

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

RESEARCH TOPIC

An assessment on the impact of the civil society in improving the livelihoods of orphans. The case of Restless Development in Nhedziwa ward 4 Chimanimani district Zimbabwe.

BY

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**An assessment on the impact of the civil society in improving the livelihoods of orphans.
The case of Restless Development in Nhedziwa ward 4 Chimanimani Zimbabwe.**

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DEDICATION

This work is entirely dedicated to Josephine and Clement Mlilo who helped me achieve my dreams and always believed in me. I treasure their social, emotional and spiritual guidance. May the dear Lord continue to richly bless them.

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at assessing the impact of the civil society towards improving the livelihoods of orphans with particular focus on Restless Development in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district. The general objective of this study was to assess the impact of the civil society in improving the livelihoods of orphans.

A sample of twenty respondents out of a total of sixty-five orphans was selected using purposive sampling. Data was collected using interviews, questionnaires and desk top research. Results are based on findings from structured questionnaires directed at orphans who are beneficiaries of the different programmes that are implemented by Restless Development and face to face interviews with two orphans and headmasters of Matendeudze primary school and Nhedziwa high school.

Results were that the programmes that are being implemented by Restless Development which include projects like nutrition gardens has managed to improve the livelihoods of orphans basing on livelihood indicators which are quality of life and standards of living, basic education, poverty reduction and employment creation. Orphans involved in projects that have been implemented by Restless Development have managed to acquire all the above through projects as they get some form of income to help with their day to day lives and can afford to go to school. Orphans have also applied the skills they got from the project trainings and have started their own projects

thereby creating employment and a source of income for themselves. In spite of the various challenges faced by Restless Development in its quest to improve the livelihoods of orphans, the various projects that have been implemented have given access to improved quality of life and standards of living, basic education, poverty reduction and employment creation to a number of orphans and it has raised their Human Development Index and helped them attain sustainable development.

ACRONMYS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Virus
CBO	Community based organisation
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
HIV	Human Immuno-virus
ISAL	Internal Savings and Lending
JCT	Justice for Children Trust
KIWAKKUKI	Women's group against AIDS in Kilimanjaro Tanzania
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOPSLSW	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OVC	Orphans and vulnerable children
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SOS	Social Society
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

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Fig 1: Nutrition garden for orphans. Photo shot by the researcher (17.08.14)

Fig 2: Nhedziwa income generation project: Photo shot by Researcher (17.08.14)

INTRODUCTION

The study is going to assess the impact of the civil society in improving livelihoods of orphans. In particular the research focuses on Restless Development a non-governmental organisation in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district. The civil society consists of Non Governmental organizations and the private sector, the UN define an orphan as any child boy or girl who lost one or both parents and by livelihoods according to the International Federation of the Red Cross the researcher means, a set of activities, involving securing water, food, medicine, shelter, clothing and the capacity to acquire the above necessities working either individually or as a group by using endowments both human and material. It encompasses people's capabilities, assets, income and activities required to secure the necessities of a life.

The researcher seeks to examine the impact of Restless Development in improving the livelihoods of orphans and to identify and offer recommendations to the organisation with regards to dealing with orphans in Nhedziwa Ward 4 Chimanimani district. Efforts by the civil society cannot go unnoticed as they complement the government's efforts. They have been engaged in quite a number of activities like projects to give orphans access to basic needs that include food, education, shelter and health. This research is important because institutions in the field and the civil society will together identify certain strategies and come up with solutions to their challenges therefore it will help in the improvement of the livelihoods of orphans and the recommendations that will be drawn from the research will give the civil society an insight of what is lacking in their programming and what strategies have been fundamental in the Restless Development initiatives. However, most importantly it will bring about an in-depth

understanding and appreciation of the work that is being done by the civil society hence bridging that research gap. In this regard, the above will increase the civil society's impact in improving the livelihoods of orphans.

BACKGROUND

Orphan hood has become a devastating phenomenon in Zimbabwe. Over the past 20 years, vulnerability has been increasing steadily as a result of a combination of economic, climatic, and HIV/AIDS related factors. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been the leading factor resulting in orphan hood. In 2004, a joint Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MOPSLSW) and UNICEF OVC Survey 2004 found that 30% of the child population in rural and urban high density Zimbabwe were orphans. According to UNICEF, Zimbabwe has a higher number of orphans in proportion to its population, than any other country in the world. 1 in 4 children in Zimbabwe is growing up without a mother, father or both parents and as HIV spreads throughout communities across the country, tens of thousands of more children are added to these ranks each year. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2009 estimated that the number of orphans in Zimbabwe was 1.4 million (about 19% of the child population), about 1 million of them orphaned by AIDS and only 95 000 of those children go to school and only 39 000 of those are girls. Recent national and sub-national surveys suggest that the number of orphans may even be higher.

According to UNAIDS, this level of AIDS-related orphan hood is expected to remain high until 2030. Haddad and Gillespie (2001) state that livelihoods-based analysis of linkages between

food security and HIV/AIDS show that the impact is systemic, affecting all aspects of rural livelihoods. Change in climate has also resulted in orphan hood, for example cyclone Elin of 2000 and the 2007-2008 droughts resulted in deaths leaving children without parents. The civil society started its work in Zimbabwe in response to the rise in disasters like the HIV/AIDS pandemic, economic meltdown, floods and drought among other things and it came to alleviate poverty which was triggered by the above disasters therefore, it has been playing a vital role and has been at the forefront in improving the livelihoods of orphans. Organizations like World Vision, Justice for Children, SOS and Faith Based Organisations like United Methodist Committee on Relief, Care International and Restless Development among others have improved the livelihoods of orphans in Zimbabwe by giving them access to education, health and a better life through various activities which include poultry projects and psycho social support.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Civil society can be conceptualised as individuals and organizations in a society which are independent of the government but complement the work of the government.

One can also conceptualise civil society as an intervention to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people. In this conceptualisation, civil society becomes a tool for development for under-developed communities. Examples of the civil society include non-governmental organisations and churches among others.

Moving on, livelihood scan be conceptualised as a means of making a living. It encompasses people's capabilities, assets, income and activities required to secure the necessities of life. A livelihood is sustainable when it enables people to cope with and recover from shocks and

stresses (such as natural disasters and economic or social upheavals) and enhance their well-being and that of future generations without undermining the natural environment or resource base. In this context the livelihoods indicators are:-

- **Quality of life and Standards of living** can be conceptualised as having access to improved basic necessities which are health, education, shelter and food. The civil society is working towards improving the standards of living of orphans by improving access to the above basic needs.
- **Education** can be conceptualised as schooling or learning designed to impart knowledge and develop skill.
- **Poverty reduction** in this context is conceptualised as ways in which poverty can be curbed. By this it means giving people access to food, shelter and other basic needs.
- **Employment** is conceptualised as work done as an occupation and to earn a livelihood.

