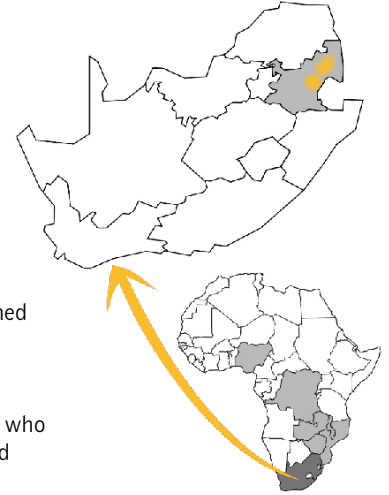


# HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA

### The Crisis + How We Began

Within South Africa, the social poverty is often greater than the physical poverty. The separation of fathers from their families during Apartheid began a cycle that continues today. Children are growing up without male role models and in broken families. This reality has contributed to an alarming rate of violent crime among young men and sexual vulnerability among young women. Many people face the injustice of living without services such as water and electricity. As the gap between rich and poor increases throughout the country, those living in poverty are denied basic rights. In George Snyman's (co-founder of Hands at Work) final year of Bible school, he was compelled to walk through Africa, staying in impoverished communities, seeing for the first time the seemingly hidden suffering of communities that were being devastated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. After George and his wife Carolyn had completed their studies, they travelled to another province in South Africa, where they started simply feeding children who were scavenging for food on rubbish dumps. After several years, they received the invitation to head up the first home-based care organisation in Masoyi community, located close to the now established Hands at Work base in Mpumalanga. There they cared for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those dying of HIV/AIDS. Shortly after this began, they felt called to replicate the model of care across Africa. As George and Carolyn met children who had been abandoned after the death of their caregivers, their focus shifted from those dying of HIV/AIDS to the children who had been left as orphans.



### 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, children come to know that they are loved by Christ and those who care for them.

**Meet Abigail\*** one of the most vulnerable children we care for in Seville B Community, South Africa. Five-year-old Abigail\* and her family are from Mozambique and have no documentation, meaning they have no income and can't easily access government services. Abigail was unable to attend school until a Care Worker helped her enrol and get a school uniform. Today, Abigail goes to school with her friends and enjoys learning. Care Worker Marsha visits them regularly and helps them with their needs. Abigail and her family are grateful for the love and care they receive from the Care Workers at the Care Point.



574

Total Number of Children Cared for



11

Total Number of Communities



72

Total Number of Care Workers



2

Total Number of Local Hands at Work teams



South Africa's Population **60,473,211**

Percentage of people living in extreme poverty **22%**

Number of children (0 to 14) living with HIV/AIDS **230 000**

Number of children (0 to 17) orphaned due to HIV/AIDS **720,000**

Life Expectancy **65 (F) | 60 (M)**

Country Rating (out of 187) the Human Development Index **109**

Sources: UNAID, UNDP, World Poverty Clock