

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



In 2021, six-year-old Semba* was invited to the Life Centre after her mother passed away. Although her father still lives in Kalende, he is not involved in caring for his children. Semba, alongside her two older sisters, are being cared for by their grandmother, who provides for her family by selling kachasu (beer). Semba was identified as among the most vulnerable because the money her grandmother earns is not sufficient in providing for her family. When Semba started coming to the Life Centre, she was not in good health. Thankfully, through the love and support of the Care Workers and the consistency of having a daily meal, her health has improved. She loves to play with the other children and enjoys going to school. When visitors come to the Life Centre, she is usually the first one to greet them with a friendly smile.

Community Update

Bernard has taken increased ownership of the Kalende CBO and has led them through many challenges this year. Even with a new leadership team, land disputes and theft, the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers have continued to grow spiritually. The Care Workers are united in their work and have developed relationships in the public sector - recently receiving three government teachers to support the community primary school. Particularly because of the ongoing land litigation and its implications, Kalende has had a difficult year. Adding to this challenge is the poor harvest (partly because of limited resources and sometimes due to inadequate farming techniques), and the limited access to healthcare.

There is uncertainty about the community's future, yet through it all, they have clung to Jesus. There is greater community ownership and a longing for what will come next.



Activities and Projects

The local Hands at Work team in Luanshya visit Kalende regularly, but even when they aren't there, the Relationship Group in Kalende continues to be a safe place for the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers to share their burdens, as well as encourage and pray for one another. They have responded to needs of the children and their families as they have arisen, including reconstructing a house for a family who was without one. The Care Workers' service motivated the parents in the house to take ownership over the repairs by helping the Care Workers through the entirety of the project. Although they await the close of the land court case to complete more projects, Bernard remains determined to care for the children and make Kalende a place where they can play and develop friendships. The mural that was painted in the Life Centre (pictured left) is a picture of the community's resilience through hardship.

