

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

MATSINHO A COMMUNITY

MOZAMBIQUE | CHIMOIO REGION

The poverty of the people living in Matsinho A Community is confronting. Poor living conditions play a contributing factor to the various health challenges that exist in the community. The impact of these health challenges has resulted in a number of parents passing away in recent years - often leaving children either alone or under the care of another relative. With little opportunity for employment, many people are forced to rely on farming small plots of land to survive. The practicing of witchcraft and traditional medicine has created a stronghold within the community, leading to many turning to these practices rather than to health care from clinics. Each of these challenges adds to the vulnerability of the people living in Matsinho A Community.

In 2011, Care Workers from the local church in Matsinho united to carry out their calling to care for the most vulnerable children. In 2015, Hands at Work partnered with them to create Matsinho A Community Based Organisation (CBO).

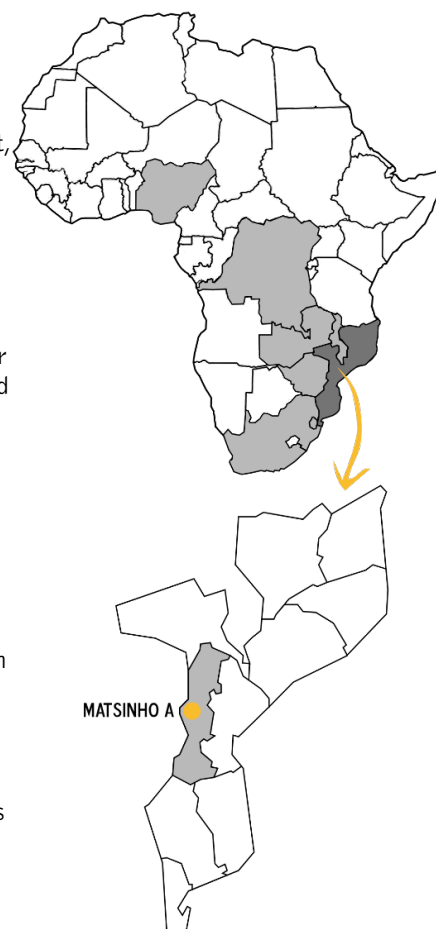
Since the local Hands at Work team in Chimoio formed, they have supported and grown the Care Workers within the Matsinho A CBO. The Care Workers are quick to advocate for the children that they care for, especially the young girls, who are susceptible to early marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Over the years, due to the ever-increasing vulnerability in Matsinho, the number of children being cared for increased from 75 to 150. Most children added were from existing families. Due to the challenge of poor harvests, the small plots of land that caregivers rely on aren't sufficient in producing a harvest capable of feeding their family.

The relationship with the local church has meant that the Care Point now operates out of one of the churches in Matsinho.

Regularly, the Care Workers visit the children in their homes, developing strong relationships of trust which enables them to effectively support each child's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Despite their own difficulties, the Care Workers aim to bring Christ-like hope and love to their community.

As Matsinho A continues to develop into a thriving Life Centre, investments have been made to various structures, including a purpose-built kitchen shelter and a well for clean water access.



Children Currently Supported **150**
 Number of Care Workers **17**
 Coordinator Name **Maria**
 Distance from Local Office **35km**
 Basic Services Started In **2015**