



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Registered!

Since the beginning of the year 2024, all our efforts have been focused on ensuring that we followed through with all legal procedures to ensure that we could start our work. In that regard, we are pleased to announce that Mukundi is now registered as an association with the registration number 4001M. However, it is important to note that with this type of registration, our activities are restricted to those involving training or awareness. Due to this factor, we have also started the process of registration as a private voluntary organization; this will allow us to have a broader scope of the activities we can carry out. The following step we took was to seek clearance to operate at the provincial level, and we were able to get our clearance; thereafter, we submitted our documents to Murewa district offices for district clearance. We have not yet received the district-level clearance that is meant to allow us to implement our projects in the district. This unfortunately means that we were unable to implement some of our anticipated activities, as stated in the last newsletter. Regardless, we have been engaging in different activities. Find out more below >>>>>>>>



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Partnerships

Engaging and surveying our target group within the community we want to operate in has always been of key interest to us. However, due to the lack of clearance we were not free to openly engage the community. Therefore, we decided to engage one of the NGOs operating in the same area, Mangwende Orphan Care Trust. Our collaboration with this organization has enabled us to engage and interact with some of our beneficiaries. Read some of their stories in the following chapter.

Mufaro's story: Mufaro is a twelve-year-old boy who was born HIV-positive. His father passed away when he was three years old. Thereafter, he started staying with his mother in a large-scale farmers' community. His mother often missed the dates for his medical checkups and resupply of anti-retroviral treatment; as a result, he was often sick. Additionally, he stopped going to school, and he started working on the farms to get by. When his grandmother heard of this, she took him under her care and enrolled him in school. Currently, Mufaro is in grade 2, which is way lower than the actual grade he is supposed to be in. With four other children under her care and no means of livelihood, Mufaro's grandmother struggles to get by. Food security and access to education are immediate needs for Mufaro.

Blessed's story: Blessed was born HIV positive, and she lost her mother at the age of three. Since it was an unwanted pregnancy, the father was never in the picture until a later date, when his identity was finally discovered and news of his child and the mother's passing was shared with him. Upon discovering his daughter's status, Blessed's father refused to have anything to do with her and simply abandoned her. To date (nine years later), no news has been heard about or from him. When Blessed's mother passed away, she was taken in by relatives who were living in poverty. As a result, she became undernourished and this was not good for her health. Her grandmother recently took her in, and her health and diet have been improving. Though the grandmother has a small garden, it is not enough to be a source of livelihood.

Mufaro and Blessed's stories are some of the few we got a chance to hear. We are yet to discover more however it is not yet possible for us to launch a survey because we have not yet been cleared to operate. We have also faced challenges in trying to find out about our beneficiaries different stories' because of the sensitivity of the topic and the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. Therefore people are not willing to openly share about orphans who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS.

Activities carried out



To familiarize ourselves with our beneficiaries, we carried out different activities with them, where we used art as a means of expression in terms of interests, aspirations, and knowledge about plants (this was done as a basis for our plant germination theme camp pilot project). The activity was highly interactive, and the children enjoyed the use of art, as shown in the picture on the left.

We engaged young people to introduce the Mukundi Drive pilot project. Our main goal with this project is to mitigate the spread of HIV and AIDS by targeting a group that is according to research susceptible to HIV infection. We use game that has components that encourage the participants to understand reality. The picture on the right shows one of our sessions



What comes next?

We will continue to pursue our clearance at the district offices and we will be engaging different NGOs to get an opportunity to carry out activities with our beneficiaries.

Would you like to contribute? Visit our website to know how you can contribute on www.mukundizw.org or contact us on +263713437688