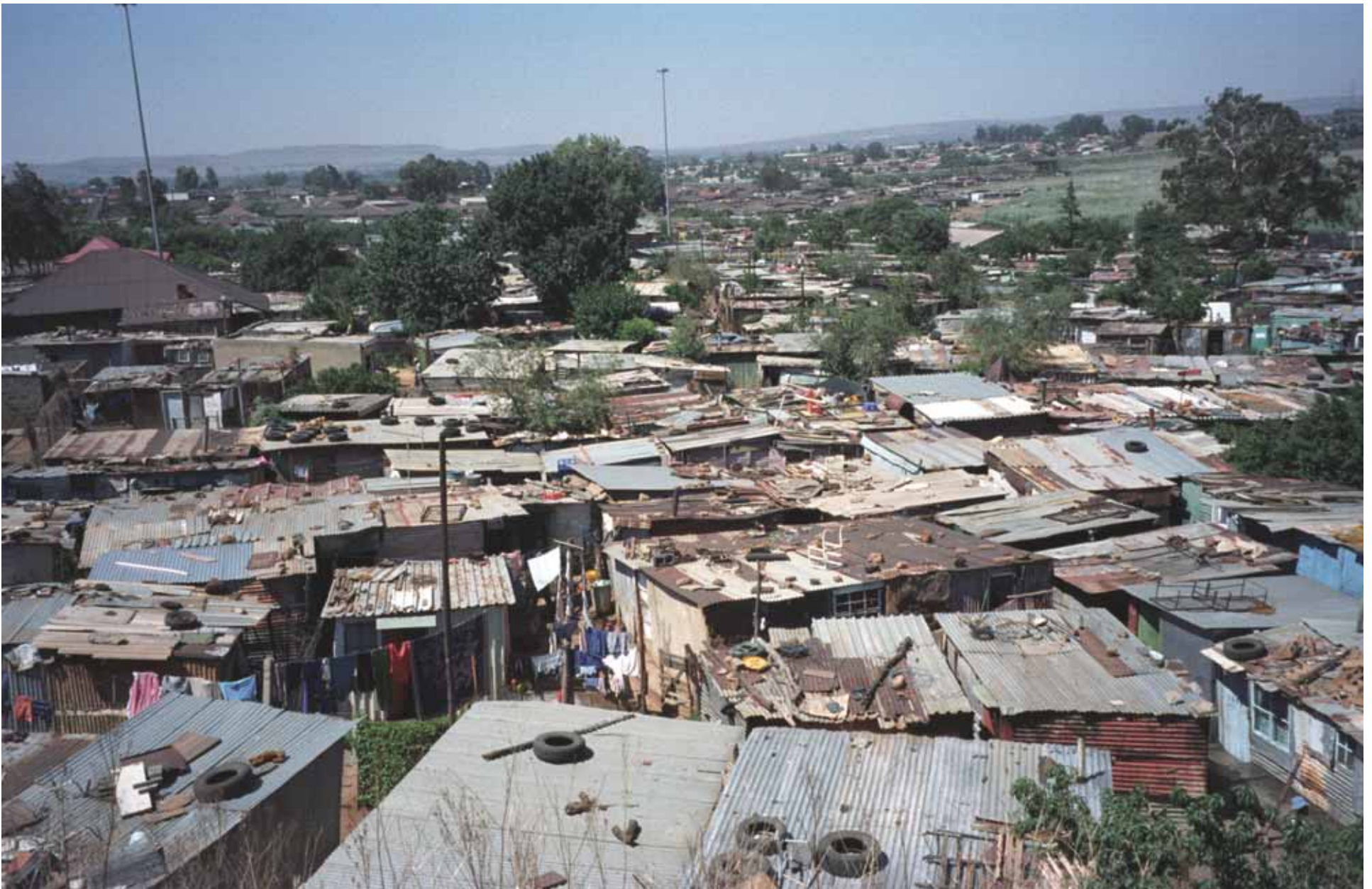




As the sun sets, hundreds of children — some as young as five years old — gather at the Gulu bus station in northern Uganda. The country has been involved in a 17-year civil war. Armed rebel groups raid villages in the middle of the night for child “recruits.” Young boys are forced to become soldiers and girls are taken away to serve as sex slaves. As a result, fearful parents send their children to sleep at this well-lit bus station in town, hoping they will be safer there.



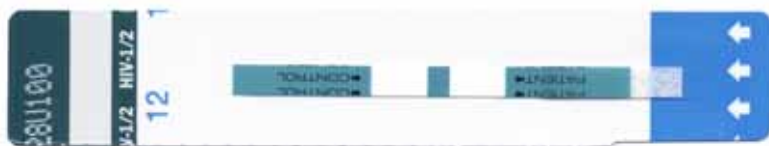


Soweto, the largest township in Johannesburg, South Africa, was created during the apartheid era; the ruling whites forced the blacks to live in these small, overcrowded areas outside of major cities. Townships did not have services like water, electricity or sanitation. Homes were temporary one-room structures made of cardboard, plastic and scrap metal. While the new government has now improved conditions, millions of people still live in temporary structures with limited services.





Raheli Kebwe (right), who was living with AIDS at the time of this photo, worked for awhile as a house helper for a family near Mtgumu, Tanzania. Says Raheli, “In 1997 I started getting sick. I could no longer work hard, and I lost my job.” She was forced to sell fruit on the side of the road in order to earn an income. Looking back, she says, “I would have liked to continue my schooling, but my father’s money went for my brothers’ education instead.” Raheli died in 2003.



Rapid response HIV blood tests now allow patients to find out whether or not they have HIV in 15 minutes or less. This patient, a 27-year-old married mother of three came to the local Mennonite church health clinic in Mugumu, Tanzania, for a test. She had a suspicion that her husband had been cheating on her, and was afraid he might have infected her with HIV. Her test results (bottom right) indicate she does not have HIV.





After months of watching his mother slowly die from AIDS, 7-year-old Elisha became an orphan. Now Elisha helps gather firewood and water for the household. But he still has time to play in his yard in rural Tanzania. Luckier than some, Elisha is being cared for by his grandmother and his 14-year-old sister. Money from his uncle allows him to attend school.





Maria Luis (green jacket) lives with AIDS. As home-based care volunteers visit her, she struggles to walk from her house to the grass mat outside. AIDS has made Maria very thin and very weak. Her son Jeronimo Fernando, nearly 4 years old, is also very sick. He was most likely born HIV-positive, and the disease has stunted his growth.