

handsatwork.org

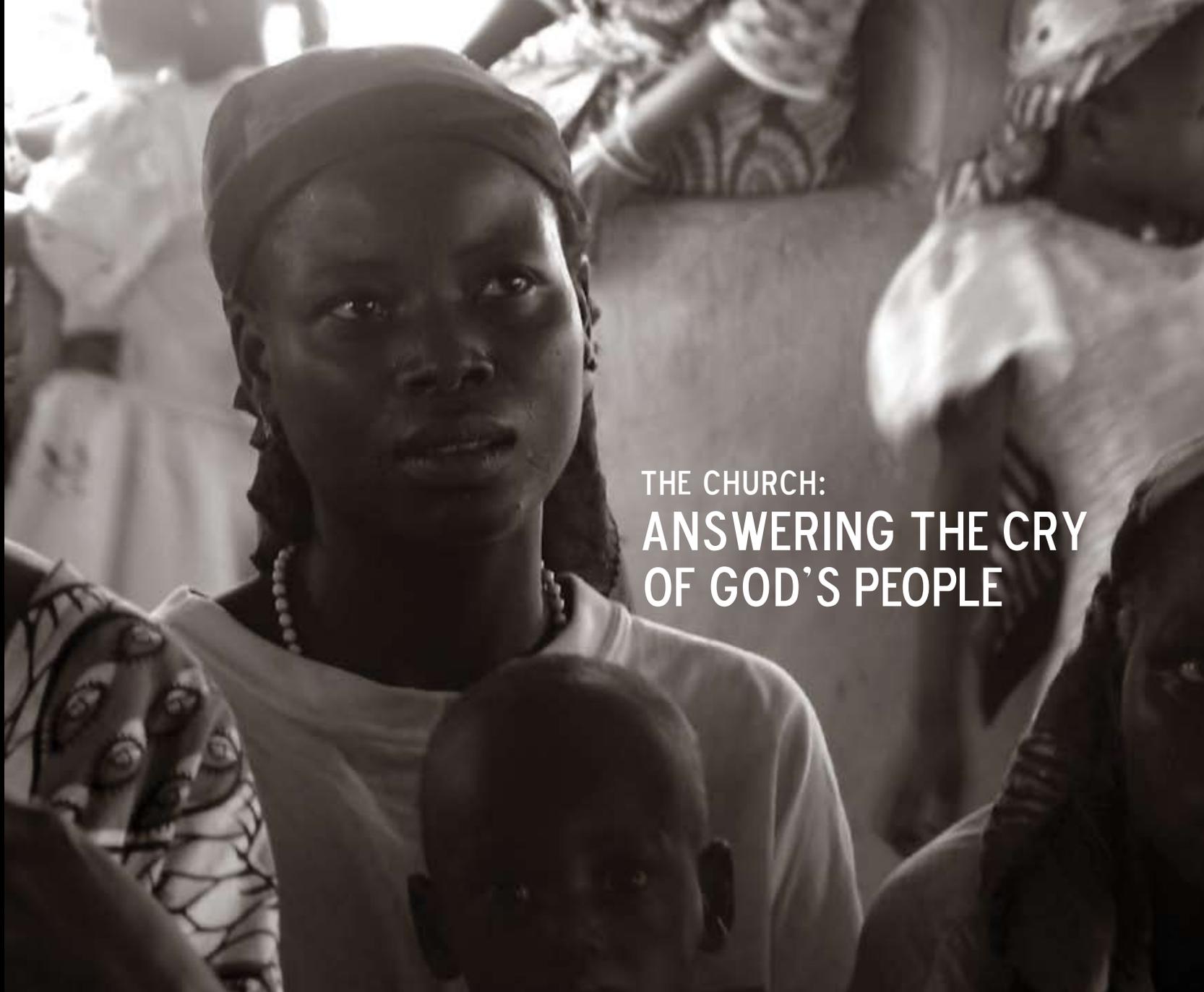
HANDS AT WORK'S VISION IS TO SEE THE LOCAL CHURCH IN AFRICA EFFECTIVELY CARING FOR THE DYING, ORPHANS AND WIDOWS, AND UNIFIED IN THIS MISSION WITH THE CHURCH OUTSIDE AFRICA.

