



"SELF-HELP FACILITATION"

## Annual Report 2019



*Empowering rural communities  
through  
rights based Self-help approach  
in Zambia*

## FOREWORD

Dear stakeholders and friends of Response Network,

On behalf of management, staff and the board, we are delighted to share this annual report of our work in 2019. We currently operate in rural communities of Kazungula, Zimba and Kalomo districts of Southern Zambia.

2019 was a challenging year for our target communities living in remote rural communities that rely heavily on subsistence farming. The drought and resulting famine put extreme pressure on families and communities to meet the basic needs. The drought also led to challenges in accessing clean water hence increasing the disease burden especially for children. Much pressure was felt by women who had to brave out looking for food for children especially.

In spite of the above challenge, our team of committed field officers and community volunteers with morale from the support staff at the office, managed to implement our programmes successfully.

At organizational level, Mr. Håkon Norman Spigseth who is one of the co-founders of Response Network retired as Country Director in May 2019 after 14 years of undivided dedication and hard work. He has since



relocated and settled in Norway. Håkon made an immense contribution to Response Network's significant achievements during his tenure. His commitment to the self help concept as a way of poverty alleviation is evidenced by several self-help activities that started in the three districts. He will be greatly missed by many people in the rural communities as well as in Livingstone.

He was replaced by Mutukwa Matengenya who was the deputy director.

Mutukwa joined Response Network



from inception as an external financial consultant for the organisation. Over the years Response Network influenced him to venture into development studies leading to his working for the organisation part time and finally on full times basis. Special thanks to Oddbjorn Flem who at the time was the Board Chairperson as he took time to witness and help in the actual transition of directorship in person as well as the advisory board under the leadership of Hon Peter Matubulani.

During the period under review, we continued with the sponsorship of about 600 vulnerable and orphaned girls in 43 schools in Livingstone district. The sports for development program was implemented in Kazungula district reaching out to 3,057 youths and adults and this led to formation of 167 sports clubs on self-help basis. Out of these, 33 are exclusively women's clubs and 38 of them are inclusive of persons with disabilities. 1,223 youths were trained in sports administration and leadership.

The village /community sensitisation programme was conducted in rural areas and parts of Zimba and Kazungula districts. This led to formation of over 150 self-help clubs and activities ranging from literacy, organic vegetable growing, HIV/AIDS, women's clubs, skills training, health and nutrition and Governance clubs. Over 5,000 people were reached out.

Several other activities were implemented as outlined in the report. For the way forward and in line with our focus on innovation and service delivery we will continue to work with our primary stakeholders, the communities, and other organizations and line Government ministries. We will strive to improve on our operations and also work hard on expanding our financial base.

In conclusion, 2019 was an exciting year and we would want to thank all our cooperating partners and funders who made this work achievable as well as management, staff and volunteers. The board also played a pivotal supportive role as well as continuous wise counsel.

I look forward to a challenging and exciting time ahead.

*Mutukwa Matengenya*

Director

20th April 2020  
Livingstone

## OUR ACTIVITIES - Community Education /Sensitisation

This program was co funded by the Norwegian Association for the Disabled (NAD) and Academic Work of Sweden. It was a four- year program which ended in Dec 2019 since 2016. The main objective of this program was inclusive development hence focussing on rights based self-help facilitation with emphasis on mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in the day to day activities through 10 outcomes.

**Community  
Education  
Program  
( Self Help Facilitation)**



Outcome 1 encouraged the enrolment of children inclusive of those with disabilities in their own local environment

26 community schools that are inclusive of children with disabilities were established by 2019 providing access to education for 5,169 children (2,591f, 2,578m) of which 3.6% (169) (87f, 82m) are persons with disabilities. Out of the 26 community Schools, 24 Schools have permanent and modern 1 x 2 classroom or 1x 1 classroom blocks. 14 teachers houses were built on self- help basis through which communities mobilized upfront materials such as bricks, stones, sand and labour while Response Network working with other donors provided the building materials such as cement,

roofing sheets, timber and paints. Additionally 240 desks were distributed in 10 of these schools. This lead to improved learning environment for children during lessons and consequently 2,779 (1,285f, 1,494m) of out which 69 are persons with disabilities (37f, 32m) improved their reading and writing skills

Outcome 2 targeted increased awareness among rural target communities to establish and participate in inclusive sporting activities (women, children and persons with disabilities). The increased awareness led to formation of 167 sports club following a series of sensitization meetings and capacity building workshops that opened up and encouraged participation of women and persons with disability into sports. 33 out of the total clubs are exclusively women's clubs whereas 38 are inclusive sports clubs. 190 persons (30f, 160m)with disabilities are actively participating in various sporting activities. The program trained through various workshops 1,223 youths in leadership of which 188 young women and girls have been selected into local leadership positions. 16 local Associations were established while 8 got linked to the provincial sports structure.



