# UPDATE FROM KAMBOVE COMMUNITY | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



October 2023

Fourteen dedicated local volunteer Care Workers, coordinated by Maman Aimerance, support the most vulnerable children in the community of Kambove. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for.



Paulina's parents were living in Kambove when war broke out in 1992, forcing them to flee their home. Soon after leaving, her parents passed away, leaving Paulina and her younger brother alone with no one to care for them. Eventually, word passed to the children's grandmother back in their previous home of Kambove and she took in Paulina, but her brother sadly had passed away. Thankfully, Paulina has been coming to the Kambove Care Point for the past 10 years and the Care Workers are like mothers to her. Because of the love and kindness she has received from these women, Paulina is an example to others by leading worship, helping wash the little ones, leading youth, sharing God's word and praying for others. Recently, Paulina was struggling with stomach pains and it was discovered that she had appendicitis. By God's grace, she was able to receive the operation she desperately needed through help from the local Hands at Work team in Likasi. Care Worker Maman says, "I feel like a parent to her. Whenever Paulina is facing difficulties she feels free to come and share them."

## **Community Update**

The distance for the children to walk to reach the Care Point in Kambove is far. It is a mining community with many children leaving school to work on the unofficial mines. Struggles in the community like alcohol and drugs, combined with multiple marriages, can result in children lacking father figures, and causing even more hurt and vulnerability. Despite these challenges, Kambove has a thriving Care Point with strong, caring leadership by Maman Aimerance. It is a safe place for the Care Workers, children and Primary Caregivers to be encouraged in their faith and build relationships with one another. Two local churches are supporting Maisha CBO, and we are praying for more. A program for children under the age of five was started (pictured bottom left), where 15 children come to eat, play, nap and be loved by the women there. Along with this, there is good support from the local clinic, mining hospital and school.



### **Activities and Projects**

This year, there was a special day of prayer and worship for the Care Workers that encouraged them to continue God's work. Some basic health and hygiene items have been distributed to the children this year, like blankets, secondhand clothes, uniforms, school supplies and shoes - all contributing to their overall health, well-being and ability to attend school. The children also received deworming medication several times a year, so they are able to absorb the vital nutrients they need. Due to water being a struggle to acquire, a great gift for the Kambove Care Point was having their borehole fixed by a community member. This provision of water for the children, combined with the growth of the youth group by the Holy Spirit through worship and prayer, truly shows God's hand at work in this community.

www.handsatwork.org \*name has been changed