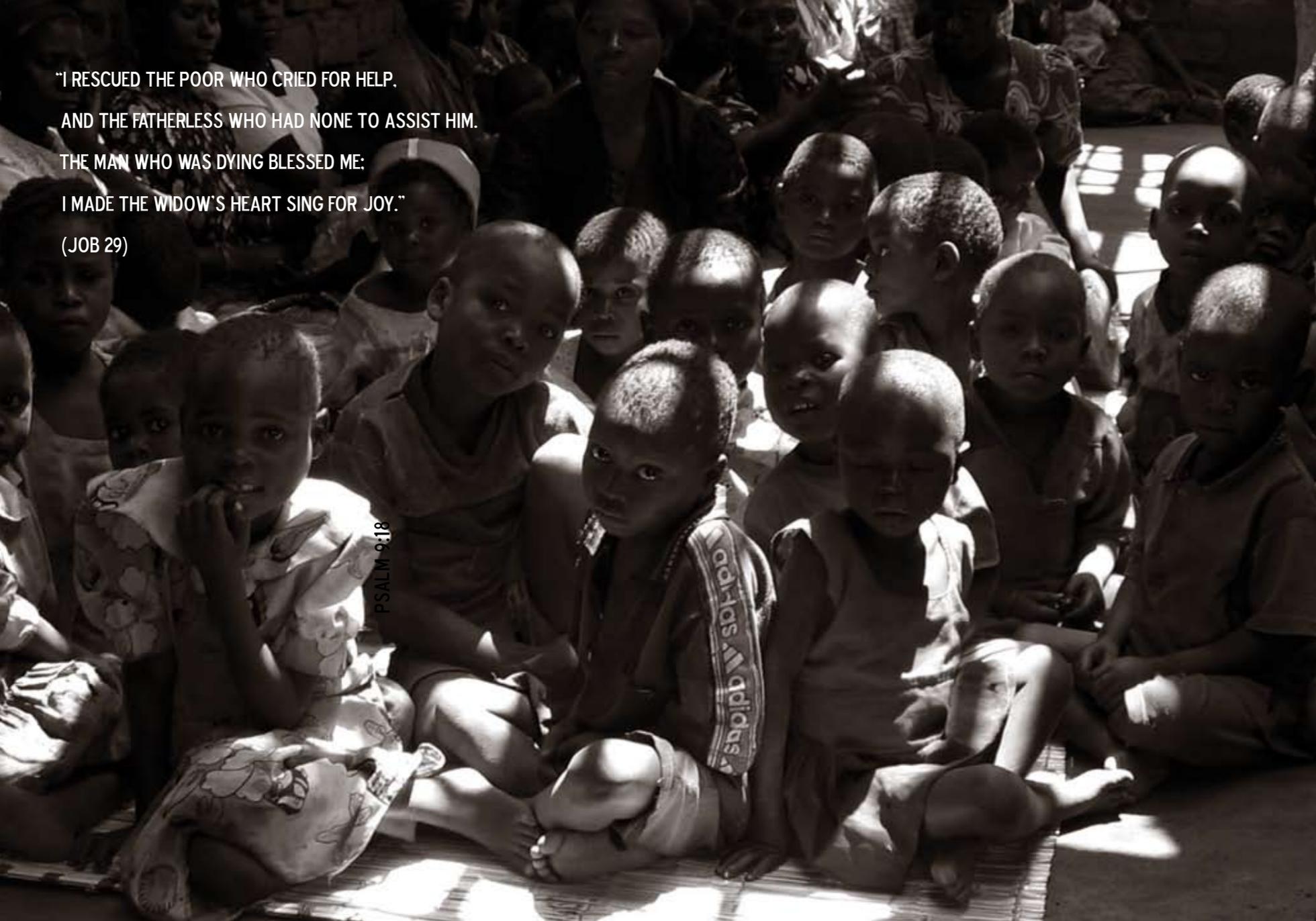
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO · MALAWI · MOZAMBIQUE · NIGERIA · SOUTH AFRICA · SWAZILAND · ZAMBIA



Hands at Work
AFRICA

THE CHURCH: ANSWERING THE CRY OF GOD'S PEOPLE





"I RESCUED THE POOR WHO CRIED FOR HELP,
AND THE FATHERLESS WHO HAD NONE TO ASSIST HIM.
THE MAN WHO WAS DYING BLESSED ME:
I MADE THE WIDOW'S HEART SING FOR JOY."
(JOB 29)

PSALM 9:18

(left): Children and their caregivers receive a message of encouragement in Malawi.

