

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



Five-year-old Gift\* lives with his grandparents and four of his cousins. Having to care for five young children, Gift's grandparents try to earn a living by selling charcoal. This is hard work for the elderly couple, and the meagre income is not enough. The pain of seeing her grandchildren go to sleep with empty bellies led Gift's grandmother to reach out for help, and after visiting the family's home, the Care Workers welcomed Gift to the Care Point.

Over the last year, Gift's family has been thriving with the support of the Care Workers. Her grandmother has shared how Gift's health has improved and she has been encouraged through the relationships between her and the Care Workers, particularly with Rebecca. Gift enjoys being a part of the Under 5's program, where she receives a meal and gets to play with other children her age. The grandparents also feel encouraged to be a part of this caring community.

## Community Update

Though the group of Care Workers is small, they have been faithfully serving the most vulnerable children in Kamakonde.

Care Worker Clara has taken ownership of the Relationship Group for the children between ages 6 and 12. As a result, the children are enjoying spending time together and even the play between Care Workers and children has increased. The Hands at Work local office has been walking closely with the team of Care Workers, working hard to create a place of unity for the Care Workers and Primary Caregivers. Last year, many caregivers were contributing to various tasks at the Care Point, however, this has since decreased, and the local office has been following up to understand the situation better. Though he is busy in his local church, Pastor Joseph is invested in the Care Point, which is a good example to the other local churches.



## Activities and Projects

Two youth attended a Youth Leaders Camp at Kachele in August, which was an amazing time for them to connect with youth from other communities and be encouraged to step into more of a leadership role at the Care Point. They have taken ownership and are mentoring the younger children and helping in practical ways at the Care Point.

The local clinic has become more involved, and regularly visits the Care Point to check in on the younger children. This means the caregivers do not need to travel; rather their children have preventative health care provided by the clinic. Practical items have been distributed amongst the children, such as blankets (pictured left), mosquito nets and hygiene items.

