

that I can go to Kwasha Mukwenu and ask what I can do next."

For both boys, the priority now is finishing school so that they can make a steady income. However, as James explains, the obstacles to getting a good education are not only financial. "When your parents pass away," he says, "that gap is very difficult to handle. It is very difficult to study when you are thinking about your parents."

UNICEF estimates that every year of education Zambian children have increases their future earning potential by 10%. With the help of Kwasha Mukwenu all of the Phiri children have been able to stay in school, and both boys will write their final exams this year.

After graduation, Geoffrey says that he would like to study agriculture at college. James would like to study computer programming. "The way forward for us is college training, so the help we need most is education," Geoffrey says.

Kwasha Mukwenu refers female children running child-headed households to the Umoyo Training Programme, an initiative of CHIN member Kara Counseling. The programme targets female youth between the ages of 14-18 who have been orphaned (mainly due to HIV/AIDS), or come from a family background where they have been abused, neglected or are at risk.

The program trains these young women in life and business skills, with the goal of returning them to their communities to find employment or start their own businesses after graduation.

Elizabeth Mwewa feels that the Umoyo programme is an important initiative, but that in order to be truly effective, graduates need capital to turn their new skills into businesses. "They have the training," says Mwewa. "But when they come home there is no money for them to do anything, so they are just sitting doing nothing. There needs to be support to help them start businesses."

Sezerino Cheelo, Outreach Coordinator at Umoyo, couldn't agree more. He says that with current resources, it is impossible for Umoyo to support all of their graduates in finding work.

"We have trained over 400 girls," he says, "and lots of institutions are teaching the skills that we teach [tailoring, sewing, catering], so chances are slim of the girls getting employed. What we need is an institution that can work hand in hand with us to empower the girls with machines or a small loan to start a business."

The Draft Social Protection Strategy (2005) and the Fifth National Development Plan both highlight growing national commitment to the provision of targeted social protection to vulnerable groups. Gabriel Fernandez is optimistic about the government's plans for social protection programming and the benefits that these programmes will bring to Zambia's orphans and vulnerable children if successfully implemented.

I think that we can insure that there are no households in Zambia headed by children in the future," he says. "The political will does seem to be there, but action needs to be commensurate with political commitment. In the short-term, it is not possible, but in the long term, with concerted action and political will, I don't see why not." □

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Geoffrey (left) and James Phiri



Elizabeth Mwewa, Chair of Kwasha Mukwenu



Young women at Umoyo Training Centre



The Children in Need Network Newsletter

The Child Rights Approach

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Message from the Executive Director



Dear Reader,

It is with great pleasure (and an even greater sigh of relief!) that I present to you the 11th edition of the "new look" CHIN newsletter.

The newsletter is one of the most important tools that we have for communicating with members and other stakeholders and to the general public about what is happening in CHIN and, more importantly, with children in Zambia and across the globe.

At the 2006 Annual General Meeting, held in November, we promised to deliver a better quality newsletter, and we implored the participation of members in developing not only the newsletter, but also other communication tools that we have been using as a network.

I am happy to say we have made significant progress in this area. We would like to thank the Coady International Institute of Canada for supporting Catherine Cooper under their Youth in Partnership Programme. Catherine has been a great help to our communications team since her arrival in late July.

For this first new edition, it is only fitting that the focus is on children's rights. CHIN believes that achieving lasting improvements in the lives of children in Zambia can be effectively realized through adoption of a child rights approach. It is for this reason that CHIN is now preparing a new strategic plan for the period 2008-2010 with a focus on children's rights.

For now, we want to share with you some of the work already started in the area of children's rights. We want you to hear the children talk about their rights, and more importantly, we want to continue raising the flag on child rights issues in the interest of every child in Zambia.

To the communications team I say well done (and those of you who know me know how it hurts for me to issue any praise at all!). Seriously, we have done well, but I think we still need to do more, we need to have more input from members across the entire network.

To our partners, we want to thank you for your continued support. Special mention to Kindernothilfe (KNH) Germany, without whose assistance this would not have been possible.

