



Zambia

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Location

Mwandi, Zambia

Partner

United Church of Zambia

The Situation

The standard of living in Mwandi is below average for Zambia, one of the poorest nations in Africa. HIV/AIDS has devastated the village of Mwandi where the rate of infection stands at 35%. This has resulted in an estimated 1,300 orphans and vulnerable children. These children are usually left to the care of elderly grandparents who do not have the means to provide for them.

Mwandi has been greatly affected by drought in recent years. Rainfall varies considerably from year to year making it difficult for farmers to plan ahead, leading to widespread hunger and poverty.

The Project

The Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Centre provides the village's orphans with holistic care through nutritional, educational, social and

spiritual support. The drop-in centre provides children with nourishing meals each day. They are also provided with multi-vitamins, oral care, monthly health checks and recreation and educational activities.

In the education program, over 700 children are supported to attend school.

The project oversees 1,500 children from the village in an effort to ensure that the needs of all children are met. The project also works to build HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention through meetings, home visits and education activities.

Achievements

The successful feeding program cares for around 270 children. The vegetable garden produces fresh produce that is used for the program and sold within the community.

Counsellors, trained by the project, help children with emotional, psychosocial, social and behavioural problems associated with the loss of their parents.

A sewing centre and a carpentry centre have been established to teach vocational skills and the first students have graduated from this program.

OVC supports over 700 children in primary and high schools as well as several at university.





The Future

Work at the centre will continue to support the community which is still affected by HIV/AIDS. Special focus is given to vulnerable children, including children with only one parent and orphans.

The nutrition, education and social support programs will continue to reach out to the community.

In order to ensure the sustainability of this initiative, UnitingWorld is supporting the project to invest in the production and commercialisation of chicken and beef. Funding will be increased over the next few years to ensure that this initiative will be able to support the centre into the future.

Get Involved

We invite you to get involved with the project by supporting the work financially, receiving regular updates and praying for the success of the project.



Contact UnitingWorld

Address: PO Box A2266
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Phone: +61 2 8267 4265
Web: www.unitingworld.org.au

Yes, I'd like to help provide education and nutrition for orphans and vulnerable children in Mwandia.

I would like to make a one off gift of:

\$40 \$80 \$200 \$500 Other \$ _____

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Name _____

Address _____

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Daytime Telephone () _____

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Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet the needs of the OVC project UnitingWorld will use the excess funds to help people involved in similar projects.

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