

[handsatwork.org](http://handsatwork.org)

OUR VISION IS TO SEE THE LOCAL CHURCH IN AFRICA EFFECTIVELY CARING FOR THE DYING, ORPHANS AND WIDOWS, AND UNIFIED IN THIS MISSION WITH THE CHURCH OUTSIDE AFRICA.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO - MALAWI - MOZAMBIQUE  
NIGERIA - SOUTH AFRICA - SWAZILAND - ZAMBIA - ZIMBABWE

THE CHURCH:  
**ANSWERING THE CRY  
OF GOD'S HEART**



“AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ON EARTH, GOD HAS PLANTED CHRISTIANS WITH ALL THE PASSION, GIFTS, AND POTENTIAL TO BE THE ONES WHO TRANSFORM THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE MUST HONOR GOD AND PARTNER WITH THOSE WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN.” (GEORGE SNYMAN, FOUNDER, HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA)

## COME PARTICIPATE IN GOD’S AMAZING STORY OF HEALING IN AFRICA

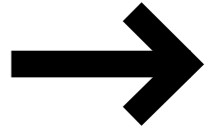
All across Africa, God is stirring His Church. Christian leaders in the continent’s poorest communities are standing up to become agents of hope and transformation among their desperate neighbours and to display Christ to the world. Hands at Work in Africa stands with these leaders and utilizes a multi-denominational network of international churches to partner with them and empower them to care for the poorest of the poor.

The biblical mandate to care for orphans, widows and the dying is not only for the church in Africa, but also for the church outside Africa, where we have been blessed to be a blessing.

We challenge the international church to fulfill its mandate, to join its African brothers and sisters, and to follow Jesus with love among the most vulnerable people on earth.

*(cover): Children receive a message of encouragement in Malawi.*

*(left): A care worker prays for two young orphans in Gondola, Mozambique.*



“TRUE RELIGION IS TO CARE FOR WIDOWS AND ORPHANS IN THEIR DISTRESS.”  
(JAMES 1:27)

## INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

# OVERWHELMED

Hands at Work in Africa works in villages where the incidence of HIV/AIDS, orphans and poverty is highest and support structure is very low. In such areas, institutional models of care, such as hospitals and orphanages, are overwhelmed and unable to cope with the sheer volume of needed care.

Hands at Work helps villages find community-based solutions to the crisis.

In this model orphans are kept within family-unit groups headed by a local caregiver (a granny, an aunt, or an elder sibling) within the community, where they receive the psycho-social care that family and community provide. The community-based organisations then support these families through community care points and teams of trained local care workers who visit the children in their homes.

This approach utilizes the community's existing resources, and forms the basis of a partnership between the local community and outside supporters in caring for the most vulnerable. The Hands at Work model of care was deemed a "best-practice" model by USAID.

"THE MAGNITUDE OF ORPHANS DUE TO HIV/AIDS IS SO LARGE THAT AN INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE – BESIDES NOT BEING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD – WILL NEVER BE THE ANSWER. ORPHANAGES FOR MORE THAN 14 MILLION ORPHANS SIMPLY CANNOT BE BUILT AND SUSTAINED." (UNAIDS. THE FRAMEWORK. 2004)

*(right): A young girl in Zambia carries her younger brother on a visit to a hospice to comfort their desperately ill mother.*





(above): A care worker on a regular home visit in Swaziland reads a Home Economics textbook to a child-headed household. In the same visit she helps the children prepare their garden for the planting season.

(right): American volunteers come together with local care workers in Mozambique to encourage and support a patient.

## Hands at Work in Africa STANDING WITH THE AFRICAN CHURCH

Hands at Work in Africa identifies African Christian leaders demonstrating a passion to serve the poorest of the poor. We support those leaders in developing a community-owned organisation that unites local churches and mobilizes congregation members, and we begin a long-term partnership of serving those organisations and working to increase their ability to provide effective, holistic care to the vulnerable: physical, spiritual, emotional and intellectual.

Churches outside Africa join their African brothers and sisters, participating not as donors but as family members joined in a common cause to serve the poor.