Enjoy this edition, and we would love to hear from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Pamela Chisanga
Executive Director
Children in Need Network

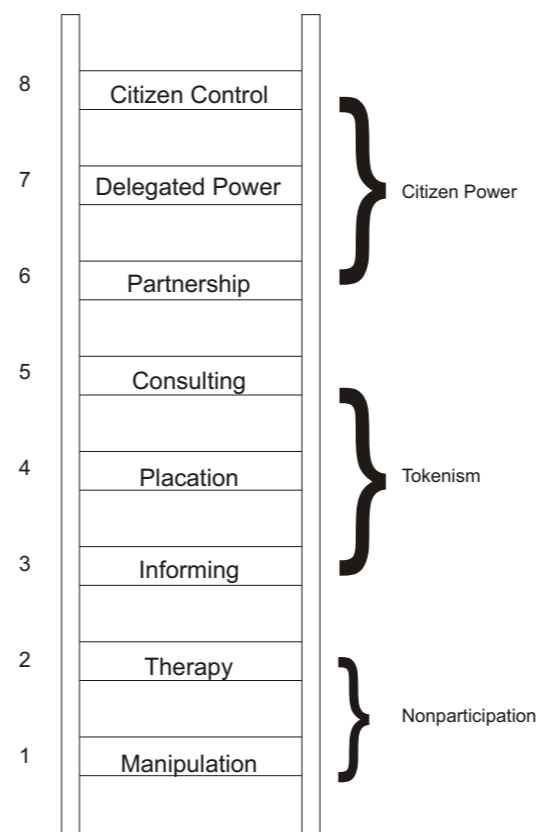
Enrich your knowledge by visiting the CHIN resource centre, where you can find materials on a variety of issues affecting children such as HIV and AIDS, child trafficking, child labour, CSEC and streetism.

Meaningful Involvement Climbing the Ladder of Participation

Excerpts from Sherry R. Arnstein's "A Ladder of Citizen Participation" and Roger Hart's "Ladder of Young People's Participation"

Article 12 of the UNCRC says that "Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinions taken into account." Child participation is a key element in the development of child-rights programming, but there is a critical difference between going through the empty ritual of participation and ensuring that stakeholders have the real power needed to affect the outcome of the process.

As Sherry R. Arnstein says, "Participation without redistribution of power is an empty and frustrating process for the powerless. It allows the power holders to claim that all sides were considered, but makes it possible for only some of those sides to benefit. It maintains the status quo."



The bottom rungs of Arnstein's ladder are (1) Manipulation and (2) Therapy. These two rungs describe levels of "non-participation" that have been contrived by some to substitute for genuine participation. Their real objective is not to enable people to participate in planning or conducting programs, but to enable power holders to 'educate' or 'cure' the participants.

Rungs 3 and 4 progress to levels of 'tokenism' that allow the have-nots to hear and to have a voice: (3)

Informing and (4) Consultation. When they are proffered by power holders as the total extent of participation, citizens may indeed hear and be heard, but under these conditions they lack the power to insure that their views will be heeded by the powerful. When participation is restricted to these levels, there is no follow-through, hence no assurance of changing the status quo. Rung (5) Placation is simply a higher level tokenism, because the ground rules allow have-nots to advise, but retain for the power holders the continued right to decide what should happen.

Further up the ladder are levels of citizen power with increasing degrees of decision-making clout. Citizens can enter into a (6) Partnership that enables them to negotiate and engage in trade-offs with traditional power holders. At the topmost rungs, (7) Delegated Power and (8) Citizen Control, have-not citizens obtain the majority of decision-making seats, or full managerial power."

As for child participation, Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation shows youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults as the top form of youth participation, followed immediately by youth-initiated and directed.

- Rung 8: Young people and adults share decision-making.
- Rung 7: Young people lead and initiate action.
- Rung 6: Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people.
- Rung 5: Young people consulted and informed.
- Rung 4: Young people assigned and informed.
- Rung 3: Young people tokenised.
- Rung 2: Young people are decoration.
- Rung 1: Young people are manipulated.

