

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

ESWATINI

The Crisis + How We Began

In Eswatini, sexual abuse and polygamy occurs in the homes of many families. Cultural pressures have driven many Eswatini men to take on wives and children they cannot provide or care for. Many people live in abject poverty and food shortages are widespread. Girls are especially at risk in Eswatini, often given up for marriage as early as ages 12-14. This has caused an extremely high number of girls who have never been to school or have dropped out at an early age. As the work in South Africa was growing and expanding, people were starting to see the impact and how relevant it was for the church to get involved to help deal with the HIV/AIDS crisis that was sweeping through Sub-Saharan Africa.

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389

Total Number of Children Cared for



5

Total Number of Communities



54

Total Number of Care Workers



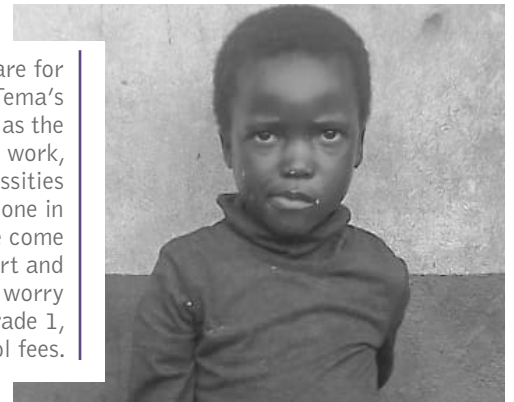
2

Total Number of Local Hands at Work teams

Our Response

As the local church is mobilised in each community to unite and reach out to the most vulnerable, Hands at Work equips them to provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to the children and families they serve. Children are supported through the daily provision of Hands at Work's three essential services. These include food, education and basic health care. These are provided at Life Centres within their community. Through regular visits to their homes, Bible teaching and prayer child come to know that they are loved by Christ and those who care for them.

Meet Tema* one of the most vulnerable children we care for in Bhandeni Community, Eswatini. Though five-year-old Tema's parents long to provide for their children, this is challenging as the only work they can find is seasonal. With the inconsistency of work, Tema's parents struggle to provide even the most basic necessities for their children. By the grace of God, the family are not alone in their challenges. Care Workers from the Bhandeni CBO have come around Tema and her family, providing constant love, support and care, practically and emotionally. No longer do the children worry about going hungry. Next year, when it is time to start grade 1, Tema will be supported with the necessary school fees.



Eswatini's Population **1,489,160**

Percentage of people living in extreme poverty **30%**

Number of children (0 to 14) living with HIV/AIDS **7300**

Number of children (0 to 17) orphaned due to HIV/AIDS **57,000**

Life Expectancy **61 (F) | 53 (M)**

Country Rating (out of 187) the Human Development Index **144**

Sources: UNAID, UNDP, World Poverty Clock