Annual Report 2012
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1.0 Executive Summary

This annual report covers activities carried out between 1st January, 2012 and 31st December 2012. During this period the 2012 Annual Work Plan and Budgets continued to address Mulumbo’s Principle Objective namely; “To supplement Government’s efforts in the provision and expansion of early childhood care and development services, with special attention to the 0 – 8 years old, and with a focus of providing home-based services to low-income communities to ensure good care, protection and development of their children.” The focus was on four areas namely a) Quality child care, (b) Community/parents/Caregiver education in Early Childhood Care and Development (ECD), and (c) Communication, lobbying and advocacy (d) monitoring and evaluation.

The expected immediate outcomes in 2012 included increased awareness of the general public on the importance of ECD and the need for ECD policy, enhanced community participation in ECD programming, improved caregiver/parents understanding of ECD service delivery, improved community conception and attitude to their children and child care, improved quality of ECD provision and increased recognition of the Mulumbo’s work. The expected potential lasting impacts are increased children’s access to quality ECD services, children’s readiness for primary education retention increased, school drop-outs reduced and success in primary school increased. It is further expected that overall this should lead to improved livelihood for the children.

To achieve this a number of activities were conducted such as training, sensitization and policy dialogue meetings, provision of information, education and communication materials (IEC), provision of education materials. The expected potential lasting impact is to have a National ECD policy enacted, Government commitment to ECD increased, caregivers/parents/community(including civic and community leaders) participation and networking among ECD stakeholders enhanced.

The project achievements were measured through field monitoring visits, community meetings for feedback and through reports from the operational centres. Furthermore, weekly meetings were held by the secretariat to plan, ahead, and share ideas, determine whether the way the project was planning is the most appropriate way, and make timely decisions for improving the project performance.

During implementation, the original objectives remained the same. The plans and budget were adequate and all the planned activities were implemented. The intended target that is children, parents, caregivers, community members were reached and benefitted through various activities such as training, ECD meetings, education material provision.

The plan for the year was a success in that community awareness of the importance of ECD services has increased and community participation has been enhanced. Furthermore, there has been an increased demand for ECD services at the ECD centres.
The financial support was received from three Cooperating Partners namely; Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), Firelight, United States of America, and the American Embassy in Zambia through the PERFAR project. The contributions are tabulated below. We also give a breakdown of grants received in 2013 for information.

### 2012 Approved Grants per Donor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Donor</th>
<th>Amount in USD</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSISA</td>
<td>46,604.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firelight Foundation</td>
<td>41,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEPFAR</td>
<td>10,168.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grant</strong></td>
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### 2013 Approved Grants per Donor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Donor</th>
<th>Amount in USD</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OSISA</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firelight Foundation</td>
<td>92,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Embassy</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Grant</strong></td>
<td><strong>162,000.00</strong></td>
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The sections below outlines the achievements made against objectives’ immediate outcomes and outputs all aimed at improving the quality of livelihood for children. Lessons learnt and success stories are included in the report. A brief advice to grant partners and the organizations future plans is also provided.

In addition to the report an annex is attached on a review of results achieved over the last five years.

### 1.2 Assessment of Immediate outcomes and potential lasting impact

Through policy dialogue meeting, sensitization meetings and distribution of IEC materials on ECD, community awareness and knowledge on the importance of ECD and the need to have an ECD policy has increased. In addition community attitudes and believes towards their participation in policy issues has changed, and their participation in issues of ECD has been improved and enhanced. The work of Mulumbo is highly recognized and appreciated by various stakeholders such as civic and community leaders and other organizations working in the areas of operation, and network among stakeholders has improved. Mulumbo is already using information collected from these meetings as input to ECD policy dialogue meetings at national level.
The skills acquired by the caregivers as a result of the training in ECD management and child counseling have helped improve the quality of ECD service provision. Caregivers’ conception and attitude to their children has improved. They are now able to identify psychosocial needs of orphans and vulnerable children and provide counseling.

In addition to the skills acquired by caregivers, the provision of the educational materials at the ECD centers, children have adequate learning and playing materials. This has also resulted in improved attendance, performance and concentration levels among the children. Furthermore, the materials have been a source of motivation and inspiration for the children, the caregivers and the parents which has resulted in them effectively participating in the implementation of the ECD activities. This has also resulted in improved attendance, performance and concentration levels among children. The overall result has been improved quality of ECD service delivery and increased demand for ECD services at the centres.

