

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



Peter\* and Samuel\* are twins who were only 1 year old when their mother abandoned them and their three siblings. The children were left with their father who struggles to care for his children because of his addiction to alcohol. With no one to rely on, the twins would often roam the community alone and without any clothes on. Around that time, Mama Bola, a dedicated Care Worker in Onilemo, found the twins and immediately started to care for them. Since then, she has ensured that they are bathed, have brushed their teeth, and have clothes on every day. She also brought the children to the Care Point, where they are under the watchful eye of Mama Bola and the other Care Workers. Today, the boys are four years old. Because of their situation, they live with Mama Bola and the other Care Workers in the community. Mama Bola says that, “to see them healthy and young playing at the Care Point is such a joy.”

## Community Update

This new community experienced a lot of growth this year. The man of peace, an individual who was already caring for children before Hands at Work came in, is very involved at the Care Point and loves Jesus. He and the local Hands at Work team in Ibadan have helped the Care Workers grow in their understanding of what it means to care for a child. The Care Workers now understand the importance of Holy Home Visits and holistic care. Within Onilemo, the predominant religion is Islam. This poses a challenge when Care Workers refuse to renounce their Christian beliefs and as a result are persecuted. Another challenge is the lack of formal education for the children, resulting in many children working in the fields. Thankfully, Mama Bola understands the importance of children going to school. She runs a small school in a two by three metre mud room that has four grades.



## Activities and Projects



While no projects were completed this year, the Care Point held a Maranatha Workshop at the beginning of the year that was very successful. Many people were impacted by what it means to follow Jesus. The community and the surrounding region is 80% Muslim, yet the message about Christ is having a tremendous impact on our Care Workers. Some of the Care Workers have accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Throughout the year, hygiene items like soap and washing powder, as well as a school uniform and supplies were given to each child. Quarterly, each child was given deworming medication, which ensures that they receive the proper nutrients from their daily meal. In April and May, two members of the Zambian Regional Support Team came to visit and support the local Hands at Work team in Ibadan. During their visit, they spent time in Onilemo Community which was very beneficial and encouraging for the Care Workers (pictured left).