

# KITWE SERVICE CENTRE, ZAMBIA

## A PROFILE OF OUR WORK IN 2019

### THE CONTEXT

Zambia is a peaceful nation in the midst of many unstable bordering countries. Compared to many of its neighbours, Zambia has a reputation for a relatively efficient and transparent government. Zambia is the African continent's biggest copper producer, and the economy has been dependent on this resource for decades. For the most vulnerable people living in the poorest communities, many basic essentials are scarce, and families have no choice but to resort to drastic means of survival. 41% of children are subject to child labour to help provide for their families. With less emphasis placed on education, girls become especially vulnerable. 42% are married by age 18 and 34% give birth by the same age. Access to basic health care is also a serious crisis. 46% of children suffer from stunted growth due to malnutrition. In the poorest communities, the local clinic is often further than 30 kilometres away. Zambia has the fourth highest rate of people living with HIV in the entire world.



### THE TEAM

Blessings – Coordinator  
 Ruth – Field Coordinator  
 Emeldah – Field Coordinator  
 Eunice – Bookkeeper  
 Jones – Young leader walking with Service Centre team/teacher in Mwaiseni CBO  
 James – Service Centre Support

### DEVELOPING THE SERVICE CENTRE TEAM

The Kitwe Service Centre (SC) are deeply aware of the importance of bringing together the 'spiritual' and 'practical' side of their work whenever they spend time in the seven local communities they are supporting. In 2019, a focus for the Kitwe SC was growing in their understanding of how God's word and guidance needed to infiltrate all of their daily activities. In January, the whole team were part of the Watchword launch at Kachele Farm; a key time of hearing a guiding scripture from co-founder George Snyman which was then discussed in greater depth during a weekly small group time where a study guide was worked through by the SC. The team were also part of the first Hands at Work Bible School where George delved deep into the structure, themes and message of the Bible.

In September, Blessings was able to travel to South Africa to be part of a gathering of African leaders where key Hands concepts, like the nine non-negotiables of food security, and our nine commitments to the children we serve were reviewed, and plans made for 2020.

Given its proximity to the Luanshya SC, Ruth was able to support this team during a busy time of year. During her time with the Luanshya team, and walking in the eight communities they are supporting, Ruth grew in her understanding of both the challenges in these communities, and areas of best practice she could bring back to her Kitwe team. Additionally, Jones, a new member for the Kitwe SC team in 2019, spent time walking in both Kitwe and Luanshya communities to understand the unique challenges and best practice in both areas.

Finally, during the October gathering in Zambia, the Kitwe SC team were able to meet with African leaders from the other Hands at Work countries to reflect back on 2019, celebrate God's faithfulness, and make plans for 2020.

# DEVELOPING LIFE CENTRES

1075 CHILDREN  
CARED FOR  
IN 2018



1075  
CHILDREN  
CARED FOR  
IN 2019



7  
COMMUNITY BASED  
ORGANISATIONS



## Key areas of Life Centre growth for the Kitwe SC in 2019:

**Care Worker Support:** In six out of seven communities, a charcoal Income Generation Activity (IGA) is taking place successfully. This provides the Care Workers with essential income for their families. In the communities of Chibote and Mwaiseni, a small loans project has been established and is running very well, allowing Care Workers to save funds which can be pooled into larger IGA projects. Additionally in the communities of Chibote and Zimba, community gardens are working very successfully.

**Relationship Groups:** Across all seven communities supported by the Kitwe Service Centre, Relationship Groups (RG) are happening weekly. This has been a significant focus for the Kitwe SC in 2019; their consistent presence in RGs has helped Care Workers develop strong rhythms of meeting. In one community – Chibote – RGs are now taking place weekly for children, Primary Care Givers and Care Workers, which is an amazing success for the CBO.

**Holy Home Visits:** All communities are engaged in weekly Holy Home Visits. The Care Workers have a sound knowledge of the stories of children and the unique support they each need. In the community of Chibote, a clear plan is made each week to direct Care Workers towards visiting the highest priority homes.