This is a somewhat controversial issue for many people working with and around young people. Essentially, the debate is which of these levels of participation is actually the most meaningful? Many believe that shared decision making is most beneficial to both young people and adults. Others believe that young people are most empowered when they are making decisions without the influence of adults. Most often, this doesn't exclude adults but reduces their role to that of support.

Both arguments have merit; ultimately, it is up to each group to determine which form of decision-making best fits with the groups' needs.

Arnstein acknowledges that the ladders are simplifications. However, she says, "it helps to illustrate the point that so many have missed: that there are significant gradations of citizen participation. Knowing these gradations makes it possible to cut through the hyperbole to understand the increasingly strident demands for participation from the have-nots as well as the gamut of confusing responses from the power-holders." □

Children In Need Network

A network of NGOs, CBOs and FBOs working with children in Zambia

Executive Committee

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Vice Chairperson

Felix Mwale

Secretary

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Nalucha Imonda

Admin. Officer

Annie Mulala

Information Assistant

Bestone Banda

Communications Intern

Catherine Cooper

Interns

Humphrey Makondo

Joseph Chibuta

Driver

John Simalambo

Office Assistant

Annie Zulu

Email: chin@zamnet.zm

Phone: 260 21 1 290347

Web: www.chin.org.zm

Member Profile: Jubulani Children's Village

The Jubulani Children's Village (JCV), situated near Ndola, has been operating since 1998. JCV's ultimate goal is to educate, equip and empower the orphans and widows who participate in their programmes to give them hope and future.



The Jubulani family in March, 2007

JCV is structured in such a way that the orphans live in a family set up. There are currently four five-bedroom houses that are home to ten children each. Each of the houses has a housemother and a mother's helper, a piece of land to grow maize and a garden for vegetables.

This structure ensures that the children have the opportunity to live in a family environment rather than in an institutionalised environment. Children are involved in the everyday tasks of any normal family, such as gardening, cleaning and helping the smaller siblings. The children are able to have a formal education at different government and pri-



A typical Jubulani classroom

vate schools in town, and are thus exposed to different communities; in short, integration is the key aim for Jubulani Children's Village.

They are very well-organized," says CHIN Capacity Building Programme Manager Richard Chilikwela.

They are taking an integrated approach and providing good quality service to the children."

JCV also runs a training centre to help the local widows be empowered to care for their own families. Widows are trained in a number of skills, including tailoring, family planning, nutrition, agriculture, small business and literacy.



The sawmill provides income for Jubulani's programmes

To run the orphanage as stated above is costly. In the past, JCV has depended upon support from outside organisations and individuals. However, they believe in sustainability, therefore JCV is running a sawmill to support the project. Since they are located in a forested area, they have easy access to the timber and are able to support the orphanage and create jobs for the local community, contributing to the eradication of poverty at the same time. □

Reaching Out: The Child Helpline Service in Zambia

Joseph Chibuta and Humphrey Makondo CHIN Interns

The child helpline service is a new approach that will enhance the provision of child-friendly protective services in Zambia. Initially it will be operated as a pilot project in Lusaka province, and it will subsequently spread to the rest of the country.

The child helpline service is intended to respond to children in need of care and protection and make their needs and feelings known to policy and decision makers nationally and internationally. Child helplines across the world have demonstrated their effectiveness by providing direct assistance to children.

CHIN interns Joseph Chibuta and Humphrey Makondo are visiting all of the organisations in the draft directory to confirm their details.

Some of the organisations that provide listings include

CHIN, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Zambia Community School Secretariat and Project Concern International.

Some of the services that these organisations offer to children include: counseling and psycho social support, education, mental and health care, HIV/AIDS information and related issues, homes for orphans and vulnerable children, provision of legal aid and advocacy for children's rights. □



Joseph Chibuta (left) and Humphrey Makondo

Organisational Development: CHIN's programme about to take off

Wendy Harris, CHIN Organisational Development Advisor

At the beginning of 2007, CHIN wrote a concept paper including a plan to develop a new organisational development programme for CHIN members. This was accepted and agreed upon by the donor in April, 2007.

