

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

MAONDE COMMUNITY

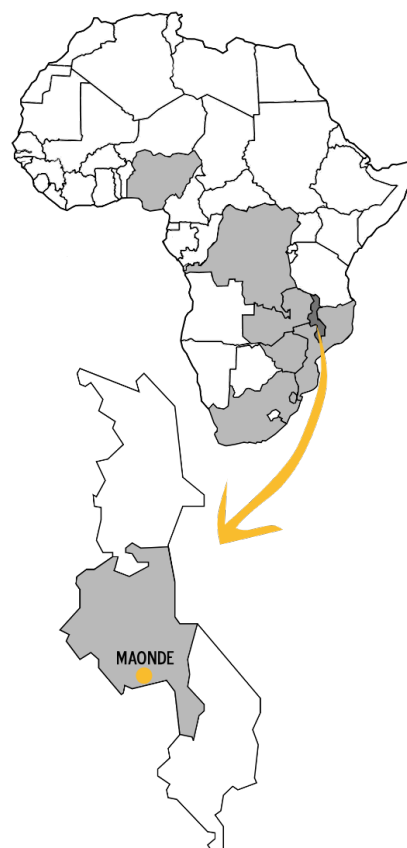
MALAWI

For people living in the community of Maonde, alcohol abuse, traditional healing practices, HIV/AIDS and a lack of clean water are a few of the many challenges that they face. In 2008, Jonathan, a local pastor, saw the need to support his community and care for the large number of vulnerable children. Jonathan invited and mobilised people from the community to join him in answering God’s call to care for the most vulnerable.

In 2011, Jonathan met Hands at Work in Africa and together, they encouraged and challenged seven local churches to care for their community. It was through their mobilisation of the local church that the Chisomo Community Based Organisation (CBO) was born in 2013. Hands at Work provided training for the Chisomo CBO volunteers and assisted them in building up the CBO. While the work began with a handful of people, there are now 17 Care Workers who care for the most vulnerable children in their community. Initially caring for 50 children and supporting them with a hot, nutritious meal daily and access to education and basic health care, this number has increased to 150 children.

The Life Centre is a safe place where the children can come to receive their daily meal as well as emotional and spiritual support from the Care Workers. Regularly, the Care Workers visit the children in their homes, ensuring that they are being holistically cared for and bringing support to the whole family. Additionally, the Chisomo CBO has an afterschool programme at the Life Centre where Care Workers help the children with their homework.

For a number of years, the Maonde Life Centre was located out of a government structure that was previously used for cows. At the end of 2017, the Chisomo CBO was given a piece of land to call their own. This was a huge encouragement and an answer to prayer. With the land that they were given, the Care Workers took responsibility and began to plan and build a temporary structure. Members of the community provided support in clearing the land and supplying material to build a temporary shade structure for the children to eat under. Throughout 2019 and 2020, a Life Centre building was officially constructed and a new secure toilet was completed, ensuring the health and hygiene of the most vulnerable children.



Children Currently Supported **150**
 Number of Care Workers **17**
 Coordinator Name **Charity**
 Distance from Local Office **30km**
 Basic Services Started In **2013**