



Rising Fountain Development Program Annual Report For the Year Ending 2006

Contents:

1. Letter from the Advisory Board Chairperson
2. History and Background
3. What RFDP Promised To Do in 2006
4. What RFDP Accomplished in 2006
5. What RFDP Did Not Accomplish in 2006
6. What RFDP Plans To Do in 2007
7. Lessons Learned
8. Financial Statement





**RDFP Advisory Board Chairperson
Rev..Siyani**

Dear Friends,

This brief Annual Report addresses our activities in 2006 which we had promised during our participatory planning meeting in 2005. We had agreed on a number of initiatives to help communities in rural areas of the Lundazi district, with particular interest towards women and children.

HIV/AIDS has had a devastating impact on children and families in Lundazi district, a district of Zambia that is home to close to 7,000 children under the age of 18 years who have been orphaned by the epidemic. The health, education, safety and survival numbers of children are particularly at risk in the rural areas that are heavily affected by poverty and disease.

“Where there is a will, there is a way”. We have been optimistic in our work together with the communities we serve. Although it has been an uphill in meeting the needs of our communities, we could only do what we can and therefore, we apologize for not making a reality to all our promises. However, we have seen progress and we hope to continue working hard and to fulfill yet again another promise for 2007.

We hope you will find this brief report intriguing while at the same time encourage you to join our team for another exciting year.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Rev Siyani
Adisory Board Chairperson
Rising Fountains Development Program
EMAIL: risingfountain@yahoo.com

Website: www.risingfountains.org



Background Information

Year established: 2002

Location: Lundazi District, Eastern part of Zambia

Population of Lundazi: 500,000

Population of beneficiaries: 12,000

Vision: For people to have adequate capacity to provide for their needs in dignity.

Mission Statement: To provide service to the need and empower the rural communities, including children, youths, women, and men, in their social economic development over the Lundazi District of the Eastern province of Zambia.

What RFDP Promised To Do in 2006

Strategy One: To develop a comprehensive training program for local communities in primary health care and HIV/AIDS awareness for strategic groups: fishermen, widows, youths, People Living With Aids (PLWA), and small scale miners.

We promised that...

- ... we would train local communities in HIV/AIDS awareness
- ... we would form local youth groups to help vulnerable children
- ... we would help PLWA cope with stress and stigma

Strategy Two: To provide direct support to orphans and vulnerable children with particular attention to AIDS orphans

We promised that...

- ... we would identify, register, and provide basic needs to AIDS orphans
- ... we would strengthen households headed by grandparents or children
- ... we would involve community participation in addressing the problem of orphans and vulnerable children





Strategy Three: To provide access to basic education for vulnerable children and partnering with local government schools; to establish open community schools for those who are unable to enroll in formal schools.

We promised that...

- ... we would provide school requisites to vulnerable children who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS and poverty
- ... we would encourage girls to attend school and we will educate the parents or guardians on the value of education
- ... we would work with local schools to develop a comprehensive educational plan for the communities in the rural areas with particular focus on government and community open schools

Strategy Four: To economically strengthen livelihoods of vulnerable women who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS.

We promised that...

- ... we would train women in livelihood skills and improve food security
- ... we would provide inputs and income to women groups to enhance entrepreneurial development skills and initiatives
- ... we would form women's groups to initiate community projects so that they identify solutions for their problems

Strategy Five: To facilitate an ecologically sustainable agricultural program for local subsistence farmers in rural areas of the project.

We promised that...

- ... we would train local farmers in ecological sustainable agricultural practices that will not depend on fertilizers and mono-cropping
- ... we would facilitate an effective agricultural extension program with the help of the local government Agricultural Extension Office
- ... we would train local communities in food security (storage and marketing)
- ... we would introduce fish farming and conservative farming as alternatives to food insecurity

Strategy Six: To improve the availability of clean drinking water and improve sanitation in the area,

We promised that...

- ... we would facilitate the formation of community committees to address the problem of water and sanitation
- ... we would facilitate the cleaning and reconstruction of water wells for clean drinking water
- ... we would train local communities in the construction of contemporary communal sanitation toilets that are less transmittal to airborne diseases

The year 2006 was a transition period from being a small community based organization into a structured and well organized institution. We were able to implement some activities as per promised but, unfortunately, we only did what we could.



