

Annual Report 2022



CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	2
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR	3
2022 HIGHLIGHTS	4
EDUCATION	5
HEALTH & NUTRITION	12
CHILD PROTECTION	19
ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING	23
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	26
CONCLUSION	28

ACRONYMS

ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CAB	Child Advisory Board
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ES	Economic Strengthening
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGA	Income Generating Activity
OSSG	Out of School Study Group
OVC	Orphaned and Vulnerable Children
PTCE	Part time Continuing Education
SILC	Savings Internal Lending Communities

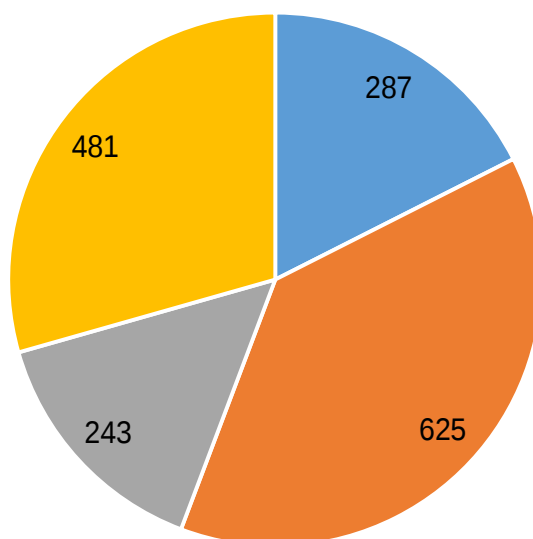
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was such a great relief to come to the end of yet another successful year. The environment was calm considering how difficult it was to pull through 2021 because of covid-19. The funding terrain remained depressed after covid - 19 as donors were beginning to think of recovery strategies and how they can continue to support non-profit organizations such as Chiedza. Although Chiedza did not secure significant new funding in 2022, it was commendable that with the available resources, key services were offered to the beneficiaries. Notably, Chiedza continued to provide access to education, protection, health, nutrition, and economic strengthening services to orphaned, vulnerable children, young people, and their families. Significantly 2022, was year of reflection for Chiedza when the stakeholders resolved to rebrand from the name Chiedza Child Care Centre to Chiedza. This was an exciting time where all stakeholders agreed that after almost 20 years in existence, it was the right time to consider rebranding. The process also gave the organization an opportunity to refine its objectives so that they align with the current scope of work.

While funding dwindled and challenged the existence of community-based organizations such as Chiedza, we managed to adapt and ensured the organization continued with core staff supported by interns and community volunteers. The adaptation made us ready to face 2023!

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Reach by Intervention area



■ Education ■ Health and Nutrition ■ Child Protection ■ Economic Strengthening

EDUCATION

The organization continued to ensure access to education for orphans and vulnerable children and young people reaching out to the following numbers in 2022:

Intervention area	Female	Male	Total
Early Childhood Education (ECD) in Harare South	11	13	24
Formal primary education in Harare South district	13	7	20
Formal Secondary education in Harare South district	10	8	18
Out of school study group (OSSG) primary in Harare South district	45	59	104
Part-time continuing education (PTCE) secondary in Harare South district	42	43	85
Tertiary education	5	3	8
Vocational skills training	21	7	28
Total	147	140	287

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

24 (11f:13m) vulnerable children were supported to have access to early childhood development (ECD). The organization provides ECD learning facilities to orphaned and other vulnerable children (OVC) whose families cannot afford to pay for them in conventional schools and would otherwise miss the opportunity to get this important educational foundation for any child. 15 (18f:7m) of the children graduated and successfully transitioned to grade one where we are positive that they will excel following the foundation that was laid.



ECD learners participating in class.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS EDUCATION FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN-PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS

Education is a right for all children. Orphans and vulnerable children fail to access education due to various difficult circumstances that they encounter. The organization provided 104(59m:45f) primary school learners with a second chance to access education during the 2022 academic year through the Out of School Study Group (OSSG) initiative. These are children who would have dropped out of school, others would have never been in school at the age of eight.

The children benefitted through acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills offered through accelerated learning. At the end of the year a performance assessment was carried out and 32 (21m/11F) were recommended for reintegration into formal schools with others transitioning to higher levels at the centre.



Primary school learners concentrating in class.

RESTORED HOPE FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN WHO DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL BEFORE COMPLETING SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Part Time Continuing Education (PTCE) program managed to offer a chance to access education to 85 (42F:43M) secondary school learners. The PTCE program offers an opportunity for learners who would have dropped out of school, could not transition from primary to secondary, failed and would want a second chance to complete secondary school but their families could not afford. It also offers an opportunity to girls whose education was disrupted by early marriages and need another chance. The organization helped to restore the lost hope by providing access to education for these learners. Having been out of school, some of the learners had been exposed to anti-social behaviour and have been going through various trainings to groom them and shape them into better individuals.



