

**Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association**

**(ZPHCA)**

**Quarterly Report Ending January 2018**

**To**

**Headway Africa**

**Prepared by: ZPHCA**

**January 2018**

## **1.0 Executive Summary**

ZPHCA managed to implement various Children Living with Disabilities Rights Advocacy activities that were supported by Headway Africa in the Greater Harare and Mashonaland East Provinces. Amongst the programs supported by Headway Africa during the period includes:

- Hosting the Commemoration of the International Day of the Persons Living with Disabilities on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 at Pachedu Hall, Harare City Centre.
- Hosting the Children Living with Disabilities Stakeholders Consultative Meeting.
- Hosting Children Living with Disabilities Rights Awareness Campaign at Adelaide Acres Centre, Harare.
- Hosting a National Advocacy Program challenges faced by children living with disabilities in accessing socio-economic services.
- Hosting the 2017 End of Year Board Meeting.

During the quarter, ZPHCA managed to achieve great successes in ensuring that collective voices of children living with disabilities counts and matters in all development process. Children living with disabilities managed to have interface forums with community leaders, planners, decision makers and policy makers. Children shared livelihood challenges, wishes, dreams, practical solutions and opportunities. The major lesson learnt during the period was that if children living with disabilities are properly mentored, capacitated and supported they can collectively make their voices heard. Children living with disabilities have a renewed sense of hope given the support and advocacy mentorship they are gaining through the various advocacy platforms initiated. The major recommendation remains of the period remains that of facilitating the printing of advocacy reading materials for distribution to communities and stakeholders in advancing the popularization and localization of children living with disabilities rights as enshrined in the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons Living with Disability.

## 2.0 Hosting the Commemoration of the International Day of the Persons Living with Disabilities

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, ZPHCA successfully hosted the International Day of the Persons Living with Disabilities Commemorations at Pachedu Centre, Harare. The Commemorations were attended by various stakeholders including children living with disabilities, Disability Service Organizations, Community based Organizations, Community Leaders, City of Harare Representatives, Clinics, Hospitals, Members of Parliament and other Civil Society Organizations. The highly successful event brought together more than 200 community members from Harare and surrounding communities. The event was premised on the following objectives:

- To promote the Rights and Well-being of children living with disabilities across Zimbabwe.
- To increase awareness on the challenges children living with disabilities are faced with on a day to day basis.
- To raise awareness on the Rights of Children Living with Disabilities amongst families, communities, government, civil society and stakeholders.

The Commemoration was held along the International Theme: “**Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all**”. ZPHCA through hosting the Commemoration managed to achieve the following success:

- Reach out to more than 200 community members with transforming information of children living with disabilities rights and obligation.
- Distribution of Children Living with Disabilities Rights Fliers to community members and stakeholders.
- Creation of networking opportunities with organizations working with children living with disabilities directly or indirectly.
- Imparting advocacy and lobby skills to children living with disabilities.
- Children living with disabilities are now more visible in community developmental programs and making their voices heard.
- Children living with disabilities managed to mainstream their collectively developed Children Living with disabilities Advocacy Paper.



*Young adults celebrating the international day for persons living with disabilities*



*A scanned copy for the fliers distributed.*

### **3.0 Hosting the Children Living with Disabilities Stakeholders Consultative Meeting**

ZPHCA organized the Children Living with Disability Stakeholders Consultative Meeting at SCAZ offices. The Consultative Meeting was attended by 33 participants from various stakeholders operating in the Greater Harare Province and Mashonaland East Provinces of Zimbabwe. The Stakeholders Consultative Meeting was organized in the background of children living with disabilities enrolled by ZPHCA making great strides in popularizing and localizing their Children Living with Disabilities Rights. The major objective of the Stakeholders Consultative Meeting was to raise stakeholder's awareness on Children Living with Disabilities' Keys Demands and jointly develop practical action plans. Stakeholders in attendance managed to commit themselves to take ownership of the upliftment and emancipation of children living with disabilities. Key Commitments made by the Stakeholders includes:

- **Lack of education** – Stakeholders collectively committed themselves to redouble their resources mobilization efforts to ensure that all children living with disabilities are enrolled and attain highest level of education possible.
- **Poor Access to Health Services** – Stakeholders committed themselves to engage the Government with the focus view of influencing the free access to health care services in all Government and Local Authorities Health Institutions.
- **Lack of Special Appliances for Children Living with disabilities** – Stakeholders committed themselves to engage the Government on the need to introduce Disability Tax or National Disability Fund.
- **Circle of poverty, vulnerability and exposure to exploitation for disabled children** – Stakeholders committed themselves to mainstream Disability in their programs and priorities disability issues in their planning and budgeting processes.
- **Children living with disabilities have difficulties in accessing various facilities** – Stakeholders committed themselves to ensure the construction of disability friendly offices, buildings and public and private spaces.

- **Difficult in accessing public transport** – Stakeholders committed themselves to engage the Government and Public Transport Operators to ensure the development of a Policy Framework that protect children living with disability from victimization and discrimination when using public transport.
- **Children living with disabilities cannot successfully participate in sporting activities effectively** - Stakeholders committed themselves to engage the Ministry of Sports to ensure inclusive sporting facilities at all levels of Sports Development.
- **Children Living with Disabilities also suffer from socio/emotional and psychological challenges due to the way society view the disabled** – Stakeholders committed themselves to mainstream Children Living with Disabilities Rights Awareness in their community programs.

