

Rising Fountains Development Program (RFDP)-Zambia

“Local Solutions Addressing Local Problems”



Board's Annual Report for the year ended December 2009



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Registered charity number:

ORS/102/15/258

[Pick the date]

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends of RFDP-Zambia



This has been a busy and productive year for your Board of Directors and RFDP Staff, all this tremendous work was not done by RFDP single handedly, but through joint effort with government and other stakeholders. Government offered a favorable working environment without political interference. We commend central government and local government authorities for their tireless support, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, who from time to time assisted us with transport. Credit also goes to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health, Fountains of Life Church in Lusaka, Thandizani HIV/AIDS Project, traditional leaders and all stakeholders partnering with RFDP for their timely and invaluable

pieces of advice.

RFDP may be failing in her duty not to recognize the contribution of our ever hard working RFDP staff, community service providers, international volunteers, community schools, government schools and beneficiaries for their continued cooperation. We believe in a stronger partnership both at home and international level. I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication.

The enormous successes that RFDP scored in 2009 were not without their unceasing support. RFDP, therefore, is indebted to appreciate and thank our local and international partners such as Simavi, PEPFAR through American Embassy in Lusaka Zambia, Zambia Orphans of AIDS-US/Zambia Albert Schweitzer Foundation and Fountain of Life Church in Lusaka. I would like to thank them all for helping us succeed. Keep it up.

It is life changing work that we are engaged in as RFDP, and I hope that you will consider joining our efforts or continue funding us. We can put your time, talents, and funds to good use. Check out our web site, or give me a call to see how you can get involved. The report is also available on the Rising Fountains Development Program website (www.risingfountains.org).

Mathias Zimba
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Typical Life in Lundazi-Zambia

Lundazi is one of the largest districts in the eastern part of Zambia. The district occupies an area of 14 068 Km Square. The district shares boundaries with other surrounding districts of Chama on the north, Mpika on the west, Chipata on the south, Mambwe on the south west and borders with Malawi on the east.

Lundazi is a growing district with modern structures standing. Just recently another bank was built reducing congestion at the only bank in the entire district. New office structures of other government departments are also being built. The district is surrounded by villages where life is very hard and most people depend on piece works (a job done for some body and given money there and then).

The most disadvantaged people in the villages are girls, women, children and the elderly. Most girls do not continue with education as they either get married at a tender age or fall prey to early pregnancies. The children also find life difficult because parents do not manage to provide for them as most of the homes are headed by women and children themselves. Children shoulder most of the responsibility of attending to



Image above: *Women and Children selling farm Produce to the traveling public to make ends meet*

household chores like working in the fields, heading cows and most of times selling farm produce to eke out a living. Although the government introduced free education for primary level, most parents do not still afford to provide school requisites hence children drop out of school.

Grandmothers pose for a photo in local Kupenja area



Lavished with HIV/AIDS, elderly people have been left with the burden of looking after grand children with no source of income, no food to provide for the young ones as they have no power to work or do any thing by themselves. Women also are hard hit because of heavy work load they are supposed to carry. RFDP is restoring hope by working with the rural communities, addressing the challenges they face in rural areas.

Our Success

- Held RFDP annual review and planning meeting.
- Carried out 26 sensitization meetings targeting the youths between the age of 15 and 25, grandmothers between the age of 45 to 55, men between the ages 25 and 65, in water and sanitation, care and support for orphans and vulnerable children, agriculture and livelihood and HIV/AIDS with 6556 people attending the meetings.
- Brought in a USA based non governmental organisation, Anir Experience for exchange visit and strengthening partnership.
- Identified a total of 1,300 orphans and vulnerable children through the orphan care committees (OCC) and school authorities for sponsorship.
- Supported 600 children with the assistance from President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief small grants fund (PEPFAR) and Zambia Orphans of AIDS. (ZOAZ).
- Constructed and handed over 40 VIP latrines to Ministry of Education and school authorities and rehabilitated 4 water wells in the communities.
- Introduced RFDP programs to new scaled up operational areas on the plateau.
- Entered into partnership with a U.S based non governmental organisation, Colour in Me (CMI) to pilot the Color Me Green Micro loan Project.
- Received as gift a motor vehicle for operations

WHO WE ARE

RFDP is a growing non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Lundazi district of eastern province, Zambia. The organisation was established in 2000 in the spirit of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. We are a registered organisation with charity number ORS /102/15/258. The organisation is committed at fighting HIV/AIDS and reducing poverty across the district and work in partnership with the Local Government Authorities, Government Line Ministries, Traditional Leaders and other stakeholders in the province. Whilst working to lessen the impact of these vices through micro loans, care and support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), agriculture and livelihood, water and sanitation, the organisation recognizes the wider political and economic factors which influence them, and therefore need also to be addressed on a national and international level.

