



SHINGIRIRAI TRUST

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Chairperson and Director's Remarks

This has been a landmark year for Shingirirai Trust. Thanks to the generosity of ZimRelief we have been able to move into our own premises, which we soon filled with activity. The inauguration of the House and the year end graduation ceremonies gave us a wonderful opportunity to host donors and community members as well as our extended family of staff, volunteers, caregivers, children and their siblings. The on-going challenges have been met with new or evolved projects that we hope to extend in 2011. However, we continue to work on a very limited budget despite reaching out more to local supporters. As in so many businesses in Zimbabwe we rely on the dedication of our often underpaid staff and growing band of volunteers to keep offering what we believe is a valuable resource to the community. We aim in 2011 to avoid reducing salaries to meet other more immediate crises

My congratulations for our achievements this year have to go to our dedicated Director, Cecilia Masekereya, but we are also aware that we can only do our work thanks to so many generous supporters, from our donors to the diverse people who give to us in kind and through their work and prayer. I should also like to thank the Board for their enthusiastic support and say how exciting and inspiring it is to work with this committed group of women.

Joy Peacocke
Board of Trustees Chairperson

The year under review witnessed community needs deepening due to the continued dollarization of the

The Trust

Shingiririrai Trust is a community based organisation working to create an exceptional model of community development that supports the most vulnerable groups. It was established as the first women organisation in Mabvuku and has grown to Tafara and Caledonia communities in the eastern district of Harare. It was founded in 2003 and registered as a Trust in 2006. The organisation was formed to mitigate

economy and increase in unemployment which made Shingirirai grow in its programming. The process was challenging because there were new staff members working on new activities.

The Early Childhood Development was outstanding as it ensured that the needs of the 3 to 6 year were dealt with through its structured educational, nutritional and psychosocial support. The program introduced the production of an end of year report for each child.

The Skills Development Program worked consciously in the area of human rights for women and young people by focusing on social and economic skills. It established a weekly program for young people aged 10-20 years which resulted in the establishment of an income generating project.

Peer education training on psychosocial support was deepened to caregivers to enable the community to develop more conscious and effective support to the children. The activity witnessed the community acknowledging the effects of loss and grief in children as well as growing in themselves.

Economic empowerment was initiated through a small business revolving fund to enable the community with small business entrepreneurship. This is a new and exciting program for us.

We have learned that you can never run away from challenges. We managed to strive due to the devotion of all our stakeholders. I thank all those who made it possible for us to succeed.

Cecilia P. Masekereya

Director

the impact of HIV/AIDS and poverty at community level.



Creativity, concentration, fine and gross motor skills during art and craft play

This program targets 3-6 year old orphaned and vulnerable children. It offers structured educational and psychosocial support in a child- centered program that gives the children a head start in life and helps them to access primary schooling. It focuses on the total development of the child encompassing physical, social, cognitive, health, emotional and moral development. The year 2010 witnessed an intake of three hundred and forty-five children whereby 80% managed to complete the year and 20% dropped out for several reasons e.g. relocation or ill health. The child- centred approach uses a blend of the Ministry of Education /UNICEF designed syllabus in conjunction with the Learning through Play Manual and other child developmental tool kits. It focuses on curriculum areas which include music, movement and dance, language and book play, mathematical play, manipulative and block play, outdoor play, art and craft, science and discovery and dramatic play

The children acquire good communication skills, fine and gross motor skills, eye –hand coordination and safe social skills to interact meaningfully with the community. They develop creativity, innovative skills, good health habits, and safe behaviour. They also learn to appreciate their own culture as well as other cultures and caring for the environment. They display enquiring minds and ability to solve problems, logic and rational decision making. Last but not least they learn their rights and responsibilities in the community as children and leaders of tomorrow.



a) Psychosocial Support

Orphaned and vulnerable children normally build negative attitudes towards themselves and others due to loss of parents or caregiver. Realizing this fact Shingirirai Trust offers psychosocial support focusing on feelings and emotions of the young children through several approaches including basic counselling, using Reaching Inner Child tools and Psychosocial Support Camps.

Outcomes: Basic Counselling and Reaching Inner Child techniques help children to break negative attitudes and build resilience and enhance hope for the future. Psychosocial Support Camps break the patterns of isolation and loneliness and help build a sense of belonging and self confidence. One hundred and seventy-two children participated in these activities in 2010.