Outcome 3 focused on literacy of adults including those with disabilities.



32 classes of adult learners started with a membership of 519 adults (311 women 208 men who never knew how to read or write but are now able to read and write



33 (9f, 24m)of of the membership are persons with disabilities (6.4%).



357 of the total learners have developed other skills which have helped them gain confidence and are participating in various self- help groups and interacting freely.



## OUR ACTIVITIES - Community Education

Outcome 4 focused on promoting engagement of communities into inclusive Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through skills training. Persons with disabilities previously were denied access to such clubs as they were viewed as being unable to utilize and benefit from skills training. By end of 2019, 86 Community Skills clubs that are inclusive of persons with disabilities had been established with 1,043 members (548f, 495m) engaging in income generation, 64% of these had their lives improved as a result of participation in IGA skills training clubs and are now able to pay for their children's school fees. 71 (36f, 35m) of these are persons with disabilities. Activities involve making products from grass, wood, stone and recycling materials. Four community and communal markets were also created as centres for selling the merchandise.



Outcome 5 encouraged women including those with disabilities to participate in Save and borrow/Self-help groups to earn an income. 1,656 women participated in 129 women's clubs doing various activities, 464 of these women in 59 clubs are involved directly in save and borrow activities. 82 of these women (18.8%) are persons with disabilities.

Outcome 6 and 8, focused on improvement of health and nutrition standards for households inclusive of those with disabilities. 865



people (559f, 306m) are practicing good health habits in 59 clubs, of which 32 participants (19f, 13m) have disabilities. This area has also spread to other activities and community members especially those that have understood the importance of health and nutrition are practicing even in other clubs thereby reducing the number of specific clubs and members for Health/ Nutrition. The health and Nutrition clubs have also taken up the role of sensitizing people on the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption that can lead to broken homes and poor health.

103 Organic clubs were established with membership of 1,359 (865f, 559m) community members, 90 of (77f, 13m) which are persons with disabilities. These clubs are actively practicing organic vegetable growing. Consequently there is improved nutritional status and reduced infant malnutrition cases.

Outcome 8, promoted awareness of people's rights with emphasis on the rights of persons with disabilities, children and women. As a result 36 Community self-help clubs were formed comprising of 407 members of which 62 persons (26f, 36m) with disabilities are committed participants of these clubs. 15 Governance clubs with 141 members were formed to encourage participation of community members in issues of their governance and local leadership. This led to communities following up and holding their civic and traditional leaders accountable. As a community based initiative, 11 active legal committees were established to guard against violation of people's rights and these committees are working hand in hand with the Victim support Unit of the Zambia police.

## OUR ACTIVITIES - Community Education

Outcome 9 emphasized on awareness of communities against alcohol and drug abuse and the dangers thereof. 7 support groups on awareness against alcohol abuse were established after sensitization of 2,114 community members. The club members have further held meetings on the dangers alcohol abuse and counselled 32 community addicts. There has been a number of alcohol related cases handled by the community village courts in the first two years (about 40 cases), but there has been a reduction in 2019. However, alcohol abuse is a trend that is difficult to eradicate as some of the traditional leaders who should be in the forefront helping to drum up awareness among community members are rigid to change and still involved in the practice. Nevertheless, there has been great change in people's attitude towards alcohol in target communities.

Outcome 10 focus on raising awareness on disability inclusion, with a specific focus on access to local justice and representation in the day-to-day activities. These activities are important because persons with disabilities were not previously participating in most of the activities in their communities. In order to address the vice, 24 Goal Oriented Project Planning workshops conducted reaching out to 1,804 community members (984f, 820m) which motivated the formation of 7 active legal committees dealing in human rights violations at local level. 31 community members were trained as Para-legal to safe guard and ensure rights for persons with disabilities are upheld in cases of any infringement working together with the local committees who are given trainings by victim support unit. These paralegal are working hand in hand with an organization called Disability Rights Watch through the paralegal district desk.

