



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



Meet **Arcel**, 1 of 100 children cared for
by KATEMBE COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

God saved Arcel's* life in very tangible ways. For many years, Arcel, his parents, and his siblings have had no place to call home. They lived in the bush in a makeshift home of sticks and sacks – even while his father was struggling with liver disease. Tragically, his father passed away almost three years ago. Over time, Arcel's family grew increasingly malnourished as they were slowly dying of hunger. When Care Workers from the Katembe CBO found the family, they enveloped them into their loving community: providing support in practical, emotional and spiritual ways. The Care Workers, together with the local Hands at Work team in Goma, even helped build a home for the family, which has given them a greater sense of security amid the existing conflict in and around Katembe. Even Arcel's mother has been impacted and is full of joy in her role as a Care Worker.

Community Update

Since the beginning of 2023, Katembe has been surrounded by violent conflict. While it has slowed down at this time, its effects are still felt, and it can flare up again. Amid this darkness, the Care Workers have exemplified faithfulness and commitment. Every day they arrive at the Care Point ready to serve the food and play with the children. Every Saturday, they visit the children in their homes, bringing hope and encouragement in the face of fear.

For most of the year Katembe has been cut-off and travel restricted.

One of the Care Workers, Mutobe, bravely travelled to town, negotiating with soldiers as he went, to collect the food needed to serve the most vulnerable at the Care Point. This is a huge answer to many prayers. Recently, the local Hands at Work team in Goma was able to travel to Katembe – which, again, is an answer to prayer.



Activities and Projects

Many people in Katembe (and the wider Goma region) are forecasting a serious hunger season because of the war. Plans have been made to rent a piece of land that the community can use to plant. However, with the instability of the situation, things can change quickly. There is a possibility that the fields will be destroyed or that people will need to flee. The number of children being served increased to 100 in August 2023, 20 of which are under five and receive breakfast porridge every morning. At the beginning of September, George (co-founder of Hands at Work) and Erick Rukang (Hands at Work leader), hosted a one-day Bible school (pictured left) for the local pastors. It was a beautiful, hope-filled time together to share God's word and to engage in what God is calling His church to during these difficult and dark times.