

## Income Generation in Support of Orphans and Vulnerable Children

In 2004, Project HOPE initiated a program in Namibia and Mozambique to strengthen the coping capabilities of households and communities caring for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), mostly due to AIDS. The project aims to:

- improve the economic status and quality of living of families caring for OVC
- strengthen capacity of families to provide care and support to OVC
- establish a community network linking ancillary support services for OVC & their families
- establish a replicable model for strengthening the ability of households and communities in the care and support of OVC

### PROJECT HOPE'S OVC PROGRAM INCLUDES...

**Micro-enterprise:** To address the increased economic needs of OVC households and assist in providing the means for sustainable, long-term program impact, Project HOPE provides micro-loans to OVC caregivers to engage in small-scale business activities. The increased income and financial resources generated allows caretakers to purchase school uniforms, pay school fees, buy an increased quality and quantity of food, pay for medical care, and otherwise provide better care and support for the children in their homes. To date, 1,611 OVC caregivers have received loans for income generation activities in both countries.

A midterm evaluation in Namibia produced the following results:

- A 76% increase in ability to contribute to household income among participants

- A nearly 400% increase in monthly salary among participants
- A 10% increase in household assets (including refrigerators, radios, and telephones or cell phones)

**Community-based Network of Volunteers:** A community-based network of volunteers has been established that provide ongoing support and assistance to caregivers and orphans by providing peer counseling and referrals to specialized services. To date, 168 community volunteers have been trained and are providing services to OVC.

**Education:** Project HOPE developed an OVC-targeted educational curriculum covering essential OVC care and support issues across multiple domains. The training provides OVC caregivers with education and access to information and resources to help them support the needs of all children under their care, including orphans. This education encompasses a variety of domains including household nutrition, health, parenting skills, HIV prevention, and bereavement guidance. To date, 1,670 caretakers have received training and education through our program, resulting in over 6,132 OVC served.



*A counselor speaks with OVC and caregivers in Mozambique*

**Local Partnerships & Relevance:** Project HOPE works in close collaboration with many local partners to meet the complex needs of OVC and their caregivers, as well as to provide linkages to foster program sustainability. Among Project HOPE's partners are grassroots NGOs, local micro-finance institutions, local banks, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, local governments, and international NGOs. The active participation of OVC in each country is emphasized.