



# Positive Women

Empowering women and children to build a better future





## What We Do

Positive Women is a charity set up to empower women and children in Africa, starting with Swaziland. Our work focuses on supporting communities to change their own lives and circumstances, to alleviate poverty and make significant social change. To achieve this, they must have their basic needs met, choices in their lives and an understanding of their rights. We help make this happen.

## Why we exist

There is never a more inspiring or humbling experience than meeting the exceptional women of Africa. In countries where women are hampered by poverty, lack of information, infrastructure and crippled with disease, their access to resources and power is practically non-existent. Yet they have the burden of survival placed heavily upon them. In the face of all these challenges exceptional women emerge that change the world around them. Positive Women was founded for these women.



Positive Women is empowering the women of Swaziland to secure a different, better future.

# Why Swaziland?

Swaziland currently faces the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world and the lowest life expectancy of anywhere in the world. People have limited access to healthcare or knowledge on living with the disease. Women can be powerless to prevent infection of HIV/AIDS and support their families if widowed, and their situation is exacerbated by living in a patriarchal society. Women are often blamed for the spread of the disease and lose their homes; children are left orphaned, without basic education and have to run households in the face of poverty and disease.

Through funding primary school places for HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children, creating women-led income generation projects and through our legal work, Positive Women is empowering the women of Swaziland to secure a different, better future.

## Our work

Positive Women is an innovative and forward-thinking organisation that reaches all eight of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. To achieve this, we undertake the following programmes:

- Establish income generation projects for women-led groups, particularly for those affected by HIV/AIDS
- Provide education for vulnerable children and orphans
- Educate women on their basic rights and provide legal support and advice
- Train orphans and child headed households on sustainable livelihoods
- Enable communities, particularly those from remote rural areas, access to mobile healthcare clinics.



# What we have achieved

Positive Women has reached some of the poorest communities in Swaziland and has already had a significant and far-reaching impact on the lives of thousands of women and children. Working with partners on the ground and supporting existing projects, our combined achievements include:

- Giving 500 orphans and vulnerable children access to education
- Supplying 500 orphans and vulnerable children with memory books
- Establishing 5 women-led income generation projects
- Educated 500 women on their basic legal rights.

The following case studies demonstrate the impact we have already had:

## A Positive Women Income Generation Case Study

We supported a local group of eight women running a candle, glue and polish producing business. During the first 6 months of this business, they generated enough funds to buy agricultural inputs for their communal garden as well as a small amount given to each person for their own use. They used the rest of their profit to buy school uniforms for 62 of the orphans in their community.



## A Positive Women Child Headed Household Case Study

Audrey was 13 when her parents died and she started looking after her 3 younger brothers and sisters who were not in school and in poor health. She had been exchanging sex for food and was now pregnant and very sick. In Audrey's words "we all wait for death". That was the story 1 year ago. That is not their story now.

Audrey is now 14 and is caring for her 3 younger siblings and a baby of her own. Through Positive Women, her 2 sisters and brother are in school and doing really well. They are much healthier and eat at least twice a day. Audrey has a small vegetable plot that she manages and has food for her family and some left over to sell.

All of them have access to a nurse once a month and are treated for worms, skin infections and other illnesses they have picked up along the way. Audrey is the only one of her family that is HIV positive and she is getting the support she needs to live healthily and positively. These children are no longer awaiting a death sentence, they have a voice and a life, and they have hope and ambitions. In fact, the three younger children want to be a dancer, doctor and a teacher. When Audrey was reminded that a year before she said they were waiting for death, she smiled and said "That was then. I am a different me and we are now living. Death will have to wait a long time for us now."





## A Positive Women Legal Case Study

Celani Sifundza is 13 years old and the head of his household. He has a younger brother aged 10, and a sister aged 8. Their mother died, and after her death, their father remarried and moved to a community far from where his original home was located, leaving his children behind to fend for themselves. He later died, and left his first home to his children. After his funeral, Celani's stepmother came to his house with a truck and took everything inside including beds, blankets, all kitchen cooking ware, crockery and cutlery. School books were also taken but one of the neighbours intervened and returned the books back to the children. The children were left in an empty house.

Positive Women supported the children by taking the case to court and winning the right for compensation for the stolen goods. Currently Positive Women supports Celani and his siblings by paying their school fees so they are attending school. However, the only food available to them is through the Neighbourhood Care Point funded by Positive Women. Celani and his siblings still need bedding, a kitchen stove, table and agricultural training on how to provide food for themselves, rather than relying on their Neighbourhood Care Point for their daily sustenance, which is currently just one meal per day.

Positive Women strives to achieve far more, and its role is to work with women and communities to create exceptional organisations, to better their situations and give hope that they can instigate economic and social change.

# How we work

There is no economic logic in trying to duplicate already existing and successful programme structures. The local groups we support know how to make things work in their context and for Positive Women to try and impose our organisational structure onto the organisations we work with would take away, instead of add value.

