

# UPDATE FROM KAMAKONDE COMMUNITY | ZAMBIA

Hands at Work in Africa in partnership with  
Peppercorn



Hands at Work  
AFRICA

October 2021

Eight dedicated local volunteer Care Workers coordinated by Pastor Joseph support the most vulnerable children in the community of Kamakonde. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is cared for physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Watching ten-year-old Ruth\* with Care Worker Bertha, it is clear that she is an important figure to her. Although shy, with a tendency to isolate herself, Ruth easily opens up to Bertha, sharing the challenges she faces and enjoying her support. Life is hard for Ruth. Her mother is sick, she has no proper clothes to wear, and securing enough food to eat is a daily challenge. Ruth is the third-born of four, and along with her siblings, she survives by picking empty bottles from rubbish bins and re-selling them, but the amount they raise is scarcely enough to sustain them. Discovering the family on a Holy Home Visit, the Care Workers encouraged Ruth to attend the Life Centre, where she would receive a hot meal daily. Now, Ruth has felt the hand of God upon her, channelled by the Care Workers as they follow up on her progress, and her quality of life has improved immeasurably.

## Community Update

The Care Workers at Kamakonde know each other and the vulnerable children in their care well. They have increased the number of Holy Home Visits they make and are familiar with the children's family situations. In addition, they have good relationships and help to carry each other's burdens, visiting and caring for each other during hard times. This, together with regular prayer, has resulted in a friendly, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere at the Care Point. The Hands at Work team in Kitwe are walking with the Care Workers to help develop good, healthy leadership. The Dorcus CBO has built good relationships with the local health clinic and with the school, but the relationship with the local church remains challenging and there is little church involvement. Alcohol abuse, early marriage and unemployment are all difficulties in the area, with many parents unable to pay school fees, forcing a high dropout of education.



## Activities and Projects

There has been a strong focus on health precautions and assessments. This, together with deworming carried out by the government for under-fives, the provision of mosquito nets, and the supply of blankets, has helped to ensure that easily-preventable diseases are kept at bay. The involvement of the Primary Caregivers is continually encouraged and, to this end, the Dorcus CBO held a Primary Caregiver day in June of this year, increasing their engagement and enabling the Primary Caregivers to share the pain and wounds in their own lives. Earlier this year, some of the youth attended a camp held at Kachele, where they learned more about Christ (pictured left). The Care Workers are continuing to walk with the youth and follow up on how they are doing. Work is also beginning on a new cooking shelter and a new toilet, alongside a new fence to surround the area and to demarcate the land.

