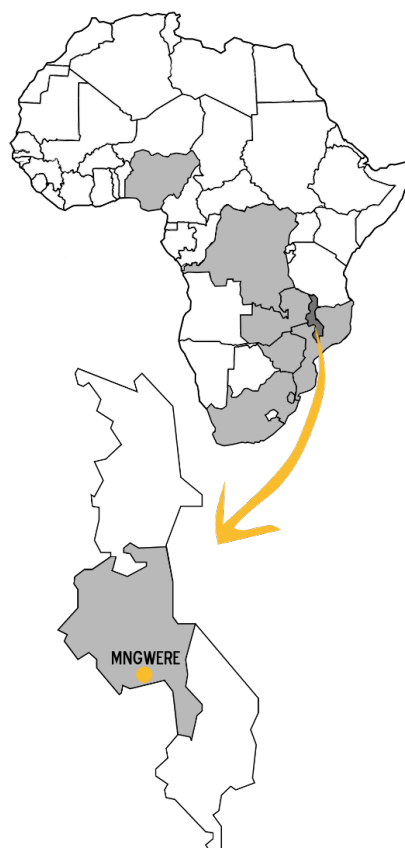# HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA
MNGWERE COMMUNITY
MALAWI

Hands at Work began serving in Malawi in 2008 in the rural village of Mngwere, about 15 kilometres from the central town of Dedza. Mngwere is an isolated community and is very impoverished. When local pastor Royie Nazombe encountered the Hands at Work vision to see the local church unite as Christ's body to care for his community's most vulnerable children, he grasped it immediately. He left his job to concentrate full time on mobilising local volunteer Care Workers.

Hands at Work is committed to supporting the most vulnerable children with a hot, nutritious meal daily and access to education and basic health care. When the Tima Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Mngwere first started, they were serving 33 children but over the years this has increased to 200 children. The desire of the Tima CBO is to continually grow in their capacity to care for more vulnerable children.

The Tima CBO, in partnership with Hands at Work, started a Community School operating out of a local church. They are now in their own building on land adjacent to the church. This school is bridging the gap for children who are unable to go to school when they are young because of the distance and later, don't want to go because they are much older than their classmates.

The Life Centre at the Tima CBO is a place where children feel welcome to come and play with other children their own age. The children eat a nutritious meal, receive help with their homework, and can learn life skills in classes like gardening and cooking. Informal assessments of health care needs take place on a regular basis, ensuring that the children stay healthy.

The very words 'Life Centre' speak of the purpose – to bring hope and life to the Mngwere community and its orphaned and vulnerable children. The children receive the love and care of the Care Workers, who in many cases act as mother and father figures to the children. Despite the many hardships that life in Mngwere brings, this expression of Christ-like love is transforming lives.

Children Currently Suppoted 100

Number of Care Workers 12

Coordinator Name Lembetsani

Distance from Local Office 11km

Basic Services Started In 2010