



Cosmos Education Zambia

Learn Engage
CHANGE

Annual Report



Activities



Conducted in 2005

Prepared For: Cosmos Education Members/Volunteers Worldwide

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Cosmos Education Zambia (CEZ) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting science and technology education among youth in Zambia. CEZ is a registered organization (ORS/102/35/3017) under Section 7 of the Societies Act of the Republic of Zambia.

Throughout the previous year, CEZ has been actively involved in implementing Lesson For Life in its selected schools throughout the country. It has done so with the intention of stimulating discussions that will allow children to be empowered partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through its various Lesson For Life activities, CEZ has consequently become a catalyst in generating an awareness of the Lesson For Life behaviour change approach in addition to raising awareness of the Global Movement for Children (GMC).

The manner that Cosmos Education Zambia has been involved in the Lesson For Life campaign has been in several capacities. These can be divided into those Lesson For Life activities that have been conducted solely by Cosmos Education Zambia and those activities that Cosmos Education Zambia has conducted in partnership with other GMC organizations.

This past year, Cosmos Education Zambia has been actively involved in sensitizing youth to the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and the objectives of the Global Movement for Children. Cosmos Education Zambia has undertaken a wide range of activities in schools, orphanages, and youth centers in addition to conducting activities at widely-publicized community events.

1.1 Lesson For Life Activities Conducted Solely by Cosmos Education Zambia

In the first six months of 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia focused its sensitisation discussions in schools in the Lusaka area. CEZ primarily targeted basic schools and conducted activities aimed at creating inter-generational dialogue on HIV/AIDS. Roughly 250 youth participated in activities that were heavily embedded with the Lesson For Life approach and the objectives of the Global Movement for Children.

In May-June 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia sent a team of volunteers to our sister branch, Cosmos Education Kenya, in Nairobi and surrounding areas. During their five-week stay in Kenya, Zambian Cosmos Education volunteers were trained to facilitate discussions on science/technology education in addition to discussions on HIV/AIDS using a Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) approach, an approach that is clearly used in the Lesson For Life approach. This on-the-job training was in part of Cosmos Education's annual Under African Skies (UAS) mission. The UAS target in both Zambia and Kenya is to meet and surpass its previous reach of community centers, schools, and orphanages in each respective country. In each site visit, Cosmos Education vol-

unteers conducted hands-on learning activities that emphasized the importance of science and technology education. To accompany these activities, Cosmos Education volunteers conducted Lesson For Life sessions with youth to ensure that the critical issue of HIV/AIDS is not left out of the discussions on science and technology.

In July 2005, Cosmos Education conducted its Under African Skies (UAS) mission in Zambia. Assisted with volunteers from our sister branches in the United Kingdom, Kenya, and the USA, Cosmos Education Zambia was able to cover nearly 40 schools, orphanages, and youth centers in Lusaka Province and Luapula Province. In each school, orphanage, and youth center, a small Lesson For Life was conducted with youth. Though unsuccessful in reaching all schools previously covered by Cosmos Education, we were able to expand our school visits to a longer period and really engage youth in adopting the Lesson For Life behaviour change approach.

After completing both UAS missions (in both Kenya and Zambia), Cosmos Education volunteers drafted "Lessons Learned" Reports and "Conducted Activities" Reports. From these reports, Cosmos Education Zambia was able to devise a facilitator's guide that would accompany the Lesson For Life activity packet. This facilitator's guide aimed at making the Lesson For Life discussions more sensitive to Zambia and empower youth and teachers to adopt the Lesson For Life approach as the standard approach for discussions on HIV/AIDS.

1.2 Lesson For Life Activities Conducted In Partnership with GMC Organizations

Cosmos Education Zambia's partnership with other organizations has been a key way that the organization has managed to improve its understanding and ability to implement the Lesson For Life approach. In 2004 and early 2005, CEZ worked with the SHARES program to establish a partnership between college youth and youth in secondary and basic schools.