Funds raised from income generating activities are helping out to pay for education materials needed at the centres for the day to day operations, as well as paying for security services as well as utilities such as electricity and water.

1.3 Review of Outputs
During the period under review, all the planned activities were the following outputs were achieved:

Approximately 700 children with an average of 100 children from each centre from all the 7 centres aged between 3 to 8 years benefited directly from the programme.

94 caregivers were trained in ECD management, while 21 caregivers were trained in psychosocial counseling and of these 7 were male and 14 were female.

The education materials procured were 2,100 exercise books, 3,125 pencils, 1,000 Erasers, 200 packets of crayons, 200 uniforms and assorted toys.

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on ECD produced and distributed were 2000 fliers (Begin early 8 years is too late), 3,000 leaflets, 200 T-shirts (ECD is everyone’s responsibility) and 200 posters (the child we care for today will build the nation Tomorrow), Invest in ECCD materials that were produced were 2000 fliers (Begin early 8 years is too late), 3,000 leaflets, 200 T-shirts (ECD is everyone’s responsibility) and 200 posters (the child we care for today will build the nation Tomorrow), Invest in ECCD).

4 dialogue meetings were held and a total of 100 participants attended comprising of community leaders, civic leaders, policy makers, caregivers, parents and guardians.
The sensitization meetings were attended by 105 community members and out of this 60% were women and 40% were men. The meetings were also attended by some representatives from the local community based organizations in the area.

During the sensitization meetings, assorted IEC materials such as T-shirts, posters, leaflets and write ups were also distributed to the people to help them understand and appreciate the importance of ECD. The distribution of materials had a multiple effect on number of people reached that can be estimated to be more than 1,000.

The IEC materials generated were also distributed to different stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, government institutions and other interest groups and within the ECD centers catchment areas. The distribution and usage of the IEC materials contributed to the organization being recognized by various stakeholders such as the community and other organizations in the areas of operation.

Under entrepreneurship, 2 stoves, 20 baking pans, flour and other baking ingredients such as sugar, cooking oil, baking powder were procured and distributed. The materials that were provided were being used by the caregivers to bake scones, buns and fritters to sale as a way of sustaining the ECD programme.

1.4 Lessons Learnt

From our experience what we would tell others who are involved in ECD efforts.

- Community participation is key for the success of ECD services.
- Educating parents influences the well-being of children.
- Involving the community instills a sense of ownership and project sustainability.
- Working closely with Government, and appreciating that Government is the key stakeholder in ECD can enhance government’s interest in ECD activities.
- Children’s participation and involvement in the planning and implementation of ECD programmes is important for the programme to be successful.
- Lack of involvement of community leaders from the start of the project could cause resistance and delay the project’s progress.
- Caregivers need to undergo specialized training in order to effectively address various needs affecting orphans and vulnerable children.
- Income generating activities play a vital role in project sustainability. With proper management and guidance, IGA can contribute to effective running of ECD centres.
- Monitoring and evaluation is a key component for successful implementation of a project.

1.4.2 What our organization learnt and how it will apply to future projects and activities

The organization has learnt that during the implementation of the project activities, it is always important to involve the local leadership to win community support and
involvement. For future projects, the organization will continue to hold meetings with the local leadership before undertaking any activity.

In addition, challenges and set backs are encountered during the project implementation while lead to the modification of the planned activities, however, through close monitoring, timely solutions and/or ways (should be) have been found to forge ahead and overcome the setbacks. What has changed is that we have learnt (to listen to the needs of the community) and to be flexible in terms of project implementation.

1.5 Success Story

“Income Generating Activities helps sustain Early Childhood Center”
Mulumbo Early Childhood Care and Development Foundation have been running an Income generating activity at Nakoli ECD Center as a way of sustaining the center. Initially all Centre requirements such as soap, toilet paper, cleaning detergents and utility bills were provided by the organization. The organization however realized that if the programme was to be sustained, there was need to introduce an income generating activity. The baking initiative was therefore introduced and additional stoves and other baking utensils and ingredients were brought for the centre for the purpose of baking scones, buns and fritters.

