

# **GREAT COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT AND ORPHANS**

## **PROFILE**

Great Commission for People Development and Orphans (GCPDO) is Non-Governmental, Christian humanitarian development organisation based in Zambia and currently operating in Eastern Province in four districts (Lundazi, Chipata, Petauke and Nyimba). Based on the Christian faith, GCPDO by the compassion of Christ work for the poor in the world in which the people realise their potential in societies that respect people's rights, regardless of political affiliation, gender, religion and ethnicity. GCPDO, co-operate with other Christian organisations, community-based organisations and others with similar vision in the areas of emergency relief, long term development projects to address these common challenges: -

- ✎ Fight poverty
- ✎ Protect the environment
- ✎ Advocacy for injustice

## **VISION**

"A Community without poverty and peaceable sustainable living".

GCPDO'S VISION is a "A community without poverty and sustainable living". This describes our calling in the world to work together with organisation partner churches and individuals in extending Christ's compassion through community building, justice and participation to life that brings people closer to the land that foster a new awakening of stewardship, responsibilities and live together in hope as God's community.

## **MISSION**

GCPDO by the compassion of Christ by the world's pain of hunger, disease, poverty, loneliness, ignorance and fatherless children as a result of HIV/AIDS pandemic is committed to serve both spiritual, mental and physical needs of the people. We are called to work with the underprivileged communities; like orphans and vulnerable children, women, the poorest of the poor who want to alleviate poverty and all kind of injustices to live a better life.

Five focus areas: -

- Provision of education
- Primary Health Care and Nutrition
- Food Security/Food production
- Income generating activities
- HIV/AIDS as a crucial cross cutting issue.

## **EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN**

Many children 7-13 years in Zambia are not in school and deepening and widening poverty is placing more and more strain on community and education systems. The increasing number of orphans is caused by HIV/AIDS. The increased number of children who are not in school is because of their parents who died from AIDS. The extended families remain the social support for both orphaned children and others in extreme need but the African traditional mechanism is already overstretched and in many cases inadequate to cope with any additional burden. GCPDO strongly believes that education is the key to fight poverty and contributes positively to many factors, which foster National Development. GCPDO is in total support for children's education.

### **GOAL**

The major goal of the GCPDO's education and care for orphans and vulnerable children is **"to ensure access to quality education for children"** who are not in school and provide learning opportunities, empower them with life skills, knowledge and capacities required to enable them manage life challenges and fully participate for national development.

### **Objectives are: -**

- Accord opportunities to orphans and vulnerable children who are not in school with basic education by provision of education learning and teaching materials and provision of one mid-day meal per day.
- Support and establishment of community schools where there are no accessible government schools. It is encouraged through community-based approach to expand learning opportunities for out

of school children. The emphasis is placed on family and community involvement in preparing children meaningful life.

- Advocate for and support the development mechanism within the communities to ensure that orphans and vulnerable children are not denied access to education and develop strong partnerships with local communities and donors to meet the learning needs of the increasing number of orphans.

## **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION**

Primary Health Care and nutrition is one of GCPDO's sector to address health related issues. Zambia as one of the countries found in the Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced more than a decade of several economic declines, which has resulted in wide-spread poverty. As standards of living declined, so have the abilities of households, communities and the health system to provide the basic minimum levels of care for health of women and children. The limited health care in communities has brought suffering to many people. Infants suffer from very high rates of malaria, respiratory infections, bilharzias and diarrhoeal diseases.

The rise in child morbidity and mortality is due to many factors closely linked with economic decline and the growing poverty in which people live. High fertility, poor nutrition status inadequate home based care, delayed referral of sick children and long distances to health facility also affects communities. Schools going children are infected with Bilharzias due to poor safe water supplies.

GCPDO supports the efforts to meet the national programme of Action Goals, World Summit Goals and UN Millennium Development Goals of reducing infant ~~and~~ mortality, to reduce the number of people without access to safe water by 50 percent within 2015. GCPDO assists local communities in addressing health critical problems, which will have the minimum impact in reducing illness and deaths among children by strengthening the service delivery whereby large rural population is not serviced by the existing health facilities. The programme will complement and support the functions of the national health systems in order to honour the rights of child.