WHERE WE WORK

Zambia is one of the poorest countries in the world, land-locked in the centre of southern Africa. Its high incidence of poverty, ill-health and early school leavers place it 165th out of 177 on the UN's Human Development Index; a tier of the index reserved for the war-torn only.

RFDP is based in Lundazi district of the eastern province of Zambia, home to some of the country's popular national parks based around the Luangwa river. Yet the conditions enabling wildlife to flourish are not amenable for development. Covering over 14, 058sq km, the district's vast size and treacherous roads make it difficult for many of the inhabitants to access key services and market. It is those communities in the remote, rural areas in Lundazi district that RFDP have attempted to assist in the Luangwa valley area. This is the most deprived area in the district due to its remoteness and other aid agencies and NGOs have remained in the urban areas of the district where amenities

such as communication systems and government offices are manageable. Up to date, RFDP is the only organisation in service in the area, working towards alleviating the impact of poverty and HIV/AIDS, care and support for OVC, water and sanitation and agriculture and livelihood. Only recently, RFDP shifted its focus to include Mphamba, Phikamalaza, Zumwanda and Kapichila on the plateau as its operational areas as well.

WHAT WE DO

Mission Statement and Objectives

RFDP's mission is to empower people in rural Zambia by providing them with education, awareness and practical assistance to develop their lives in accordance with their own needs. RFDP aims to achieve the following objectives in the project it implements:

- *Improve primary health care and contribute to the reduction of the spread of HIV/AIDS for strategic groups: widow/grandmothers, youths, OVC, PLWA and high risky groups such as small scale miners and fishermen.*
- *To improve the availability of clean, safe drinking water and sanitation services, promotion of hygiene practices and reduce water borne disease through the rehabilitation of wells, construction of VIP latrines, formation of water and sanitation committees, installation of hand washing facilities and raising community awareness on hygiene issues.*
- *To improve provision of care and support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and youths through distribution of school requisites, clothing, blankets and food, empowering caregivers with knowledge and skills to enable them to provide for their families needs and forming and supporting youth groups.*
- *To improve access to basic education for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) through the distribution of school requisites, paying school fees and supporting community schools.*
- *To empower women in rural communities through facilitating opportunities in which their voices can be heard and provide them with the necessary resources to take care of themselves and their families.*
- *To advocate environmental protection, ecological agriculture and sustainable livelihoods through raising community awareness and empowering them with knowledge, skills ,resources and support to make effective, long term changes to their practices.*

HOW WE DO IT

Organization Values

- ✓ To respect and encourage the involvement of the communities we work with
- ✓ To encourage women to play a greater role in shaping their own future
- ✓ To be transparent and accountable
- ✓ To be an equal opportunities employer

A fundamental factor to the success of RFDP's projects is the involvement of the community at the grass root level in activity implementation and decision making and the ever presence of the organisation in the community.

The organisation has the monitoring and evaluation sector which work closely with the community to ensure transparency in the assessment of community projects. In all the stages, the community members and key leaders are not spared. At district level, we work in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (Department of Social Welfare and Community Development), Thandizani, Africare, Care international and Ministry of Education. At National and International level, RFDP is working along with individuals and organizations that support the organisation financially, materially and technically.

Governance and Policy

RFDP comprise Board of Trustees who are vested with authority to give guidance and policy formulation. This advisory board reviews the activities RFDP implements and offers suggestions for the way forward. Members are drawn from different backgrounds. They have put in place the measuring yardstick to evaluate successes and challenges management faces in its day to day endeavors. They also ensure that RFDP remains on course in its organisation mission, goals and objectives.

The 2010 Board of Trustees consists of the following:

