UPDATE FROM

KITABATABA COMMUNTIY | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



October 2022

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



In 2014, Care Workers were doing Holy Home Visits when they came across Remy*. Hearing his family's story and seeing his severe malnourishment, evident by his swollen body, the Care Workers knew they needed to respond. In 2012, Remy's father left his family, leaving his wife to shoulder the responsibility of providing for her children. Leaving early in the morning and only returning in the evening, Remy's mother wanders throughout different communities, trying to sell vegetables with the hope she will earn a small profit to buy the food staples most needed.

Today, nine-year-old Remy and his three younger siblings don't have to worry about where their next meal will come from. They know they can come to the Life Centre where they will not only receive a hot, nutritious meal — which has helped to improve their overall health — but be greeted by Care Workers like Pelazie, who know and love them deeply.

Community Update

The Nyota CBO Care Workers have developed strong relationships with one another and the children they serve as they know each child personally. Though they do not have a consistent rhythm of doing Holy Home Visits as a team, the Care Workers individually take it upon themselves to visit the children they care for. Wanting to build their capacity and sense of unity, the local Hands at Work team in Likasi is walking with the Care Workers in this area. Through ongoing challenges like insufficient harvests, early marriages, broken family relationships and health challenges like malaria and typhoid, the Nyota CBO is celebrating the start of the under-fives programme in their community. For the first time, children under five can come to the Life Centre and receive breakfast, rest, play with friends, and learn about Jesus, all while their older siblings are in school.



Activities and Projects

This year, each child in need received a new mosquito net (pictured left), giving them an extra layer of protection against malaria while they sleep. A highlight for the Likasi team was bringing the youth together from across the five communities in the Likasi region for a youth camp. It was a special time to share with the youth about Jesus and what it means to live a life of Godly character. Already, the Likasi team is encouraged to see fruit from the camp. This can be seen in the youths' desire to get more involved in the day- to- day activities of the Life Centre.

After several years without teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Care Workers and children were encouraged by the International team that visited. Playing games with the children and doing Holy Home Visits brought a renewed sense of joy and hope to the Care Workers, children and Primary Caregivers.

www.handsatwork.org *name has been changed