### Sports for Development



This program is funded by the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF). It is a three years program starting from 2019 to 2021. The program aims at promoting safe and respectable sports activities in rural communities of Zimba and Kalomo districts as well as ensuring that communities establish accessible sports facilities. The program also focuses on promoting inclusive sport, enhancement of women and girls participation in sports and sports leadership. Additionally the programme intends to build capacity in sports clubs so that they are aligned and affiliated to the national and district sports associations.



# OUR ACTIVITIES - Sports for Development

2019 being the first year of the three year implementation period (2019-2021), the program was implemented in Musebela, Kanyanga, Kakopa, Luyaba, Njabalombe and Kasikili areas. The following were the key results/achievements attained in the five objectives that were set:

## **Awareness on safe sport practices to curb gender based violence & drug abuse**

In objective one, the program focused on enhancing awareness on safe sport practices to



curb gender based violence, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse through sensitization/capacity building meetings in targeted communities. To

achieve this objective, the International day of Sports for Development (IDSD) was commemorated in Mafumba and Luyaba communities directly reaching out to 251 youths (155m, 96f).

This was followed by

two independence sports tournaments resulting in 458 people (280m, 178f with 5pwd) directly participating with 1786 spectators. This tournament resulted into enhanced social cohesion among the community members. The opportunity was also used to sensitise the communities on gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and safe sports.

## **Enhancing participation in sport leadership among youths & persons with disabilities**

In the second objective, the programme aimed at enhancing participation in sport and leadership opportunities especially for youths (Boys and girls) women and Persons with disabilities in targeted rural communities of Zimba and Kalomo districts. 191 (120 males and 71 female) were trained in sports leadership skills as administrators, this led to increased understanding of inclusion and behavior change and development of sustainable sports structures. Additionally, 137 women are now currently engaged into sports and other developmental leadership positions against 82 at baseline. Furthermore, the program also collaborated with the Youth Sports Exchange Program (YSEP) through volunteers by inspiring youths to participate into sporting activities thereby increasing the number of youths in sporting activities. During the year a team of 11 youths (6f,5m), 3 of which were persons with disabilities aged between 14 to 16) participated in the inclusive festival in Lusaka, this thrilled the community and made them realize that persons with disabilities equally have potential. This led to the communities being proud of their family members with disabilities and started bringing them out for communal participation in activities, consequently there was high turn out during sports activities.

## OUR ACTIVITIES - Sports for Development

### Establishment of basic accessible communal sports facilities on Self-help basis



Objective three aimed at creating awareness on establishing, on self-help basis, basic accessible communal sport facilities, which are safe and conducive in rural targeted areas of Zimba and Kalomo districts. So far, 253 Sports Administrators and Village Headmen attended meetings, which resulted into acquisition of exclusive communal sports facilities set aside for sports by the headmen. 7 new sports spaces (sports facilities) were identified of which 3 have ownership documentation in progress.

### Linking local sport structures and sport administrators to national structures

In objective four, the programme aimed at linking local sport structures and local sport administrators to district and national structures for affiliation in the targeted rural areas of Zimba and Kalomo Districts. Under this objective, the networking meetings linked community sports administrators to National Sports Council representatives who shared information with various clubs on how to link up community activities to National structures. This resulted into two teams, in Luyaba, being registered with the district league games. Additionally and through networking, linkages and partnerships were enhanced with Southern province Armature Football Association (SPAFA), Southern Province Provincial Sports Advisory committee under National sports council of Zambia, Zambia Armature Athletics Association (ZAAA) and Netball association of Zambia (NAZ), Referees Association of Zambia (ZAAA), Chiefdom Councils, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Community Based Rehabilitation in Luyaba who are implementing an education inclusive programme.





# OUR ACTIVITIES - Sports for Development

## Enhancing Response Network staff/volunteers to deliver a sustainable, safe and responsive sport programme

In the fifth objective, the programme concentrated on enhancing knowledge of Response Network Staff in delivering a sustainable, safe and responsive sport programme in the targeted communities using community volunteers and sports leaders. Under this objective, a community volunteers' orientation workshop was conducted in which volunteers were equipped with skills to facilitate and understand the sports for development theory of change and on how to encourage their communities to use the locally available resources to develop themselves. Additionally, two facilitation officers attended the safe sports child protection training during the National Inclusive Sports festival. During the year, there was also a YSEP partners and coordinators' workshop in Lusaka. The workshop aimed at sharing ideas on strengthening the YSEP program and among other things safe sports was discussed. This was very beneficial a capacity and partners networking platform.