Healing and empowerment exercise



Socialising and interacting at a psychosocial support camp activity

b) Progress Assessment

Progress Assessments were carried out on children in consultation with the caregivers on a quarterly basis evaluating the psychosocial support effects using a profiling tool focusing on communication skills, interpersonal relationships, self confidence and self esteem. The evaluation system works on a scale of 1-5 which observed that 75% of the children achieved an average score of four out of five in the three above mentioned behaviour patterns. The educational developments assessment focused on the 8 curriculum areas. Here the 80% of the children who completed the program successfully managed to learn appropriate concepts, skills, attitudes and values. 20% of the total had to drop out due to illness and relocation out of the community.

An end of year report was produced for each child which helped them high preferences in enrolment into primary school education.

c) Supplementary Feeding

Due to the economic hardships, the communities continue to face food insecurity. Most of the children who were enrolled in the program were undernourished and often affected by diseases that usually negatively affect the children's participation in the beginning of the year so the feeding program is noted as an important activity as it raises the children's attendance and participation as well as improving the community nutrition status. The feeding scheme provides two meals per day to the children in the program and was extended to some families who received basic food assistance on a quarterly basis.



Caregivers receiving food assistance to take home



Children receiving their morning porridge

d) Material support to children

One hundred children received blankets and one hundred and thirty-three received tracksuits and tennis shoes from Mercy Corps funding. Three hundred and eighty-six children received bed kits, clothing and stationery from SCAW with the assistance from Rotary Club Harare. The children recognized how other communities felt for them and appreciated the care they received.

e) Outreach

The program networked with Moyo Munyoro a group of disabled children to raise awareness on stigma and discrimination of the handicapped in the community which resulted in the enrolment of three handicapped children -

one in a wheel chair and all of them needed assistance with feeding. The handicapped children built a sense of



belonging and social skills to interact with other children.

Physical development exercises with the disabled

e) Donations

The centres received one hundred and ninety chairs from Mercy Corps and eighty-nine from Harare Rotary Club which saw an improvement in health with children no longer sitting on the floor in our centers. We also received five gas stoves which greatly improved the cooking facilities.

f) Community Involvement

Quarterly meetings were held with caregivers to raise awareness of the program. This resulted in getting feedback on how the community felt about the program and their involvement in decision making as they explored challenges and identified solutions. The community has now started contributing to some of the running costs of the program.

g) Volunteer Support Group

There are now twenty volunteers from the community giving great support to the ECD program. Volunteers were trained in several workshops in early childhood education. The volunteers also gathered information on the status of orphans during home visits to assess family situations. The meetings resulted in volunteers coming up with ideas for holiday activities which we hope to implement as soon as we have funding. They also initiated a peanut butter making project which benefitted the early childhood development program and some members receiving a little income.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Shingirirai Trust worked consciously in 2010 in the area of human rights for women and young people (especially young girls aged 10-15 years) by focusing on socio and economic skills training. This program has two target groups- vulnerable youth and caregivers.

1. Youth Program

Shingirirai recognises how orphaned and vulnerable youth face a miserable future due to their inability to access schooling. In the past year Shingirirai initiated a weekly program in life and vocational skills, performing arts and sports trainings for young people aged 10-20 years with the main focus on vulnerable girls. A total number of ninety-seven vulnerable youth were reached and trained in life skills and twenty-six out of the ninety-seven also received vocational skills training.



Youth under Tree of Life Training connecting with nature and expressing feelings through drawing

a) Life Skills Training

Life skills training was carried out through workshops, role play and group discussions focusing on issues to do with human behaviour, beliefs, children's rights, HIV/AIDS, socialisation, rights and responsibilities, healing and empowerment, and skills to interact effectively with the society. Several training kits were used which included Auntie Stella Tool Kit, What Youth Need To Succeed (designed and produced by Shingirirai), Young People We Care, Stepping Stones, A Tree of Life and Journey of Life.

Through this the youth acquired life management skills, explored positive decision making processes, good and bad behaviour. They also recognized their roles and responsibilities in families and community, observed a process of reclaiming power, their own bodies, their connections with nature and themselves and connecting back with the community enhancing courage and hope for the future.

b) Vocational Skills Training

Vocational skills' training was taken on board as a paramount aspect of development as it equipped the youth with several skills of self economic reliance. Five courses were conducted in bicycle repair, fabric printing, jewellery production, bottle top weaving and candle making. Three income generating projects (IGP) were established - bottle top weaving project, jewellery production project and candle making project. Bottle top and jewellery samples were



sent internationally to identify markets whilst some are marketed locally.