(cover): A young mother and her child participate in a literacy training workshop at a Hands at Work holistic training village in Kano, Nigeria.

COME PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S AMAZING STORY OF HEALING IN AFRICA.

A multi-denominational network of international churches is the essential tool in our capacity building work among local churches and community-based organisations across Africa. As partners and servants, this network empowers leaders among the poor and vulnerable to become agents of transformation among their neighbours and to display Christ to the world.

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 follow Jesus with love among the most vulnerable people on earth.

Find out how we do it and how you can respond. »

“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)

Hands at Work home-based care workers in Zambia always meet to encourage one another and to pray before beginning the day's home visits.



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 poor and broken among their neighbours. We support those leaders in developing a locally-owned organisation that involves local churches and congregation members, and we begin a long-term partnership of serving those organisations and working to increase their ability to provide effective, holistic care.



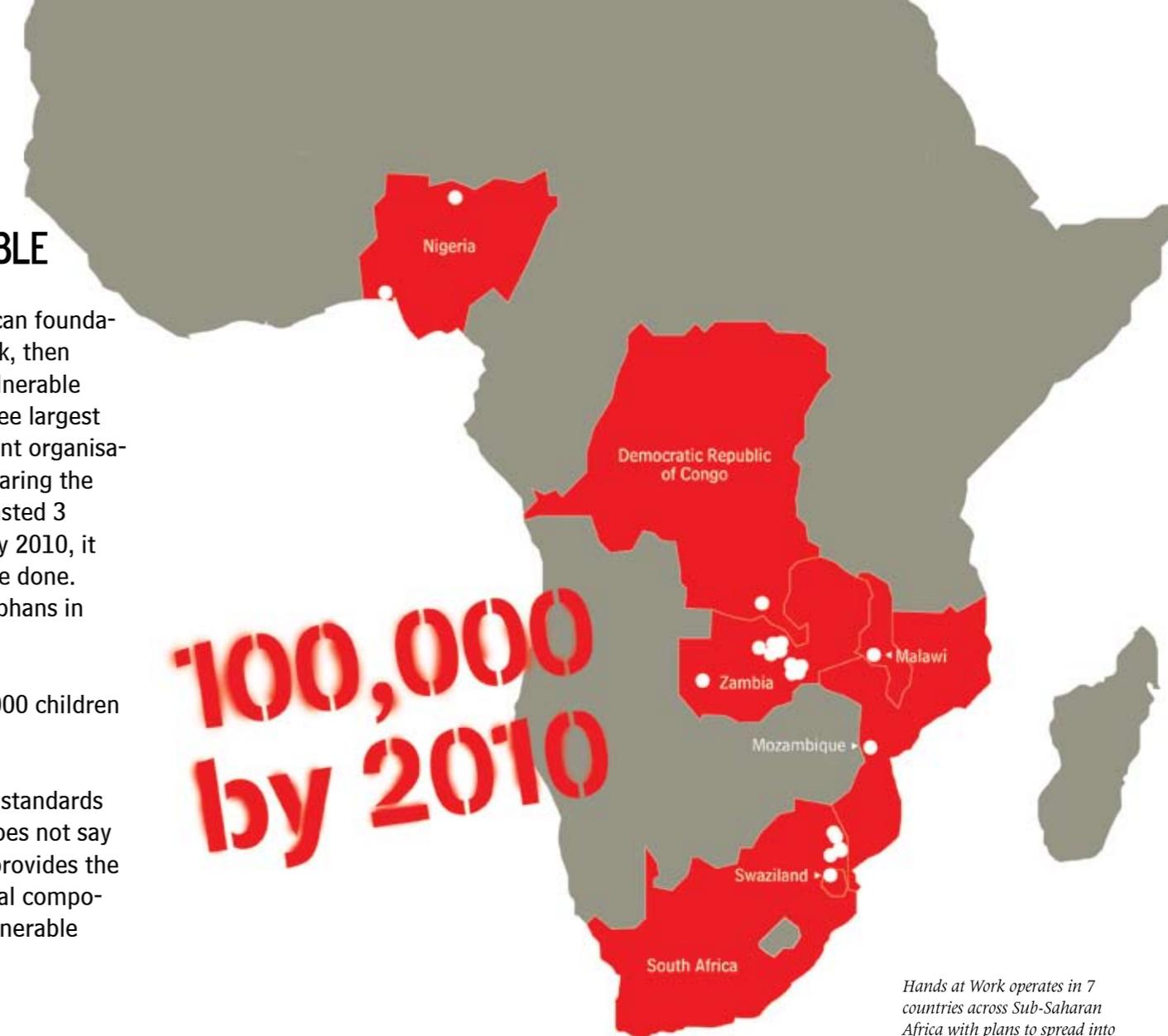
