

# GIVE THE CHILDREN OF MPONGWE A FUTURE

(GEEF DE KINDEREN VAN MPONGWE EEN TOEKOMST)

REGISTERED IN ZAMBIA AS A SOCIETY – NUMBER ORS/102/96/12)

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

“Give the Children of Mpongwe a Future” is a registered Non-Governmental Organization (registration number ORS/102/96/12). The founder and chairperson of this organization is Mrs. Ton Korsten of the Netherlands. Initially, the organization started as a community based organization under the Mpongwe Baptist Mission. When demand for project activities grew in 2005, new ideas came up to expand the horizon of activities of the organization. New members were co-opted into the committee which had representation from the District HIV-AIDS Task force, Mpongwe Baptist Association, Chieftainess Lesa, Health, Education, District Planning Unit, Community Development and some community members. The total number of committee members as at now is 9. The organization is managed at two levels as below.

### **1.1 MPONGWE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

This is the committee that provides the leadership in Zambia. It receives applications from interested organizations, conduct field and desk appraisals, recommend viable projects to the board in the Netherlands, conduct implementation of activities and also monitoring of project activities.

### **1.2 THE FOUNDATION BOARD IN THE NETHERLANDS**

This is the board that is in charge of resource mobilization, project monitoring and evaluation and recommendation for project commencement. The current Executive committee in Mpongwe has been conducting GCMF functions since 2005

## **2.0 ANNUAL REVIEW 2008**

The year 2008 has been again a challenging year for GCMF. This is because we have had a major construction project of the GCMF guest house, as an income generating project. The cost of materials have ever been increasing posing a great challenge to the finances that the foundation obtained from the mother body in the Netherlands. The price of cement has been the greatest concern.

We also had challenges with regard to the contracted company that built the guest house. All in all, the GCMF did not do much in terms of other community programs. Other projects like Lwanyanshi and Chisanga stalled due to financial challenges and some problems with our contractor in Lwanyanshi.

GCMF failed to meet the cost of education for the over 100 sponsored pupils and students at Secondary Schools and Colleges.

In the year 2008 we received a total of € 63 150,00 for all the projects. Please check the financial report in the appendix.

Despite the above challenges, the committee is delighted to report that the guest house finished three of the six rooms. A fourth room is really close of being finished. Simon and Sofie, who are assisting with project, guest house and internet management respectively, are currently housed at our new GCMF guest house. The three nursing students were also housed in it.

The Chipese teachers house construction project is at roof level and may be completed soon. Below is a detailed account of the projects and their levels of progress at the moment.

## 2.1 THE GCMF GUEST HOUSE INCOME GENERATING PROJECT.

This is a project idea that was born out of the need for the GCMF committee to slowly start a self sustaining project that may be a source of income for some of the GCMF activities in Mpongwe district. This is a huge project that has consumed about € 95 000,00 and approximately 621 million Zambian Kwacha to date. The project is almost completed and we have had the first occupants at the guest house. Some of the costs have gone far beyond what was estimated and a few more costs were not even anticipated. Only about 2/3 (two thirds) of the entire structure has been done due to inadequate resources. The major issue has been the unforeseen but necessary costs and the continuous fluctuation of the Kwacha against the major currencies like the Euro and the US Dollar. The guest house is now doing the sewerage system, plumbing works and the committee is in the process of procuring furniture. Below is the GCMF guest house in pictures.



## **2.2 SWIITI VILLAGE INCOME GENERATION PROJECT.**

This project is one of the oldest projects. The committee has done all they can to ensure that this project is a success. The project has had the hammer mill procured, shelter for the hammer mill constructed some years back. The major hindrance has been the Zambia Electricity Supply Cooperation (ZESCO). This company has delayed the electrification of this project for several months

As at now, ZESCO has completed most of the works but they still need to switch on the power to the hammer mill house for this project to commence its activities. Below are the pictures for the hammer mill house and the ZESCO overhead line and transformer. This project has cost the foundation a total of 56,900,293 Kwacha and approximately € 8 800,00.



## **2.3 TUBOMBESHE SKILLS TRAINING CENTER**

TUBOMBESHE Skills Training Center has been completed. It was completed almost two years ago and was officially opened by Ton Korsten, our foundation board chairperson in 2007. The members of this organization desire to have some start up capital in terms of sewing machines and other necessary materials to enable them start full operations. As at now, members of this organization regularly meet at the Skills Training Center for their usual developmental meetings. They are also using the center for adult literacy classes. Below is the list of requirements that the Tubombeshe Committee need for their start.