On 16 June 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia worked in partnership with the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF) to conduct a Lesson For Life session at the Day of the African Child activities. The event was held under the theme, "Africa's Orphans: Our Collective Responsibility," and so made the Lesson For Life geared more towards the issues surrounding orphans and vulnerable children. After conducting the Lesson For Life, CEZ facilitators felt it necessary to create a report on the level of knowledge held by the youth in addition to the listing the difficulties that we faced as facilitators. This report proved critical in our overall assessment of the Lesson For Life activity packet. In short, the Lesson For Life session encouraged us to compile the feedback that we received from our volunteers who participated in the Under African Skies missions

in Kenya and Zambia and devise a facilitator's guide for the Lesson For Life activity packet.

In early August, Cosmos Education Zambia volunteers worked extensively to enhance and improve the facilitator's guide. We shared the guide with staff from CARE International, another GMC partner, and provided them with a brief overview on the Lesson For Life. CARE International was very content with our facilitator's guide and our feedback on how to conduct Lesson For Life sessions. With our input, CARE International enhanced its preparation to implement the Lesson For Life in their community schools.

Cosmos Education Zambia also assisted staff at the Ministry of Education in disseminating information on the Lesson For Life. In our visit to the Ministry of Education, CEZ reviewed the Activity Pack as well as our facilitator's guide. The Ministry then informed us of a similar guide that has been printed and of which training of teacher sessions have been conducted. This guide is titled, "Interactive Methodologies in Discussing HIV/AIDS." Nevertheless, the Ministry assured CEZ that when letters to Provincial Education Officers would be sent out on the Lesson For Life, they would emphasize areas covered in CEZ's facilitator's guide (mainly those activities that target successful life skills).

July and August also marked important months in the formation of the national coalition for the Global Movement for Children. Again, Cosmos Education Zambia took an active role in ensuring that GMC meetings were productive and effective. To this date, CEZ has compiled minutes and contact information for organizational representatives nearly every GMC meeting. Moreover, CEZ also prepared the proposal for the GMC main advocacy event to be held on 2nd December 2005 and has sought financial support on behalf of the event. With CEZ's active participation, the GMC national coalition has now surpassed over 35 organizations. In short, CEZ is committed to making the Global Movement of Children an effective working partnership.

Cosmos Education Zambia's involvement in the 2nd Annual International Students' Conference on AIDS also proved effective on behalf of the Lesson For Life campaign and the Global Movement for Children. On 18 July 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia conducted a seminar on the activities that the organization was doing with respect to the Lesson For Life campaign and the Global Movement for Children. Our seminar was quite effective in that it raised awareness of a global campaign on HIV/AIDS and youth. Attendees were very interested in learning about the Lesson For Life campaign and highly praised CEZ for its current work.

In September, Cosmos Education Zambia again partnered with UNICEF for the Millen-

nium Development Goal race on 1 October 2005. CEZ designed three banners that had the GMC logo and theme, "Uniting Our Efforts to Build a World Fit for Children." The banners were quite colorful and drew a lot of attention at the MDG Race itself. In addition, CEZ also designed leaflets that had information on the GMC and Lesson For Life as well as some statistics on gender inequality and HIV/AIDS in Zambia. At the MDG Race, Cosmos Education Zambia conducted a Lesson For Life session with attending youth at the Race. Roughly 80 children were reached in our Lesson For Life sessions, but far more were made aware of the GMC and Lesson For Life.

On 21 October 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia partnered with UNICEF to conduct a Lesson For Life session at the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and Child Development's Sports Festival. The Sports Festival took place in various areas throughout Lusaka, but UNICEF covered only one zone. On behalf of UNICEF, Cosmos Education Zambia conducted a Lesson For Life session with nearly 130 youth from the community. The session itself was highly lauded by the various adults present and was considered by CEZ facilitators as one of their best Lesson For Life sessions.

On 26 October 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia worked in partnership with the national coalition for the Global Movement for Children to conduct a dialogue session between children and the Honourable Sylvia Masebo, Minister of Health. Prior to the session, CEZ conducted a small Lesson For Life session with attending youth to sensitize them on the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS, procurement of pediatrics ARVs, and the legal impediments they face in pursuing VCT. The event itself proved to be very effective in terms of policy. Honourable Masebo not only encouraged youth to pursue VCT (of which this made a headline in *The Post Newspaper*) but also stated that she would issue a declaration to all government health centers/clinics that no child should be turned away because he/she cannot pay.

