

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

KAMBOVE COMMUNITY

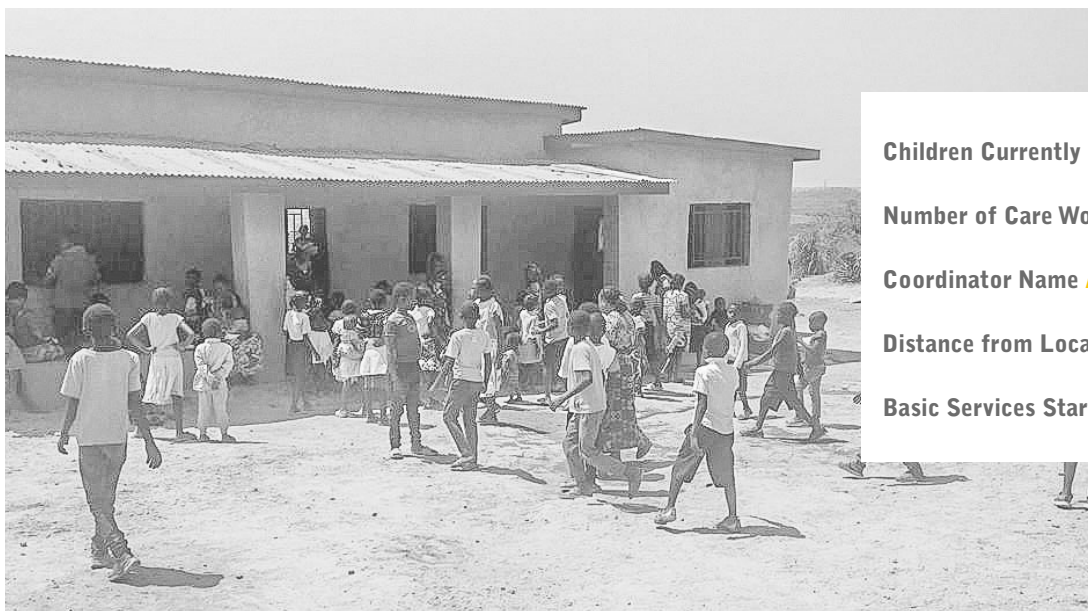
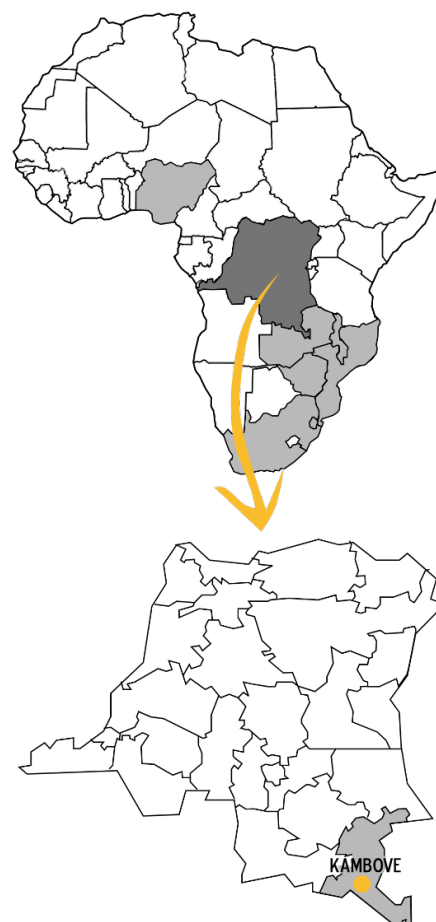
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO | LIKASI REGION

Kambove is a mining community with a population of 36,000 people. When the mines closed, the local economy was devastated and the infrastructure broken. With thousands of people unemployed, Kambove saw a massive increase in prostitution, further exacerbating the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region. The mines in Kambove also polluted the water for people living in the community, leaving just one clean water source for the entire community to access. Many people use contaminated water for washing, cooking and drinking. Recognising the severity of the situation, Hands at Work mobilised individuals from the local churches in Kambove to establish a Community Based Organisation of volunteer Care Workers, committed to caring for the poorest of the poor. In 2009, the Maisha (meaning 'life') Community Based Organisation was born, the only group in all of Kambove actively caring for children.

With the support of the local Hands at Work team in Likasi, the Care Workers identified 100 orphaned and vulnerable children who were desperately in need of care and invited them to the Life Centre. Here they are supported with a hot, nutritious meal daily, education and basic health care and have the freedom to play as children. In addition to providing these basic necessities, the Care Workers are committed to visiting the children and their families in their homes, ensuring that they are physically, spiritually and emotionally cared for.

In 2019, a new Life Centre was constructed and life is springing up amongst the most vulnerable in Kambove. In 2020, a new, secure toilet was completed, ensuring the health and hygiene of the most vulnerable.

Always pressing in to reach the poorest of the poor, the Care Workers from Maisha Community Based Organisation have done a number of reassessments of the children to ensure that they are reaching those who are the most vulnerable. These reassessments have led to an increase of 100 to 175 children being cared for.



Children Currently Supported **175**
 Number of Care Workers **14**
 Coordinator Name **Aimerance**
 Distance from Local Office **30km**
 Basic Services Started In **2010**