Rescue Orphans in Mozambique
Provide Food, Shelter, Health Care and the Hope of Jesus
Maputo, Mozambique

CrossCatholic.org/acm-rescue
Join God’s rescue mission —
restore hope to vulnerable children!

This spring, you can help provide food, medical care, education, housing and the love of Christ to children in need. With your help, Association Cross Mozambique, a long-time Cross Catholic Outreach ministry partner, can serve boys and girls orphaned by Africa’s AIDS crisis. When you support this outreach, you are empowering God’s rescue mission, helping the Church bless vulnerable children by providing them with a future filled with promise and hope.

Have you ever wondered what the Lord considers true religion? The Bible clearly answers the question in James’ epistle. It explains that “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (James 1:27). When you stand up for orphans and vulnerable children in Mozambique, you will change lives and obediently follow the Lord’s call. Proclaim your faith boldly today!
Executive Summary

Description
This project will empower a local Catholic ministry’s efforts to meet the diverse material, educational and spiritual needs of HIV/AIDS-affected orphans and vulnerable children.

Our Partner
Association Cross Mozambique (ACM) was founded by a group of local Catholic women who dedicated their lives to rescuing children after the country’s AIDS crisis and civil war created a generation of orphans.

Location
ACM is based in Mozambique’s largest city, Maputo, near South Africa and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).

Campaign Goal
$195,458 is needed to support ACM’s life-giving initiatives.

Campaign Highlights
In Mozambique, hundreds of thousands of children have been left to fend for themselves in the wake of the HIV/AIDS crisis. Without a family to care for their basic needs, most of these children must resort to begging on the streets. Your support is critically needed for...

**ORPHAN CARE:** Children will receive food, water, education, medicine and spiritual edification. Monthly food rations and basic medicines are distributed to **240 children** in Maputo; and food rations and basic medicines are distributed quarterly to **254 children** in Gaza. **231 children** will be provided with scholarships. School has resumed for children in grades 7, 10 and 12; and it is our prayer that children in other grades will be able to resume soon!

**GIRLS’ RESCUE:** Your support will empower **20 girls** to finish their Catholic education to pursue their dreams.

**ELDERLY SUPPORT:** The elderly often become displaced or abandoned, with no one to care for them. ACM will provide food and regular home visits by social workers to **83 elderly citizens** who are in the twilight of their lives.

**HOUSING:** Your support will also help build **four sturdy concrete houses** for orphan families who are living in horrendous conditions. Each home costs $4,335 and is made of concrete block, with a cement floor, metal roof, a lockable door, and a latrine for improved sanitation.

**MICROENTERPRISE:** ACM helps **25 mothers or caretakers** of children in their programs by helping them build small businesses.

ACM’s mission is to rescue orphans, vulnerable children and impoverished elderly with the love and mercy of Jesus. Your support is critical to meeting needs and ensuring that this ministry continues!
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Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

**PSALM 107:6**

_Erika is a child in Mozambique served by the ministry of Association Cross Mozambique._
SECTION I

THE NEED

- Mozambique’s Orphan Crisis
- At-Risk Girls in Need of Rescue
- Vulnerable Elderly Citizens
- An Orphan’s Rescue Story

When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

PSALM 91:15
Mozambique’s Orphan Crisis

Since its independence from Portugal in 1975, Mozambique has been battered by civil war, famine and the social consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic — all of which have left a devastating number of children orphaned and living on the street.

Traditionally, children who become orphans were taken in by neighbors or extended family members — usually a grandmother or aunt. This was a cultural practice established to ensure orphaned children are never left completely alone, and the approach worked well for centuries. Unfortunately, in recent years the sheer number of lives lost to war and disease have stretched the resources of these extended family members to the limit, and children were suffering as a result.

Some families had taken in as many as 10 orphaned children, and were struggling to feed children of their own. As a result, orphans have been left to fend for themselves, often begging on the streets or working menial jobs to survive.

