



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



Meet **Velina**, 1 of 100 children cared for
by KAWAZA COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

For seven-year-old Velina* the brokenness in her family began when she was three months old and her parents divorced. Since then, Velina's father has not been involved in caring for his family. With limited opportunities for consistent employment, Velina's mother, Sephora*, relies on farming and seeking out odd jobs. When Care Workers saw Sephora taking her children along to look for these jobs in 2019, they knew they had to do something, as this family struggled to obtain even the basic necessity of food. Velina and her siblings now come to the Care Point, a place where they receive a hot, nutritious meal daily and support with their basic health care and education. Extending beyond their physical needs, it is also a place where they are known by name and can play with other children their own age. Velina loves to play netball with her friends and is in grade 3.

Community Update

Some of the challenges in Kawaza include alcohol abuse, insufficient access to the local clinics, early marriage and witchcraft. This belief in witchcraft results in some of the most vulnerable families taking their children to traditional healers before taking them to a clinic. Committed to serving through the highs and lows, the local Hands at Work team in

Lobi regularly visits the community, bringing the word of God to the families they serve and dedicated to shedding light on the truth of these strongholds. A great success for the Kawaza CBO over the last year has

been the 0-5s programme. Although it was a challenge to get started, it is now growing and it is exciting to see additional Care Workers getting involved and even some of the Primary Caregivers committing to serve in this area. An ongoing blessing for the Kawaza CBO is the involvement of the local church and their passion in supporting in whatever way they can.



Activities and Projects

Last year, a team from Germany visited the Care Workers and children in Kawaza. This had a huge impact on the community as they felt supported and loved. The team helped the Care Workers and children paint the children's shelter, which was an enriching and unifying activity to do together. A beautiful testimony of the Care Workers' love for the children is when they came together to help cultivate the field of a child-headed household. Managing to secure a successful harvest, the Care Workers are taking responsibility of the maize-meal and distributing it to the children as needed – they have even paid for the maize meal to be taken to the grinding mill. Caring holistically for the most vulnerable children includes their basic health care. This year, blankets and sleeping mats (pictured left) were distributed to the most vulnerable children in need, ensuring they are warm during the winter months and can have a good night's sleep.

