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Give the Children of Mpongwe a Future (GCMF) – Registered in Zambia as a NGO, number: RNGO 101/0395/14

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	2
2	OVC	3
2.1	Current situation	3
2.2	Challenges	3
2.3	Results and statistics	4
2.4	Evaluation and future plans	4
2.5	Expenses	4
3	IBALA	5
3.1	Vision	5
3.2	Mission	5
3.3	Goals	5
3.4	Current situation	5
3.5	Results	5
3.6	Future plans	6
3.7	OPPAZ registration	6
3.8	Poultry	6
3.9	Highlights in 2015	6
3.10	Project expansion	7
3.11	Challenges for our students	7
3.12	Expenses	7
4	GCMF GUESTHOUSE	8
4.1	Situation	8
4.2	Vision	8
4.3	Mission	8
4.4	Goals	8
4.5	Improvements	9
4.6	Management	9
4.7	Personnel	9
4.8	OVC financing	9
4.9	Results	10
4.10	Future plans	10
4.11	Evaluation	10
5	GKVTC	11
5.1	Situation	11
5.2	Construction activities	12
5.3	Internship students	12
5.4	TEVETA certification workers	13
5.5	GKVTC football team	13
5.6	Publicity in 2015	13
5.7	Expenses	13
Annex 1	GCMF Project from 2001-2015	14
Annex 2	Current Organogram GCMF	15

1 INTRODUCTION

Give the Children of Mpongwe a Future (GCMF) is still growing. In the past our focus has been on the OVC program combined with small scale ad-hoc projects (see annex 1). Nowadays GCMF builds on four big pillars knowingly: The OVC-program; the GCMF guesthouse; the IBALA organic farming program and the construction of George Korsten Vocational Training College (GKVTC).

These four programs demanded for a growing employee base with a professionalised management (see annex 2) and require complicated logistics and lots of funds. As a consequence, GCMF has stopped ad-hoc projects, has closed the *Youths in Progress* program and handed over the community hall to the *Nchembwe Twesheko* women's group. Therefore, this annual report reviews the four above mentioned projects only.

In previous years GCMF has undertaken lots and lots of projects in Mpongwe district. Most of our projects were handed over to the local community and some are running under GCMF management. The board felt it was time to measure the achievements by inviting a student to conduct a research on the impact of 14 years of GCMF projects on Mpongwe local community and her members. Anyone who is interested in the results of Sanne de Leeuw her research is most welcome to collect a copy of her report at the GCMF guesthouse.



guardian nor the school has a valid explanation, then the pupil is dismissed from the program and the sponsorship stops. This way not only the pupil, but also the school and the guardian become responsible for the pupils' school career.

At the end of 2015 we had 40 pupils in the program, divided over 18 schools. Of these children 45% was in basic schools, 40% in high schools and 15% in colleges. Because of the high percentages in high school and college, the average cost per pupil was higher than before.

Unfortunately we did not host an OVC day in 2015 because of other priorities within the program. If future funds allow, we hope to organise an OVC day again in 2016.

The OVC program, for orphans and vulnerable children, is the first and thereby the oldest program of GCMF. Each year GCMF pays for school fees and other requirements for the vulnerable pupils within the district of Mpongwe. These pupils are given a chance to become educated and to get a better future.

2.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Our OVC-project coordinator visits all the schools three times per year. During these visits it is checked whether the pupils are really attending school and also payments are made and requirements are handed out. If a pupil turns out to be absent all three times the project coordinator visits the school and neither the

2.2 CHALLENGES

Our OVC project coordinator was promoted in the midst of 2015 and not much later it became clear that her new job was not leaving enough time needed to manage the OVC project properly. In August the steering committee decided to hand over the tasks to Terry Wamundila.

As a consequence of the handover two specific cases slipped our attention and needed to be resolved by the steering committee. Firstly, a girl who already did grade 7 exams in 2014 wasn't informed about what to do next. She was accepted to grade 8, but not knowing what to do resulted in remaining home in 2015. The steering committee decided that she can return in 2016.