The projects we work with in Swaziland will retain the independence to implement their programmes and respond to need as they deem appropriate. Throughout, they will be closely supported and monitored to ensure they adhere with the values and regulations of Positive Women.



## Our values

**Partnerships:** Adopting a franchise model, grassroots womens' initiatives will become part of Positive Women, adhering to the set guidelines of efficiency, transparency and accountability. We will support local initiatives to achieve maximum results through organisational development, access to funding and access to the international community. Therefore performance will increase and programme costs decrease.

**Equality:** This will be a partnership arrangement, with a set of clear guidelines and a contractual arrangement with each organisation. Just as in a franchise arrangement, each Positive Women franchisee will be responsible for making their programme a success.

**United Voice:** To make real and lasting changes, we need to work together, in solidarity. Positive Women will ensure there is an effective solidarity lobbying network, so that the women we support get the chance to speak and the voice they deserve.

# Why we need your donations

Here is a summary of our projects which require funding and donations:

**Income generation projects:** There are many grassroots initiatives currently awaiting funding, with business ideas that need our training and support to launch their small scale enterprises. These range from livestock and agricultural production businesses, to candle making, polish production and tent renting.

**School fees:** We are providing schools fees and uniforms for the most vulnerable children, in order for them to have a future free from poverty.

**Child Headed Household training:** We provide a training programme (4 weekends a year) for child headed households. This includes training on backyard gardens, developing memory books, a time to play and be children and form a support network of child headed households. A child looking after children is the reality that Swaziland faces.

**Rights training:** We provide information for women and children around their rights, including rights to access medical treatment, their right to decide when and how they have sex, the right to education and the right to make decisions about their own lives.

**Mobile clinic:** The remote nature of the communities we work with and the poverty they are living with has led to a lack of access to medical services. For people living with HIV/AIDS this is an unnecessary death sentence. We provide monthly medical support to these communities. This also provides an opportunity for counselling and support for those who are most vulnerable and voiceless.

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# How we spend donations

Here is an example of the costs required to support a community of 500 people in meeting their basic needs and empowering them to make changes in their lives:

<b>Set up costs</b>	£400
<b>Project costs</b>	
School fees £47 per child to attend school	£4,700
Weekend Training for Child Headed Households on agriculture/housekeeping	£13,600
Rights training for women and education on HIV/AIDS	£3,500
Mobile Clinic offering monthly basic healthcare and counselling	£9,800
<b>Monitoring</b>	£5,480
<b>Programme Management</b>	£7,496
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£44,976</b>
<b>Outputs:</b>	
Direct - 250 women (affected by HIV/AIDS)	
- 200 children (Child-Headed Households)	
Indirect - 50 men (fathers, husbands, community leaders will benefit)	500
<b>TOTAL COSTS PER PERSON</b>	<b>£89.95</b>

# Examples of what your donations can achieve

## Individual donations

£47 can send one child to primary school for a year, including providing books and a uniform.

## Corporate donations/ major private funders

£44,200 would enable us to set up 50 Positive Women income generation projects, enabling them to run and manage self-sustaining businesses. They will then pay back the capital input loan and we will use these funds to support a further income generation project.

£44,976 will support a community of 500 people for one year. It would send 100 children to school, provide rights training to women and education about HIV/AIDS, training for child headed households on budgeting, agricultural training, and a life saving mobile clinic.



Positive Women ensures that women get the chance to speak and the voice they deserve.





## Major funding partners

A major funding partner would enable Positive Women to achieve these goals:

- improve the financial situation of some of the most vulnerable communities in Swaziland
- empower women to secure a better financial future for themselves and their families
- up skill women in those communities most in need
- ensure that the established support groups in rural Swaziland can survive without external support
- use the model to help improve education and health of women and children and their extended communities, including those with HIV/AIDS
- demonstrate that social change is possible and in the hands of the positive women of Swaziland.



# How you can donate:



## To make a donation:

- Visit [www.positivewomen.org/donate](http://www.positivewomen.org/donate)

## Make a bank transfer to:

- Barclays Bank  
Account Name Positive Women  
Account No 73283380 Sort Code 20 84 41

## Make a cheque payable to Positive Women and post to:

- Positive Women, Bryngwennog, Lluast Isaf,  
Craig Cefn Parc, Swansea, SA6 5TH

If you donate via our website, we can claim Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer.

For organisations and companies wishing to work in partnership with us or provide funding for specific Positive Women projects, please email [info@positivewomen.org](mailto:info@positivewomen.org) to arrange a meeting or to request further details.

## Get involved!

We also have opportunities to contribute to our advocacy function and fundraising activities. Visit [www.positivewomen.org](http://www.positivewomen.org) to find out how you can help.

## Our History

Positive Women by was set up in partnership by Siphwe Hlope from Swaziland, and Kathryn Llewellyn from the UK. Kathryn and Siphwe have worked together through their separate organisations for the past five years. They identified that by bridging the gap between their local and international networks, there was an incredible opportunity for significant economic and social change. After gaining the support and validation of key influential players, Positive Women was formed.



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[www.positivewomen.org](http://www.positivewomen.org)

  
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