The Definition of Orphan

Traditionally, a child had to lose both parents to be classified as an orphan, but the concept has since been broadened by humanitarian organizations like Cross Catholic Outreach. Today, we refer to “single orphan” — the loss of one parent — and a “double orphan” — the loss of both parents — to convey the growing number of children in need of a new family, shelter or care.
At-Risk Girls in Need of Rescue

Mozambique’s orphan crisis has made girls particularly vulnerable when their parents pass away. Many of these children and young women try to survive on their own, dropping out of school to find work. Some even become a surrogate mother for younger siblings, and take on all the burdens that role demands. Living like this can make them vulnerable to physical abuse, sexual assault, HIV infection, early marriage, drugs problems, human trafficking and teenage pregnancy.

Sadly, many of these girls also face stigmatization in society and must overcome many social barriers, particularly in being educated. An old, local proverb puts it this way: “Sending a girl to school is like watering another man’s garden.” For this reason, family members may not educate a girl because they believe investing in her school work or job training will only benefit her future husband and his family. Because of this tragic mentality, almost half of the country’s women can’t read or write (CIA World Factbook), and they are left with few options to improve their lives.

Vulnerable Elderly Suffer Too

When the AIDS orphan crisis became the dominant issue for many of Mozambique relief workers, it had an unexpected impact on another “at-risk” population — the poor and vulnerable elderly. Many senior citizens found their hardships ignored and their urgent needs unmet. Like orphans and vulnerable children who have no one to care for them, Mozambique’s vulnerable elderly find themselves in the same situation. Not only do they need health care and food, but often find themselves as the primary caretaker of grandchildren and other young relatives.

Mozambique’s Stunning Poverty Facts

- An estimated 2.2 million people are living with HIV/AIDS.
- An estimated 51,000 people die from AIDS each year.
- There are an estimated 2 million orphans in Mozambique, and 700,000 children at-risk of being left to fend for themselves due to their guardian’s old age, poor health or extreme poverty.
- 43% of children are malnourished.
- 22% of children have to work to help support their families.
- Only 50% of women can read and write.
- 46% of the population falls under the poverty line.
- The average person has a life expectancy of 55 years.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, UNICEF, UNAIDS
An Orphan’s Rescue Story

To understand the importance of Church-based programs serving orphans, it helps to see the incredible benefits interventions of this kind can have on the lives of the lost and vulnerable.

Daniel Dos Santos’ parents died of AIDS when he was a young boy, and as is tradition in Mozambique, his aunt took him into her home. At the time, she was unemployed, and caring for 13 other children in a crumbling and crowded shack.

“It was a precarious house, it had really bad conditions,” he said. “Whenever it rained, water came in and sometimes we had to sleep while sitting down. We didn’t have beds so we slept on top of bags, sometimes on top of clothes.”

To feed the children, his aunt made and sold a traditional Mozambican alcoholic beverage. Daniel helped her run this small business, selling the drink on the street.

Unfortunately, this is a common situation in Mozambique. Caregivers are stretched to their capacity — children roam the streets begging and selling anything they can find. When Daniel sold alcohol for his aunt, the family was doing what it could to survive.

But Daniel’s sad story was about to take a dramatic twist — because he was rescued.

Inspired by God’s command to care for orphans and widows, Doroteia Balane’s ministry to vulnerable children, Association Cross Mozambique (ACM), got involved in Daniel’s life. Daniel was given food, school supplies, and even new shoes. It was a transformative gift of support, and it blessed the boy in body and soul.

“I started being part of ACM as an orphan child, and I always had a lot of support. Psychological support, educational support, the monthly basic basket,” Daniel recalled. “At ACM, I could be a normal child.”

Today, Daniel is an adult and on staff with ACM as an accountant. He knows the kindness of the Lord rescued him through a group of committed lay Catholics.

While the story of Daniel’s transformation is uplifting and demonstrates the tremendous potential of ACM’s efforts, many other orphaned children are still in need — still craving the love, encouragement and support Daniel experienced. Your gift helps rescue children like Daniel who are waiting for relief from the exhaustion of surviving on their own. As you stand with ACM and empower their mission, you will bless other boys and girls and provide them with a similar path to a brighter future.
With the help of ACM, vulnerable elderly citizens are provided with food and regular home visits.

SECTION II
THE SOLUTION

• One Woman’s Calling
• The Holistic Ministry of ACM
• Rescuing Children with the Good News of the Gospel
• Meet ACM’s Rescued Children
• The Massango Siblings – A Rescue Story in Progress

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17
Doroteia Balane is eager to go to work because she believes she is involved in much more than a job. To her, serving the poor is an important calling from the Lord.