Secondly, a boy was allowed to repeat grade 7 in 2015. After missing the first term because of being in the hospital with malaria, he returned to school and found out that nothing was paid for him and that there were no materials. He thought he was out of the program and decided to work the rest of the year because he is from a poor family. The steering committee decided to give this boy another chance in 2016.

2.3 RESULTS AND STATISTICS

- Two girls who were pregnant in 2014 returned to the program in 2015 in which both did there grade 12 exams.
- At the end of the year we counted four drop outs, two boys and two girls. One of them attended Mpongwe High School and the other three St. Anthony Primary School.
- Out of the 40 children that participated in 2015, 52% is a double orphan, 39% is single orphan and 9% vulnerable.
- GCMF had 21 girls and 19 boys in the program this year.
- There was one pupil who did grade 7 exams, eight pupils did grade 9 exams and nine pupils sat for the grade 12 exams. We are still waiting for the results.
- GCMF sponsored six college students. Four of them finished in 2015 hopefully with good results.
- In previous years the OVC program completely depended on funds from the Netherlands and Belgium. In 2015 however, the GCMF guesthouse used part of its profits to pay for one of the college students.

2.4 EVALUATION AND FUTURE PLANS

In 2016 there will be a smaller amount of children in the program than we had last year. We will have a minimum of 20 students (18 students in grade 1 up to 12 and two college students). Since we are still waiting for the results of nine other pupils, we do not know the exact amount of pupils yet. For now we can say that, depending on the results of these nine pupils, the OVC program will have between 20 and 29 pupils in 2016.

In accordance with the mission statement of the guesthouse it became clear that the guesthouse has reached a point whereby it proved to be capable of sponsoring the entire OVC program in 2016.

In 2016, interviews will be conducted with all our pupils to understand the child and his/her environment better. New forms have already been prepared. Each term there will be a conversation with the pupil where they will be asked about challenges and negative and positive things in school and their environment.

Even though in the past it was resolved that a minimum of five of our students should have the possibility to attend college, we received barely any new applications. As a consequence, the number of college students will drop from six to two in 2016.

2.5 EXPENSES

During the year the amount of money spent on the OVC project was ZMK 70.924 for school fees, requirements, management, overhead, transport.



The IBALA project in its inception aimed at empowering farming groups with farming inputs in order to improve their livelihood. Later the approach changed from group to individual and focused more on organic farming, so that the program can be more effective and this increases the chances of achieving the developmental goal. In September 2013 the project commenced with twenty small scale farmers at *Tubombeshe* skills training centre in Ibenga.

3.1 VISION

To give the children of Mpongwe a future by creating a healthy and sustainable environment through practical organic farming trainings.

3.2 MISSION

The program's main mission is to develop, empower and train already existing small scale farmers in rural communities to farm sustainably, hence to increase food security at household level.

3.3 GOALS

- To enhance rural agriculture through economical land use management.
- To educate the farming community to practice sustainable ways of farming.
- To increase food security at household level, hence reducing poverty and malnutrition.
- To increase the economic well-being of small scale farmers and entrepreneurship competences.
- To encourage reforestation.

3.4 CURRENT SITUATION

IBALA has 42 small farmers who are currently taking the training in Ibenga and Mpongwe. Both training centres have 2 limas of demo plot each. Mpongwe has 15 farmers who are taking the course due to five drop outs whilst Ibenga has 27 students.

3.5 RESULTS

The results in the project have been remarkable since the onset of the project. Though it takes a few years to record good results in organic farming, we have been able to achieve some positive results. Firstly there is increase of food security at household level for the farmers who are taking the course. The use of compost manure is practiced by many farmers. The income of

farmers is slowly increasing, especially those who are following the principles faithfully.

3.6 FUTURE PLANS

After the one week entrepreneurship workshop from a Dutch team representing the Level Foundation, it was discussed that we form a co-operative together with the students we are training. The goal of the cooperative is to operate as a business unit within the IBALA project. The idea is that when farmers harvest their crops, they should sell to IBALA; thereafter IBALA should become a brand in organic products and therefore add value.

For example, out of maize we could make organic mealie meal, out of groundnuts we could make organic peanut butter and out of soybeans we make organic milk, soya sauce and stock feed. This means that we need to procure all the equipment necessary for food processing. In addition we need to do some branding to our products. We are working on the idea and it requires a lot of consultation.

