

## UPDATE FROM

# MAFAMBISA COMMUNITY | SOUTH AFRICA

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



APRIL 2025

Six dedicated local volunteer Care Workers, coordinated by Khethiwe and Dudu, support 70 of 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.



prayer and Primary Caregiver Days. She says God has helped her to forgive.

Life in Mafambisa is not easy and Ishani worries about raising her grandchildren in such a place. The community struggles with high levels of crime and abuse. She asks for prayers for strength. Ishani thanks God for the Community Based Organisation, that her grandchildren can eat, learn, and find friendship. She sees how God is at work in their lives and is grateful.

Ishani is 76 years old and the only carer for her four grandchildren. Sadly, their mother left them in her care and has not returned. Life is difficult for Ishani. She has no formal income and does not receive a government grant because she is from Mozambique and does not have documents. She tries to make money by selling homemade amarula beer when it is in season, and occasionally helps in the fields in exchange for food.

Despite these hardships, Ishani is always grateful. She often expresses her thanks for the support she receives from the local Hands at Work team in Hazyview. Over the years, the Care Workers have helped her with home repairs, ensuring the house is safe for the children, and a toilet was built for the family. The children received school uniforms and blankets, making a difficult winter easier to bear.

Ishani takes good care of her grandchildren. She loves them deeply and does her best to provide for them. But she struggles with her own children, who have abandoned their responsibilities. This has left her feeling angry and alone. The pain of rejection runs deep as the grandchildren have also struggled with anger after being left by their mother. They did not know how to trust or how to feel safe. But, over time, they have changed. The Care Workers at the Care Point have loved them and taught them about Jesus. They now understand that their grandmother loves them, that they are not alone. The Care Point has become a place of joy and belonging.

The children started attending the Care Point in 2020. They were first noticed waiting at the gate, watching other children. Khethiwe, one of the Care Workers, saw them and began visiting their home. She saw their need and brought them to the Care Point. Since then, Khethiwe has walked closely with them. They trust her and share their struggles with her. She has also supported Ishani, praying with her and encouraging her. Ishani has grown in faith. She attends community