Mrs. Bertha Chanda the Coordinator of Nakoli ECD center in Kabwe explained that she was happy with the small business initiative stating that the money raised is used to help out with daily centre requirements such as soap, toilet papers, brooms, security among others.

“Income generating has strengthen and expanded our business, says Mrs. Chanda, with 2 additional stoves and baking equipment purchased from the grant, we are now able to bake more scones and have now started making buns. Our income has also increased.”

“We used to depend so much on the organization to pay for utility bills like water, electricity and security fees but now we are able to pay these bills because our business has grown,” said Mrs. Chanda.

“The organization would sometimes have no money to pay for bills meaning that electricity and water at the centre would be disconnected,” said one of the caregivers Mr. Joseph Chikuka. We are thankful to Mulumbo for the stoves and baking equipment.” We feel happy that we can sustain the center without much dependence on the organization, said Mr. Chikuka.
In addition one of the parents Mrs. Tembo who has a child at the center explained that the children learn in a clean environment, water is available because bills are paid on time, the property is also safe because the guard who provides security gets a salary through money raised from the business.

The caregivers explained that they are now able to help each other when one is faced with a problem at home using the money which they raise from the business. They are happy working as a team and their attendance has improved and children are cared for very well.

1.6. Major Challenges
During the reporting period the following were the challenges that affected the implementation of the project;

- High poverty levels in the communities resulting into more children who are vulnerable.
- Increased number of orphans and vulnerable children as a result of HIV and AIDS.
- Increased demand for the early childhood services and with limited resources.
- Lack of a utility vehicle to regularly monitor the material usage and the income generating activities at the Centers in Kabwe because the organization rely on public transport.
- Lack of support towards remuneration of the Mulumbo staff and centre caregivers.

1.7 Organizations future Plans and Vision
In order to meet our Long-term goal namely “to promote and develop the child’s personality, talent mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential,” there is still great need to continue working in this area. The strategy is to working towards meeting the Principle objective. “To supplement Government’s efforts in the provision and expansion of early childhood care and development services, with special attention to the 0 – 8 years old, and with a focus of providing home-based services to low-income communities to ensure good care, protection and development of their children.” For this to happen, the areas of focus will remain the same namely quality ECD service delivery, capacity building for caregivers/parents/guardians, advocacy, lobbying and networking. Similarly our community-based service delivery approach that takes into consideration community ownership and accountability and a rights-based approach to development
will remain the same. The vision is to be a **Model Organization of “Excellence” in ECD service delivery.**

The immediate plan is to:

- Expand our capacity building activities to community based organization (CBO) working in the areas of ECD and other ECD service providers. This will allow for more children to have access to quality ECD services.

- Advocate and lobby government in ECD in order to increase Government’s interest thereby increasing children’s access to ECD services

- Build parents/caregivers/guardians capacities in our operational areas, in order to increase their knowledge and skills in the management of their children.

- Network with other like-minded organizations.

- Mobilize resources to sustain our activities.

### 1.8. Piece of advice to grant-makers

In order to serve us more effectively, we would recommend that the grant makers should be sharing information on ECD with the grant partners and link them to other institutions involved in ECD. Furthermore, we would recommend that grant makers should be flexible enough to finance administrative overheads (*i.e. infrastructure, running costs including transport and salaries*). This enable grant partners to attract qualified staff and be able to efficiently and effectively implement their programmes.
2.0 Organizational Background

Mulumbo Early Childhood Care and Development Foundation (MECCDF) was established in 2001 as a Zambian non-governmental, non-profit making organization. The organization is child-centered with a focus on early childhood development as an entry point to supporting human development. Early childhood development was chosen as the most appropriate intervention that can be applied to holistically address some of the problems faced by children from low income communities.

The rational for establishing MECCDF was, among others the realization that:

- Failure to provide programmes for early childhood care and development results in missed opportunities to socialize and inculcate community values in community’s youngest members.

- Inability to provide early childhood education limits child development hence the development of human capital. It also does not liberate time and energy caregivers use to do other economically productive tasks.

Vision of MECCDF is to see every child without exception – live a full and healthy life, with rights secured, free from poverty, violence and discrimination.