The aim of the new organisational development programme is to upskill CHIN members in areas where gaps have been identified that are preventing their development. Support and training will be available to assist organisations to become more effective and efficient.

The first phase is being run as a pilot in two provinces: the Copperbelt and Southern Province. A maximum of eight organisations per province will be selected to be part of this pilot for a period of one year.

What have we done so far?

CHIN Secretariat staff held information days in the two pilot provinces in September, 2007, to promote the programme with members. Further details on how the organisational programme will be delivered in each province were explained.

We also discussed the type of commitment needed by participating organisations and the time that would be required of each organisation to make this programme work.

Application forms were available at the meetings and to the regional chairs for distribution. The closing date for applications was October 1.

What happens next?

All applications, are being assessed by an independent panel, and successful organisations will be informed shortly.

When the first clusters of organisations have been selected, a self assessment process will begin. A trained mentor will facilitate the process with a group of people from an organisation: these may be beneficiaries, volunteers, staff, board and/or committee members and possibly community members and donors.

The exercise will assess the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and enable views from a variety of sources. The group will

then decide together three areas within their respective organisation where further development is needed.

Training will be provided in three parts, with mentor support to assist in the implementation of each key area of development.

Mentors will monitor each organisation and report on progress to CHIN Secretariat. If an organisation is felt not to be taking the programme seriously and committing the time to work on organisational change, they will not be recommended to continue on the programme.

As this is a new venture for CHIN, we will be monitoring the pilot phase of the organisational development programme closely, to ensure that we are delivering the programme appropriately to meet member needs.

The future

It is CHIN's aim, to continue this work over the next three years with as many members as possible. We hope to raise the levels of competency within member organisations to enable them to deliver an effective and efficient service to the beneficiaries they serve: the children and families most in need.

In the long term, CHIN aims to create a vibrant, independent and well resourced child sector in Zambia. □

The new Southern Province Regional Committee has been elected. The committee has representatives from Livingstone and Choma. It is nice to see a gender balance in this year's committee, with three men and three women.



New Southern Province Regional Committee

The committee members are (left to right):
Treasurer, Mrs. E.H. Kaumba of Tujatane Women's Group
Mr. Doughty Mainza of Chileleko Community School
Mrs. Miyoba Mugwagwa of Choma Home Based Care
Secretary, Mr. K.W. Mwauluka of Dorndoff OVC Support Project aka Choma HBC
Vice Chairperson, Mr. Mutinta Mazuba of the Programme for Sustainable Rural Development
Chairperson, Sr. Macrina Lyuanda of Mwapona Community School

Website Profile

The Communications Initiative

www.comminit.com

The Communication Initiative (The CI) network is an online space for sharing the experiences of and building bridges between, the people and organisations engaged in or supporting communication as a fundamental strategy for economic and social development and change.

The website does this through a process of initiating dialogues and generating a more representative and informed voice with which to advance the use and improve the impact of communication for development.

This process is supported by a web-based resource of summarised information and several electronic publications, as well as online research, review and discussion platforms providing insight into communication for development experiences.

The Communications Initiative site contains over 3,500 summaries of programme experiences, strategic thinking documents, evaluations, materials and events, and their newsletters reach over 10,500 subscribers.

The Soul Beat Africa section of the site focuses on the African experience and context, providing an

opportunity for the unique experiences and issues of the continent to be shared and debated, while helping to strengthen communication for development and social change.

The Soul Beat platform also offers an interactive space where development practitioners, media makers, academics, researchers and others can share ideas and debate and discuss issues related to communication for change in Africa.

The Children's Window offers users easy access to the most recently updated information related to children. You can perform a custom search by: geography, development issues, communication tools, approaches and trends, evaluation measures, types of organisations and millennium development goals.

Because this website is based on participation, it provides an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of your organisation and learn from the work being done by other organisations.

