

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA

ZWELISHA COMMUNITY

SOUTH AFRICA | HAZYVIEW REGION

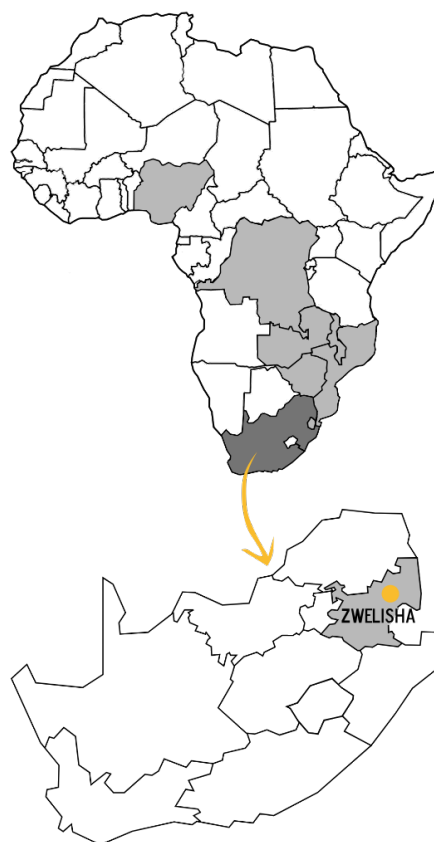
Zwelisha is one of the poorest of the poor communities in South Africa. Many children do not have identification papers meaning that they are unable to finish school, and in many cases are turned away from school by their teachers. Additionally, there is a lack of access to food and clean water. Thankfully, local volunteer Care Workers recognised the extreme vulnerability of many children in their community and came together to form the Zwelisha Community Based Organisation (CBO).

In 2013, Hands at Work partnered with the Zwelisha CBO and began to provide the three essential services of a hot, nutritious meal and support with their education and basic health care for 75 of the most vulnerable children.

For a number of years, there was no shelter at the Care Point apart from a unique dome-shaped cooking shelter. Often, children had to go inside the smoke-filled dome where the food was cooked to get away from the harsh weather conditions. In 2019, the shelter blew away. Now a new Life Centre building has been constructed and the existing meeting shelter reinforced, in addition to new toilets. This has enhanced the overall health, safety and hygiene of the children.

In 2019, the Care Workers and the children, with support from an international team, installed a colourful tyre seating area for the children to play and sit on. The Care Workers took ownership of the project, helping to dig the holes, while the children painted the tyres with vibrant colours, speaking to the new life being found in Zwelisha.

The local Hands at Work team in Hazyview have been and continue to invest in the leadership of the Zwelisha CBO by having Nikiwe, the coordinator, join meetings with other CBO coordinators from across South Africa. The purpose of having Nikiwe join these meetings is that she can be inspired and increase her capacity to lead the Care Workers in effectively and holistically caring for the most vulnerable children in her community.



Children Currently Supported **75**
 Number of Care Workers **6**
 Coordinator Name **Nikiwe**
 Distance from Local Office **70km**
 Basic Services Started In **2013**