MECCDF’s Mission is to work with communities in providing and promoting a whole-rounded home-based early childhood care and development services, using a cost-effective multi-sectoral approach in which health, education, inclusive learning, gender and equity, HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health, as well as the rights of women and children come together. MECCDF’s main target groups are children between the ages of 0 to 8 years who are mainly orphaned and vulnerable.

Principle objective: To supplement Government’s efforts in the provision and expansion of early childhood care and development services.

Target beneficiaries: Special attention is given to the 0 – 8 year old and with a focus of providing home-based services to low-income communities to ensure good care, protection and development of their children.

The long-term goal is to promote and develop the child’s personality, talent, mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.

Organization’s comparative Advantages/Approach:

Mulumbo is convinced that community serves that meet the needs of infants and young children are vital to early childhood care and development. combining early childhood development services with other services on early childhood care such as health, nutrition, education, environment, water and sanitation in homes and communities would enrich the level of care a child would receive with benefits to survival, health,
development, prevention and early identification of impairments. The approach has the following focus:

**Community based service delivery:** Uses a service delivery approach to low-income communities to ensure good care, protection and development of their children. The approach further builds strong partnerships with communities to promote ECD as a good start to life for children. It would also reduce the load on the mother and other caregivers in poverty-stricken households.

**Community Ownership and Accountability:** Believes that, to strategically address child development issues, the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment of growth and well-being of all its members and particularly the children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibility within the community.

**Rights Based Approach to Development:** Furthermore, early childhood care and development approach should promote and protect the rights of the young child to survival, growth and development. In this case Mulumbo uses a holistic multi-sectoral approach in which health, education, inclusive learning, gender and equity, HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health, as well as the rights of women and children come together.

The approach is aimed at helping the children make the transition easily from home to pre-school and then to primary school. It is hoped that the process will help to make schools more ready for learners and learners more ready for school after acquiring physical, social, emotional and cognitive competencies. It is further hoped that the process will help influence school enrolment, progress, and performance for the children.
3.0 Main Report

This annual report covers activities carried out between 1st January, 2012 and 31st December 2012. During this period financial support was received from three Cooperating Partners namely; Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA), Firelight, United States of America, and the American Embassy in Zambia through the PERFAR project.

The report highlights achievements made per objectives and activities implemented. In addition to the 2012 annual report we provide under section 3.0 a review of results over the years.

Objective 1:
To advocate for interventions aimed at unblocking ECD policy process by holding policy dialogue meetings with key policy makers and other stakeholders by 2012.

Assessment of Objective:
When the project started there was little knowledge and understanding among communities about the ECD policy, what it means, who is responsible for its development and implementation and how important it is to have an ECD policy. Further, communities were not aware that the ECD Policy was undergoing drafting and that they had a right to participate in the ECD policy making process. However, by the end of the project, community awareness and knowledge on the importance of ECD and the need to have an ECD policy increased. In addition their attitudes and believe towards community participation in policy issues changed. From these achievements, it is expected that in the long-term the targeted audience would be able to contribute to the ECD policy making process. Currently, Mulumbo is already using information collected from these meetings during ECD policy dialogue meetings at national level.

Activities implemented
Under this objective, 4 dialogue meetings were held in Lusaka, Kabwe and Kaoma. A total of 100 participants attended comprising of community leaders, civic leaders, policy makers, caregivers, parents and guardians. During these meetings various issues were discussed, among them are, the role of different stakeholders in ECD, how and why the government should be involved in the implementation of ECD activities and the urgent need for an ECD policy. The aim of the meetings was to continuously raise awareness on the importance of ECD and on the need to have an ECD policy. At the end of the meetings an assessment done showed that all participants found the interaction with each other to be filled with learning. When asked what they had learnt, and how they anticipate using the knowledge gained, the majority responded that having knowledge and understanding about the ECD policy is important to them. As to the most valuable thing they had learnt, the response was that the recognition of the need to participate
in the ECD policy making process both short-term and long term is very important and needs immediate action by them.

**Objective 2:**
To create awareness among the 1000 community members (parents/guardians) on the importance of ECD through sensitization, production and distribution of IEC materials by 2012.