On 27 October 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia again worked in partnership with the GMC national coalition to conduct a dialogue session between children and the Honourable George Chulumanda, Minister of Sport, Youth, and Child Development. CEZ also conducted a Lesson For Life session with attending youth. The topics discussed were mainly centered on the role of the government with respect to orphans and vulnerable children. Though productive, the dialogue session did not generate much publicity in the press. This was mainly in part to the fact that the Minister himself could not attend and instead sent his deputy minister to represent him.

The official Launch of the Lesson For Life campaign took place on 29 October 2005 at Kalingalinga Health Center as a part of the Health Center's Fun Fair and Advocacy Event for Pediatric ARVs. The Launch was initiated by Mr. Martin Silutongwe, National Director of World Vision Zambia. As the Chairman of the Secretariat for the Global

Movement for Children (GMC), Mr. Silutongwe described the background behind the GMC and the Lesson For Life. The Honourable Sylvia Masebo, Minister of Health, also presented her comments via National AIDS Council Director, Dr. Ben Chirwa. In her comments, Ms. Masebo stressed the importance of ARVs and the close connection that the Lesson For Life campaign has in advocating for HIV-infected individuals to pursue ARVs. The Lesson For Life launch then culminated in a Lesson For Life discussion.

Cosmos Education Zambia in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) facilitated the discussions on HIV/AIDS. The discussions were limited primarily to Nyanja and Bemba due to the children's limited understanding of English. The discussions focused mainly on mode of transmission, the significance/effects of HIV/AIDS, stigma/discrimination, and identifying ways that children can protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. The discussions employed the use of question-answer sessions as well as games and visual demonstrations. The entire Lesson For Life session culminated in children drafting "Good News" reports on what they learned about HIV/AIDS and what they will do in the months/years to come to prevent themselves and others from getting HIV/AIDS. Esther Musonda, age 12, from Kalingalinga School also received a scholarship provided by Mama Kankasa, a highly-regarded freedom fighter during Zambia's Independence, for a school in Kabulonga. Because of her active participation in the Lesson For Life session, facilitators felt that Esther would best benefit from the scholarship, which will provide her with three years (grades 6-9) of free education.

On 3rd November 2005, the national coalition for the Global Movement for Children conducted its third and final dialogue session between children and a minister. This time the minister was the Honourable Brian Chituwo, Minister of Education. The session was well organized and coordinated as organizations had a week to empower their children to ask thought-provoking questions that could lead to a clarification or even modification in current policy. On the day of the event, Cosmos Education Zambia was again invited to provide a Lesson For Life session with attending youth.

The following day, 4th November 2005, Cosmos Education Zambia worked in partnership with CARE International to conduct Lesson For Life activities in Garden Compound in Lusaka. Roughly 130 children attending a sports tournament between Chaisa, Garden and Ng'ombe compounds participated in a three-hour Lesson For Life session. Overall, the event proved to be a major success in boosting understanding levels on the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and the GMC objectives.

On 2nd December, Cosmos Education Zambia in partnership with other GMC organizations organized its Main Advocacy Event. The event was designed to provide recommendations to the National AIDS Council on issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and

youth. Cosmos Education Zambia took on a major role in ensuring that the Event's programme was well-organized and geared to lead to solid policy-changes. Several highly-regarded individuals were invited to attend to draw more attention to the Event itself. Among them were Maiko Zulu (a well-known Zambian performer), Dr. Juan Aguilar (the Resident Representative for UNICEF), Dr. Shilaluke Ngoma (Head of Paediatrics Unit at Zambia's University Teaching Hospital--Zambia's largest hospital), Martin Silutonwe (National Director for World Vision Zambia), and the national directors for such organizations such as Christian Children's Fund, Challenge International Ministry, and OneWorld Africa.

Cosmos Education Zambia volunteers coordinated a dialogue session between attending youth and the individuals aforementioned. Having been the leading organization in the Lesson For Life campaign in Zambia, CEZ was asked to prepare questions for attending youth, which would be asked to the Event panelists. These questions were compiled from questions that children asked CEZ facilitators during discussions on HIV/AIDS. CEZ selected the most difficult questions posed by children and had children attending the Main Advocacy Event ask them to the panelists. Examples of such questions were as follows:

Dr. Juan Aguilar, Resident Representative for UNICEF

UNICEF makes many posters on abstinence, but on each of them, you see mainly females. Why is that and do you think that we are losing the fight against males abstaining?

