



Feeding the Impoverished Elderly in Mozambique

Bringing Christ's Love to the Forgotten

— Maputo and Gaza Province, Mozambique —



Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.

PSALM 71:9



Executive Summary

Description

This project will distribute food and provide preventive health care for elderly individuals who are hungry, sick and destitute.

Our Partner

Association Cross Mozambique (ACM), an advocacy ministry that also serves poor orphans and vulnerable children.

Location

- Maputo, Mozambique's largest city, located near Eswatini and South Africa, in the southernmost part of the country.
- Gaza Province, just north of Maputo, bordering South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Cost

\$10,396 will cover the costs for 83 destitute elderly citizens — 49 in Maputo and 34 in Gaza Province.

Highlights

NEED

- Mozambique has one of the youngest populations in the world; when combined with a high rate of HIV/AIDS and orphaned children due to war and disease, this creates a situation where the elderly are displaced and abandoned.
- Many elderly residents live in desperate situations and have no income, little or no access to government relief and no family support.

IMPACT

- Monthly food rations and basic medicines are distributed in Maputo; quarterly food rations and basic medicines are distributed in Gaza Province.
- A traveling nurse also makes periodic home visits to the elderly in Maputo and distributes free medication and advice. This vital human connection provides not just health care, but also love and support.





Isolated Elderly Need Care and Support

Beatriz Siteo lives alone in Mozambique's capital city of Maputo. Despite the hustle of a big city, the 78-year-old widow feels isolated. She is weak from hunger and has enormous difficulties moving around. To perform housework, she must often resort to crawling from place to place on her knees. Given her trials in life, it's easy to understand why she considers sadness and anxiety her daily companions.

Unfortunately, it is easy for people like Beatriz to be forgotten in her country's poorest communities. With a median age of just 17 years old, Mozambique's population is one of the youngest in the world. Only 2.9 percent of Mozambicans are 65 years and older. Mozambique also has many pockets of extreme poverty, and it is known worldwide for its high HIV/AIDS prevalence, its HIV/AIDS death rates and its alarming infant mortality statistics. (CIA World Factbook)

These factors mean that young people — poor, uneducated and sometimes orphaned — have a great need for assistance and are rarely in a position to help their parents or grandparents. For that reason, our missionary partner, ACM, has made it a priority to help the often “out of sight, out of mind” elderly when they become isolated or forgotten. Their research into this problem has revealed that many of the elderly men and women in the Maputo and Gaza Provinces of Mozambique have been living in desperate situations with no income, no family support and little or no access to government assistance.

This is why your support of ACM's programs and services to help the elderly is so important. Empowered by your generosity, their ministry will be able to provide food and basic health care to at-risk elderly men and women, extending love and respect to assuage their fears and affirm their dignity.

Please — help ACM address this urgent need. **The faces of the elderly will shine with joy as they realize God has heard their prayers for help and local Catholic Church leaders care about their plight!**

“When there is no honor to the elderly, there is no future for the young.”

POPE FRANCIS



Honor and Love for the Impoverished Elderly

As a girl, Doroteia Balane was trained by Franciscan nuns for the religious life. Despite choosing another career path, she says those formative experiences never left her. Together with other Catholic women, Doroteia started Association Cross Mozambique to rescue children and reach out to the elderly. Her goals are noble and God-honoring, but she cannot accomplish them without help from generous Catholic benefactors like you.

The Mystical Body of Christ is at work in the world, growing and shaping acts of charity, and ACM is a tangible example. When ACM brings food and medicine to isolated, impoverished elderly people, they also bring the reassurance, peace and hope of the Gospel. When you help ACM, you will join your heart with Christ's in never abandoning even the most destitute and overlooked of God's people. Your financial support will help this important mission deliver essential nourishment — on a physical, psychological and spiritual level — to at-risk elderly Mozambicans. Please — give generously!



Show Christ's love to those who need it most!

Our Mission

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

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.



Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2024, 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.

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