What RFDP Accomplished in 2006

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):

- * We managed to enroll 1,260 OVC in the program for support in the District, in particular, chief Kazembe, Mwanya and Chitungulu. A register has been developed on the children for easy follow-up and program development.
- * We managed to provide 120 OVC with support that included paying of school fees and distribution of school requisites for children in school.
- * We managed to bring back into school 40 OVC who dropped out of school and decided not to have an education due to pressure from the community and being stigmatized with HIV/AIDS.
- * We provided support to other vulnerable children impacted by poverty with clothes and blankets.
- * We managed to facilitate the formation of four Orphan Care Committees (OCC) to spear head the orphan programs in the specific areas of the chiefdoms. The OCC were formed in Chief Kazembe at Kazembe H/Qs, Kataba area, and Zokwe area, in Chitungulu at Chitungulu H/Qs.



Water and Sanitation:

- * We managed to mobilize communities to rehabilitate 15 wells. Many water points in the project area are dilapidated so much that water sanitation is a problem in the district.
- * We trained 25 well committees to spearhead the cleaning of the wells in the communities. Volunteers have been identified and trained to supervise and manage the program for cleaning wells.

Health Care:

- * We trained 20 Traditional Leaders in HIV and AIDS awareness.
- * We trained 25 Peer Educator groups in HIV and AIDS awareness.
- * We conducted 30 HIV and AIDS community awareness meetings through radio and focus group meetings reaching out to 4,500 community members.
- * We trained 40 high risk groups in HIV/AIDS –55 fishermen and 25 small scale miners.
- * We mobilized men and women from 13 communities to form 30 support groups to provide care and support for People Living With Aids (PLWHAs), widows and OVC. Each group consisted of at least 20 members per group.
- * We facilitated the formation of 10 youth support groups.

Agricultural Livelihoods:

- * We provided training in livelihood skills to 7 children, headed OVC households, and 22 women in Poultry production, vegetable production, micro enterprise development, and Carpentry.
- * We facilitated the formation of women's groups and gave out resources in the form of micro loans to enable them start small business in order to develop their livelihood skills in entrepreneurship and help them sustain their families. So far RFDP assisted 15 households in the Lundazi District with small loans. Florence Nkhoma is a good example who has been assisted with a small grant by RFDP to start a small business and help her family. Rising Fountains Development Program has assisted 15 family members with a total of \$4,500 for the year end.




Sustainable Ecological Agriculture:

- * We provided training in sustainable agriculture to 45 farmers in the Lundazi District, specifically in Chief Kazembe, Mwanya and Chitungulu. This included conservation farming, poultry farming, fish farming and livestock production in the plateau rural area.
- * We conducted three community open market awareness meetings to help local farmers sell their products at economical prices and not being exploited by unscrupulous traders from urban areas. A total of 35 farmers attended the meeting.
- * We introduced other cash crops to the local farmers such as sorghum and millet, that do not solely depend on fertilizers.

Education:

- * We provided school requisites such as books, pens, uniforms and school fees to 180 school registered children.
- * We helped 40 children return back to school after Rising Fountains started working with them.
- * We partnered with 4 schools. One government school by the name Kanele Middle Basic School and four community schools by the name Kambwili Community School, Matembe Community School and Chibembe Community School.
- * We have made a policy to encourage girls to go to school. A total of 108 girls are registered on record from the 180 for 2006. The population of female children at school has increased from 15% to 25% in 2006.



Unfortunately we were not able to fulfill our promise completely in 2006. We had encountered a number of challenges that led to the failure of implementing some of the promises we made.


What RFDP Was Unable to Accomplish in 2006

- * We did not fully facilitate the construction of water wells due to lack of funding. Our anticipated funding for water wells construction did not fully come through.
- * We did not fully meet the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. We had anticipated helping 350 children in school but we only managed to support 180 children. This again was due to lack of funding and commitment from the local government support and others who promised.
- * We did not fully facilitate an agricultural extension program due to the lack of transportation. RFDP has no program vehicle other than only one motorbike. It was extremely difficult to take experts into the project areas without transport. We hope to raise funds in the coming year to scale up our extension programs and to purchase a 4x4 vehicle for outreach and extension programs.

There were a number of challenges that we experienced during the year. These challenges were a growing point in our organization and will be incorporated in the 2007 planning.

Challenges:

Lack of economic base of the local communities to achieve economic independence. This has caused the communities in the project area to depend entirely on the Organization providing intervention to poverty like RFDP.

