

## **SHINGIRIRAI TRUST 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

Community Development and Empowerment, Harare Eastern District

Our sincere gratitude to you all, our kind partners, for your continued support towards the development and empowerment of our community. We thank Zim Relief for the continued support of both the ECD and Administration staff, for the life skills development for vulnerable young people, and for educational assistance for our ECD orphans and vulnerable graduates; Firelight Foundation for the support of staff, ECD supplementary feeding scheme, skills development; ACOP for Informal school supplementary feeding scheme, education assistance of the school drop outs, life skills training for young people and support of the staff; Welthungerlife for the support of the Family Relief programme; Zim Arts' support for the administration and the marketing of projects products; Lynde Francis Trust which supported the education assistance programme and Jacaranda Trust for support with salaries for the administration and supporting the skills development programmes. Our sincere gratitude also goes Fiona Bayet and Jane Fahy for supporting the education assistance and family relief programmes; Nalu Patel, Miracle Missions and Hellenic Ladies Association of Zimbabwe for the support of supplementary feeding and Liz Watkins for donating the many items which have gone to improve our centres and many people's homes. A special thanks to the Australian Embassy special fund for providing the colorful new furniture for the pre-school programme. Many thanks also goes to the numerous individual and group supporters for their generosity both financially and in kind towards our Capacity Development programme, the Income Generating project and administration and to all those who supported us in one way or the other not mentioned. You are all important to us.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The ECD programme saw 455 children aged 3-6 years passing through its seven centers and benefiting from the supplementary feeding scheme that provides two meals per day enhancing the children's physical development. Well-structured educational activities promoted the intellectual, creative, social and moral development of the children at the same time as promoting school readiness.



194 children participated in the psychosocial support camp, fun tours and counseling activities. Emotional development was noted through these activities as the children were exposed to more chance of playing, being able to express feelings and building resilience as well as hope for a better future and a sense of belonging. Physical health checks were conducted on a monthly basis with the help of City Health which helped in combating the spread of fungal diseases with children receiving free medication. Progress assessment of the individual child was carried out each school term to assess the children's developmental processes. 89% was marked as the pass rate.



Caregivers meetings revealed how they are delighted with the transformation they note in their children when enrolled in this programme, especially with regard to improved self-awareness, ability to express emotions, ability to think and act independently. There are consistent improvements in their ability to interact and socialize with other children without discrimination and stigma as well as developing good health practices. They appreciate how the children recognize their roles and responsibilities as children. Sadly from time to time we lose some of our most vulnerable children due to relocation when they are transferred from one caregiver to another.

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This has two main areas– a) the development of young people aged 8 to 20 and b) the caregivers and community at large.

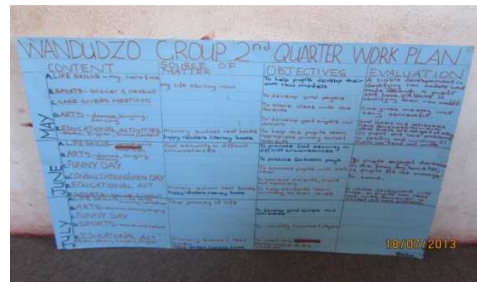
### Youth Programme

The young people’s programme known as **Vandudzo** in Shona (empowerment through knowledge) reached 42 young people in 2013 – 23 boys and 21 girls.

It has four foci of attention:

1. A life skills training forum to assist the young people in observing gender equality plus developing a sense of self-worth and becoming role models among other traumatized young people.
2. The second is our informal education activity, which has improved from just giving the children basic literacy and numeracy skills to moving towards providing a well-organized primary school educational approach. The purchase of school text books and furniture improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the educational activity.

Our pupils now have the opportunity to showcase their academic abilities and we worked tirelessly towards two of our grade seven pupils to have the opportunity to sit for the Ministry of Education national examinations at the end of the year but we were frustrated because they could not get birth certificates.



Precious Kuyayama, the mother of Evidence Chasemwa, whom we expected to sit for the examinations pays a special tribute to the educational programme. She says: *“I never knew my son was so intelligent. I had lost hope for his education as I could not afford the educational costs. Now my son can read and write. I am praying that the Ministry will offer him the opportunity to sit for the exams so that he can go further with his studies. If I had the capacity I would request the Ministry to offer Shingirirai Trust an exam center registration so that the children can sit for the exams”*

3. The third focus is on sporting activities-in the first term we participated in a community school athletic competition and came first out of the three competitors.



