



Twenty-two dedicated local volunteer Care Workers, coordinated by Christopher Nyirenda, support the most vulnerable children in the community of Mutaba. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for.



Meet Ester, 1 of 100 children cared for
by MUTABA COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO)

Ten-year-old Ester* stays with her mother and her younger brother. Ester's father died when she was very young, and with her mother struggling to find piecework, and land conditions being poor for farming, Ester and her family were left very vulnerable. Thankfully, Ester and her brother were identified by the Mutaba CBO, and they joined the Care Point in January of this year when the CBO went from supporting 50 to 100 children. The siblings were very thin when they were identified, but in these 10 months, there has been a noticeable improvement in their health and happiness. The meal they receive at the Care Point is usually their only meal for the day, so, when possible, the Care Workers send a bowl of food home with Ester that they can share with their mother. Wilson, Ester's Care Worker, visits the family regularly and brings food when he can.

Community Update

People in Mutaba continue to face numerous challenges like long distances to the nearest clinic and town, and few options to find work. The drought that occurred this past rainy season, in addition to most families not being able to afford fertiliser, has resulted in little to no harvest. Still, God hears the cries of the most vulnerable. The Care Workers from the Mutaba CBO are committed to caring for the children and their families, which is evident in the way that they regularly conduct Holy Home Visits to each home. This allows the Care Workers to know the struggles of each family and how they can support them, as Wilson does with Ester's family. There has been some conflict among the Care Workers, who are often dealing with many of their own struggles and traumas, but this has quickly resolved, and the Care Workers have moved forward in a more unified way.



Activities and Projects

A challenge in Mutaba is that the local churches are supported by pastors who only visit on Sundays and don't live in the community. This leaves people without support or spiritual guidance throughout the week, which then leads to a mixture of faith in Jesus and practising witchcraft. Earlier this year, the local Hands at Work team from Chisamba spent a week in Mutaba doing a joint Foundations Training and Maranatha Workshop (pictured left). This was a time of digging deeper into the model of Hands at Work and caring for the most vulnerable, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This resulted in Care Workers developing a deeper commitment to the work and renouncing their belief and practice of witchcraft. Lastly, deworming medication is given to the children on a quarterly basis ensuring that they receive the proper nutrients from their daily meal. They were also given blankets and clothes for the winter months.

