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Life for my Child!

Since the early 1980s humankind has been threatened by a new epidemic: AIDS. Despite intensive medical research into possible cures, the immune deficiency syndrome has spread to all the world's continents. Africa is the worst-hit region.

One of the many programs set up around the world to combat AIDS in Africa is DREAM, or Drug Resource Enhancement against AIDS and Malnutrition. For years international organizations entering the battle against AIDS focused almost exclusively on prevention, but this approach alone does not go far enough. DREAM has dedicated itself to merging the strands of prevention and therapy. The program is primarily aimed at mothers. Its goal is to reduce the numbers of pregnant women infecting their babies with HIV and help ensure that HIV-positive mothers stay healthy enough to raise their children.

Célia and Helena are two young Mozambican women who are being looked after at one of DREAM's centers, of which there are more than 30 across Africa. Both are 29 years old, pregnant and – like millions of other women in Africa – HIV-positive. Transmission from mother to child is one of the most common causes of new HIV infection on the African continent. In Mozambique alone, more than 85 babies are infected with HIV daily: during pregnancy, at birth or as a result of breastfeeding. But with the right precautions and medication, this risk can be significantly reduced. Célia and Helena are making full use of the treatment available.

How do the women live with their disease? How do they manage their daily lives? What do they tell their family and friends? What are their worries, their hopes and desires? We spent several months with Célia and Helena until the birth of their babies. The result is a gripping and moving portrait of two women fighting for their own lives and the lives of their children. DW Transtel is devoting a special set of reports and programs to this subject of global urgency.