Hands at Work in Africa

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 forecasted 3 million orphans in South Africa by 2010, it was a wake-up call: more must be done. In 2007 there were 14 million orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Thus the vision of reaching 100,000 children by 2010 was born.

In accordance with international standards of orphan care, Hands at Work does not say it “cares” for an orphan until it provides the child at least three of the essential components of care for orphans and vulnerable children.



Hands at Work operates in 7 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa with plans to spread into 3 more countries by 2010.

Home-Based Care

Basic Medical Care

Orphan Home Visits

Feeding Programmes

Agricultural Training

Community Multi-Care Centres

Pre-Schools

Community Schools

Peer Education

Home Security

Building Projects

Youth Programmes

Income Generating Activities

Primary Care-Giver Training

University Bridging Classes

Young Mothers Support Group

Literacy Training

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

TRADITIONAL 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 often overwhelmed and unable to cope with the sheer volume of needed care.

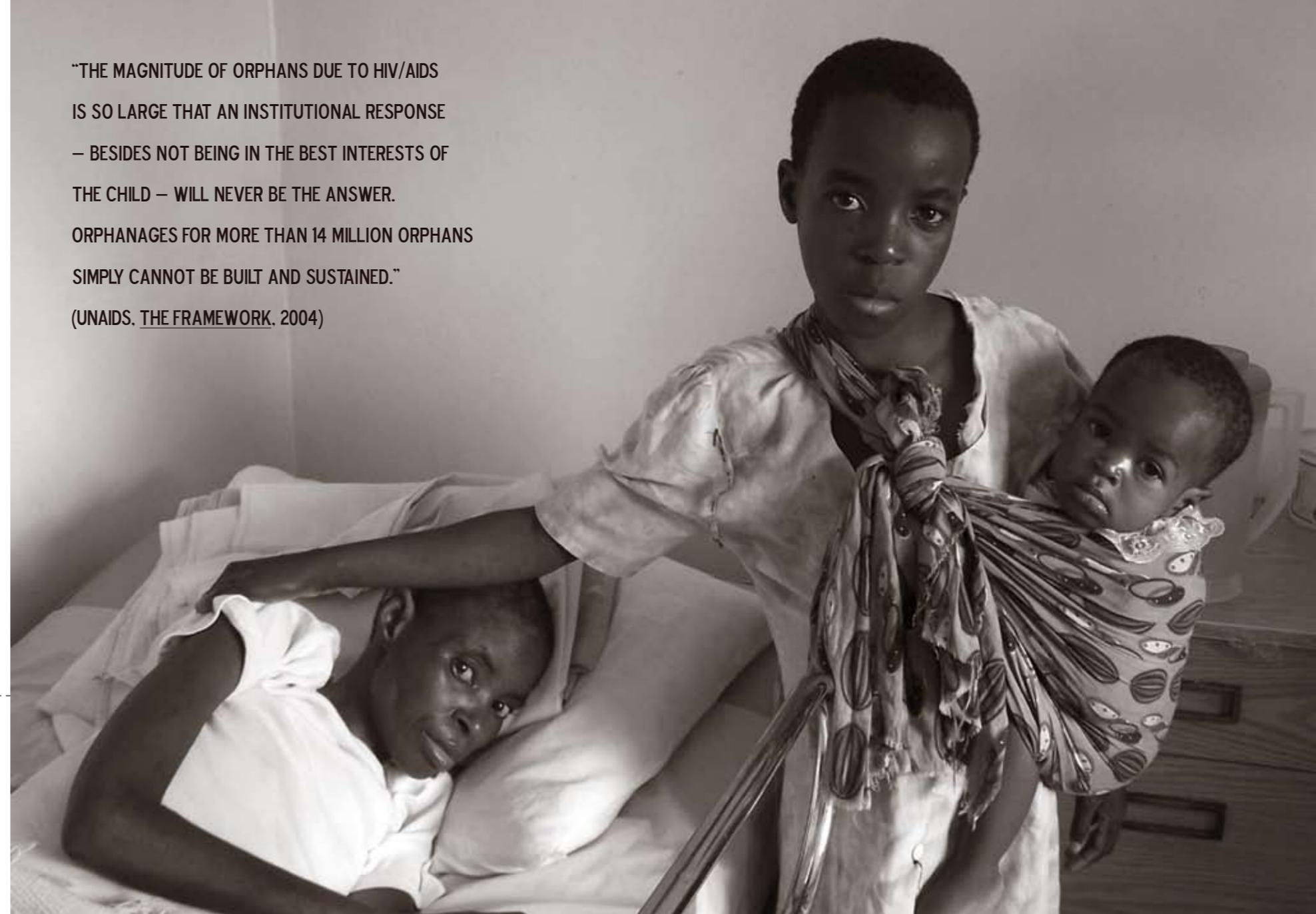
Hands at Work helps villages find community-based solutions to the crisis.

