**‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world’. Nelson Mandela**

**Early Childhood Development**

As a response to the global need for early learning, Chiedza offers Early Childhood Development education though its centre registered under the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. It has the capacity o accommodating 40 children at each given time. The objective is to support orphans and vulnerable children in attaining early childhood development education within the Harare South community targeting children from Mbare, Waterfalls and Retreat.

**Non-Formal Education (Accelerated Learning Program and Part Time Continuing Education)**

In line with the National Non-Formal Education Policy for Zimbabwe (2015), Chiedza Child Care Centre supports children to access non-formal education through its centre based Accelerated Learning program which targets primary school children who are out of school aged between 9 and 15. They are taught basic literacy and numeracy skills by volunteer qualified teachers and guided by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. The primary school course compresses and categorises the 8 years of primary education into three levels, that is,  Level One (preschool-Grade 2) , Level Two (Grade 3 to 5 and Level Three (Grade 6 and 7).The children are later reintegrated to government schools for completing their primary education. Part Time Continuing Education targets secondary school learners, between 14 and 18, who are out of school and are taught by qualified volunteer facilitators. They are mentored for examinations and write examinations as external candidates at the nearby schools. Support towards ensuring access to non-formal education through Part Time Continuing Education extends to Zvimba District.

**Sponsorship Program**

The organisation reaches to a significant number of children through its non-formal education program. These are supported for furtherance of their education through different individuals who have different specifications of children they need to support. Specifications vary from gender, aptitude, age, level of education and number supported. This is the sponsorship program. Children are being supported to complete different levels of education including Advanced level studies and tertiary education. Visit our \***Donate Now**\* page to support children access education and complete their different level of education.

**Vocational Training**

Not all children are academically gifted. Chiedza Child Care Centre takes this into cognisance as it reaches out to orphans and vulnerable children with support towards access to education. The organisation works with organisations and institutions that offer vocational training to youths and refers the children that will have graduated from non-formal education program (primary and secondary).

**Inclusive education**

Chiedza is committed to providing equal opportunities for all children to access an education and for children in school to fully engage with the education processes. Chiedza works in communities to promote the rights of children with disabilities through early identification, awareness on specific infrastructure requirements, offering additional training that teachers need to understand and referrals to specialised services.

The Education Department’s focus is ensuring access to education to orphans and vulnerable children. Support is through early childhood development education; direct school fees payment; accelerated learning for primary school children that have never attended school by age 9 or that dropped out before completing primary education; non-formal education for secondary school learners that failed to transit from primary to secondary and those that dropped out before completing secondary level; capacity building of teachers, nonteaching staff, school development committee members, community case care workers and local leaders to champion the rights of children with disabilities and provision of learning and teaching material in selected schools offering part time continuing education. The interventions are as explained below.

 **Out of School Study Group (OSSG)**

This intervention was necessitated by the notably significant number of children loitering in the suburbs of Harare where the organisation is operating in. The out of school study group offers accelerated learning for primary scholars providing basic literacy and numeric skills to children between the ages of 9 to 15 years who never attended school by age 9 or who have been out of school for at least one year before completing primary level education.  The community study group offers accelerated learning to children for a period between 6 to 24 months in preparation for reintegration into the formal schools. The primary school course compresses and categorises the 8 years of primary education into three levels, that is,  Level One (preschool-Grade 3) , Level Two (Grade 4 and 5, Level Three (Grade 6 and 7). Children have successfully been reintegrated and progressing with their education through this non-formal education program.

**Part Time Continuing Education (PTCE)**

The PTCE program is run in public schools and the learners are taught by qualified existing teachers within the schools. The OSSG expanded in 2014 targeting secondary school learners between the ages of 13 to 18 who failed to complete secondary education or who did not have the opportunity to proceed to secondary. The aim is assisting children attain a basic secondary certificate which will help them for entry into tertiary or vocational training. Currently the organization is supporting PTCE programs in four selected schools in Zvimba and 1 PTCE site at Chiedza Centre. Support for PTCE includes payment of facilitators’ stipends, procurement of teaching and learning material for PTCE and provision of a grant for income generation to the PTCE sites as a sustainability strategy for the project.

**Direct fees payment**

As learners graduate from the out of school study group, they are reintegrated into government school where the organization has committed to assist parents and caregivers in payment of school fees for the first year after reintegration. Direct fees payment has contributed to retention of learners in school.  There are also individual sponsors and donors who help the centre offer educational assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children in secondary school and some learners have progressed through to advanced level. The package includes school fees, stationery, and uniforms.