According to our observation we are training people in organic farming but we have not created the organic market yet. Though we cannot begin with all the ideas at once but it could be helpful for us to source for a peanut butter making machine, and to start with drying fruits like mango and guava.

3.7 OPPAZ REGISTRATION

Organic Products and Producers Association in Zambia (OPPAZ) is the mother board for organic farming in Zambia. The issue of registration has been long standing and this has limited us in a

number of ways. It is important for us to register so that GCMF through IBALA can be a member of OPPAZ and enter the organic market. We have planned to do the registration by July 2016.

Advantages for us to become a member include:

- Access to free material and information related to organic farming
- Legal to trade in organic products
- Well informed of what is happening globally in organic farming
- We can enter the export market
- Workshops

3.8 POULTRY

The poultry project is designed to be an income generating unit for IBALA so that in the future IBALA can become more self-sustainable. The poultry house in Ibenga can accommodate up to 1200 birds. Meanwhile there are only 250 birds plus the 350 to be received in March, which will make the total come to 600 birds. The poultry in Mpongwe can accommodate about 500 birds. At the moment the poultry in Mpongwe is standing idle. The idea is to expand on the poultry when the two poultries run successfully.

3.9 HIGHLIGHTS IN 2015

- Students went on a field trip to Rivendell farm
- Two Dutch students did their three months internship at our poultry (starting up, making protocols, setting up financial system, market research, etc.)
- The 2015 field day, organised at one of our student's farms
- The one week entrepreneurship workshop facilitated by Level foundation from the Netherlands

3.10 PROJECT EXPANSION

In 2016 we want to make the project bigger due to a popular demand from the community. Initially we wanted not enrol at first but instead maintain the current number of students but due to recommendation from the community and government we want to recruit more students so that the number can increase from 42 to 80. We have already started receiving interested students for the 2016 intake.

We further discussed that we continue recruiting and advertise for the course. By the end of May we hope to finish with recruitment so that by the first week of June we can start having the interviews. Our goal this year is to enrol 30 students for both training centres in Ibenga and in Mpongwe.

It would be good for us if by the year 2018 we can be able to train about 100 farmers and if these farmers can multiply in number through their neighbourhood community and children then we will surely train many people in the district.

3.11 CHALLENGES FOR OUR STUDENTS

- Many of our students are coming from poor backgrounds and find it very difficult to be paying a weekly school fee of K20.
- Lack of enough manure to expand their fields as they have no livestock.
- Students coming from distant places which make them not to report on time.
- Some of the students require very close supervision and external motivation.

3.12 EXPENSES

During the year the amount of money spent on the IBALA project was ZMK 188.248 for layer chickens and poultry requirements, cashew trees, teacher salaries, field day, field trip, management, overhead and transport.



The guesthouse and the internet café started operating in 2008. The main purpose of constructing the guesthouse was to run as a fundraising venture to supplement the efforts of the OVC project.

4.1 SITUATION

The guesthouse and the internet café have been in operation since 2008 to date, it has attracted lots of guests coming from different towns like Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola, Luanshya and so on. The guesthouse is mostly patronized by guests who come because of their work, who come to do business or for visiting relatives. The clientele for the guesthouse are the NGOs, private companies and individuals.

The guesthouse received two students in November, from the Netherlands who came to write a project paper on how to improve the standards of the guesthouse by doing competition checks with other guesthouses. The results which came out from the project paper will help the guesthouse in developing new strategies in term of marketing the guesthouse and maximize the sales.

The internet café is mostly used by working class people who come to send emails in connection with their work, students doing their research and submitting their assignments from within Zambia and the Netherlands; The other clientele uses it just for social purposes like facebook, twitter etc.

4.2 VISION

To give the children of Mpongwe a future by generating income to finance the OVC program.

4.3 MISSION

The mission for the guesthouse will be to offer excellent service to our customers so that they are satisfied and give us the return sale. The satisfied guests will be a form of advertisement because they will inform other people about the guesthouse by word of mouth.

4.4 GOALS

The goals for 2016 will be to renovate the rooms and raise the standards of the guesthouse so that we capture the large share of the market in Mpongwe.

