

THE PROBLEMS FACING YOUTH AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS & POVERTY IN LESOTHO

LESOTHO HAS
**WORLD'S SECOND
HIGHEST
HIV
INFECTION RATE**
Source: CIA World Factbook, 2014

There will be renewed focus on adolescents and supporting intersectoral action on empowerment, education, nutrition and employment – issues critical to progress the AIDS response. **UNAIDS, 2016**

CARE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- One third of all children in Lesotho are orphans. (UNAIDS, 2015)
- HIV/AIDS is one of the biggest reasons for children to become orphaned in Lesotho. (UNAIDS, 2016)

SECONDARY SCHOOL BURSARIES

- Only 42% of girls and 27% of boys are enrolled in secondary school (UNESCO, 2017)
- In Lesotho, 37% of school children believe that children living with HIV should not be allowed to attend school. (Cairns, African schoolchildren's study, 2014)
- Completion of secondary school education reduces vulnerability against HIV infection. Education is described as a key 'social vaccine' against HIV. (UNAIDS & Lancet Commission, 2015)

HERD BOY EDUCATION

- There are an estimated 30,000 herd boys in Lesotho. (UNAIDS, 2012)
- Almost one third of herd boys have never attended school. (UNAIDS, 2012)

SHARING BEST PRACTICE

- 72% of the population lives in rural areas. (UNICEF, 2017)
- This makes sharing of best practice difficult.

CARE & EDUCATION FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

SUCCESS STORIES

- One of our community partners for children with disabilities, Thuso Centre, has been upgraded by the Ministry of Education and Training to the level of Special Education School, the first of its kind in the country.
- 100% of bursary school students sat their exams.
- Twelve of our supported children went on a once-in-a-lifetime trip; they spent a week in London and performed at the Sentebale Concert as part of a Basotho Youth Choir.

CARE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

This financial year, over 1,100 vulnerable, orphaned or disabled children have been supported through our 10 community partners. Partners were encouraged to work on increasing their self-sufficiency, and reuniting children with their families where possible.



SECONDARY SCHOOL BURSARIES

Sentebale has supported over 400 secondary school students (through our main sponsor, Lessons for Life) and eight tertiary students with school bursaries to include school fees, books, toiletries, uniforms and transport costs. Life skills and careers guidance sessions were delivered, and for those graduating, an alumni network is being set up. Psychosocial support training was delivered to 50 teachers from 30 schools, to ensure better support for students in challenging situations.

HERD BOY EDUCATION

We supported over 500 herd boys through 11 night schools across Lesotho. Additional training for them delivered included Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV/AIDS education and vocational skills-based training. Herd boy teachers were also trained on lesson planning and delivery. Other important activities included 20 advocacy forums on child labour and rights, and two psychosocial support forums to help caregivers, community leaders and employers understand the vulnerability of herd boys.

SHARING BEST PRACTICE

Sentebale also supports and coordinates best practice across Lesotho through a local body called Letsema. There are over 200 CBOs who are members of Letsema, which now also covers an additional district. There were 11 regional Letsema member forums this year, covering topics such as gender-based violence, child marriage and law, protecting children's rights and voluntary savings and loans.