



“The future of Binga district rests with the children



However, the beauty of its presentation was that it was done in a Planning meeting that involved all members of the consortium and this helped me in great detail to appreciate all the components of the programme.

It is a demanding yet community enriching programme. By design it accepts that development is about pooling together competences and comparative advantages rather than competition hence the able and apt presence of consortium members including Silveira House, Open Schools World Wide, and the Sports and Recreation Commission. Interestingly, this consortium addresses the multi-faceted challenges in education, health and sports that face marginalized communities in Binga in a holistic manner. To me working in this programme has presented a new challenge one worthy committing to because it is enriching both to myself and the communities. Christian Aid and Comic Relief have designed a programme every development worker would be pleased to work in because its learning and feedback loop is a journey worth experiencing.



Director's welcome

We are very happy to introduce you to the first bi-monthly newsletter of April 2017 and to represent the breath of work we are involved in our mission to addressing issues surrounding limited access to quality education, essential social services and development opportunities which limits young people's rights and capacity to demand accountability and services delivery. The last two months have been more than busy, for example central to the projects transition was the hand-over from Christian Care to Ntengwe for Community Development. Despite the concerns of the delay of the hand-over process the implementation process covered much ground and the project grew from strength to strength. This started with planning meetings between Ntengwe and Christian Aid, Open Schools World Wide Volunteers and Sport and Recreation Commission. Planning meetings were held between Ntengwe and Christian Aid, followed by both the district and community project hand over meetings, trailed by a series of planning meetings with line ministries. The following two months saw the projects officers operations organize a series of block grant beneficiary selection meetings with school SDCs and CPCs with subsequent evaluation and analysis of the submissions from the 24 schools, conducted monitoring visits with schools on children with special needs and on sexual reproductive health and rights, and a series of workshops.

The bi-monthly also saw conflicts of heavy down pours which affected the participation of communities. Bridges were taken away by flooded rivers making it difficult for project beneficiaries to cross over to the project sites or alternatively the implementing organisation failed to reach out to the project beneficiaries. They were high absenteeism in schools because children could not cross flooded rivers while those in annex schools had their shelters destroyed making teaching and learning impossible. Telephone communication also came to a complete cessation owing to the ever cloudy skies which meant that most of the people in rural areas could not have their phones charged for easy communication. However, the positive aspect to this is the potential bumper harvest that these same communities will hopefully realise during this year's cropping season, a situation which would improve food security in the communities hence reduced vulnerability and maximum support to the developmental work.

Staff Interaction



Meet Innocent Isaac as he talks about his journey so far working with the ILESEA program.

The Integrated Learning, Skills and Entrepreneurship Advancement Initiative (ILESEA) was presented to me as a new programme altogether that I had not conversed with before.

ILESEA Up-date

The ILESEA project continues to ride on the successes realised in the previous two years with a strong and cordial relationships with the partner technical organisations such as Sport and Recreation Commission, Open Schools Worldwide and Silveira House. The project also continues to observe the relevance of line ministries and the local leadership as a major pillar to its success given that it is the government effort that the project aims at complementing.



“Hand-over was one of its kind, most organisations announce their presence when they come to the ward but they don't do same when they leave”.

Hand-over and take-over meetings were held at both district and community level. The district hand-over meeting aimed at informing the district stakeholders on the change in programme implementation from Christian Care to Ntengwe for Community Development. All the ILESEA technical partners and the members of the rural district development committee were part of the hand-over and take over ceremony. Similar meetings were also held at community level were traditional leadership, project volunteers, members of the Child protection committees and school authorities were present. The Muchesu ward councillor described as one of its kind in his closing remarks at a meeting held in his ward. *“This is one of its kind...most organisations do announce their presence when they come in to the wards but they don't do the same when they leave the wards, a situation which had actually strained the relationship between the leadership and the community especially when they failed to explain on the where about of an organisation that would have left the ward with project phase out meetings.....”*

Activities

Block grant



Binga BDC social services department official Mr Sam Mvinda, standing wrapping up the block grant presentation made by Ntengwe officer at Simbala Primary school.

Block grant beneficiary selection meeting with SDCs and CPCs were conducted for the purpose of selecting children to benefit from the fund during the 2017 school calendar. The meetings were taken to the community in order to select needy children with the school. Ntengwe, together with other district stakeholders such as the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare visited 24 schools. The meetings reached a total of 201(111 Females and 90 Males). The meetings spelt out the requirements and the expectations from the schools especially on the selection of beneficiaries. Schools were also asked to provide minutes of the meetings held for the purpose of selecting block grant beneficiaries.

