

**This is the testimony of Irène, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide**

I was fortunate in that my older brothers came to my rescue and bought me anti-retroviral drugs.

I looked as if I'd never been ill. I regained my strength and became myself again. My brothers continued to find me these drugs, but they stopped in March for lack of funds. The doctor told me that I should not have taken the drugs at all because it's dangerous to take them and then stop suddenly. Right now I'm at crisis point.

My children are still young. The eldest is in the fifth year of secondary school, while the other is already finishing the common-core syllabus. My first priority is to find the drugs. I receive a salary of 9,000 Rwandese Francs at the end of the month, which allows me to meet some of our needs. The other problem is rebuilding our house, so that I can leave my children in a house, which is in a decent condition.

When I was still taking the anti-retroviral drugs I didn't suffer from many illnesses, but at the moment I've very sick. I owe 16,000 Rwandese Francs to the hospital pharmacy. My salary isn't enough to solve my family problems as well as pay off the debt. I don't know what else to do to get the money. If I had the money I would set up a business, trading in drinks. I planned the project and the start up costs came to 500,000 Rwandese francs (£500).

**Today's Reading of the Testimonies marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, in support of survivors like Irène.**