

LITTLE BIRDS

Report

MARCH 2020

MANAGEMENT OF FOSTER (OUTSIDE) FAMILIES



REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020

A. GENERAL OVERVIEW

- The month of March was characterised by a lot of activities as the school term was on its peak. The same month I made the follow up visits to 21 children. It was a nice experience to re unite with the kids and have an interaction with them sharing their life stories, how they are living and also seeing their physical appearance.
- I am pleased to report that there are two (2) orphans whom we in cooperated into Little Birds. The kids come from Ziki area and are learning at Zengeya Primary school which is the same school with Edward Zunguzwa. A brief background to the adoption of these kids is that, when I visited Edward last time in January 2020, I had a discussion with the school headmaster (*Principal*) about how Edward was living. During the discussion, the headmaster indicated that the school also had two other kids who were having challenges with life since they are orphans and the guardian was not taking proper care of them. The kids' health was deteriorating and they developed symptoms of kwashiorkor. I discussed this situation with Doctor Seelhofer and we reached a conclusion that it would be best for Little Birds to in cooperate these kids into our program so that we assist them like other kids.
- This was a wonderful decision as these kids are now receiving help and at least they have hope of living again. These kids are Motion and Maxwell Saita who are in grade five and grade three respectively.
- There are a lot of hardships and difficult life situations for the majority of the kids as the country's economy is deteriorating. Basic food items are very difficult to come by for a lot of families therefore the three months visit plays an integral role in assisting these families.
- The harsh economic conditions have also contributed to the increase of prices of basic commodities like sugar, salt, cooking oil and mealie meal just to mention a few.
- Though it is a wonderful experience to visit all the children, the orphanage vehicle needs to be replaced in the future. The vehicle needs to be replaced with a better and big vehicle as the current one is now having a lot of breakdowns which are affecting the smooth visiting program. The bad terrain in the gravel roads also requires a big vehicle with a better clearance from the ground. In some instances where you have on to drive for 3

hours, you are then forced to drive for more than 6 hours because of the poor state of the current vehicle. However this can be taken as a future plan for the organisation if funds become available.

- It is pertinent to note that all schools have now increased their fees because of the continuous devaluation of the Zimbabwean Dollar. All schools have to be paid top up fees except for Virginia and Simba who are in boarding school whose school fees was paid up.
- The first school term was cut short and all schools closed on 22nd of March due to the scare of the corona virus pandemic. The government of Zimbabwe took a giant step towards controlling the spread of Corona by closing all schools, universities and all learning institutions until further notice.
- The government declared lockdown starting from Monday 30th March 2020 to implement the world social distancing policy. I am making follow ups through phone calls to the families of the children.
- I am in constant contact with all the guardians of the children advising and encouraging them to take heed of the need to stay home and avoid unnecessary movement.
- A general assessment on all children's performance at school is that, there is need for constant engagement with their teachers because they are not quite performing to the expected standards. There is need to establish the root cause to this poor performance. Therefore I have introduced a system that their teachers would give me feedback about every child on the areas which they think should be improved and the way forward.
- In Zimbabwe the only future a kid can be given is education so there is need for continuous engagement with the teachers because they play a pivotal role to the child's education. I now have every teacher's contact details and I always discuss with them on how best we can improve.
- I am pleased to note that all necessary things were provided for every kid to go to school without any difficulties. This report will capture every kid's social life and school performance and what should be done to improve the living standards and school performance for every kid.

VISITS CARRIED OUT TO TWENTY ONE (21) OPHANS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020

1. SIMBARASHE NECHAZIVA

- A visit was made on 7th March 2020 to Simba. Simba is doing his form 1 at St Antony's High School in Zaka Musiso. He is happily staying in boarding school. Unlike the previous setup where Simba was staying with a family of sixteen members he is now getting enough time to concentrate with school work without any disturbances. He will only stay with the family during holiday time of one month.
- On 11th March Simba had a sickness problem with his eyes that were itching. I instructed the boarding master to take him to Musiso hospital where he received some medication and the problem has since disappeared.
- I managed to provide all the necessary items required for Simba to be accepted in boarding school therefore he had no problems.
- On school performance, I am pleased to report that Simba is doing well and he has a great potential to be a better and brilliant child who can score higher than any other kid at school. He just requires proper guidance from both the school and at home. I am working closely with the guardian and the teacher to build a better character on Simba.
- The subjects that Simba is doing in form one are shona language, integrated science, mathematics, mass displays, principles of accounts, history, geography, and technology designs.
- During the 7th March visit to Simba, I brought him food groceries and school requirements worth 70usd which managed to sustain him until they closed.