As the director of ACM and a committed Catholic, Doroteia knows God’s heart breaks for those who suffer — particularly children — and she considers it a privilege to minister to needy boys and girls living in the most desolate areas of Maputo, Mozambique. Along with her fellow staff members and volunteers, she reaches out to HIV/AIDS-affected orphans and vulnerable children and embraces them with Christ’s love.

“I am so happy because I am doing the job that I like, looking for people who are suffering and helping the children who need a mother,” she said. “Always I am asking God to give me a long life in order to use me for helping people in need.”

Helping Orphans Succeed

To help these destitute children, Doroteia and ACM take a holistic approach. Not only do they meet each child’s physical needs through food, education, preventive health care and other critical support — they also address their spiritual needs. Bible study, prayer and an emphasis on connecting with their church communities are essential.

“We have always fought for the well-being of those who suffer, following what the Gospel says: That we must feed those who are hungry, give drink to those who are thirsty, and clothe the naked,” said Doroteia, referring to Jesus’ words about ministering to the “least of these” in Matthew 25.

How ACM Provides Care

ACM starts by identifying orphans and vulnerable children and determining what services each individual child needs. Once children are enrolled in the program, an outreach worker makes weekly home visits to ensure that each child’s material and spiritual needs are being met.

In situations where the child is living with an overwhelmed extended family member or a sick parent, Doroteia and her team provide assistance and spiritual support to the entire family unit. By strengthening families, Doroteia is fulfilling the calling that God has given her, to love children with the same compassion shown by Christ.

“When I am helping a child with something, I feel peaceful, I feel happy,” she says. “When I see an orphaned child living well without problems, I feel very happy indeed.”
The Holistic Ministry of ACM

Your support is crucial to ensuring that ACM meets the needs of orphans and vulnerable in Mozambique. Join us to provide these life-transforming services to children in need.

Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing the poor with food and better sanitation is more important than ever has before!

Through your support of this special ACM outreach, 240 orphans and vulnerable children will receive food baskets and sanitation items from the mission’s center in Maputo. The most destitute also be served nutritious daily meals free of charge. In the province of Gaza, 254 additional children will receive quarterly food baskets.

If school resumes soon, ACM will offer tutoring and financial support for children to advance in their education. Of the children who come to the center in Maputo, 231 will receive full scholarships along with free uniforms, books and school supplies.

The children will also have access to preventive health care, basic medicine, and are trained in basic hygiene and disease prevention by the outreach workers. A traveling nurse will enhance these opportunities by making periodic home visits to distribute free medication and advice.

ACM’s team of 12 outreach workers are assigned to six different neighborhoods in the Maputo area. These outreach workers are the lifeblood of ACM’s ministry to children and elderly. They make it a point to know each child they serve and their specific needs — including understanding their health conditions, keeping up with their homework, and teaching them about hygiene. Especially for children living on their own, these outreach workers are like mothers and fathers to them — meeting and anticipating their needs, loving them unconditionally and advocating on their behalf!

In addition, ACM’s compassionate staff members make extraordinary efforts to offer enriching social activities and provide spiritual formation. Their goal is to transform each child’s heart, mind and soul through catechism, Bible study and prayer.

ACM needs $112,546 to meet the needs of the orphans with food, health care, basic medicine and regular home visits. With your help, we can empower this life changing rescue ministry!

COVID-19 and ACM

Like the rest of the world, ACM’s ministry has been impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns. At the time of this writing, in-person education has been suspended, with the exception of students in grades 7, 10 and 12 because those students must be able to take part in national exams. While ACM’s normal education focus is temporarily on hold, the mission is doing everything it can to keep children inspired until classes can be resumed. So that programs could remain on track, participants, volunteers and staff members have been required to wear masks. Please pray for their safety and give generously to support the important programs ACM continues to offer to orphans and the vulnerable elderly.
**GIRLS’ RESCUE MINISTRY**

Out of all of ACM’s programs, COVID-19 has impacted the Girls’ Rescue Ministry the most. Before virus lockdowns were put in place, young girls from the Maputo area lived at the Namaacha Boarding Home, run by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Older girls were served by the St. Joseph Institute, a boarding home run by the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters in Inhambane. When the lockdowns began, area schools were closed down and the girls were sent back home to live with their families. To ensure the girls continued to be supported, the ACM staff rallied to make home visits. This allowed them to check on the welfare of the girls enrolled in their program and provide food staples to needy families.