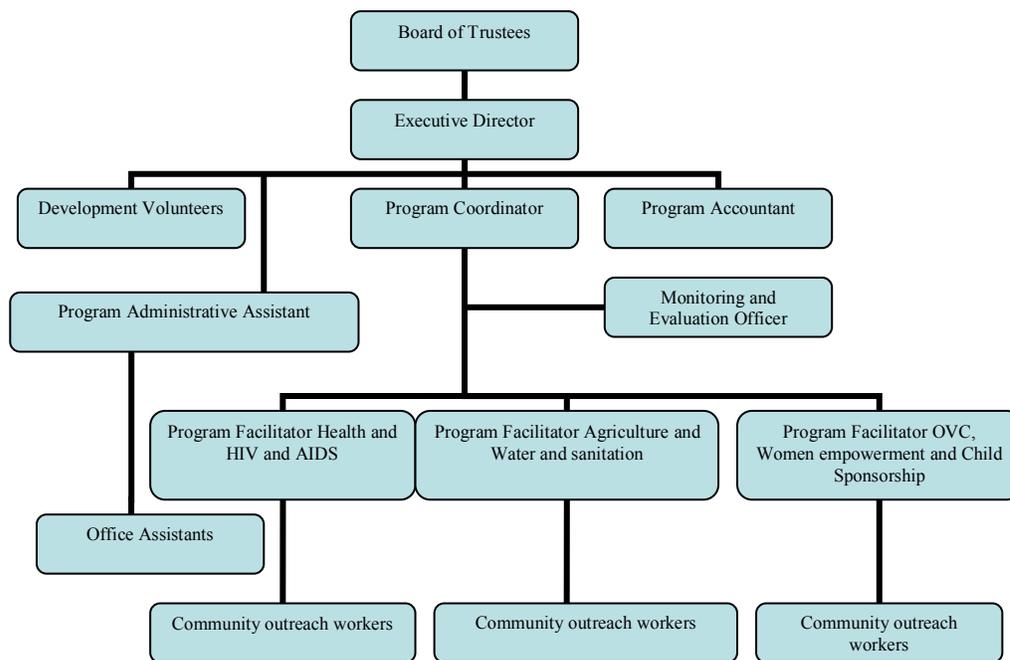
Chairperson	Reverend Siyani Zimba
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Committee Member	Mr. Alick Ng'uni
Committee Member	Mr. Jeff Fulayi
Committee Member	Reverend Christopher Nkhowani
Committee Member	Miss. Elizabeth Banda
Committee Member	Mrs. Witness Mwale

RFDP Staff

At management level, RFDP have eight full time staffs and two part time workers, whilst at grass root level we have six community outreach workers (COWs) who act as a link between RFDP and the community. In 2009, the organisation welcomed new staff members bringing the number to eight. In April, Christine Chipeta took up the role as Facilitator for orphans and vulnerable children. In June, two new members came on board-Osward Lungu, with the background in social work, replaced Pastor Chipeta as HIV/AIDS Facilitator, who had earlier on been elevated to the position of Program Coordinator, while Lizzy Zulu came in as Program Administrative Assistant. Towards the close of the year (November), RFDP employed Miss Edina Sakala to man the accounts department. We have also established several committees who implement and enforce work at lower level. Such committees are water and sanitation committees (WSC), orphan care committee (OCC) and grandmothers committees (GMC). All these are components in the support groups, headed by the outreach worker, who reports directly to the main administrative office of RFDP.

Below is the structure of the organisation.

Structure of the organisation



Annual Review and Planning Meeting

In January, a two day RFDP progress review and planning meeting was held. All the 6 RFDP staff including 4 community outreach workers from their respective catchments attended the meeting. The idea behind this meeting was to review RFDP progress and constraints for the year 2008, to enable RFDP staff effectively plan for the year 2009 and to allow RFDP staff be acquainted with current RFDP activities, reporting formats and programs. A number of achievements and challenges in the past year were discussed. Members of staff were also introduced to a new concept of sanitation known as ecological sanitation (Ecosan). Lastly, RFDP came up with the 2009 annual work plans for the three major different sectors, namely HIV/AIDS and health, water and sanitation, OVC and child sponsorship.

Our Work

Water and Sanitation

Objective: To improve the availability of clean drinking water and sanitation services, hygiene practices and reducing water borne diseases through the rehabilitation of wells, construction of pit latrines, formation of water and sanitation committees, installations of hand washing facilities and raising community awareness on hygiene issues.

Water

Ready access to clean water is essential to life in rural Zambia. Yet according to Lundazi Ministry of Health, only 46% of people in Lundazi district do have such access. This

causes pressing day-to-day difficulties among which is the contribution to diseases such as bilharzias, as people are forced to drink untreated water directly from the river. To address this issue, RFDP with support from our partners, Albert Schweitzer Foundation, rehabilitated 4 water wells during the year. Three were maintained in Chitungulu chiefdom and 1 in Phikamalaza chiefdom. To ensure good quality work was done, a professional well technician, with vast experience in the field of well construction, was hired to do the job. In all the wells, old cracked aprons have been replaced to prevent dirty water leaking into the well and making it unsafe. New windlass holders have also been erected. As a result of these improvements the community of not less than 300 people from Chituta, Chani, Mbutusheni and Kambotoli villages is now using safe and clean water.

Sanitation

Related to the problem of water are the poor sanitation practices, which result from limited access to latrines and the lack of education about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene. A survey conducted by the Lundazi Ministry of Health noted that 15% of the population can not access a latrine, a situation which in many instances has led to human waste being left in unsafe conditions, close to villages. This condition has led to the spread of diarrhoea diseases especially amongst children who play in such dirty places.

Sensitizations

To combat this diarrhoeal infested condition, RFDP has embarked on a massive community sensitization to educate people on the importance of hygiene. A total number of 10 sensitization meetings were conducted in Chitungulu, Kapangala, Nundwe, Kazembe and Kanele Schools. 3,290 community members and school-going children attended these gatherings and received the message on the importance of good sanitation, observance of personal hygiene, waste disposal management and general cleanliness of the environment.