2. VIRGINIA KURAMBWI

- On 7th March 2020 I visited Virginia at her boarding school Silveira Mission.
- Virginia looks very happy and health.
- She is now in her final level of secondary school which is form 6. In September 2020 Virginia will be sitting for her final examination. At school she is performing very well and she has interest with school. She is doing five subjects which are history, economic history, sociology, english literature and communication skills
- On her behavior, she is not that bad but she just has to be monitored closely so that she can improve on a few things that a child is expected to. On this, I have engaged

the guardian and the teacher so that together we assist each other to mold the behavior that is expected from a girl child.

- The overall assessment is that she is in the right track to be a better person in future.
- During the 7th March visit, I brought her food groceries and other things worth 80usd which managed to take her until end of term.

3. **NELSON PURIKISI**

- On 17th March 2020 I visited Nelson at his school and later to his home. I am happy to report that this time the situation for Nelson has improved. He had a smiling face and it shows that he is happy both at school and at home. This was attributed by the fact that there is now a new guardian who is staying with Nelson. The young lady is well taking care of Nelson and I am always making follow ups with her and also with the School Principal.
- Nelson looks very heath and strong and has no any medical problem. His performance at school is not that good. He needs to work extra hard so that he can improve a lot. I am happy that his teacher is giving a lot of attention to him so that together we can assist him to make sure that he works hard in school.
- Nelson is studying 8 subjects at school which are mathematics, science, English language, indigenous language, information computer technology, visual performing arts, mass displays, physical education and heritage studies. For a kid to master all these subjects, it requires that they develop interest in education therefore I am working closely with the teacher and the guardian on helping the kids to develop a lot of interest for education and minimize playing. I have agreed with both the guardian and the class teacher that they give me reports about the kid weekly, monthly and quarterly.
- From the class teacher's assessment, Nelson needs to improve on reading words. However his behaviour at school is a quite pleasing one as compared to the past where he had a bad behaviour but for now he has improved tremendously.
- During the March visit, Nelson was graced with a food hamper worth US\$70.00

4. TAPIWA MURAMBIRA

- A visit was made on 17th March 2020 to Tapiwa and family.
- Despite a perennial eye problem, Tapiwa is a happy and healthy young lady who is always smiling and jovial. At the time when we visited Tapiwa she looked very well looked after and through the interaction with her, the kid is happily staying with the family.
- She however sometimes has got problems with her eyes which are sometimes itching. I have on several occasions brought her some eye medicine for her. I will continue monitoring her condition and probably she would need to see an optician to diagnose the real problem.
- It is pleasing to report that according to Tapiwa's grade 1 teacher, she is a wonderful character and has a good behaviour at school. She however mentioned that Tapiwa is easily affected by cold temperature therefore there is need for constant monitoring if she has enough warm clothes for school to keep her warm and free from any colds attack.
- At school Tapiwa is also doing 8 subjects which are mathematics, science, English language, indigenous language, information computer technology, visual performing, arts, mass display, physical education and heritage studies.
- During the visit, Tapiwa received food hamper of US\$70

5. BETTY MURAMBIRA

- Betty is a wonderful and jovial character. She is the sister to Tapiwa and they stay together with their granny and grandpa. Betty is very health and her behaviour is very good. She always listens to her elders and she is always helping her family to do the family work.
- Her school performance is not bad as her teacher is of the view that she is an average learner who is willing to learn. She is also well behaved at school and always smartly dressed. Betty is now in grade 5 and she is undertaking ten subjects which are English language, mathematics, indigenous language, information computer technology, visual and performing arts, family religious and moral education, heritage social studies, agriculture, science and technology, physical education sports and mass display.

- Betty has challenges in information computer technology, mathematics and science where she needs to improve. I have agreed with her class teacher that we need to come up with a performance improvement plan so that she can improve in these subjects that she is lacking.

6. EDWARD ZUNGUZWA

- On 17th March, I visited Edward both at his school and at his home.
- Edward is a strong and ever smiling boy who is now in grade 1. He is a young boy with good behaviour and good character both at home and at school. Edward's health status is pleasing because he has not had any health challenges and he likes to go to school always.
- At school, he shows a lot of potential as he likes to read and to practice always. He is also doing 8 subjects which are mathematics, science, English language, indigenous language, information computer technology, visual performing arts, mass displays, physical education and heritage studies.
- To enhance his school performance at school, I have also come up with an arrangement with his class teacher on the areas that he needs to improve and with this we will work together to make sure that maximum support is provided to the kid.
- During the March visit, Edward received a food hamper of US\$70.00

7. MAXWELL AND MOTION SAITA

- On the 17th March 2020 I visited these two boys. As explained on the general overview above, these two boys are now part of our program and they are from the same school with Edward. The two were adopted in our program as a result of their living conditions that were very sorrowful. The two are orphans whose guardian died because of the cyclone Idai. A brief background of the two kids is as follows;

Background Information

Zengeya Primary School enrolled Motion grade 5 and Maxwell grade 3 in 2019.

