



*Cross International
Catholic Outreach*

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PROJECT 0594

Impaputo Children's Center

Support for orphans and vulnerable children

— Maputo, Mozambique —



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14

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Project Synopsis

Description

Provide food, clothing, medical, and other needs for 106 orphans and vulnerable children at a Catholic day care/kindergarten/after-school tutoring center.

Purpose

Children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases will receive the support and supervision they need, while being encouraged in their studies, which will help them find employment when they are older so they can escape poverty.

Location

Impaputo, a rural village bordering Swaziland and located in Mozambique's Maputo province.

Cost

\$11,220, or about **\$105** per child, will help to support the center for a full year.

Highlights

- In Mozambique's rural Maputo province, where most families rely on subsistence farming for survival, the HIV/AIDS crisis has left a devastating trail of orphans, single-parent households, and street children.
- The Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood have set up a combined kindergarten, day care center, and after-school program to meet the nutritional, educational, health, and emotional needs of orphaned and vulnerable children ages 3 to 17.
- The younger children stay at the Children's Center from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and are fed two meals a day plus a snack, while the older children benefit from homework supervision, exam preparation, and help with school expenses.
- Frequent home visits are made to assess the children's individual needs and to promote positive family involvement.
- Cross International Catholic Outreach provides funding for food, clothing, blankets, medical needs, transportation, soap, and Children's Center garden supplies.



Innocent victims

Ranked the ninth poorest country in the world, Mozambique has been ill-equipped to deal with the social consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. A full 1.5 million people within its borders are carrying the disease, while about 100,000 die each year, leaving behind them a different kind of victim: the orphans, single-parent households, and street kids who have lost any stable means of support.

Traditionally, orphans in Africa are taken in by extended family or caring neighbors. But adoptive families — many of whom are already very poor — have had to assume the burden of more and more children. Stretched to the limit, and suffering from food shortages caused by years of droughts and floods, the local population simply cannot handle the huge number of orphans. If the children cannot find help from extended family, the oldest sister or brother — sometimes no more than 11 or 12 years old — often becomes head of household. Some might have a makeshift hut to live in, while others live on the streets, begging for their next meal.

In Impaputo, a poor, rural village bordering Swaziland, the situation for AIDS-affected families, as well as families devastated by malaria and other chronic illnesses, is particularly harsh. Even healthy, two-parent households struggle to get by, as they rely on subsistence farming for survival, while formal employment is almost unheard of. And because the area is rural, access to education and medical care is very limited — leaving HIV-infected single mothers or fathers with few options but to wait for death.

Mozambique's orphaned children are innocent victims of a crisis beyond their control. They are hungry, dress in rags, and living by themselves in crumbling shanties, without any living relative to come to their aid.





Orphaned, but not forgotten



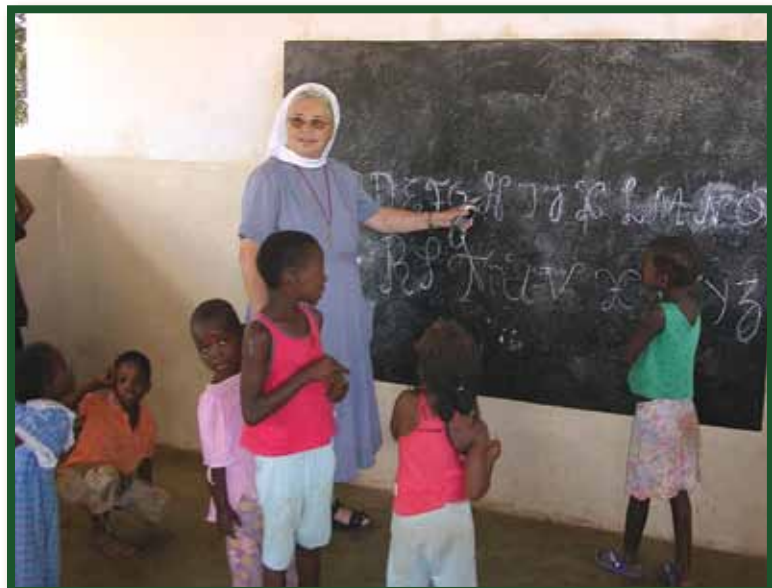
The good news is that orphaned and vulnerable children in the village of Impaputo are now being offered an alternative to despair. The Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood have organized a combined kindergarten/day care/tutoring center to meet the needs of children ages 3 to 17. Caring staff provide supervision of the children at the center, while also making frequent home visits to assess individual needs and cooperate with living family members or guardians.

The youngest children stay at the center enter from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

each day and are fed breakfast, lunch, and a healthy snack, while the older school-aged children participate to the extent that their schedules permit and are given tutoring and help with education costs such as uniforms. At the center, the children study math and reading, play educational games, participate in hands-on activities such as embroidery, traditional dance, and gardening, and learn Catholic moral values that can keep them from falling into criminal behavior.

A big emphasis of the program is to keep the children in school and to ensure that they are not stigmatized or expelled because of their poverty. To that end, and also because many of the children suffer from skin infections, rashes, and parasites due to bad hygiene, the day care center teaches and encourages the kids to maintain a clean, sanitary lifestyle, in part by providing soap and a laundry facility — things unavailable in their impoverished households. A health care worker from a local clinic closely monitors the well-being of all the children who participate in the program. The supervision and material support the children receive at the center will enable them to work their way through school and eventually find employment when they are older, so they can escape the cycle of poverty.

With your support, Cross International Catholic Outreach will help to provide food, clothing, blankets, medical and transportation costs, soap, and gardening supplies so that orphaned and vulnerable children do not have to go without life's basic necessities.





Help us save the children

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of the greatest obstacles to economic growth in Mozambique, and it is a threat to the safety and well-being of the most innocent victims — children. While preventative education is necessary to reverse the 16 percent infection rate, efforts must also be made to rebuild the lives of children and families devastated by AIDS and other chronic illnesses. The Impaputo Children's Center is one part of the solution, but it cannot be done without the help of compassionate Catholics like you.

Our response to the needs of orphans and widows is a measure of our faith. We are saved by grace, but that grace is given to us so that we might share God's boundless grace with the world. As the Bible says, "Faith without works is dead." By partnering with Cross International Catholic Outreach in support of the center, you can be a part of an important ministry that demonstrates the heart of the biblical message as found in James 1:27 — "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress..."

Right now, countless orphans and vulnerable children are desperately waiting for a helping hand of mercy to reach into their world. Will you give it to them by joining with Cross Catholic today?

Our Promise to You!

100 percent of the proceeds of this appeal will be used for this project. In the rare event that we receive more than needed to fund this project, additional gifts will be used for other urgent needs for the poor.