Trainings

The organisation conducted an education campaign in all the partner schools which are receiving sanitation support. Eleven (11) lessons were provided by the RFDP facilitators. 561 pupils were organized and invited for the workshop including WASH club patrons for these schools. The Water and Sanitation facilitator gave sanitation tips on the facts and figures on how to improve personal hygiene and encouragement of peer to peer learning. In all schools that RFDP work, formation of water and sanitation (WASH) clubs was instituted. These are clubs which oversee all activities concerned with sanitation in schools. These are patronized by school teachers. In March, RFDP also conducted a one-day intensive training workshop on water, sanitation and hygiene for 20 Anir Experience volunteers from Texas, America.

Handover of Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines to Ministry of Education

In November, RFDP handed over 20 VIP latrines to the Ministry of Education (10 latrines to Kanele Middle Basic School and 10 to Kazembe Basic School) while another 20 are yet to be handed over. The colorful ceremonies were attended by over 1500 collectively including different government heads of department, teachers, parents' teachers association (PTA) executive, media personnel, pupils, guardians, parents and members of the community. RFDP Director said that it is estimated that at least 400 million school going children are infected by round worm, hookworm, guinea worm, bilharzia and hook worm with the majority of these people living in poor countries. It was for this reason that RFDP embarked on improving school sanitation.

Hallo there!

I am Thapson Phiri. I am a grade 6 pupil aged 13. I joined Chitungulu School in January, 2009. I am a captain at this school.

Though the surrounding of the school was relatively clean at the time I was coming in, the sanitation problem was not good. I could see dirt all over. The two toilets that were there were not being cleaned. An outbreak of disease was eminent. The health authority had at one time wanted to close the school on these health grounds. We did not even know what sanitation was.

I am happy with the coming of RFDP. They have taught me a lot of things. I now know that I need to wash my hands after using the toilet and clean the surrounding to avoid disease. The construction of the 5 double pit latrines and installation of hand-washing facilities have made it easier for me to access the Services. Generally, the sanitation situation is good. As a captain, I have a duty to make a duty rota for the pupils so that they clean the toilets and surroundings. I am now learning in a very friendly environment.



Therefore, 20 double **(40)** ventilated improved pit latrines (VIP) were constructed. The toilets are benefiting 2015 pupils and teachers altogether.

RFDP and Simavi Commended

The District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) who was also acting District Commissioner said while it was government's responsibility to provide adequate and proper sanitation services to the communities, in no way can it perform this important duty single handedly considering limitations in the government budget allocation. Therefore government commended RFDP and SIMAVI for the initiative taken to supplement government efforts by constructing **40** ventilated improved pit latrines. DEBS appealed to SIMAVI to continue funding the school sanitation project as there was a great need to improve sanitation in schools in Zambia.

Care and Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Objective: To improve provision of care and support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and youths through distribution of school requisites, clothing, blankets and food, empowering caregivers with knowledge and skills to enable them to provide for their families needs, forming and supporting youth groups.

Lundazi district has a growing number of OVC. The death of parents has placed the burden of care for children on extended families who often struggle to provide for these children.

Identification and Support for OVCs

In 2009, RFDP identified a total number of 1,300 OVCs, six hundred and thirty two (632) boys and four hundred and forty nine (449) girls. Of these 600 children received support. 300 obtained support from President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and another 300 were supported by Zambia Orphans of AIDS (ZOAZ). The children were assisted with blankets, second hand clothes, toy balls, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, uniforms, school fees, books and pencils.



Programs Coordinator and Program Facilitator and the beneficiaries at Kazembe Basic School.

The distribution exercise was executed in collaboration with the OCC, who are capable of identifying the neediest children as they are right on the ground, and the OVC Facilitator.

During distribution, the OCC took charge while the chiefs or their representatives witnessed the occasion. All the beneficiaries endorsed their signatures in the registers for record's sake.

RFDP also rendered support in the form of pencils received from the USA based Pencil Project and other donors to schools like Chibembe Community School, Kambwili Community School, Greenland Community School, Mathizi Community School, Nundwe Community School and Kuppenja Community School. 1425 pencils in all were given. This was a joyous moment for the pupils and the communities of these areas who expressed happiness for the items received. Though the support was not enough, at least it considerably made a change in the beneficiaries' lives.

Psychosocial and Caregivers Workshops

The organization trained 32 psychosocial counselors and 40 caregivers through workshops in two catchment areas of Kazembe and Chitungulu chiefdoms. The main function of the counselors and caregivers is to look after the chronically ill, take care of the OVC and counsel patients who suffer from loneliness and neglect. This program of training the psychosocial counsellors and caregivers has made great success in that many people have received care and support and leading productive lives.