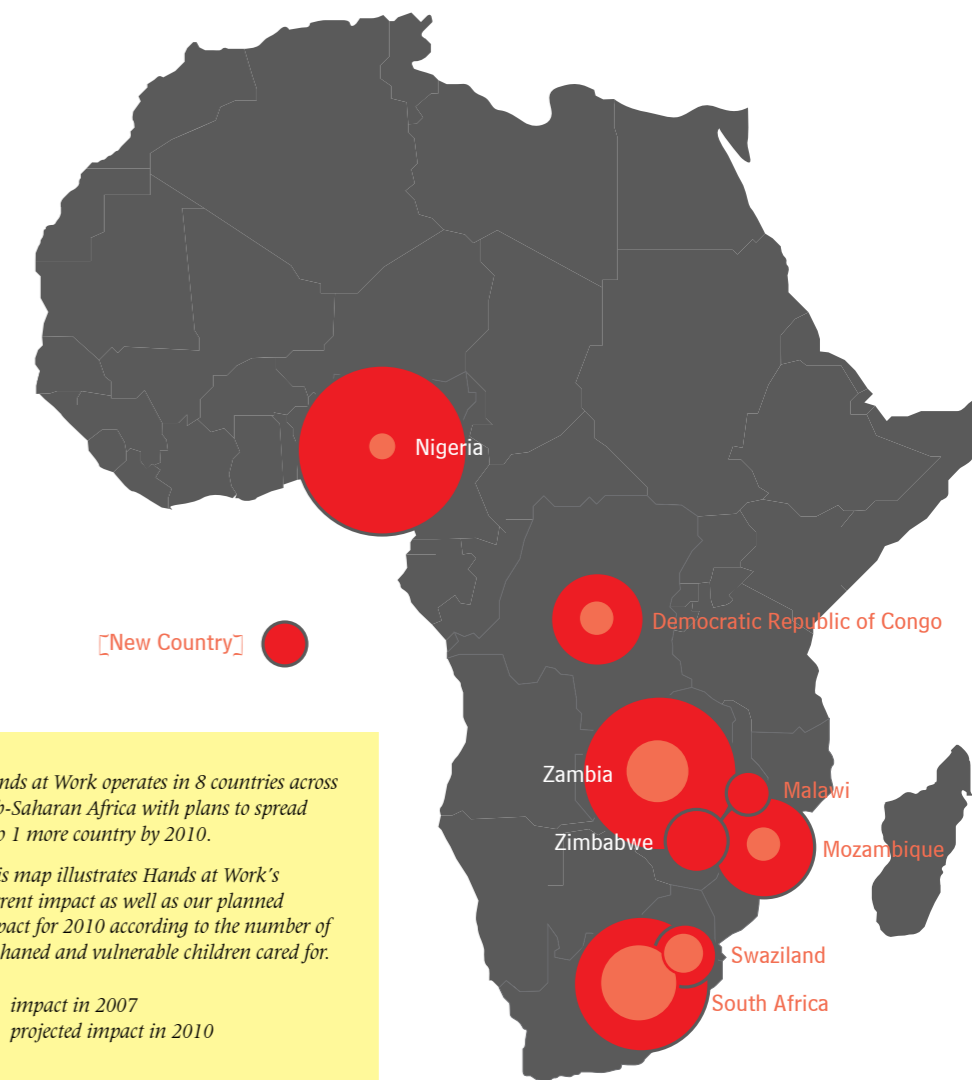
## Hands at Work in Africa STRIVING TO REACH THE MOST VULNERABLE

In 2005 an influential South African foundation predicted that Hands at Work, then caring for 9000 orphaned and vulnerable children, would be one of the three largest South African aid and development organisations by 2010. An honour? Comparing the 9000 being reached to the 14 million children already orphaned in Sub-Saharan Africa, it was a wake-up call: more must be done.

Thus the vision was born of **caring for 100,000 children in 2010.**

Hands at Work is striving to reach the most vulnerable, those that would not have been reached otherwise. Without access to food, education and basic health care, children are left extremely vulnerable. Therefore in accordance with international standards of child care, Hands at Work does not say it “cares” for a child until we are able to provide access to these three areas:

- Food
- Education
- Basic Health Care



Hands at Work operates in 8 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa with plans to spread into 1 more country by 2010.

This map illustrates Hands at Work's current impact as well as our planned impact for 2010 according to the number of orphaned and vulnerable children cared for.

# HOW WE CARE FOR A CHILD

The goal of Hands at Work is to care for 100,000 orphaned and vulnerable children by the end of 2010 through its USAID "best-practice" model of community care. As the church is mobilized in each African community to unite and reach out, their focus is providing access to basic health care, education and food to the most vulnerable children in their community.