The 2 boys were staying with their grandmother in Chipinge after their father died in 2012. Their mother left them and she never came back. A family brother by the name Calvin Saita decided to go and collect the boys from the grandmother. He brought them to his family where he is staying with his new married wife. He then left for South Africa. The boys are now staying with the wife of Calvin in Muchini village under Chief Ziki in Bikita.

The New Year 2020 started on a very sad note for the boys. The teachers at the school realize that the health for the two boys was deteriorating rapidly. The school teachers also noted absenteeism from school for the boys due to hunger and some core duties at home which largely affected the boys' health and performance at school.

After some investigations as Zengeya guidance and counselling and administration, the school discovered that the two boys have no enough clothes, uniforms, blankets, shoes and food.

The wife of Calvin who is supposed to take care of the two boys is not doing anything to support the boys and this is affecting them at all.

- The two boys are very brilliant in school especially Maxwell the younger brother who is always best in his grade.
- During this visit the two received a food hamper worth USD120 from Marianne, Sita and Andreas and also school shoes, uniforms, tracksuits and bags.
- In the next visit, the two boys would be in the Little Birds program where they will also receive groceries.

8. PETER TARUSENGA

- Peter is doing very well in terms of his health and also with the family that he is staying with. He seems to be a kid that is well looked after and has no social problems. Feedback from his teacher and the guardian is that he is a well behaved kid who is always helping the family of home duties. However it is worth noting that Peter's father who is mentally challenged is not feeling well, his health has been deteriorating to the extent that he spends most of his time sleeping and this has been a very worrying situation.
- Coming to the school performance, Peter needs to work very hard in school as his performance is not so good. Considering his grade, a lot more need to be done to enhance his performance. I have come up with a performance improvement plan with his class teacher where I receive weekly reports and updates on Peter's performance and also the possible way forward.
- As a grade 3 child Peter is doing the following subjects Indigenous language, English language, mathematics, agriculture, physical education, heritage studies, science and technology, family religion and moral education.

- During the March visit we brought Peter a food hamper worth US\$70.

9. **DEVINE GWINDIRI**

- On 17th March 2020, we visited Devine to his homestead where he is staying with his family of 8 members. Devine is happily staying with his guardian and the only challenge is that the place that they are staying is new and is a bit isolated and the place can be prawn to wild animals since it is near the wild range.
- From the discussion that I had with the guardian, Devine does not have any problem; he is always happy with family and also assisting with household duties. His behaviour is well monitored and is a good boy who always listens to the elders.
- In his school performance, Devine is a better child who has a potential to do more if well assisted and mentored. I always have discussions with his teacher who is also giving him special attention in all the subjects that he is not doing well.
- He is doing 8 subjects which include the following Indigenous language, English language, mathematics, agriculture, physical education, heritage studies, science and technology, family religion and moral education.
- I will always make sure that he is provided with necessary books and stationery to enable him to learn with no difficulties at school.
- When we visited Devine we brought him food groceries worth US\$70.00

10. **PALLESA MAKONI**

- The 17th March visits were concluded with a late visit to Pallesa and her family. Still leaving with her mentally challenged mother and grandmother Pallesa is living a happy life where she is getting all necessary care and guidance. Pallesa is now in ECD and she is very happy to be going to school.
- From the physical appearance and the discussion, Pallesa seems to be very healthy and happy living together with family. She has no health issue. Her behaviour at home and at school is the ideal behaviour that is needed for a kid to grow up in the right direction.
- At school, she is showing positive signs to be a better performer and close monitoring is required so that she gets to interact very well with a lot of disciplines in terms of education.

- To ensure that close monitoring and her performance is enhanced, I have also tasked her teacher to always give constant update on her area of weakness and what needs to be done to always improve performance.
- During the visit, we brought food groceries worth US\$70 to Pallesa.

