



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



Meet **Deena**, 1 of 150 children cared for
by CHISOMO COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

Ever since Deena* was identified as among the most vulnerable and invited to the Life Centre in 2018, local Care Worker Cecelia has been fostering a good relationship with her and her family. Regularly, Cecelia visits them in their home, bringing Christ-like support, encouragement and help when needed. However, life has not always held this same hope. There was a time not long ago when Deena's mother, Lita*, did not know how or even if her children would eat. When her husband passed away in 2017, the responsibility of caring for the family fell on Lita. To provide for them, Lita tries to find odd jobs in the community but this does not provide enough for even basic necessities. Thankfully, they are no longer alone and Deena and her siblings can receive a hot, nutritious meal daily, relieving the burden Lita was carrying alone.

Community Update

Despite community challenges such as a lack of clean water, alcohol abuse and witchcraft, the Care Workers are undeterred in their dedication to serving the most vulnerable children. They deeply love the children they serve and are committed to them. The fruit of the Care Workers meeting together for Relationship Groups, where they share their challenges and hear from God's word, can be seen in how they are quick to pray for one another and for the children. The strong involvement and presence of the local church in the day-to-day activities of the Life Centre are an answered prayer and a beautiful example of the Hands at Work vision to see the local church caring for their community. The local Hands at Work team in Lobi has been faithfully walking alongside the Care Workers through some leadership transitions, offering guidance and support to the CBO.



Activities and Projects

In 2023, the Lobi team facilitated two youth camps from several communities in Malawi, including Maonde (pictured left). At the camp, they shared about Jesus and what it means to make healthy life choices. Last year, the youth planted a soya garden for their income-generating activity. This year, they harvested the soya and sold it to the community. With the proceeds, they were able to purchase books and stationery for school. Recently, the Lobi team and the Care Workers invited members of the local church, community leaders and social welfare representatives to the Life Centre for an advocates' day. The purpose of their time together was to share the dangers of early marriage and dropping out of school and discuss how they can help the children succeed. This year all of the children received deworming medication, helping to ensure that they receive the proper nutrients from their daily meal.