Youth undergoing candle making training

Sakina's Story: "I did not know anything when I joined the program. The loss of my father in 2005, when I was in grade six, affected me severely and I had lost hope for a better future. The Shingirirai program healed me from the trauma I was experiencing. I was also empowered in socializing skills and now I have made new friends. I was very vulnerable at my home but from the day I took my \$10 that I had received from our sales, I am being recognized and I feel belonging and self worth. I shall work day and night so that I will produce more and make more money. I will call upon all those

who are failing to access education to join us we will live even much better life than those in school as we are gaining



life management skills and self reliance skills. I am looking forward to run my own company.”

Youth performing at the official opening of the office

c) Performing Arts

The group was trained in theatre production and came up with four plays on child abuse, HIV/AIDS, rape and hygiene which they intend to stage next year as strategies of raising awareness in the community on the above mentioned issues. They performed at the official opening of the new offices of Shingirirai in September to a wide range of local and international invited guests. They have also introduced dance activities which include bells and music dances and are hoping to provide entertainment on gatherings in the future as a source of income.

d) Psychosocial Support Camps

The Skills Development program offered psychosocial support to the youths to give them a sense of hope for the future by organizing camping and tours. They toured the Harare International Festival for Arts (HIFA). They held one local and two external camps under the theme of Psychosocial Well-Being, where they explored and developed caring and nurturing relationships that provide unconditional love and acceptance.

2. Caregivers Program

Shingirirai also gave psychosocial support and counselling training to caregivers and volunteers to empower them effectively support the children. This program was underfunded in 2010 and so our reach was not as much as targeted in the work plan. Fortunately we managed to reach one hundred and fifty caregivers.

a) Psychosocial Support Training

Psychosocial support training were conducted to enable caregivers and volunteers to discover and become fully aware of themselves in relation to their roles in the psychosocial care of children. They learned the importance in ensuring children’s psychosocial well being and became aware of the effects of not meeting the psychosocial support needs of the children.

Peer psychosocial support training was given to caregivers to assist them in better understanding of psychosocial support and help the community in realising the effects of HIV/AIDS and help coping with the effects of loss and grief.



Volunteers undergoing counselling training

b) Counselling Skills Training

Counselling Skills training was conducted to equip volunteers with some basic counselling skills. They learned practical models of counselling - making them aware of the dangers and problems to avoid and gaining ability in helping people in crisis situations.

c) Legal Education/Empowerment

A legal education workshop was conducted in conjunction with Harare Legal Resources Association for the caregivers on marriage and the law, inheritance/wills, domestic violence, abuse, maintenance and mostly birth registration. The participants acknowledged the right to identity and speaking out when abused and how the law protects them.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This program aims to empower the staff of the organization with knowledge and skills so that they can become leaders in the community. Its target group now numbers over forty people and has three approaches - in-house training using materials developed within the organization, training materials from other organizations locally or regionally or specialized training outside the organization. This program is now in its fourth year.

a) Computer literacy

Three staff members have had computer literacy training to help them use computers and produce reports.

b) Presentation Skills Training

A Presentation Skill course was conducted for fourteen members to equip them with effective communication skills, defining the differences between internal and external communication and the use of body language when presenting.

c) In-service Training

Three intensive workshops were conducted for the Early Childhood Development staff and two of our network partners in early childhood education to equip them with knowledge on data capturing, progress assessments, defining objective, activities and their possible outcomes and raising awareness on rules and regulations of the organisation.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

This program was started in 2010 and hopes to grow into one of our biggest in the next two years as we work towards greater self sufficiency and sustainability.

a) Small Business Revolving Fund

A small business micro loans revolving fund was established to enable the staff with small business entrepreneurship to boost their income. They embarked into buying and selling of basic commodities and clothing, poultry, and constructing rooms to let out. Twenty three staff members have benefitted with a success rate of 90% and the funding will now cascade to the volunteers.

b) Income Generating Projects

The fabric printing project improved in its production of tablecloths, runners, mazambias (sarongs) bags, cushions, scarves and introduced kaftans as a new product. They sent their products to Germany, Spain and Canada and some were marketed locally. The group participated in local craft fairs like HIFA, Ballantyne Park, St Johns and St George's.

c) Jewellery Production

The youth group set up a jewellery project that saw production of necklaces, bracelets and earrings made from recycled paper. The products have been sent to Germany and Spain to establish markets and some markets have been



identified locally. However the downturn has affected local and international sales in all projects.

