



[2013]



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ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

Vision HIV/ AIDS was formed in 2005 by youths who grew up in the slums of Hatcliffe Extension, who have been directly affected by HIV and AIDS, to assist orphans and vulnerable children aged between 0-18 years in the marginalized areas of Zimbabwe, starting in Harare with such areas as Hatcliffe Extension, Hopely, Whitecliffe and Epworth. All the organisation's programmes seek to provide orphans and vulnerable children with access to basic rights such as the right to shelter, education and many others as enshrined in the UN convention on the rights of children.

Vision HIV/AIDS also undertakes programmes to equip young people who are infected and affected with HIV and AIDS with life skills activities so as to enhance sustainable development in them. The organisation is also conducting a sport programme with youths to offer psychosocial support and to nurture and expose as much talent as possible. The sporting activities are programmed under such themes as Sport against Sexual Abuse and HIV and AIDS and Sport against Drug Abuse.

Hatcliffe Extension is a poverty stricken community characterized by high illiteracy rate, high unemployment rate and virtually insufficient social amenities. These and other conditions fuelled the spread of HIV and AIDS and exacerbated its impact on individuals and the community at large.

After having experienced the impact of HIV and AIDS, youths in Hatcliffe Extension came together with a common vision and passion to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on the community. Vision HIV and AIDS is of the belief that participation of the community is of paramount importance for combating the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

Poor people are the most important resource in the fight against poverty. They have imagination, guts, knowledge, experience and deep motivation to move out of poverty. Poor people are not different from those of moderate or substantial means in their desire to live in a safe and secure world and to have access to income so they can educate, clothe and house their children with dignity. They long to belong and participate in their communities on an equal footing with others. Most of all they do not want charity. They want opportunity-economic opportunity that gives them fair returns for their labour.

VISION

A world in which all children including children infected and affected with HIV and AIDS are treated as citizens worthy of dignity and respect with their needs and rights upheld.

MISSION

To uphold the rights of orphans and vulnerable children, giving them emotional, social and practical support meeting their needs and providing encouragement and assistance to those who wish to go to school or engage in various life skills training activities and change their lives working in partnership with relevant stakeholders and partners who share our vision.

OBJECTIVES

- I. To provide educational and livelihood support to orphans and vulnerable children.
- II. To provide counselling, psycho-social support and awareness programmes to orphans and vulnerable children.
- III. To provide life skills and entrepreneurship training to orphans and vulnerable children.

CORE VALUES

- Committed to the best interest of the child
- Being non-judgemental
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Respect for children's rights
- Professionalism
- Being empathetic not sympathetic to children's situations

The organisation has a staff capacity of twenty qualified staff members, who are serving the organisation on a voluntary basis. These staff members grew up in the slums of Harare and were directly affected by the effects of HIV/AIDS as a result of the environmental setup they were subjected to. With a common background they came together with a common vision to assist orphans and vulnerable children in the slums of Harare and other vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe. In order to enhance community participation the organisation will make use of volunteers from the communities in which it will be operating. Vision HIV/AIDS board of directors consist of seven members who are the Chairperson, vice Chairperson, the Treasurer, the Secretary and three other committee members.

VISION HIV/AIDS PROJECTS

The organisation has four programmes which are divided into various projects to assist orphans and vulnerable children in their families. Since slums and informal settlements are characterised with high HIV prevalence rates, highest numbers of child headed families, highest numbers of child abuse cases and very high unemployment rates hence there is need for programmes and projects to empower orphans and vulnerable children in these areas. The four programmes are Counselling and Awareness programme, Livelihood support programme, Life skills and entrepreneurship programme and the Education and Sport programme. These programmes are divided into projects as outlined below.

Counselling and Awareness programme

The highest number of Child headed families is in slums and informal settlements, these children are being traumatised by the experiences they had gone through and the experiences they are passing through. Most children were left with burden to care for the chronically ill parents and the remaining siblings. The experience of seeing their loved ones suffer and die haunts these children as they suffer depression and stress. Hence the need for counselling projects, these will prepare the children to cope with the challenges they are facing. A lot of children are being abused in these areas and the perpetrators are going free because people in these communities including the children are not aware about their rights. The organisation will make use of the following projects to assist these children

- Outreach
- One on one counselling
- Psycho social support
- Focus group discussions
- Young mothers Club
- Peer education
- Home based care
- Youth clubs
- Anti AIDS clubs
- Youth forums
- Sexual reproductive health sessions

Outreach project

A team of qualified social workers conduct day and night outreaches to assess the condition of children in slums and vulnerable communities. This facilitates bonding and contact between the organisation and its key beneficiaries. Children first build trust before confiding in anyone, so outreach helps the organisation to initiate contact with the children. A lot of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation cases usually happen during night time hence the need for the organisation to conduct night outreach to assess the gravity of these issues and find possible remedies to the problems.

One on one counselling

One on one counselling sessions are conducted every day as per need to assist the children who have been traumatised by such cases as taking care of their chronically ill parents, watching them die, stigma and discrimination, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. Qualified counsellors conduct these in a conducive environment for the children to feel free and disclose their problems so they can be helped in coming up with solutions.

Psycho social support

The organisation makes use of psycho social support to come up with a comprehensive strategy to help children in traumatic situations. Children are also given the opportunity to go out on psycho social support camps which helps children to make meaningful decisions to their problems.

