

UPDATE FROM

MAFAMBISA COMMUNITY | SOUTH AFRICA

Hands at Work in Africa (UK) in partnership with
St Andrew's Church, Biggleswade



Hands at Work
AFRICA

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Five dedicated local volunteer Care Workers coordinated by Khetsiwe, support the most vulnerable children in the community of Mafambisa. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is physically, emotionally, and spiritually cared for.



Meet **Phila**, 1 of 70 children cared for
at MAFAMBISA COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION (CBO).

The Christ-led Care Workers have worked lovingly with the family, inviting them to Relationship Group where they can address their brokenness and build strong relationships between themselves, with others, and with God. This intentional investment by the Care Workers has enabled the family the freedom to share their thoughts and worries in a safe and trustworthy environment, enabling them to be prayed for, and bringing to them God's unfailing love. Now Phila's mother has been able to save enough money from piece work to buy land and build a two-room shack for the family, and Phila has found happiness in the stability of his new home, safe in the comfort of the Care Workers' devotion and transformed by the hope and healing that God's acceptance and light has bestowed on him.

Eleven-year-old Phila* loves to run around with his friends, playing football. A sensitive boy, he also loves to read. He sees the Care Point as a home-from-home, somewhere where he can be himself, be a child, and be supported – emotionally, physically and spiritually. But Phila nurses a deep hurt.

He is very angry with his father, who has abandoned the family and has nothing to do with any of them, something that Phila finds hard to forgive.

The family was invited to the Care Point in 2019, when Phila was five years old. Born in Mozambique, the whole family had arrived in South Africa two years earlier, as Phila's father was working in Johannesburg. One day, Phila's father went to Johannesburg but never came back. Left on her own, Phila's mother became the sole earner in the house and life became very difficult indeed. Discovering the family one day on a Holy Home Visit – visits into the community in search of the most vulnerable – the Care Workers quickly realised the family's vulnerability and immediately invited them to the Care Point, where they would receive a hot, nutritious meal every day alongside access to education and healthcare.

Being from Mozambique, none of the family has South African citizenship papers, so they are unable to access government entitlements or institutions. Phila's mother works hard on piece work, when she can find it, and over the years the family has become very transient, relocating regularly to look after others' houses, then moving on. This unstable existence has had a deep effect on the whole family, leaving them vulnerable and exposed in sometimes dark and desperate situations.