The Communications Initiative is innovative and creative in appropriating and adapting new virtual technologies for use in the international development context. □

Shadow Report on UNCRC

From the Research and Advocacy Desk

Theresa Kabeka-Mwansa
Project Officer, Research & Advocacy

In 1991, Zambia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). As such, Zambia is obliged to fulfill the requirements specified in the convention, ensuring that all children in Zambia have their rights realized.

As a signatory to this convention, the Zambian government is required to produce periodic reports highlighting implementation efforts. Civil society is also expected to produce an alternative report, or what is called a shadow report.

For this reason, CHIN has formed a committee from its membership called the Research and Advocacy Committee. The purpose of this new committee is to monitor the implementation of the UNCRC in Zambia.

The CHIN Research and Advocacy Committee is expected to review the progress made so far in this area by critically looking at what measures government has put in to place, achievements that have been made, and shortcomings that can be identified in the process so far.

The team has already come up with concept papers on how they intend to conduct this mammoth task, and we will soon start the monitoring process. We expect that new information will be generated. The exercise will also act as verification for the initial and first periodic report submitted by the government to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CROC).

New Strategies, New Approaches

What's New with Communications & Networking

Bestone Banda
Information Assistant

As the Children in Need network grows, communication is becoming more and more of a challenge. In this light, CHIN has taken a new approach to improve communication on issues affecting all of our stakeholders.

CHIN has a number of communication tools already in place, such as the website, newsletter, news updates, radio and television programmes, etc. But certain vital elements have been missing.

In the past, CHIN's communications activities have not been timely or standardized. A lack of evaluation measures, such as regular progress reports and Communications Committee reviews, has meant that things have been allowed to slip.

Also, in order for communication to be complete, members must participate and give feedback. Otherwise our publications will not reflect what members are doing and our programming will not address members' needs.

My new colleague, Catherine Cooper, and I have now adopted a dynamic new strategy to address these issues.

The first thing we did was to come up with a group of members with skills and expertise in communication. This Communication Committee has met several times to advise and make suggestions on how to improve communication in CHIN.

With the help of the Communications Committee, we also developed a new communications strategy. This strategy outlines all CHIN communications activities for the next three years, including the dates by which they must be completed.

The plan will soon be presented for approval to the board and members at the members meeting. Our intention is for this strategy to streamline and standardize all communications activities, both internal and external and to increase member participation and ownership of CHIN communications initiatives.

The communications strategy has the following four objectives: (1) To establish regional and international information linkages with thematic and child-focused networks/ organizations by facilitating meaningful communication between secretariat, members and partners. (2) To create interactive knowledge and information management systems in CHIN through the use of timely, targeted and effective two-way communication. (3) To produce and disseminate IEC

materials on child rights and other child-related issues, including social protection for children, in order to promote awareness of the activities of CHIN members and of child-related issues in Zambia; to create a well-developed and consistent public image for CHIN and to raise CHIN's profile in both public and private sectors and in civil society. (4) To develop standardized practices and monitoring & evaluation methods for all CHIN communications activities.

Another exiting activity in the strategy is the development and implementation of Internet training programmes for members. Many members located in remote places do not know how to use the Internet to receive and share information. Because much of our communication takes place using this means, we want to train members so that they don't miss out.

We have also created a style guide and standards for colours, fonts, etc. which will help standardize all CHIN communications materials in order to create a professional and easily recognizable image for CHIN.

Another major project that we are working on is the new design of the CHIN website. We are now developing an interactive website which will have provision for members to post news updates and contribute to discussion forums.

Paid up members will also be able to log on to the website to post a short member profile, including current contact information and summary of activities. This is an excellent way to advertise and share information so that donors and partners worldwide can see for themselves what you are doing.

Regular evaluations will be carried out through reports from CHIN staff and the Communications Committee. Members will also be asked for feedback on the new communications strategy through member surveys.

In addition, we have designed a new brochure, newsletter and other corporate identity materials, which will soon be disseminated. We will also be designing other IEC materials, which will be distributed on mark days.

With this new strategy we expect increased member participation and ownership of CHIN communications activities. Members will be expected to give feedback, contribute to the newsletter and post to the website, all of which can be seen as excellent opportunities to get the word out about the work that member organisations are doing.