Orphan can be conceptualised as any child who lost one or both parents. In this conceptualisation such a child is vulnerable hence the civil society works towards reducing that vulnerability.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The civil society has become critical in improving the livelihoods of orphans. The research seeks to examine the impact of civil society with regards to improving the livelihoods of orphans. In particular the research focuses on Restless Development a non-governmental organisation which works towards improving the lives of orphans, therefore, the research seeks to examine the effect of Restless Development in improving the livelihoods of orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4

Chimanimani district. Livelihoods will be assessed under the following indicators which are quality of life, standards of living, education, poverty reduction and employment.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The study seeks to explore the following:

- To examine the impact of the civil society in improving livelihoods of orphans in Zimbabwe.
- To examine the impact of Restless Development on the livelihoods of orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district.
- To identify challenges and offer recommendations to Restless Development with regards to dealing with orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Examine the impact of the civil society in improving livelihoods of orphans in Zimbabwe?
- Examine the impact of Restless Development on livelihoods of orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district?
- Identify challenges faced by Restless Development with regards to dealing with orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district and offer recommendations.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Basic needs approach was used to guide the study. It is one of the major approaches to the measurement of absolute poverty in developing countries. Jolly (1976) states that, it attempts to define the absolute minimum resources necessary for long-term physical well-being, usually in terms of consumption goods. The poverty line is then defined as the amount of income required to satisfy those needs. The basic needs approach was introduced by the International Labour Organization's World Employment Conference in 1976. The high point of the World Employment Conference of 1976 was when it proposed the satisfaction of basic human needs as the overriding objective of national and international development policy. Governments, workers' and employers' organizations from all over the world endorsed the basic needs approach to development. This influenced the programmes and policies of major multilateral and bilateral development agencies, and was the predecessor to the human development approach. Denton (1990) postulates that a traditional list of immediate "basic needs" is food (including water), shelter and clothing. Modern lists emphasize the minimum level of consumption of basic needs of not just food, water, clothing and shelter, but also sanitation, education, and healthcare. Van Bueren et al (1999) states that many basic capabilities allows a life of dignity and they are accessed through social services, hence there is a strong link between orphan hood and lack of access to an integrated package of basic education, health, shelter and nutrition. The basic needs approach seeks solutions to empower the poor to access basic capabilities. Access to basic needs results in an improved nutritional status due to improved consumption hence living above the poverty datum line. In this regard, the basic needs approach interprets poverty in terms of outcomes not inputs needed by a minimum basket of goods and services. The basic needs approach focuses on poor people's potential including their values, their participation in society

and come up with initiatives that capacitate them to escape poverty. In this context the civil society is working on improving the livelihoods of orphans by giving them access to the above basic needs which are education, shelter, health and nutrition.

In light of the above to address the quandary of the poor in developing economies, Barrientos (2008) states that, the social protection initiative addresses lack of access to basic education, nutrition, shelter and health. The unavailability of the basics leaves the society vulnerable to natural and biological disasters and even death. In this regard the civil society gives orphans access to basic needs by giving them access to income generating activities like poultry projects thus leading to a better life. The research is then going to assess the impact made by the civil society in achieving the livelihoods of orphans.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology takes a significant part of one's research as it shades light and understanding of the researcher's intentions. The whole plan of collecting and analyzing data about variables one would be researching about is known as the research process. There are various approaches to research which vary depending on research design, sampling methods, sample size, research instruments, methods of presenting data and sources of data.

APPROACH

The researcher used qualitative research approach as the variables in question are not measurable. Qualitative research is a method of inquiry employed in many different academic

disciplines, traditionally in the social sciences and further contexts. Denzin et al (2005) states that qualitative researchers aim to gather an in-depth understanding of human behaviour and the reasons that govern such behaviour. The qualitative method investigates the why and how of decision making, not just what, where, when, hence smaller but focused samples are more often used than large samples. The above is the reason why the researcher chose qualitative research as it will provide in-depth information on the impact of the civil society in achieving livelihoods of orphans. The variables are the impact of the civil society and the livelihoods of orphans, these goes on further to analyze issues of access to basic social needs which include education, health, shelter and nutrition. By virtue of this there is need to evaluate personal opinions that participants will provide, their perceptions and emotions towards the work of the civil society in improving the livelihoods of orphans. According to Anderson and Taylor (2009) qualitative research has its eye on participant's experiences, perceptions and the way they make sense of their lives.

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

To carry out the study the researcher used interviews, questionnaires and desktop research to acquire adequate information on the impact that has been made by the Civil Society towards achieving livelihoods for orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district. The above instruments were used because they provide more reliable information due to its originality since the information is to be obtained from the beneficiaries, the community and other stakeholders.

INTERVIEWS

An interview is a conversation between two or more people where questions are asked by the interviewer to elicit facts or statements from the interviewee. Weiss (1994) states that the greatest advantage of qualitative interviewing is the depth of detail from the interviewee, that is,

interviewing participants can paint a picture of what happened in a specific event, tell us their perspective of such event, as well as give other social cues. Social cues, such as voice, intonation and body language of the interviewee can give the interviewer a lot of extra information that can be added to the verbal answer of the interviewee on a question. Such detailed description, whether verbal or nonverbal, shows a hidden correlation between emotions, people and objects unlike many quantitative methods of research.

In addition, Emans (1986) states that qualitative interviewing has a unique advantage in its specific form. Researchers can tailor the questions they ask to the respondent in order to get rich, full stories and the information they need for their project, for example, they can clearly ask respondents to add more examples or explanations as needed. Not only can researchers learn about specific events, they can also gain insight into people's interior experiences, specifically how people perceive and how they interpret their perceptions, for example, how certain events affected their thoughts and feelings, therefore, researchers can understand the process of an event instead of what just happened and how they reacted to it. According to Weiss (1994), another advantage of qualitative interviewing is what it can give to the readers of academic journals and papers. Research can write a clearer report to its readers, giving them a fuller understanding of the experiences of the respondents and a greater chance to identify with the respondent.

However, qualitative interviewing is not a perfect method for all types of research. It does have its disadvantages. First, there can be complications with the planning of the interview. Not only is recruiting people for interviews hard, due to the typically personal nature of the interview, planning where to meet them and when can be difficult. Participants can cancel or change the meeting place at the last minute. During the actual interview, a possible weakness is missing

some information. This can arise from the immense multitasking that the interviewer must do. Not only do they have to make the respondent feel very comfortable, they have to keep as much eye contact as possible, write down as much as they can, and think of follow up questions. After the interview, the process of coding begins and with this comes its own set of disadvantages. First, coding can be extremely time consuming. This process typically requires multiple people, which can also become expensive. Second, the nature of qualitative research itself, doesn't lend itself very well to quantitative analysis. Some researchers report more missing data in interview research than survey research; therefore it can be difficult to compare populations. The above is according to Weiss (1994). The interviewer is going to interview a member of the headmasters and some beneficiaries.

QUESTIONNAIRES

A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. Gillham (2008) states that they are often designed for statistical analysis of the responses, this is not always the case. Questionnaires have advantages over some other types of surveys in that they are cheap, do not require as much effort from the questioner as verbal or telephone surveys, and often have standardized answers that make it simple to compile data. However, such standardized answers may frustrate users. Questionnaires are also sharply limited by the fact that respondents must be literate, that is, being able to read and respond to the questions, thus, for some demographic groups conducting a survey by questionnaire may be impractical. As a type of survey, questionnaires also have many of the same problems relating to question construction and wording that exist in other types of opinion

polls. The structured questionnaire shall be used to collect primary data from the respondents selected for the study.

DESKTOP RESEARCH

Desktop research is the reading of publications and articles in the library. The study also made use of documents, articles and journal from the internet and from Restless Development.

SAMPLING

According to Shuttleworth (2009), sampling is the idea of trying to take a representative section of the population, perform the experiment and extrapolate it back to the population as a whole. In statistics, quality assurance and survey methodology Scheaffer et al(1996) states that, sampling is concerned with the selection of a subset of individuals from within a statistical population to estimate characteristics of the whole population.

TARGET POPULATION

The population and sample size are important in any given research on a given topic and its variables. Population has been defined as the number of people in a given area. The population study includes 20 beneficiaries from Matendeudze primary school and Nhedziwa high school and the headmasters from both schools.

SAMPLING METHOD

For the research the researcher is going to use purposive sampling. According to Babbie (2001) a purposive sample, also commonly called a judgmental sample is one that is selected based on the knowledge of a population and the purpose of the study. The subjects are selected because of

some characteristic. In this case, the researcher is using a purposive sample because those who are part of the research fit a specific purpose or description.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The civil society has been doing a lot of work in trying to improve the livelihoods for orphans. Churches through Faith based organizations and other non-governmental organisations have been playing a vital role throughout the world in addressing the issue of orphans. According to the UNAIDS, in the new millennium the civil society around the globe have gone a step forward in the provision of basic health care, education and social support for children who have been orphaned by AIDS among other factors.