11. ANDY KURAMBWI

- On 18th March 2020 we visited Andy together with her family in Gutu area. Andy is growing to be a big girl who is well behaved and is always hard working at home. Her health is pleasing and she looks to be a child who is growing free from any health challenge.
- From the interaction that we had with Andy it is proving that the guardian is well taking care of the child and the child is very happy with the family.
- Since Andy is now in secondary school, she needs a lot of monitoring and encouragement to work extra hard so that she can achieve better results at the end of her Ordinary level. Reports from her school is that she can do better and she has the potential to do more than what she can do now, therefore it then becomes a collective responsibility between myself and the class teacher to assist her to work extra hard and also to provide her with school materials that she requires. I am happy to report that in terms of school requirements, I have managed to provide all the books and stationery that she needs.
- During the visit, we brought Andy food groceries worth US\$70.00 to assist here in living.

12. CEPHAS NECHAZIVA

- Cephas was visited on the 18th of March. Cephas situation is a special situation that requires a lot of attention. His father is bed ridden and he can hardly do anything. He is staying with his granny. The granny strongly believes in the traditional thinking in acts of superstition. She believes that the family and the society is wishing bad luck to her family (*witchcraft*) to the extent of disturbing Cephas. On most cases she would tell me that Cephas could not go to school just because of the evil spirits.
- Of cause this is their belief but I do not believe in this so I had to go to meet the granny and the teacher so that we map the way forward. My own assessment is that it is just a belief of the granny but in actual fact there is nothing in terms of wishing herself and Cephas bad luck (*witchcraft*). What is only needed is the change in her mind-set so that

she can think positively and objectively. This change in the mind-set is the only way to serve Cephas from this traditional way of thinking.

- I am happy that when we discussed together with the teacher, somehow we managed to convince the granny to a certain extend to leave her way of thinking and always be positive and objective. We also agreed that the granny has to strictly monitor that Cephas goes to school every day. I am happy that the Teacher is also putting a maximum effort on Cephas so that he goes to school every day. Now Cephas is going to school every day and his attitude towards school is now better. I always make follow ups with the teacher and the granny to make sure that the kid is well looked after and also encouraged to like school as much as possible.
- Cephas received food groceries worth US\$70.00 which would assist him and the family until the next visit.

13. TAKUNDA MUCHEMWA

- On 18th March, I visited Takunda. I was happy to see a massive improvement on Takunda's health as compared to the last time we visited him in December. During this visit, he looked very happy, he looked recovered and he looked strong unlike the December visit where he looked sick, unhappy and unwelcome.
- From the previous assessment which was not pleasing, I demanded that the guardian should always take good care of the child and also to make sure that she tells me any illnesses on the child so that he can get medical attention. From this discussion, the situation with Takunda is now pleasing and a lot has improved.
- To make sure that the guardian is well taking care of Takunda, I also requested his class teacher to monitor the status of Takunda whenever he is coming to school. I also agreed with the teacher that he can make unannounced visits at Takunda's place to really find out the true situation that he is living under. This intervention has greatly improved the status of the child which is now in a stable state.
- In terms of school performance, a lot has to be done about Takunda. It is sad to note that until now he is facing a lot of difficulties even to write his name. He had to repeat his grade one level because I could not agree for him to continue to grade 2 because his results were not pleasing at all.

- My agreement with his class teacher is that a special arrangement should be put in place for Takunda. This includes having extra lessons to make sure that he understands the lessons and also he could be on the same page with others. I hope this arrangement with the class teacher is going to improve Takunda's performance at school.
- During the visit, I brought Takunda and family a food hamper worth US\$70.00

14. TINOTENDA GOTORA

- As common, Tinotenda is a wonderful boy who is always jovial and exciting. The guardian of Tinotenda is very much concerned with him and is taking care of him. By the time that we visited him, he looked very happy and well looked after. His health and body structure is pleasing to see and shows that the guardian is doing her level best to look after the boy. Tinotenda is always helping his granny of house work and also in the fields. His home behaviour is quite good and pleasing.
- The main worrying thing about him is poor school performance as reported by class teacher. According to the class teacher, Tinotenda's performance is not pleasing at all in the fact that he is not able to read even simple words, he cannot copy even the date. From the teacher's observation, we agreed that Tinotenda would need extra help which include extra lessons after school. He also requires additional practising books at home and even at school. We made a plan that we would identify the type of books that he requires so that I can buy for him to get extra home work.
- Despite his poor performance at school, I am happy to say that his teacher is very happy with his discipline and behaviour at school. The teacher emphasised that his behaviour is a good exemplary behaviour that a kid is expected of exhibiting. Tinotenda is doing ten subjects that include family religion and moral education, heritage social studies, science and technology, physical education and mass displays, visual and performing arts, mathematics, English language, indigenous language, agriculture and information, communication technology.
- During the visit to Tinotenda, he received food groceries of US\$70.00

