



*Cross International*

600 SW 3rd Street, Suite 2201  
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060  
1-800-391-8545

# **REENCONTRO**

## **Orphans**

### **MOZAMBIQUE**



**WWW.CROSSINTERNATIONAL.ORG**



## Reencontro Orphans — Mozambique

### Project

Provide life-saving assistance to and alleviate the suffering of thousands of AIDS-orphans and other vulnerable children in Mozambique.

### Purpose

To ensure the well-being of orphans and other vulnerable children through a variety of life-sustaining services, including providing sufficient support to extended family groups and local communities so that as many of the orphans as possible will be integrated into new families. Where that is not possible, total care is given to those children who lack any outside means of support.

### Cost

Needs vary by child. On average, \$68 can provide food, clothing, health care, education or other urgent needs of a child for a year.

### Location

Mozambique, on the east coast of Africa (Maputo and Gaza Provinces)

### Goals

1. Meet the most urgent needs first: nutritious food, safe shelter, medical attention, individualized evaluation and emotional support by a network of participating adults.

2. Support those families who are willing to open their homes to orphan siblings but are unable to do so without additional aid.

3. Provide for other important needs of childhood and early adolescence, such as ensuring that all children go to school; that life-saving health and sexual education will be taught in the context of Christian morals and principles; that any child without proper identity documents will be registered for citizenship; and that these orphans' rights of inheritance are preserved.

4. Prepare the "head of household" children by providing training in income-producing skills that will sustain each family financially.

5. Home visits will provide key opportunities to teach the knowledge of Christ and faith in His love to the children. This faith is the basis of all hope and the framework of life: that God is good; that He loves them unconditionally; and that He is worthy of total trust and complete obedience.

### Project Highlights

More than 7,000 children in all are being helped in some way by Reencontro. The level of assistance is established by immediate priority of needs, those with the most urgent, life-threatening situations being given highest priority. However, without ongoing financial support from Cross International, Reencontro will not be able to continue its life-saving work.

*"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard."*

**Isaiah 58:6-8**



### Disturbing Facts:

- Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world, at 168 out of 177 countries on the UN Human Development Index. 70% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- It has one of the highest child mortality rates in the world—one out of four children (around 170,000) die each year before reaching age five.
- Nine times more children under five years of age die in Mozambique than in the U.S.
- The AIDS pandemic has left a sea of orphans in its wake. In 2005, Mozambique had over 510,000 orphans—12% of the country's children.
- That number continues to grow as more children are left destitute, adding to an already overburdened network of extended families, communities and governmental agencies.

Mozambique was a Portuguese colony for almost five centuries, ending with its independence in 1975. Sadly, a prolonged civil war, drought and subsequent massive emigration devastated the country and its economy, making it one of the poorest in the world. Mozambicans yearn to be self-sufficient, and they moved to a system of self-determining government using free elections with multiple parties in 1990. The country is vast — almost twice the size of California — and, with roughly 1,400 miles of coastline, is noted for its many harbors, sharing the Mozambique Channel with Madagascar (another desperately poor country). Maputo is the country's capital, largest city, and chief port, and its facilities are used by some neighboring countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Despite numerous attempts to improve its economy, Mozambique must still rely on the rest of the world for help to battle its rampant poverty. Although most Mozambicans are simple farmers trying to feed their families, their methods may have dire consequences.

Some farmers use the slash-and-burn method, which involves cutting and burning trees to clear an area for planting, while risking the irreversible effects of deforestation.

Mozambique is frequently in the news for a variety of equally devastating reasons, be it a scorching drought that wipes out an entire harvest or a cyclone with massive flooding that not only destroys any available crops, but displaces hundreds of thousands of people... the fortunate ones who did not die. But the most prevalent threat to Mozambique is its high incidence of AIDS, and the orphans and other vulnerable children left behind to fend for themselves.

The most urgent situation is among those orphans who live where there is no available health care, no food or water supply, no schools and no Christian ministry to give them hope. Where people have to walk over 31 miles to get medical care when they are severely ill. Small children cannot cope with these horrendous realities. They will die, unless someone rescues them.



### The need is great!

Already battling food shortages from recent years of both drought and widespread flooding, Mozambique simply does not have the means to feed its growing number of AIDS orphans. The children are hungry, dressed in rags and living by themselves in crumbling shanties. Many have no grandparents or other relatives to come to their aid. Often, the oldest sister or brother—sometimes no more than 11 or 12—becomes head of the household. There is no one else to watch over them. Growing up in communities decimated by the epidemic, orphans are better able to cope if they can remain with their siblings in familiar surroundings. Many believe that orphans should be cared for in family units through extended family networks or foster families.

Traditionally, orphans in Africa are taken in by extended family or caring neighbors. But this tradition has been stretched to the breaking point due to the number of children left orphaned by AIDS. Families are caring for more and more children now and simply don't have the resources to raise them. There are poor, Christian families who want to help, but they simply can't without assistance.



*Without any parents, many children like this young girl are forced to prematurely assume the adult role of "head of household," caring for younger brothers and sisters.*

To this end, Reencontro subsidizes such families so that they can care for more orphans. With support from Cross, they provide the extra help the families need — such as extra food and clothing, money for school fees or medical care — so that orphans can be raised in a Christian home where they are most likely to thrive.

When there is no family to take in orphaned children, the oldest child often becomes the head of household. In those cases, Reencontro provides aid for immediate, life-sustaining needs as well as long-term needs, such as vocational training. In either scenario, it is only with financial aid from Cross' donors that Reencontro can continue its work and help even more children.