KIWAKKUKI which is a Kiswahili acronym for a Women's group Against AIDS in Kilimanjaro **Tanzania**, has been operational for the past 12 years and has been conducting 4 major programs based on prevention, care, voluntary counseling and testing and offering support to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. There has not been a lucid practice or role model which KIWAKKUKI has been following down the road though it has grown quite immensely in terms of size and finances. However, protection of the rights of the child is at the centre of her HIV/AIDS program as KIWAKKUKI strongly believes that HIV/AIDS is a human rights issue.

According to the Tanzanian Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (2000) the support to the children orphaned by HIV/AIDS or other causes has been on the policy of rights' based as follows:

- Education sponsorship which is benefiting about 2,500 children in Kilimanjaro from pre-school to high school.

- Giving them access to legal protection and social welfare support through referrals to legal aid clinics and government Social Welfare Department.
- Encouraging child participation and providing the platform for them to be listened to through supportive counseling, monthly meetings and annual picnics for HIV positive children.
- Provision of shelter through house construction (13 houses built so far at an average cost of US\$2,500)
- Giving access to correct information on HIV/AIDS and Life Skills through the Youth Alive Club initiated by KIWAKKUKI in 1998.
- Strengthening and supporting the capacity of a few selected families through caretakers to protect and care for orphans.
- Provision of health by giving access to treatment for opportunistic infections to HIV positive children and they work in collaboration with government hospitals, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College and foreign hospitals like the United States based Duke University Hospital. (Bolinger et al 1999)
- Much of the achievement is facilitated by KIWAKKUKI's attempt to make the community own the social service provision for orphans by an extensive use of volunteers and a network of grassroots groups scattered throughout Kilimanjaro, also in collaboration with local leaders and faith based leaders. About 60 groups of 20 or more women each work as grassroots volunteers and are a good opportunity for social capital commodity but not fully exploited. Plastow (2002) has reported the use of volunteers as one of the strengths of KIWAKKUKI.

Shariff and Albee (2000) states that social capital can be defined in several literature with several models such as small restricted access groups, small open access groups, community based groups among others. Building social capital has been seen as a task of “second generation economic reforms” and social capital as an informal norm that promotes cooperation between 2 or more individuals. However, KIWAKKUKI women groups do not have skills for effective participation, fully utilization of their capacities and monitoring the democratization process which Tanzania is undergoing, for legal and other social problems KIWAKKUKI utilizes the existing government structures and personnel like the Village and Ward level leadership, the social workers and lawyers, nurses, doctors, teachers and administrators who carry out different activities in service delivery partnerships. There is also a Youth Alive Club trained to reach other youth with behaviour change messages and life skills through a Youth Talk to Youth Approach as well as conducting a school health program to reach the school children and in school youth with sexuality education though it is not fully utilized.

KIWAKKUKI is also into advocacy work for increased access to resources from the community by conducting regular consultations with caretakers, school administrators, faith based leaders and other local leaders. However, since it is highly dependent on “drop in clients” rather than a partnership endeavor between the community, the government and KIWAKKUKI, the whole approach is quite fragmented. According to the survey which was conducted by a group of community health researchers in 2000 an estimated figure of orphans was about 50,000 while they are supporting only 2,500 children.

Although these efforts have cost them a lot of time, energy, and resources, KIWAKKUKI is still challenged by her strategy of programming. There is need for more to be done to size up the

impact mitigation by increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of the existing strategies in terms of giving children the opportunity to express their feelings, worries, desires and ambitions. Moreover, KIWAKKUKI has another gap in terms of skills for advocacy coupled with policy relevant skills, partnership building and documentation of best practices. Scaling up is also important in strengthening the existing social capital to facilitate provision of children's needs including food, education, shelter and so forth.

Zimbabwe experienced the worst cholera crisis in Africa for 15 years in 2008-2009. Almost 5,000 people died as a result of the deadly disease, many of them vulnerable children. In response, according to the World's Mothers report (2012), Save the Children has reached over 23,000 people, inclusive of nearly 12,000 children, with treatment and health education. Food and hygiene education was delivered to cholera-affected areas including water treatment tablets, soap, water containers, educational posters and flyers, and other supplies. Non-governmental organizations and technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Health.

More than 450,000 people benefited from Save the Children which provided food, health care and child protection services. Despite the progress that has been made, millions of the poorest Zimbabwean children who are mostly orphans are still facing a lot of hardships. Projects were implemented, in affiliation with local organizations to increase efficiency and engagement in Zimbabwean villages and communities. Save the Children's relief workers and development programs reached a total of 452,378 people directly, and 385,263 of them were children. In addition, the program indirectly reached 831,901 people, of which 451,716 were children.

Moving on, in spite of laws guaranteeing children's legal rights in Zimbabwe, they are often not upheld; just a few NGOs cover this area. The Justice for Children Trust which was set up in 2003 and mainly funded by Sweden, tries to fill this gap. According to Supporting the Most Vulnerable paper by Sida (2009), abuse of the rights of children has been exacerbated by the economic and political crisis. Political violence has resulted in the maltreatment of children especially orphans. Economic hardships have led to family break-downs and conflicts regarding inheritance, custody and child maintenance among other things which has resulted in the increment of child sexual abuse. JCT has three main programmes and they are legal aid, birth registration and criminal matters. Birth registration is a right despite the fact that many cannot afford it, creating a number of problems for the children. Four lawyers at JCT and a number of volunteers identify cases in cooperation with civil society organisations. The Ministry of Justice sees JCT as filling a gap although relations with other authorities are sometimes more strained, as JCT exposes violations and negligence of duties. In its quest to improve the situation, JCT carries out legal education in government departments, magistrates, the police force, in schools as well as in communities. The organization wants to train paralegals who can advise and support people at the community level and also want to strengthen a volunteer lawyer service around the country. With such support, communities will be able to demand their rights.

In Nigeria, the Catholic Relief Services started its work in 1960 to provide humanitarian assistance in collaboration with the Catholic Church. In 1970 they were forced to leave the country during the Biafra War along with many other NGOs. In the late 1990s, CRS implemented outreach projects in Nigeria through the Catholic Church, and in 1999, CRS opened an office in Nigeria, primarily to support peace and justice efforts.

Programmatic areas in Nigeria have since expanded to include peace building, governance, health, capacity building, agriculture and emergency response & recovery. CRS also helped households recover from the effects of flooding in the Niger Delta region from 2012 to 2013. The organisation employs an integrated approach to help poor and vulnerable people lead full and productive lives. The implementation of programs in partnership with the Catholic Church, civil-society organizations, government institutions and community networks, provide technical support to strengthen their systems. Across all programs they are reaching over 1.77 million beneficiaries with programming focused on the following areas:

AGRICULTURE

The multi-sector approach which was employed by CRS helped 42,000 households grow their agricultural production, incomes and help strengthen community and government systems to support these gains. Individualized support is being offered to selected households from trained community liaisons that link them to the most relevant activities and services. Women, youth and adolescents receive support, with interventions tailored to their particular challenges and aspirations. The project is being implemented in rural communities in North-western Nigeria and Abuja. In this regard the CRS is helping in the improvement of the livelihoods of orphans by strengthening their households by helping farmers access high quality certified cassava stems through a traceable value chain. This will strengthen household incomes and food security by increasing cassava productivity for 35,000 farming households by improving production practices. Farmers have been receiving regular extension service support and supervision from both private and public sector providers through this project. This agro business model has been met with substantial interest and excitement from other actors in the agriculture sector in Nigeria.

HEALTH

They are empowering households to improve their livelihoods in sustainable ways. Their program supports local organizations to strengthen communities, civil society and government. Together they are also responding to the needs of highly vulnerable children. The program is in the process of improving the well-being of 500,000 children and 125,000 caregivers by monitoring holistic care in five of Nigeria's "middle belt" states.