15. GERTRUDE AND SOLOMON

- Gertrude and Solomon are staying together with their granny. Of late the granny has not been feeling so well. She has problems with her chest and painful legs. Despite being unfit, the granny is trying her level best to assist the kids and also mould their behaviour. The two kids looked so happy and free from any health challenges.
- In terms of school, Solomon is performing very well and has a lot of interest to improve. He has so much potential which simply needs some close monitoring for him to achieve the best.
- For Gertrude, her performance has not been pleasing at all. She really needs to work extra hard considering that she is now in secondary level. She needs also to be assisted in the areas that she is finding it difficult. On trying to improve her performance, I have already worked on a plan with her class teacher to come up with a program on how she would follow in order to improve in school.
- The other contributing factor to poor performance at school could be the distance that she is walking. She walks over 8 kilometres to school which means in a day she walks more than 16 kilometres. This scenario could also be contributing to her poor performance since she does not get enough time to rest.
- When I visited the two, I brought them a food hamper worth US\$70.00

16. EMMANUEL

- We visited Emmanuel on 18th March 2020. His situation is not pleasing at all. A lot needs to be done about Emmanuel. He is staying with his granny. Emmanuel does not look very happy.
- I tried to find out what the problem could be on his wellbeing. The information that I gathered is that the guardian is not looking after him so well. Emmanuel is one of the children that were getting US\$20 per month allowance but I have already stopped this because it is alleged that after receiving the money, the guardian is not buying food for the kid but rather she would use the money for some other things that were not benefiting the kid. Emmanuel is now receiving groceries after every three months like any other kid so that we minimize misuse of the money from the guardian.

- On his condition, I tried to engage the guardian to establish the problem why the kid looks unhappy. The guardian was not so free to share the problem but I have since tasked the neighbours and the class teacher to assist in monitoring how the child was kept. The neighbour and the teacher would give me constant updates about the status of the child.
- On school performance it is very worrying to note that his class teacher indicated that Emmanuel's performance is poor and below standard. He cannot even write his name a situation that needs a lot of attention. The teacher also mentioned that Emmanuel is sometimes rude and his behaviour needs to be changed. He does not also care much about school.
- On the teacher's report, I saw it important that we come up with a way forward on how best to assist and help the child. I made a plan with the teacher that he should give special attention to Emmanuel so that everything can be done to help him to improve in school. We also agreed that there is need to buy some extra books that would help him to develop interest in education.

FULL LIST OF ALL CHILDREN RECEIVING ASSISTANCE UNDER LITTLE BIRDS

NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	KIND OF ASSISTANCE
1. Devine Gwindiri	03-05-2011	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
2. Pallesa Makoni	10-07-2013	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
3. Vimbai Chinya	Year 2013	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
4. Takunda Muchemwa	03-03-2012	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
5. Simbarashe Nechaziva	Year 2005	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
6. Tinotenda Gotora	22-09-2009	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
7. Nelson Purikisi	05-03-2012	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms

8. Edward Zunguzwa	17-05-2011	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
9. Peter Tarusenga	06-06-2011	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
10. Tapiwa Murambira	26-06-2012	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
11. Andy Kurambwi	23-11-2004	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
12. Gertrude Machera	10-11-2003	Health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
13. Cephas Nechaziva	09-10-2007	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
14. Brenda Marumbwa	05-01-2002	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, and school uniforms
15. Emmanuel Mukanwi	28-07-2008	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
16. Sharon Shumba	25-07-2012	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, and school uniforms
17. Godknows Chabata	15-09-2008	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, school uniforms and US\$20.00 monthly allowance.
18. Betty Murambira	09-03-2009	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, school uniforms.
19. Solomon	18-10-2005	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, school uniforms.
20. Virginia Kurambwi	19.12.2001	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
21. Moses Chikutuma	10-11-2008	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, school uniforms

		and US\$20.00 monthly allowance.
22. Maxwell Saita	10.01.2010	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms
23. Motion Saita	5 – 07 - 2008	School fees, health care fees, school stationery, food and school uniforms

PHOTOS FOR FOOD GROCERIES BOUGHT FOR CHILDREN.





PHOTOS OF CHILDREN IN MARCH 2020

VIRGINIA KURAMBWI





SIMBARASHE NECHAZIVA





NELSON PURIKISI









MAXWELL SAITA



MOTION SAITA THE TALLER ONE





March 2020 Report – For the Love of our kids





BETTY MURAMBIRA



TAPIWA MURAMBIRA





DEVINE GWINDIRI





PALLESA MAKONI





ANDY KURAMBWI











CEPHAS NECHAZIVA





TAKUNDA MUCHEMWA





TINOTENDA GOTORA





GERTRUDE



SOLOMON





EMMANUEL





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