

Reaching Out to Help Orphans in Lesotho



Home to about two million people, Lesotho is a small mountain kingdom in Southern Africa. Known for its stunning mountainous landscapes, friendly Basotho people and long-standing cultural traditions, Lesotho is a hidden gem of the region. Sadly, Lesotho is also home to the second highest rate of HIV and AIDS in the world.

With over 350,000 orphans in Lesotho, one of the many challenges the country faces is ensuring that children affected by HIV and AIDS are provided for. Too often, orphaned and vulnerable children in Lesotho are left without sufficient food, proper medical care, basic necessities and money to cover the costs of education.

Help 4 Helpless, a Lesotho based NGO, is working hard to improve the lives of many vulnerable and orphaned children in their community living in poverty. Founded in 2010, the group is composed of 10 youth members who have a keen interest in volunteering in their community to ensure orphans impacted by HIV/AIDS have the basic necessities they need to survive and go to school.

With the help of a **\$10,000 PEPFAR Small Grant** from U.S. Embassy Maseru in 2013, Help 4 Helpless has successfully started a piggery income-generation project. The group uses 30% of the profits from the sale of pigs to provide food, clothes and other basic necessities to orphans in their community living with HIV/AIDS.

Through the success of this project, Help 4 Helpless is currently supporting **100 orphans** at St. Leo Orphanage and have donated an additional M3,000 towards the purchase of school uniforms and shoes. In addition, Help 4 Helpless provides advice and help to the children and their families and works hard to raise awareness of their challenges through national campaigning.

“We would like to express our deepest thanks to U.S Embassy Maseru for its faithful financial contributions over the years and deep commitment to our work. There is no way to fully express our gratitude for your loyalty and support which has repeatedly played a key role in our success. We at Help 4 Helpless are continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of donors like U.S. Embassy Maseru who answer the call to give again and again. We look forward to our continuing partnership.”
Help 4 Helpless Executive Director Mr. Lekhooa Montsi

Funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the PEPFAR Small Grants program is for **community-initiated projects** which aim to strengthen health service delivery in communities affected by HIV and AIDS. The program supports community groups who support **orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)** and **community-based HIV and AIDS palliative care and home health care initiatives**. For more information about this and other small grants, please contact the Special Projects Office on +266 2231 2666 x4119 or by email at GrantsMaseru@state.gov