

SEEDS: WHOSE CHILDREN ARE THEY NOW?

Time	Speaker	Text
0:19	Narrator	Like most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia has been deeply affected by the AIDS pandemic.
0:27	Narrator	Among young adults, a lack of affordable treatment has caused many needless deaths.
0:35	Narrator	More than a million children have lost their parents.
0:40	Narrator	The majority of AIDS orphans are poor and many are homeless.
0:48	Narrator	Ethiopians face the challenge of caring for these children.
1:06	Dr. Abraham Asnake AIDS Orphan Advocate	Children who lost their parents (to AIDS) must be raised.
1:10	Dr. Abraham Asnake AIDS Orphan Advocate	They are the children of all Ethiopians. How do we raise the? In what conditions? There are different views on this issue.
1:25	Haregewoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	I lost someone to AIDS, and since it's something that touches my life, it's why I stayed here and why I choose to raise these children. I have taken in 11 children.
1:45	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	There are little ones who cared for their mothers, and she died in their hands, as they cared for her.

1:54	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	In the end, when she was buried, they saw a stone being placed in her body and cried, "Please don't place a stone on her she may wake up."
2:06	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	They made sure she was dead, that she wasn't coming back.
2:11	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	Then they asked, "Who us our mother now?"
2:17	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	Because there are so many, so very many children, the ones I have will make a small difference. I was willing to take more, but a lack of resources has prevented this.
2:38	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	No one can live for himself alone. We live for others. I don't need anything, I have enough. I want to see the children grow and become someone. This is my purpose.
2:54	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	If I leave these children without any support, if they become homeless, I feel like I did it to them. If they were to lose their lives, I would feel responsible.
3:15	Dr. Abraham Asnake, AIDS Orphan Advocate	The way of life in Ethiopia, by and large, is that people live with relatives, or in an extended family system. Each person can help one child.
3:35	Tiruwork Mazengia	It has been six years since their mother died. Their mother used to live here, in this small house. She got sick and died. They don't have a father. They have no uncles, aunts, or relatives at all. Before she died, she entrusted the kids to me. She said, "Please take care of them."

3:58	Tiruwork Mazengia	We're not related but we were neighbors, and were very close, so I accepted her request, and then she passed away.
4:10	Tiruwork Mazengia	It's a very dreadful disease, and very sorrowful.
4:15	Tiruwork Mazengia	It cuts life short, prevents one from working and earning a living. When I hear of it on the radio or from people in general, it's a very shocking and disturbing disease.
4:30	Tiruwork Mazengia	Those who get hurt are the children who lose their parents. There are many with nowhere to go, who end up on the streets.
4:53	Dr. Abraham Asnake, AIDS Orphan Advocate	Some do not have a family. When there is no one to support them, or when the family is not willing to take care of them, they should be admitted into an orphanage for care.
5:08	Dr. Abraham Asnake, AIDS Orphan Advocate	Orphanages and home care are complementary. One is not the adversary of the other.
5:20	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	Every day we take children who have lost their parents to AIDS. Only lack of space keeps me from taking more. If I had space, I'd help as long as my age allows.
5:34	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	In 1980, on September 15, I went to Haik and attended church. On our way back many starving people were spread out everywhere in the city. I saw a dead woman, with an infant at her breast. At that time, by chance, the city was collecting bodies, separating dead from alive. As I held the child, they took the mother's body. At that moment I hated being human.

6:18	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	That year, on that same day, I brought two children with me. We made a fence around the chicken coop. We had no place to sleep; I gave up my possessions. So we made our bed there. We roasted and sold grains, baked bread, sold beer, I undid my clothes and sewed clothes for them. My beginning was like this.
6:46	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	We don't go out on the streets. People leave them outside our door. When we see who's there, we call the police. The police come and do a report. We take a photograph. Then we open a file for the child. We keep the photograph. The child grows, and as she grows, she asks where she came from. We tell her where she was found, and get her used to her story.
7:20	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	After this, there's no problem.
7:24	Girl	About this organization not only for me, but speaking for the other children, we're in very good condition. I've been here for over five years. She comes across as mother and father. It's very good, it should continue this way.
7:43	Girl	We're here for as long as we're here. We have hopes and big plans to give back the good that was given to us.
7:57	Narrator	Beyond food and shelter, orphans need an education. Some volunteers tutor these children.
8:06	Sahliye Tirfe	As soon as I became aware of the fact that I am HIV +, I thought I must teach those children...those who, due to HIV/AIDS, have lost their parents. In order for them to achieve in their education, I began going from house to house, tutoring them.

8:33	Sahliya Tirfe	Okay, 60 seconds is one...what? One minute. Very good. Sixty minutes is -?
8:46	Boy	One hour.
8:48	Sahliya Tirfe	These children and I are facing similar issues. I'm different from them... I live with the virus, while these kids have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. They have no one.
9:10	Sahliya Tirfe	These children, if they get support, they can follow their education. They're promising children who could succeed.
9:20	Sahliya Tirfe	I wrote to various organizations to get them support, so they wouldn't drop out of school. Now they're getting assistance to stay in school.
9:30	Sahliya Tirfe	Besides regular education, tutoring is important for the children. They can be told to study on their own but since they're children, they won't do it on their own. They need someone to support and assist them.
9:53	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	The biggest problem isn't raising them. making them self-reliant is the problem. This school that began with wicker fences now goes through 8th grade. This school isn't just for the orphans. The poor of the nearby area, from daycare to 8th grade, they attend school here.
10:14	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	We provide educational materials, we provide uniforms, we give free education. Let alone charging them, if we could, we would even provide all meals. But we can only provide 8 meals a month.

