

# HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

## MULENGA COMMUNITY

### ZAMBIA | KITWE REGION

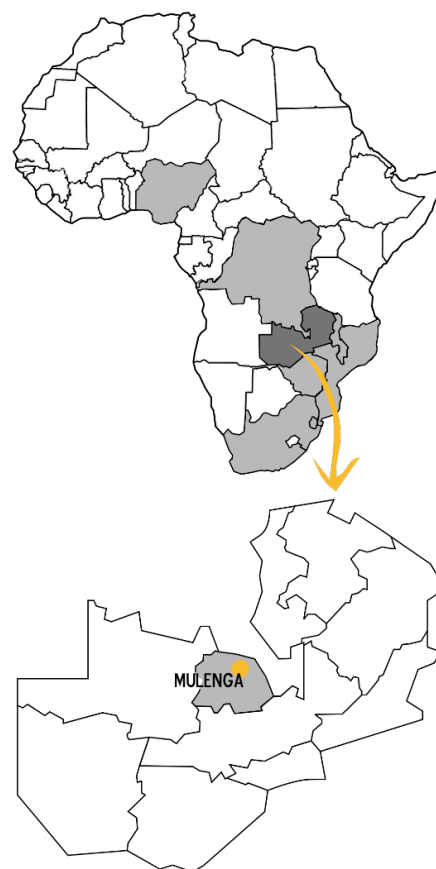
Mulenga is an urban community within the city limits of the mining town of Kitwe in the Copperbelt province of Zambia. Most of the people living in Mulenga survive by doing occasional work in the community, often leaving them with an income too low to support their families. The economic struggles in Mulenga mean that few people can afford basic necessities let alone school or clinic fees. Often prostitution and substance abuse are perpetuated by difficult financial circumstances. The devastating effects of HIV/AIDS have significantly impacted the community. Family support systems have crumbled under these hardships and many parents have abandoned their families, leaving children without adequate parental care.

When Reuben Chileshe met a previous Hands at Work leader, he was challenged by the call to help the poor and vulnerable children in Mulenga. Following this meeting, Reuben joined the Breakthrough Care Group Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Mulenga with a vision to help the most vulnerable children in his community. Life was not always easy for Reuben - a lack of employment opportunities forced his family, including his wife and four children, to survive on the meagre earnings that came from selling small baked goods. In spite of these challenges, Reuben was passionate and dedicated to his work. He spent much of his time visiting the sick, spending time with children who lacked parental care, teaching at the local community school and bringing the hope of God to those around him. Pursuing the vision to serve the poorest of the poor across Africa, Hands at Work began partnering with the Breakthrough Care Group CBO in 2008.

Currently, Care Workers from the Breakthrough Care Group CBO care for 150 of the most vulnerable children in their community, providing them with a nutritious meal daily, and support with their education and basic health care. By visiting the children in their homes, Care Workers are able to build strong relationships of love and trust. Having strong relationships with the children enables the Care Workers to support each child's physical, emotional and spiritual needs on an individual basis.

After many years of operating the Care Point out of a home, the Breakthrough Care Group CBO now have their own piece of land. In 2020 and 2021, a kitchen, eating shelter, secure storeroom, toilets, and a house for the CBO coordinator, who will also act as on-site security, was constructed. Having this land gives the children and Care Workers a safe place to call their own where they can come knowing that they will be loved and accepted.

Every few days, the Youth Leaders in Mulenga meet together for Relationship Groups, a safe place where they can share their challenges, hear from God's word and pray together. This is such a beautiful testimony of God's goodness and faithfulness in Mulenga.



Children Currently Supported **125**  
 Number of Care Workers **12**  
 Coordinator Name **Elizabeth**  
 Distance from Local Office **4km**  
 Basic Services Started In **2008**