

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



Chisomo's* life is characterised by instability and struggle. His father died in 2019 after a debilitating illness, leaving his mother Roberta* to care for her five children alone. Roberta tries to provide for her children by selling vegetables and washing clothes. The family lives in an unfinished house, in which they are allowed to stay rent-free in exchange for watching over it for the owner who lives elsewhere. However, they could be asked to leave at any time. Unfortunately, Chisomo failed grade 7, has since quit school, and now helps his mother sell vegetables. Amid his struggles, the Care Workers and the Care Point provide stability and support. Daily, he connects with people who love him and show him the love of Christ. He receives a nutritious meal each day, and he can be free to be a child as he enjoys playing soccer with his friends.

Activities and Projects

This year, a Maranatha Workshop was held for the Care Workers with the goal of helping them grow in their relationship with Christ. Due to many of the Care Workers' struggles to find income, many were unable to attend because they were at the market. Also this year, a team from Canada visited the Nissi CBO.

They went on Holy Home Visits with the Care Workers and held a Care Worker Appreciation Day. Additionally, to ensure good health and hygiene, the children receive regular haircuts (pictured bottom left).



GRADUATION UPDATE

From the beginning, Hands at Work has been focused on serving in the most vulnerable communities. As a CBO and local church matures and develops 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 own the responsibility to care for the vulnerable. This step is called graduation and this is where we find the Nissi Community. Graduation does not guarantee sustaining a perfect Life Centre, but means the local church takes ownership in caring for the most vulnerable and provides holistic care with the resources that they have available amongst their community. To prepare for graduation, the Nissi CBO has assessed and decreased the number of the most vulnerable children from 120 to 50.

UPDATE FROM NISSI COMMUNITY | ZAMBIA



Currently, CBO Coordinator Mary is feeding 20 children at her home, Feeding Point B but preparing for graduation has been hard for the Care Workers.

This year, there was a big emphasis placed on church mobilisation. In the past, when the local churches have been involved, they have stopped their support upon realising that it is not a paid opportunity. Thankfully the Bishop of the church where Feeding Point A is located, understands the Biblical mandate to care for the vulnerable and wants to be involved. Every Friday, his church, with their own funds, provides the food that the children eat. They want to be more involved but struggle because they don't have the means. The local Hands at Work team in Kabwe are working with church members on starting a garden/farming initiative to help them grow in their capacity to care for the children. For the first season of planting, the Kabwe team is providing the necessary farming equipment and will be helping them farm, with the hopes that they will have a strong harvest by 2024, to feed the children.



- Pray for Hands at Work leaders as they continue to meet with the Care Workers to share the vision and heart behind graduation
- Pray for the Care Workers, children and Primary Caregivers; that they will understand that graduation is a reason to celebrate how far God has brought them.
- Pray for the harvest that will be planted to be successful
- Pray for the church to continue to grow in their understanding of what it means to care for the children.

