

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

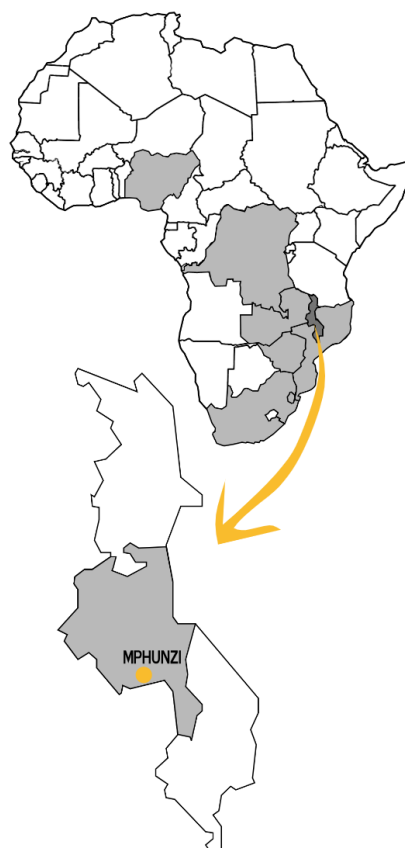
MPHUNZI COMMUNITY

MALAWI

The community of Mphunzi is located about 20 km from the nearest town of Dedza and is a more urban community. With little opportunities for employment, many people rely on farming small plots of land and selling vegetables in the nearby market. A shortage of clean drinking water requires people to walk far distances for water. Additional challenges in the community are prostitution and the fact that there many bars which leads to high levels of alcohol abuse. Each one of these challenges adds to the vulnerability of the people living in the community of Mphunzi.

Hands at Work started serving in Mcheneke in 2009 and over the next five years began developed two sub feeding points. Slowly, Hands at Work began to mobilise local volunteers from a few churches in one of the feeding point locations known as Mphunzi by sharing the vision of Hands at Work. Though it was still being operated under the Mcheneke Community Based Organisation (CBO), Mphunzi became its own Care Point in 2014. Here children would have access to life-giving services of daily food security, access to education, and basic health care. Over the years, Mphunzi began to grow in its capacity when the number of Care Workers gradually increased, Holy Home Visits were happening frequently, and daily services were provided consistently for the most vulnerable children. In January 2021, Mphunzi became its own independent CBO, operating out of its Care Point and with a team of local volunteer Care Workers who exist to care for (number of children) of the most vulnerable children.

At the beginning, the Mphunzi Care Point was located at a local church, located on the edge of a busy marketplace with a bar next door. Having a bar in such close proximity to the Care Point, only increases the vulnerability of the most vulnerable children. Recognising the increased risk posed to the children, a new piece of land was purchased. This year, a new Care Point building was built. It includes a children’s shelter, kitchen, storeroom and toilet. The Mphunzi CBO is grateful for this new structure that provides a safe space for the children to play, eat and meet together. It also enables Care Workers to provide holistic care to some of the most vulnerable children in the community.



Children Currently Supported **120**

Number of Care Workers **12**

Coordinator Name **Sara**

Distance from Local Office **26km**

Basic Services Started In **2021**