Catholic Relief Services has also been helping orphans through the immunisation of orphans against polio. Polio eradication in Nigeria became a global priority when the country was listed as one of the last three with endemic polio cases. The CRS are helping to contribute to achieving the goals of 2013 Nigeria Polio Eradication Emergency Plan by employing an integrated approach that focuses on: support to routine immunisations, improved community demand, reducing missed and zero dose children, and improving community based detection. The project is not intended to provide support to polio campaigns or constantly shift focus from one area to another, campaign to campaign; it instead provides consistent, year round attention.

CHAPTER 1

CIVIL SOCIETY AND ITS ROLE IN IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOODS OF ORPHANS IN ZIMBABWE

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter will look at the role played by the civil society in improving the livelihoods of orphans in Zimbabwe using livelihood indicators such as quality of life, standards of living, education, poverty reduction and employment.

Many organizations in Zimbabwe are working towards improving the livelihoods of orphans and among the organizations providing assistance to or advocacy on behalf of children are Care International, the Catholic Relief Services (FAO 2008). Childline, the Child Protection Society, Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT), Farm Orphan Support Trust (FOST), Girl Child Network Zimbabwe, Justice for Children Trust, Musasa Project, Ntengwe for Community Development, Save the Children UK, UNICEF, Women and Law of Southern Africa (Jackson 2002), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (operates a Children's Desk), World Vision, and ZimRights among others. Several organizations have provided training in inheritance rights and/or will-writing either directly to children or for the benefit of children, including but not limited to Catholic Relief Services, Commission for Justice and Peace, Justice for Children Trust, Legal Resources Foundation, Ntengwe for Community Development, Seke Rural Home-Based Care, and Women and Law of Southern Africa (WLSA).

Viewed collectively, organizations that assist children are primarily concerned with children's legal rights, i.e. inheritance, maintenance, and freedom from abuse and domestic violence (e.g. virginity testing, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and pledging of girls to appease spirits). These organizations are also involved with improving children's access to birth certificates and promoting parental estate planning, mostly through birth certificate and will writing campaigns. Other organizations like World Vision and Care International are more involved in the livelihoods of orphans on the basis of the children's wellbeing and provision of basic needs such as food, education and health among other things. In this chapter the researcher seeks to highlight the activities of Ntengwe a CBO in Binga, Justice for Children's Trust, UNICEF, Farm Orphan Support Trust (FOST) Catholic Relief Services and World Vision.

QUALITY OF LIFE AND STANDARDS OF LIVING

Ntengwe a CBO for Community Development according to Rose (2008) was founded by its director Elizabeth Markham in 2000 and is based in Binga works in three key areas which are HIV prevention under the Musinsimuke - Wake Up project providing community outreach, training peer educators, developing AIDS Action Clubs, initiating income generating activities and nutrition gardens, producing a manual, and putting out a quarterly youth newsletter. Secondly, according the Legal Resources Foundation (1998) there is orphan support under the Mutubambile - The Orphans Project is registering orphans, establishing a children's trust fund, developing a youth outreach programme, organizing a children's choir, producing a music CD and documentary films, and training youth on wills and inheritance. Lastly, psychosocial support

through the Ntengwe Drop-In Centre offering counseling, skills training in carpentry and agriculture and recreational options.

In this regard, one can note that Ntengwe's activities in Binga give a clear picture of what the civil society is doing to enhance the lives of orphans. Income generating activities do go a long way in helping orphans as they will be guaranteed of an income and even their dietary needs especially from projects like nutrition gardens. Orphans are also taken care of when it comes to their psychological wellbeing through psychosocial support from organizations like Ntengwe where they get access to counseling or activities that will help them to deal with their problems.

In Victoria Falls as stated by Rose (2008), Ntengwe is aiming to reinforce the existing efforts of communities and families to care for orphans by working through churches, schools and women's groups.

As indicated above, Ntengwe has produced a music CD, Tuli Bamuchaala, as well as documentary films about the prevention of HIV, Musinsimuke- Wake Up, and inheritance rights, Voices for Positive Choice. The organization has also initiated a Memory Book Project and a Book Project which presents the life stories of six orphans. Ntengwe is also working towards developing three new programme concepts so as to promote writing of wills as well as make services regarding property and inheritance issues more accessible.

The first concept involves drop-in centres where community members would be able to discuss property issues with trained paralegals. The Ntengwe Drop-in Centre was recently established at Manjolo.

The second concept involves community paralegals who would be trained to educate and assist community members on a voluntary basis with property and inheritance issues and will writing.

The paralegals would be ordinary citizens who assist at the drop-in centres or otherwise remain “on call” in their communities.

The third concept involves community watchdog groups which would be composed of trained community paralegals. The goal of the groups would be to educate people about property and inheritance issues and be prepared to intervene in property disputes or property-grabbing situations.

Moving on, the Justice for Children Trust which is based in Harare is a non-profit organisation that was founded in 2002 by a group of registered lawyers who wanted to provide free legal services to minors in civil and criminal cases. The staff of JCT state in an informational brochure that they are motivated by the HIV and AIDS pandemic which is accompanied by problems of orphan hood, child headed households and denial of children's rights. Rose (2008), states that among their objectives, they aim to educate people about laws relevant to children's rights by attending or convening workshops and seminars, to research and document findings on children's legal issues and to lobby and advocate for legal and policy reform on matters affecting children. As part of their legal aid programme, they advise, draft legal documents, accompany or visit clients at police stations or in prison, and represent them in court.

According to its June 2007 progress report, JCT handled 285 cases in the month, about 20 of which were property inheritance cases involving equal numbers of male and female minor children. Children's guardians or caretaking relatives do approach JCT for assistance with the children's property problems; however, children with such problems come to JCT on their own. In one recent case according to the Justice for Children Trust June report (2007), a young female double orphan was brought to JCT by her father's brother after her step-siblings threw her out of

the family house. JCT mediated a round table discussion involving all parties in the hope of airing out the problems and getting the orphan back home. In another case in which the orphan's guardian acted as transgressor rather than caretaker, the male orphan's guardian (his mother's brother) sold his house. The orphan complained to the local authorities who sent him to JCT. JCT asked the Master of the High Court to appoint one of their lawyers as the orphan's guardian. Thereafter, the High Court decided that the house belonged to the orphan.

In another case involving a transgressing relative as stated in the JCT progress report of June 2007, a 14-year-old female double orphan felt compelled to take action to protect her property rights after her father died in 2006, leaving behind a will which indicated that she should inherit the house. The problem was that her older half-brother insisted that he, as a male, had the customary right to inherit the house. He also argued that their father's will was not registered with the Master of the High Court and therefore was invalid. Fortunately, the girl knew about the inheritance law of 1997 because of a training programme she had attended at school, and she asked JCT to help her. JCT took her case to the High Court. The house was registered in her name and she began receiving rental money to pay for her school fees.

The work of one organization, the Farm Orphan Support Trust (FOST), cannot go unnoticed. FOST is a national community-based programme which is soliciting and facilitating support for children especially orphans on commercial farms. The organisation is engaged in community awareness regarding children's property and inheritance rights, advocating on behalf of orphans, providing home-based care to orphans (particularly orphans heading households), and to support children within clubs, where older children assist one another and younger children (Parry 1998,

Walker 2002). FOST has recruited a child care representative on each farm who visits and supervises community childcare and encourages interaction between orphans and non orphans. In the Kariri Farm School FOST Club, all children, orphans and non orphans participate in the club. The belief here is that “every child is a potential orphan” and they have a gardening project and each child has a responsibility of watering it. They plant tomatoes and sell them and the profit goes to orphans at school.

Child Protection

In support of Millennium Summit Declaration Section 6 - Protecting the vulnerable, UNICEF advances protective environments to help prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination, and for children made vulnerable by emergencies.