**Assessment of Objective**
Community awareness and understanding of the importance of investing in EDC has increased. This has created an improvement in community attitude and behaviour towards children. The messages printed on fliers and leaflets were found to be very helpful and effective. The distribution and usage of IEC materials contributed to raising awareness, gave recognition and status of the organization’s work by various stakeholders including government institutions and other civic leaders.

**Activities implemented**
Under this objective the following 2 activities were implemented.

**Sensitization Meetings and social mobilization assessment**
Under this activity 3 sensitization meetings were held in Lusaka, Kabwe and Kaoma with the aim of creating awareness among the community members on the importance of ECD.

The sensitization meetings were attended by 105 community members and out of this 60% were women and 40% were men. The meetings were also attended by some representatives from the local community based organizations in the area. The meetings were held with a view of enabling parents understand the importance of investing in ECD, community involvement in ECD as well as the need for everyone’s involvement in bettering the lives of children in the communities particularly those aged 0 – 8 years. During the sensitization meetings, assorted IEC materials such as T-shirts, posters, leaflets and write ups were also distributed to the people to help them understand and appreciate the importance of ECD. The distribution of materials had a multiple effect on number of people reached that can be estimated to be more than 1,000. Participants demonstrated their learning through active participation, interactions and questions. Important questions were asked on ECD, i.e. what is ECD? why is it important? How can it be done in the home? Participants made comments in support of the need for everyone’s involvement in bettering the lives of children in their communities through ECD activities, and the need for community ownership of these activities if they are to be sustained.
Development of IEC Materials
Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on ECD were produced and distributed during sensitization meetings described above so as to popularize ECD. Among the materials that were produced were 2000 fliers (Begin early 8 years is too late), 3,000 leaflets, 200 T-shirts (ECD is everyone’s responsibility) and 200 posters (the child we care for today will build the nation Tomorrow), Invest in ECCD). The materials generated were also distributed to different stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, government institutions and other interest groups and within the ECD centers catchment areas. The distribution and usage of the IEC materials contributed to the organization being recognized by various stakeholders such as the community and other organizations in the areas of operation.

Objective 4: To improve the quality of ECD provision at the 7 ECD centers by 2012

Assessment of Objective:
Through the provision of education material, the quality of early childhood care provision at the 7 ECD centers has improved. The materials have also helped in improving ECD service delivery. Further, materials have been a source of motivation and inspiration for the children, the caregivers and the parents which has resulted in them effectively participating in the implementation of the ECD activities. This has also resulted in improved attendance, performance and concentration levels among children. The overall result has been increased demand for ECD services at the centres.

Activities implemented
Under this objective the following activity was implemented as described below.

Provision of Educational Materials
The aim of this activity was to improve the quality of early childhood care provision at the 7 ECD centers. Under this activity assorted educational materials were procured and distributed to the ECD centers. The materials procured were 2,100 exercise books, 3,125 pencils, 1,000 Erasers, 200 packets of crayons, 200 uniforms and assorted toys. The materials provision helped in the effective delivery of the ECD programme. It was also a source of motivation and inspiration for the children, the caregivers and the parents which resulted them effectively participating in the implementation of the ECD activities.

The provision of the educational materials at the ECD centers has contributed to improved quality of ECD provision. The children have adequate learning and playing materials. This has also resulted in improved attendance, performance and concentration levels among the children.

Objective 3: The objective is two-fold: (a)To develop capacities and skills of 100 parents and caregivers to manage and implement holistic ECD services at the centre, in their homes and in the community by 2012. (b) To provide caregivers with skills in psychosocial counseling.
Assessment of Objectives
Caregivers, parents and guardians’ acquired knowledge and skills in ECD and are able to apply the skills learned in their homes and in the communities. In addition, there has been increased participation and commitment by participants in ECD activities at the Centres and the number of mothers asking for centre based places for children has increased. Through information sharing at community level, there has been an increase in appropriate community driven childcare practices and a sense of community ownership of ECD activities has been created.

Overall, participants now understand how important they are in their children’s lives. They are more aware of the child’s development and their role in supporting that development and their interaction with their children has changed. It is expected that changes brought about by the participants’ feelings of greater self-worth will spill over into their family life and into their willingness and openness to share their experiences with others and to become more involved in promoting ECD activities within the community. The new knowledge will also give them confidence to speak out for children in their communities.

