

# REPORT ON PROGRAMMING 2023

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA *in partnership with Peppercorn-Stiftung*



**1040**

Active Care Workers

**8746**

Children supported by  
year end  
up from 8085 at 2022 year end

**88**

Communities mobilized  
up from 74 at 2022 year end

**146**

Staff/volunteers serving  
in Africa  
17 of whom were International

## Life Center Programming Activities

Foundation Trainings: 20

Maranatha Workshops: 27

Care Worker Revivals: 16

Youth Camps: 31

Support Trips: 3

Under-5 Programs: 19

Community Gardens: 5

Care Worker / Primary Caregiver  
Days: 21



*“Without intentionally seeking people out, people are left extremely vulnerable with no one to care for them...”*

- Xolani Makwakwa, African Leader (South Africa)

## Expanding into New Communities

The commitment to reach the most vulnerable requires prayerful consideration, having to make tough decisions about where we should not go, and brave decisions about where we should. Expanding into new communities and reaching even more of Africa's vulnerable children is a focus for Hands at Work. We are committed to extending our reach and equipping more churches to understand their responsibility in caring for the vulnerable in their communities – not simply meeting physical needs but through empowering them with the gospel of Christ. At its core, seeking out a new community is simple: we follow the guidance and prompts of the Holy Spirit. But this takes time, resources and lots of prayer. It may take weeks or months to find the community that God is leading us to, but once there, we find a community of people from local churches willing to partner with Hands at Work and learn what it means to seek out the lost, the lowly and the destitute. Broken people serving alongside broken people is not always easy, but our call and commitment to one another remains the same. We believe that God can do extraordinary things through the faithfulness of ordinary people.



In 2023, Hands at Work expanded into 10 new communities, caring for an additional 425 children:

Mchenge, Malawi - started in January, 60 children  
T-Kloof, South Africa - started in January, 50 children  
Kamaila, Zambia - started in January, 50 children  
Onilemo, Nigeria - started in April, 40 children  
Chilindaukwe, Malawi - started in June, 50 children  
Gobogobo, Mozambique - started in July, 50 children  
Seville B, South Africa - started in July, 50 children  
Malakata, Zambia - started in July, 50 children  
Oloba, Nigeria - started in November, 25 children

## Graduating Communities



While Hands at Work seeks to expand into new communities to reach the vulnerable, we must also prayerfully and strategically know when it is time to let a community stand up on its own. A large focus for Hands at Work is working towards graduating communities that have become self-sustaining and are no longer considered the most vulnerable. Our vision and dream is to see the local church in each community come around each Community Based Organisation (CBO) and eventually take full ownership in caring for the children and their families. This is a long process that may take years to complete, as we walk together with the CBO, church pastors, leaders and those in the community to share the vision and ensure they are ready to officially be released from Hands at Work.

Last year, Chibote Community in Zambia officially graduated at the end June. Hands at Work first became involved in supporting Chibote 12 years ago, when at the time there was a desperate need for intervention, with no other support services or other NGO's in the area. Now, after many years, Chibote has grown and reached a place where there is enough support from the local community to stand up on its own. Local Pastors, church leaders, and faithful men and women are now taking full responsibility and ownership of the CBO, feeding and caring for the children. The local church has donated food and blankets to children in need, and are continuing to run the daily activities at the Life Centre, such as the 0-5 preschool program. A Hammer Mill was built so that they can make their own maize meal to feed the children each day, and they have committed themselves to care for the children in Chibote.

There are plans to graduate more communities in the coming years as they become independent.

## Maranatha Workshops

Hands at Work believes that caring for a child also means caring for their entire family. Orphaned children are often left in the care of an elderly grandparent, widowed parent, elder sibling or other relative, known as Primary Caregivers. Maranatha Workshops provide Primary Caregivers with an understanding of the unconditional love and healing that come through Jesus. As they are set free from the inner wounds of their trauma, they are able to better care for their children and share the hope of Christ with them. In the community of Chilabula in Zambia, lives were transformed during a Maranatha Workshop. As the local Hands at Work leaders shared about Christ, five Primary Caregivers put their faith in Jesus. Among them was the mother of Silas\*, a boy who had been severely malnourished. Both of his parents struggled with the use of alcohol and arrived drunk on the first day of the Workshop. Hands at Work leaders knew the couple needed Christ so they invited them closer.



