



LESOTHO

The Mountain Kingdom

Lesotho is located in Sub-Saharan Africa, entirely within the borders of South Africa. Lesotho, about the size of Maryland, has a population of 1.8 million.

Lesotho has been severely impacted by the AIDS pandemic. The infection rate is at 29%, and is expected to rise to 36% within the next 15 years. (Source: UN estimates). Lesotho has the third highest HIV/Aids infection rate in the world.

This extreme infection rate, combined with a large population of children aged 15 and under, has resulted in a nation of orphans. Having lost one or both parents to AIDS, one third, or 230,000 of the country's children are AIDS orphans. Due to a high incidence of mother-to-child transmission, some of these children are also HIV+.

Traditionally, orphans were taken in and cared for by family members, but as the orphan population has grown and stretched resources to the limit, many families are simply not able to absorb more children into their homes.

Many of these orphans are the head of the household left alone to raise their younger brothers and sisters. An even greater number are cared for by elderly family members, mostly Grandmothers, who are often too old, sick or simply lacking the energy and resources to care for these young children. Thus this pandemic is impacting three generations. Having lost their children to AIDS, grandmothers have become primary caregivers for their orphaned grandchildren.

The government response to these problems has been minimal and there are only a handful of facilities taking care of these orphans.

Orphans left on their own often experience a multitude of problems, such as:

- Extreme Poverty
- Malnutrition
- Lack of Education
- Lack of Medical Care
- Vulnerability to Abuse
- Stigma
- Lack of Basic Human Rights

MANYELOI A MANYANE Little Angels Orphan Day Care Center



Our Center was opened in January 2008 with the help of several International donors.

The center is a **non-profit**, community based organization. We are registered with the Ministry of Social Welfare, as well as the Ministry of Education of Lesotho.



Our mission is to help relieve family hardships by taking care of the youngsters daily needs.

We help orphans and vulnerable children and their families in and around the community of Thaba Bosiu in response to the problems faced by AIDS and severe poverty. The Center is a DAY care facility as we want our children to stay connected with their community and maintain family ties.

We currently care for 46 children between the ages of 2-6. Most are Aids orphans or otherwise vulnerable children (OVC's), living in extreme poverty or otherwise vulnerable conditions.

Several of our children are HIV positive. In addition to taking care of their daily needs we provide them with access to medical care and emotional support.



What we provide for the children:

Our children receive two nutritious meals per day and have their physical and emotional needs met by a loving staff and volunteers who assist at the Center.

To help feed the children we are cultivating a large vegetable garden and are raising chickens to supplement the orphans diet with eggs and meat.

We provide full-time employment to three local individuals, two teachers, and a cook/caretaker. These employees are assisted by a rotating pool of volunteers from the community.



Our continued operation depends on YOUR help!

WE INVITE AND APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.

For information on how to donate, please go to our website: