

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA (CANADA) SOCIETY

## A LOOK BACK AT 2023

Dear Friends,

This year was marked by significant expansion and growth of our work in Africa, which reflects the maturation of our model and leaders there, and also the great need across sub-Saharan Africa. We felt the challenge here to continue to mobilize more churches, communities and people to join us, driven by our desire to see our efforts in Africa thrive and knowing what a gift it is to be part of this transformational work.

And so we are grateful for the opportunity this year to resume initiatives that had been put on hold – visiting friends and partners and gathering Advocates across North America; and sending people to participate in the work on the ground in Africa.

We hope and pray that this report will show you the amazing work that you are part of. Thank you, and blessings to you and your family.



Kristal Hoff

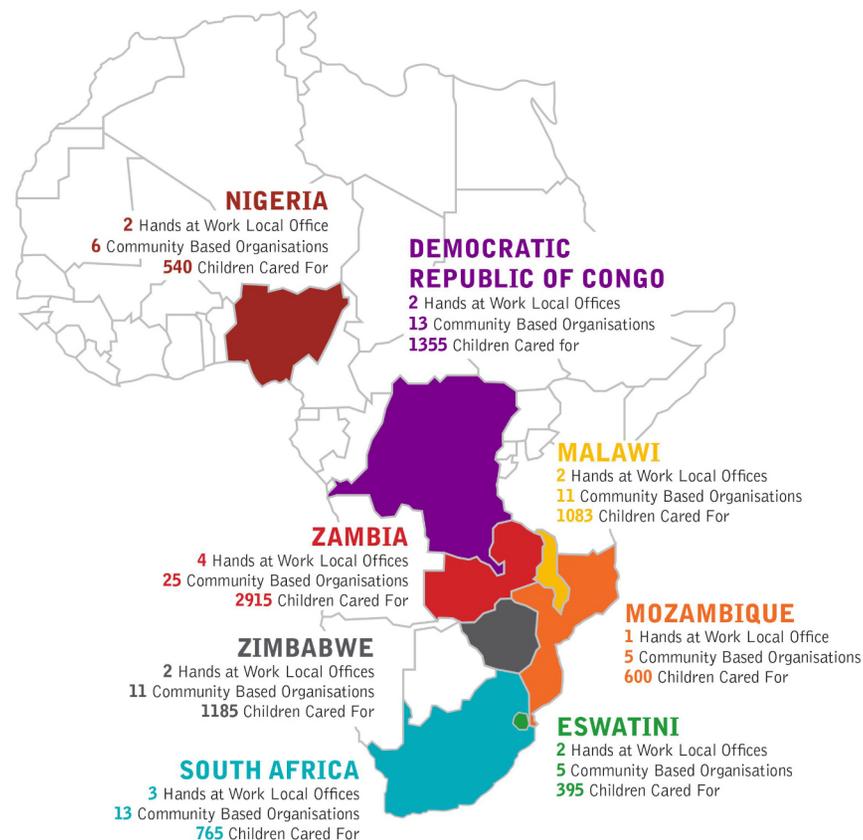
on behalf of the Hands at Work Canada Team

“Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure. The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.” A

- Psalm 147:1-6 (ESV)



## WHERE WE WORK



Our mission is to, through relationship with the local Church in Africa, challenge, encourage, develop and support the ministry of servanthood among those in need in their community by replicating the Hands at Work community intervention model.

We believe the biblical mandate to care for the orphaned, the widowed and the dying is not only for the Church in Africa, but also elsewhere. Hands at Work seeks to be a prophetic voice to the churches outside Africa, challenging them to fulfill this mandate.

## THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILD

 **8,746**  
Children Cared for  
In 88 Communities  
Across Africa

 **2,600**  
Children Cared for in 27  
African Communities Supported  
by Canadian Partners

Knowing that the first five years of a child's life are critical to their overall development, Hands at Work has established a program for children which incorporates breakfast, play, sleep, and the learning of basic skills. **Our hope is that, through these programs, children will grow and develop into healthy and whole adults who love Jesus.** Moses is one example of a child who is experiencing freedom from extreme poverty and is showing how God is caring for and protecting the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

When Care Workers in Buhimba first saw Moses\*, he was sitting with his sister against a wall outside the Care Point, watching other children play. Moses was wearing a torn girl's dress, he was severely malnourished, and he had no social skills. Moses was invited to join the Under 5s program where, over time, he began gaining weight and started to flourish. The local Hands at Work team in Goma has been spending lots of time with Moses' mother, helping her to process the pain and trauma that has prevented her from effectively caring for her children. Through their support and faithful encouragement, she is starting to care for her children in a more holistic way. **Praise Jesus for the way that He is restoring and redeeming Moses and his family!** Pray that God will continue to do a deep work in their family. For more on Moses, please click [here](#).

"He took a little child whom He placed among them. Taking the child in His arms, He said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me does not welcome Me but the one who sent Me."

- Mark 9:36-37 (NIV)



## PRIMARY CAREGIVER



"I have done many Maranatha Workshops and been to Chilabula many times, and even done one in Chilabula before and not seen the fruit. We needed to depend on God, not on our own knowledge. We prayed for weeks ahead of time. We prayed that God would do the work and bring the fruit, not using our own programme or knowledge. This time we saw God's hand because we trusted Him."

- Sylvia Mwelwa, Zambian leader

Hands at Work believes that **caring for a child also means caring for their entire family.** Orphaned children are often left in the care of an elderly grandparent, widowed parent, elder sibling or other relative, known as Primary Caregivers. Maranatha Workshops provide Primary Caregivers with an understanding of the unconditional love and healing that come through Jesus. As they are set free from the inner wounds of their trauma, they are able to better care for their children and share the hope of Christ with them. In the community of Chilabula in Zambia, lives were transformed during a Maranatha Workshop. As the local Hands at Work leaders shared about Christ, five Primary Caregivers put their faith in Jesus. Among them was the mother of Silas\*, a boy who had been severely malnourished. Both of his parents struggled with the use of alcohol and arrived drunk on the first day of the Workshop. Hands at Work leaders knew the couple needed Christ so they invited them closer. Silas' mother said, "You people care for my child and I want to care for people the way that you do." A few days later both she and Silas' dad were the first ones to arrive, and they were both sober. Since then, they have stopped drinking alcohol and the father is even attending the regular Relationship Group! For more on the Maranatha Workshop, please click [here](#).



**SHARE**



**PRAY**



**GIVE**

## CARE WORKER



**1,040**  
Local Volunteer  
Care Workers  
across Africa



**351**  
Care Workers in  
Communities Supported  
by Hands Canada

Care Workers are the heart of the ministry of Hands at Work as they daily live out being the hands and feet of Jesus, serving the most vulnerable in their communities. As these local volunteers pour themselves out to serve others, Hands at Work is committed to continually investing into their lives. One of the ways this is done is through Care Worker Revivals: **to encourage the Care Workers, lift them up and help to draw them closer to God as they serve the most vulnerable.** A Care Worker Revival weekend took place at the Hub in South Africa for Care Workers from Pfunani, Sommerset and Seville B communities. A highlight from the weekend was building deeper relationships with one another across the different communities, and participating in some fun activities to learn new skills, such as making their own baskets and cell-phone bags. However, the truly transformational aspect of the weekend was through the times of worship, prayer and ministry, where Care Workers felt safe enough to share about the brokenness in their own lives and particularly in their marriages. They were able to hear that **their desire to be loved can only ultimately be fulfilled in God's unfailing love for them.** Many responded to the call to experience God's love in a deeper and more personal way. For more on Care Worker Revivals, please click [here](#).

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."  
- Proverbs  
11:25 (NIV)



## HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA



"Without intentionally seeking people out, people are left extremely vulnerable with no one to care for them..."