In summary, 3057(1894male and 1165female) directly participated in the safe and responsible sports programme resulting into self-mobilization of 32 sports clubs /activities in the community. 64 youths (43male, 21female) were Persons With Disability. were also engaged in all the sports activities that were carried out in 2019.





# OUR ACTIVITIES

## Community Schools construction / Sponsorship programmes

### Community Schools construction program (self-help basis)

This program is funded by Academic Work of Sweden and other donors with the aim of enhancing access to primary education for rural communities through construction of community schools on self help basis. Communities are required to provide upfront materials while building materials are donated through AW support.

This year, seven projects were commenced; construction of 5 classroom extensions and two teachers' houses. Additionally 148 community School teachers were trained in basic school management. Over 10,000 children in rural communities are accessing primary education.



### Sponsorship, Tertiary & Skills training program

The sponsorship and skills training programmes is funded by Academic Work, Tore Memorial, Delta Kappa Gamma and NIF. Currently there over 600 girls and 10 boys supported by Academic Work from Grade 1-12. In tertiary there 22 girls in various colleges supported by AW and Tore Schulz Memorial fund. In skills training, there are 22 girls who have enrolled for various skills ( catering, tailoring and electrical) while 10 community volunteers are doing tailoring and agriculture with the aim of them going back to their communities to empower the self-help clubs.



## OUR ACTIVITIES

### Women Empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) (Save & Borrow)

This program was funded by Kinder-NotHilfe through the Zitukule Consortium. The aim is to empower women in rural communities of Zimba district through Self-Help groups through which they will be able to Save and borrow one another. 134 Self Help Groups are active with membership of 2,010 and a cumulative capital of over ZMW 350,000.



*Self-Help Group members showing off their hand-made wares*

### Judo Programme



The Judo program is funded by Judo For Fred in collaboration with NIF and Zambia Judo. Response Network is acting as an overseer for the Livingstone activities on behalf of Judo Zambia and NIF. The program targets boys and girls of aged 5 to 37 years. Currently the programme has 395 (112 girls, 283 boys) split between two clubs; The Youth Community Training Centre (YCTC) club and the Ogoshi Judo Club all in Livingstone. The clubs successfully participated in eight national Judo tournaments with one of the girls being selected to participate in the national team.





## OUR ACTIVITIES

### Youth Sport Exchange Program

This program is supported by NOREC (Former FK) in which Response Network has been participating since 2008. In 2018/2019 exchange program, Response Network sent two volunteers to Norway and received two volunteers from Norway who were placed in the villages. This year, which is the 2019/2020 exchange period, Response Network will send one volunteer to Norway as a South to North volunteer and one volunteer to Malawi as a South to South volunteer.



### Students Placement Program

The students placement program is an understanding between Response Network and Universities in Norway. The objective of the program is to place students in the villages for a practical stint. Currently Response Network has Memorandum of Understanding with Oslo Met, NTNU, University of the Arctic (UIT) and Trondheim Universities. Additionally this program also includes programs for other Schools that send students for an African experience.. Another program introduced in 2018 is called ' Global Youths'. This is a program in conjunction with Norwegian Church Aid /Danish Church Aid in which Danish volunteers are twinned in the villages with Zambian volunteers for one month as a cultural exchange in rural communities.

## Special Events

### Norwegian National day

Response Network celebrated The Norwegian National Day at the office. RN staff decorated the office and all friends of RN and other Norwegians who were in Livingstone at the time were invited for the occasion.



### Håkon's Farewell party

Haakon's farewell party on 24th May attracted about 200 people from all walks of life. The guest of honour was Honourable Given Lubinda, Minister of Justice for the Republic of Zambia and Patron for Response Network. The board chairperson then, Oddbjorn Flem was also in attendance. A lot of speakers poured out their emotions in their speeches which all culminated in celebrating Haakon's commitment to community development. His achievements and selflessness working in rural communities was echoed also by people from the rural communities that travelled to witness his farewell. He is missed by many in Livingstone and the rural communities in which RN started up several self-help activities.



### Obituaries

**Jacob Nkunya** is our former employee at Response Network. Jacob joined RN in 2012 as a Finance officer and later stores officer. He was retired in December 2018 on medical grounds. He died in Lusaka in July 2019. He is sadly missed for his great sense of humour.

**Margaret Sameso** was a Grade 9 pupil on our Sponsorship programme. She was recruited when she was in her 3rd Grade. She was found dead in her bedroom in July 2019.