Community leaders training on inclusive education, disability and gender mainstreaming



Mudimba Dickson Facilitating on inclusive education.

Ntengwe conducted a two day training workshop with local leaders, extension workers and ward councillors with an aim of concertizing them on inclusive education and gender. It was interesting to note that among the invited participants most of them had reserved feelings towards children living with disability which included stigma and discrimination. This observation buttressed the importance of the training which was also used to re-orient the local leadership so that they would assist advocate for improved care and support among children living with disabilities be at home, in the community or at school. Change, however, is not an isolated process. It occurs within some context. A community is a complex organism, not just wards with people living there. In order to change the organism, it is necessary to consider the effects of a change on all the parts of the organism. Each part is dependent upon the others and all parts react to changes in any other part. Examining these parts and considering their influence on the change process is important for leaders of efforts to advocate for inclusiveness.



Village head said, “It is for us leaders to create these changes, we are able to influence our society”

Finally, most leaders agreed to make inclusiveness and gender work to protect the lives and integrity of women and disabled children. Lack of awareness among leaders and their wrong perceptions of disability can be reversed and inclusive education, disability and gender mainstreaming can be addressed through exclusive programs and policies.

Community visits by Police and Social Welfare to attend to child abuse cases: Applying the Refined Referral pathway for impact in case management

The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) together with the Zimbabwe Republic Police's Victim Friendly Unit undertook case follow ups. Sixteen (16) cases were followed up in Lubanda, Manjolo, Saba and Siachilaba wards.

Using the Referral Pathway to respond to Child Negligence.



The DSW responded to a case of child neglect involving a female child named Mayabwe Muntu aged 10 years from Makunku in Lubanda ward. The child was staying under the care of her biological mother and the father has since remarried another wife. The child was said to have started feeling sick since 9 January 2017

with the mother reluctant to take her to the hospital to seek medical assistance citing reasons that the child was unwell due to witchcraft. The case was referred to the DSW by a Lead Childcare Worker and a home visit was conducted jointly by the DSW and the VFU with the aim of assessing the child's situation and mapping a way forward. A case conference was conducted which resulted in the resolution that the child had to be taken to the hospital as her condition looked critical. The child was then promptly taken to Binga Hospital and an Assisted Medical Treatment Order (AMT0) was granted in ensuring that the child assesses medical assistance. The father has since been traced and efforts are underway in ensuring his involvement in the child's care. The child is currently admitted in the hospital where she is progressively responding to medication.

Using the Referral Pathway to respond to Child Sexual Abuse.

Mayole Munsande 14 year old girl who was doing Form 1 at Siachilaba Secondary School in 2016 was at some point placed at Sun rise children's home for the reason of receiving medical attention and psychosocial support from both the hospital and sunrise children home, after a child protection concern of sexually abuse, the follow up to this case was to ascertain part of the implementation of the case plan agreed upon in December 2016 when the initial child protection concern of child sexual abuse was raised. This time around a home visit was conducted jointly by the DSW and the VFU to ascertain how the child was coping and provide continued support to the child. It was pleasing to find out that the child has well settled in the family after a brief isolation and has since been reintegrated in to formal school and her fees are catered for by the BEAM program.

Responding to Early Child Marriages using the Referral Pathway.

A case of child marriage (Mubone Mandwa 15 F) of Saba ward was followed up during the case follow up period. The child had dropped out of school in 2015 due to early marriage. The case was referred following the child's marriage to a young adult in the same village. Through the case follow up, the child was subsequently removed from where she was married to a place of safety in Binga while undergoing medical examinations and receiving psychosocial support. The perpetrator was also arrested and a docket was opened against him by the VFU for having sexual intercourse with a minor/young person. The docket has so far been prepared for court. The matter could have been finalized in the courts but the child does not have a birth certificate which has thus resulted in delays in the finalization of the case. The girl has so far been reunified with her biological parents.

Voices from the Communities

"Any development work that is not engendered is endangered", said Mr Antony Neube, Officer from Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, drawing wild laughter from participants during a workshop on gender mainstreaming and inclusive education.

The headmaster for Macha Primary School, Mr Cosmas Mumpande said during a grant block meeting, "block grants is the way to go.... you target one, you assist ALL".

"We have been given skills to fish, now it's incumbent upon ourselves to apply the skills lest we continue being fish", said Mr John Sikabota, the councillor for Siachilaba ward, in his closing remarks at a Generate Business Ideas for youths in his ward.