4. Supplementary feeding was introduced as the fourth focus of the activity. This was due to the testimonies from the beneficiaries of receiving one meal and none from their caregivers. It promoted better attendance and participation in activities.

#### **Adult programme aimed at caregivers and the community**

1. Good Parenting Skills workshops were offered to eighty nine caregivers aged 17 to 66 years through seven peer training sessions. The participants had opportunities to learn about the importance of planning for marriage and having children, what to give the children and what to expect from the children. Fifty three community members comprising of two men and fifty one women aged between 17 and 59 years from eight churches and two other community organizations were enhanced basic orphan and vulnerable children care skills training to improve the care of orphaned and vulnerable children throughout the community. The participants also enhanced their understanding of the skills and practices of community volunteering to help them to deal effectively with orphaned and vulnerable children in the wider community.



2. Having trained the community in volunteering skills we realized the need to train them in **Child Counseling** as they would be working with children who have experienced grief and loss. 19 women- 16 volunteers and 3 assistant teachers were involved in this training. The workshop assisted the participants to identify their connection with



children from a positive angle.

They learnt how to communicate with children and assist them in building resilience and working towards a better future.

### **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

We take note of staff development needs on a regular basis:

- a) 6 teachers attended a two week paraprofessional training conducted by the Children Resource Institute to enhance their skills in the ECD curriculum. This has totally improved our classroom set-ups so that they are more appropriate for child development.
- b) 7 teachers and 2 administration members started computer literacy training. This is to facilitate the eventual introduction of technological skills training in our ECD programme.
- c) 1 teacher attended a workshop by Island Hospice on raising awareness on increased access to care, support and treatment of chronically and terminal ill patients.
- d) 1 teacher also attended a *Chance to Play* regional workshop that aimed at bringing playing for children as a fundamental aspect of proper development of children.
- e) A Health and Healing workshop was held in April for staff and volunteers to empower them with practical skills so that they can live healthily in the face of suffering and enable them to deal proactively with difficult situations in their families and in the community they serve.



- f) 6 Shingirirai Trust women attended Women in Law Southern Africa workshop that aimed at raising awareness in will writing, inheritance issues and documentation.
- g) The Director continues to undergo through executive leadership and relationship training to enhance her leadership skills and interpersonal skills.
- h) The Finance Officer attended a training course with Virl Finance employees in administration and loan recovery.

### **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME**

Two workshops were run in conjunction with Sean Mullens of ONE Church to remind those participants in the Small Business Revolving fund of their debts, taking them through the pros and cons of mistrust using a biblical approach. The workshops left the beneficiaries with insight as to the negative and positive results of not paying back loans vs. honoring the loans.

### **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

37 children are benefiting from this programme. The programme pays for educational costs, stationery and uniforms, depending on the need of each individual child. The number enrolled in this programme has dropped slightly in the first six months of this year due to increase of levies and other services rendered by the school and to the forced relocation of the most vulnerable children due to difficult family circumstances.

### **THE FAMILY RELIEF PROGRAMME**

The programme helped families and individuals living in difficult circumstances such as displacements, domestic violence, natural disasters etc. The beneficiaries received bedding, cooking utensils, basic food hampers, medication fees, one-roomed house construction, and transport for relocation.

### **THE HARARE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**

Participating in public forums is becoming one of our major strengths. This year our Waste Management Group participated in the Trash Queens competition at HIA and scooped the first prize.

### **INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

The Director this year played an international consultancy role by participating in the development of *The Good Practices Guide* in facilitation for the NGO, Strategies for Hope UK.

Networking at all forums of socio-economic status and the realization of all human rights forums is also our priority as it enhances our capacity, skills and information in the implementing our programmes.

**ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY:** two approaches have been put in place

- a) Commercialising part of the ECD programme: 49% of our ECD children pay a small fee towards the developmental services to cater for the unfunded expense activities.
- b) A mushroom project has been set up in one of our staff rented premises. The project proceeds will reimburse borrowed funds and support unfunded activities.

2014 Plan: Kick off replicating the S.T model to other communities

We highly appreciate the support for Shingirirai Trust, its dedicated volunteers, staff and board members. Without this support we would lose the expertise needed for the survival of this community-based organization.

We would like to inform our partners, networks, stakeholders and all our friends that we now have two logos. We hope you will like the new logo. We now have an active Facebook page and we hope you will visit us and follow our development. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shingirirai-Trust/426100987417213>

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