

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

CHIBOTE COMMUNITY

ZAMBIA | KITWE REGION

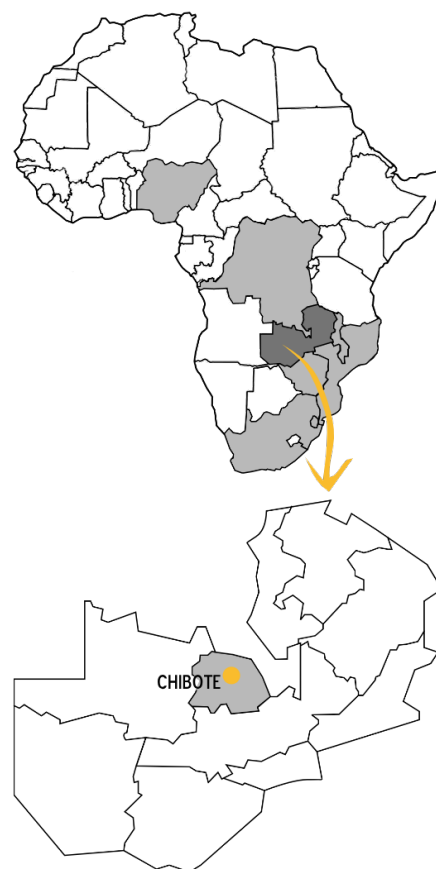
In 2009, a woman named Ruth saw the challenging situations that many children in Chibote were living in and decided to do something about it. Together with four friends, they began walking through the community visiting the homes of orphaned and vulnerable children. Ruth says, "I wanted to help them grow the way that God planned for them to grow. I wanted to open their minds to the fact that things could be different, and I did my best to help them spiritually, physically and emotionally." These home visits consisted of helping with household chores and homework, or simply sitting and praying with the child and their family.

That same year, the women found a building where they could start grade 1 schooling for the children they had met, in addition to visiting them in their homes. It was through their passion that the Butemwe Community Based Organisation (CBO) was born! In 2008, Hands at Work, inspired by their compassionate hearts, partnered with the Butemwe CBO in their desire to bring hope to orphaned and vulnerable children. Hands at Work mobilised additional Care Workers from the local church and provided essential training to the volunteer Care Workers, modelling how to walk with the children and sharing the importance of providing a parental role for the children.

By 2013, 100 children were receiving the essential services of a hot, nutritious meal daily and support with their education and basic health care from the Butemwe CBO. In 2016, the Butemwe CBO had a change in leadership as Ruth transitioned into her role as part the local Hands at Work team in Kitwe. As a result, Care Worker Mercy stepped up as a strong leader, keeping the Butemwe CBO healthy and well-equipped to care for their children, which increased from 100 to 150 children in 2018.

In 2016, there were 20 children who were transitioned from the local community school in Chibote to the government school, having scoring exceptionally well on their standard entrance tests! This was very encouraging to the Butemwe CBO, the Care Workers and the teachers from the community school.

In 2017, the Butemwe CBO, with the support of the local Hands at Work team in Kitwe, moved to a new location with the hopes of becoming a thriving Life Centre. A place not just for feeding but a place for the love of Christ to bring healing and holistic care for the children and their families.



Children Currently Supported **150**
 Number of Care Workers **29**
 Coordinator Name **Mercy**
 Distance from Local Office **12km**
 Basic Services Started In **2013**