

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



Care Worker Elias visits five-year-old Nathan* often, and over time, Nathan has grown to love the Care Point. It is a place where he can play soccer, make friends, and receive a hot, nutritious meal each day. He also loves going to pre-school. The Care Point is a place where he finds security in his needs being met, which contrasts his challenging home life where he does not have this same security. He lives with his grandparents and two brothers, in the absence of his parents who moved to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) two years ago. His grandparents try and sell firewood but often they don't earn enough and there are days when, without the support of Maranatha CBO, they would go without food. Join us in praying for Nathan's family, that God would provide and give his grandparents strength as they care for him and his siblings.

Community Update

Regularly, the Care Workers meet to pray together and visit the children in their homes, making every effort to share one another's burdens as they do so. The newly constructed Care Point building is a blessing to Maranatha CBO and the wider community, and people feel encouraged to gather there. The community school operated by the CBO, who also use the facilities, and there are now four government teachers. The Care Workers are determined to make the Care Point beautiful by planting banana trees and doing regular maintenance of the property. Challenges in Maranatha are its proximity to the DRC border, high rates of unemployment, families are transient and women and girls often engage in prostitution, resulting in small children being left with no father figures. This year marked the start of the Under 5s program in Maranatha. For the first time, children under five can come to the Care Point and receive breakfast, rest, play with friends and learn about Jesus.



Activities and Projects

This year, Care Workers from Chilabula, Mount Moriah and Maposa – other communities that Hands at Work supports - visited Maranatha to encourage them in their Relationship Groups, Holy Home Visits and Under 5s program. This visit lifted the Care Workers' spirits, equipped them with new skills and encouraged them to continue sharing their stories in a meaningful way. Since then, the care of the Under 5s in particular has notably improved. Maranatha CBO distributed blankets, secondhand clothing and hygiene items to the children, ensuring the overall health and well-being of the children. Following the construction of the Care Point building, a mural was painted by the youth, church leaders, Care Workers and the Kachele family. Additionally, a toilet was constructed (pictured left) and well was sunk. Throughout the year, various teams visited Maranatha, including one from Canada. Each team was a great encouragement and blessing to the Care Workers and children.