The psychosocial counselling training provided caregivers with skills to effectively respond to psychosocial needs of orphans and vulnerable children. The training was a refresher course from the similar course conducted two years ago.

Activities implemented
Under this objective the following activity was implemented as described below.

Training in ECD Management
During the reporting period, 94 caregivers were trained in ECD management. 30 caregivers were trained in Lusaka, 30 in Kabwe and 34 in Kaoma. The main aim of the workshop was to enable participants acquire practical skills in Early Childhood Development (ECD). The training workshops covered the following topics;

- Importance of ECD
- Developmental stages of children between 0-7 years.
- Caring and learning environment in ECD.
- Parent and community involvement in ECD.
- Material production of learning and teaching materials.
- Organization and management of ECD centers organizing and managing ECD centers.
- Integrate children with disabilities in ECD programmes.
- Importance of nutrition on ECD
Participants’ interactions, contributions and questions were appreciative of the issues covered and recommended that more training could be given on ECD and that emphasis be given to child methods as opposed to the conventional methods. Participants shared their experience that children responded better to the child-child method than the other method. The further made a request for exchange visits so that caregivers can learn from each other. At the end of the training all participants reported that they were more energized and were more committed to solving problems associated with ECD programs at the centre and the community level. Mulumbo informed participants that monitoring visits will be made to support them in these areas.

The outcome of the training programmes was that the caregivers/parents knowledge on ECD was enhanced and participants are now able to apply the skills both at home and in the community.

The skills acquired by the caregivers as a result of the training have helped improve the quality of ECD provision. Parents and caregivers, are now able to identify psychosocial needs of orphans and vulnerable children and provide counseling.

**Activities implemented**

**Training in Psychosocial Counselling**

The aim of this activity was to provide caregivers with skills in psychosocial counselling and management of ECD. This training provided caregivers with skills to effectively respond to psychosocial needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children. 21 caregivers comprising 7 male and 14 females underwent a refresher training course in Psychosocial Counseling and Early Childhood and Development management.

The specific objective of the training were to enable participants be able to

- Develop their comfort level of interacting with children
- Communicate effectively with children
- Identify existing psychosocial support mechanisms within communities, as well as to network and provide appropriate referrals to psychosocial support services
- Develop awareness and some knowledge of psychosocial developmental process at different ages and be able to apply the same in the helping process
- Identify problems of OVC based on an understanding issues related specifically to OVC and priorities established by communities
- Work with guardians/parents and other family members in addressing the need of children
- Demonstrate awareness of children’s rights.
Objective 5
The object is two-fold: (a) To assess the performance of the project and ensure that the expected functions and activities are performed in accordance with the norms and plans. (b) To assess the impact of children’s behavior attitude and conduct when they go to primary school.

Evaluation of Objective
The objective was achieved to a greater extent. The activities were implemented as planned and no adjustments were made to the plan. Because of timely monitoring and supervision visits, it was possible to address any challenges on time. It was also possible to take note of children’s preparedness to entry primary education. This was evident by their ability to perform better than children who did not go through ECD education.

Activities Implemented:

Monitoring, social mobilization and assessment visits by the secretariat to the 3 operational sites where activities were conducted, in order to identify problems faced by the caregivers and find solutions. The activity also made an assessment of impact of children’s behavior, attitudes and conduct when they go to primary school. During these visits observations were made on how knowledge and skills imparted to caregivers, parents and guardians in ECD management were being used. Focused group meetings, and interviews were made to share experiences, challenges faced and to get feedback about the progress of the project. At the secretariat, weekly meetings were held in order to plan ahead, share ideas, determine whether the way the project was planned is the most appropriate way, and make timely decisions for improving the project performance.

Objective 6.
To improve the income of vulnerable households caring for children.

