

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

MATSINHO B COMMUNITY

MOZAMBIQUE | CHIMOIO REGION

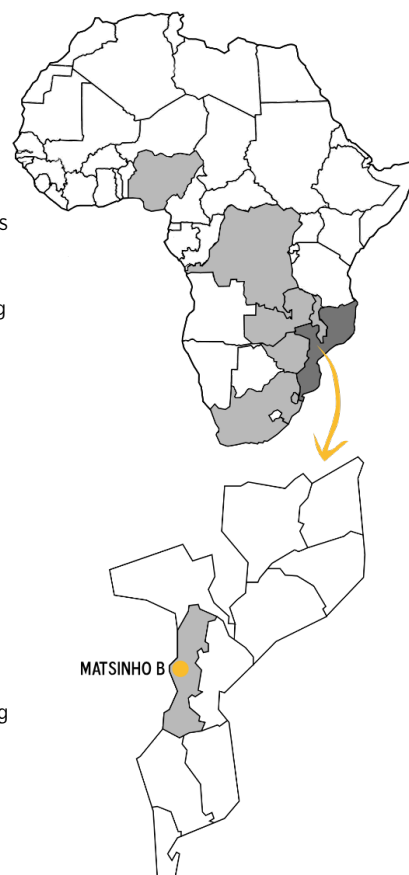
The poverty of the people living in Matsinho B Community, Mozambique, is confronting. Poor living conditions play a contributing factor to the various health challenges that exist in the community. The impact of these health challenges has resulted in a number of parents passing away in recent years - often leaving children either alone or under the care of another relative. With little opportunity for employment, many people are forced to rely on farming small plots of land to survive. The practicing of witchcraft and traditional medicine has created a stronghold within the community, leading to many turning to these practices rather than to health care from clinics. Each of these challenges adds to the vulnerability of the people living in Matsinho B Community.

In 2011, Care Workers from the local church in Matsinho united to carry out their calling to care for the most vulnerable children. In 2015, Hands at Work partnered with them to create Matsinho A Community Based Organisation (CBO). Since the local Hands at Work team in Chimoio formed, they have supported and grown the Care Workers within the Matsinho A CBO. The Care Workers are quick to advocate for the children that they care for, especially the young girls, who are susceptible to early marriage and teenage pregnancy.

After spending several years in Matsinho A, it became evident that the needs of the most vulnerable within the community and the surrounding areas were continuing to grow. The leaders of Hands at Work knew that they had to respond. In February 2018, the Chimoio team and the Zimbabwe Regional Support Team started walking in a new area of the community, known as Matsinho B. They saw that there were many children in desperate need of life-giving services. One of the pastors, who was supporting the original Matsinho A Life Centre, was living in the Matsinho B area. He graciously offered his church building to be used as the new Life Centre. His wife, who was already a Care Worker, became the 'Mother Theresa' of the Matsinho B CBO. Two Care Workers, who were serving at the original Life Centre also moved to serve at the Matsinho B Life Centre. Through church mobilisation and sharing the vision of Hands at Work, an additional 12 Care Workers have joined Matsinho B CBO and are committed to serving the most vulnerable.

In July 2018, 50 children started receiving a hot, nutritious meal daily and support with their education and basic health care - a number that has since increased to 100. The Chimoio team have been walking with the Care Workers as they visit the children in their homes. They encourage the Care Workers to build strong relationships with the children, which enables them to support each child physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Despite their own difficulties and immense vulnerability, the Care Workers aim to bring Christ-like hope and love to their community.

As Matsinho B continues to develop into a thriving Life Centre, investments have been made to various structures, including a purpose-built kitchen shelter and a children's shelter being built at the end of 2021.



Children Currently Supported **100**
 Number of Care Workers **17**
 Coordinator Name **Antonio**
 Distance from Local Office **60km**
 Basic Services Started In **2018**