(left): A young girl prepares her supper from garden vegetables in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Essential Service Area*

## FOOD\*

Lack of a secure food source is a primary cause of vulnerability among Africa's poorest children, driving many to incredibly dangerous survival practices. Young girls across Africa are daily selling their bodies just to secure a plate of food.

**"WHEN YOU GIVE A BANQUET, INVITE THE POOR, THE CRIPPLED, THE LAME, THE BLIND, AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED. ALTHOUGH THEY CANNOT REPAY YOU, YOU WILL BE REPAID AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS." (LUKE 14)**

Hands at Work in Africa provides food security to the most vulnerable children through a combination of efforts: serving nutritious meals served at community care points, implementing large and small-scale community garden projects, teaching individual child-headed households the importance of and steps to gardening, and, when necessary, providing food parcels.

Hands at Work also strives to enable anyone who is able to earn an income to do so, either by providing or organizing childcare so that a single parent can go to work and provide for their children or by teaching a skill that can be used to make a living.

\*millenium development goal #1

(right): A local teacher guides a student in lessons at a community school classroom in Zambia.

*Essential Service Area*

## EDUCATION\*

Millions of orphaned and vulnerable children in Africa have no access to even primary education. Orphans are often forced to abandon school for a number of reasons: inadequate funds for school fees, caring for sick family members or younger siblings, emotional distress, and discrimination. But education is the key to unlocking every child's God-given potential.

**"TEACH A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT TURN FROM IT." (PROVERBS 22)**

Hands at Work in Africa aims to provide access to education for children of all ages through services like pre-school for the youngest children, accessing local and international resources to provide school fees and uniforms for primary and secondary students, homework support for those without someone at home to assist them, encouragement to continue their learning, and mobilization of local teachers in the operation of the UNICEF-endorsed model of Community Schools.

The overarching problem with orphaned and abandoned children is the lack of guidance in their lives. Hands at Work in Africa strives to fill some of the holes the loss of a parent creates, guiding children in the way they should go through regular interactions with the child in their home and outside their home at care points where activities take place such as youth programmes and practical life-skills are taught in a safe environment.

\*millenium development goal #2



*Essential Service Area*

## BASIC HEALTH CARE\*

Hands at Work in Africa improves the health of the most vulnerable through a suite of holistic activities delivered in the homes of sick and dying parents and of orphaned and vulnerable children.

**"FOR I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN, I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME" (MATTHEW 25)**

Through home visits, local care workers assess the health and security of children, identify urgent needs, and provide basic physical and emotional care. They work to raise the children's health awareness, helping them to secure a clean water

source and teaching them about HIV/Aids transmission. Often care workers connect those in need with outside resources, helping children receive the aid available to them. Care for vulnerable children often begins with care for their dying parents.

\*millenium development goal #6



(left): A care worker in Mozambique takes two young orphans to the river for a bath.

# JOIN US

The African Church is standing as Christ's body to care for the most vulnerable, offering their time, their buildings, and their money.

We believe the biblical mandate to care for orphans, widows and the dying is not only for the church in Africa, but also for the church outside Africa. Remembering we have been blessed to be a blessing, we challenge the international church to join its African brothers and sisters in one of three ways:

## COME PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S TRANSFORMING WORK

Touch the arms of dying patients, participate in a construction project, or be a mentoring influence in the lives of Africa's orphans. Send a church leader or a team of passionate congregation members for a two or three-week trip.

Or come as an individual serving in one of these categories: Mid-term (less than three months), to learn and serve at our base in South Africa; or Long-term (longer than 6 months), to build capacity in leaders and organisations across Africa. Specific Long-term roles include IT support, pastoral support, project management, nursing and teacher training, and basic administration.

## ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF THE VULNERABLE

Tell the story, show a Hands at Work video on a Sunday morning or at a special meeting, invite a speaker to visit your church. Share the story of what's happening in Africa and God's call for the Church to respond. Start by contacting your nearest Hands at Work office (see website for locations.)

