

REPORT ON ST. ANTHONY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

1.0 Introduction:

This report is covering the period of January to December 2015. The report highlights the key activities undertaken by the programme in the period under review. The Programme integrated 7 children in their families and supported others with education. The village has continued to offer shelter and daily care to all the children, especially the children in the special care unit.

The general trend: There were 24 admissions in 2015. The admissions have steadily reduced since 2011. From 2012 to 2015, 90 children were admitted for care at St. Anthony Children's Village for care. An average of 22.5 children admitted per year (2012 -2015). The programme also re-integrated 76 children with relatives and guardians. 25 children transferred to like-mind programmes for further care. On average, 19 children were discharged per year.

The period stated above experienced children dying. There were 24 children who died between 2012 and 2015. On average 6 children died per year.

This encouraging situation could be attributed to access to medical treatment, especially the antiretroviral therapy (ART). The improved health of parents and guardians on antiretroviral therapy (ART) has helped them to continue caring for their children and dependants. Due to improved health, guardians are open to accept and keep children from their relatives.

Generally the health of the children has greatly improved. The children enjoy good health. The good care and nutrition has reduced hospital visits and deaths as indicated above.

2.0 St. Anthony Children's Village:

2.1 Present Situation:

St. Anthony Children's Village opened with 81 children. We admitted 24 children while 5 children were discharged to families (biological families and relatives), 1 transferred to Grace Academy. 10 boys were re-located from Twapia Transient Home Boys Annex as there were few to keep the home running. 1 child who was re-integrated in first half of the year was taken back as the family rejected him. 7 children died in the year. As at 31st December, there were 61 boys and 41 girls at the village. The programme continues to provide basic needs for children – to the sick and abandoned children at St. Anthony Children's Village.

2.2. The reasons of admitting the 24 children were:

- i. With special needs – epilepsy with mental challenge
- ii. Mother died after giving birth
- iii. From mentally challenged mothers
- iv. Cerebral palsy
- v. Abandoned by adults at the market place or bus station
- vi. HIV/AIDS positive child
- vii. Temporal care because of the sick mother (in hospital with cancer)

2.1 Workshops:

This year from February to June 2015, the children between 10 – 19 years old received a series of workshops on Human Development. The various topics were shared between the White Father Novices and one of our sisters on community service. The young people enjoyed themselves. Some of them have mental or physical challenges.



The pictures depicts the group of the young people with their facilitators closing the series of workshops with party/celebrations. The young people were given a day to celebrate with each other and their facilitators.



At the end of their workshops, they were given a chance to celebrate with each other and they felt really that they are accepted and loved.



2.3 The Special Care Unit:

The cerebral palsy and physically challenged children have continued to receive physiotherapy treatment every day. The Programme was able to employ a new physiotherapist when the other one resigned. The children quickly took to the new lady (Ms. Mukuka Malasha) although they still miss Milton. Ms. Malasha is also good to the children and she has continued where Milton left. Your financial grant of K33, 000.00 supported the salary for the physiotherapist. The children are relatively well and happy in the unit. They try to make some movements and play with their toys to



exercise their hands and figures. Some of them can grip items



while others try to paint. The two pictures shows you cerebral palsy children following a Christmas play while the other picture shows cerebral palsy children in class trying to colour their workbook.

In the period under review, there were 26 children with cerebral palsy under our care (20 boys and 6 girls). One child born from a teenage mother, admitted from Special Hope Networks, Lusaka died within a few days of admission reducing the number to 25 at the end of the year. Strange enough, there are more boys than girls.

2.3.1 Apart from cerebral palsy, there are 8 children suffering from epilepsy, 10 are physically challenged, 3 live with the virus, 27 mentally challenged and 10 children are born from mentally challenged parents. Some children combine the different conditions – physical, mental or epilepsy. More children with physical or mental challenges are being sheltered. There were 43 children who could be termed normal out of 102 children at the Village. It must be understood that some children combine 2 or 3 conditions e.g. epilepsy with physical and mental challenge.

2.4 Physiotherapy Equipment:

The programme regrets to report that sourcing for physiotherapy equipment has been very challenging. The available equipments are those where the children are able to stand and grip with their hands or those where one could operate by himself. But our children would do such a thing as stand or grip.

3.4 Special Education:

Teacher Anita in the picture teaches these children with special needs including the cerebral palsy one that can learn. The year 2016, teacher Anita will be supported with paying for tuition fees for her studies in Special Education to be able to teach children with special needs. However, there is still no positive result from the Ministry of Education neither to provide a teacher nor to make a centre for special education where even children with special needs from the community could come to learn.



Some children have artistic talents, but the



programme lacks how to promote them. Peter is one of those children who need to be promoted in art. He has sickle cell anaemia and most of the time in crisis. Teacher Anita takes interest in him and helps him to paint. Here is Peter painting



3.5 Christmas Celebrations:

At Christmas, the children performed the nativity of play. It was meaningful in their little minds. There was dancing and enjoying themselves.

