

# Together in South Africa

## Project Information for teachers



### Why South Africa?

Political instability, corruption, government debt and high unemployment have hampered the life chances of most South African people, despite having one of Africa's most-developed economies. While poverty levels have reduced since the 1990s, development has slowed significantly and South Africa is now among the most unequal countries in the world for income distribution. Children are the most affected.

A once-thriving mining industry drew workers from elsewhere. But while this helped the economy, the influx of workers caused an urgent need for housing that the government couldn't meet. Illegal shack settlements sprang up on the edges of towns and cities. They still house thousands of people. With little water or electricity, they are crime ridden and unsafe.

Today South Africa has the biggest HIV epidemic in the world. Recent reports state over 18% of the population lives with the virus. Of these, less than half receive medication, but it can be difficult to access. And successful treatment requires more than medication. Patients need nutritious food, clean water, decent housing, and knowledge of how to live well with the virus and prevent further infection. Left untreated, the virus passes from one generation to the next.

HIV need not be fatal but it weakens the immune system, making patients more susceptible to other diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB). Inadequate HIV treatment, poverty, bad diet and poor housing, have made TB South Africa's biggest killer.

More than two million children have been orphaned by HIV and an estimated 280,000 children (aged 0 to 14) are living with the virus. Less than 60% of these children receive treatment.\*

Missio has been supporting children and young people affected by HIV in South Africa for almost 30 years. Thanks to our supporters we've funded healthcare, feeding programmes, and pastoral care. This year Mission Together focuses on one of these projects. See overleaf to read more.

\*[www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/sub-saharan-africa/south-africa](http://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/sub-saharan-africa/south-africa)

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Help us to make a difference to the lives of children around the world

Mission Together, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU

[missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk) Charity Number: 1056651

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### St John's Care Centre



St John's Care Centre is located in the North East of South Africa. It is run by three dedicated Missionary Sisters: Sr Anece, Sr Denise, and Sr Fran. Using their medical

backgrounds the Sisters went to South Africa - over twenty years ago - to provide palliative care to adults dying of Aids. As more and more critically ill mothers arrived with malnourished and sick children, the Sisters saw the need to help orphaned and abandoned children, and those infected with HIV. Today St John's cares solely for children from birth to adulthood.

For many children, it's the only home they've known. The Sisters provide a stable environment and help the children understand the importance of good nutrition, regular medication and rest - vital to successful treatment of HIV. Social workers work alongside the Sisters to reunite the children with their relations where possible.

The Sisters encourage the children to see themselves as members of God's family, with responsibility to love themselves, other people, and all God's creation. They also learn that there are children around the world who care about them, who share with them, and who pray to God for them.

By supporting this year's *Together in South Africa* campaign, children in England and Wales are reminded that Jesus wants us all to be missionaries who share God's



love with those living near to us and to those whom we may never meet. Thank you for encouraging your pupils to be 'children helping children'.

### Your fundraising challenge:

The Sisters need our help to provide the children with a secure, happy and healthy future.

### With your help we can provide



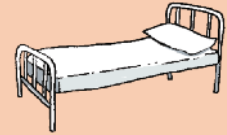
A daily bowl of porridge for one child for a month  
**£2.00**



A daily piece of cheese for all 30 children  
**£8.50**



Two pieces of fruit daily for all 30 children  
**£10.00**



A mattress for one child  
**£50.00**

### Your prayer challenge:

Can your **PUPILS** say the Mission Together Prayer for the children at St John's each day this term?

St John's Care Home is one of many worldwide children's projects Mission Together supports. With your help, Mission Together brings God's love to vulnerable children living in poverty overseas through educational, medical and welfare projects. Your prayers and donations this year will support vulnerable children in South Africa and throughout the world.

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Missio's children's branch

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