Evaluation of Objective
Income generating activities and provision of start-up funds has motivated caregivers’ participation levels. They have shown more commitment in helping out with the day today work at the centres such as cleaning the centre classroom and the outside surrounding, gardening among others. Funds raised from vegetable sales are used to purchase learning materials needed for the day to day operations. The proceeds from the sales are used for paying electricity, water and other day to day needs of the center. The table below shows the details of the materials that were procured and distributed to Nakoli ECD center.
Activities implemented

Entrepreneurship Training
30 households were trained in entrepreneurship skills and 6 groups were formed. The households were given start up loans and have started businesses such as selling charcoal, vegetables and second hand clothes. Income generating activities and training in ECD management has enhanced community participation because the parents and guardians are now more committed in helping out with the day today work at the centers such as cleaning the center classroom and the outside surrounding, gardening among others. For instance, parents and guardians at the center in Makululu are helping out with gardening and they use the money they raise from the sale of vegetables to purchase the materials that they need for the day to day operations. In addition, the sale from the baking business is helping to meet the daily needs at Nakoli centre.

Procurement of Additional Baking and Cooking Equipment
During the reporting period, additional baking and cooking materials were procured and given to Nakoli Center in Kabwe as a way of expanding and strengthening the income generating activities. Under this activity, 2 stoves, 10 baking pans, 20 bags of flour and other baking ingredients such as sugar, cooking oil, baking powder were procured and distributed. The materials that were provided were being used by the caregivers to bake scones, buns and fritters to sale as a way of sustaining the ECD programme.
4.0 Review of Results of our Work over the 5 year Period 2008 – 2012

4.1 Most significant change in the lives of children and families served as a result of our work

The most significant change in the lives of children as a result of our work can be highlighted as follows:

For children:

- **Reduced vulnerability:** Our programmes have targeted orphans and vulnerable children from poor communities. Children accessing our ECD facilities have been protected from abuse, neglect and isolation.
- **Increased access to ECD:** There has been an increase in the number of children accessing ECD in the communities that we have been working in. The children who have gone through ECD at our centers by the time they graduate to primary school are prepared and ready. This implies that they are confident, able to express themselves and able to interactive freely in the new school environment. In addition children who have been through the ECD centers do have basic reading and writing skills.
- **Improved Health:** Since we use a holistic approach to child development, health issues are an important component in our programming. For instance as a result of our work children are accessing health care services such as vaccinations, deworming, and growth monitoring, hygiene and nutritional support provided by government health facilities. This has helped in improving the health status of children.
- **Child Development:** As a result of our work, the children have a been given an opportunity to realize their full potential. This is because ECD activities are tailored to help them develop physically, socially, emotional, intellectually and spiritually.
- **Child rights:** Our ECD programmes uses a rights-based approach therefore, child as well as parents and guardians are aware of their basic rights..

For the families:

- The most significant changes have been enhanced capacity and knowledge on issues on childcare i.e. improved parenting skills, knowledge on nutrition, health, child rights and child development.

- This has resulted into increased ability by parents and guardians to respect the rights of the children and the capacity to provide counseling interventions to children.

- Improved livelihood through various trainings, such entrepreneurship training, child counseling, HIV/AIDS, ECD management.
• Improved family and community relationships.

4.2 Most valuable lessons that learned about working with vulnerable children and families

The most valuable lessons that we have learnt about working with vulnerable children and families are;
• All children given a safe environment, love, care and support can realize their full potential.

• Sometimes it’s not just material things that vulnerable children need, they need a safe environment to play, to be heard and be allowed to be children.

• Knowledge is power and over the years we have witnessed how families can be transformed when equipped with skills and knowledge.

• Families have solutions to their own problems and therefore need is support to help them see this potential in themselves.

• Families have assets in their communities which they need to learn to identify and put then to good use.

4.3 Our approach working with the community

We work as partners with the community and not providers. The community plays an important role in identifying its own problems and finding solution. Communities are fully involved in all programs as this instills a sense of responsibility and ownership.

4.5 Most significant barriers that have been overcome for children’s access to support and services

4.5.1 Cultural Barriers

The community had a notion that childcare work and children’s issues were for women only. This barrier has been overcome through educating both men and women on the importance of partnership in child development. Men are now involved in supporting the children to have access to ECD and other child care services at both community and family level. Men are also trained as caregivers and some are members of parents committee.