After all, CHIN is a membership organisation. Without member participation, we are nothing. □

*Submit to the CHIN
quarterly Newsletter...*

*Share information with other
members, publicize your successes and
raise awareness about child-related
issues. For more information, contact
Bestone Banda at
bestonebanda@yahoo.com
(<http://www.cadkas.com>).*

Child-Headed Households in Zambia

Member response to a growing issue

Catherine Cooper
CHIN Intern

IN 2004, Family Health International published a study indicating that 1-2% of Zambian households are headed by a child.

"This is a small number compared to Uganda, for instance," says Gabriel Fernandez, Chief Child Protection Officer for UNICEF Zambia. "It is therefore man-

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From a child-rights perspective, however, it is too many. There is an urgency in addressing this matter and making sure that these children have their rights fulfilled."

UNICEF is currently conducting an in-depth, tripartite study on the challenges faced by child-headed households, grandparent-headed households, disabled children and children of the disabled.

The purpose of the study is to improve service delivery to these highly vulnerable families by providing a framework for evaluating current response to these groups, sensitising or redirecting existing interventions to the greatest possible effect and identifying appropriate social protection interventions.

Fernandez says that to his knowledge the study, which is expected to be completed by December, 2007, is the first of its kind. Although there are in fact three distinct studies involved, Fernandez explains that there are advantages in combining the implementation and reporting so as to maximise efficiency, these three groups.

Children who head households are often unable to go to school. It is hard for them to maintain the household income and to be good caregivers for younger children, who are also managing the grief of losing their parents.

"A child who is without parents has to literally become an adult and has very special needs," says Chilobe Muloba Kambikambi, Project Manager for Care Zambia's Scope OVC programme.

If you don't have the love and support of a caregiver, you experience multiple losses. These children are often moved from one place to another, and they find it difficult to cope."

CHIN member Kwasha Mukwenu (meaning "help your friend") is one of the organizations providing much-needed assistance to child-headed households in Lusaka.



The volunteers at Kwasha Mukwenu

Based in the Matero compound, the volunteers at Kwasha Mukwenu provide food, school fees and uniforms, psycho-social support and home-based care to orphaned and vulnerable children in their community. They also run a peer education programme and a preschool for children below school going age.

Most of Kwasha Mukwenu's funding comes from the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and the women also undertake income generating activities to help pay for the organization's programmes.

"When we started in 1993, there were many child headed households," says Elizabeth Mwewa, Chair of Kwasha Mukwenu. "Now there are more.

Before it wasn't like that, but now people are dying and leaving their children behind, and with the eroded family structure in Zambia, there is often no one to care for them, so it happens now."

Geoffrey and James Phiri are both soft-spoken and gentle, kneeling respectfully to greet the women from Kwasha Mukwenu when they arrive for a visit. The boys have been caring for their two younger sisters since their parents died five years ago.

"Since then," says Geoffrey, "there hasn't been any seriousness in our family in taking care of us."

The children quickly ran out of money, and Geoffrey began to do piece work to make an income, driving a friend's taxi without a licence.

"We decided to go to Kwasha Mukwenu to tell them the way that we were living, Geoffrey continues. "They gave us some mealie meal and money for school fees. They have helped us very much. If I need help, I know

Continued on pg. 11

Think of Me:

A CHIN member on Child Rights Programing

Lazarus Mbewe,
Executive Director - Project Support Zambia

"Kodi mudziwa?"

Children make up to half the population of Zambia. The other half, made of adults, makes very important decisions on behalf of the children that have been entrusted to our care.

Human nature has it that you serve yourself best and first so that you can serve others well. This implies that in their decision-making, the adult population would first have to serve their interests and then consider the interests of others. Thus, children have often been the last to be considered.

In my attempt to serve the children better, I have attended several workshops, seminars and planning meetings looking at the welfare of children. However, in all of my experience, I have never seen a child invited to make a contribution on how they think they can be served best.