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 create care centres throughout their communities to support these families as extended homes and to radiate care through the entire community.

Hands at Work community-based organisations provide multiple outreach initiatives (see our growing list of services below), but with a specific focus on three essential service areas: food security, basic health care, and education.

“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)



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 patients and of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC). This is home-based care (HBC).

“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)

The HBC response organizes local volunteers into support teams and trains them to make home visits where they assess the health and security of OVCs, identify urgent needs, and provide basic physical and psycho-social care. On visits to patient homes, support teams clean houses, bathe and encourage patients, and provide basic medical care. Where institutional care is out of reach, HIV/AIDS patients suffer at home, often alone. HBC workers provide HIV education, transport patients to hospitals and HIV clinics, and support medication compliance. Sometimes they simply reach soon-to-be-orphaned children, or provide dignity to a hopeless patient dying alone in her home.

*millenium development goal #6



A Hands at Work home-based care worker examines the health of a patient's child on a home visit in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Essential Service Area

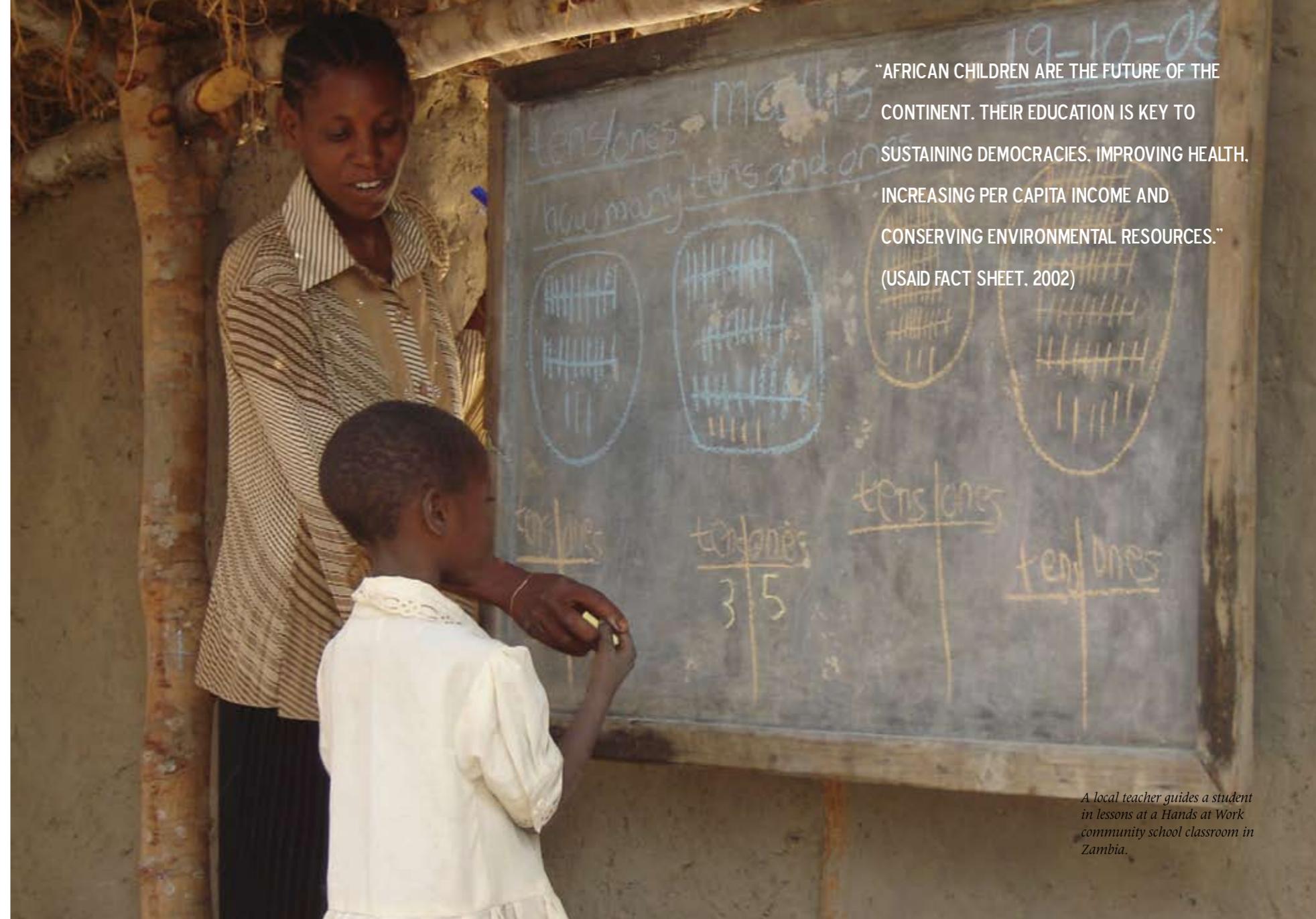
EDUCATION*

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, including pre-school education to the youngest OVCs. Access to primary and secondary education happens through the provision of school fees and school uniforms or by mobilizing local volunteers and teachers in the operation of the UNICEF-endorsed model of Community Schools. Older youth, especially those heading child households, and primary care givers receive training in basic life skills and income generating activities.

*millenium development goal #2



"AFRICAN CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE OF THE CONTINENT. THEIR EDUCATION IS KEY TO SUSTAINING DEMOCRACIES, IMPROVING HEALTH, INCREASING PER CAPITA INCOME AND CONSERVING ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES."