Nine girls in grades 7, 10 and 12 were recently allowed to resume their studies, returning to the Inhambane boarding home. Please pray that all the girls will soon be able to resume their studies since they will once again benefit from nutritious daily meals, mentoring and practical job skills training as they prepare to follow their hopes and dreams.

$20,442 will fund the Girls’ Rescue Ministry. Help empower Mozambique’s girls for the future!

**ELDERLY SUPPORT**

The kind and caring ACM staff members who bring relief to young people also share the love of Jesus with the local elderly, another very vulnerable group struggling to obtain food and to meet other basic needs. ACM distributes food and medicine, provide home health care visits by a nurse, and the visits of a kind friend. In this worldwide time of isolation, the elderly need loving care and friendship more than ever! $8,511 will provide food, medicine, and regular home visits for vulnerable elderly.

Girls learn skills that will give them the ability to earn income in the future. During the COVID-19 pandemic, girls have learned to sew masks. This is both a service to the community and learning opportunity!

Elderly citizens receive food staples, health care, medicine and home visits on a monthly basis.
Housing

Because sturdy housing is critical to every person’s safety and wellbeing, ACM has been working hard to address the sub-standard living conditions orphaned and vulnerable children typically face. The poorest families in Maputo tend to live in slums and occupy crude, makeshift dwellings with dirt floors, leaky roofs and little or no security. While some own a single bed, most family members are expected to sleep on the floor. A cramped, suffocating situation like this only becomes worse if the family takes in additional orphaned children.

To address this need, ACM wants to provide these families with sturdy, cement-block homes with strong galvanized metal roofs — and they can provide that blessing for just $4,335 per house. When you support this outreach, you also inspire family participation in the construction process. Everyone who receives a home is asked to help to the extent that they are able.

Through this special campaign, we will be able to fund the construction of three homes for single-mothers who are HIV positive. This will be an incredible blessing for them, their children. A fourth home will be constructed to serve two orphaned brothers. These simple homes will be an answer to prayer for the families now caring for orphaned children.

Microenterprise

Orphans and vulnerable children are best served when their host families are equipped to be better providers. Lifting a family out of economic dependency can be a daunting task, but with your support, ACM can help struggling mothers increase their earning potential and better provide for the children and orphans they care for.

ACM has identified 25 struggling mothers, grandmothers or caretakers of the children in their OVC program and wants to help them pursue three moneymaking ventures: poultry farming, horticultural and tailoring. The women, most of whom lost their husbands to HIV/AIDS, can be trained in better farming techniques and provided with vegetable seeds, which they can grow for both consumption and sale. Those who choose the tailoring option will be taught to make clothes they can sell at local shops and those who participate in ACM’s support groups for mothers. ACM will identify markets where the women’s wares can be sold, and can help distribute the earnings to all participants. In this way, the women can develop practical skills and become better equipped to feed, clothe and shelter their children. $4,368 will fund income generating activities for 25 mothers and caretakers. You can help them take the first step toward self-sufficiency!
“The most important thing is that this work is done inspired by the Word of God—which is our strength. It is our way. It is our light. It is in his Word that we find the reason for our action and the soul of our missionary work at time like these.”

Fr. Anastácio Jorge, Spiritual Director of ACM
Meet Shelton

Shelton is only 10, but he already understands the impact ACM is having on his life.

“Before I entered ACM my life was a disgrace because I lived in the Gaza province and eating was difficult. I had three brothers, and we lived in a rudimentary house, and my mother sold things and my father didn’t take care of me.”

When his grandmother brought him to the ministry of ACM, everything changed. Shelton is one of the children receiving breakfast and lunch at the ministry, and his family is also being provided with monthly basket of food. He has been given a scholarship to attend school too!

“No now I can learn so that when I grow older, I can become a pilot like I’ve always wanted to,” he said proudly.

Not only is Shelton receiving “daily bread,” but he is also being nurtured spiritually by ACM’s formational programs. For example, he takes part in catechism classes, where he has learned to value the things of God.

With your support of ACM, you will give children like Shelton an opportunity to achieve their dreams!