## Non-negotiables of Providing Food Security

A key focus for Hands at Work in 2019 was caring for the holistic healthcare needs amongst the children. Hands at Work recognised that due to the dysfunction in the communities, together with generational cultural norms, even fundamental principles of health and hygiene were not always being followed.

### Successes in 2019:

The Kitwe SC have worked hard to implement many of the nine non-negotiables of food security in 2019. All seven CBOs have a functioning toilet, although one needs to be pumped out as it is full. Drinkable water is available at all the CBOs, and hand washing is consistently happening. The Kitwe SC have also worked hard with local Care Workers to ensure meals provided for children are balanced and nutritious – and running out of food is not an issue in Kitwe. Lastly, almost all the communities are washing dishes in hot water, with the exception of Kamakonde. The Kitwe SC are working intentionally with the Care Workers here, helping to educate them on the importance of this for the health of the children.

### Focus areas for 2020:

In 2020, the Kitwe SC will focus on deworming children regularly. Currently in Zambia, the government has rolled out an under-fives deworming program and so the Kitwe SC will focus on deworming children aged six years and above. In addition, two of the communities being supported by Kitwe do not have secure storage spaces for food, and so it is kept at the homes of Care Workers. To improve this situation, the Kitwe team will focus on providing lockable storage rooms for these communities in 2020.

## Making it Personal in 2019

Across Hands at Work, reaching the most vulnerable children must be a deeply personal commitment for each leader. Inspiring highlights from 2019 included:

**Run Towards the Problem:** When a young boy, who had suffered from significant mental health problems, tried to commit suicide, local Care Workers not only stepped in to provide support at the time but have continually fought for this boy to be surrounded by people who love and care for him. When the relationship between the boy and his Gogo became very difficult, the Care Workers continued to work closely with the family and have difficult but necessary conversations.

**Asking the Tough Questions:** When a child in the community of Kamakonde suffered abuse, the Kitwe SC worked together with the Care Workers to advocate repeatedly to the police for this abuse to be brought to justice. They found themselves asking many tough questions to uncover the truth.

**Always Follow Up:** The Kitwe SC have been so challenged by the example of Grace, a Care Worker from Amlew who, after personally taking children to the clinic when they are sick, follows up each and every situation in the child's home until they are healthy once again. Grace makes her calling so personal by providing very practical support to families, like washing clothes.



## ENGAGING AND EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

**The Local Church:** The Kitwe SC team have been encouraged by the way local pastors are catching the vision of caring for the most vulnerable in their communities. The SC are now trying to actively engage them in spending regular time at the Life Centres. In the community of Racecourse, three local pastors are very active in the work of the CBO and frequently visit to encourage the Care Workers and to conduct Holy Home Visits to the children. They have also played a key role in engaging new Care Workers from their churches to join the CBO. Another local church, Mount Olives, have made donations to the Chibote CBO of clothes and books, and often come to share God's word and fellowship with the Care Workers.

**The Church on the Hill:** Blessings has worked hard to engage Churches on the Hill in Kitwe with what is happening in vulnerable communities. A success has been seen in the relationship established with the Living Water Ministries church who have not only donated food and clothing to the Kamakonde CBO, but are supporting 5 secondary aged students with school fees.

**The International Church:** In 2019, the Kitwe SC hosted 5 partner teams from Canada, the UK and the US, as well as a diverse group who made up the Short Term Service Team. One highlight for the Kitwe SC was the support from their Canadian partner who helped with the transition of children in Racecourse from the community school to the government school. In the community of Chibote, the various teams that have visited the CBO have impacted the Care Workers greatly. The Kitwe SC commented that "for us to see and know there are a number of people around the world supporting and lifting us up in the challenging work being done encourages us". Lastly, the consistent support received from Zimba community's partner is always an amazing encouragement to the Kitwe SC. This partner spends time one-on-one with Care Workers to find out about the challenges they face. This is then taken forward in faithful prayer.

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