Focus areas include raising government awareness of child protection rights and situation analysis, as well as promoting laws that punish child exploiters. This has improved the safety of orphans especially in child headed families. Working through advocacy and its local offices worldwide, UNICEF helps strengthen the resources of schools, communities and families to care for marginalized children, including those orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Peer education

Vision HIV/AIDS under World Vision has reached more than 3000 youths to date with behavior change and prevention programmes. Supporting MDG 6 which seeks to combat HIV and other diseases, one of the organizations main objectives is to reduce HIV infection rates, STIs and the HIV prevalence rate at large. According to the 2012 World Vision’s Newsletter two facilitators, Petronella Barara and Emmanuel Kademaunga took 15 girls and 15 boys drawn from the five

districts of the Harare Province through peer education initial training which ran from October to December 2012. After the completion of training the peer educators were expected to play a pivotal role in discouraging high risk behavior that exposes their peers to early pregnancies, STI and HIV infection. Children are also being educated on sexual reproductive health, rights and STIs prevention.

Reproductive health sessions are conducted on a monthly basis to empower children to make wise decisions in matters related to reproductive health. Assessments to ascertain the impact of reproductive health forums showed that most of the participants have been empowered with knowledge on STIs and HIV/AIDS and efforts are being made to see to it that this knowledge is translated into behavior change. All the misconceptions that the participants had were corrected. According to World Vision's outreach staff, this has subsequently led to the correction of the same misconceptions and myths on HIV and reproductive health amongst their peers who did not attend the sessions.

Psycho-Social Support

A holistic approach is used by World Vision in counseling children in difficult situations. Sporting activities are regularly conducted under themes such as: sport against sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. Sport has proved to be an effective vehicle to convey the messages to children because it involves a lot of fun, exercise and learning at the same time which is sometimes called "edutainment". About a thousand children have been attending sporting activities and most of them participate in focus group discussions aimed at educating them on sexual abuse, drug abuse, HIV/ AIDS and reproductive health. Sport is also used to offer

psychosocial support, to nurture and expose as much talent as possible. This programme has led to the formation of soccer, volley ball teams for both boys and girls and a girls' netball team and all team members have been very effective in disseminating information on prevention of the spread of HIV to their opponents after match. It is stated that these children love their sports very much and others even have the ambition of playing for the national teams when they grow up. (World Vision Newsletter 2012)

Counseling

World Vision has been conducting counseling sessions with children who are in need of counseling particularly those in child headed households to help them deal with bereavement and the trauma they went through seeing their loved ones suffer and die. More so, most children heading households have begun to acknowledge and understand the responsibilities that go with caring for their siblings. Children have now developed some trust for the organization's volunteer outreach workers hence they can now open up on matters that are distressing them including being empowered to come up with decisions on issues affecting them. An average of 320 children are benefiting from the programme on a monthly basis.

BASIC EDUCATION

As the old adage goes "knowledge is power", many organizations can be commended for their work in ensuring that orphans get access to basic education. In support of MDG 2 and 3 which is to achieve universal primary education and to promote gender equality and empower women

respectively, UNICEF collaborates with countries, donor governments and other UN agencies to promote, fund and facilitate universal primary education and gender equality.

This includes improving children's developmental readiness for school, especially for orphans and other disadvantaged groups, via community-sponsored childhood education and health initiatives.

Through advocacy and local programmes, UNICEF works to reduce the gender gap and other disparities in access to, participation in and completion of basic schooling. This includes supporting water, sanitation and hygiene improvement in schools to create a child-friendly environment for learning.

UNICEF seeks to help national and local governments to improve educational quality and retention using practical demonstrations and evidence-based advocacy.

Finally, UNICEF also delivers school supplies as part of its back-to-school programme. According to UNICEF, by the end of 2010 all 5,600 Zimbabwean primary schools benefited from 13 million textbooks, improving the textbook-to-pupil ratio for core subjects from 1:10 to 1:1. Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) was also revitalized which was another key education sector achievement, which assisted 514,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) to access school through fee payments helping children to return to a more normal, safe environment and protecting their right to basic education.

World Vision has also been doing a lot to make sure that orphans get access to education. The organization is striving to empower orphans and vulnerable children in child headed households by providing educational assistance. Despite government's commitment to making education accessible to all children, many of these children are still unable to go to and stay in school

because they cannot afford the tuition fees, uniforms, and other associated costs. World Vision has paid school fees for 536 children (288 are girls and 248 are boys). The organisation is also providing stationery (books, ballpoint pens, pencils and rulers) and uniforms to these children. In doing this they are upholding children's right to education and complementing government efforts in achieving universal primary education as well as ensuring that they have a bright future. Reports from outreach staff and the Head Teacher at Grace Mugabe Primary School in Hatcliffe Extension where the organization has been helping orphans indicate that there has been an improvement in attendance and performance by some of the beneficiaries of the programme. (World Vision Newsletter 2012)

POVERTY

REDUCTION

In support of MDG 1 which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Vision HIV/AIDS under World Vision is responding to various afflictions of children affected and infected with HIV/AIDS and those in child headed households by implementing programmes that are aimed at alleviating poverty endured by these children in some of their families and protect them from the ever present threat of HIV/ AIDS whilst at the same time promoting self reliance and their ability to care for their siblings. According to the World Vision Newsletter (2012), the organization's programmes aim to uphold children's rights to education, food, shelter, care among others through programmes like livelihood support, educational assistance, counseling and awareness programmes and life skills and entrepreneurship programmes.

Its commitment to providing orphans with livelihood support has seen the organisation providing food packs to more than 200 families. According to the World Vision newsletter (2012) orphans

especially in child headed families in Hatcliffe Extension have been provided with basic groceries which include rice, maize meal, cooking oil, laundry soap, sugar, potatoes, fruits and flour. Livelihood support has brought relief to families who are receiving the support on a monthly basis. Children are notable to hide their gratitude most of the time during their distributions, and such phrases as “Tapona” (We have been saved) or “Mwariariko” (God is there) are common. The organization has most of these children entirely dependent on it for their livelihood as they cannot afford to buy food for themselves. Their families can now afford two decent meals a day, something which never happened before the intervention from the organization. A reduction in risky behavior that exposes girls in child headed households to HIV infection has been achieved as a result of livelihood support given to them. Some of these children are on Anti Retroviral Treatment hence food packs being provided are of great help since. This project has been a success because of the organization’s partners namely Wild Geese Lodge, Pomona Stone Quarries, Home Style, Fruit and Veg City Borrowdale and CV People Africa among others not mentioned.

Internal Savings and Lending

Catholic Relief Services has also been playing a vital role in improving the livelihoods of orphans. According to the research done by Chitongo (2013) the organization has been helping orphans in Murehwa district ward 28 through different programmes. The Internal Savings and Lending project involves the guardians of orphans in Murehwa district ward 28 in the belief that strengthening their income sources would lead to the improvement of the orphan’s lives. The Catholic Relief Services has trained groups on how to reduce the impact of inflation on

themselves. It has become a reliable local institution that offers loans, encourages entrepreneurship and increases community members' asset bases.

Nutrition Gardens

The Catholic Relief Services has also stepped up in horticultural activities as stated by Chitongo (2013), which form part of the backbone for the rural livelihoods of many rural households in terms of household nutrition and income generation. Chitongo states that, the inclusion of training as part of the package has further enhanced the knowledge and skill base of beneficiaries. Introduced technologies such as treadle pumps and drip kits have lessened the burden of carrying water with buckets and created time for other household chores. The programme has greatly helped the beneficiaries financially from the income of the nutrition gardens and they have also been a source of food for them .

Small Livestock Support Programme

As stated by Chitongo (2013), the Catholic Relief Services intervention for rural orphans came at a time when most vulnerable households had a thin asset base and could not acquire any more assets as they were poverty stricken because of the socio-economic challenges faced in the country. The programme enabled orphans to access young breeding stock in the form of goats to boost their asset accumulation and for sale to give them a source of income.