One of the youth group members showing off the necklace and bracelet she produced.

ADMINISTRATION

A new vibrant administration team was formed in 2010 with the addition of Felistas Tizola- skills development program manager, Sekai Masawi, ECD program manager and Rumbidzai Maputi in finance. The administration convened regular meetings to gather reports from programs, evaluating work plans, exploring successes and challenges and identifying solutions, mind mapping to help them manage their workload and sharing of information and mentorship of new officers.

2010 also saw Shingirirai achieving one of its major priorities- a new Board of Trustees, which now consists of eight members. The board met to explore means of fundraising, initiating new activities, receiving reports from the director and taking up their roles and responsibilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Shingirirai Trust managed to officially open its headquarters in Tafara which inviting one hundred and thirty-five guests from networks, funding partners, government departments and the community. 2010 also witnessed the construction of a well to overcome the water shortages.

PARTNERSHIPS

Shingirirai focused its efforts on developing partnerships and networks with organizations working in the field of OVC in 2010. It is conscious that it needs to do the same with regard to organizations working in women and girls issues in 2011. We learnt that networking is a paramount aspect of programming as it brings a lot of information, expertise and sharing of resources. By including other organizations in our training we have also learnt about the quality of our peer education training- bringing about more motivation and participants understanding more easily about different issues..

Child Protection Society- A meeting with Child Protection Society was held to establish a network between the two organizations on the Early Childhood Development program and agreed to organize exchange visits of operating sites to share information and expertise

Jesuit Relief – A partnership meeting was held with the Jesuits Relief Services coordinator to strengthen the relationship and a new proposal for food assistance was drawn with the result that the vital food assistance for the ECD program continued bi-monthly.

UNICEF POS - Attended the OVC program of support consortium meetings reviewing the planned activities by member organisations, sharing feedbacks on site visits by prime grantee and funding partners, exploring successes and challenges and identifying solutions. Finance meetings looked into budget formulations, reporting requirements and exploring approved budgets versus budgets granted.

District Child Protection Committee- Child protection committee meetings were attended locally to share information on children's issues, organising commemorations of children's events and sharing information and expertise. A Child protection fundraising committee was formed to fundraise for rapid responses.

Networks

- Childhood HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe): expertise in play therapy for traumatized and withdrawn children (assisted children living positively with medication.
- Harvest Trust: referral for school fees assistance and medication assistance
- Family Support Trust: specialized in sexual abuse cases and raising awareness on sexual abuse and treatment of victims of sexual abuse
- Childline: specialized in all forms of child abuse and reunification of children with their families
- Moyo Munyoro Group: group of mothers of the disabled children networking with the ECD program
- Eastern District Child Protection Committee: coordination of organization on the fight against HIV/AIDS and children's rights.
- Vision and Hope: a youth organization expertise in HIV/AIDS issues and skills development of the youth.

CHALLENGES in 2010

- Underfunding affected the implementation of many of our activities- in particular it affected plans for caregiver training and activities, the holding of the strategic planning workshop and the expansion of the ECD program.
- The late disbursement of funds by funding partners caused great difficulties in implementing of activities and meeting reporting deadlines.
- The ECD rental costs rose sharply and absorbed some activity funding.
- The continuous power cuts affected our efficiency and increased the expenditure on utilities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Shingirirai would first and for most like to thank every individual and all of the organisations who offered their support which really made it possible for us to implement our programs. You are our inspiration. In particular we express our

gratitude to the following: **Zim Relief**, Firelight Foundation, House of Stone, UNICEF (POS), Mercy Corps, Rotary Club Harare, Jesuits Relief Services, St Johns College, and all our valued private donors in Africa, Europe, US and New Zealand

Many thanks go to the Board of Trustees members for the great work they have done in this challenging year where the organisation was underfunded. Their support and advisory role was one of the utmost importance in the running of the organisation.

We would also express our gratitude to the staff and volunteers for their commitment and dedication. It would not have been possible without the valued enthusiasm they have for the development of their community. We also do not forget our networks and partners for the sharing of information and expertise.

We thank you all, for you bring courage and hope for the future of our programs.

Cecilia Masekereya, Director

January 2011