4.5.2 Knowledge barriers

Initially, communities had limited knowledge on the importance of investing in children as it was believed to be a waste of time and resources. Over the years this barrier has been overcome through trainings and awareness programmes.
4.6. **Efforts made to impact change to the wider group of vulnerable children who do not directly benefit from your support**

Our ECD programme is designed to reach out to the children both in the community through home based programmes and at the center through center based programmes. The children at the center directly benefit from our support while the children in the community indirectly benefit through home based care services. In order to reach a wider group of vulnerable children, our home-based care programmes indirectly benefit this group through information that is shared with the parents and guardians on child care and development. In addition, over the years, the organization’s has tried to implement educational awareness activities that have impacted change in the lives of the children, parents and the community on health, environment and nutrition.

4.6.1 **Results seen from these efforts**

- We have seen positive attitude towards issues to do with children
- Increased community involvement and participation in children’s issues
- Improved care and relationships between and among adults and children
- Increase knowledge on issues of children

4.7. **National level policy changes that have taken place that have made significant contributions to improving children’s lives**

At national level Early Childhood Development is now being recognized and the Ministry of Education has now being given the mandate to spear head this thematic area. The Ministry is now called Ministry of Education Science Vocational training and early Learning.

Currently Zambia is reviewing its Republican Constitution and civil society organizations like ourselves have made submissions recommending government to make ECD as a right for every child. Other recommendations include government to prioritise and provide ECD facilities for every child in all the parts of the country. We hope these submissions will be adopted and considered in the final constitution.

4.8 **Organizational Development**

4.8.1 **The most significant improvement in organization’s capacity**

The organization has improved in its ECD programming due to improved staff’s skills and knowledge on working with children and families that has been enhanced through various training on ECD and child related issues. There has also being an improvement in reporting and resource mobilization through the reports and proposals we have been submitting to various cooperating partners over the years. The financial and technical
support from our funders has contributed to having a motivated work force which has lead to efficiency and effectiveness in the organization’s work. In addition, there has been improved coordination of activities between the secretariat and the community due to the responsibilities.

4.8.2 Organization’s vision in the next 5 years
In the next five years, our vision as an organization is to continue building on activities that we are already carrying out in order to see every child without exception live a full and health life freed from poverty violence and discrimination.

4.9 Challenges anticipated in our efforts to achieve those goals
The anticipated challenges are:
- Limited financial resources.
- Inadequate government support for ECD.
- Limited infrastructure to accommodate more children.
- Limited qualified Human resource in ECD.

4.10. Long-term Planning: Strategies the organization has implemented to support the organization’s long-term sustainability

- **Capacity building in ECD** – The organization over the years has continued training caregivers and families in ECD. The skills obtained from these training have helped the caregivers and families to give quality ECD services to the children at the center, home and communities. The trained caregivers are now able to run ECD activities with minimum supervision.

- **Income generating activities** – The caregivers have been trained in entrepreneurship skills, community mobilization, participation, community development so as to build their capacities to start and run income generating activities as well as implement/coordinate community based initiatives. As a result of the strategies one center has a tailoring and baking business while the other center has a community garden. The moneys raised from these businesses have been used to supplement the daily expenses at the center.

4.11 What has been most challenging in our efforts”:
The most challenging factor has been the issue of remuneration of the caregivers. The caregivers come from low income households and most of them are bread winners in the families. It is therefore difficult for them to spend more time at the centers working as volunteers. This has resulted in others opting to venture in businesses to raise money for their households. To a certain extent, this hinders the quality of ECD provision.
4.12 Looking back, is there something that we would have done differently? Why?
Yes, we would have proposed funding for economic empowerment for households in the first two years from our partnership. This is because we feel that had we done it earlier, five years would have been enough to have empowered families. These households would have contributed more to ECD sustainability.

4.13 How will activities be sustained without donor support?
We do realize that financial sustainability may not be possible in the short-term. However, we are convinced that our efforts have been appreciated by the communities who have been empowered by our training programmes and parents are now able to support children’s development and their ability to reach their full potential. Children are now better protected, because parents have become aware of the benefits of positive discipline and the negative impact of physical and humiliating punishment.

We will continue mobilizing resources by writing proposals to different cooperating partners both at home and internationally. We shall also expand and improve upon the income generating activities through training using the “Village Banking” model.

4.14 Partnership Reflection

Beyond funding, what was most valuable support that you received from Partnerships?
- Technical support
- linkages with other donors,
- Information Education Materials (IEC) through newsletters,
- Recommendation letters to other donors.