EMPLOYMENT CREATION THROUGH LIFE SKILLS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING

Fifty children heading households in Hatcliffe Extension are receiving life skills training to equip them with skills and knowledge that is required in caring for their siblings from World Vision. As stated in the World Vision Newsletter (2012), Vision HIV/AIDS' outreach workers work with community volunteers to identify children in need of training. More than 400 children heading households have gone through life skills training so that they are equipped with skills and knowledge and responsibilities that go with caring for their siblings. 20 girls and 18 boys were referred to various vocational skills training centres like Kaguvi, Chambuta, and Tongogara for training in welding, dressmaking, building, carpentry and horticulture. In doing this the organisation is aiming at improving self reliance in child headed households as well as reducing the dependency syndrome. This also helps in reducing incidents of transactional sex as the girls will be able to work and provide for their siblings. Crime and illegal activities will be reduced as there will not be any need for that since the skills they acquire are essential for their livelihood. This overallly helps to reduce the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate due to the reduction of the youths' vulnerability and idleness.

FORMATION OF RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Restless Development (then (SPW) Students Partnership Worldwide) was founded in 1985 by Jim Cogan, the then Deputy Head of Westminster School, London. Its work at the start was sending young people from Westminster School to work full time in undeserved schools in Zimbabwe and India, teaching Mathematics and English under the working name of "Third World Projects."

By 1995, more than 200 young people from all around the UK were volunteering with the Charity every year. Between 1992-2000 new country programmes in Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa were launched and there was an increasing focus on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 1992 SPW started recruiting local volunteers to make programmes more sustainable. This provided its popularity and effectiveness and became a hallmark of SPW's work. From 2000 onwards, SPW began to purely use local volunteers to deliver the programmes. From 2000-2006 new country programmes in Zambia and Sierra Leone were launched and in 2010 SPW re-branded and became Restless Development. Unfortunately Jim passed away in 2007, but he left a great legacy that is continuing at Restless Development. The agency has earned a reputation for high quality delivery of programmes led full time by young people.

The youth-led development approach has been repeatedly cited as a model of best practice by the World Bank, UNAIDS, UNICEF and other international institutions, as well as receiving the 2007 STARS Impact Award in Tanzania, the 2009 AWOL NGO of the Year Award in Sierra Leone and Volunteer organisation of the year in Nepal in 2010.

Restless Development Zimbabwe is a locally registered non-governmental organization (NGO) (035/2010). It works to ensure to bring young people to the decision-making table across three goal areas:

- **Civic participation** - young people will participate in decision making processes in Zimbabwe.
- **Livelihoods and Employment** - young people will have improved life skills and livelihoods.

- **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**-young people will make informed decisions about their sexual reproductive health.

The organization has a long-term commitment to all the communities in which it works. Its projects are linked directly to national strategies and are implemented in partnership with central and local government and complement their work at local and national levels. These partnerships enable Restless Development to build the capacity of government and non-government service providers and to provide the crucial link to the project communities. The Restless Development module is based on the principle that young people carefully selected, and trained, and acting as role models, can influence positive change and development at individual, community and national levels. Restless Development volunteers acting as peer educators in communities, carry out effective long-term interventions in health and livelihoods as part of developing their communities and themselves.

CHAPTER 2

THE ROLE OF RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT IN IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOODS OF ORPHANS IN NHEDZIWA WARD 4 CHIMANIMANI DISTRICT

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter presents the livelihoods of orphans before the intervention of Restless Development in ward 4 of the Chimanimani district basing on the five livelihood indicators which are quality of life, standards of living, basic education, poverty reduction and employment. Lastly, the paper will outline the intervention of Restless Development and its impact on orphans basing again on the above livelihoods indicators.

LIVELIHOODS OF ORPHANS IN WARD 4 CHIMANIMANI DISTRICT BEFORE THE INTERVENTION OF RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Quality of life and Standards of living

Prior to the intervention of Restless Development orphans in Chimanimani district were characterised by poverty. Most households where these children belonged to lived below the poverty datum line. About 80% of these orphans acknowledged that they survived on mostly one meal per day as their guardians could not afford to feed them three times a day. Other orphans belong to child headed families hence it was even more difficult for such children to get a decent nutritious meal every day. Moreover, some of these children used to borrow basic items like food and money from their neighbours when they did not have anything to eat and this

strained their relations socially as sometimes other kids made fun of them which minimised their self-esteem. Lack of adequate food was also bad health wise for orphans who are HIV positive and some missed school because they could not go on hungry stomachs. These children did not have proper shelter especially those in child headed families as their family houses had been grabbed from them by relatives after the death of their parents. This left them with no option but to look for alternative shelter whereby there was a scenario of a boy and girl sharing the same room and these children did not even get the chance to try and get over their parent's death leaving them vulnerable to depression. In addition, most orphans did not have proper clothing especially school uniforms. The above information gives a clear picture of how deteriorated life was for orphans before the intervention of Restless Development.

Basic education

Most orphans in ward 4 of the Chimanimani district were facing problems in regard to their access to education. Since most of them could not lay their hands on a decent meal, going to school was considered a luxury hence they could not afford to pay their school fees. From the interview held with the Headmaster of Matendeudze primary school, the researcher learnt that the grade 1 intake is usually high but drops right at the end of the first term. After an analysis held by the school to find out why there is a sudden drop on the number of grade ones, they found out that most of these children are both single and double orphans hence they cannot afford to pay their school fees among other things. At Nhedziwa high school the case was the same with the form one intake. Some students had to fend for themselves in terms of food,

school fees and clothes among other things. Lack of opportunity and hope led to a high level of school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, early marriages, HIV and drug abuse.

Patrick a boy from Nhedziwa high school who is in form two had to work for some people since form one doing household chores and herding cattle and goats who in turn gave him shelter and \$60 per month to pay his school fees. However, the boy complained that sometimes he was not given food and this was as a result of the family disputes that happened now and again because of its polygamous nature. Nevertheless, he was grateful for that job although he outlined that it sometimes took up most of his time and had little time to do his school work and sometimes even missed school. During an interview he also stated that:-

“Ndanga ndisina mari yekutenga mauniforms nemabooks and dzimwenguva ndaienda kuchikoro ndakapfeka maslippers,saka zvaindikanganisa nekutindaimbo sekwa nevamwe kuchikoro.”

During the interviews with the headmasters the researcher learnt that the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) could not cover the school fees for every orphan hence most did not benefit from the programme. In this regard, one can note that most children had limited or no access to education because of poverty, hence they struggled to develop marketable personal and vocational skills. Religious beliefs were also to blame for lack of education as some guardians from the apostolic sect taking care of orphans did not believe in acquiring education as a basic need but rather they encouraged these orphans to work using their hands in order to earn a living.

Employment

Since the education system is weak and combined with a lack of employment opportunities this leaves young people without skills or resources to fulfil their potential and increasingly vulnerable to exploitative and risky relationships. Most orphaned youths in Chimanimani did not have any form of decent employment before the intervention of Restless Development because they did not have the qualifications since they could not afford to go to school. Some of them were involved in “food for work” and others were cattle herders but they still did not get enough to sustain themselves. This practically made their lives difficult as they did not have money to lead a decent life. Some of these youths resorted to substance abuse (using drugs like marijuana and glue) and alcoholism especially when it is not the farming season due idleness. Those with unemployed guardians were also poverty stricken. Some had certain skills they could use to start their businesses but they did not have the capital. Some of the sufferings were due to the lack of access to both formal and informal employment and it has also proved to be a driver to poverty.

THE INTERVENTION OF RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LIVELIHOODS OF ORPHANS

The main aim of Restless Development is to ensure that orphans in the Chimanimani district get access to a decent life by improving their livelihoods through giving them access to basic needs such as education, food, health and shelter through income generating activities, advocacy and capacity building workshops, psycho-social support camps, life skills and sexual reproductive health and rights sessions.

LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT

Nutrition gardens

Garden projects have been helpful to orphans who benefit from them. Restless Development provides its beneficiaries in schools with gardening material like seeds, watering cans, forks, fertilisers and other equipment and building material like poles and fence to start the garden project. There are 20 garden beneficiaries at Matendeudze primary school, (10 males and 10 females). These projects generate about \$100 per harvest and vegetables for orphans.