2022 Form 4 Learners during a study session

DIRECT SCHOOL FEES PAYMENT FOR LEARNERS IN CONVENTIONAL SCHOOLS

School fees was paid for 20 primary school learners reintegrated in conventional primary schools for their continued access to education. Failure by parents to provide school fees is the reason why learners drop out of school in the first place. The support with school fees for two years by the organization post reintegration avoids learners dropping out once again as the caregivers are working to be able to support their children's education.

Direct school fees support was offered to 18 secondary school learners in conventional schools. These are OSSG beneficiaries who were supported to transition to secondary school by the organization after passing their Grade seven. 16 (9f:7m) learners were supported with examination fees to sit for the national ordinary level examinations and 2(1f:1m) for the advanced level examinations. Examination fees has been another huge barrier for OVC's access to education as parents fail to raise the required fees.

PROGRESSING INTO BRIGHTER FUTURES

The future is becoming even brighter for the supported learners with 2(1f:1m) of the learners who sat for ordinary level examinations in 2021 passing and progressing to advanced. It was a dream come true for these 2 learners who at one point thought they will never make it in life. They now have renewed hope and are looking into the future with much hope.

DREAMS COME TRUE AS LEARNERS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS GO FOR DEGREES

It is encouraging for the organization to keep supporting the OVC as some positive impact is being noted on these children's lives . In 2022 one female learner graduated with a BA Honors degree in Philosophy at University of Zimbabwe, another female learner enrolled at Great Zimbabwe University for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Development studies. The total number of learners who came from the organization's PTCE program supported in tertiary institutions by year 2022 is 9(6f:3m).

IMPROVING YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMPLOYABILITY THROUGH VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

Not everyone is academically gifted, but everyone can learn a skill and be able to put it to use, as such Chiedza partnered with vocational skills training institutions to give young people a chance to acquire a skill thereby improving their chances of being employed. 34(24f:10m) young people were supported to acquire a skill in 2022. 10 girls were at Rafiki Girls, 9 other young people were at Young Africa and the other 15 at various vocational skills training institutions.



One of the vocational skills training graduates

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON ART RETAINED IN TREATMENT CARE AND SUPPORT

i) Adolescent support group meetings- The organization supported five clinics in Harare South district to hold support group meetings reaching out to 84 (48f:36m) adolescents and young people. The meetings provided the much-needed psychosocial support to the adolescents who used the platform to inspire each other. A get together for adolescents and young people from the five clinics was organised at year end where 51 (37f:14m) adolescents came together to further inspire each other and encourage each other on how to live positively and be like any other adolescent out there with only the sky being the limit.

ii) Clinic Support- Stationery was provided to six clinics (Hopely Tariro, Mbare poly-Edith, Mbare hostels, Mbare Matapi, Sunningdale, and Waterfalls) in the form of reporting forms, pens, files, staplers, staples, punchers, manilla sheets, markers, bond paper, etc. The stationery went a long way in ensuring provision of treatment services to 642 children living with HIV being served by these clinics and other people in need of health services in those communities. The clinics were also supported with tea provisions for staff motivation.

iii) Drug storage facility for Hopely Tariro clinic - A fridge was provided to the health facility for storage of an ART drug for infants, kaletra. The absence of a storage facility was hindering access to treatment for children from the communities served by this health facility as they had to travel to other health facilities bringing in the transport cost variable also.

The health facility could now provide the drug to the infants who needed it without referring. The health facility serves approximately 195 children who are HIV positive.

iv) Care and support through home visits - adherence support was offered to 188 (91f:97m) children living with HIV through home visits by trained community volunteers using the case management approach. During the home visits the community volunteers discussed with caregivers and their children on the importance of adherence and ways of improving adherence. Of the 188 cases followed up only 4 were reported to be having challenges in adhering to treatment and these were assisted. The home visits also enabled the identification of various child welfare issues affecting children living with HIV and interventions to address them. One such case assisted is of a 10-year-old girl living with disability who was out of school and having mobility challenges. The young girl was assisted with a wheelchair and referred for education assistance at Jairos Jiri where she was successfully enrolled.

v) Caregivers' Disclosure sessions-95(87f:8m) caregivers were engaged in sessions to discuss the importance of early HIV status disclosure to children. The sessions facilitated by primary care counsellors from the clinics stressed on the role of the caregivers and also sought to equip the caregivers with basic facts about HIV so that they can be in a position to fully explain to children about their status. Limited knowledge was identified as one of the barriers to disclosure hence the need to address this. The intervention benefitted 95 children on ART and other families which the caregivers passed on the information to, in their communities.

