

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

KITONDO COMMUNITY

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO | LIKASI REGION

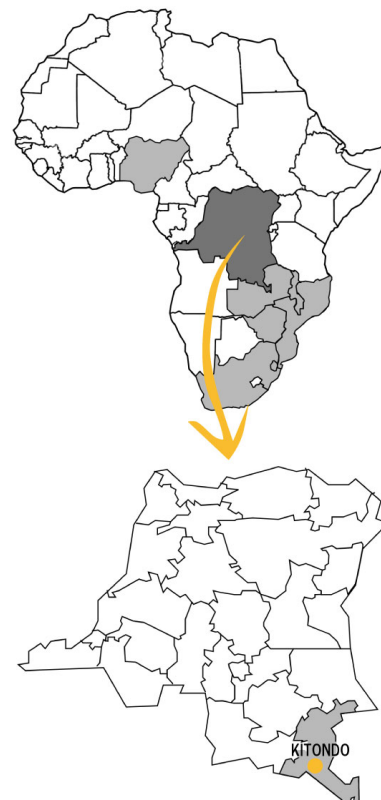
Kitondo is located 50 kilometres east of Likasi, on the shores of Lake Changalele. This region in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is known for its exceptionally high rates of leprosy, tuberculosis, malaria and typhoid.

Within Kitondo there are challenges such as early marriage and spiritual practices that are contrary to the Gospel, which make life an even greater struggle for the people living there. There is no proper education system and no clinic. This results in people needing to walk or bike 25km to the nearest clinic – a near-impossible feat when sick. Additionally, there are no formal employment opportunities and people need to farm to survive – but without sufficient fertiliser, the harvest they yield is rarely enough.

Since the Shibukeni Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Kisunka was formed in 2012, it has grown rapidly. Initially, volunteer Care Workers from the local church were caring for 50 of the most vulnerable children. However, over the years, as the vulnerability within Kisunka continued to grow, that number cared for has increased. The Care Workers have built relationships of love and trust with each child, knowing their family situation and individual needs. In knowing the children by name, the Care Workers are giving value and worth to each child. The Care Workers are passionate about advocating on behalf of the children they care for, identifying their needs by visiting them in their homes and spending time with them at the Care Points. In addition to supporting the children’s emotional and spiritual needs, the Shibukeni CBO is committed to ensuring that the children receive the three essential services of food security, education and basic health care.

For many years within Kisunka, four Care Points operated under the umbrella of the Shibukeni CBO. The purpose of having multiple Care Points was to limit the distance that the children have to travel. Kitondo was one of these Care Points.

In 2022, the Care Workers and the local Hands at Work team in Likasi decided to split Kisunka and Kitondo into their own individual CBOs – with their own leadership and team of Care Workers. It is an exciting step for the Kitondo CBO which, over the years, has continued to grow in its capacity and commitment to caring for the most vulnerable children.



Children Currently Suppoted **70**
 Number of Care Workers **7**
 Coordinator Name **Marie**
 Distance from Local Office **50km**
 Basic Services Started In **2022**