

May 2020

Dear Hands at Work Family and Friends,

The story you are about to read reflects the care, activities, and access to services usually provided at Care Points across Africa. In the current season of the Coronavirus (COVID -19) pandemic, those services look different and are largely focused on daily access to food, and in ensuring safety for the most vulnerable children. Whilst adhering to government restrictions, our care for the most vulnerable will not stop. This is especially important in a season where our children face increased levels of vulnerability.

Within Zambia, Blessings and the Kitwe local office team are committed to continuing to care for the most vulnerable children they serve. On a weekly rotation, members of the local office team visit the seven communities in their region, standing alongside local Care Workers as they provide children with their daily meal whilst ensuring proper hygiene and hand-washing standards are being adhered to.

At many of our Care Points, Care Workers are arriving as early as 6am, to begin preparing food for the children. Two or three additional Care Workers arrive shortly afterwards to help lovingly but swiftly serve the children their meal, wash dishes and help ensure the children adhere to social distancing requirements, ensuring that no more than 20 people are at the Care Point at any given time. Care Workers are being vigilant with the children's attendance, and making sure they know which children come each day. Care Workers are then able to follow up any children not in attendance during Holy Home Visits.

In keeping with government regulations, those Care Workers preparing food have received their bi-annual certification and daily wear protective equipment including a mask, gloves, an apron and hat while preparing, cooking and serving food to the children.

Currently, Blessings and his team have arranged for the local health authorities to share with Care Workers from each Community Based Organisation around COVID-19. The goal is to dispel myths and help them to understand the precautions needed to keep themselves, the children they serve and their community safe.

All of these measures are to ensure the most vulnerable children continue to receive care in this season.

Please stand with us in prayer

Pray for each child who attends the Care Point. Pray that they would feel loved and cared for despite the limited time they are able to spend with Care Workers.

Pray for the Care Workers who continue to experience fear in this time. Pray that the Kitwe local office team would be able to speak words of encouragement and assurance in this season.

Pray against the false teachings, rumours and mis-advice being circulated within our communities. Pray against those who are taking advantage of the situation for personal gain and mistreating and misinforming the most vulnerable within the communities.

Pray that Blessings and his team would be able to bring Jesus in everything they are doing, speaking truth into situations and testifying of God's goodness.



Report on

Kamakonde Community, Zambia

January to March 2020

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA *in partnership with*
Peppercorn

DORCUS

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

Children currently supported: **100**



Blooming with Christ-like Love and Care

“Playing with her friends, one can easily see the carefree joy that Elizabeth* exudes. She is clearly blooming with the Christ-like love and care given to her by the Care Workers. However, life has not always been this way and Elizabeth carries within her a deep vulnerability as a result of the circumstances in which her family found themselves.

Living nearby, Care Worker Clare began to realise that all was not well with this family. Taking a keen interest in their well-being, she sat down with them and began to learn their story.

Elizabeth's family arrived in Kitwe in 2019. In search of a better life, her parents had taken on the role of caretakers for a small plot of land and they settled in to enjoy a more secure future, but things didn't quite go as planned. Elizabeth's father fell ill and, unable to work anymore, things began to fall apart. Struggling with the devastating effect of her husband's illness,

Elizabeth's mother searched around for piece work to try and provide some food for them all, but the returns were meagre and the effort left her exhausted.

Learning how often the family went to bed without any food and seeing in front of her a subdued Elizabeth with little energy or motivation, Clare's heart welled up with compassion and she invited both Elizabeth and her younger brother to the Care Point. Although Elizabeth was initially listless and reticent with hunger, she has gradually opened up, advancing from saying very little to slowly taking part with the other children.

Now, with a daily hot, nutritious meal consistently provided, and embraced by the love of the Care Workers, this healthy, happy little girl has fully integrated at the Care Point. Her mother, too, is joyful in the knowledge that her children are being cared for so well. Attending the Kamakonde Community School, where she is in grade 1, Elizabeth's favourite subject is mathematics and she looks forward to becoming a teacher one day.