4.5 IMPROVEMENTS

The guesthouse as a whole has made improvement in terms of operations and maintenance in various departments as out lined below.

4.5.1 Accommodation

The room occupancy rate for the guesthouse had improved starting from April to October and hence we had even made improvement in terms of sales. The average room occupancy rate was 70%. Under the house keeping department, the upgrading of the rooms was done by doing plumbing repairs in most of the rooms and in the communal ablution blocks. New mattresses and towels were bought for all the rooms.

4.5.2 Kitchen and Bar

The kitchen and the bar have attracted a lot of customers due to the tasty meals being prepared and good service offered both in the restaurant and at the bar. The major clientele for the restaurant are the government ministries which are near to the guesthouse and general public.

Despite having a good turnout at the restaurant, we had challenges in terms of furniture in the restaurant as a lot of tables and chairs got broken and they were repaired.

The bar had performed very well as we had functions like weddings, kitchen parties, end of year party and musical concerts which increased the sales for beverages.

4.5.3 Internet Café

The internet café have not performed very well this year due to the fact that we are experiencing load shedding as the whole country and hence we

have had a lot of power cuts and the network for internet connection was very bad which had resulted in the internet café not performing very well in terms of sales. Despite the fact that the internet café was not performing very well, four chairs were bought to be used by the clients in the internet café.

4.6 MANAGEMENT

The guesthouse was formerly managed by Pious Musokoshi, who resigned in February, 2015. When the seat fell vacant, the Steering Committee in Zambia decided to advertise the position on Zambia Jobs, a media which advertises for jobs on the internet. Three applicants were invited for the interviews and they were interviewed by Ton Korsten-Korenkomp - Director, Anthony Kalima - Chairman, Fridah Musukuma - Secretary and Bram Sol – Engineer GKVTC. Ms. Gertrude Tiki was the applicant who was chosen as the new guesthouse manager.

4.7 PERSONNEL

The guesthouse had a staff of eight in the beginning of 2015. In May, 2015 Benson Manase who was working as a guard was fired due to miss conduct and he was replaced with Wesley Kafweni who took up the appointment on 1st June and working in the same capacity as a guard. On 27th November Robert Makumba, who was working as a room attendant deceased and was replaced by Prince Makumba working in the same capacity.

4.8 OVC FINANCING

When the guesthouse was constructed, its objective was to make it as an income generating venture to finance the OVC. Hence starting from January, 2016, the guesthouse will be funding the

OVC by contributing K7.000 per month towards sustaining of the OVC project.

4.9 RESULTS

The average room occupancy rate for 2015 on monthly bases was not stable. From April to November the room occupancy was between 70% to 80% and January, February, March and December the room occupancy rate was lower than 50% as a lot of guests invest their finances in farming and reserve monies for their school going children, so they don't participate in leisure activities.

4.10 FUTURE PLANS

The future plan for the guesthouse is that we should maximize the sales when the market for our product is on the climax. This can only be done when we provide the market with what they need. As we have taken note of all the complaints of our guests.

4.11 EVALUATION

The guesthouse can perform well and increase on the sales, if only we can meet the needs and want of the guests by furnishing the rooms with televisions, fans and fridges. With the mushrooming of guesthouses in Mpongwe we will fail to fight the competition if we don't improve on the standards of the guesthouse.



months up to three years. A GKVTC in Mpongwe means retention of knowledge and youths and therefore a significant contribution to the development of the entire district. September 2011 is when the construction of this project started after the allocation of a piece of land by the council.

5.1 SITUATION

The initial plans to start with the first courses in September 2013 turned out not to be feasible due to the fact that we underestimated the complexity of a project of this scale concerning organization, finances, logistics and governmental procedures. Although construction was progressing quite well, the facilities we had built by then were not yet on the required level for offering multiple courses.

A new planning was made in which the college started in September 2014 with its first 2-years course in organic farming for 20 local farmers as is done by GCMF in *Tubombeshi* since 2013.