## 2.4 CHIPESE TEACHERS HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

This project was started this year 2008. An amount of 40 Million Zambian Kwacha was reserved for it. The project is now at roof level and the committee has spent 33,065,500 Zambian Kwacha so far. It is hoped that this project shall be completed early in 2009 and that it will be officially opened and handed over to the Ministry of Education and Chipese Community by end of April 2008. Please check pictures of the project below.



## 2.5 LWANYANSHI COMMUNITY SCHOOL

This has been another challenging project. The committee has experienced numerous challenges starting from distance to the project area, community participation, project leadership and the contractor. The GCMF committee has always traveled to the community to encourage them. The challenge has been intensified due to the fact that the contractor live a distance away from the project. This means that when the contractor travels to the project site and there is no material provided by the community, it may take time for him to go back. When the community is ready, the contractor is not there. This project has really stalled and it is the desire of the GCMF committee to complete this project. This desire is however not supported by the above mentioned challenges. Below are the current pictures of the project



## 2.6 CHISANGA CONSTRUCTION OF 2 (TWO) TEACHER'S HOUSES PROJECT

This project has been put on hold due to the financial challenges that GCMF is facing and the fact that for the year 2008, the major concentration has been on the completion of the GCMF guest house, Chipese Teacher's House, Swiiti Income generation project and Lwanyanshi Community School construction projects. Below is the current status of the project in pictures



## 2.7 BILIMA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

This project has finally been completed at the cost of 79,415,500 Kwacha or an estimated € 12 500,00. The classrooms are usable and the children now have a conducive learning environment. The only challenge is the inadequate furniture for the pupils and the inadequate teacher accommodation.

There was also a request by the district administration to have an organized way of handing over the project to the Community and the Ministry of Education. The GCMF committee took this advice and agreed to call upon all the necessary stakeholders at the handover ceremonies of projects the next time there would be such.

The project committee also requested the GCMF committee to consider procuring them some oil paint. This came as a result of the dirty walls that they experienced due to children activities. The committee promised to look into the matter.

Below are the current pictures for Bilima



## 2.8 MUSANGASHI COMMUNITY SCHOOL REHABILITATION AND TEACHER'S HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Both are completed projects and they have met the objectives for which the community applied for them. GCMF spent 57,219,900 Kwacha or an estimated € 8 803,00 on the teacher's house. The below picture show the current state of these pieces of infrastructure



## 2.9 SHINGWA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

This is also a completed project supported by the GCMF in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The school has since been upgraded to a Middle Basic School level by the Ministry of Education from being a community school. There is need to further assist the school with teacher's accommodation as this represent the greatest challenge facing the school today.

## 2.10 OVC SUPPORT PROJECT

GCMF sponsors over 100 OVCs. But as reported earlier, GCMF faced a big challenge in 2008 especially with the financial resources to support this project. This resulted in the non-payment of school fees for the third term of all school going children in this year, but only managed to pay for those who were writing exams. GCMF members consider this function the CORE ISSUE of its existence in Mpongwe. The main reason for this failure was that the budget for this project was overrun in the third term of 2008.

There has been a lot of considerations on how the GCMF can make this expensive but core project cost manageable. One school of thought has been to separate tertiary education from the High School and primary education support so that they both get a budget at the beginning of the year (*Tertiary education gets the biggest chunk of resources for this project*). The other school of thought has been to start pupils from lower grades whom the foundation shall see through up to Tertiary level without increasing the numbers even when they drop out. No solution has been found yet and the GCMF committee is still pondering this problem.



### **2.11 KABUMBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL WATER AND SANITATION AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

This project is a school project that has been submitted to the foundation in the Netherlands for financing. In the meantime, the project committee felt that it was necessary to have pit latrines built at Kabumba to safeguard the lives of children and prevent transmittable diseases such as diarrhea. Before the construction of the pit latrine, the children were using the nearby bush posing a danger to themselves and the community surrounding the school. One pit latrine has already been built at Kabumba as the school awaits funding to construct the main school building.

### **2.12 REHABILITATION OF THE TB WARD, NUTRITIONAL WARD AND PROCUREMENT OF WHITE GOODS FOR THE NUTRITIONAL WARD AT MPONGWE MISSION HOSPITAL.**

These projects have been completed and the wards are still fully operational. The white goods for the nutritional ward were procured.