Childrens' input is taken to be obvious, unnecessary and childish. But is this true? How many decisions that are completely devoid of children's involvement and input have been seen through to successful conclusions?

Instead of empowering children to make their own independent decisions or contributing towards the decision making process, adults tend to impose programmes on the children. Yet, the children are expected to fully support and enjoy the programmes, even though they had no say in their development.

This may explain why there is little impact despite having so many players implementing so many programmes for the same target groups. Children must have a sense of ownership of any programme designed to benefit them. This would ensure sustainability.

Yes, it is true that "all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." Thank God for parents who were entrusted with a responsibility to bring children up till they are fully mature and responsible.

There comes a time, however, when a child has to choose what s/he wants done. Children, like other human beings, have a right to give their opinion, especially on matters that affect them. Unfortunately, society believes that everything about children is

"childish," and so adults must always decide on their behalf. This is not right.

It is wrong to force a horse to drink water. While children's minds may still be developing, they are capable of making sound judgments. They know what is good for them and the best that our society can do is to encourage our children to think aright and make sound decisions.

It is time to incorporate children in decision making processes on matters that affect them, of course, under guidance from adults.

I do not mean to suggest that we should leave children's matters to children. I mean rather that we should involve them or to have them in mind in all we plan and do. Otherwise Darwin's Natural selection's concept of 'survival of the fittest' would apply so that while adults thrive children will always strive.

“ Let us make every effort to have childrens' input, get their consent and approval. ”

Apart from the basic needs, children, unlike adults, have special needs. These needs may not be readily taken as important by adults, but they are crucial in the development of the child.

Those that are quick at confining children to orphanages and reformatories seem to ignore the importance of family and community in the early developmental stages of the child.

May I propose and appeal to all planners and programmers at all levels; International, national, organisational and household level: let us have the welfare of children in mind in all we do. Let us make every effort to have childrens' input, get their consent and approval.

Children are human beings. They have special needs and feelings, and they reason. As you are gender sensitive, remember to be child sensitive as well. □

Project Support Zambia is a registered not-for-profit NGO focused on alleviating the suffering and improving the well-being of the socially and economically disadvantaged people in rural and peri-urban Zambian communities.

The organization is recognized by the Ministry of Health as a partner in the fight against HIV/AIDS. PSZ also conducts and facilitates activities aimed at mitigating the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS and rollback malaria programmes.

Compiled by Catherine Cooper
CHIN Intern

For this issue of the newsletter, we asked teachers and caregivers in member organizations to teach their children about the UNCRC and then have them write a personal essay or draw a picture in response.

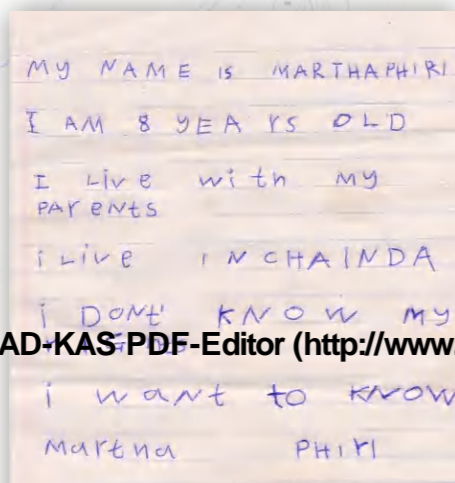
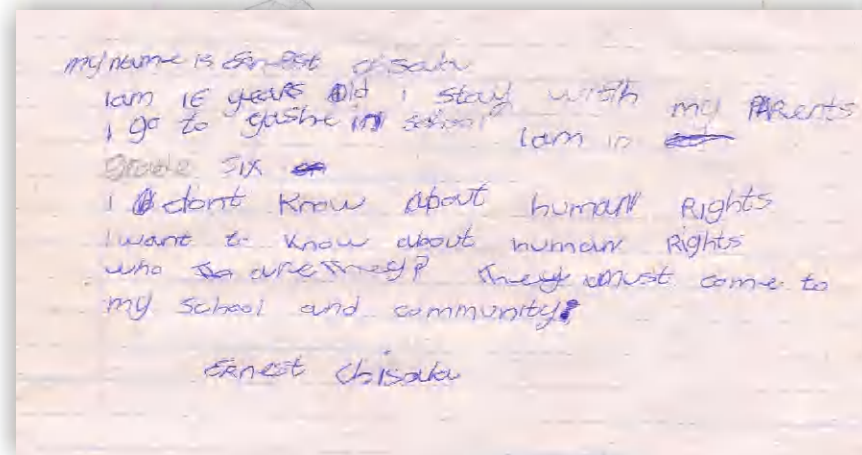
When we received a number of letters written by children saying that they did not know about the UNCRC, we decided to develop a training workshop for children. This workshop was carried out with the children at Chisomo (Full Proof Mission) and Hope Foundation, both CHIN members.