As requested by *Stichting Wilde Ganzen*, GCMF divided the GKVTC project in four phases. The objective of this division was to get better insight in the needed funding and to start as soon as possible with offering educational programs to the youth of Mpongwe. The idea was that as soon as phase one is finished, several groups of students can start. After finishing phase two, the electricity system can be installed and connected to the national grid. The college can be considered fully operational after phase two since administration facilities and several teacher houses will be ready

In Mpongwe District an increasing number of pupils leave Mpongwe in search of education beyond secondary school. Youths that stay behind have neither the finances nor the possibilities to be professionally trained and hence stay at home being unemployed. Another issue is the lacking of skilled craftsmen in the Mpongwe district, while there is a lot of demand for them considering the development of the area.

In 2010 the GCMF foundation recognized these problems and started making plans to construct the George Korsten Vocational Training College (GKVTC) in Mpongwe. The GKVTC will offer several courses accredited by TEVETA (the organization responsible for certification and quality criteria), courses with a duration starting from some

for use. Phase three and four can be seen as expansions following the expected need for growth. In order for the GKVTC to start courses, facilities and infrastructure need to reach up to the minimum level defined as phase one:

- 4 classrooms
- 1 sanitary block
- 2 boarding blocks
- 1 computer room
- 1 library
- 2 administration blocks
- 1 teacher's house
- borehole, water tower and pump
- electricity supply (diesel generator)

5.2 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

In 2015 GCMF managed to finish off all the phase one constructions mentioned above and besides this fully furnished four classrooms, one boarding block, a computer lab and a library.

In order to restart construction activities after an eight months construction stop in 2014, GCMF had to put some basic logistics in place like fixing the access road and purchasing a new truck after the selling of the old one in December 2014.

Also before starting further constructing, partly as a consequence of the construction stop, partly due to usage by students, some of the building required maintenance. Doorsteps were reinforced, ridges were fixed and improved, doors and windows were readjusted and so on. For sake of the generators lifespan the carpentry workshop (future storage) was altered.

By March, 22 workers were called back on duty and started where they had left eight months

earlier. Whilst construction of the verandas on both sides was the first main subproject, at the same time pan bricks were made, interior doors for administration buildings were made and fixed, ceiling were fixed and window elements for the first teacher house were designed and prefabricated.

When both verandas were finished the focus was split between three mayor subprojects: finishing the sanitary block at the girl's wing, making furniture and the construction of the teacher house. In the meantime also smaller subprojects went on like a septic tank with French drain, pan brick making and plot preparations for the dry season.

The construction of a water tower with electrical submersible pump connected to the generator was outsourced to *Chisengo Invest* from Luanshya.

In January 2016, applying the last stroke of white paint marked the finishing of the first local material teacher house and with that, the finishing of the first phase of Mpongwe's first Vocational Training College, leaving it ready for students to take over from the workers.

5.3 INTERNSHIP STUDENTS

We received five Zambian internship students for their practical in carpentry just like we did in 2013. They stayed for two months and mostly helped us making furniture. When possible they assisted in other activities like at the teacher house to increase the variety of skills that were being learned. Their performance was evaluated by our carpenters on a form provided by the student's school.

5.4 TEVETA CERTIFICATION WORKERS

As a gesture of gratuity and also because we think our GKVTC workforce has become almost professional when looking at the current quality of their work, we have offered all our carpenters, welders and brick layers to undertake a TEVETA level three examination at the expense of GCMF. Seventeen workers will do the exam which is being facilitated by Luanshya Technical and Business College and takes place in April 2016.

5.5 GKVTC FOOTBALL TEAM

Late 2013, a GKVTC football team started as a way to stimulate solidarity amongst the GKVTC workers and offer them a social alternative for drinking which of course leads to a healthier and more responsible life. We never really expected the team to become competitive, but they did. They really took it serious and showed sincere dedication by training almost daily with the result of being crowned MAFA champions of Mpongwe, first in 2014 and again in 2015.

5.6 PUBLICITY IN 2015

Sunday Times of Zambia, 26th of July



Sunday Times of Zambia, 1st of July



Sunday Times of Zambia, 26th of July



Zambia Daily Mail, 7th of August



5.7 EXPENSES

During the year the amount of money spent on the GKVTC project was ZMK 591.195 for materials, labor, management, overhead, transport.

ANNEX 2 – CURRENT ORGANOGRAM GCMF

