## UPDATE FROM BARAKA COMMUNITY | ZAMBIA



October 202

Twenty-three dedicated local volunteer Care Workers, coordinated by David Ngosa, support the most vulnerable children in the community of Baraka. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for.



Shiloh\* is 13 years old and lives with her three siblings and her mother. When she was young, her father abandoned the family after getting involved in witchcraft. Her mother met another man, whom she hoped to marry, but he also left after she gave birth to Shiloh's youngest sibling. Since then, her mother has struggled with her health. Though her mother tries to provide for the family, she is unable to make ends meet. In 2019, the children were invited to the Care Point where they could receive a hot meal every day and regular connections with Care Workers. Shiloh attends a youth group with children from other nearby communities. She loves to sing worship songs and she has a real heart to bring her friends closer to Jesus. Though Shiloh's life remains difficult, we praise God that amid her dark circumstances, His light shines on and through her.

## **Community Update**

Many new Care Workers have joined the Baraka CBO this year and there is a great sense of shared purpose within the Care Worker team. The Baraka CBO leadership team has grown in number, unity and effectiveness. The team meets regularly to discuss issues and create solutions together. This year, the Baraka CBO successfully increased from caring for 75 to 125 children. But the Baraka CBO has also faced challenges because of disunity that is within the wider community and false accusations that have been made about them. Thankfully, the local Hands at Work team in Kabwe has been walking closely with them to support. There was a very poor harvest this past year because of the lack of rain and fertilizer. The situation is critical, and Hands at Work is attempting to assist with planting resources for next year's crops. Please pray for good rains and that God will provide for our struggling families.



## **Activities and Projects**

The under-fives programme has successfully started in Baraka, giving them a safe place to receive breakfast, rest, play with friends and learn about Jesus while their older siblings are in school. The youth of Baraka often meet at a central location with youth from other communities. This has prompted a great revival and hunger for Jesus in the hearts of many youth. A Care Worker Revival was conducted for the female Care Workers in Chabota and Baraka (pictured left). Twenty-eight ladies attended and had an amazing day of encouragement, Bible teaching, crafts, and various other activities. They didn't want to go home and can't wait for the next one! Some Pastors from the area were invited to go to a Bible School with George Snyman at Kachele to help them better understand the Biblical mandate of caring for the orphaned and the widowed. In early August, a team from Australia visited Baraka and were able to have a Care Worker Appreciation Day, which was a great encouragement.