Silas' mother said, "You people care for my child and I want to care for people the way that you do." A few days later both she and Silas' dad were the first ones to arrive, and they were both sober. Since then, they have stopped drinking alcohol and the father is even attending the regular Relationship Group!



## Care Worker Revivals

Care Worker Revivals have been taking place in communities across Africa. These set apart times are an opportunity to build deeper relationships, to be encouraged and ministered to in a safe space through the Word of God and times of prayer and worship, and to have moments of fun and refreshing along the way. The Service Centre and Regional Support Teams facilitating these meetings take time in the weeks leading up to them to pray and seek God for the scriptures to share with the Care Workers. This year, a common message has been the love of God versus the love

of the world, with Care Workers experiencing and understanding that their desire to be loved can only ultimately be fulfilled in God's unfailing love for them. When attending the Revival in the community of Bhandeni in eSwatini, Josephine\*, a young mother of two, resonated with the scriptures being shared. God spoke to Josephine deeply that He is the only one who can lift her out of her place of pain and rejection. In front of all the Care Workers, Josephine took the courageous step to come forward and give her life to Jesus, receiving the Holy Spirit and the Hope of Christ. Josephine still has a long road ahead of her, but to see her joy and dancing to celebrate this moment was beautiful. This is just one of the many stories of transformation occurring through these Revivals.

## Leadership Development

**WATCHWORD GATHERINGS: 2** (at the Hands Village in South Africa and Kachele in Zambia)

**OCTOBER LEADERSHIP GATHERING: 1** (at Kachele in Zambia)

**LEADERSHIP TRAININGS/TRIPS: 4**

**BIBLE SCHOOLS: 4**



Leadership trainings are held in various countries throughout the year as Hands at Work strives to continue growing leaders in wisdom and spiritual maturity. In September, Sylvia, African Leader (Zambia) and the Luanshya Service Centre Coordinator participated in a Leaders' Gathering at Kachele, with other leaders from across Africa. The teachings were focused on looking to Jesus, choosing humility and servanthood and how to show this to the communities they support through love and unity. "What stood out to me was the discussion on ownership. If I don't take care of my own things well, then I can't tell the Care Workers to do the same. We need to take ownership of the things God has given us before we expect others to take ownership. Psalm 24:1-2 says, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.' As this verse says, God owns everything, and God owns us. And so we take ownership of His world to bring Him glory."

## October Gathering

Each year, Hands at Work leaders from across Africa gather in a central location to spend a week together. Digging deep into the past year's challenges and successes, it is a vital time where individuals and teams look back in order to grow. During this week, the leaders share meals and fellowship in community with one another, learning from each other and growing in relationship. It is also an opportunity to plan and dream for the upcoming year ahead. In 2023, the gathering was held at Kachele in Zambia.



Leaders from the Hub in South Africa travelled by vehicle to attend the gathering:

*"Someone who impacted me was Victor from the Chisamba Service Centre. I learned that he often works outside of working hours. He saved his money so that he could buy a bicycle which he uses to visit the children on the weekend. It's not his community but he's going to spend time with the youth and children even though he has to travel for five hours. It was amazing to meet him and see his dedication."*

- Nevermind, African Leader (South Africa, Maintenance Team)

*"My commitment, coming away from the gathering, is to be more intentional about sharing the vision of the 0-5s [preschool programme] with the Primary Caregivers so that they can understand why it is important for the children. We also want to help them understand that the Care Point isn't only a place for their children but it is also a place for them. A place where they can hear about Jesus and find healing from their strongholds."*

- Virginia Tshabangu, African Leader (South Africa), Hazyview Service Centre Coordinator

## Capital Investments

In 2023, strategic investments were made to continue growing our capacity to serve vulnerable communities across Africa while reducing our operating costs whenever possible. Priorities were focused on improving infrastructure, travel, equipping offices, and managing our properties responsibly by increasing our efficiency around energy and water. Capital investments for 2023 included the following:

- Completed water and office upgrades for the Hands Village in South Africa
- Installed solar panels for the Hands Village in South Africa
- Completed accommodation for the Youth Development Ministries at Kachele Farm in Zambia
- Upgraded road and water infrastructure at Kachele Farm in Zambia
- Purchased vehicle for Zambia
- Purchased laptops and computers for various Hands at Work offices across Africa