

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUTH'S RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTRE (YRIC) PROJECT 2008



All 3 Youth Clubs gathered outside the Information Centre

### Vision of the YRIC project

Reaching out to the Zambian youths, educating and empowering them about real life issues, making them good and productive people in society. Specifically youths in Kitwe by providing them with information as regards to Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Gender.

### How to reach the vision

To establish a Youth's Rights Information Centre which can contribute to capacity building and organizational development within the targeted area.

To build strong networks with the secondary schools from where the clubs members (school pupils) are recruited. Presently the project is networking with five secondary schools (High schools) and these being.

Helen Kaunda High School  
Ndeke High School  
Mindolo High School  
Chibote Girls High School  
Mukuba Boys High School

To network with other organizations that run or conduct youth programmes such as CHEP (Copperbelt Health Education Programme), YAN (Youth against AIDS Network), PPAZ (Planned Parenthood Association Zambia) and others among which SWHAP (Swedish

Workplace HIV/AIDS Programme) is of special interest.

The SWHAP primary target group is employee and spouses to employees based and have yielded tangible results as evidenced by how HIV/AIDS information is easily accessed in the four Swedish based companies in Zambia i.e. Sandvik, Atlas Copo, SKF, and Dyno Noble. However, the issue of HIV/AIDS does not just affect the employees and their spouses of this company but also their children. Therefore, there is a need to introduce activities that are tailor designed to reach out to children (10 – 14 years old) and young people (16-25years old) e.g. a SWHAP-SWEZAM Youth outreach day.

### YRIC Project Activities

- Capacity building in e.g. Peer Education, Leadership and management and Basic computer skills
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material
- Indoors (schools) and out door (Community) Outreach program
- Field Trips
- Fundraising Ventures
- Setting up of SWEZAM Youth Clubs in the schools
- Theme days functions (Workshops and Event Commemorating)
- Boosting children's reading
- Inter –classes and inter schools Human Rights Debates Competitions (public speaking)
- Inter classes and inter schools Human Rights History Essay writing competitions

### First ever outreach to secondary school



On 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2008 YC1 (Youth Club) and YC2 went to Faith Academy Christian School, a private Secondary (high) school in Riverside within Kitwe.

This outreach was the first outreach ever to be held with the both clubs (YC1 and YC2) and the youth organizer joined forces to carry out presentations.

The topic the school picked was HIV/AIDS but then during their preparations, the clubs came with their own title which they used as a guide during the presentations. The title was; "HIV/AIDS in relation to STIs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)."

The audience comprised of the grade 9s, grade 11s and the grade 12s the outreach attracted a total of 70 pupils between the ages of 15-18 years and these were just borders and later an outreach will be organized to go and meet the day scholars pupils.

### Youth Club 3 recruitment



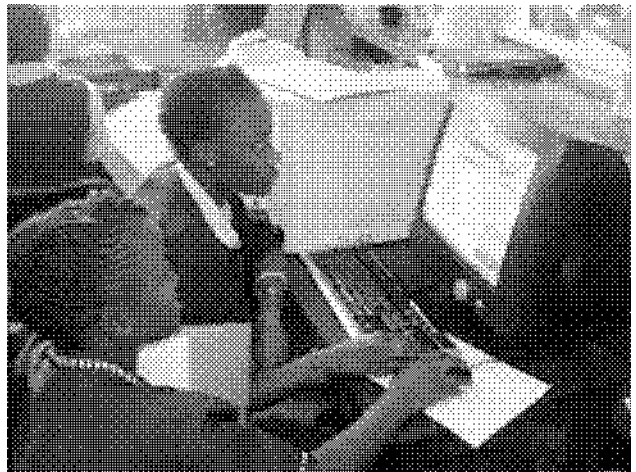
SWEZAM Project had a series of interviews which brought together various pupils with a mission to establish and put in place a new youth club comprising of 14 pupils. Youth Club One (1) and Youth Club Two (2) were actively involved in the interviews and recruitment of the applicants from the five schools. Fourteen members (9 females and 5 males) were picked to form Youth Club Three (3).

The official welcoming day of the new youth club was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, which was a memorable day since the activity was attended by Rolf Svanström (SWEZAM board

Chairperson). Members from Youth Club One (1), Youth Club Two (2) and the Youth Organizer were also present to officially welcome the members of the new club.

