

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



Three-year-old Robert* stays with his mother, Lilith*, and four older siblings in Mngwere. In 2021, when Care Worker Beatrice was on a Holy Home Visit to another family, she found Lilith's children hungry and very vulnerable. She discovered that, despite being ill and with no support, Lilith tries to support her family through piecework and farming, but is often unable to harvest enough to feed her family. The Care Workers all agreed that Robert should start coming to the Care Point. Margaret is now Robert's Care Worker. She regularly visits the family at home and has a great relationship with Robert, who is a part of the 0-5 years programme. While Robert is small for his age, he is very clever and loves to play with a football. Robert's story is one of many that shows how the love and care of the Care Workers can bring transformation to a child's life.

Community Update

Economic challenges in Malawi continue to have an impact. High fertiliser prices have affected harvests for the last two years, making day-to-day life extremely difficult in communities such as Mngwere.

Despite this, the Mngwere Care Point is a thriving and happy environment for children and Care Workers alike. The youth are busy working in the garden, children took part in a youth camp earlier this year, and a Relationship Group for the Care Workers takes place every week. This is well attended and, because of this, there is great unity between the Care Workers. The 0-5 years programme at the Mngwere Care Point has been running for two years and has been very beneficial. The Care Workers support it well and have been consistent, with some Primary Caregivers now also involved. The care these children receive at this age is vital for their development and is making a real difference in their lives.



Activities and Projects

This year, a container was purchased for the storage of non-perishable food items for the six CBOs in Dedza (pictured left). Pillars were built around the container to keep it secure and to protect it from moisture. The local Hands at Work office team completed a bulk purchase of maize, rice, beans, peanuts and other non-perishable food items that will be safely stored in the container. These items will last up to next year, which is helpful as food prices continue to rise in Malawi. The children in Mngwere have received deworming medication. They have also been provided with second-hand items such as clothes, blankets, shoes, sleeping mats and school stationery, which all contribute to the children's overall health and well-being.



UPDATE FROM MNGWERE COMMUNITY | MALAWI



Graduation Update

From the beginning, Hands at Work has been focused on serving in the most vulnerable communities. As the Community Based Organisation (CBO) and the local church mature and develop in their understanding and capacity to care for the most vulnerable, there comes a time when they are ready to take the next step and take ownership to care for vulnerable people. This step is called graduation and this is where we find the community of Mngwere.

Mngwere has developed significantly over the years, its growth noticeable when compared with other communities across Malawi. This reason, along with the Care Workers being seasoned in caring for the children in their community and some pastor involvement, is why Hands at Work has decided to start preparing Mngwere for graduation. A time of training was held for pastors a few years ago sharing the vision of Hands. Following that, pastors come to the Care Point every Friday to have a prayer time with the children. Over the last few months, Hands at Work has noted that more needs to be done to invest into Mngwere to ensure it graduates well. The local team will be working to instill stronger local community involvement and ownership over the next two years and hope this investment will enable the CBO to graduate in 2025.



- Pray for Hands at Work leaders as they continue to meet with more local pastors to connect them into the work and for greater local church ownership

- Pray for unity, strength and confidence for the Care Workers as they prepare for graduation, and for Lembetsani Bentala's continued leadership of the Care Workers as they navigate challenging situations.