**"SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.**

**FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WHO ARE DESTITUTE.**

**SPEAK UP AND JUDGE FAIRLY:**

**DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY."**

**(PROVERBS 31)**

# GIVE

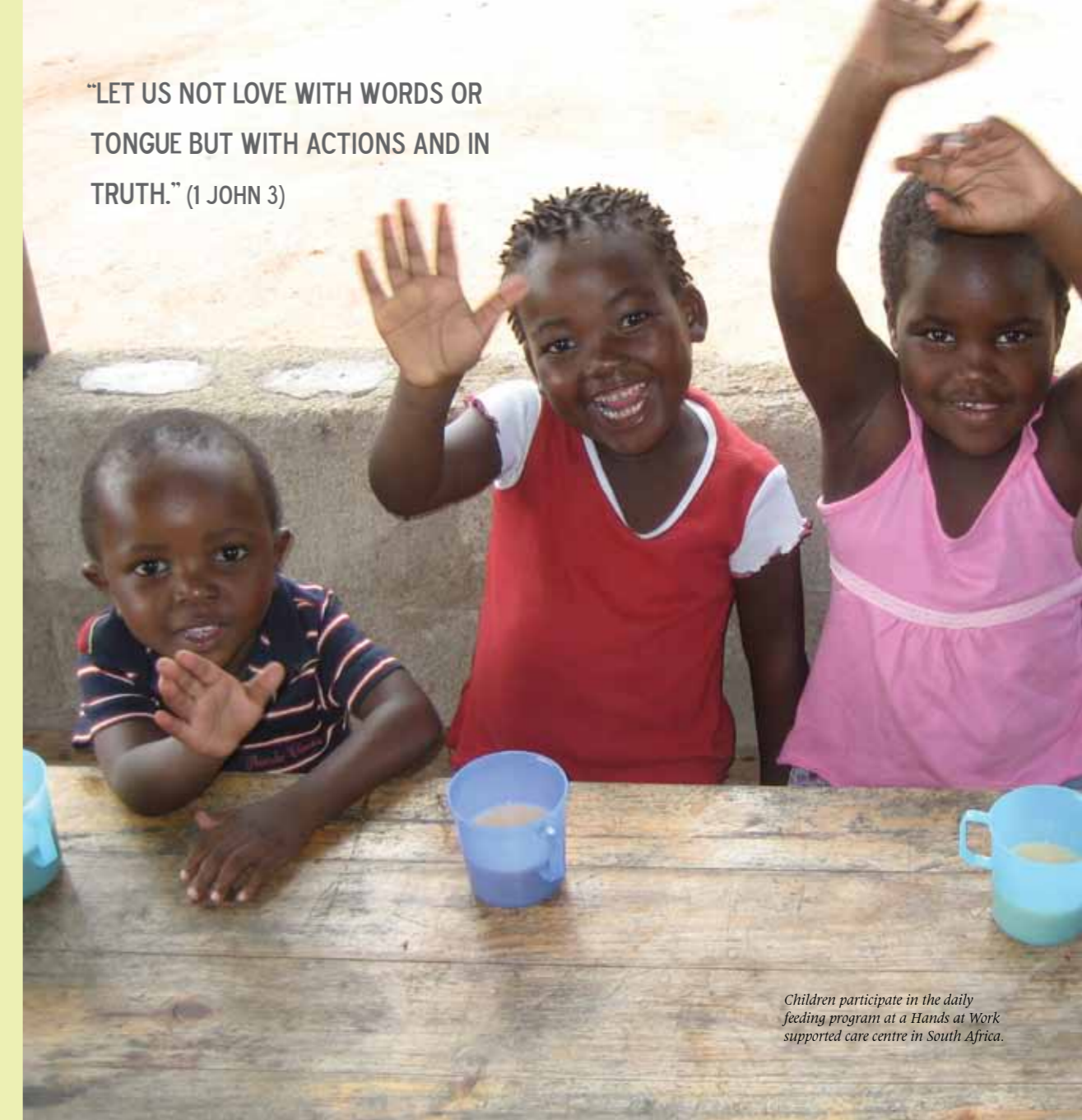
**ENSURE VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN AFRICA HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD, EDUCATION & BASIC HEALTH CARE**

Begin a monthly contribution to help deliver these essential services to a child or a group of children at \$15 per month per child. Or for larger donations, fund an urgent project, like the construction of a community school or drilling a water well. Your contributions will immediately impact Africa's most vulnerable children.

You can make a difference.

R150 a month ensures a child has access to food, education and basic health care all delivered from the loving arms of the local church

**"LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR TONGUE BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH." (1 JOHN 3)**



*Children participate in the daily feeding program at a Hands at Work supported care centre in South Africa.*

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Hands at Work

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