(USAID FACT SHEET, 2002)

A local teacher guides a student in lessons at a Hands at Work community school classroom in Zambia.

Essential Service Area

FOOD SECURITY*

While a few of us enjoy an abundance of nutritious food, most of the world struggles to maintain access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food and water. For some there is a desperate shortage. This fact is a violation of a basic human right.

“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 nutritious monthly food parcels to orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC) and dying patients, especially those suffering from HIV/AIDS, across Africa, by distributing food packages from care centre points throughout the community. For the especially vulnerable, one meal per day is cooked and provided at these centres. Hands at Work also supports community garden projects which are worked by OVCs and patients who in turn reap the garden harvest.

*millenium development goal #1

**“FOOD SECURITY EXISTS WHEN ALL PEOPLE, AT ALL TIMES, HAVE PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT, SAFE, NUTRITIOUS FOOD.”
(WORLD FOOD SUMMIT, 1996)**



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

WILL YOU HELP?

Churches: Blessed to be a Blessing

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 fulfill that mandate in one of three ways:

COME AND 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 ministry leader or a team of passionate congregation members for a two or three-week trip, or send a committed individual to participate in our year-long Footprints in Africa program or to fill a mid-term internship position.

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.

GIVE TO AN URGENT HANDS AT WORK NEED: begin a monthly contribution to help deliver the three essential services to a child or a group of children, or fund an urgent project, like the construction of a care centre or community school. Your contributions will immediately impact hundreds of orphans and families.

Contact participate@handsatwork.org



A Hands at Work international volunteer washes and serves a child and his elderly caregiver in Zambia.

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

“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)

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