

Report from ZPHCA project together with Headway Africa, Oktober 2015

INTRODUCTION

The report is going to give an overview of the activities that took place between the periods July 2015 - September 2015. The report was based on the information collected from reports of projects activities.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Major Activities Undertaken

1. Advocacy March and Awareness Campaign
2. Training of Fathers of the Children Living with disability
3. Leadership Skills Training
4. National Advocacy Disability Expo

ADVOCACY MARCH AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

ZPHCA embarked on Advocacy Marches in Chitungwiza. The Advocacy Marches were aimed at raising community awareness on the Rights of the Children with Disability and ensure that children living with disabilities are considered and prioritized in community and institutional planning, decision making and resource distribution. Furthermore the Advocacy marches were aimed at demystifying and eradicating stigma and discrimination of children living with disability and members of their family. Parents of the children living with disability being accompanied by various stakeholders marched from 4 strategic parts of Chitungwiza and convened at Makoni Shopping Centre where the major Awareness Campaign was held. Participants marched from Unit 'L' Hall to Makoni while the second group marched from Town Centre through various neighborhoods to Makoni Shopping Centre. The 3rd Group marched from Zvido N Shopping Centre to Makoni and the 4th Group Marched from Taita Shopping Centre to Makoni. The March managed to reach out to more than 500 Community Members disseminating information through various media including fliers, pamphlets, speeches, peer education, dramas, poems, song and dance. Various stakeholders marched in Solidarity with ZPHCA members and these includes community based organization, school authorities, NGOs, Government Departments, Hospital, Department of Social Welfare, Churches, Local Authorities, District Administrator's Office and Informal Traders Associations. Various stakeholders thanked ZPHCA for hosting the marches and the subsequent awareness campaign. The double event was said to be an eye opener for many.

Stakeholder pleaded to partner, support and compliment ZPHCA in various ways including:

- Mobilizing additional resources for the empowerment of children living with disability from churches, communities, government and donor community.
- Psychosocial support to children living with disability and the parents.
- Offer free voluntary services to children enrolled by ZPHCA Child Care Centers
- Promoting the work of ZPHCA through buying Documentaries, art and design work and other products from various income generating projects.
- Educational support for children and
- Medical support amongst others

TRAINING OF FATHERS

During the period in Question, ZPHCA through the Headway Forum SYD funding managed to diversify into a major strategic area and direction, thus men engagement and equal involvement. Traditionally fathers were deemed abusers, divorcers, perpetrators of violence against children living with disability and their mothers. Fathers were engaged as equal partners, role models and important contributors in decision making with regards to issues affecting women and children affected by disabilities. ZPHCA organized Fathers Training Workshop attended by 23 men from 23 Clusters affiliated to ZPHCA, all the men who attended the workshop were exclusively fathers of the disabled children. Additional 6 men who happen to part of the ZPHCA Board and senior management were as well invited and participated. On the Training Curriculum, fathers were trained in the following major topics:

- Rights of Children Living with Disability
- Fatherhood Role Modeling
- Family Conflict Management
- Gender Equity and Equality
- Domestic Violence
- General Primary Care Giving

Fathers of children living with disability accepted their fair share of the blame for neglecting the children and their loved ones once they discover that the child has been born with disability.

Fathers committed themselves to the following:

- To share the child care burden previously shielded by the mother alone.
- Return home and be re-united with their families.
- Reach out to fellow men that are still in disbelieved and in denial.
- Committed themselves to join ZPHCA Clusters for equal empowerment
- Become Fatherhood Role Models for their child particularly children living with disability.
- Become brand Ambassadors for ZPHCA in communities, workplaces and at National Level.

- Build lasting legacies for their families and other children living with disability across Zimbabwe.
- To include children living disability in the Inheritance Wills.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

ZPHCA has managed to achieve a lot in as far as empowering children living with disability and their parent is concerned. In this regard, many individuals and institutions have been coming from far, wider and nearer places to learn and have an appreciation of our various life-transforming strategies. In order to keep up with increasing demand for our products and services from the greater community, ZPHCA through the Headway Forum SYD funding has embarked on a massive human resource developmental program. The program is aimed at imparting leadership skills to cluster leaders, managerial staff members and Board Members. ZPHCA believes that it is through leadership training that our leaders will be in a position to handle the increasing pressure and workload that emanates from our sustainable growth, consolidation of our current running programs, expansion into new strategic areas and forging strategic networking partnerships. The 2 Leadership Training workshop hosted by ZPHCA at CAUZ and Dzivarasekwa Training Centers managed to reach out to 23 Cluster Chairpersons, 23 Secretaries, 5 Managerial Staff Members, 3 Volunteers and 6 Board Members. The Leadership Training Courses covered important Topics including:

- ZPHCA In-retrospect (historical background, successes stories, achievement, lessons learnt and strategic focus).
- Grassroots Mobilization, Registration and members retention
- Organizational Planning, Consultation and Movement Building
- Events Management
- Community Facilitation
- Group Cohesion and Conflict Management
- Strategic Partnership and Networking
- Grassroots Advocacy and Activism
- Information gathering, documentation and dissemination
- Accountability and Reporting

Commitment by Trained Leaders

Upon receiving leadership training and mentorship, grassroots leaders promised to go back to their various deployments and redouble their efforts for impact purposes. In expressing their appreciation and gratitude to the Forum SDY funded Leadership Training, participants committed themselves to:

- Great leaders who are responsible and accountable.
- Forge some grassroots partnerships and networking relationships for sustainability and impact making.
- Re-brand their Clusters in line with current trends and acquired information.
- Be Agents of Change and Transformation in their respective communities.