### **Goal**

The major goal of the GCPDO's primary health care and nutrition is **"to promote sustained improvements in the health nutrition and**

**well being of children and women through primary health care and increasing the availability of safe water and sanitation”.**

### **Objectives**

- To reduce malnutrition rate of under 5 years by 25 percent for the period of 5 years.
- To reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) by 25 percent for the period of 5 years.
- To reduce Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) for the period of 5 years.
- Reduce diarrhoeal related deaths in children under 5 years for the period of 5 years.
- Strengthening the capacity of Community Neighbourhood Health Committees.

### **FOOD SECURITY**

Zambia has experienced more than a decade of several food production declines, which has resulted in wide-spread hunger and poverty in rural communities. Many rural poor people, both children and adults especially women face serious problems of hunger and poverty which has increased malnutrition among children below 5 years. Other negative factors, which have caused hunger, are: -

- i) Poor farming practices
- ii) Droughts
- iii) High price of agriculture inputs
- iv) Lack of access to appropriate technology and
- v) Decreasing of soil fertility.

GCPDO promotes and encourages sustainable agriculture to increase household food security in a family and community. The emphasis is to strengthen and empower communities by means of community based agriculture extension work, training of farmers in organic farming and seed provision.

The major goal of the GCPDO's Food Security is **"to increase household food security by growing enough food for 12 months in communities through sustainable agriculture"**.

### **Objectives**

- Provide support to household families with agriculture inputs.
- Assist communities in improving practices and access in environmental and sanitation to safe water.
- Promote vegetable growing through dambo (high water table area) utilisation for home gardens.

### **INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITIES**

Zambia is facing economic difficulty. Many young people do not have jobs. In order to address some of Zambia's critical social economic problems, GCPDO will assist people especially the young people find ways to create employment and through income generation activities and increase income by profitable productive micro-enterprise project. GCPDO works with rural communities and priority will be given to income generating projects in targeted communities. The project supported will **include small-scale enterprise in farming, Bee keeping, fish farming (fish pond) agro processing, carpentry and skills training.**

### **Goal**

The major goal of the GCPDO's income generating activities is **"to create employment and increase income in communities through different types of small-scale enterprise to enable them raise their living conditions by providing adequate support to their families"**.

### **Objectives**

- Communities will increase annual income from the sale of the products produced.
- Income generating activities will contribute to creation of employment among the youths.

## HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is a disaster in our time and it has clear links to poverty. Food insecurity in the communities is also contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS. GCPDO is concerned about the linkage between the incidence of HIV/AIDS and food insecurity in many household families. Food insecurity to some extent increased HIV/AIDS, contributes to the spread of the pandemic among those who are food insecure with regards to nutrition. Food is the first line of defence in the treatment of people with HIV/AIDS and food is essential for human health. The linkage of HIV/AIDS and hunger in communities is a time bomb. GCPDO joins the world for advocacy in fighting the scourge (HIV/AIDS). Together with communities at grassroots levels, GCPDO is at war against HIV/AIDS. No meaningful development shall take place where HIV/AIDS is dominating; hence HIV/AIDS is on GCPDO agenda. GCPDO strongly believes that the pandemic can only be curbed if prevention and care go together.

### Goal

The major goal of the GCPDO's HIV/AIDS is **"to tackle the root cause of the problem of orphaned children by addressing HIV/AIDS and advocacy in communities and schools to contribute to the reduction of the spread of HIV/AIDS among people in communities and help reduce stigmatisation and discrimination against those people living with HIV/AIDS"**.

### Objectives

- To improve the quality of life of HIV/AIDS infected persons by encouraging positive living, good nutrition, prevention of opportunistic infections and avoiding high-risk behaviour.
- To provide appropriate care, support and basic treatment to HIV/AIDS infected through community home – based care.
- To provide improved care and support services to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and disabled people. The support will include provision of education, material and counselling.
- To improve HIV/AIDS information management and decision – making by developing well co-ordinated database.

Development strategies/intervention, GCPDO's development strategies/intervention focus on forming people's groups within communities as self-help, farmers, income generating, youth groups, community development committee and neighbourhood health committees.

### **PARTNERSHIP**

GCPDO is working in partnership with Woord en Daad – Netherlands.

### **CONTACT ADDRESS**

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