

Hello Viebrock Family!

We are so grateful that you are partnering with Hands at Work in Africa and we trust that you will be richly blessed along this journey. In a world of much uncertainty, Hands at Work aims to bring hope – and we are excited that you are part of this journey with us in the community of Kambove in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

You can expect twice-yearly reports from the community of Kambove where we will share stories of our children, as well as project updates to keep you informed and connected. In addition, you can expect to hear other informal updates and items for prayer through our Hands at Work office in Germany.

Attached to this letter is the most recent report from Kambove Community. Let us also tell you a little about why we have identified Kambove as amongst the most impoverished in Africa...

Within Kambove Community are 150 children being cared for by 16 local Care Workers, Christian men and women who volunteer their time to serve the most vulnerable children within their community. Aimerance leads this team of Care Workers and their daily commitment and dedication ensure that the children have access to life-giving services and support: a hot, nutritious meal, together with education and basic health care support.

For people living in Kambove, life is very challenging. Due to artisanal mining, many people are drawn to the community of Kambove seeking work and a way to survive. Many young people leave school prematurely in order to find work or even engage in prostitution, desperately hoping to earn a living. Ongoing challenges in Kambove like traditional healing and ancestral worship, substance abuse, a lack of access to clean water leading to outbreaks of cholera, and a poor harvest have only increased the vulnerability of the most vulnerable children and their families.

The Care Workers are a source of hope and encouragement in the midst of these challenges. They are committed to seeking out the most vulnerable children and providing them a place of freedom and value at the central 'Care Point'. When challenges like abuse or early marriage arise, the Care Workers are quick to follow up on the children, advocating on their behalf.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Democratic Republic of the Congo the Care Workers did not shy away from their care of the children, despite all the added restrictions. They ensured the Care Point was a safe and hygienic place for the children to gather, and they continued to visit children in their homes in a safe way. For the most vulnerable families, food parcels were also distributed, ensuring that the children were still receiving the daily nutrition they desperately needed.

The challenges in Kambove are significant, but for the most vulnerable there is also much hope! Thank you for partnering with Hands at Work and the community of Kambove.

UPDATE FROM KAMBOVE COMMUNITY | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Hands at Work in Africa in partnership with
Viebrock Family



Hands at Work
AFRICA

October 2021

There are 16 dedicated local volunteer Care Workers coordinated by Aimerance who support the most vulnerable children in the community of Kambove. The love and care they provide ensure that each child is physically, emotionally and spiritually cared for.



Gracia* likes to help out with the dishes at the Care Point. Gracia, who is 15 years old, lives with her elderly grandparents and her older brother. At five years old, Gracia's father passed away. Feeling overwhelmed with the burden, Gracia's mother abandoned her and her siblings into the care of their grandparents. At that time Care Workers found Gracia and helped her and her grandparents by providing the food security, school support and health advocacy that they needed.

Sadly, Gracia's grandparents' health is failing. Her grandfather has become blind and her grandmother is weak. Thankfully, Gracia listens to the advice of her Care Workers about life and how to be responsible for her ageing grandparents. Gracia has seen how the Care Workers have advocated on behalf of many other children in her community. She feels safe knowing that they are there for her when she needs it most.

Community Update

Regularly, Care Workers gather in Relationship Groups to connect with one another and encourage each other in their work of supporting the most vulnerable families. This is a huge strength for a community that faces many challenges such as child labour, early marriage, substance and physical abuse, and prostitution.

The Care Workers worked hard in this recent season, taking many extra measures and precautions during the COVID-19 and the Cholera outbreak in their area. They increased their hygiene instruction, making sure they were differentiating between cooking water and water used at the toilet station. They increased the use of chlorine in the water for hand washing and toilet cleanliness. They even opened other feeding points to make sure that social-distancing was observed. For a season, children were not allowed to walk anywhere, not even to attend the Care Point. When this happened, Care Workers ensured that the most vulnerable families received food parcels.



Activities and Projects

In this past year improvements were made to the Care Point: a drain has been built around the toilet (pictured left) and the government health department gave the Care Point a running water station for hand washing. A compassionate church member donated maize meal also. Blankets, deworming medication, soap and lotion was distributed to the children, ensuring their health and hygiene. Additionally, Care Workers continue to distribute masks for children and follow up with regular health assessments. In April, an encouraging workshop was run by Hands at Work for each of the Primary Care Givers and the youth. It resulted in honest conversations and reconciliation in families. Today, 30 Primary Care Givers meet at the Care Point regularly to continue to encourage one another in their roles. The youth have also initiated meeting together to support one another through their challenges. The Care Point in Kambove has become a centre for life in abundance for all ages.

