



## Update: Empowering Mothers of Disabled Children Zimbabwe - 101828

### Impact Report June 2021

Mothers and carers of children with disabilities in Zimbabwe are often marginalised and excluded from society. Through Bible Society's 2020 World Day of Prayer Project, these carers will be empowered as they are educated, supported and equipped to better care for their families.

Sadly, COVID-19 severely impacted this project's implementation in 2020, with no project activities possible for the first six months of the year. However, three coordinators were engaged to assist with the project – a councillor, a pastor, and a mother with a disabled child herself. Two needs assessments were held, which introduced a platform for mothers to talk openly on various issues in their lives, covering spirituality, social aspects as well as economic issues. Resources were also developed for the project, ready for distribution, including 1,500 specially designed Bible jackets and 7,000 bookmarks with a list of Bible verses relevant to the situation of carers.

A subsequent wave of COVID infections led to a lockdown from January to the beginning of March this year, leading to project activities being suspended again.

In response to the COVID crisis, especially for these families, Bible Society created a supplementary relief project (102299) which focused on the plans of the World Day of Prayer ladies. They were able to create 80 hampers with Bibles, food and hygiene items. These were distributed to families of children with disabilities between June and October 2020, bringing some relief as the original project activities were not able to start. These families were followed up in November 2020, with the report that most were able to have three meals a day and remain in their homes. Also, the 80 mothers who received Bibles – many had torn Bibles with pages missing – were encouraged in their faith, expressing their happiness to receive a Bible, their only source of comfort.