It was necessitated by the realization that most children on ART were not disclosed to and were struggling to understand why they were taking medication hence ending up defaulting.



Spreading the word on importance of disclosure

PROVISION OF NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO LEARNERS

Learners coming to access lessons at the centre were served two nutritious meals a day for five days a week. The organization targets children coming from resource constrained households which are struggling to put food on the table. With support from well-wishers who include individuals, churches, corporates, organizations and even schools the organization has been running a soup kitchen which managed to provide meals to a total of 230 (117m:113f) children. The organization supplements donations from well-wishers with vegetables from the garden at the centre.

The nutrition support has helped retain learners in school and also contributed towards positive education as well as health outcomes.



A learner happy to receive her lunch portion

ESTABLISHING CHILDREN'S NUTRITION STATUS FOR RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS

The organization engaged nutritionists from Harare City Health, Nutrition department for an assessment of children's nutrition status, these are children accessing the soup kitchen at the centre. 178 children were assessed, 84 females and 94 boys. Results were insightful and useful recommendations were made by the Nutritionists which were used to improve the service to beneficiaries. Following the recommendations breakfast time had to be shifted from 10am to 7:30am so that learners receive food before lessons in order to improve their concentration in class.



Leaner's nutrition assessments

CAREGIVERS EQUIPPED WITH INFORMATION ON NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN'S NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING

63(61f:2m) caregivers of children infected by HIV received nutrition training focusing on recommended infant and young children feeding practices in the context of HIV, seeking also to educate caregivers on the nutritional management of HIV-related symptoms, relationship between nutrition and HIV and to enlighten caregivers on the four-star diet and meal enrichments. With nutrition being one of the important pillars of anti-retroviral treatment, the trainings were meant to equip the caregivers with the necessary knowledge to provide their children with good nutrition resulting in improved well-being. Training the caregivers ensures nutrition behaviour change amongst the caregivers resulting in well-nourished children whose immune system can defend illnesses.

PROVISION OF FOOD PACKS FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH NUTRITION CHALLENGES

38 households with children on antiretroviral treatment (ART) and 11 granny headed households benefitted from the distribution of dry food-packs inclusive of 1kg soya-chunks, 10kg mealie meal, 1 litre peanut butter, 2kg dried beans and 2 litres cooking oil. The food packs were distributed after every 2 months benefitting 105 other children in the households and 113 adults. Beneficiaries were so grateful for the intervention which they said lessened the burden in difficult times and ensured that children continue to take their medication. The targeted grannies appreciated the initiative saying it brought relief to them in terms of looking after their grandchildren.



Food packs for granny headed households

CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD SENSITIVE CASE MANAGEMENT FOR BETTER LIVES

Various cases involving children were handled in the child protection department. The cases were as outlined below.

CASE TYPE	No. OF CASES HANDLED
School absenteeism	3
Delinquency	4
Bereavement	1
Bullying	1
Child Sexual Abuse	2
Conflict with caregiver	2
Total	13

Children and caregivers were counselled as per need in all cases, referrals were made to other stakeholders for assistance in the child sexual abuse cases and the necessary assistance was received.

FULFILLING THE RIGHT TO IDENTITY FOR CHILDREN

Getting a birth certificate can be a mammoth task for orphans and vulnerable children, hindering them from accessing basic services such as education and full participation in sporting competitions. A total of 11 individuals (5m;6f) were assisted to get birth certificates. The support involved assistance with search fees for birth records, transport money to places of birth for collection of birth record and to the registrar's office. Complicated cases were those where the parents themselves did not have identity documents.

SUCCESS STORY

Patricia is a 36 year old female who resides in Retreat Park in Harare South. At the age of 36 Patricia was one of the many Zimbabweans who had no identity documents due to the nature of her upbringing. Her parents passed away when she was still young and she was left in the care of her maternal grandmother who cared for her. While in the care of her grandmother she never received any form of education. At the age of 8 her grandmother passed away and she went into the care of her grandmother's friend for a couple of years until she got married in the year 2002 at the age of 16. She bore 4 children but because she had no identity documents, she could not acquire birth certificates for her children too. In the year 2017 her husband passed away leaving her with the responsibility of taking care of her children with no stable income. Besides not being eligible for formal employment she also could not have access to many welfare programs being carried out in her community. She then resorted to vending as a way of generating income for her family. She was then introduced to Chiedza where 2 of her children were enrolled in school and this was the beginning of her journey to acquiring identity documents for herself and her children. In 2022 Patricia received financial assistance to enable her to travel and acquire all the necessary documents needed for her to acquire a birth certificate which she did and later on managed to get a national ID card. She was then able to go and acquire birth certificates for all her 4 children which she successfully did in September 2022.