Image: Psychosocial Counsellors at a training workshop in Kazembe

Children in Need Workshop

RFDP attended a workshop organized by our partners children in need network (CHIN) to boost capacity/skills in the OVC sector. This workshop was held at Farmers Training Centre in Lundazi district. The theme of the workshop was 'Children Rights'. This workshop attracted participants from three districts namely Chama, Chipata and Lundazi who are members of CHIN.

Commemoration of the Day of African Child

RFDP also took part in commemoration of Day of African Child which falls on 16 June every year. This is an event that rekindles memories of a massacre by whites of black children in Soweto Township, South Africa in 1976. Last year's occasion in Lundazi district took place at Chipembele Middle Basic School. Present at this memorable event were Government Heads of Departments, Non governmental organizations, Churches, Teachers and Media Personnel, while the District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) graced the occasion.



Image above: Some pupils acting in a play during Day of the African Child celebrations

A variety of activities took place on this day which included drama with touching message from pupils of Lundazi Day Secondary and Lundazi Boarding High School. The children of Luangwa Valley Project, Kanele Middle Basic School and Chipembele Middle Basic School presented very educative poems on children's rights. Another drama presentation came from Mthunzi group whose message discouraged early marriages. This year's event was attended by more than 900 people.

PEPFAR Grants Coordinator Visits RFDP

The Grants Coordinator from President's Emergency Plan for AIDS and Relief (PEPFAR) visited RFDP to monitor the care and support project for OVC they had funded. On her trip, the Coordinator was privileged to visit Kazembe, which is one of RFDP's areas of operation, to have a one to one discussion with the beneficiaries on the ground. This was a very important moment for the two parties as it was used to cement partnership. Activities that spiced up the visit were the presentation of poems with heart breaking messages and testimonies from orphans and vulnerable children and drama performances by the psychosocial counselors and caregivers. Present were the head teacher of Kazembe Basic School, orphan care committee and a crowd of community members that included headmen.



(Left) Program Coordinator, RFDP, (Centre) Brandy Herren USA Embassy and (Right) Director, RFDP in Kazembe.

At the same function, the head teacher, the orphan care committee and the entire community gave their testimonies regarding the commendable projects RFDP is implementing in their area. The Grants Coordinator was extremely happy about this and pledged to continue supporting RFDP's good initiatives.

Sensitization meetings

RFDP conducted sensitization meetings in four different places. The idea was to sensitize the community on children's rights as more often than not community members tend to violate these rights out of ignorance. Meetings were held at Kuppenja Community School, Nundwe, Romase and Lusuntha border. Collectively, 394 community members attended these eye opening gatherings. The program was quite successful as evidenced by the positive contribution from the audience.

Care International Presentation Meeting

Care International held a review meeting in August to which partners and stakeholders were invited. RFDP was represented by the OVC Facilitator. The main objective of the meeting was to review projects that Care International implemented in the OVC sector since 2005 so that other organizations emulated them.

HIV/AIDS and Health

Objective: To improve care and support for the affected and infected, reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in improving primary health care for the intended beneficiaries in the catchment areas and conduct necessary training for the community members in various fields in order to deliver better health services.

HIV/AIDS is deep-rooted and widespread in Zambia; particularly in the communities of Lundazi district both on the plateau and in the Luangwa valley areas. Zambia is considered as one of the most hit countries in the sub-Saharan Africa. The pandemic is very high in the rural areas of Lundazi, of course not sparing the urban areas whose figure now stands at 16%. According to the District and National AIDS Council Statistics, the pandemic has claimed lives especially the productive age between 16 – 45 years. The number of infected people is so high such that if the situation is not corrected, it may wipe out part of the population since the figures are quite alarming. Consented efforts are therefore needed if we are to reduce the infection levels.

More measures both at grass root and national level must be put in place. For this reason, RFDP and cooperating partners are working hand in hand to deal with the situation of HIV/AIDS by embarking on mass campaigns through sensitization and drama performances in order to prevent this scourge.

HIV/AIDS Sector Initiatives

Though the sector did not have any major funding from the donors, RFDP through well wishers and its own initiatives carried out a number of programs. The following were done:

- ❖ Distributed insect treated mosquito nets donated by US Anir Experience to the communities of Kazembe, Chitungulu and Nundwe and conducted public meetings focusing on malaria prevention.
- ❖ Conducted various in door games and lessons on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- ❖ Launched 'breaking the silence' campaign. This indeed was a country wide call to all organizations. Fortunately, RFDP also took part by working and conducting its workshops in Kopenja, the pastors' workshop and in Kanele Middle Basic School catchment areas. The main purpose of this noble duty was to sensitize and to mainstream HIV/AIDS awareness at household level and contribute to the wider goal and objective of the organization's child welfare development.
- ❖ Created awareness of adherence to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Adherence means following the instructions, requires commitment and knowledge on the part of people living with AIDS, and requires achieving 95 percent of their time to medication adherence. Adherence was also explained to the people as one of the important ways in which people living with HIV/AIDS can ensure that ART works in their bodies.
- ❖ Formed and expanded support groups in Kazembe, Kopenja, Chiwe, Romase, Nundwe and Lusuntha border. Except for Kazembe, the rest are new areas which have been included during the scale up program. Also conducted quarterly routine visits in all areas by the sector in charge.