During the developmental years of childhood, growth and learning should intertwine with playful activity and meaningful family relationships. But life for an orphan is reduced to mere survival. Thousands of AIDS orphans in Mozambique live in terrible squalor. They suffer from relentless hunger, untreated disease, profound poverty and danger. They wake up and fall asleep immersed in anxiety and fear, discrimination and isolation. Not equipped to carry the weight of adulthood on their young shoulders, these children are more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and HIV infection. Many are forced to work in dangerous situations.

*“Our intention is to help children in their own environment, in their own neighborhood and if possible in their own house.”*

**Olinda Mugabee**  
*Founder/Director, Reencontro*



# Cross International

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Compelled by the love of Christ...

Touched by the indescribable suffering of thousands of AIDS-orphaned children, a small group of godly women in Mozambique are determined to do what they can to help. Compelled by their deep love for Christ, they formed Reencontro – Portuguese for “reunion” – because founder Olinda Mugabe and 15 other original members were classmates 30 years earlier at a Christian school. The women remained friends though they rarely saw one another. They reunited in 1988 in what turned out to be a life-changing reunion.

Mugabe, a registered nurse and committed Christian, was deeply troubled by the growing crisis of AIDS orphans in her country. Compelled by the compassion and love of Christ, she and her friends determined to provide life-sustaining care for as many orphans as their resources would allow.

The Reencontro Orphans project is now multi-faceted, touching communities over a large geographic area. Reencontro ministers to thousands of children in crisis through a network of volunteers who carry out weekly home-based visits. In addition to the volunteers who give practical, hands-on help with basic life skills and vocational training, Reencontro also recruits and trains Christian counselors, who compassionately support the children emotionally and most importantly,

teach them about the love and salvation of Christ.

### Touching lives, one at a time...

Reencontro ensures that each family is visited by a trained community leader at least once every month; but if there is an urgent need, such as for immediate medical care or family counseling, the family will be visited more often.



Most families are visited on an average of twice a month. Cross International’s support will help Reencontro visit thousands of children. Every family will continue to receive home visits by Reencontro nurses in order to supervise the work done by activists and community leaders.

During the frequent house visits, each family will be carefully evaluated and anything the children need will be noted. The list is endless, and includes items not familiar to the Western culture such as mosquito nets, utensils needed to cook with over an open fire, medicine when needed to combat diseases such as cholera, attention to the ever-present health issues caused by parasites and malnutrition, and so much more. This project is committed to relating to each orphan family on an individualized basis. For example, those children with vision or dental problems will receive the attention they need. If there are serious behavioral or mental issues, they will be lovingly addressed.

And most importantly, the name of Jesus Christ will become known to all, because it is in His name that such life-saving help is being given.



# Cross International

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Providing excellent education...

All children need to learn to read and write, and to understand basic math, science, history and social studies. A significant part of the work among the orphans involves providing traditional and vocational education, without which they will not have the necessary skills to earn an income and become self-sustaining.

### Encouraging and training young heads of households...

This is of utmost urgency. With the help of donations from caring Christians like you, the project will provide strategic training on a family-by-family basis, allowing the eldest child to choose from a variety of income-producing careers such as: carpentry, electrical and mechanical engineering, tailoring, simple manufacturing skills such as upholstery, computer skills, home economics, secretarial courses and ceramics. Teaching these young teenagers how to provide for their brothers and sisters will pave the way for future stability.

### ...and so much more!

Helping young orphans grow into healthy, confident young adults prepared for college or an immediate career requires many support services. The list is long, and includes everything from providing malaria-protecting mosquito nets, obtaining official identity documents and teaching the orphans about reproductive health and sexual morality to protect them from AIDS.

**“In most developing countries, the extended family and community are still the most important social safety nets, and disconnection from these support systems greatly increases an orphans’ long-term vulnerability.”**

**Children on the Brink,  
by UNAIDS/UNICEF/USAID**



*Receiving basic essentials like food and hygiene products makes this girl feel like it's Christmas morning!*



*Regular visits from a loving volunteer are an indispensable reminder to lonely orphaned children that they are not alone.*



The Bible describes God as a “strong tower of refuge”, a “shelter in the storm” and the “Good Shepherd who cares for His sheep.” The authentic message of the Gospel must be more than just religious words and Bible stories. For these African orphans, God’s love is displayed in nutritious food and decent clothing, in medical care and good schooling, in safe houses, in spiritual and psychological counseling, and in the nurture of those who express the love of Christ in tangible ways that truly make a difference.

**Help us put a smile on their faces...  
and hope in their hearts!**



Will you help Cross International give life-sustaining aid and hope to thousands of orphans in Mozambique? It is only with the support of caring Christians like you that Reencontro will be able to continue its work among over 7,000 precious children. Your contribution will keep families intact and provide the basic necessities of life. These innocent children need to mourn their past and then move forward with faith in God’s promises to a future filled with hope.

The list of needs is comprehensive. Keeping in mind that these needs vary from child to child, on average, \$68 will provide food, clothing, health care, education or other urgently needed services for a child for approximately one year.

## Sponsorship Levels

...giving children what they need most

- **REST:**

**\$1,700 for 25 children**

*Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” — Matt. 11:28*

- **SECURITY:**

**\$3,400 for 50 children**

*“Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.” — Matt. 18:14*

- **HOPE:**

**\$6,800 for 100 children**

*“Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us” — Rom. 5:5, Amp.*

- **RESTORATION:**

**\$10,200 for 160 children**

*“‘For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, ‘because they called you an outcast.’” — Jer. 30:17*

- **PEACE:**

**\$13,600 for 200 children**

*“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” — John 14:27*

**Christ’s love compels  
His followers to  
“look after the orphans...  
in their distress...”**

**James 1:26**