- ii. Our care-givers had also a chance to take some time off to pray together. They too had a day's workshop on how to 'care better' for children with varied needs. On this occasion, they looked at infection control and hygiene, rehydration and proper feeding for the children
- iii. The number of new admissions has continued to reduce. 24 children were admitted in the course of the year
- iv. We received some physio-equipment (standers) from well-wishers. We are able to use on those children who need to stand in order to change position from lying all the time. However, we are still working with the carpenter to make some steps for the children. We managed to engage a new physiotherapist for the children. Daily Physiotherapy treatment is yielding good results in the spastic children as some children are able to make movements, try to write and talk
- v. 10 children placed in government schools
- vi. Managed to find places for our mentally (5 girls) challenged and epileptic children at the National Rehabilitation Centre for 2016. These will start training once the government gives a grant to the Rehabilitation Centre.
- vii. Dominic Kamboni, a sickle cell anaemia boy has qualified to grade 8 at a nearby school. This is after being helped through remedial work by the pre-school teacher and then enrolled to grade 6 in 2014. The pre-school teacher has interest and skill to help the children with special needs
- viii. Peter Chilufya, another sickle cell anaemia boy is able to draw and paint. His art is on the wall fence panels
- ix. Children's health has continued to improve due to good care/nutrition
- x. Dignity and wellbeing of children has continued to be upheld
- xi. Continued to shelter children

1.0 Challenges:

- i. 7 children died in the period under review. Three of them were spastic children
- ii. Still facing a challenge in sourcing for physio-equipment
- iii. 2 children in Kalulushi – the programme had challenges to follow up these children as the mother (mentally challenged) would take them to some unknown villages. They will be visited in the third week of January 2016 to assess their educational needs
- iv. The mentally challenged children are posing a challenge to the programme as there is no exit strategy for them. The government seem not to have the structures other than mental hospitals for these children to be protected. This problem is ongoing
- v. Problems of mobility. All the vehicles are very old and giving a lot of problems
- vi. We could not visit other schools for special education as we need to locate these in Ndola. The one at Ndola Central Hospital do not seem to function. Special education seems to be a challenge for the Ministry of Education. No teacher yet for with special education – through Ministry of Education
- vii. Growing number of children with mental challenge (28 mentally challenged children)

6.0 Way forward:

To start an early childhood education school for children around the area. This is as a result that there are few children admitted for care. The school will start in May 2016.

Conclusion:

On behalf of the Programme, I would like to thank all those who supported St. Anthony Children's Village in one way or the other, especially Liberato, Zambia 2001 Association of Italy for the grant received. Your generous contribution greatly improved the lives of the children at the village, especially the children with cerebral palsy. May God bless you in all you do now and all the time. Thank you very much.

Reported by:

Sr. Lucia Mucherenje
Programme Manager

- ✓ Annex 1 - financial report
- ✓ Annex 2 - pictures of children

Annex 1: Income and Expenditure analysis

The income and expenditure covers the period from January to December 2015.

INCOME (ZMW)

Balance b/d from 2014	
Grant from 2015	23, 437.71

EXPENDITURE (ZMW)**Less Expense:**

Food	16,700.64
Bills –Fuel	1,500.00
Medicines/medical requisites - diapers	5,364.00
Bank charges/balancing off	- 126.93

TOTAL	<u>23,437.71</u>	<u>23,437.71</u>
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Balance:	<u>-126.71</u>
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NOTE:

1. Bills include fuel for hospital trips

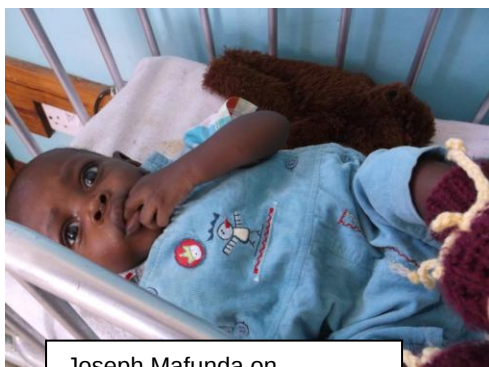
Annex 2



Bupe - the name was given her by the care-givers



Philomena & her mother - Bupe Njovu. The daughter died on 1st Sept 2015. The mother comes in and out of St, Anthony Children's Village. She is mentally challenged



Joseph Mafunda on admission – mother died when he was 2 months old



Emmanuel Chola, son of a school girl and a school boy. Parents going to school still



Miracle Mukangwa – was a pre-mature baby. He is now at 1yr 3/12. Mother died after delivery



Saviour Kachasu – is a single orphan. He is now 1 year 2months old. Mother died after delivery