDS-related illness. But with Crusaid's help, local projects like this can make a massive difference to many more families like Silindile's. That's why your support is so crucial.

A NEW GENERATION OF PEER EDUCATORS

Students at the St Thomas Primary School in Rehoboth, Karas, in southern Namibia, are benefiting from a pioneering project to educate children about HIV and AIDS and how to stay safe.

Kiosks have been set up in the school, each supported by an educator, where students can ask questions and learn about HIV and AIDS.

The kiosks help children separate myths from reality and learn what they must do to stay safe – vital knowledge in a region where one in four adults is HIV positive.

The project, run by the Southern Youth Development Organisation (SYDO) with a Crusaid grant, has so far set up 26 kiosks in different schools and reached over 600 students living in poor communities.

The impact has been enormous. Not only are students learning how to stay safe themselves. They have discovered a new hope for the future and want to take the message to other communities too.

‘A new generation of peer educators is being created, with a ripple effect that is spreading across the region,’ says project director, Marius !Kharigub.

So far the project operates in 19 towns. Thanks to Crusaid’s support, SYDO is now in a much stronger position to ensure its long-term future and extend the kiosks to more areas.



Top: Trained youth educators share knowledge with prospective peer support workers

Bottom: The AIDS awareness mural at St Thomas’ school

'WHY DOESN'T GRACE COME TO SCHOOL?'

Children at St Thomas Primary School in Namibia are learning about HIV and AIDS and how to stay safe. With some unexpected results.

Each class has a HIV and AIDS 'safe book'. Students write down if they are worried about any of their classmates, friends or families. All information is treated in confidence, and acted on.

One boy was worried because his classmate, Grace, often didn't come to school with her sister. Or if both girls attended then their cousin stayed at home.

The programme director visited the family. He found a desperate situation.

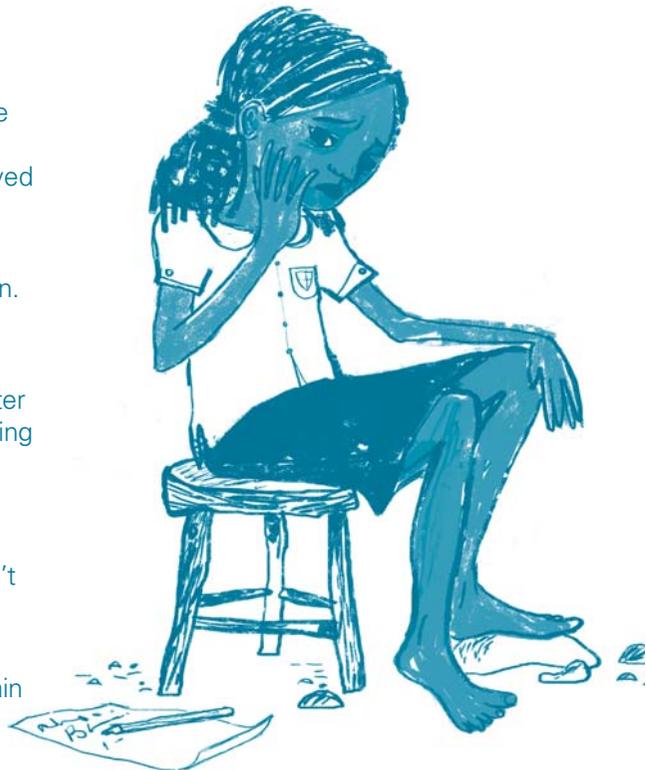
The girls' mother had recently died of AIDS and they were being looked after by their aunt, who had a daughter of her own. She was struggling to bring up the three children in a run-down home. She had barely any money.

The children never went to school together because the woman couldn't afford enough uniforms or books. So she sent them to school in turns.

The project director managed to obtain an extra uniform and arranged other support for the family too.

Volunteers helped to repair her home. And she soon found a cleaning job in a local church hall.

'Educating children about HIV and AIDS can bring all sorts of unexpected benefits to a whole community,' says Marius !Kharigub, project director.



'Educating children about HIV and AIDS can bring all sorts of unexpected benefits to a whole community,'

**Marius Kharigub, Project Director,
St Thomas Primary School in Namibia**



'Crusaid cares about dignity – about enabling people with HIV to hold on to their self-respect. We're very proud to support their work.'

Nadine and Stephen Pain, London



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