

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

CHIGODOLE COMMUNITY

MOZAMBIQUE | CHIMOIO REGION

The community of Chigodole is located west of the nearest town of Chimoio, Mozambique. With few opportunities for employment, many people rely on farming as their source of income, but if the rains fail, this proves challenging. A lack of consistent education is a challenge and many children have dropped out of school. Young girls in particular are left with very little hope, as many will be offered up for marriage before they finish school.

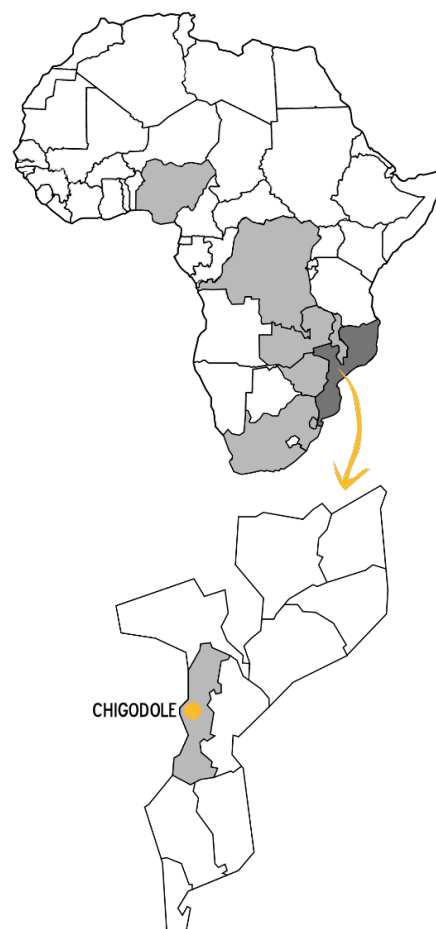
In 2017, the Zimbabwe Regional Support Team (RST) travelled to Mozambique and began visiting Chigodole Community on a weekly basis because of the immense vulnerability that was clearly evident there. At the end of October, the Zimbabwe RST and the Hands at Work team in Chimoio met with five church leaders from across the community. Together, they shared the vision of Hands at Work, resulting in the potential Care Workers expressing interest in being involved because of what it would mean for their children and the needs within the community.

One of the church leaders, Pastor Madomasi, began meeting regularly with the Chimoio team and was identified as a 'Man of Peace' within the community. Eventually, a group of eight Care Workers responded to the call to care for the children.

The Chimoio team were introduced to the local chief who welcomed Hands at Work into the community. Through Holy Home Visits, the Care Workers and the Chimoio team were able to identify the most vulnerable children. The latter half of 2017 was spent getting to know the homes of the children well and identifying the children's needs in terms of schooling and health care. Over time, more Care Workers from the local churches committed to caring for the children.

The Chigodole Community Based Organisation (CBO) started providing the three essential services of food security, access to education and basic health care for 50 children in April 2018. Since then, the number has increased to 150 children. From the beginning, the Care Point has operated out of Pastor Madomasi's church.

In 2020, four local pastors helped in the construction of the fence which now provides protection for the children and stops roaming cattle coming onto the land. It designates the space for the children and Care Workers to know that this land belongs to them. Additionally, a well has been dug at the Care Point, allowing the children to have access to safe, clean water.



Children Currently Supported **150**
 Number of Care Workers **17**
 Distance from Local Office **33km**
 Basic Services Started In **2018**