



# Association Cross Mozambique

Showing Christ's love through safe housing  
— Maputo, Mozambique —



For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

Hebrews 3:4



## **We are a Catholic ministry**

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

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.

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.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



## Project Summary

### Description

This project will help our mission partner — Association Cross Mozambique (ACM) — construct sturdy cement houses for families with vulnerable children, currently living in dilapidated shacks.

### Purpose

To bring stability, dignity and the love of Christ to the oppressed and the orphaned by giving them a safe shelter to call their own.

### Location

Ngolhoza, in the outskirts of Maputo, Mozambique's largest city. It is located near eSwatini and South Africa, in the southernmost part of the country.



### Cost

**\$17,338** is needed to help construct three **sturdy, concrete block homes**.

### Highlights

- Mozambique's children have been hit hard by Africa's HIV/AIDS pandemic and a brutal civil war, which have left 700,000 orphans in their wake.
- Traditionally, these boys and girls have been taken in by neighbors or by extended family members; and in recent years, the sheer number of lives lost due to disease and war has caused tremendous overcrowding in the homes of these loving families.
- Each home that is built is a solid, concrete-block house with cement floor and a metal roof with a door that locks. ACM also builds latrines to address sanitation issues.
- ACM is an integral Catholic ministry that serves the needs of poor orphans and vulnerable children through nutrition, education, preventative health care and spiritual formation.
- Cross Catholic Outreach is ACM's only major funder, and is committed to providing support for the orphans and vulnerable children of Maputo — but we need your help!

**“For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink,  
a stranger and you took me in.”**

**Matthew 25:35**



Mozambique's poorest children live in dilapidated conditions. ACM ensures orphans and vulnerable children are nourished, educated and loved.

## Mozambique's Orphans

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, orphaned boys and girls are usually taken in by neighbors or by extended family members, but those caregivers have been overwhelmed by the sheer number of adult lives lost due to disease.

***There are simply too many orphans and too few caregivers to provide relief. Fortunately, local Catholic leaders are working hard to address this crisis, and with your help, they can stand as a beacon of hope and service in this area of desperate need.*** One of these dedicated Catholic programs is Association Cross Mozambique, which is now building homes for the extended families of Mozambique's orphans and vulnerable children.

### 2019-2020 Quick Facts

- An estimated **2.2 million** people are living with HIV/AIDS.
- An estimated **70,000** people die from AIDS each year.
- There are nearly **830,000** parentless children, and that number increases daily.
- **43%** of children are malnourished.
- **22%** of children have to work to help support their families.
- Only **47%** of people over the age of 15 can read and write.
- **46%** of the population falls under the poverty line.
- The average person has a life expectancy of **60** years.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, UNICEF, UNAIDS.



## The ACM Housing Ministry

From the time ACM first began ministering to some of the thousands of orphans and vulnerable children who live in the Maputo area, its goal has always been more than just keeping them in school and helping them to survive. Dedicated Catholics such as ACM's director, Doroteia Balane, know that these children — who range in age from 6 to 18 — are at an extremely vulnerable point in their lives.

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 and preventative health care, they also meet their spiritual needs through Bible study, prayer and encouraging church attendance. In addition, they reach out to each child's extended family and try to address challenges with his or her living conditions.

Most of these families live in crude, makeshift dwellings in the middle of some of the worst slums in Maputo. They might own a single bed, but most of the family sleeps on the floor. A cramped, suffocating situation like this only becomes worse if the family takes in additional orphaned children. Providing better housing elevates the living conditions of everyone in the family!



*Thousands of Mozambican families live in flimsy, makeshift homes made of straw, sticks and scrap metal.*



*Families who receive a new ACM home like this will learn about the love of Christ in a real and tangible way.*

### What your donation will fund

ACM builds sturdy, cement-block homes with strong galvanized metal roofs for just **\$4,334** per home. When you support this outreach, you also encourage family participation. Everyone who receives a home is asked to help with its construction to the extent that they are able.

Working alongside a skilled construction crew, the family uses supplies purchased through donations from benefactors like you! Through this hands-on process, families gain a sense of dignity and ownership while learning there is a God who cares about their needs — both spiritual and physical.

***These are simple houses, but they are an incredible answer to prayer for the poor families who have orphaned children to care for.***



## Housing Highlights



### Safe, Secure Homes

Each house includes a solid foundation, a waterproof roof, cement-block walls, a living area that can be subdivided into bedrooms if the recipient wishes, a lockable door and windows.

### Improved Sanitation

Each house includes a sanitary latrine. This is critical because proper sanitation facilities translate into healthier children and a dramatically improved quality of life.



### A Solid Foundation

In situations where families own land, ACM will build the new house adjacent to the existing dwelling. Otherwise, ACM will relocate the family to a donated plot of land and build the house there.



## Help Now!

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has created a crisis in Mozambique, and the most tragic victims of this medical disaster are innocent children. Traditionally, these boys and girls have been taken in by neighbors or extended family members, but the increasing number of children involved is creating a terrible housing crisis.

By helping Cross Catholic Outreach empower the housing program of Association Cross Mozambique, you will be bringing blessed relief to those who are suffering. Please — help us make sure no boy or girl is victimized further by the pandemic. They have already suffered loss. Let's use this opportunity to provide safe shelter to show them they are loved and treasured by God!

Join us today and make a difference in the life of a poor Mozambican family by helping to provide them with a sturdy, new house! **By empowering Association Cross Mozambique, your generosity will make a difference!**

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### Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, 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.

2700 N. Military Trail • Suite 300 • PO Box 273908 • Boca Raton, Florida 33427-3908  
**800-914-2420 • CrossCatholic.org**

 @CrossCatholic  @CrossCatholic  @CrossCatholic  /CrossCatholic  Blog.CrossCatholic.org

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