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St Anthony Bwafwano Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Home Based Care

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28/03/1991.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF ST. ANTHONY BWAFWANG OVC HOME BASED CARE.

INTRODUCTION:

- 1.0 As the deplorable welfare and problems of the OVC had been seen to have reached an alarming proportion, an OVC programme was put in place through the formation of the St. Anthony's Bwafrwano OVC Home based Care which was further necessitated by the increase in the mortality rate in both male and female parents leaving children in the custody of grand-parents who equally can't make ends meet.
- 1.1 This plight of children caused by the AIDS epidemic and malaria world wide leaves so much to be desired.
- 1.2 The St. Anthony community is composed mostly of people in the low income group a 75% of the men are employed as labourers and irregular piece workers, whilst the rest of the women are involved in haphazard marketeering and street vending while others are not even economically active.
- 1.3 However the community has a number of people with various talents and capable of doing skillful jobs if it were not for the unemployment trend in towns today.
- 1.4 With this large number of disadvantaged people in the said community many of this vulnerable children could not attend school let alone meeting the health requirements. Despite the seriousness of children being unable to attend school and meet their health requirements the general community paid very little if not no attention to the

- each one for himself and God for us all, cannot be ruled out.

2. FORMATION

The Orphans and Vulnerable children's OVC committee within the St. Antony's registered community organisation was formed after the workshop that was conducted by PC12, in March 1998. Following this workshop '6' facilitators were trained and imparted with skills on how to mobilise, organise and sensitise the community members on the problems surrounding them with specific reference to the OVC problems.

3. COMPOSITION

The St. Antony's Community Organisation is divided into the following committees and organs

- (a) The Executive committee
- b) The Planning committee
- c) The Orphans & Vulnerable children's committee and
- d) The community council.

These committees through their respective sub-committees address various issues by playing specific roles in related fields.

4. THE PROGRAMMES

The organisation runs inter alia (among other things) three programmes considering the seriousness of the problems within the compound and these are:-

The Orphans & Vulnerable children's (OVC) programme - entailing counselling and encouragement on human endeavour

The Community School programme - ensuring quality education and monitoring of class attendance with relevant requisites.

3)
c) The Home based care programme - considering cases of the widowed, the Aged the physically handicapped together with the chronically and medically sick seen to be terminally ill. Visitations, counselling, material and financial support together with medical fees are among other things provided.

5) STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

Following the formation of the Organisation the information given here below shows an updated record breakdown of the Compound's total population.

		<u>TOTAL.</u>
Compound population.	—	4580
Number Orphans	—	450
Number Double Orphans	—	92
Number Single Orphans	—	358
Number Un Orphaned but VC	—	26
OVC Attending School	—	271
OVC Not attending School	—	130
Number OVC 0-5 years	—	75
<u>OTHERS:</u> Number Widowed	—	84
Number Physically handicapped	—	14
Number Aged	—	16

Some conducted survey revealed that ^{nearly} half of the guardians of these Orphans are mothers. It was further discovered that a good number of the widowers had remarried after the death of their spouses whereas the widows have have found it to very difficult to remarry leading to no parity of welfare status in between the paternal and maternal Orphans.

④ - Having critically assessed the basic needs of these children food, security, health, education, clothing and parental protection were found to be the major areas of grave concern. With regard to education in this instance poverty is the loud tune regardless of whether or not a child is an Orphan.

b) Activities

Through the Sub-committees of the main Committees certain issues are addressed and services rendered to the community.

Health - The developments through this Sub-committee are such that the health promoters are happy with:

- the digging of 92 pit latrines and 127 rubbish pits.

- the way the medical officers from Bouchi clinic carried out the Polio Vaccination exercise in July and August 1998, resulting in the Vaccination of 944 children.

- the erection of Stalls at the local market.

- their having attended a Vitamin A and HIV/AIDS workshop that was held at Bouchi clinic.

- the cleaning of the surroundings with the burying of standing water Ponds and pruning of fancy flowers.

Education - The Nutrition team conducted a seminar on a mothers day programme in July 1998, giving lessons on breastfeeding, the importance of under-five clinic checkups,

4 - and the proper feeding methods with the establishment of 42 homes of malnourished children who are now being helped with soya bean flour supplied by Buchi Clinic.

c) Community School Committee - By November, December 1998, this committee had 207 pupils in our Community School doing level 1-3 (i.e. grades 1-6) according to Zambia Community Schools (ZCS) programmes and 86 children in the Nursery and Reception classes. As of now, the figures have dropped due to some children's departure for government schools but the enrolment exercise still continues.

This committee further prides in having four teachers including one woman, who are not only interested in classroom work but also in child activities of a recreational nature like football and netball. Otherwise their teaching and progress reports are in conformity with government standards.

d) Fundraising sub-committee - This committee has taken measures to facilitate the raising of funds through community contribution of K5,000 = per family intended for the purchase of a hammer mill to generate more funds and also through video shows, and daily collections of fees from market stalls. The committee has further ventured into projects like Poultry now with some 100 ~~birds~~ five week old chicks procured through Nkana Constituency development fund that released K500,000 = 00 to this community.

- A Knitting club for which materials have already been secured through PC12 will not only generate funds out of the expected sales but will also assist the female OVC to develop some skills.

7. PLANS: The community has made among other things the following recommendations for development in the area:

(a) Development projects outlining the building of

- (i) A classroom block
- (ii) A community hall and
- (iii) A clinic.

(b) Income generating projects with emphasis on pig-rearing for which a 4-hectare land has already been secured in Minsanga Area Kalolushi at a cost estimate of K5 million complete with ample shelter and fencing.

(c) Introduction of carpentry and training programmes in tailoring accommodating both male and female OVC's.

CONCLUSION - All efforts are being made by the community to ensure the continuity of the OVC programmes though local efforts alone are somewhat inadequate to effectively facilitate the running of the programmes in our innocent endeavour. As of now very little if not nothing is done to reward the efforts of our community school teachers. As it is very much envisaged that the success of the programmes will benefit the community members, a lot of assistance -

and co-operation from men and Organisation
of good will are very much sought.

THANK YOU

Angela

COMMUNITY SECRETARY

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COMMUNITY C/MAN