

Response Network Zambia

Annual Report 2021

Preamble

2021 was generally a challenging year for Response Network just like other organisations due to, firstly, the Covid 19 pandemic. We closed the office and worked virtually for about a month as a precautionary measure to ensure staff were safe. At the same time, field staff devised alternative means of implementing to ensure activities continued.

Secondly, it was a General Election year for Zambia and this meant that political campaigns were in full swing right from January up to August when the elections were held. The campaigns created divided attention as community members at time had to make a choice between RN meetings and political campaigns; unfortunately, the latter was the more attractive at the time. This equally had a slight impact on our programs.

Thirdly, due to change of Government, congratulations to Mr. Hakainde Hichilema who emerged victor with 58% majority win, there was a lot of uncertainty in Government line Ministries in the third quarter of implementation. Since we relate and implement our programs closely with these Ministries, there was also a slight impact on the programs.

Our programs in 2021, targeted the usual three districts of Kazungula, Zimba and Kalomo districts, while in Livingstone district, despite being the location of our offices, we only implemented the vulnerable girl's sponsorship program.

Generally, in spite of the above challenges, the programs and projects went on very well and all our donors were impressed in the manner we handled the challenging environment and still managed to implement.

Management and staff are greatly appreciative of the big role the board also played along these challenging times. The board was available and readily handy to offer support and advice.

. Staffing

In 2021, we had 16 full time staff and 24 community volunteers

Office Renovations

All the major renovations, as reported in the February update report have been done. In 2022 it will be some repairs and maintenance and fixing of tiles in the other offices that were not done in 2021.

Resource Centre construction.

The construction of the Resource Centre by December was on target as per the action plan.

Students Accommodation Project

We had still not identified a suitable plot to buy for the accommodation project. We are continually searching for suitable space and still committed to the idea.

Motor vehicles

Through a donation from Academic Work, we procured three motor vehicles which were handed over by Academic Work represented by Lina Tunek to the RN Board represented by Turid and Haakon via a virtual meeting on 10th September, 2021. Four Government officials attended namely; Three District Education Board Secretaries from Ministry of Education for Livingstone, Zimba, Kazungula districts and also the Community Development officer from the Ministry of Community Development in Zimba

Highlights on key programs and Implementation

Below is a summative of the various programs implemented during 2021.

a) Sports for Development program

2021 was the final year of implementation of the three years cooperative agreement with NIF. However, we were communicated to that there was gratefully an addition of one more year. In view of this instead of implementing an exit strategy as planned, we focused on further capacity building so that 2022 becomes the exit year instead. The program continued being implemented in Musebela, Kanyanga, Kakopa, Luyaba, Njabalombe and Kasikili areas of Kalomo and Zimba districts of Southern Zambia.

Under objective 1 and in line with enhancing awareness on safe sport practices to curb gender-based violence, covid-19, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. Our volunteers conducted follow up meetings to inspire, motivate and encourage communities and sports/teams on self-help activities, safe sports, HIV/Aids and drug abuse, through which 10,981 youths were reached out. This contributed to reduced sexual harassment/GBV, improved personal hygiene, and proper sanitation less new infection rate of HIV/AIDS and less spread of Covid-19 in our targeted communities. The Kicking Aids out trainings to 70 Youths (46m,24f) also led to enhanced shared knowledge on HIV/GBV, drug abuse and early marriages among youths. Additionally, 9 clubs developed safe sports policies bringing the total number of clubs with policies to 68 out of the 93 currently in existence. 5 clubs also constructed pit latrines at their sports facilities as a means of enhancing hygiene and safe sport. Under Objective 2 (Enhancing participation and leadership opportunities) Through 6 Active Youth and 6 youth lead courses conducted among 439 participants (242m/197f), there is, as a result, an increase in acceptance and tolerance to allow women to actively participate in sports as well as leadership. Women, as a result are taking up influential leadership positions, 42 women in 2021 were selected in different leadership roles and positions in the implementation area bring the total number from 2019 to 279 women holding leadership positions accumulatively. Through the YSEP, two volunteers inspired and encouraged youth, women and people with disabilities to take up sports as a result, we observed an increase in the number of youths taking sports. One of the volunteers established an Under 12, 14 and 16 tournament which created a platform for young people who were not fitting in the big persons' team to participate in sports.

Under objective three, (To establish, on self-help basis, basic accessible communal sport facilities, which are safe and conducive in rural targeted areas), we conducted 10 follow-up meetings with headmen and community stakeholders on the importance of sports clubs owning land exclusively for sports activities and safe and accessible communally. At the end of 2021, 9 new land documentation had been obtained bringing the total to 38 up to date of land secured for this purpose.

Under objective 4 (To link local sport structures and local sport administrators to district and national structures for affiliation in the targeted rural areas) we conducted 2 Networking meetings for the local sports administrators to 101 participants (59M, 42F of which 5PWD – 3M, 2F), Two networking meetings attracting 73(44M, 29F of which 3PWDs – 1M, 2F) participants that included Coaches, team Managers and team captains, one referee and umpire networking meeting aimed at sharing updated laws of the game. These activities led to exposure of local sports administrators to a clear understanding of how sports activities are managed at National level and what it takes to be affiliated to National Associations. These activities also created a platform where National Sports Council of Zambia (under the Provincial Sports Advisory Committee PSAC) and District Sports Advisory Committee (DSAC) discussed how the community could market the talented players and link them by registration or affiliation to National League structures.