- * Education and appropriate health care has been non existent in the project area. Many children have been dropping out of school due to lack of school requisites.
 - * Food insecurity in the Lundazi District is the order of the day for almost every household; this has caused high cases of malnutrition in the District during the year 2006.
 - * Lack of clean safe drinking water is due to inappropriate drinking water sources.
 - * Lack of adequate funding for Rising Fountains Development Program which has caused most of the planned activities not to be implemented.
- 

We are moving ahead. A comprehensive plan for 2007 has been developed with the support of the local communities and development partners. Some of the highlights of what we plan to do include the following:

What RFDP Plans To Do in 2007

1. To scale-up HIV/AIDS Youth programs in the Lundazi district in order to improve HIV/AIDS awareness levels, and improve the quality of life of 300 youths in 2007.
2. To scale-up and improve the quality of life of 100 infected HIV+ people in the Lundazi District by providing care and support, encouraging positive living, good nutrition, and treatment of opportunistic infections.
3. To Improve the efficiency of the operations of the Organization through staff training and development; undertake further work on tightening governance procedures of the Organization, procurement of transport for RFDP (Vehicle for RFDP and Bicycles for Community agents) and improving information technology systems at RFDP.
4. To promoting accessibility of Antiretroviral Drugs to HIV+ children and women in rural Zambia specifically the Lundazi Rural. This will be done through extensive referral programs with local clinics and hospitals.
5. To scale-up support to 2,300 OVC in and out of school.
6. To scale-up small grants for 250 women in the Lundazi District in order to improve their micro enterprises and become economically independent.
7. To scale-up support to schools in both government and community school in order to enhance good educational programs for children.
8. To improve water and sanitation in community schools.
9. To contribute to the reduction of new HIV/AIDS infections in the Lundazi District.



RFDP is a learning institution. We welcome ideas and participation. For 2006, we learned a lot and made new friends towards meeting our goals.

What RFDP Learned in 2006

1. Communities become more active in the implementation of the program if they are involved in early stage of the program. RFDP has formed OCC which have become more active in the programs of the Organization.
2. Good rapport with the tradition leaders will encourage them to be more involved in the activities of the Organization. Chief Chitungulu and Kazembe have been more active in the program implementation.
3. Women can do better if assisted with start up capital. 15 households were assisted with small loans and have done better and are assisting their families now.
4. The Organization staff needs more capacity building.
5. Lack of funding affects program implementation. Activities are not implemented according to the planned activity work plan.



Financial Expenditure

Income

Balance Brought Forward 2005

USD 5,100

Income

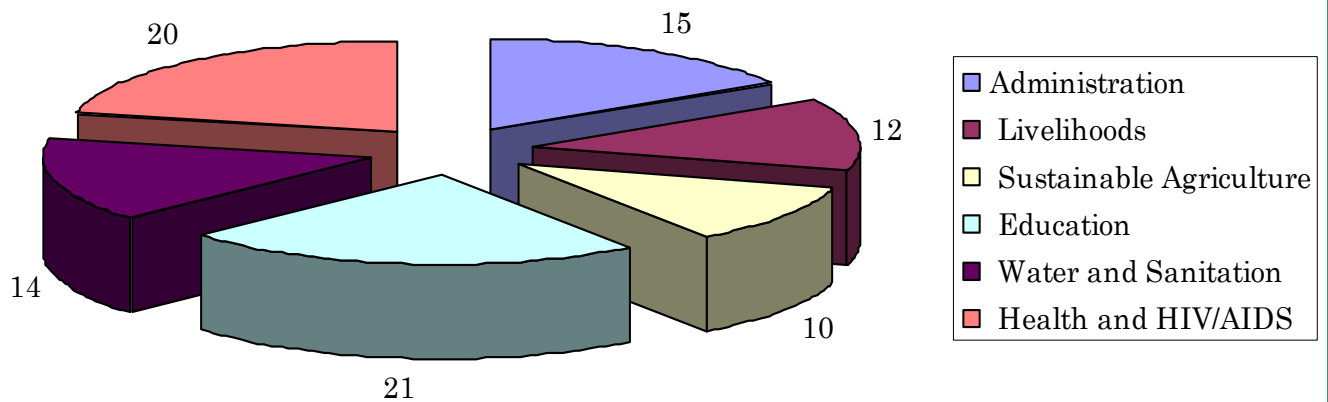
USD 35,000

Total Income

USD 40,100

Expenditure 2006

Percentage of Income Spent



A detailed financial report can be presented upon request.