Honourable George Chulumanda, Minister of Youth, Sport, and Child Development

You must already know that children in Zambia rarely talk to their parents about personal issues such as sex. But legally, if I want to go for VCT, I cannot go unless I have my parents permission. Do you think that this policy makes sense if we are serious about having children know their HIV status?

Dr. Shilaluke Ngoma, Head of Paediatrics Unit at Zambia University Teaching Hospital

Children as young as 7 or 8 are having sex in spite of all the talk about abstinence. They try to use the condoms available but these condoms are simply too big for them and so they don't use them at all. To prevent children from getting HIV, should there be children-sized condoms?

In the end, the Main Advocacy Event was a major success in terms of policy. Cosmos Education Zambia's efforts to coordinate an event that brought together over 30 organizations in Zambia really paid off. The rhetoric often preached by leaders during World AIDS Day on 1st December was, this time, seriously challenged with solid questions and positions put forth by children.

To continue with the momentum generated at the 2nd December Main Advocacy Event, Cosmos Education Zambia took on an active role in the commemorations for

International Volunteer Day (IVD). IVD commemorations span 4 days from 2nd to 5th December and consist of activities conducted around Zambia that engage people to embrace the spirit of volunteerism. CEZ coordinating residential clean-up efforts throughout Lusaka, but also provided Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to participants at Lusaka Museum (where CEZ had its own stand). CEZ drew a lot of attention and praise from attendees which included Dr. Aeneaus Chuma, Resident Co-ordinator for the United Nations in Zambia, the Deputy Minister for Community Development and Social Services, and the Deputy Mayor of Lusaka.

On 10 December, Cosmos Education Zambia again partnered with another member organization of the Global Movement For Children, FLAME Transit Home. FLAME Transit Home is a center for orphaned, abused, and neglected youth who have been left to fend for themselves on the streets of Lusaka. Most of these children (roughly 95 per cent) have lost both parents, mainly as a result of HIV/AIDS. CEZ received an invitation from MUVI Television station about doing a show on its Lesson For Life campaign and having our Lesson For Life sessions be along the themes for Make Poverty History Day and International Children's Day of Broadcasting (which fall on 10 December and 11 December, respectively).

On the morning of 10 December, CEZ volunteers went with a team from MUVI Television to conduct a Lesson For Life session on HIV/AIDS and its ties to poverty. The event was a major success for both CEZ and FLAME Transit Home. The show aired on 11th December and drew much attention from the public. Issues surrounding access to ARV treatment, parental neglect, shortfalls in government policy towards orphans, and trade barriers by developed nations were all brought up by participating children. CEZ facilitators clearly demonstrated their skill of generating discussions among children and not simply teaching them.

1.3 Future Lesson For Life Plans for Cosmos Education Zambia

At present, Cosmos Education Zambia is currently preparing for activities for 2006. Such activities will build from the momentum generated this year during CEZ's Lesson For Life campaign. Prior to the end of 2005, CEZ plans to pursue partnerships, with the Zambia Red Cross and Habitat For Humanity.

Both organizations expressed great interest in partnering with Cosmos Education Zambia and having their volunteers be trained in facilitating and disseminating information on HIV/AIDS. CEZ is also communicating with Zambia Open Community Schools and with CARE International to conduct a Lesson For Life community school campaign. This campaign aims at addressing the shortcomings of the Global Move-

ment for Children (GMC) with respect to its various partners limited capacity to directly reach out to community schools. CEZ has already been invited numerous times to visit selected schools and is hoping that it will soon be able to do so.

In 2006, Cosmos Education Zambia will again try to enhance its capacity in its Lesson For Life campaign in areas outside of Lusaka. Specifically, we intend to visit the schools, youth centers, and orphanages that we have visited in the past. These sites are located in Luapula, Northern, and Southern Provinces. With support from various stakeholders, Cosmos Education Zambia hopes to continue the momentum maintained by the 2005 Lesson For Life campaign.