#### **4.0 Hosting Children Living with Disabilities Rights Awareness Campaign at Adelaide Acres**

ZPHCA hosted the Children Living with Disability Community Awareness Campaigns at Adelaide Acres Grounds, Harare. The Child Rights Awareness Campaign was proposed in the wake of the continued stigma and discrimination of Children Living with Disability in Zimbabwe in spite of Zimbabwe having Ratified the United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons Living with Disability (23/09/2013) on one hand while other hand the Country have incorporated the Rights of Persons Living with Disability in the New Constitution including the Rights of Children Living with Disability (2013). The Children Living with Disability Community Awareness Campaign had the following Objectives:

- To educate and disseminate information to community members and stakeholders on the Rights of Children Living with Disability.
- To provide a child friendly advocacy and lobby platform for children living with disability to engage directly with community members, decision makers, planners and local leadership demanding their Rights Protection and Fulfillment.
- To reduce stigma and discrimination of children living with disability and ensure that communities becomes safe haven for the proper growth and development of children living with disability.

The following outcomes were achieved through the hosting of Children Living with Disability Community Awareness Campaign:

- More than 300 community members were reached with transforming information on children living with disabilities Rights as enshrined in the UNCRPD.
- A child friendly advocacy and lobby platform for children living with disabilities to engage directly with community members and stakeholders was created.
- Community members and local leadership committed themselves to end all forms of stigma and discrimination against children living with disability and ensure that communities become safe haven for the proper growth and development of children living with disability.

- Children living with Disability managed to articulate their Rights, Stand up for their Rights negotiate and demand their Rights.
- Stakeholders present promised to consider partnering ZPHCA in various ways to ensure a Holistic Intervention Response to issues affecting Children Living with Disabilities.
- More families in High Field opened up on their children living with disabilities.



*Some of the participants who were at the workshop*

## **5.0 Hosting a National Advocacy Campaign**

ZPHCA organized a National Radio Advocacy Program for Children Living with Disabilities. 6 Children living with Disabilities appeared Live on an afternoon Radio Program. The Radio Program was entitled: *Tofamba ne Dare revana vanorarama nehirema (Moving Together with Children Living with Disabilities)*. Representatives of Children had the opportunity to express their wishes, aspiration and dreams. Children took turns to demand their Rights including:

- Right to Education and Educational Aids
- Right to Health Services
- Right to Shelter
- Right to Clean Water
- Right to Proper Ownership and Inheritance
- Right to Hygiene and Sanitation
- Right to Reproductive Health

- Right to warm Clothing and Wheel Chairs
- Right to Participation in Decision Making
- Right to be Head amongst others



*Memory Charumbira (physically challenged) and Adrian Munyoro (Cerebral palsy) at Radio Zimbabwe advocating and making the voices of young adults living with disabilities heard*

### **6.0 Hosting the 2017 End of Year Quarterly Board Meeting.**

ZPHCA hosted its Quarterly Board Meeting in line with the Organizational Constitution. The Board Meeting was attended by 9 Board Members and 1 Board Advisor. The major Objective of the Quarterly Board Meeting was to take stock of the work the Organization has been doing during the Quarter. The Board Received a Report on the Day to Day operations of the Organization from the ZPHCA Coordinator Theresa Makwara. After some constructive debates Board members expressed satisfaction with the level of success ZPHCA has achieved during the period. Major issues that came under discussion in the Board Meeting include:

- ✓ State of the Organization
- ✓ Good Governance and Constitution
- ✓ Child Care and Support Programs
- ✓ Children Living with Disability Awareness Programs
- ✓ Children Living with Disability Advocacy Programs
- ✓ Partnerships and Networking Activities
- ✓ Adoption of new leaders

### **7.0 Challenges**

- General poverty and extreme hunger remain the greatest challenge most children living with disabilities continue to encounter on a day to day basis.
- School enrolment for children living with disability remains a privilege for those whose families can afford it not a Right for all.

- The high cost of medication and health services requirement by children continue to drain the scarcely resources available thus families of children living with disability continue to live in poverty.
- Educational aids and Assistive devices remain in short supply for those in need of them.

## **8.0 Major Success**

- ZPHCA successful reached and engaged hundreds of community members with transforming information on Children Living with disability rights.
- Children Living with Disability managed to tell their story, wishes, dreams and aspirations to Millions of Zimbabweans through the National Radio Advocacy Campaign.
- Children living with Disability managed to articulate their Rights, stand up for their Rights and demand their Rights at local to national Level.
- Stakeholders committed themselves to redouble their efforts in ensuring children living with disabilities are reached and supported directly or indirectly by atleast one intervention program.

## **9.0 Major Recommendations**

- ZPHCA recommends the creation of basket funding by stakeholders as a way of mobilizing additional resources for children living with disabilities intervention programs.
- ZPHCA recommends joint programming and programs implementation by various stakeholders to reduce competition and duplication of efforts.
- Considering the community lack of awareness on the Rights of Children Living with Disability, it is recommended that Community Based Awareness Campaigns be expanded in both Harare and Mashonaland East Provinces.
- ZPHCA recommends that practical skills training be expanded for Children Living with Disabilities as a future adult livelihoods sustainability strategy.
- ZPHCA recommends the continued engagement of Service Providers including hospitals, Local Government, Constructions Companies and Media amongst others to ensure a conducive environment for proper growth and development of children living with disability.
- Advocate for the removal of the import duties on Disability Assisting Devices for the disabled children.