Breaking the silence campaign

Radio Chikaya is the district's only radio station and currently reaches a large percentage of the community. For many, it is their main source of contact with current affairs, local activities and district-wide events/issues. In the most remote areas of the valley, radios are the community's sole means of communication. In association with CHIN national network, the 'Breaking the Silence' campaign aims to mainstream HIV/AIDS awareness at household level and in doing so contribute to the wider goal of child welfare and development. To help promote the campaign, CHIN members across Lundazi district have been strategizing on how best to integrate the 'Breaking the Silence' policy into their existing programmes. A radio talk show was organized and RFDP participated on the program.

Workshops

Children in need network (CHIN) group in Lundazi district and RFDP held a workshop on the breaking the silence with the (EFZ) Pastors in Lundazi for one day. The initial aim of the workshop was to discuss HIV/AIDS transmission, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), stigma and discrimination and mainstreaming HIV/AIDS concepts within the church setting. Several concepts were provided on how pastors and their spouses could initiate the programs within their existing church programs setting. The facts about HIV/AIDS were presented. This included information on the social-economic effects of HIV/AIDS. The pastors and spouses were surprised to hear that the infection rate in Lundazi was 16%. The talk provoked much debate from the pastors and their spouses on the CD4 counts and use of ARV drugs.

The pastors accepted to supplement on whatever efforts the network was doing to help the affected and infected with HIV/AIDS.

Commemoration of World AIDS Day

World AIDS day falls on 1st December every year. RFDP commemorated this day at Kazembe Basic School, whose

Images:

- *Members of Kazembe Community carrying a banner with the theme universal Access and Human Rights on World AIDS Day*
- *An HIV/AIDS drama performance by RFDP youths during World's AIDS*



theme was 'Universal Access and Human Rights.'

Many people representing various stake holders were invited. The Royal Highness Chieftains Kazembe and the ward councilor were in attendance.

At the event the RFDP Executive Director officiated as Guest of Honour. The day was characterized by activities such as traditional dances, competitions in bicycle riding, sack race, egg and spoon, poems, choral songs from various choirs and soccer. All these exciting performances were aimed at educating the community on the importance of HIV/AIDS prevention. RFDP also distributed HIV/AIDS leaflets.

This colorful function started on Monday night by candle lighting intermingled with choral songs by choirs from different churches. The day was organized by RFDP and more than **1905** people attended the event.



Agriculture, Livelihood and Micro Enterprise Development

Objective: To advocate environmental protection, ecological agriculture and sustainable livelihood through raising community awareness and empowering them with knowledge, skills, resources and support to make effective, long term changes to their practices.

Color Me In (CMI) Visit to RFDP–Zambia

Sarah Grant, the Executive Director of CMI, a US based organisation visited RFDP early 2009. The main purpose of her visit was to have in depth discussion with RFDP and explore possible avenues and opportunities through which the two could partner up in implementing the Colour me green micro loan project in disadvantaged communities of Lundazi district. The project would involve giving out small amounts of money to selected group members so that they start income generating activities (IGAs) to increase household income levels while part of loan repayment would be through tree planting.

This stakeholders meeting with CMI was conducted at RFDP office. Later the visitor was shown around the school sanitation project at Kanele Middle Basic School where RFDP was constructing VIP latrines funded by the Netherlands based organisation, Simavi.

Formation of Micro loan Groups

In the year ended, RFDP in partnership with the local leaders identified and established groups to pilot a micro loan project in isolated areas of Lundazi district. The idea behind is that group members are assisted with financial loan which should be invested in business in order to raise household income levels. Five groups were formed in the



catchment areas-2 in Vuu, 2 in Kupenja and 1 in Dunda compound in town. These groups comprise an average number of 15 members per group (70 in all). Having been sensitized on the project, group members were requested to fill in business application forms specifying business plans to be undertaken. With time, it is hoped that this project will in turn reduce poverty and improve the well being of the impoverished communities.

Image above: Ben Richardson, Agriculture Facilitator from U.K.

talking to women over formation of micro loans groups at Kupenja.

This project will also encourage groups to pay back the loan by planting trees (up to 80% is allowed) in their localities thereby reducing deforestation and retaining plant nutrients into the soil. The other percentage would be paid back in cash. RFDP will select another group to benefit from this. In so doing the money will act as a revolving fund.



