

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



In February, Care Worker Maria found 13-year-old Gift* and his three siblings alone, in desperate need of food, and caring for their ill grandfather. Their mother, Precious*, had been gone for two weeks looking for odd jobs in the community, desperate to provide for her family. Sadly, Precious is alone in caring for her children, as her husband left to get remarried and doesn't support the family. Occasionally, they will receive handouts from the local church that Precious is involved with, but the challenge of paying for school fees and the basic necessities remains. Understanding the seriousness of the situation, Gift and his siblings were immediately invited to the Life Centre. Since then, Gift is slowly starting to open up and play with the other children as he learns to trust that he will not be abandoned by the Care Workers. In addition to their emotional needs being met, Gift and his siblings receive a hot, nutritious meal daily and have been supported with the provision of blankets.

Community Update

Sakubva is an urban slum, making it more susceptible to crime, substance abuse, prostitution, early marriage and theft - all negatively impacting the behavior of the children who are regularly exposed to these things. In response, the local Hands at Work team in Mutare have facilitated meetings with the Primary Caregivers, Care Workers and children to share the dangers of these activities. This year, it has been difficult to grow the involvement of the youth as many receive extra lessons at school six days a week, making it hard to find time with them. Despite these challenges, the under-fives program, together with an increase in the number of Care Workers, has been a great catalyst for growth. A great strength of the Sakubva CBO is the involvement of church pastors, particularly Pastor Patrick who is regularly at the Life Centre helping with maintenance projects and gardening. Every Friday, Care Workers meet for Relationship Groups, a safe place to share challenges and pray together. This has resulted in strong bonds developing among them.



Activities and Projects



Throughout the year, school shoes, uniforms and jerseys were purchased and distributed to those in need. Regularly, each child was given deworming medication, ensuring that they are receiving the proper nutrients from their daily meal. Additionally, each child in need received blankets and mosquito nets. Having these items are essential in keeping the children warm during the winter months and ensuring they are protected against mosquitos and, thus, malaria. An exciting project that happened was the renovation of the cooking shelter (pictured left), which included the installation of a new sink. In May, a 'go team' of Hands at Work volunteers from the base in South Africa came to support the Mutare team in serving their communities.