Under objective five and the last one (To enhance knowledge of Response Network Staff in delivering a sustainable, safe and responsive sport programme in the targeted rural areas) we encouraged 9 (8M, 1F) sports community volunteers to continue to mobilize and implement follow-up of activities. Two of Response Network staff attended a Coach Developer training course aimed at developing individual skills and knowledge in order to cascade the knowledge to local coaches to develop and act as a support system to their peer coaches. The project directly reached out to 3, 079 (1, 952M, 1, 127F of which 101PWD – 63M, 38F) and indirectly reached out to 5, 893(3, 681M, 2, 212F of which 163PWD - 109M, 54F) through follow-up meetings by volunteers and the trainer of trainers within the targeted communities. There has been an improvement in IG A during the Covid-19 period as people managed to utilize their skills thus 69% of 93 sports clubs have different types of IGA.

b) Academic Work sponsorship, skills and Tertiary Program

Sponsorship

The sponsorship program was implemented in 43 schools with about about 611 children 11 of which are boys.

Tertiary

In 2021, 10 kubala girls benefitted from a budget for 6 girls under the tertiary budget in nursing and teaching courses. In 2020 we didn't have any enrolments as we did not receive funds from AW for tertiary. This was after making some adjustments in the costing and negotiations with the training institutions.

The sponsorship for the old students continued. Below is a summary of all the tertiary students at various levels of their studies; Nursing 12, Medicine 1, Accounts 1, Agriculture 1, Journalism 1, Pharmacy 1 and teaching 3.

Skills Training

In 2021 we recruited 15 girls into skills training in Tailoring (8) and (7) in tailoring at Livingstone Institute. At the same time 13 community members were recruited for skills training at Zimba skills.

c) Community Schools

In 2021, we planned for 6 projects under this program. Below is a summation of the progress on all the projects:

#	NAME OF SCHOOL	DISTRICT	CHIEF	2021 PROJECT	UPDATE ON THE PROJECTS BY DEC 2021
1	Siakabanze	Kalomo	Sipatunyana	CRB Extension	The extension is roofed and likely to be before March of 2022
2	Simbai	Zimba	Sipatunyana	CRB extension	The extension was completed, and 20 desks were delivered
3	Jokwe	Zimba	Simwatachela	Staff house	The teacher's house was roofed and will be completed when the rains minimize in 2022
4	Luyala	Kalomo	Sipatunyana	Staff house	The teacher s house was almost done only remaining with ruff casting and painting which will be done in 2022
5	Mukamba	Zimba	Simwatachela	Classroom extension and staff house	The teacher's house was completed
6	Chidilima	Zimba	Simwatachela	Classroom extension	The school extension was roofed

d) Village/Community education program

The Community Education project implementation was divided into a three phase approach thus year 1 aimed at addressing community mobilization, Goal Oriented Project Planning (GOPP) and Follow-ups; Year 2 to address thematic Capacity building and Follow-ups, and Year 3 to address sustainable Capacity building, linkages, follow-up and exit. Therefore, the year 2021 involved more community mobilization and GOPP activities.

The 2021 implementation period was characterized with adherence to Government stipulated Covid 19 prevention guidelines with gatherings restricted to not more than 50 people for an hour. During meetings, people observed health guidelines which included masking up, social distancing, washing of hands regularly and no touching/ shaking of hands. This affected our implementation coverage in terms of numbers being reached especially during GOPP workshops as some people stayed away because greater numbers were discouraged.

Below is a summary of the **implemented activities** during the period under review.

Planned Activity	Output	Outcome
Conduct Baseline and mapping	14 areas were surveyed for possible programme intervention.	10 areas were selected as program intervention centres.

Volunteers' Identification	51 potential volunteers applied and were interviewed	9 volunteers selected and engaged on the program
Training of Volunteers	1 training of engaged volunteers for program orientation	9 volunteers trained in mobilization, motivation, follow-up, and reporting skills
Training of 40 headmen and 40 secretaries	3 training held	92 (37 H/M and 37 Sec) trained in addition 18 influential community members
20 Sensitization meetings targeting 1, 500 people	17 meetings conducted reaching out to 2,008 people	150 self-help clubs were formed
20 Gopp workshops	17 Workshops conducted	568 members from 130 self-help clubs were trained on goal setting and problem-solving
Follow up all activities	Followed activities in all the 10 centers	130 clubs for various initiatives were motivated.
2 Stakeholders meeting	1 stakeholders meeting was Conducted	32 representatives from various stakeholders and key government departments appreciate RN programs

e) Norwegian Church Aid – Community Schools

This was an eight month project (May to Dec 2021) implemented by Response Network with funds from three Norwegian Schools namely; Slemmestad, Nesbru and Eidvoll. The Norwegians Schools fundraised the funds and sent to NCA Zambia and subsequently to Response Network with the goal of enhancing access to rural children to primary and secondary education.

