

# HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

## KAWAZA COMMUNITY

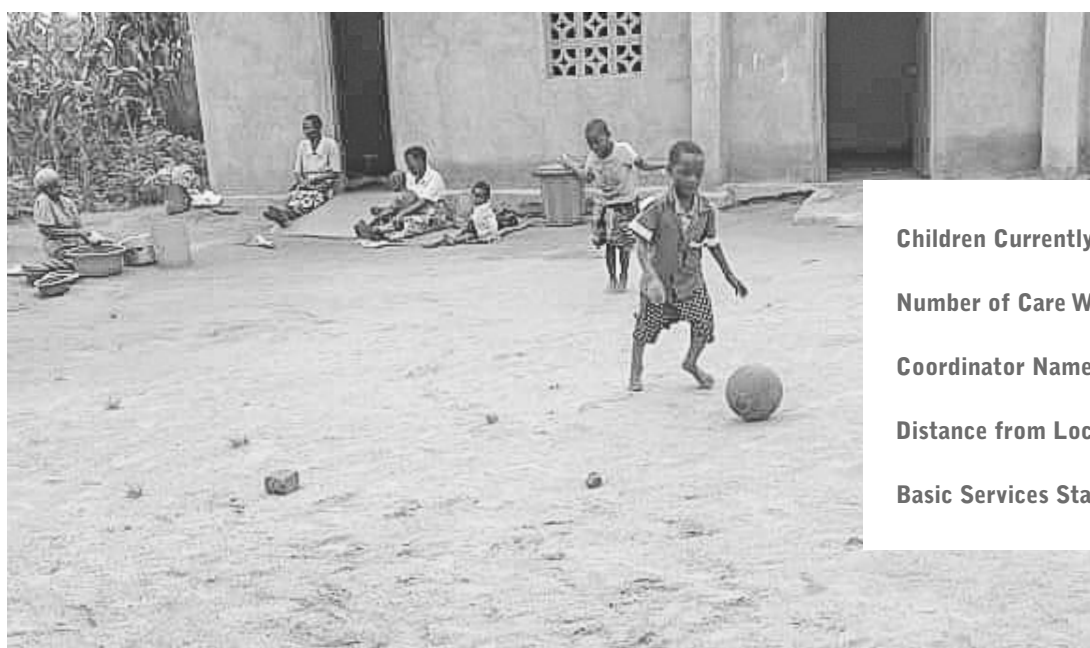
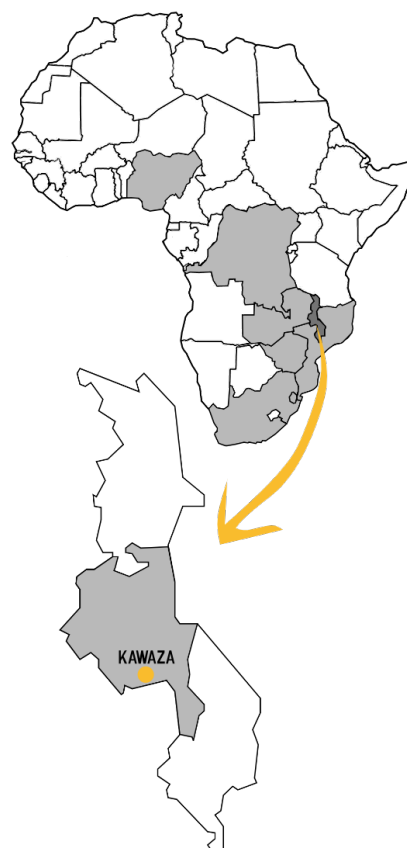
### MALAWI

The community of Kawaza is located about 20km from the nearest town of Dedza and is known for its frequent flooding. With little opportunities for employment, many people rely on farming small plots of land and selling vegetables in the nearby market. A shortage of clean drinking water requires people to walk far distances for water. Each of these challenges adds to the vulnerability of the people living in the community of Kawaza.

In 2009, Pastor James, seeing the devastation that years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic had left on his community, gathered with a few church members to help the most vulnerable in the community of Mcheneke. These servant-hearted individuals began visiting the sick, the dying, and the most vulnerable children in this large rural area that borders Mozambique and is home to a large number of refugees. Shortly after, Pastor James met Hands at Work leaders, who shared their vision of partnering with local organisations who were already caring for people in their communities. In 2011, the Umodzi Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Mcheneke was born. Within a few months, community members from seven local churches volunteered their time and energy to care for their community as Care Workers. With the support of Hands at Work, these local Care Workers were equipped to care for the most vulnerable children.

In Mcheneke, three sub feeding points were operating under the Umodzi CBO to provide children with access to the life-giving services of daily food security and support with education and basic health care. Children would access these from the feeding point location closest to their home. Over the years, as the needs of the most vulnerable within the community and the surrounding areas continued to grow, the leaders of Hands at Work knew they needed to respond. Hands at Work began to mobilise local volunteers from a few churches in one of the feeding point areas known as Kawaza by sharing the vision of Hands at Work. In July 2018, Kawaza became an independent CBO, operating out of a Care Point and with a team of local volunteer Care Workers who exist to care for 100 of the most vulnerable children.

Throughout 2020, a number of projects were completed to enhance the safety and hygiene of the most vulnerable children. A permanent shelter was constructed to replace the previous temporary shelter, a borehole was installed and new secure toilets were constructed. All of these projects were an answer to prayer and a testament to God's faithfulness.



Children Currently Supported **100**  
 Number of Care Workers **15**  
 Coordinator Name **Julianna**  
 Distance from Local Office **25km**  
 Basic Services Started In **2018**