

QUARTELY NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2026



Overcoming barriers, creating futures...



Picture of children playing at Mukundi

HEALTH & WELLNESS



We are pleased to announce that the interior finishings i.e. tiling, painting were successfully completed over the last quarter. Thus signifying the last stage of turning our residential facility into a home for its' future residents. Now all that is remaining are the, residents children to come, a process we are still working on. We are in high spirits and excited about this part of our journey as this is the cornerstone of our five-pillar orphan care model i.e. health and wellness; a safe and protected environment where children have access to a loving home, health, education, protection, family etc.

EXPLORATION



Another successful themed camp is in the books! Our beneficiaries continue to develop the knowledge and skills needed to protect their environment. This quarter, our focus turned to **Living Organisms**. What is the role of living organisms on our planet? How do they support life and sustainability of our ecosystems?

These curious inquiries were perfectly suited for the sharp minds of our beneficiaries, who dove into the themed camp this April with immense enthusiasm. As the sixth in a series of nine environment focused camps, this session opened up a world of knowledge regarding the importance of various plants, animals, fungi, and bacteria in making our ecosystem sustainable and therefore, survivable. Understanding how these different components interact to provide and sustain life was an exciting realization for the youth, especially since they could connect these concepts to the natural processes they see in their daily lives.

Key milestone reached!

We observed individuals who initially arrived with a wealth of disjointed knowledge knowing the names and uses of various plants, animals, and fungi but lacking a true understanding of their ecological roles. By the end of the camp, they left with a deep, holistic understanding that fueled a genuine desire to protect nature, rather than excessively consume or destroy it.



A child holding an insect they identified during a field tour



Picture of children using a microscope in a session on bacteria during the camp



Picture of the children using laptop during a language themed camp session



Picture of the children using laptop during a language themed camp session

Progress on the construction of our offices and training hall is moving rapidly. With the plastering and roofing fully complete. We look forward to Tom and the other beneficiaries enjoying future language camps and learning sessions under a safe, secure roof.

We are also incredibly excited to dedicate a portion of this new facility to a community library. Though intimate in size, this space will allow children and young people to access and exchange knowledge in a safe environment, directly addressing the lack of such facilities in our marginalized community.

Furthermore, this library will play a pivotal role in community integration. As the Overcoming Barriers project winds down to its conclusion in April 2027, our beneficiaries will utilize this reading space to pass on the environmental and literacy knowledge they have gained over the years to other children in the community.

We continue making efforts to improve our beneficiaries skills through **language themed camp** sessions.

The world we live in reading, writing and comprehension skills are essential not only for basic communication but are at the very center of sustainable livelihoods. *But how do you encourage these skills in someone who has faced hurdles at every turn?* One of our beneficiaries, Tom, has faced these exact hurdles. While he frequently felt demotivated, his resilience brought him back to try again and again driven by the knowledge that reading and writing are pre-requisites to using a computer.

Discovering Tom's love for technology has given us a powerful pathway to develop his literacy skills. For Tom and his peers, computer time acts as a wonderful reward, while for us, it serves as a vital motivational tool. Tom is far from alone; many other children are uniquely motivated by this blend of digital literacy and language learning.



Picture of plastered and thatched training space and offices



Picture of the training room's interior with the dedicated small space where the library will be

INTEGRATION



At the conclusion of the Living Organisms camp, our beneficiaries hosted

a mini community fair to present what they learned to a local audience. This served as an excellent rehearsal for our major milestone, the Annual Year-End Fair. This upcoming event will bring in a much larger audience from our own and surrounding communities. It is an important event for us because it is our key advocacy tool in fighting HIV related stigmas by fostering a more supportive environment that allows for the full integration of our beneficiaries. On the other hand other integration efforts have been focused on running information technology sessions at the local school, imparting crucial digital skills. These sessions do not only bridge the digital divide but ensure equitable access to learning opportunities for marginalized children in our community. Internet connectivity for some of the sessions that require internet remains a challenge which we have devised a temporary solution for by going where the connection is therefore a few sessions outdoors have become common practice.



Picture of the children at the local school during an ICT session

>>> WHAT COMES NEXT?

- Implementing the food literacy themed camp in August 2026
- Preparations for the upcoming landforms and geography camp and annual fair in December 2026
- Continuation of our language themed camp
- Finishing and furnishing our community library.

If you would like to contribute to our work you can contact us on admin@mukundizw.org or +263713437688