Meet Yolanda

Yolanda and her three siblings live with their grandmother because both of their parents passed away. Their grandmother buys and sells in the local market, but doesn’t make enough money to support her grandchildren.

“Before ACM, eating at home was really difficult,” she said.

That’s why ACM’s help is vital. Yolanda goes to ACM each morning to eat breakfast, goes to school, then comes back for lunch. The monthly basket of food is what sustains her family in the evenings.

Yolanda receives a scholarship to go to school and tutoring through ACM, in addition to spiritual formation classes and catechism.

“My life here at ACM is better than before,” she said. “At home, it was really hard—but now it has improved a lot.”
When Erneldo, Maina and Celilia Massango lost both of their parents to the AIDS pandemic, Erneldo assumed responsibility as the head of the household — a burden no young boy should have had to bear. In his hour of need, God intervened, inspiring ACM to get involved and address these children’s material, physical and spiritual needs.

The ministry has since provided everything they need: food, education, spiritual formation and safe housing.

“Someone who sees me on the street would never imagine that I am an orphan of father and mother, because we actually have father and mother, which is ACM,” Erneldo said. “My outreach worker is my mother, even though she is not my birth mother, she is my mother at heart.”

Without ACM’s support, the Massango siblings would be begging on the street to survive without adult care of any kind. Despite the hardship they’ve endured, they consider themselves blessed because they have each other and ACM — who they consider to be their family now.

With your support, ACM can continue to meet the needs of these precious siblings with food, education and health care. Please — be part of God’s unfolding rescue story on their behalf!
SECTION III

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Financial Summary
- Be Part of God’s Rescue Mission!

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

PSALM 82:3
## Financial Summary

### Orphan Care
- School Enrollment Fees and Tuition for 231 Students: $1,275
- School Uniforms, Books, and Supplies: $8,700
- Transportation for Volunteer Teachers and Additional Educational Support: $968
- Food and Hygiene Baskets: $26,761
- Food for Daily Meals: $3,713
- Health Care and Medicines: $720
- Staff Salaries: $59,529
- Office costs (Vehicle Insurance, Maintenance, Cell Phones, Utilities, Office Supplies): $10,880

### Girls’ Rescue Ministry
- Student Travel Expenses: $1,314
- School Enrollment Fee Boarding Fees: $16,516
- School Uniforms: $295
- School Supplies: $1,730
- Health Care: $174
- Clothes and Supplies for Baptism: $200
- School Assistant Stipend: $212

### Elderly Support
- Food and Hygiene Baskets: $5,911
- Health Care and Medicines: $1,800
- Celebration Days (Elder Day, Christmas Day): $800

### Housing
- House Construction – Masonry: $6,125
- House Construction – Carpentry: $3,204
- Paint for Exterior and Interior: $2,606
- Labor and Coordinator Costs: $2,258

### Microenterprise
- Credit to Fund Activity: $600
- Seeds (Carrots, beans, beets, etc.): $150
- Purchase of Hens: $1,523
- Construction of Pavilion and Equipment for Hens: $1,435
- Insecticides: $260
- Food, Medicine and Water for Hens: $400
- Bank Fees: $2,821
- Cross Catholic Project Management, Monitoring and Reporting: $32,578

### Total

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$195,458 is needed to fully fund ACM’s ministry of mercy to rescue children and vulnerable elderly citizens in need. Will you be part of this important mission?
In the book of James, we are told what true, life-changing religion looks like. It is a call to love and to sacrifice; or as James put it, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world” (James 1:27).

Please — join God’s rescue mission and practice “true religion” by ministering to Maputo’s precious orphans and vulnerable children. Support the caretakers of orphans and be a source of hope for the destitute elderly. Your generosity is critical to empowering ACM’s Catholic mission of mercy, you can address the suffering and restore lost hope. You can provide both material and spiritual relief to those who need it most.

Invest in this mission of mercy today, and make an impact that will last for generations to come!

Total Amount Needed: $195,458

Giving Opportunities

Rescue Mission Sponsor $20,000

True Religion Sponsor $10,000

Love in Action Sponsor $5,000

Child Advocate Sponsor $2,500
Our Mission
We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

How We Serve
Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church’s spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

Good Stewardship
We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach. These detailed accountability measures have earned us ongoing accreditation by the following organizations:

Our Promise to You!
Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2021, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.