

## HIV / AIDS Information

South Africa has a generalised HIV epidemic driven largely by sexual transmission. Using the Spectrum model, the 2009 HIV prevalence in the adult population (aged 15-49) was estimated to be 17.8%. An estimated 5.63 million adults and children were living with HIV in 2009. Of these, 5.3 million were adults aged 15 years and older, 3.3 million were females and 334,000 were children.

South Africa currently ranks the third highest in the world in terms of the TB burden, with an incidence that has increased by 400% over the past 15 years. There is a wide variation in HIV and TB prevalence across age, race, gender, socio-economic status and geographical location. Whereas STIs such as syphilis have decreased in most provinces over the past 10 years, the prevalence of herpes simplex, which is a co-factor in the acquisition of HIV, is still high in many sectors of the population.

### Let Your Light Shine

'Let Your Light Shine: Caring for Children Affected by HIV' was written by a group of caregivers and professionals who believe that children can thrive through the HIV crisis. Caregivers can find grassroots solutions which ultimately empower communities to respond to the needs of vulnerable children. It is an interactive training tool which focuses on the issue of HIV and orphans in Africa. The goal of Let Your Light Shine is to share knowledge and skills so that caregivers, faith groups, and communities take action and help orphans and vulnerable children in Africa's AIDS crisis.

### Purpose

The toolkit is made up of users manual and DVDs. It is intended for people who are already helping children as well as for those who are interested in getting started. The goal of the toolkit is to empower the caregivers with knowledge and skills to better care for orphaned and vulnerable children. Let Your Light Shine is also very useful for educating and mobilising religious and community leaders who want to help children and support their caregivers.

### Training

Should you be interested in the Let Your Light Shine curriculum, please contact the Connect offices to set up a training session.

**Postal Address** PO Box 1005 • Somerset West 7129 • South Africa

**Physical Address** First Floor • Alexandra Building • Somerset West 7130

**Telephone** +27 21 852 9900 • **Fax** 086 600 7568 • **Email** info@connectnetwork.org.za • **Website** www.connectnetwork.org.za

**Non Profit Company 2006/012058/08 • 040-987 NPO**

**Board** Cheryl Anderson (Chairperson) • Deidre Moskoff • David Nefdt • Dr. Vaughan Stannard

**Bank Details** Acc Name: Connect • Acc Type: Current • Acc No: 1060 191 113 • Bank: Nedbank Somerset West • Branch Code: 106012 • Swift No: NEDSZAJJ