

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

KITABATABA COMMUNITY

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO | LIKASI REGION

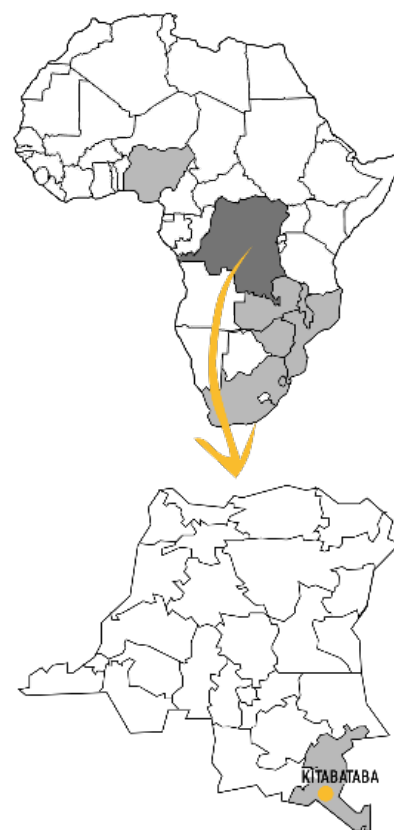
Kitabatata is a township located on the outskirts of the bustling city of Likasi in the southern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It has become one of the region's poorest of the poor communities, devastated by the civil war in 1993, which left behind a failing infrastructure. Along with many orphaned children, there are many vulnerable families living in crowded slums like Kitabatata who have fled the recent conflict in the eastern part of the DRC. Additionally, with a lack of institutional models of care such as clinics, hospitals and schools, children become even more vulnerable.

In 2011, Hands at Work began walking in Kitabatata, mobilising local church leaders to take up the Biblical mandate to care for the poorest of the poor in their community. Out of this, volunteer Care Workers from a number of the local churches raised their hands, wanting to be a part of serving the most vulnerable. United as a team, the Care Workers began identifying the most vulnerable children in their area, visiting them in their homes, bringing parental love and care. The Care Workers were feeding the children with what little they could from their own resources. In 2012, the Kitabatata Community Based Organisation (CBO) was officially formed and began providing the three essential services of a hot, nutritious meal daily, access to education and support with basic health care for 50 of the most vulnerable children in Kitabatata. Today, Care Workers from the Kitabatata CBO are caring for 150 children, bringing support, encouragement and hope for a brighter future.

When the Kitabatata CBO began, the Care Point was being operated out of a local church. However, as the need within the community grew, the space became too small and unsustainable. In 2018, a plot of land was purchased for the Kitabatata CBO, which has and will continue to provide opportunities for the growth of the Life Centre. In 2020, a number of projects were completed at the Life Centre: a new secure toilet was constructed, and the kitchen shelter and two adjoining rooms were reinforced, ensuring that the children have a safe place to receive their daily meal, especially during the rainy season.

In Kitabatata, Care Workers know that providing the three essential services on their own is not enough to help their children grow into healthy and whole adults. In response, they are committed to knowing each child by name and visiting them in their homes to gain a deeper understanding of their challenges.

Relationship Groups are a safe place where Care Workers in Kitabatata can share their challenges and find healing through the attentiveness of one another and the love of Christ. Having learned how to help carry the burdens of their fellow Care Workers and bring healing through Relationship Groups, they are also committed to bringing that same level of spiritual and emotional healing to the children and their families when they visit their homes and come to the Life Centre.



Children Currently Supported **150**
 Number of Care Workers **11**
 Coordinator Name **Charlotte**
 Distance from Local Office **8km**
 Basic Services Started In **2012**