**Nutrition
garden at
Matendeud
ze Primary
School**

Fig 1: Nutrition garden for orphans. Photo shot by the researcher (17.08.14)

Poultry management

The organisation has been issuing poultry projects to schools in the hope of helping orphans. It provides the day old chicks, feeds and medicine for the poultry. This project in turn is supposed to help orphans income wise. Nhedziwa high school has 10 orphans benefiting from this project (8 males and 2 females) and they get about \$450 after sale.



Nhedziwa High School poultry project

Fig 2: Nhedziwa income generation project: Photo shot by Researcher (17.08.14)

Goat pass-on

Restless Development has been giving goats to in-school orphans in the goat pass-on project. This is whereby a beneficiary is given a female goat to keep and when it gives birth to its young one the goat is passed on to another beneficiary and it goes on like that. The project has enabled most orphans to own their own livestock which can then provide them with both income and meat. Five orphans are benefiting from this project.

Sewing

This project has been administered to high schools whereby the organisation buys sewing machines for these schools. A sewing club is formed which is comprised of orphans and they are given sewing lessons. These orphans are expected to sew their own uniforms and clothes and make others for sale which gives them some sort of income for themselves. Nhedziwa high school again has such a project with 30 orphans as beneficiaries, (8 males and 22 females).

Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL)

This project is administered to orphan guardians in the hope that strengthening their sources of income will also help orphans by improving their livelihoods through access to healthy food, education and a decent shelter. 10 women are involved in this project.

Life Skills and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

Life skills are qualities invested in an individual to build his or her capacity. Orphans become participants of these sessions whereby they are taught on different topics like communication,

self awareness and self esteem, time management and leadership among other things. These are meant to help orphans in their day to day lives as they grow up. Sessions on sexual reproductive health are held to help young people especially orphans who are most vulnerable make informed decisions about their sexual reproductive health (SRH).Sexual reproductive health sessions also help orphans to know more about themselves or rather their bodies and diseases like HIV/AIDS and other STIs and how they can be prevented.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Advocacy and capacity building

Advocacy workshops are held by the organisation for orphans in order to encourage them. During such workshops orphans are enlightened on the different types of abuse and are taught how to and encouraged to report in any case of abuse. They are also taught on how to stand up for themselves and where to go for help for example in property grabbing situations by relatives of their deceased parents.

Psycho-social support

Psycho-social camps are held every year by Restless Development. The purpose of these is to help orphans psychologically through memory books (which is collecting items that reminds one of a particular period in time) and counselling.

IMPACT OF RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT'S ACTIVITIES

Quality of Life and Standards of Living

The intervention of Restless Development towards improving the livelihoods of orphans in ward 4 of the Chimanimani district drastically changed their lives for the better. Advocacy workshops that have been implemented for orphans are held to educate orphans on their rights as children. These workshops are more of awareness campaigns teaching orphans about the different types of abuse and how to report abuse cases to the police. They are also encouraged to work closely with the Child Protection Committee who can help in times of need. Orphans especially those in child headed families are also taught on how to stand up for themselves for example during property grabbing situations by relatives of their deceased parents. Psycho-social support has also greatly helped orphans in difficult situations like bereavement thereby improving the quality of life of orphans through counselling.

The income generating activities that have been initiated by the organisation have greatly improved the quality of life of orphans and their standards of living. Projects like nutrition gardens, poultry management, goat pass-on and sewing have given most orphans in the Chimanimani district a source of income and healthy meals. Some orphans in the garden project are HIV positive hence they benefit from the nutritious vegetables they get there and there are fewer cases whereby children would not go to school because of hunger. A grade 6 girl named Fungai Muchuro who belongs to a child headed family and is a beneficiary of the garden project at Matendeudze primary school was so happy to be part of the project.

“Kumba kwedu takudyawo macarrots, spinach ne peas teacher vakatiudza kuti macarrots anobatsira maziso.”

Basic education

The initiation of income generating activities by Restless Development has gone a long way in giving orphans a decent life by giving them access to education which is also in line with MDG 2 which seeks to achieve universal primary education. Nutrition gardens, goat pass-on, sewing and poultry projects have given orphans involved in the projects a source of income. A number of orphans have had their school fees paid for and some have managed to acquire school uniforms from the money that has been raised through these projects. Matendeudze primary school's nutrition garden and goat pass-on projects have given access to education for 10 orphans. The headmasters of the schools have also confirmed that there has been an increase in the number of students attending school because their fees had been paid for by these projects. Patrick from Nhedziwa high school who used to work for his school fees now has his fees paid by the poultry project at his school and he now has more time to focus on his studies.

“Project yatakapiwa neRestless Development yakundibhadharira school fees yangu plus ndakatengerwa ma new uniforms saka ndirikufara nekuti I now have more time for my studies.”

Many orphans have also gone back to school as a result of the ISAL project. Guardians of orphans are now able to send these children to school since their source of income has been strengthened. Capacity building workshops also helped and are still helping orphans to get access to education especially those belonging to the apostolic sect who are reluctant to send children to school.

Poverty reduction

In its quest to achieve MDG 1 which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Restless Development's income generating activities have to some extent reduced the poverty levels of orphans in ward 4 of the Chimanimani district. The ISAL project has managed to put nutritious food on the table for orphans through their guardians, the provision of decent clothing has also been as a result of the project and most importantly these households have managed to acquire assets like livestock through this project and the goat pass-on project as well, hence these families now live above the poverty datum line. One orphaned girl also acknowledged that they now have decent meals in their home.

"These days tinomwawo tea ne chingwa chine margarine manheru tichidya sadza nenyama."

Employment

Most orphaned youths in ward 4 of the Chimanimani district were not employed before the intervention of Restless Development because they did not have the educational qualifications. However, through the implementation of projects by the organisation most orphans got access to education therefore a number of orphaned youths have managed to get employed in formally because they are now educated. Some of the jobs they have managed to acquire include nursing, teaching and some are recruited in the law enforcement sector as police officers. Some orphaned youths who have formed support groups are now business owners through projects like poultry and nutrition gardens which are given to them by Restless Development. Those who were involved in projects in school acquired the necessary skills and knowhow and they have started their own projects. Those in child headed families are now able to get the basic household needs

like food and some have even managed to renovate and extend their houses giving them more space. These projects have greatly improved the livelihoods of these orphans as they now have access to education, nutritious food and health.

CONCLUSION

Restless Development has managed to achieve all of its intended goals. The standards of living and quality of life of orphans have greatly improved as the organisation has managed to give these orphans access to certain basic needs which food, education, health and shelter through projects that are being implemented by the organisation. There is also a noticeable change in the poverty levels of orphans in the Chimanimani district ward 4. There has been a major reduction in poverty due to the implementation of projects like ISALs. There has also been an increased empowerment on the orphans especially those in child headed families. Most of these children can now afford to look after themselves. Those who were unemployed and still had to take care of their siblings are now project owners and this has reduced their dependency on other households as they can work for themselves and earn a living. In this regard, one can note that the above projects and other activities that are implemented by Restless Development have brought about sustainable development in ward 4 of the Chimanimani district.

CHAPTER 3

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES WITH REGARDS TO THE ROLE PLAYED BY RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT IN IMPROVING THE LIVELIHOODS OF ORPHANS IN NHEDZIWA WARD 4 CHIMANIMANI DISTRICT

CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter presents the challenges that Restless Development as an organisation has been facing internally and how they affect the impact of the organisation's work towards improving the livelihoods of orphans in ward 4 of the Chimanimani district. Secondly the chapter is going to highlight the strategies that Restless Development can implement to maximise the impact of its work, that is, to improve the livelihoods of orphans.