Anir Experience (USA) Visit to RFDP

RFDP, in March 2009, delightedly hosted 20 Anir Experience volunteers from the US. Led by their Executive Director, the team of students from West Texas A & M University stayed in Lundazi for 10 days and helped out with a number of RFDP projects including conducting HIV/AIDS, youth, education, personal hygiene and malaria lessons at schools. They also distributed 300 mosquito bed nets to all communities in our catchment areas. Russell Lowery

Hart, the team leader and professor at West Texas A.M. University

Image above: Russell Lowery-Hart giving out mosquito bed nets to the community in Kazembe remarked that it was such a great opportunity for Anir Experience to work with foreign colleagues (RFDP), and seeing for themselves what was obtaining on the ground.



Anir Executive Director presenting school requisites to teachers and pupils of Nundwe Community School.

Pupils and teachers also benefited from school requisites, which included exercise books, pens, pencils, rubbers, teachers' textbooks, balls, chalk and dusters.

Anir Experience also donated to RFDP, construction tools and equipment like wheel burrows, shovels, trowels and picks. This was one of the most exciting moments in the history of RFDP.

Government Commends Anir Experience and RFDP

RFDP held an introductory meeting for Anir Experience at Gowokerani Guest House. The District Commissioner (DC), who is the top government official, was the guest of honour. In his speech, the DC, on behalf of government commended RFDP and Anir Experience for the gesture shown for the underprivileged in society and for working to uplift their standard of living.



Lundazi District Commissioner addressing Anir Volunteers and RFDP Staff at Gowokerani Guest House in Lundazi District.

RFDP Receives a Motor Vehicle Donation

RFDP was privileged to receive a motor vehicle donated by Fountain of Life Church. The four wheel drive, 5 seater Nissan Terrano came as a gesture of goodwill and support from the church as it provides guidance and spiritual cover for RFDP, for which we are most appreciative. This donation has greatly

eased the transport problem. Prior to this, movements to and from the project areas were infrequent. To undertake a trip, huge sums of money were being spent on hiring vehicles which was a drain in the organization's resources.

RFDP Programs Launched in New Catchment Areas.



RFDP recently extended its operations to the plateau parts of the district. Three areas were brought on board because of similarity of problems they face to those of the valley. The communities of Kupenja, Chiwe and Romase in chief Phikamalaza and Kapichila were very excited and welcomed RFDP in their areas.

Part of the crowd that witnessed the launch of RFDP programs in Kupenja area

RFDP takes part in 'Walk for Life'

On the 4th October 2009, RFDP was invited by Ophelia Oruma Hanyama, a Zambian working with Noarsark based in Sweden. The main purpose of the walk for life was to provide support to people accessing ART and walking longer distance from their villages to Kapiri Mposhi district hospital.

Several companies, NGOs, private companies and government departments in Lusaka and on the Copper belt province took part in the walk. At the end of it all, Reverend Siyaniimba, RFDP Board Chairperson and RFDP Executive Director were requested to facilitate during the workshop which took place at Sony Ericsson Offices in Lusaka, Zambia.

Image: RFDP Program Coordinator ready for a 25km walk in Kapiri Mphoshi



Looking Ahead 2010

HIV/AIDS and Health

- Train 20 Support groups in care and support.
- Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS through breaking the silence campaign to 500 community members.
- Conduct training for 500 Counselors and care givers.
- Establish mobile VCT in places where health centers are not available.
- Train support groups leaders in gender and sexuality.
- Train people living with HIV/AIDS and conduct awareness meetings in new catchment areas.
- Train 60 traditional birth attendants in PMTCT
- Train 100 home based caregivers in HIV/AIDS
- Train 100 Psychosocial Counselors in HIV/AIDS and peer counseling
- Establish and provide mobile VCT services to 600 people in RFDP catchment areas
- Train 20 community health workers in primary health care
- Scale up HIV/AIDS prevention to 700 women and girls

Water and sanitation

- Source more funds from donors (both external & internal) to embark on major improvements on water and sanitation
- Conduct training workshops for 100 WASHE committee members on water and sanitation to stimulate extensive hygiene behaviour change
- Construct and rehabilitate 60 more water wells for easy access to clean, safe drinking water
- Construct 100 additional double VIP latrines at schools and other public institutions for easy access to sanitation services
- Form 30 WASH committees in schools to spearhead sanitation initiatives in schools
- Provide 3000 bottles of chlorine to households in communities
- Install 100 hand-washing facilities in schools to improve hygiene
- Conduct 60 hygiene and sanitation awareness lessons in schools and communities
- Develop more partnerships with other NGOs and stakeholders for easy implementation and speedy completion of WASHE projects.
- Develop new strategies through which to address water and sanitation problems

Care and support for OVC

- Form 10 orphan care committees
- Support 500 orphans and vulnerable children with school requisites.
- Train 200 caregivers and 60 psychosocial counselors
- Train 150 orphans and vulnerable children in livelihood skills.
- Form 30 grandmothers groups
- Form 10 education child care development centers (Nursery Schools).
- Train 15 nursery school teachers.
- Solicit funds to sponsor 10 OVC
- Purchase and distribute school visual aid, chalk, dusters and teachers' text books to 10 schools.

