

DAGAMA NUTRITION CENTRES

ANNUAL REPORT - 2017

Introduction

The nutrition centres began as an initiative of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi with the view of helping the children who are impoverished and malnourished in our community. The programmes for the nutrition centres are funded by San Marino (Carita Senza Confini). The financial support by our beloved friends from San Marino has helped many children to have a balance meal.

The total population served by the programme in 2017 was 651. The programme has five nutrition centres and a home for the elderly people. The centres are namely Buntungwa, Dagama, Fisenge, Kawama and St. Max.

1. Buntungwa Nutrition Centre

Buntungwa nutrition centre has 160 children, out of which 35 children are severe cases of malnutrition. Most of these children are referrals from nearby clinics, health centres and hospitals.

A leading case involved is of William Chisenge who lives with the auntie. Born in a family of four, William is the last born and 2 years old. Both his parents died last year in September after short illnesses. Due to his ill-health status, his auntie cannot manage to meet his daily requirements and as a result he feeds from the nutrition centre. The auntie has 2 children of her own and looks after 2 orphans. The husband is unable to support his family because he is not in good health.



2. Dagama Nutrition Centre

Dagama Nutrition centre has 32 children. This centre is on site at Dagama Home. Children with conditions like hydrocephalus, limb deformities and Cerebral Palsy are mainly attended to at the centre. 4 children are provided with physiotherapy treatment on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They are also provided with corrective device and position aids.



Malnourished children who are under five are weighed on a regular basis and many have shown great improvement in their health.

In all the nutrition centres, children with very poor nutrition status are weighed and put on Yola Yoli(plumpy nut) distribution programme so as to improve their nutrition status.

A leading case is of Moses Banda. Born on 24th December 2017, he is the firth born living with both parents. Moses was born prematurely and was in hospital for some time. The mother cannot breastfeed him and he was referred to our nutrition centre from Thompson District Hospital. Both parents are not in any form of employment and struggle to meet the daily needs of the family. The baby is now feeding on milk Formula.



3. Fisenge Nutrition Centre

Fisenge nutrition centre has a total number of 145 children. The number of children has increased because many children are mostly under the care of grandparents who have no means of supporting them. Very often the food they eat from the nutrition centre makes a difference in their lives.

4. Kawama Nutrition Centre

This centre caters for 150 Children of which 37 are malnourished. These children are mainly referrals from a nearby clinic and some live with their grandparents\parents who are in abject poverty and cannot afford a decent meal a day.

5. Walale Nutrition Centre

Most of the children at Walale Nutrition centre live with their old grandparents who cannot afford to care or meet the daily requirements for the children. This centre also provides all the medical supplies and essential nutritional foods needed for children.

Hygiene is of paramount importance in all the centres. Children are oriented on how to wash their hands before and after having a meal



Out of 164 children, 47 children who are under five with very poor health are weighed on a regular basis to monitor their growth.

A leading case is of Bertha Chirwa a 9-month-old baby living with her mother in Walale Compound. Born in a family of 6, She is the sixth born. Due to perpetual illness of the mother, Bertha was prematurely weaned at the age 1 month.



As a result of lack of proper care given to Bertha, her health was not so good and it took weeks of wholesome balanced meals for the child to start recovering.

CHALLENGES:

- The number of the needy children keeps on increasing compared to the resources.
- The exchange rate is not stable in Zambia, hence at times the funding is not enough.
- Maintenance of nutrition centres. Some of the nutrition centre buildings need extensive repairs and replacement of building materials.
- The basic allowances paid to volunteer workers are not conducive enough to motivate them. (Minimum wage for workers according to Zambian Labour law is not met).
- No nutrition education is given to all the mothers. Only mothers with children who are under Yola Yoli programme are taught essential skills for self-reliance and how to care for their children especially young ones.
- The varying distance to different centres does not accommodate the present fuel allocation.

CONCLUSION

Our children often come to our centres malnourished and sometimes sick. We see most of the children gain strength whilst in our care.

We wish to sincerely express our profound gratitude to our friends from San Marino (Carita Senza Confini) for the financial help and making it possible in many ways for our impoverished and malnourished children to have a balance meal a day.

We also extend our sincere heartfelt gratitude to the following organisations whom we work hand in hand and strive to attain the desired goals. They are: -

- ❖ Liberato Zambia Onlus 2001 (Yola Yoli Project)
- ❖ Institute of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi
- ❖ Provincial Office
- ❖ Community of Our Lady of Fatima Convent

GOD BLESS YOU