- Accepting the Leadership Challenge in ZPHCA and other spheres of lives.
- Be good Ambassadors and role models for the membership followers and greater members of the community.
- Be innovative, creative and competitive in their activities, programs and projects.
- Aim to be self sustained.
- Take up decision making positions at family, community and national level so that the voice of people living with disability continue to be heard from the local to national and international level.

ADVOCACY AND LOBBY

ZPHCA Contribution to the National Disability Expo (Bulawayo 2015)

ZPHCA was represented at the National Disability Expo by a team of 4 including 2 Staff Members, 1 Board Member and 1 Child living with Disability in line with our Child Participation Commitment. For ZPHCA, the participation of the organization was not just to make up the numbers but to ensure that the Organization becomes visible and that the voice of the children living with disability and their children is heard at National Level. ZPHCA took advantage of the platform to reach out to the Government, Government department, potential partners, stakeholders, media, civil society and Donor Institution through:

- ***Setting up an Innovative and Competitive Exhibition Stand*** – displaying our members’ products including Dolls, Designer Clothes, Seasonal Post Cards and Key holders, Branded Peanut Butter amongst others.
- ***Information Dissemination to those who visited the Stands*** – distributing pamphlets, newsflashes, and documentaries and setting up an Information Desk for one on one engagement.
- ***Presenting Advocacy Paper to Retired Brigadier Muchemwa who happens to be the President’s Advisory on Disability Matters in the president’s office*** – ZPHCA presented an Advocacy Paper on the Current Socio-economic Status of Children Living with Disability in the Greater Harare Region, Zimbabwe. The Presidential Advisor promised to take the paper to the President in the next routine meetings.

CHALLENGES

ZPHCA through this project continues to make great strides in the empowerment and emancipation of children living with disabilities and their families however the implementation phase had its fair share of challenges. Challenges noted during the period in Question include:

- Poverty continues to be the greatest challenge affecting the populations in Zimbabwe and in this regard children living with disability were not spared. Disability affected families continue to lack property food and nutrition, shelter, medication and educational aids amongst others.
- Although the project managed to reach out to Fathers for a historic first time, men participation and involvement is still lacking behind as compared to women caring and support for the children living with disability. In this

respect consolidation of Fathers Empowerment Programs becomes key in the strategic period.

- The word about ZPHCA impact project has reach far, wider and nearer communities and in response more family are now coming to ZPHCA opening up of their children living with disability, demanding our services and products against our limited and time-framed budgets.

ACHIEVEMENTS

ZPHCA through the Headway Forum SYD funded project managed to make some great inroads and score some major achievements in the process. During the period in Question, ZPHCA achieved the following:

- ***Fathers Engagement and Involvement*** – for the first time in the history of ZPHCA, 30 Fathers were mobilized, registered and trained during our Fathers Training Workshop. Such trained Fathers committed themselves to be great ambassadors, role models, focal persons and agents of transformation in their communities.
- ***Community Free from Stigma and Discrimination of Children Living with Disability*** - ZPHCA managed to reach out to morethan 500 community members of Chitungwiza raising awareness on the Rights of Children Living with Disability. The awareness raising was very strategic in helping building strong communities which supportive, accommodative and free space for the growth and development of children living with disability.
- ***New Knowledgeable and Transformed Emerged*** - ZPHCA managed to train 60 Great Leaders who are now expected to go back and become torch bearers in their communities and the country at large. Such trained leaders are expected to take up decision making positions from grassroots levels to National Level where important decisions are made and Budgets designed. Through such an undertaking, ZPHCA is confident more resources will cascade to the children living with disability requiring empowerment and support since their voices will be head at all decision making levels.
- ***Strategic Partnership and Networking relationships Emerged*** - ZPHCA through the SYD Forum funded project managed to reach out to new potential partners and networking stakeholders at National Level. ZPHCA believes the empowerment and emancipation of children living with disability is a holistic endeavor requiring a holistic approach at most hence networking and partnerships are fundamental in fulfilling our constitutional mandate as ZPHCA.

LESSONS LEARNT

ZPHCA had a memorable learning experience during the implementation phase of this project.

- Our major lesson learnt so far is that Communities still leg behind in terms of People Living with Disability Rights Awareness. A lot of effort needs to be done in terms of popularizing and domesticating various National and International Disability Commitments for the greater benefit of children living with disability.

- ZPHCA noted that strategic partnerships and networking will ensure outreach to many strategic areas and audience at a reduced cost hence very sustainable. ZPHCA will initiate more such relationships for the benefit our current and potential constituencies.



Leadership trainings at CAUZ and Dzivarasekwa facilitated by C.Chiwiru



ZPHCA provincial chairperson pushing a wheelchair at the Disability expo and other participants taken during the march



Parents and children giving out fliers during a public march in chitungwiza



Fathers at training on children living with disability