UPDATE FROM KISUNKA COMMUNTIY | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Twenty-four dedicated local volunteer Care Workers, coordinated by Marie Guline, support the most vulnerable children in the community of Kisunka. The love and care they provide ensure each child is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for.



Care Worker Kilambe from the Shibukeni CBO is committed to caring for 16-year-old Tristan^{*}. Kilambe shares, "Tristan has found a family at the Life Centre, where he is involved in the youth group and encourages others to live a good life." However, life has not always held this same level of hope for Tristan. After the death of his parents, Tristan moved in with his aunt, where he eventually slipped into malnourishment due to a lack of proper care. When his older sister heard what was happening, she called Tristan to come stay with her family in Kisunka. To provide for Tristan and her three children, she leaves early in the morning and travels 28 miles to sell fish in another community, only to return late in the evening. Thankfully, the Care Workers are committed to caring for Tristan, ensuring he receives a hot, nutritious meal daily, which has improved his health greatly.

Community Update

While there are ongoing challenges in Kisunka like ancestral worship, alcohol abuse, prostitution, early marriages and poor harvests, there are reasons to praise God. After a youth camp was facilitated for 21 youth in the Likasi area, the Care Workers and local Hands at Work team in Likasi are encouraged to see that the youth from Kisunka have started meeting for Relationship Groups. It's a safe place for them to share their challenges and dig deep into God's word. Within Kisunka, five feeding points have arisen, allowing children to access the Life Centre closest to their home, as the community is spread over a large area. This year, access to water has improved with a bore hole, allowing each of the Life Centres to have more consistent access to safe and clean water.





Activities and Projects

This year, the Likasi team has seen challenges in the Care Workers' commitment to meet together for Relationship Groups, and visit the children and their families in their homes. Wanting to speak into these challenges and bring the hope of Christ, the Likasi team facilitated a fiveday Maranatha Workshop for the Care Workers. At the workshop, they shared about who God is, who He can be in their lives, as well as what it means to holistically care for the most vulnerable. Committed to holistic care of the children, the Likasi team constructed new toilets (pictured left) at four of the feeding points, thus increasing the children's overall health and hygiene. Involved in the construction of the toilets was an Australian and Canadian team who not only spent time on the construction, but were able to spiritually encourage the Care Workers, spend time playing games with the children, and visiting them in their homes.

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