About Ntengwe for Community Development and the ILEASEA Programme

Ntengwe for Community Development (Ntengwe) is a women-led, not for profit organization with over 20 years of experience responding to the needs of vulnerable communities and the environment. Ntengwe is the Tonga name for a black bird whose shrill, urgent call, alerts people of danger. This is why we take action of all program levels in health, livelihoods, rights and the environment to sustain a thriving community and support our ecosystem.

We work to provide a better tomorrow for the current and future generations by advancing the human rights to land, water and food, building the capacity of especially women, youth and children. We are committed to promoting women's economic and social justice, youth and children's rights, through initiatives that enable rural communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods, cope and adapt to the adverse effects of disasters such as climate change induced droughts, and the changing of weather conditions.

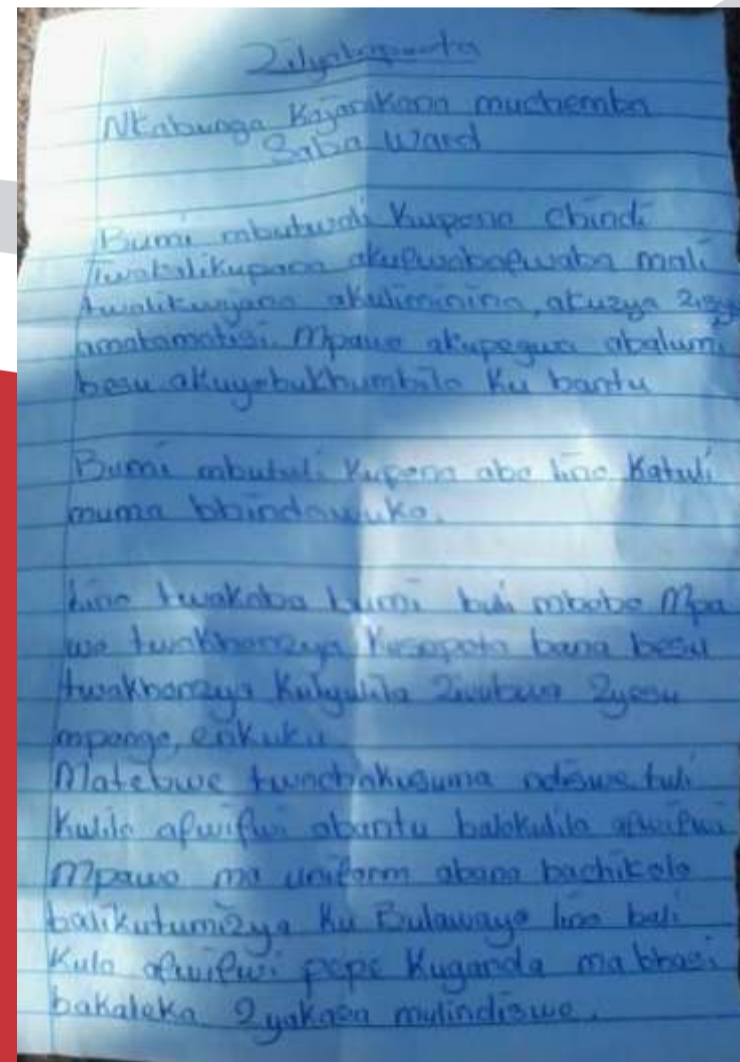
Our approach promotes full participation and involvement of rural communities that we work with in the identification of problems and designing appropriate solutions, building on their local knowledge, practices and strategic partnerships. We are inspired in the belief that it is in the best interest of local communities to learn from others and share their best practices to expand their participation and leadership to work with others to find people driven solutions to social and environmental development challenges.

We work together with our partners and through our work we share our vision to provide a better tomorrow in sustainable development, conservation, governance, biodiversity and social justice as we are committed to achieving quality results, transparency and accountability in delivering our work.

All our projects are identified in a bottom-up approach in the interest of the community and we work with all sectors of society throughout Zimbabwe to promote sustainable development.

The Integrated Learning, Skills and Entrepreneurship Advancement Initiative (ILESEA)

The ILESEA project is a program being implemented by a consortium comprising of Ntengwe For Community Development, Open Schools Worldwide, Silveira House and The Sport and Recreation Commission in the 5 wards of Lubanda, Manjolo, Muchesu, Saba and Siachilaba. It is funded by Comic Relief and managed technically and financially by Christian Aid Zimbabwe. The ILESEA program aims to support inclusive and equitable education, especially for girls and the disabled, preventing abuse of children, and supporting entrepreneurship and access to income among youth and young mothers. The project has directly benefitted 3,859 children and young adults and 13,867 people indirectly. 448 disadvantaged children (224 boys and 224 girls) were enabled to regularly attend school.



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