Focus group discussions

The organisation makes use of focus group discussions to disseminate information or to get information affecting children and community members based on their specified age groups and problems.

Young Mothers

Girls in child headed families vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse; most of them fall pregnant during their teenage age as they opt to exchange sex for survival. The project aims at reviving the lost hope as it gives these children conducive environment for development.



Peer education

Incidences of sexually transmitted infections are very high in slums and informal settlements, these makes children in these areas susceptible to HIV infections. Children in these areas have limited or no access to social amenities and this made them prey to an unknown monster. The organisation makes use of trained youths (boys and girls) to disseminate information on sexually transmitted infections, dangers of early pregnancies just to name but a few.

Home Based Care

The burden to care for the chronically is usually left to children, these children and the community at large usually lack the knowledge to care for these people and to handle the pressure that goes with this responsibility hence the need for home based care training. The organisation makes use of twenty trained home based care officers to alleviate morbidity and to reduce mortality rates in slums and informal settlements.

Youth Clubs

The organisation makes use of youth clubs to discourage early sex, early pregnancies and to encourage the use and correct use of condoms to those already practising sex. Children get information on their sexual rights, sexual reproductive health including STIs and AIDS.



Livelihood Support Programme

The highest number of child headed households is in slums and informal settlements, children in child headed families are forced out of school to care for their chronically ill parents and the remaining siblings. Boys in these areas usually resort to the streets and become street children or engage in criminal activities thereby become hardened criminals whilst girls are being compelled to exchange sexual favours for survival basics such as food, clothing, and shelter among others. This explains why the highest number of HIV prevalence is in slums and informal settlements. These children are living in houses made of plastics, card boxes or stroll. Reports from the Zimbabwe Republic Police states that the highest numbers of sexual abuse cases are in slums and informal settlements therefore children in these areas feel unsafe and unsecured hence the need to construct secure houses for them.



Food Security and Distribution Project

Food is one of the basic right of children hence the need to provide food for children in child headed families, those living ultra poverty i.e. children in the care of ill or disabled parents and the elderly. Most children in slums are suffering from malnutrition and starvation because they do not have sources of income to adequately support themselves and other siblings in their custody hence the need to identify and distribute food to the deserving beneficiaries.

Clothing and blankets

Since most children live in ultra poverty, the organisation sources and distributes clothing and blankets. Poor shelter and inadequate energy sources expose children to such chronic illnesses as colds and pneumonia especially in winter. The blankets will go a long way in preventing these diseases. Poor clothing also has a negative impact on the children's self esteem and this impacts negatively on the children's psychological development.

Sanitary wear and toiletries

Lack of sanitary wear and toiletry forces children to practice unhygienic habits thereby exposing them to diseases and infections. The distribution of soap and sanitary pads on a regular basis helps the organisation to promote the children's right to health. Priority is given to children in child headed families and children living in ultra poverty.

Access to decent shelter and accommodation

Every child has the right to shelter, therefore the organisation also strives to build decent shelter for children in child headed families and those living in ultra poverty. Without decent shelter, children particularly girls are vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. In a survey carried out by the organisation, it was discovered that most children have residential stands which were allocated to their parents in the slums but are at risk of losing them if they cannot afford to build any structures on them e.g. Hatcliffe Extension.

Education Support Programme

Under this programme, the organisation conducts some outreach programmes to identify children who would have dropped out of school due to reasons beyond their control.

Mobile Outreach School

The purpose of this school is to prepare children who would have been identified for enrolment into formal education. This involves counselling and rehabilitation of school drop-outs so that they appreciate the importance of education and adherence to school rules after enrolment. The school also serves the purpose of reducing illiteracy in the communities by offering informal education to youths who never had the chance to attend school or progress with primary education.

Formal Education

This involves the placement of children into formal schools including sensitising of school authorities on the effects of stigma and discrimination to children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Payment of school fees is done after the successful enrolment of children. Educational assistance (provision of stationery, school fees and uniforms) is given to children in both primary and secondary education prioritising those from child headed households and children living in ultra poverty. School visits and assessments are done to children under this education support programme once every term to assess their progress.

Life skills and entrepreneurship support programme

The programme is aimed at empowering youths who did not make it in formal education under the project to instil a culture of self reliance. This is done to avert some of the youths becoming criminals and social misfits due to idleness. The programme includes:

- identification of potential beneficiaries and placement into vocational training schools
- assistance whilst in vocational schools (payment of fees and meeting other needs)
- provision of starter packs after completion of courses.
- follow ups and assessments

Under this programme the organisation assists youths obtain the following courses: driver's licences, building, hairdressing, carpentry, and horticulture among others.

Sports

Orphans and vulnerable children in slums and marginalised communities are traumatised and dejected with the experiences they had passed through or they are passing through, especially seeing their loved ones suffer and die with HIV and AIDS. This further poses the burden of caring for the chronically ill parents and the remaining siblings to these children hence the need of psycho-social support therapy. Sports play a pivotal role in psycho-social support therapy. Through the use of different sporting activities information on STIs, Sexual abuse, subsistence abuse, reproduction health and HIV among others is being disseminated.

Banking Details

Bank : MetBank
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Account Number : 1407015815112