

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

CHABOTA COMMUNITY

ZAMBIA | KABWE REGION

In 2001, local churches in Baraka began to see an increase in the number of orphaned and vulnerable children in the community. David Mabena, a local pastor, challenged his congregation to begin caring for the children by using whatever resources they had available. Some people brought clothes, while others brought food. In this vast rural area of Baraka where disease, unemployment and a lack of clean water are a few of the many challenges, the local churches joined together and began by supporting 15 children.

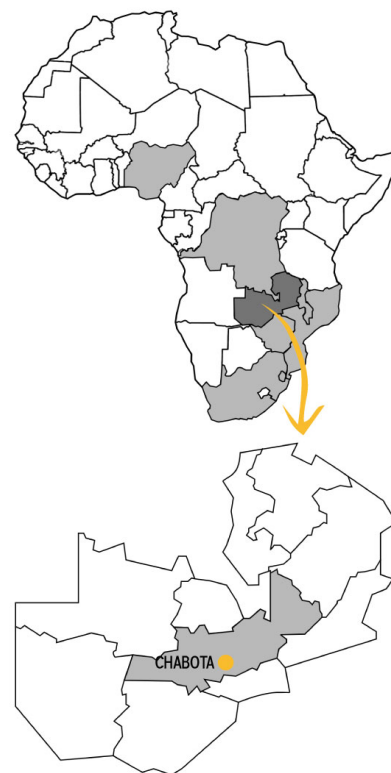
David leads by example, carefully mentoring children and building strong relationships with the most vulnerable families. At the time, he inspired other volunteers to regularly walk in the community to support the poorest of the poor children. Covering such a large area, volunteers can walk up to ten kilometres to visit some of these homes. Wanting to do even more for Baraka, David, seeking further help and advice, connected with Hands at Work.

After walking with the Baraka Community Based Organisation (CBO) for two years prayerfully discerning the way forward, Hands at Work began officially partnering with the Baraka CBO in 2011. In order to address the essential needs of the most vulnerable children in the community of Baraka, Hands at Work began providing the life-giving services a hot, nutritious meal daily, access to education and basic health care to 50 of the most vulnerable children.

For many years, there were two feeding points operating under the umbrella of the Baraka CBO, as the need within the community grew. Over time, the distance between them became too much for the Care Workers, especially those who are advanced in age. When meetings took place, it was a challenge to get all of the Care Workers together because of the distance and length of time it took to walk – almost two hours one way.

In 2021, the Care Workers together with the Kabwe team (supported by the Zambia Regional Support Team) decided to split the Baraka CBO into two official CBO's with their own leadership and team of Care Workers. Officially, the Chabota CBO was established with its own leadership and team of Care Workers.

Relationship Groups continue to be a safe place for Care Workers to share their challenges, hear from the word of God and pray together. The local Hands at Work team in Kabwe have been encouraging the Care Workers through their challenges to stay united in supporting one another and in their calling to serve the most vulnerable children. A great example of this investment by the Kabwe team is the way that the Care Workers are growing in Relationship Groups and have started to feel safe to open up with one another.



Children Currently Supported **125**
 Number of Care Workers **25**
 Coordinator Name **David Mabena**
 Distance from Local Office **27km**
 Basic Services Started In **2021**