Association Cross Mozambique
Showing Christ’s love to orphans and vulnerable children
— Maputo, Mozambique —

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.
Isaiah 1:17
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 provide food, education scholarships, school uniforms, books, school supplies, tutoring, preventative health care and other operational support for our partner, Association Cross Mozambique (ACM), an advocacy ministry and outreach program for poor orphaned or vulnerable children.

Purpose
To express Christ’s love for the oppressed and the orphaned by supporting children who have been made vulnerable either by the HIV/AIDS pandemic or by economic strife.

Location
The Gaza Province and Maputo, Mozambique’s largest city, located near eSwatini and South Africa, in the southernmost part of the country.

Cost
$137,472 helps feed 460 orphaned children. The amount also includes funds for 225 of those children to receive education scholarships, school uniforms, books and supplies.

Highlights
- Mozambique’s children have been hit hard by Africa’s HIV/AIDS pandemic and a brutal civil war, which have left 920,000 orphans in their wake (USAID).
- Because extended family members are overwhelmed by their own poverty, these orphans are typically left to fend for themselves — surviving by working menial jobs.
- In addition to the urban holistic center in Maputo, which supports 240 beneficiaries each month, the ministry also has a rural food distribution program in Gaza Province which assists 220 beneficiaries every three months.
- ACM is an integral Catholic ministry that serves the needs of poor orphans and vulnerable children by providing nutrition, education, preventative health care, basic medicine distribution 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!
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, these boys and girls have been taken in by neighbors or extended family members, but in recent years, the sheer number of lives lost due to disease and war has stretched resources to the limit.

There are simply too many orphans and too few caregivers to provide relief. Fortunately, our Church is ready to 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 offers food, education and health care to Mozambique’s orphans and vulnerable children. However, to offer these important programs, they need our help.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

John 14:18
The Orphans and Vulnerable Children Ministry

From the time ACM first began ministering to 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 17 — are at an extremely vulnerable point in their lives.

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

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.

ACM’s ministry depends on volunteers who regularly check in with each child enrolled in the program — ensuring that no child is forgotten or unloved.

A special outreach in rural Mozambique

In addition to the urban holistic center in Maputo, ACM administers a rural food distribution outreach in Gaza Province, near the borders of Zimbabwe and South Africa. These food distributions — held four times a year — help in the fight against malnutrition.

ACM starts by identifying orphans and vulnerable children. It then determines what services each individual child needs. Once children are enrolled in the program, a volunteer makes weekly home visits to ensure each child is having his or her material and spiritual needs met.

In situations where the orphaned 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 attempting to strengthen the family unit, Doroteia is fulfilling the calling that God has given her, to love children with the same compassion as Christ.
What Your Donation Will Fund

**Feeding and food distribution**
Monthly food rations are available to all children who are served by ACM. For the ministry’s most destitute children, a nutritious hot lunch is provided free of charge.

**Medical outreach**
ACM not only provides access to preventative health care and basic medicine, the ministry also helps children learn about basic hygiene and disease prevention.

**Education and tutoring**
ACM offers full scholarships to children who attend the center. Scholarship students also receive free uniforms, books, school supplies and after-school tutoring, which is administered by the ACM teaching staff.

**Social activities and spiritual formation**
Staff members make extraordinary efforts to help each child develop social skills, while instilling God’s Word in each heart, mind and soul.
Help Now!

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has created a crisis in Mozambique, and the most tragic victims of this medical disaster are innocent children.

For this reason, Cross Catholic Outreach is making it a priority to fund the Orphans and Vulnerable Children program for Association Cross Mozambique. We believe its programs are critically important and provide Catholics with a loving and effective way to help the boys and girls left behind by the pandemic. Beyond providing critical care and restoring hope to these precious children, Association Cross Mozambique is having an incredible spiritual impact and supporting its outreaches glorifies God.

But for these important blessings to continue in Mozambique, we need your help.

The Bible tells us, “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). Committed Catholics such as Doroteia Balane and her staff have answered God’s call to take care of these precious children, and they need our support to sustain their efforts this year and beyond.

Please help us fund operational expenses for the center, including education scholarships, tutoring, school uniforms, books and supplies.

By empowering Association Cross Mozambique, your generosity will make a difference!

Our Promise to You!
Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, 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.