

SWEZAM NARRATIVE REPORT

QUARTER 1 2007

1.0 Introduction

Swedish-Zambian Association in partnership with MEF established the YRIC (Youth Rights Information Center) with the main aim to inform youth in Kitwe region about HIV/Aids, Gender and Human Rights. The Center's activities are sponsored by the Swedish-Zambian Association and range from boosting young children's reading habits, informing teachers to coaching youth clubs for second school pupils. YRIC also sensitize the broader public to these issues.

The centre has continued to be very active in carrying out information on Human Rights, Gender, and HIV/AIDS to the target groups and the surrounding community. The actives range from book procurement, workshops, theme days and trainings.

This narrative report covers the activities that have been undertaken with the support of the Swedish-Zambia Association for the 3rd & 4th Quarter of 2006 and part of the 1st Quarter of 2007.

2.0 ACTIVITES

2.1 Peer Education Training workshop February 12th – 17th February, 2007.

The training was attended by the fifteen members of the YRIC to empower them with the skills to educator their peers in the areas of HIV/AIDS. It was a six day afternoon training and they graduated on Saturday 17th of February. And speaking at the closure the Chairperson of SweZam encouraged the youths to and preach the message of abstinence to their fellow peers enlightening them of the dangers of HIV/AIDS. He also advised the youths to take care of them are they were the future leaders. The training was facilitated by trained peer educators who are members of the committee.



Group photo



Youths demonstrating the facilitation skills

2.2 Youth Day Celebrations 12th March 2007.

The YRIC youths participated in a Youth march from Kitwe City Square to Freedom Park where activities and speeches were arranged by the District Commissioner's Office. The Center had an information stand and an information folder for the YRIC and a banner were made for the occasion Useful contacts with Sandvik and SPW (Youth Partnership Worldwide) were established. In her tour of the stands, guest of honor **Ms Jennifer Musonda Copperbelt Permanent Secretary** was impressed with the project. It included a 5min TV (ZNBC) broadcast.



Guest of Honour- Copperbelt permanent Secretary- Ms Jennifer Musonda



Youth s relaxing



Before the march past



Youth Organise discussing with Sandvik personnel

2.3 Procurements

The office has been painted blue, and new furniture (conference table, stackable chairs, computer table, Organizer's desk etc) have been purchased. A new computer has been bought (CPU+ TFT 17" screen). The old computer is now used by the youths.

2.4 Visit from Swedish secondary school and first Outreach 24th-28th April 2007

On March 24-28, the Centre received a secondary school class of 18 pupils from KF Gymnasium, Stockholm, Sweden and their two teachers. The group stayed in MEF but visited the YC members in their schools, and were interviewed by their Swedish peers about matters such as HIV/Aids, Church issues, Gender and Agriculture. The exchange was very successful and contacts will definitely be maintained.



Friends from Sweden and the YRIC youths

In conjunction with the Swedish peers' visit to the Youth members' respective schools, a first outreach workshop was held for grade 10's in each school in either HIV/Aids (Helen Kaunda High school), Gender (Mindolo HS) or Human Rights (Ndeke High School). The workshops were a learning experience and were also a first step towards recruiting a second Youth Club. (Drawn from grade 10 in the same schools)

2. 5 Gender Policy Development

The Gender Policy Task force's work has witnessed an intensive start. Four meetings have been held in March-April. MEF as an institution will work with gender in two tracks; a Gender Awareness track aiming at educating the whole staff and a Gender Policy track, aiming more specifically at formulating the policy. In the Awareness track, a workshop on Gender Awareness open to all staff was held on April 10-11. Forty-nine (49) staff members (25 women, 24 men) participated. It was facilitated by Sharon Muchangwe, Linda M Simbeye and Muyunda Likando. Further consultations with GIDD (Gender in Development Division) have intensified. An external consultant will be hired to facilitate the formulation process and during the month May, a situation analysis of the institution including surveys and interviews will be carried out.



Participants at the Gender workshop



MEF Director giving his officiating remarks during the Gender workshop

N/B: The Committee members continue to meet once every month and copies of the minutes are attached to this report.