



## Who we are

Future Families works with orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and with people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Future Families trains and deploys unemployed individuals within communities to serve as community care workers and help build families in general, but especially those caring for orphans and vulnerable children.

Our vision is to empower families to provide care and support to orphans, vulnerable children and their families, living with HIV and AIDS.

Our mission is to ensure that children in need have a safe environment in which they can reach their full potential.

**Our dedicated, staff provides care & support to children, enabling them to reach their full potential. Future Families supports families to live an empowered lifestyle.**

## What we do

We empower communities to care for families and create support systems to ensure that they can raise balanced children to become responsible adults who in turn contribute positively to their society. We recruit care workers from local communities to be parental figures.

### ***Future Families assists communities to:***

- Build support structures
- Create economic empowerment
- Implement education programmes which equip children and their caregivers.

### ***We do this through:***

- Early identification of needs
- Prevention programmes
- Community networking
- Support and quality care
- Strengthening OVC families economically.



## What supporting Future Families means

- Increased quality of life
- Improved emotional well-being
- Improved educational levels
- Better health
- Greater protection
- Better knowledge of HIV and AIDS,
- Strengthened capacity of communities
- Referral systems for communities

***Locally recruited community care workers are key to our work.***

***Through them we:***

- ensure that food vouchers reach needy families
- train families in managing their finances
- support family members in finding work
- provide support to teenagers
- support teen mothers and their children
- help grandmothers and single parents develop parenting skills and coping mechanisms
- assist educational development through homework classes and holiday programmes.

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## A call to action

We would like to partner with others to reach more children and families, and to be more effective in helping those families.

Future Families has developed several interventions to meet the needs of families and to empower them to create their own future through community mobilisation, support services, and HIV and AIDS education.

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## Success story

### *Spinach supplies power in Olievenhoutbosch*

Poverty wreaks havoc. Ask Gano\*, his wife, Francinah\*, and their two children who live in [a government Reconstruction and Development (RDP) house] in the barren Olievenhoutbosch community that started as a 1998 squatters camp. About 100 000 people live in the settlement in a mix of small houses funded and built by the government, and informal shacks. Gano had no job, income or food for his hungry family. Their R480 child support grant wasn't enough for food, water, electricity and clothing and other basic needs.

The Future Families community care worker rallied her colleagues to the rescue with social work interventions that equip struggling families to create their own positive future. The poverty alleviation officer taught Gano how to plan, plant and care for a vegetable garden in his small yard.

Gano's enthusiasm flourished with his crops! His spinach is nutritious, delicious and profitable as a small business. His children go to school feeling healthy after a good breakfast. Gano expanded his garden and sells spinach to his neighbours, earning enough income to pay for his family's basic needs. He is proud of his garden business, takes great care of it, and appreciates Future Families' role in helping him to gain responsibility, self-worth and capacity to support his family.







## Impact of the school-based programme

*"I can see an improvement in the schoolwork of those learners. What kind of improvement? Homework is on time, there is an improvement in marks, I have seen behaviour changes, they are more prepared to cooperate, its remarkable I would say. Brighter faces, now being fed, happy faces now. I'm being taken care of. I belong'. It's so nice to see after school so many children running around, taking part, and I have heard of no behaviour problems from careworkers. That's a good sign." (School teacher)*

## Belief in people, building up staff

*"It was impressive for me the way the careworkers valued the input of Future Families into their own lives. They have made a good journey in their own lives. The value they added to the careworkers' lives. And I gave that feedback to my manager." (careworker)*

*"Before I didn't trust myself... Now I am proud. I am strong enough and I have authority to do what I want, I can even talk to the teachers and principals. Future Families taught me to talk to other people in a way that they listen to what I have to say even when they say this person is so stubborn I can challenge him." (Careworker)*

## Networking, collaboration and team work

*"As a community it is very important to work together, to network. You can't solve the problems of the world alone, you need people. This is how Future Families works and has taught us." (Community member)*

## Impact of Future Families on Careworkers

*"Before, I didn't know anything. I was like a teenager. I wanted to study but I didn't have a direction. I have a shape now I am no longer shapeless - this is my vision so that I see where I am going." (Careworker)*



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