## UPDATE FROM MILONDE COMMUNITY | malawi



October 2023

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



Eleven-year-old Jude\* stays with his mother, Asmaa\*, and his three siblings in Milonde. Following Jude's parents' divorce in 2020, his father stopped supporting them. The family survives through finding piecework, but with Asmaa being on her own and caring for the baby of Jude's eldest sister, these infrequent jobs do not provide enough food and other essentials that the family requires, such as clothing. In 2021, Care Worker Mary was on a Holy Home Visit to another family when she came across Jude and his siblings. Quickly identifying the vulnerability of this family, she went back to her fellow Care Workers and shared their story. They all agreed that the children should join the CBO where they now receive a hot meal every day, lifting a huge burden from this family. The love and care shown by the Care Workers has been transformational for this family, who are no longer alone in their struggles.

## **Community Update**

In the Milonde area, harvests have not been good this year due to the high price of fertiliser. As 2022 was another tough year, food security has become even more of a challenge for vulnerable families. A rise in costs generally is affecting all of Malawi. The CBO Coordinator, Juliana, is a strong and experienced leader, and the CBO management team is doing well. Some other highlights from the last year in Milonde include the Relationship Groups, which are going very well and creating great unity amongst the Care Workers; the continued involvement from local pastors; and the launch of the 0-5s programme (pictured bottom left). The CBO is very good at supporting the 0-5s, providing a safe and comfortable space for them to play, sing, eat and sleep. The children are thriving at the Care Point.





## **Activities and Projects**

There have been a lot of activities taking place at the Milonde CBO. The children have all received their deworming medicine, and they have received second-hand clothes, blankets, shoes and sleeping mats. All of their school fees have been paid and they have received school uniforms and school stationery. Primary Caregiver (PCG) days continue to happen every other month, which has been a great space for them to hear and share the word of God, and for Care Workers and PCGs to build relationships with one another. The kitchen at the Care Point is small and can get very smoky, making cooking for large numbers of children difficult. The toilet also requires some work. Plans to renovate both the kitchen and the toilet before the year ends are underway. This will increase the well-being, safety and health for everyone at the Care Point.

www.handsatwork.org