



AFRICA/MALAWI - New projects for Missionary Childhood for children with AIDS

Lilongwe (Agenzia Fides) - Thousands of orphans entrusted to grandparents after their parents die of AIDS, an entire generation at risk, illiteracy and lack of education: This unfortunately is the reality for many children in Malawi. This southern African country has a population of 14 million people, mostly young orphans of AIDS. In their support, the local Pontifical Society of Missionary Childhood has promoted 42 local projects that provide homes for orphans and street children, schools and health centers throughout the country. In Chikwawa, capital city of one of the eight Catholic dioceses in Malawi, the reception center is located in the Cathedral. The same applies to structures located in the Parish of St. Magdalene of Canossa in Mangochi, or in that of St. Ignatius of Loyola on the border with Mozambique. Among them, the religious elementary schools in Tikondane, Osiyana or Mpire, are the first battlefield for children in the country. In many of these small institutions, often one or two small buildings surrounded by land, orphans with no families are welcomed. The sisters claim that for many cases the best care for these children is a healthy diet, and, for example, with the aid received in the hospital in Mlambo flour was bought. Also in the area of Mzuzu, health care programs have started, such as the Sisters of the Holy Rosary that reach families in need thanks to some mobile units. (AP) (Agenzia Fides 03/12/2011)