### Computer training workshop for Youth Club 3 (YC3)

The workshop was held between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August, 2008 at the YRIC office, and was facilitated by Mr. Bonaventure Mwaba, a part time lecturer at the Zambia Institute of Business Studies and Industrial Practice (ZIBSIP) in Kitwe.



After three days of training the pupils had acquired computer skills with an emphasis on how to use internet. It is important, as the club advances, that the pupils are allowed more time on the computer. Research will be more and more cardinal for the group in order to obtain knowledge to make a positive change in the three key areas HIV/AIDS, Gender and Human Rights.

Comments from the workshop participants (Club members)

- *"For the first time in my life I know how to use the computer and do things"*

Justine Kabwe - Mukuba High School

*"This knowledge I have gained will help me even in the future"*

Miriam Mulenga - Helen Kaunda High School

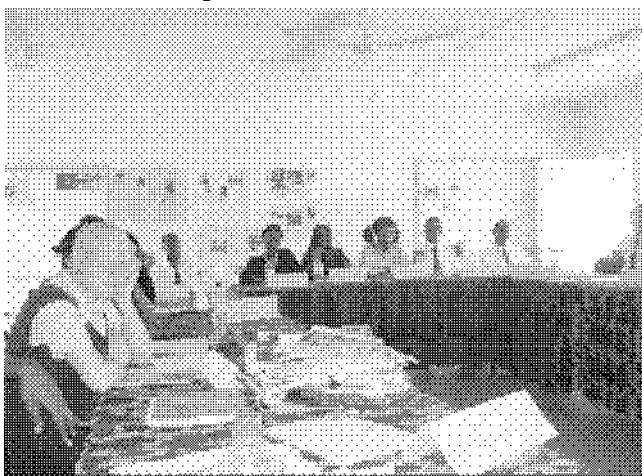
### Three days capacity building workshop with Forum Syd

The workshop was held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of August, 2008, and was facilitated by Anu Ala-

Rantala OD advisor Forum Syd, Lusaka. Helping her out were three resource persons from YC1. The workshop was designed for the YC3 members.

The purpose of the workshop was:

- To ensure that all the new Youth Club members possess leadership, facilitation and organisational skills which they can use in their school clubs.
- To create a platform where senior members get an opportunity to mentor and share their experience with new members. In the future youths would possibly organise the workshop themselves.



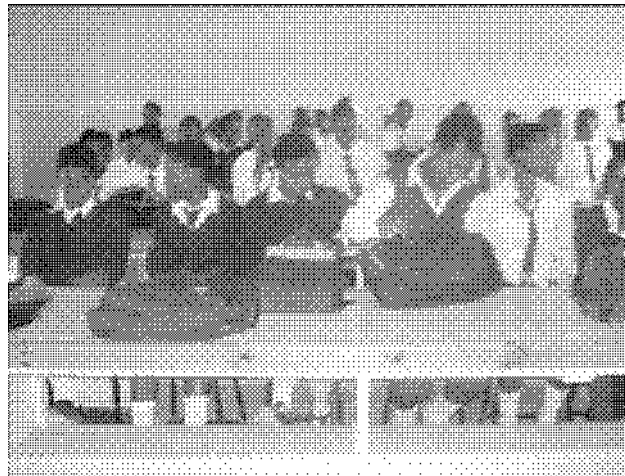
During the three days, the workshop participants had a lot of topics given to them. These brought out a lot of participation, discussions, questions and answers which made the workshop interesting both to the facilitators and participants.



## Formation of the Swezam clubs in the schools

This year the SWEZAM project intends to form and establish clubs in five new schools.

The creation of the first SWEZAM Club at Mindolo High School took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The meeting featured senior youth club members who served as facilitators, the youth club 2 and 3 members at Mindolo high school, and also the school club members.



This was followed on 10<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008 by the first official meeting of the YC at the school, which attracted about 30 pupils.

## Resource centre development

The Youth Rights Information Centre has now been restocked with new books. Even though more books still must be bought the YC members now have a wider selection to choose from.

All the books have been entered on the computer in a file that carries information like, titles of books, name of authors, publishers and the year published..

*Compiled by Rolf Svanström from reports written by the Youth Organizer Bruce Mubanga. More details can be found in the original quarterly reports from Mindolo also published on the Swezam web site.*