



LEONARD CHESHIRE DISABILITY ZIMBABWE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For Year Ended 31 March 2016

Fellow Executive Committee members, representatives of our Donors, partner organisations, parents of children, beneficiaries of our programmes, other invited guests, ladies and gentlemen

I would like to welcome you all to this year's AGM of Leonard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe.

I would like to extend a special welcome to you all. LCDZ's Executive Committee and senior management are here to report to you today on the state of our organisation, its performance and accomplishments in the past year, and the opportunities and challenges for the future.

I have pleasure in presenting to you my report

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, we meet here today because we all agree that every person with disability in his/her life should have the same possibilities and opportunities as any other person. Yet that is still not the case in our communities. Our society is still largely unable to see a person as more than his/her impairment, hence veiled stigma and discrimination is widespread and works to keep persons with disabilities invisible and outside, on the margins of, activities in the mainstream of our society. This process robs, some of effective citizenship, some of resources and some of access to basic necessities of life such as decent housing and a good hot meal. What this shows is that the challenges we face today are not just technical but also moral problems rooted in societal indifferences and individual callousness and imperfections of man towards man. This means that we have to reach out to ourselves, and do something in our personal and collective power to solve some of these challenges.

Our conscience, given the mandate of our organisation, cannot rest when still confronted with clear evidence showing that thousands of children with disabilities are not in school. When thousands of children locked away from the public view yearn to play with other kids of their age on the streets and thousands of young and promising men and women still struggle to make ends meet.

So our march is not yet over. We cannot turn back, not with so much work to be done. Not with so many children with disabilities to educate, and several lives to be transformed.

The desire to push against the unforgiving frontiers of societal exclusion continue to define the reason for our existence. Our programmes continue to pave the path for greater inclusion by giving PWDs a voice, ability and rights to exercise autonomy and self-sufficiency. Insignificant

as our contributions might appear, we take pride in the fact that each day our programmes sends the right message that there is no place in our society for prejudice towards its differently abled members. This is the record we run on, a record from where we draw strengths to continue marching on. Thanks to the good leadership of our Executive Director, Mr Ben Chikwanha, his management team and project staff, the organisation continue to deliver on this promise without wavering.

At this time, allow me ladies and gentlemen to run you through our achievements;

1) Inclusive education, The DFID funded Inclusive Education programme came to an end in December 2015 after running for three years during which;

- The project supported a total of 3,673 Children with Disabilities (CWDs). 2,932 were supported to enrol in school - 1,089 in 30 model schools, against a target of 1,500. 741 previously enrolled CWDs were supported to continue attending.
- A total of 26 of the 30 model schools were supported to put in place transport solutions to help CWDs travel and hence increase attendance rates. At least 130 CWDs benefitted.
- A total of 1,035 teachers were trained against a target of 900, helping to foster a more positive attitude towards supporting CWDs alongside their non-disabled peers.
- 76 key government officials (51 male and 25 female) and 37 NGO staff (12 male and 25 female) from 20 NGOs were trained on the inclusion of CWDs in mainstream education, plus 752 community leaders against a target of 1000.
- The organisation also carried out IE on behalf of Save the Children.

2) The Anglo American funded Access to Livelihoods programme also came to an end in Dec 2015 after running for three years during which;

- 2090 persons with disabilities were registered and counselled; 2795 received foundation training including soft skills;
- 1640 received vocational training; 82 received support to acquire formal employment; 976 were supported to start small projects/informal employment
- 4145 received information on disability and sustainable livelihoods opportunities.

I also stand to announce with great pride that some of the clients that we assisted have gone to establish group companies.

3) The Child Empowerment programme which is ongoing and funded by the Liliane Fonds managed to reach out and render customised support to 1 371 children with disabilities working through 30 active partner organisations.