### **2.13 BOREHOLE AT THE GUEST HOUSE BY SEEDS OF HOPE**

This is another project that has been a big challenge to the foundation. Money was paid a long time ago but Seeds of Hope have failed to complete the works despite the maid promises. Latest information is that they have acquired new equipment that will be able to drill the bore hole. GCMF remains hopeful that this project shall reach its completion as soon as possible.

### **2.14 NCHEMBWE TWESHEKO WOMEN'S GROUP CONSTRUCTION OF SKILLS TRAINING CENTER**

This project has made a start. The women are planning the project and will soon be ready to start when that money will be available.

### **2.15 THE INTERNET CAFE AT GCMF GUEST HOUSE**

This is another Income Generating Activity that the GCMF committee and the board in the Netherlands thought it could start. This Income Generating Activity is fully operational and is bringing in some income to the GCMF bit by bit. The only challenge we have is that the clientele hasn't been standard yet. It keeps on fluctuating. The other major challenge is the computer illiteracy of the citizenry and the targeted clients. This is a big challenge. The committee is however hopeful that the challenge will soon be tackled because of the initiatives that the GCMF is putting in place like the free internet and computer literacy days that the management organized.

### **3.0 PROJECTS ON THE WAITING LIST**

Since 2005 when the new committee was ushered in, the GCMF has opened up its doors to community groups who wish to undertake developmental projects that are within the GCMF objectives and line of sponsorship. The committee has made project requests to be demand driven. In this case the committee has received several applications for sponsorship ranging from construction of community schools and sponsorship for primary, secondary and Tertiary education. Some projects that passed project and field appraisals are:

- 3.1 Nchembwe Twesheko Womens Group Skills training center
- 3.2 Several Boreholes and water points
- 3.3 Kabumba Community School
- 3.4 Lesa Community School
- 3.4 Chitabale Community School

### **4.0 STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS TO THE GCMF**

The foundation in most cases receive student volunteers from the Netherlands who actually come to assist Mpongwe Community and the foundation in the various activities that the foundation is involved in. The following came to Mpongwe to undertake the following program.

- 4.1 The two Nursing students that came to Saint Anthony Mission hospital. They served the community of saint Anthony and were highly appreciated. Their names were Anja and Dionne.
- 4.2 Simon Coenen, a business Economics Student came to assist the foundation in project management and financial management.
- 4.3 Paul and Lutz came to the foundation to be part of the team for project management and to install the internet facility at the GCMF guest house.
- 4.4 Simon and Sofie came to the organization to assist in project management and guest house/internet management respectively. These are currently with the GCMF and they are conducting their volunteer activities at the guest house
- 4.5 The three nursing students, namely Chantalle, Sandra and Eline came and assisted the management at the Mpongwe Mission Hospital

The Foundation consider having these students a good privilege as they contribute to the well being of Mpongwe community and project management as a whole. It is important to have these cultural exchanges and cross pollination of ideas.

## **5.0 THE FUTURE**

The future is bright for the foundation in Mpongwe. The interaction with government and the other NGOs is improving. The GCMF enjoy a good working relationship with the planning subcommittee and the District Development Coordination Committee (DDCC).

There are challenges of the community thinking that the committee has a lot of money and that the GCMF committee is not giving it out to the community and the orphans. Some community members have presented this to the District Administration and the committee has been called to explain its position. The committee however consider this as lack of adequate information on how the organization is run. It is in the plan for 2009 to provide enough information to the stakeholders so that this challenge is overcome.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

The project committee has worked hard despite the challenges that were met along the way as a result of project management. Despite the challenges, the committee is still as fresh as ever to continue project implementation. Project challenges are considered as part of the learning curve. The committee feel that the board in the Netherlands should consider sourcing for transport of the guest house and projects. Hiring of motor vehicles is becoming un-affordable as it is increasing to project costs. Of course there will be consideration of servicing costs, drivers' pay and depreciation. The committee may suspend the cost of the driver for now because some members of the committee are able to drive. This is a very important issue that the Foundation should be able to consider in the year 2009.

The Foundation should also be able to re-visit the budget for OVC support. It is felt that this is the core of our existence and as such should be looked at very well. The committee suggest to separate Tertially Education from High school and primary education.

The foundation in the Netherlands should also consider making adjustments for the sent in bill of quantities as these keep on changing due to instability in our currency compared to the Euro and the US dollar

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Please find attached: Financial report for the year 2008