Under objective 1, the raised funds were earmarked for construction of Schools in Namasute, Simusunge and Kabulanjovu on self-help basis, while under objective 2, the funds were earmarked for conducting rights-based self-help facilitation community mobilisation activities through which communities are motivated and encouraged to start up self-help activities and raising awareness on Sexual Reproductive and Health rights among boys and girls in the same target communities.

For 2021, the earmarked projects were an extension of a classroom block at Namasute to make it a 1 x 2 classroom block. The second earmarked project is a 1 x 1-classroom block at Kabulanjovu but further extended to a 1 x 2 classroom block and thirdly a staff house at Simusunge community school.

At the point of reporting, the 1x1 extension of classroom block at Namasute had been completed and ready for use in 2022. At Kabulanjovu, the 1x 2 classroom block is at rood level. However, the roof may not be put due to limited funds in the current year while at Simusunge, the teacher's house is at slab level and the delay was because of lack of water because the nearest water point is about 10km away.

Under the second objective, 257 people (118f/139m) were sensitised on the rights-based self-help approach and this led to increased awareness of human, sexual, and Reproductive Health Rights and improved hygiene and sanitation among girls and boys.

f) Kinder Not Hilfe – Save and Borrow

The program was successfully conducted resulting in the formation and maintenance of over 120 savings groups in various communities spread out in Zimba and Kazungula districts.

g) Together for Inclusion

We received additional funding other than the main Sport for Development funding which we directed towards reinforcing the 'Together for Inclusion' project activities from October to December. The extra funding was used for activities in Livingstone district (urban set up) in one Government school and in Zimba district (rural setup) targeting two rural Government schools.

Under the first objective which was to engage three more stakeholders to enhance the participation of children with disabilities in sports in Schools and communities, we conducted stakeholders' awareness meetings with Livingstone health district, Matimba Foundation and Zimba Community Development office and this led to improved synergies and in partnership with Matimba Spine Foundation, we created extensive sensitization on scoliosis. This disease affects a lot of school going children due to carrying heavy school bags for a long time without realizing it. Under the same objective, we recruited three additional schools in both Livingstone and Rural areas, thereby widening the catchment area and participation in inclusion. Participation in the World Disability Day in which over 200 info packs and participants were involved further created awareness of the project.

Under the second objective, which sought to enhance and gain political buy-in and support in providing inclusion opportunities for people with disabilities within the program targeted communities, we conducted meetings with traditional leaders, Civic leaders, and School administrative leaders and led to increased knowledge and understanding of the importance of inclusion especially in Schools. Though, special Unit sections are there in schools, they are in bad shape and poorly furnished.

In objective three, we envisaged to build the capacity of persons with disabilities and their families to advocate for their rights to participate. Under this objective, we conducted sensitization and awareness meetings on rights among parents with children with disabilities. Just like in objective one, this awareness led to more parents register and obtain disability cards for their children to access benefits and other programs from Government. Subsequently and within three months 30 of the 64 children with cards were on cash transfer Government program. The parents also engaged the schools with special education units and advocated for better facilities for their children in the target schools. Under the same objective, radio programs were conducted with selected DPOs representatives through which communities were sensitized and encouraged persons with disabilities to participate in sport and advocate for their rights,

In objective four, the aim was to build the capacity of sports leaders, coaches, peer leaders, teachers, administrators to implement inclusive sports activities within their communities and school programs for children/youth with disabilities. In order to meet the objective, sports and life skills trainings were conducted among 15 (6f, 9m) sports leaders, coaches, peer leaders, teachers and administrators. This led to increased understanding of persons with disabilities and their challenges by the service providers. To further support this, sporting equipment adapted for children with disabilities was procured in all the targeted schools. Under the same objective, we conducted a local inclusive sports festival in which 100 (57f,43m) children with disabilities, parents, teachers and other abled children participated. This led to more awareness of children with disabilities' right to participate in community sports activities. Children also found the platform interactive, and parents were able to share experiences and challenges thereby supporting each other morally.

In the fifth and last objective, the project aimed at creating an exit strategy and promoting and engaging in the Kicking Out Covid 19 initiative among children/youth with disabilities and their caregivers. RN trained 7 coaches in Covid 19 risk assessment and several trainings on Covid 19 regulations and how to handle children with disabilities in the Covid era. It was evident that the information was beneficial because in spite of so much information on Covid most parents exhibited ignorance in a lot of issues surrounding Covid 19.

h) Ready to Earn – Comic Relief

This program targeted young women who were involved in sports so that they are economically empowered. We therefore interviewed young women in the areas we had and are still running the sports for Development program. The target of the program is to track 45 young women over a period of 3 years in the economic empowerment program. 45 young women were therefore enrolled into agriculture and tailoring courses. 19 were enrolled in Agriculture while 26 were enrolled in tailoring. By the end of the year all the 46 students were in school and doing well so far.