The children in both workshops were very engaged and keen to participate. Through games and activities the children shared their experiences and opinions. They were then given the opportunity to draw a picture or write a short essay in response to questions about the UNCRC.

The plan for this two-hour workshop is available for download on our website: www.chin.org.zm.

“I want the human right people to come and teach us about our rights because some children say drinking beer is their right or sleeping with girls is their right. So what are our rights?”

-Frankie, age 16
Yasheni Community School



I don't know about human rights. I want to know my rights as a girl child.

-Joyce Zulu, age 13
Yasheni Community School



Children at Chisomo participating in workshop

Child labour destroys our future. Government have to work hard to reduce it.”

-Ed Twambo, age 15
Chisomo



Child Abuse

By Etina Phiri, age 18

I have been living in Kanyama Compound with my mother. The main reason I am writing this story is about the way how parents use to mistreat their children.

I have been seeing this for some time. Some of the parents use to treat the children so bad. And this situation occurs most when you have lost your parents.

There was a family in Kanyama Compound that I have seen, their parents passed away, they used to live with their uncle who was so bad to them. He used to take them to hard jobs and he did not take them to school.

At last, these children decided to go and sleep in the streets because of the way their uncle treated them and this situation is not good.

Please parents, you should take care of the orphans, treat them like your own children. Don't treat them badly, because they will end up being street kids.

“I think that the government must build schools and they must also help orphans. The government should provide many types of medicine to the children.”

-Charles Mwansa, age 16
Chisomo

Child Labour

By Juliet Tambula, age 18

I have been living in Kanyama Compound for so long, I see young people being treated badly by their parents or guardians.

If I look around, children fear to report these cases to the police, because they think that if it is reported they will be chased from home and they will have nowhere to go.

I would like people to help us on this matter, if they see anyone treating children in that way, they should report them to the police, so that such people can be punished, because they are abusing our rights as children.

I have a story of a friend in John Liang Compound. She was 10-years-old and lived with her aunt. Her aunt treated her like a slave, giving her hard work, such as breaking stone and carrying heavy things. One day she was fetching water, and on the way back

home she was hit by a car and her legs were destroyed.

When the aunt heard that, she ran away, leaving the child alone. Right up to now the child is still in that situation.

I would like to encourage my fellow children if such abuse are taking place they should report such cases to the police. That's the only way child labour will be reduced. Abusing a child is a crime, and it violates children's rights.



The children draw pictures in response to the UNCRC

“You should change grade one to twelve for free for these children who are not going to school.”

-Lavenda, age 15
Chisomo

The importance of education

By Justine Phiri, age 17

I was born in 1990 in Chinsati District. I used to stay with both of my parents and my young brothers. In 1994, we came to Lusaka in Kanyama Compound. I started my grade one when I was four years old at Swarm Care Community School up to 2005, when I sat for grade seven final exams. The same year, 2005, I lost both of my parents.

Therefore I started staying with my uncle, but when grade seven results were out, I was selected to grade eight, but my uncle failed to pay for me. For this reason, education is very important because it is the key to a prosperous future, the key from darkness to light. And this time I am doing my grade nine at Chen-gelo Community School.

I am studying hard so that I complete grade 12. When I complete my education, things will be easier and finding employment will be easier.