- Xolani Makwakwa, African Leader (South Africa)

The commitment to reach the most vulnerable requires prayerful consideration, having to make tough decisions about where we should not go, and brave decisions about where we should. **Expanding into new communities and reaching even more of Africa's vulnerable children is a focus for Hands at Work.** We are committed to extending our reach and equipping more churches to understand their responsibility in caring for the vulnerable in their communities – not simply meeting physical needs but through empowering them with the gospel of Christ. At its core, seeking out a new community is simple: we follow the guidance and prompts of the Holy Spirit. But this takes time, resources and lots of prayer. It may take weeks or months to find the community that God is leading us to, but once there, we find a community of people willing to partner with Hands at Work and learn what it means to seek out the lost, the lowly and the destitute. Broken people serving alongside broken people is not always easy, but our call and commitment to one another remains the same. We believe that God can do extraordinary things through the faithfulness of ordinary people. In 2023, Hands at Work expanded into 10 new communities and there are plans to expand into 5 new communities in 2024. For more on expanding into new communities, please click [here](#).



**129**  
African  
Volunteers



**17**  
International  
Volunteers



**6**  
International Volunteers  
from Canada

# HANDS AT WORK CANADA OFFICE



97

Partners Around  
The World



30

Partners in  
Canada



22

Volunteers in  
Canada

Advocating for the most vulnerable is part of Hands at Work's vision to see the international Church around the world united with the local church in Africa. In May, a gathering was held in Calgary, Alberta, where 50 Advocates from across North America joined together for three days. The purpose of this gathering was to foster community, engage with recent updates, hear about upcoming plans from Africa, and encourage one another. A focus was put on **teachings around the crises in Africa, our response to Hands at Work's unique model of care, and understanding our responsibility as Advocates** in Canada. Marj Miller, long-time friend and Advocate from Canada, shares, "How amazing it was to be inspired and challenged by our African brothers and sisters, to hear them greet us by name, and to be joined together in our mutual desire to care for the vulnerable in Africa and wherever God has planted us. We came away renewed in our commitment... having felt the Spirit of the Lord upon us, confirming that we are anointed to bring Good News." Since the gathering, many Advocates have been continuing to sow seeds in their communities through various fundraising events, gatherings, guided prayer walks, bike rides, and more. As stories of the most vulnerable are shared, we trust God that seeds are being sewn, and that they will grow and bear fruit. For more on the gathering, please click [here](#).

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

- Mark 4:26-29 (NIV)



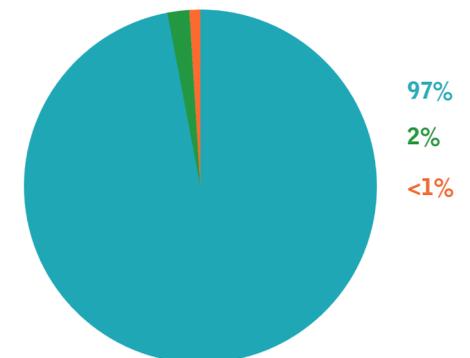
"God is the one who rebuilds Jerusalem, who regathers Israel's scattered exiles. He heals the heartbroken and bandages their wounds... Our Lord is great, with limitless strength; we'll never comprehend what He knows and does. God puts the fallen on their feet again and pushes the wicked into the ditch."

- Psalms 147:2-6 (MSG)

When the increased instability and violence in Goma escalated to a humanitarian crisis, individuals, churches and Advocates from across Canada came together to partner with Hands at Work, bringing support and stability to the families affected by the war. While many were displaced from their homes and faced hunger, exposure to disease and fear for their lives, the **faithful volunteer Care Workers with the local Hands at Work team continued to risk their own safety to protect and care for these families**. Fighting against all odds, the team on the ground has brought relief to the most vulnerable by providing shelter, blankets and second-hand clothing, as well as the essentials of daily meals, clean water, basic health care and the rebuilding of damaged homes. While the constant threat of violence for families remains a devastating daily reality, the Care Workers seek to serve them with unwavering hope, standing by them and fighting on their behalf. We praise God for bringing back the families who were displaced, and for continuing to grow our capacity to care for vulnerable children in Goma. We are incredibly thankful to those who donated generously to raise support for those impacted by the crisis. For more on the crisis in Goma, please click [here](#).

## FINANCIALS

- Charitable Programs
- General & Administrative
- Fundraising



## 2022 Financial Statements