

Report on

Msengeni B Community, Swaziland



Hands at Work
AFRICA

October 2018

HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA *in partnership with*
Kirchenkreis Winsen



MSENGENI B COMMUNITY
BASED ORGANISATION

Snapshot OF THE COMMUNITY

Children currently supported: **50**

Number of Care Workers: **4**

Coordinator Name: **Stembile**

Distance from Service Center: **10km**

Basic services started in: **2017**

Hands at Work in Africa has always focused on keeping Africa's most vulnerable children alive and reducing their extreme vulnerability by providing access to food, basic health care and education through the local African church. Through Christian volunteers, children and those who support them are being cared for holistically in the poorest communities. As these children are healed from past trauma, they become a catalyst for transformation, spurring their communities towards growth and maturity.

“Four united and faithful Care Workers care for 50 of the most vulnerable children like Pinky*, Tema* and Royce* (pictured right) in the community of Msengeni B. The rocky and rough landscape in the community is reflective of the many challenges and struggles that the most vulnerable face. Abuse of alcohol, lack of access to basic services, and children constantly being left in the care of their ageing grandparents are just a



“Learn to do good. Seek justice Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.”

– Isaiah 1:17 (NLT)

few obstacles faced. Thankfully, Care Workers of Msengeni B Community Based Organisation (CBO) are dedicated to understanding the unique challenges each one of the children that they care for are facing.

Through both Holy Home Visits and time spent at the Care Point, Care Workers are able to assess the physical and emotional needs of the children. In 2018, mattresses and blankets were purchased and a number of small home repairs completed – grass roofing, windows repairs, door installations and new locks - to increase the safety and well-being of children.

The Msengeni B Care Point is located on a sloped and rocky terrain, making it difficult for the children to run and play games, especially with a ball. The Care Workers and Hands at Work are currently having discussions about making a play structure for the children. A new shade structure was put up in July to give the children a sheltered place to eat their meal each day and a place for Care Workers to find shade from the sun as they meet.

Hands at Work is continuing to build a presence in Swaziland to better support the communities that they are serving in, like Msengeni B, by establishing a local office close to many of the communities. This will also provide safe accommodation for teams and visitors.

Pinky (11), Tema (11) and Royce (4) were left in the care of their mother when their father left to marry another woman. When she is not in school, Tema finds jobs in the community because the small grant that her grandparents receive is not enough to support the whole family. Care Workers encourage Tema to spend time at the Care Point to interact with the other children, taking time away from the heavy burden she carries for her family. The Care Point is a place of safety and belonging for Tema and her siblings.