CHALLENGES FACED BY RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT IN TRYING TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOODS OF ORPHANS

Restless Development has been facing quite a number of challenges in its endeavours in regard to the implementation of its projects. Budgetary constraints due to lack of adequate funding has been a major problem. If there was adequate funding all the projects that the organisation has been implementing could reach a much larger number of orphans, for example the garden project at Matendeudze primary school only benefits 20 orphans but if it was not for inadequate funding the project could be helping more orphans.

The management of Restless Development rarely goes to the field and this gives room for poor implementation of programmes which leads to poor monitoring and evaluation. Lack of regular monitoring and evaluation of projects has led to their demise which has had a negative impact on the orphan's livelihoods since they had grown to depend on these projects. The organisation does not have a Research and Development department hence their interventions tend to be top down instead of bottom up. The International office gives orders of what activities are to be implemented instead of getting information from people on the ground in regard to the programmes that are to be implemented. This has greatly affected the impact of its programmes in trying to improve the livelihoods of orphans.

Poor resource prioritisation is another challenge which has affected the impact of the organisation's initiatives towards the improvement of the livelihoods of orphans. A lot of money which can be reduced is used for stakeholder conferences instead of pumping cash to the grassroots projects.

Another challenge which has reduced the impact of the organisation's programmes is inadequate workforce. Restless Development is understaffed because of its policy of "low cost" implementation hence it has affected the quality and success of programmes which has often resulted in their demise, for example the goat pass-on project of Matendeudze primary school has not been effective because there has not been regular monitoring and evaluation of the project. This destroyed the prospects of orphans in the project.

More so, the organisation's program focus has challenges as they seem to have more strength in youth programming and SRH, this has to some extent divided the organisation's attention

leaving the orphan based programmes' resources constrained thereby reducing its impact in trying to improve the livelihoods of orphans.

Restless Development has volunteers who work on the ground and the management do not support their initiatives yet they are the ones working on the ground, this therefore results in failure of the organisation to develop better programmes which can improve its impact towards improving the livelihoods of orphans.

Economic instability affects the sustainability of some of Restless Development's interventions like Income Generating Activities (IGA) therefore, it increases the vulnerability of children hence the organisation's initiatives would have gone down the drain. This has greatly reduced the impact of the programmes that have been put in place by Restless Development in its quest to improve the livelihoods of orphans in the Chimanimani district.

Lastly, community resistance has also been a major challenge to the organisation and has affected its impact towards improving the livelihoods of orphans. Both children and guardians in some cases are unresponsive to interventions, for example, those who belong to the apostolic sect do not encourage their children to go to school but to rather work using their hands and girls are betrothed to men and engaged in early marriages hence they do not find the reason to send their children to school or to accept help to do so. Such acts affect the impact of Restless Development's initiatives in trying to improve the livelihoods of orphans.

STRATEGIES THAT RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT CAN ADOPT TO INCREASE ITS IMPACT TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVELIHOODS OF ORPHANS

The study of Restless Development's work towards improving the livelihoods of orphaned children has shown that the organisation should adopt a participatory and holistic approach in terms of implementing its programmes, that is, development work should be bottom up not top down. Volunteers who are the people on the ground should participate in some decision making processes as they know the situation on the ground better than the management.

The organisation should not only dwell more on the so called "soft skill" empowerment, that is, Life skills and SRH sessions but should also engage in tangible and life changing empowerment, for example vocational training.

More so, Restless Development should desist from the 1 blanket approach but interventions should vary as per community and country's need, for example, there is a high rate of unemployment in Zimbabwe hence vocational training and employment creation are what the country needs as their needs differ from people in the United Kingdom who can engage in life skills.

Furthermore, power within the organisation should be decentralised. The International office has too much say in what transpires or rather in decision making and they do not consult people on the ground. This has minimised the impact of the organisation's work as some of the problems are not addressed because there is no support of volunteer initiatives because power is centralised.

Technical support or advisors should be engaged continuously as projects are an ongoing thing. The demise of most projects has been as a result of lack of technical supervision because training

on how to run the different projects is only implemented at the start of the programme where as a project is a continuous thing.

The management of Restless Development should also increase its field visits, pump more money into grass roots projects and strengthen its monitoring and evaluation. This will ensure the success of its programmes.

CONCLUSION

Restless Development needs to address its challenges if its activities are to bear fruit and if its impact on the improvement of the livelihoods of orphans is to increase. Challenges faced by the organisation like budgetary constraints have minimised its potential in eradicating poverty amongst orphans and giving them a better life. However, some challenges are internal and can be overcome if there is determination. On the other hand, there are strategies that can be implemented by the organisation to capacitate it to increase its impact on the improvement of the livelihoods of orphans like decentralising power within the organisation.

CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The civil society has a vital role to play when it comes to improving the livelihoods of orphans that is, giving them access to basic needs such as food, shelter, education and health. The study's aim was to assess the impact made by Restless development towards improving the livelihoods of orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district. The study objectives were firstly, to examine the impact of the civil society in improving livelihoods of orphans in Zimbabwe, secondly, to examine the impact of Restless Development on the livelihoods of orphans in the

Chimanimani district Ward 4 and lastly to identify challenges and offer recommendations to Restless Development with regards to dealing with orphans in Nhedziwa Ward 4 Chimanimani.

The researcher used qualitative research through interviews and questionnaires to collect data and managed to assess the impact made by Restless Development in trying to improve the livelihoods of orphans. The study showed that Restless Development has been engaging in various activities and projects such as poultry management with orphans to improve their livelihoods. These projects have turned around these children's lives as they now have access to education, food, employment and a decent shelter through the income they get from the projects. The organisation's activities are also proving to be a source of changing orphan's lives. With orphans being undermined in rural areas, these projects and other activities can be tools for empowering them and improving their access to basic needs and decreasing their levels of poverty.

The study also indicated that Restless Development activities have financially, economically, and socially improved orphan's livelihoods. The most significant factors that were drawn from the research are that orphans are usually the ones living in poverty and also most of them come from child headed families and thus are the ones who are selected to participate in these projects as they do not have sources of income and other means of looking after their households. This greatly improved their access to quality of life, standards of living, education and employment and has greatly reduced their levels of poverty. However, Restless Development has been facing many challenges which have been affecting their full potential when it comes to improving the livelihoods of orphans and these include inadequate funding and community resistance. Nevertheless, Restless Development has to some extent improved the livelihoods of orphans

through its various activities and has greatly impacted on these children's lives as their quality of life and standards of living have greatly improved.

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APPENDICES

My name is Sibongumusa S. Mlilo. I am a student at Midlands State University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies Honours Degree. I am conducting a research on the impact of Restless Development in improving the livelihoods of orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 Chimanimani district. It is the requirement of the Bachelor of Arts in Development Studies that every student conduct a research on any area of interest.

The information provided in this research will remain private and confidential. The material will be used for nothing other than academic purposes by the researcher only. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. You are free to answer or not to answer questions.

Appendix 1

Section A: Interview guide for orphans involved in projects

1. Name of respondent....
2. Who is the head of your family.....?
3. How many siblings do you have, who live with you?
4. Which school do you go to.....?
5. What grade/form are you in.....?

6. How would you describe your life before the intervention of Restless Development....?

7. Which project are you part of.....?

8. How have you benefited from the project.....?

Section B: Interview guide for the school heads of Nhedziwa high school and Matendeudze primary school

1. What was the situation of orphans at your school before the intervention of Restless Development....?
2. Which projects are being implemented by Restless Development at your school....?
3. How do orphans benefit from these projects....?
4. What is the situation of orphans now after the intervention of Restless Development....?

APPENDIX 2

Questionnaire designed for orphans benefiting from Restless Development's programmes

1. Sex Male [] Female []

2. Age in years

- 10-15
- 15-20

3. Formal Education

- Primary
- Secondary

4. What challenges are faced by orphans in Nhedziwa ward 4 of the Chimanimani district?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

5. What is Restless Development doing in improving the following?
Quality of life and standards of living

- a)
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b) Basic Education

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c) Poverty reduction

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d) Employment creation

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2) Are they successful in improving the above and why?

Reason

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