

# Swaziland at a glance

POPULATION:

1.3 million



SECONDARY EDUCATION:

61%



POPULATION LIVING BELOW \$1.25 A DAY:

63%



CHILDREN ORPHANED DUE TO AIDS:

73,000



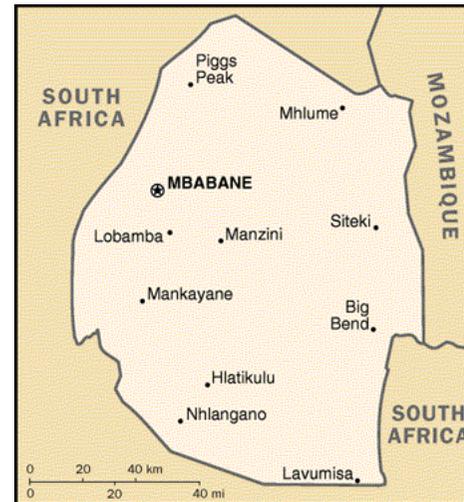
ADULT HIV PREVALENCE:

27%



LIFE EXPECTANCY:

49 years old



Attending secondary school is just a dream for many children in Swaziland. For some however, YOU are making this dream a reality...

# **BIG RED SWAZI FUND**

## **JUNE 2015**

**2014: 11 children**

**2015: 20 children**



20 CHILDREN ARE ATTENDING SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SWAZILAND THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF YOU; THEY WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THIS CHANCE WITHOUT YOU.

**YOU ARE A LIFE CHANGER. THANK YOU!**

HERE'S A LITTLE MORE FROM THOSE WHOSE LIVES YOU HAVE HELPED TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER...

### **Thabo's Story**

"My name is Thabo and I have a dream to be a doctor one day. Many years ago I was abandoned as a baby by my mother, down a pit latrine. I was found by a neighbour who heard crying.

I was doing well at school, and I often came first or second in my class. When I discovered that I would not be able to go to high school I was devastated. I often wished that I had never been saved from the pit latrine that day. I wanted so much to learn and go to high school, but I had now hit a dead-end. I used to pray and pray and ask God for a miracle. I did not know that miracle would happen so soon. I am doing well at school now and I will go to university and I will succeed in life. I pray that I will get the help until I get to university. I know that I will get a scholarship for university because I am determined."



## **Misile's Story**

This is Misile's first year receiving the bursary which you contribute to. She is in her first year of secondary school and without you would not be able to continue her education.

"Things have not always been easy. I have lost both my parents to AIDS and when they died my siblings and I were forcibly removed from our homestead by a cruel uncle. We now live with our grandmother. At the end of my time at primary school, I thought that everything in my life had come to an end. There was no money to go to high school, even though my granny had tried to work a cleaning job in the city. She had to leave us alone at home so she could work; when she was away our cruel uncle would come to granny's home and terrorise us. He was often drunk when he came and one day he raped me. I never told my grandmother because I was afraid that she would not believe me. Things were just really bad.

One day our pastor from our community church told me not to come for an interview for a scholarship. I was so shocked and did not believe him. I never went to the interview, I heard from my friend that she got a scholarship. I was so sad that I wanted to kill myself. A few weeks later the pastor called me again and told me that they would interview me because he had explained my situation. This time I ran to the church where we had the interview. I was so scared I just tried to speak whilst I was shaking. The 2 men who interviewed me were very kind and they said that they wanted to give me a chance. I was so happy and excited that that night I got sick.

When I told my granny the good news she was so happy that she resigned her job and came to look after us again. Now we are a happy family. I feel protected and safe again, and I am very proud of my new school uniform! Thank you for all the help that I am getting. I wish I could visit the UK to say thank you to all the good people who think of us children here. My granny says that she would like to give a chicken to my sponsor. I really enjoy school, and I hope to be a nurse one day."



**THANK YOU!**