A dream came true for Patricia

CAPACITATING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S NEEDS

The organization works with 20 (female) community volunteers' resident in the served communities. These are responsible for identifying children in need of the organization's services as well as relaying information between communities and the organization. The community volunteers identified birth registration as a major challenge being faced by many OVC in the communities. As such they requested to be equipped with information on the birth registration process to enable them to advise caregivers and refer cases accordingly. The Registrar General's office was engaged, and they sensitized all the 20 community volunteers on the registration process helping them to be able to assist communities with relevant and reliable information on birth registration. The trained community volunteers provided case management services to 188 (91f:97m) children.

FACILITATING THE DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE PLATFORM

Chiedza strongly believes in the power of networking and sharing ideas. The organization made a conscious decision to support holding of quarterly meetings by the Child Protection Committee in Harare South district. Refreshments were provided for 4 meetings. The meeting created a platform for approximately 25 stakeholder representatives to meet and share on what each one was doing, sharing ideas on how to tackle the various child protection issues and strengthening the referral pathways amongst the stakeholders. These were stakeholders working on child protection in the district.

PROMOTING THE CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION

Chiedza has a critical role to promote and uphold the rights of children including the right to participation. As such, in a bid to ensure that the organization address the felt needs of children being served, a child advisory board was formed. The board consisted of 10(5f:5m) child representatives who serve as the voice for all the children being assisted. In 2022 the child advisory board forwarded various concerns, issues and initiatives which the children wanted management to consider, and they were actioned.

CAB members during one of their meetings



ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

As a sustainability measure, the organization engages caregivers of the targeted beneficiaries in economic strengthening initiatives. Caregivers are trained in a savings methodology after which they form savings groups, they save their little resources and lend to each other as capital for income generating projects. The organization offers technical support and monitors the savings groups.

Caregivers trained in Savings Internal Lending Communities (SILC)

128(122f:6m) caregivers were trained in a savings methodology with all of them successfully joining savings groups where they became active participants. These are caregivers of children enrolled to benefit from education support and the health and nutrition programs in 2022, they were adding on to 101 caregivers of beneficiaries from previous years who continued to receive support in 2022. Being a member of a savings group enables caregivers to save the little funds they get and access capital at very minimal interest to start a project of their own. Having an income generating project helps improve household income enabling the caregivers to contribute to their children's needs in the form of educational, health, nutrition and other basic needs. It is important for the caregivers to be able to provide for their children as this ensures continuity of projects investment in the event that project support comes to an end.

Income Generating Activity (IGA) Specific Skills Training

To equip caregivers with knowledge and skills to run IGAs a total of 170 (162:8m) were trained on detergents, floor polish and petroleum jelly making. The caregivers suggested these as some of the low capital projects that are viable in their communities. In addition to these caregivers also engaged in buying and selling of second-hand clothes and fruit and vegetables vending.



Caregivers paying attention during a petroleum jelly making training



Happy to showcase the final product.

Provision of boost up capital

To boost the income generating projects started by caregivers, provision was made for them to access boost up capital funds at zero interest. 82(78f;4m) caregivers benefitted and they applauded the initiative as it enabled them to strengthen their IGAs whilst being able to also provide for the household needs.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at December 31, 2022

	Dec-22 US\$	Dec-21 US\$
ASSETS		
Non current assets	-	
Property, plant and equipment	-	-
Financial assets-RBZ treasury bills	-	-
Current assets	181 405	246 608
Project advances		
Cash and cash equivalents	181 405	246 608
Total assets	181 405	246 608
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Equity	178 777	245 436
Retained earnings/(loss)	178 777	245 436
Non-current liabilities	-	-
	-	-
Current liabilities	2 628	1 172
Trade and other payables	2 628	1 172
Taxation liability	-	-
Total Equity and liabilities	181 405	246 608

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUNDS
for the year ended December 31, 2022.

	Dec-22	Dec-21
Balance as at beginning of the year	245 436	345 205
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(66 659)	(99 769)
Balance as at end of year	<u>178 777</u>	<u>245 436</u>



CONCLUSION

Chiedza wishes to acknowledge the support of the board, management, staff, funders, government departments, individuals, and the beneficiaries who made the year 2022 a success.



CHIEDZA
BE THE LIGHT!



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