

**Motati Primary School**  
**Leribe, Lesotho**  
**March 2007**  
**“Together Today and Tomorrow”**



### Overview

Motati Primary is a Lesotho Evangelical Church School. (Grades 1-7 inclusive) Its current principal, ‘M’e Moshabesha has been at Motati since 2002. There are a total of 15 teachers – 11 are paid and 4 are volunteers – and 500 pupils.

The classes are large in size. Grades are referred to as ‘class’ or ‘standard’. Classes are not split but have two teachers assigned to each grade. This is due to a lack of classrooms and space. The breakdown of students is as follows:

Class 1 – 70, Class 2 – 57, Class 3 – 65, Class 4 – 68, Class 5 – 76, Class 6 – 70 and Class 7- 35

Daily school lunches are provided to each student. These meals are usually the traditional maize meal or ‘papa’ and either vegetables or beans.

### Working Together

While limited in resources, the staff are determined to try their best to make Motati Primary a good school. In addition to their individual classes, each teacher is responsible for one area of school life – sports, orphans, animals, water etc. This is to make sure that all the needs of the school is met. They always work as a team and make decisions together. There is a school committee made up of the principal, staff, parents and the chief of the village. Monthly meetings are held to discuss school issues. The school is has a lot of support from the local community.

### HIV/AIDS Support Group

Progressive in its thinking, Motati has created an HIV/AIDS support group. Each Tuesday all staff members meet to discuss various issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. They are aware of the increasing number of students who are caring for dying parents and seek ways to help support them. They try to raise money for the most needy children and offer

support. Recent discussion included how to talk to a child who has just lost a parent and practical ways to remain HIV negative when caring for an infected person. The Help Lesotho Counselor for orphaned and vulnerable children, Bohang, is schedule to attend upcoming meeting to provide training on these issues.

### Infrastructure

The school buildings at Motati Primary are in bad condition. The roofs of three building were blown off over two years ago and the Ministry of Education has been promising to replace them but has not done so to date. The principal frequently visits the education officer asking for help. As a result of the lack of roofing, one of the classes is taught in a tin room with students sitting on a tarp. Other classes are taught in the open air. On rainy days children must be either sent home or crouch to one side of the classroom for shelter thus making teaching impossible. There are a number of broken windows and doors and crumbling floors. Only classes 1, 6 and 7 have desks and chairs. The remaining classes sit on logs or on the floor with papers on their lap. The principal's desk sits in the Grade 1 classroom as it is the only classroom with a complete roof

### Projects at the School

Motati is located near to a river with easy water access. The school has a number of gardens that enables the school to supplement school meals with vegetables. Extra produce is sold to local villagers to raise funds for the school.

### Needs of the School

- 1.) Tools for the garden. The ones used currently are borrowed from local villagers and must be carried by the children when needed. They are not always available when required. Motati is located near to a river with easy water access. The school has a number of gardens which enables the school to suppliment school meals with vegetables. Extra produce is sold to local villagers to raise funds for the school.
- 2.) Layer House for Chickens. There is a demand for eggs in the community. The school would house the chickens and sell the eggs for profit. A number of eggs can be served to the children at lunch and provide much needed protein.
- 3.) Seeds and fertilizer for the school garden. Both are necessary cost to the school that they struggle to make.
- 4.) School supplies and Resources. The school does not have sufficient resources to supply books to each student. There is no school library and visual aids are homemade often using newspaper or the back of free advertising posters.

On behalf of the teachers and students at Motati Primary School, Rea leboha ! (We thank you)