



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



Tabitha,* who was just five months old, was one of the first children cared for in Luhonga back in 2011. Her father had passed away and her mother abandoned her when she moved to another community to get remarried. Graciously, Tabitha's aunt Dinah*, brought her baby niece into her home and cared for her as her own. Every day, Dinah would bring Tabitha to the Care Point, knowing how vital the care she received was. Earlier this year when violence in Luhonga escalated, now 14-year-old Tabitha and Dinah were among those who fled for their lives. Currently, Tabitha is staying in the children's camp established for the children who fled to Goma, while Dinah is in a refugee camp. Though there are many immense challenges that remain, Tabitha and Dinah are woven into a caring community, and they do not have to walk the road ahead alone.

Community and Activity Update

At the beginning of 2023, the simmering conflict around Goma erupted, resulting in many families, including those in Luhonga, fleeing for their lives. Every family left behind their homes and what little belongings they had. In such panic, families and communities are often scattered, increasing their vulnerability. Amid the chaos, the local Hands at Work team in Goma and the Care Workers kept in contact with the families they cared for, enabling them to continue to support them. The Primary Caregivers went to refugee camps while the children were brought to stay in a communal place located near Buhimba (pictured bottom left), where they could be safer than in the refugee camp and under the care of the Goma team and the Care Workers. Primary Caregivers, Care Workers, and children have all been given additional food through this time.



Although still precarious, the security situation is improving. The Goma team are looking to begin shifting families back to Luhonga. This will be a slow process as many of the homes were burned down and will need to be rebuilt. By the grace of God, the Care Point was spared as the soldiers were using it as their base of operations. What was intended for evil, God used to preserve the place where the Care Workers and children call home.



Earlier this year, a Foundations Training was held for the Care Workers from Buhimba and Luhonga communities. It was a time of encouragement and sharing from God's word. The Care Workers have shown incredible strength and resilience during these uncertain and traumatic times. They have open hearts and have held onto the hope and trust that they have in Jesus, despite the pain that they see and experience every day.