**WORLD-WIDE COMMUNITY CARE**

**DEVELOPMENT**

**Child legal advice desk**

**Cell: 0975 – 454 719 / 0979 – 370 831**

Zambia is a member to United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) which they signed in 1991. This was meant to promote and strengthen the rights of children, considering the fact that a child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the charter of united nations and in particular in the spirit of peace dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity, a lot of legislation has since been enacted to safe guard the rights of children. However, this has mostly been a preserve of the children coming from well to do families and in the main cities. Those living in rural areas have not benefitted or felt the impact of being the signatory to the UNCRC and other child related legislation which were enacted especially in Rufunsa and Petauke districts. It is from this background that the worldwide community care development created a team of twenty (20) trained Community paralegals to run child friendly legal advice desk in Rufunsa and Petauke districts. This was with the aim of addressing child abuse cases which are alive and rampant in these areas.

These child friendly legal advice desks deal with cases that affect children such as child maintenance, child labour, child custody, child physical abuse, child neglect, property grabbing, child sexual abuse, child defilement, cases that need to go to court are referred to other organisation that have expertise in those areas, though our paralegals guide these clients through the court processes.

Apart from free legal advice our paralegal advice to the member of the community, they conduct community meetings, popularly called “dialogues” to disseminate information on child rights framework and child related legislation. The paralegal also conducts door to door visitation to raise awareness on the work of paralegals.

Also disseminating information on children’s right and child related laws. They encourage parents and help them to write simple wills as a substitute to heavy reliance on intestate succession act, also encourages parents on obtaining birth certificates of their children.

These paralegals also go around communities to identify children living under hazardous conditions such as child domestic servants, child molestation especially with regard to children that are without parents (orphans), children with disabilities and with mental illnesses who are referred to other institutions such as department of Social Welfare or otheir organizations with orphanages.

Our paralegal works with other organizations like Paralegal Network Alliance (PAN). These paralegals are the community mediators, legal advisor, legal sensitizer or community lawyers in the eyes of children as well as in public.

We also intend to introduce child right clubs in schools and villages so as to enhance child participation.

***“FIGHTS AGAINST INJUSTICE IS OUR PRIDE”***