- Hold 5 children camps (teaching them on the dangers of HIV/AIDS/ child abuse and children's rights).

Environmental and Agriculture

- Train 100 RFDP groups members in tree planting and raising tree nurseries
- Train 100 RFDP groups members in sustainable agriculture and environmental protection
- Train 100 group members on Agro-forestry
- Plant 3000 woodlot trees
- Form 100 enterprises groups in the communities

Livelihood and Micro Enterprise Development

- Train 100 RFDP group members in basic entrepreneurship and micro-finance
- Give seed money (start up) capital to 100 RFDP group members.
- Identify 100 small scale entrepreneurs
- Establish 100 micro enterprises in the communities
- Train 1000 households in business skills training

Acknowledgements

Rising Fountains Development Program (RFDP) Management and Board of Directors is thankful to all organizations, government, civil societies who came on board to supplement its efforts on developmental issues (financial or in kind).

- Albert Schweitzer Foundation(Netherlands)



- SIMAVI(Netherlands)



- President Emergency Plan for AIDS and Relief (PEPAR)(Zambia)

- Zambia Orphans of AIDS (ZOAZ)

- Digital Art Designs Ltd(Canada)

- 2 Way Development(UK)



- Pencil Project(US)



- Anir Experience(US)

- Fountain of Life Church(Zambia)



What Can You Do?

There are many ways in which individuals and organizations across the globe can help RFDP continue grow and development for the benefit of our beneficiaries.

VOLUNTEER

International Development Volunteers – Following the initiation of the volunteer programme in 2007, the organizations eager for the programme to grow. Volunteers are crucial to capacity building within RFDP and offer fresh perspectives and approaches on our work. Volunteers are required for a minimum of three months and must have university degree and knowledge of issues relating to sustainable development.

Contact risingfountain@yahoo.com for more information.

Technical / Virtual Volunteers – The organisation is always seeking to build working relationships with people in other areas of the world who have some spare time to help. Individuals with knowledge and skills in research, fundraising, proposal writing or any other field which can benefit the organisation are more than welcome to get in touch – risingfountain@yahoo.com

DONATIONS

You can make a financial donation to RFDP through Money Gram, PayPal or Western Union. Our details are: To become a member of RFDP costs US\$50 / £ 25stg per year. At present RFDP is fundraising for a project vehicle. Our productivity is being greatly reduced as we do not have our own vehicle. For every trip to the field we have to hire a vehicle which is a valuable drain on resources. Furthermore, with our development and growth the administrative dimension of our work has rapidly increased. We are seeking office equipment, including desk tops computers, printers and a photocopier. We are always willing to explore potential partnerships with individuals and/or organizations that could be of assistance in helping us procure these assets. Alternatively, we are always seeking additional funds to help us implement our projects. Individual or group donations can be given to an of these in the following areas:

- HIV/AIDS prevention and care
- OVC care and support
- Education
- Livelihood and Micro Enterprise Development
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Alternatively, you can sponsor a child for one year of schooling.

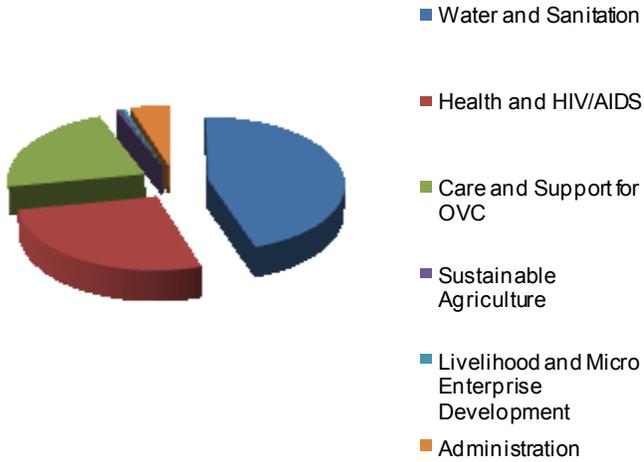
Please visit www.risingfountains.org or email risingfountain@yahoo.com for more information.

In Kind

The organization is always happy to receive gifts in kind from our partners overseas. In the past RFDP has received school requisites and blankets for our sponsored children. If you would like to post something similar, please do so to: Rising Fountains Development Program, PO BOX 530230, Lundazi, Zambia, and Africa

FINANCIAL RESULTS-1ST JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009

Income 2009



Expenditure 2009



Donation Form

Please give generously and help change the lives of marginalized communities in rural Zambia.

Name.....

Address (optional).....

E-mail.....

Amount ZKW OR US \$.....

I would like my donation to go towards (Please check one)

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Livelihoods/Micro loans (women empowerment)
- Care and Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)
- Education
- General Fund