10:34	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	The important thing is their education, because when they begin to run the country, they will make a difference.
10:43	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	Regarding education, many attend government schools. This year, four children will graduate (from high school). We expect them to do well, and there will be more next year.
10:57	Girl	I rank between first and fifth in my class. Regarding studying, I go to the library after class. I'm in 12th grade, and I'm taking the graduation exam tomorrow. If I reach the goal the way I envision it, my plan is to become a doctor. For the people of Ethiopia and the suffering poor, given that HIV/Aids is devastating our world, I have the desire and the plan to find a cure.
11:43	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	When we train them in various skills, and they begin to produce, using their skills, out of 100% of their earnings, they put 60% in the bank. We make sure of this. 40% goes to the organization, since they're residents. We do this so they get used to earning their keep.
12:01	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	They take their account books with them when they leave. We have trained 46 of them here, in hairdressing, photography, metalwork...and they have opened shops.
12:16	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	They are now self-supporting and active.
12:24	Narrator	Even with education and training, AIDS orphans face obstacles. People often assume incorrectly that all children of HIV+ parents are born with the virus.

12:52	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	Anyone can raise children who don't have parents. They want to, too. But these, everyone thinks they have it (HIV). People think they have it, and so don't want to get close to them.
13:10	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	By the way, HIV isn't transmitted by eating or drinking together, or sleeping in the same bed. It's not easily transmitted. The way it spreads is well-known.
13:27	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	So care should be taken around that, but avoiding orphans brings their morale down. They will see themselves as excluded from the community. They go to a good school, mix with many kids. They go out in public, visit other neighborhoods, with no problem. This is because they're known.
14:04	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	I want people to see, when the children kiss me, because nothing happens through kissing. This is true of all AIDS orphans.
14:21	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	An honorable man once came to visit. While we chatted, I pointed out a group of kids who are HIV+. He left without drinking his coffee. Maybe he thought AIDS was in his coffee, I don't know. It's not going to get better if we run away from it.
14:36	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	If we avoid those who are HIV/, if we distance them...and hold a grudge, they will spread the illness, because they can't participate in community life. Will they have compassion for us? No.

14:51	Abebech Gobena, Abebech Gobena orphanage	Those who have the virus, and other sick children, I have them eat with me. This is so they can be given close attention. When they say they're not hungry, the workers may not look after the children, but I find ways to persuade them to eat. They're known as my friends. If they're sick, I have them sleep next to me, so I can watch over them in the night.
15:32	Narrator	In some locations, even though resources may be scarce, the entire community reaches out to help AIDS orphans.
15:42	Assefa Nega, Neighborhood AIDS Project	In our Kebele (neighborhood), gradually people who have HIV/AIDS, and orphans are coming forward. Children who have lost their parents to the virus-- we support them, take care of them, and love to the best of our ability-- especially our Kebele's administration-- we assist them.
16:08	Assefa Nega, Neighborhood AIDS Project	In Ethiopia, people in their own communities, in their neighborhoods and workplaces, through friendships and their home towns, come together to form Iddirs (associations). Iddirs are for support in good times and bad. It is said, "50 limes are a load to one person..." "...but a gift to 50 people."
16:32	Assefa Nega, Neighborhood AIDS Project	Iddirs are like that. If there's hardship for a few people, a community can handle it more easily.
16:41	Assefa Nega, Neighborhood AIDS Project	In the past, Iddirs focused on death and mourning. Now, many Iddirs have broken their silence, and begun work on community development. Our Iddir, for instance, has quite a few projects. One such project is this school for children that we have opened. We're working hard on it. There is an attitude about how Iddirs used to be-- that they can't and won't change old ways of doing things.

17:15	Assefa Nega, Neighborhood AIDS Project	Even in committees I chair, members have said " How can this be?" " Since when have Iddirs...? Is this guy crazy?!"
17:29	Assefa Nega, Neighborhood AIDS Project	Rather than this, if Iddirs work hard and are active, and get government support and recognition, I believe they can do anything.
18:03	Haregeoine Tefera, Group Home for Orphans	HIV/AIDS means...it's not a light disease. People shouldn't view it as something simple. Especially young people. Many youth have perished. In the future, there will be only elders. With no youth, who will take responsibility? They should know this. They must be careful and take care of themselves.
18:35	Dr. Abraham Asnake, AIDS Orphan Advocate	Youth who have lost their parents--it's through no one's fault, that they have been hurt. If we say we are really concerned about Ethiopia, the generation that will replace us must be raised properly, and become competent. This is expected of us. Every Ethiopian has the duty...of assisting these children as much as they can.