

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



Meet **Chiwa**, 1 of 60 children cared for
by MCHENGA COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

For 12-year-old Chiwa*, life has held more pain and responsibility than any child should have. In 2021, shortly after her parents' divorce, her mother suffered a stroke which left her unable to walk or care for her children. The eldest of three, Chiwa stopped school and started caring for the family. Local Care Workers noticed the situation and invited the children to the Care Point. In April 2023, tragedy struck again when Chiwa's mother passed away and the three siblings were split up. Chiwa moved in with her grandmother but, thankfully, the siblings can still see each other at the Care Point – a safe place where Chiwa can play with her friends and receive a hot, nutritious meal daily. The local Hands at Work team in Lobi and the Care Workers are advocating for Chiwa to return to school. Pray for God's favour and that she will be allowed to return.

Community Update

In January, Mchenga became an independent CBO after being a sub 'feeding point' from the Chinku CBO for many years. This is exciting as it has enabled them to grow in their leadership and in their capacity to care for more children. The Care Workers are united in their commitment to doing Holy Home Visits and knowing each child by name. Although they have good relationships with one another, they still struggle to meet for Relationship Groups, designed to be a safe place to share their challenges, encourage one another and hear from God's word. Currently the Mchenga CBO is operated out of an abandoned government building, given by the local chief. Whilst this building has been a tremendous blessing, it brings uncertainty as it could be taken back at any moment. Pray for God to make a way and that the Mchenga CBO will be able to secure their own land.



Activities and Projects

This year, the local Hands at Work team in Lobi facilitated a church mobilisation workshop with the purpose of sharing the vision of Hands at Work and the importance of the local church taking up their Biblical mandate to care for the most vulnerable. An exciting outcome of the mobilisation was the additional Care Workers who committed to serving the children. The Lobi team continues to encourage the local church in the involvement of the day-to-day activities at the Care Point. Committed to the overall health and hygiene of the children, second-hand clothing (pictured left), blankets, shoes and sleeping mats were purchased and distributed to those in need. Additionally, deworming medication was given to each of the 60 children, ensuring that they can receive the proper nutrients from their daily meal.

