

**SWEDISH-ZAMBIAN ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual report to the AGM 2012 for the year 2011**

The Mindolo youth project, which focuses on human rights for youths, continued 2011, the second year of the project period 2010 - 2012. The budget for the whole period is 424,000 SEK of which 384,000 SEK is a grant from Sida and 40,000 SEK is our own contribution. This project is the biggest undertaking the SweZam Association has embarked upon, and requires extra effort from the people involved as well as our members giving financial and spiritual support. However, there are great payoffs such as the rewarding feedback from the participating Zambian youth.

The vision of the project is to reach out to Zambian youth, educate and empower them about real life issues, inspiring them to become good and productive citizens in society by providing them with information regarding Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and Gender. The means to achieve the vision are:

- to strengthen the established Youth's Rights Information Centre, which is used for capacity building and organizational development within the targeted area. Members of the first three youth clubs are engaged as mentors and peer educators.
- to build strong networks with secondary schools in the surrounding community, where new clubs will be established. Presently there are youth clubs in seven secondary schools (High schools).
- to involve other youth and adults (parents, teachers) through outreach activities.
- to network with other organizations that run or conduct youth programmes such as YAN (Youth against AIDS Network), and PPAZ (Planned Parenthood Association Zambia).

In our opinion, the project is still successful which was again confirmed during my last follow-up visit in the beginning of November 2011 and Lisa Persson's visit in the beginning of December 2011, and can to a large part be credited to the youth co-ordinator Bruce Mubanga and the youth club leaders and members. The organization and focus of the project has evolved over time and the influence from the youth has increased continuously. The direction of the project has changed from establishing youth clubs at Mindolo campus, to forming youth clubs in schools and to conduct outreach activities in schools and the surrounding community in order to reach more people at the same cost (less money spent on bus tickets) with the message of human rights. The Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) management now regards the project as an integral part of their activities.

We also have to mention some of the problems and obstacles a project like this is experiencing. The project has required an increasing amount of administration and paperwork, partly a result of stricter requirements set by the Swedish government. Getting the necessary financial information from Zambia has proved to be a major stumbling block; communication lines have been unreliable. These issues have been raised on numerous occasions with the local partner, to little avail and in the long run it is not feasible to run the project if substantial improvements do not take place. The board has regularly discussed this.

MEF has during several years run its operations with a negative economic result. A temporary consultant director has been employed to restructure the MEF organization and operation. One of his most important tasks are to recruit and employ competent key personnel e.g. a new director and an administrative and financial manager. For the first time in several years MEF has adopted a budget showing a positive economic result. In my opinion promising signs.

As stated above our own contribution is 40,000 SEK for the project plus an extra 6,000 SEK for audit costs. During 2011 we paid 18,000 SEK as our own contribution. We managed to raise 13,939 SEK through donations, sales of pins and a reduced number of printed Newsletters. The incoming balance from 2010 was 7,885 SEK and the outgoing balance is 3,824 SEK. We would like to thank several of our members for their valuable contributions. However we need more donations and fund-raising activities for the years to come to secure the continuation of the project.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 26 March 2010 at Villa Brevik, Stockholm together with the friendship societies for Namibia and South Africa. The AGM elected the following Board for 2010/2011:

Rolf Svanström	Chairman	1 year left
Karin Johansson	Vice chairman	Re-election 2 years
Elisabeth Persson	Treasurer	Re-election 2 years
Lennart Simonsson	Secretary	1 year left
Eva Dalekant P	Permanent	1 year left
Åsa Knutsson	Permanent	Re-election 2 years
Magnus Halling	Permanent	1 year left
Hanna Eckeskog	Alternate	Re-election 1 year

Karl-Johan Sonnegård was re-elected and Paula Maritz elected (new) as auditor, and Tell Åke Dahlöf was re-elected as an alternate auditor, all three for 1 year. No Nominating Committee was elected due to lack of candidates.

The board met 8 times during 2011, on January 18, February 23, April 13, May 31, August 27 (at the Sonnegård family's home with an exquisite lunch buffet), September 28, October 17, and December 5. At the end of the year the number of paying members was 110.

The web site ([www.swedish-zambian.org](http://www.swedish-zambian.org)) is updated on a regular basis and members who have submitted their e-mail addresses, approx 90%, receive information about the updates. One issue of the paper-based Newsletter has been published, the cost has been reduced significantly since a majority of members download the Newsletter from the web site instead of getting a paper copy. There has been positive feedback from several members and others. People, e.g. high school pupils and students planning to travel to Zambia, who have searched the web for information about Zambia, have also contacted us for tips and advice.

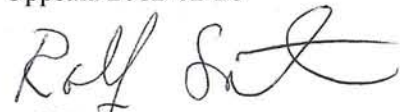
Our excellent relationship with the Zambian Embassy continues. The board meets on the premises of the embassy. Representatives from the embassy are invited to share information at the meetings. Unfortunately there were no Independence festivities due to lack of funds. The ambassador Ms Anne Luzongo Mtamboh was recalled to Zambia in October, but has not been replaced yet.

We organized three informal After work meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to offer members and others interested in Zambia, a possibility to meet and talk about Zambia, development issues and other matters. At one of the meetings, two Zambian midwife students participated. They were in Sweden as participants in an exchange programme. At another meeting the former Zambian MP Rolf Shenton talked about his own experiences and his vision about natural resources management in Zambia today

The Association has been a member of Forum Syd during 2011.

The Financial Report indicates that the Association's finances are in good order and that there will be a surplus for 2011.

On behalf of the board  
Uppsala 2012-02-28



Rolf Svanström  
Chairman Swedish-Zambian Association