## UPDATE FROM MAFAMBISA COMMUNITY | SOUTH AFRICA



October 202

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



13-year-old Jonah\* lives with his father and three sisters. Because the family are originally from Mozambique, they do not have the necessary identification documents needed to find formal work. Although Jonah's father works on a farm and sometimes sells firewood, this isn't sufficient, so they often go hungry. In 2021, Jonah's younger sister went to the Care Point to ask for food. The local Hands at Work team in Hazyview and the Care Workers visited their home and could see how vulnerable this family was. They invited Jonah and his siblings to the Care Point, where they began to receive a hot, nutritious meal daily, and support with education and basic health care. Jonah helps the younger children at the Care Point wash their hands before eating, and he also helps his sisters with their homework. Khetiwe, his Care Worker, admires his generosity and courage. She believes that Jonah and his family have a bright future ahead of them.

## **Community Update**

Mafambisa CBO is growing stronger day by day. The youth play a key role at the Care Point, and are quick to teach the younger ones Bible stories. Pastor Mbowani and his church members also participate in the Care Point activities and support the children. Despite these highlights, Mafambisa CBO has some challenges to overcome. Several of the Care Workers have left to find odd jobs in the community, and the remaining Care Workers are struggling to find a sense of unity. Also, because the Care Point is on a church property, it is too small for a playground. The ground itself is waterlogged, which means the children have no place to run around and play. The church has dug furrows for the water to escape and are waiting to see if this works. If not, other plans will be made to help fix the problem. Within Mafambisa, there are many challenges for the most vulnerable families, including gender-based violence. Thankfully, the Hazyview team are deeply committed to supporting families when court cases arise, and continue to example a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.



## **Activities and Projects**

This year, Mafambisa CBO had many activities that brought them joy and hope. They had a day of community prayer where Pastor Mbowane, the local pastor from the church that they are feeding from, shared the word of God and uplifted everyone's spirits. School uniforms, underwear and hygiene supplies such as washing powder, toothpaste, lotion, soap and deodorant were distributed to the children at the Care Point, ensuring they can continue going to school and stay healthy. The Projects Team improved a youth boy's living conditions by building him a new room, where he could have more comfort and dignity (pictured left). The Parker family from the UK visited this year and showed their care and friendship to the families, the Hazyview team and the Care Workers.

www.handsatwork.org \*name has been changed