



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



Hanna\* and few of her older siblings live with their grandmother in Alugbo Community. Their mother died a number of years ago and sadly their father lives elsewhere and does not visit the children. With the rising cost of living in Nigeria, it has not been easy for Hanna's grandmother to provide for the children. She tries to make money by breaking down the palm kernels that make palm oil, but she often has difficulty obtaining the kernels. Thankfully, the family can rely on the Care Workers from the Alugbo CBO. This is especially important for Hanna because, not only does she receive a daily meal at the Care Point, but she also receives love from the people there. She sees the children and the Care Workers as her family. Often, the Care Workers will visit her and her grandmother at their home. At the Care Point, Hanna enjoys sweeping and tidying up. She dreams of becoming a nurse.

## Community Update

The children love coming to the Care Point because they get to pray together, sing, and play games with one another. At the Care Point, despite external pressures, the children are given physical food, as well as spiritual food in the form of Bible stories. In addition to this, the Care Workers are continuing to grow in their understanding of what their responsibility is and that they are not simply providing food but they are providing holistic care to the children. The external pressures, however, remain difficult to contend with as the community of Alugbo worships many other gods. Islam is the predominant religion that dictates how the community is run. Some of the Care Workers even face persecution for coming to the Relationship Groups, where they learn about Jesus. The local leaders are not permitted to be Christian, so there is persecution for those who openly profess faith in Jesus. With no formal education opportunities and school not seen as a priority, many children end up working in the fields.



## Activities and Projects

This year, a special event called a Maranatha workshop was held in Alugbo (pictured left). This workshop was an opportunity for the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers to come and learn about what it means to follow Jesus and to serve the most vulnerable. Many people were touched by what it means to be like Christ. Despite the area being about 80% Muslim, it is exciting to see the Christian message having such an impact on our Care Workers. Some have even accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Quarterly, the children received deworming medication, ensuring that they receive the proper nutrients from their daily meal. In April and May, two members of the Zambian Regional Support Team came to visit and support the local Hands at Work team in Ibadan. During their visit, they spent time in Alugbo Community which was very beneficial and encouraging for the Care Workers.