- 262 children received therapies. A significant number received physiotherapy followed by occupational and speech therapies.
- 94 CYwDs were assisted to procure medication for their varied conditions.
- A total of 131 children and youths with disabilities (CYwDs) received a range of assistive devices ranging from wheelchairs, lower limb braces, corner seats etc,
- Seven home adaptations were done by organisations implementing CBR which construction of hard surface pathways, widening doors, adapting toilets.

4) The Child Protection and Access to Justice Programme funded by UNICEF and Access to Justice for Girls and Women with Disability funded by UNTF managed to support 513 survivors of abuse and rape to access justice.

-LCDZ and its 32 partners provided stand by disability technical support to the Victim Friendly-Sub Committee (Regional courts, Police, NGOs) and, Civil and Provincial Criminal Courts stakeholders to handle disabled litigants during, investigations, trial and after trial proceedings.

-68 key stakeholders in the justice sector (Victim Friendly Unit-Police, Case Management Officers from the Department of Social Services, and Nurses from the Survivor Friendly Clinics) received training on disability and Sign Language.

5) The Access to Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS funded by the LF came to an end in 2016 having;

-Identified and trained a total of 357 Peer Educators from 20 Partner Organisations.

- HIV and AIDS clubs were formed in all 20 POs where SRH information is shared on a weekly basis.

-3 000 Posters with messages on Abstinence, Substance abuse and Delayed Sexual Debut) and 500 Pamphlets with message (Life skill messages) were produced and distributed.

6) The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project funded by the LF came to an end in April 2016 having;

- Trained 21 partner organisations (POs) in WASH using PHAST approach so far.

-243 staff members were trained on proper hygiene and identifying their institutional WASH needs.

-19 partner organisations had their infrastructure adapted to meet the water, sanitation and hygienic requirements of children with disabilities.

-2000 posters were printed and distributed into Partner organizations.

7) The Advocacy and Campaigns, Young Voices project received funding from the Embassy of Finland Lusaka in January 2016 to support 200 young people with disabilities to advocate for the domestication and implementation of the UNCRPD. This new funding will run for 2 years.

8) The Children Rehabilitation Centre, 12 children were resident in the centre, 5 of them attended school in Kambuzuma with the rest attending daily physiotherapy sessions to give them skills for daily living. All of them come from rural areas. There is an equal number of children that come on a day care basis as they go back to their homes every day.

Ladies and gentlemen, we could not have achieved the successes above without the great support of our funding partners. We are very grateful to our current and former funding partners, in particular **1) DFID, 2) Anglo American Group Foundation, 3) UNICEF, 4) UN Trust Fund, 5) World Education Incorporated, 6) Liliane Foundation, 7) Save the Children, 8) Ministry of Health and Child Care** who provide a grant for salaries of the staff running the

Centre; and 8) Local Corporates and individuals; Helping Hands, which is a UK based charity, through a Zimbabwean couple, Mr & Mrs Tsuro who support the Centre (the couple provided solar geyser and financed the refurbishment of the floors and walls in the center), Emirates Airlines who provided a grant for maintaining the vehicle that they donated, Kindermissionswerk, a German Catholic charity which has supported us since the early 80s and various Church organisations. We would not be here today without their continued support and goodwill.

As if that is not enough, our success continue to be based upon sound partnership with the government particularly the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Health and Child Care, the Department of Social Services, the Police and the Judicial Services Commission and other civic organisations some of which are here present. We promise to continue to deepen our partnership on the basis of long term, sustainable value addition.

On legal issues, the dispute with seven former residents who refused to vacate our property situated at no 85 Baines Avenue was won in the Supreme Court, though the residents are still resisting to move.

Finally, despite the good accomplishments, let me be quick to remind you that each day the challenges that we seek to address becomes more complex and intractable, hence we need to arm ourselves with fresh, sound and sustainable ideas. This remains all the more reason why we need each other, to fortify each other's faith when we begin to lose heart, knowing and firmly believing that we all have a moral duty to use resources at our disposal to help and serve those who are invisible in the heart, minds and soul of broader society.

On behalf of LCDZ's employees, management and Executive Board, I thank you.