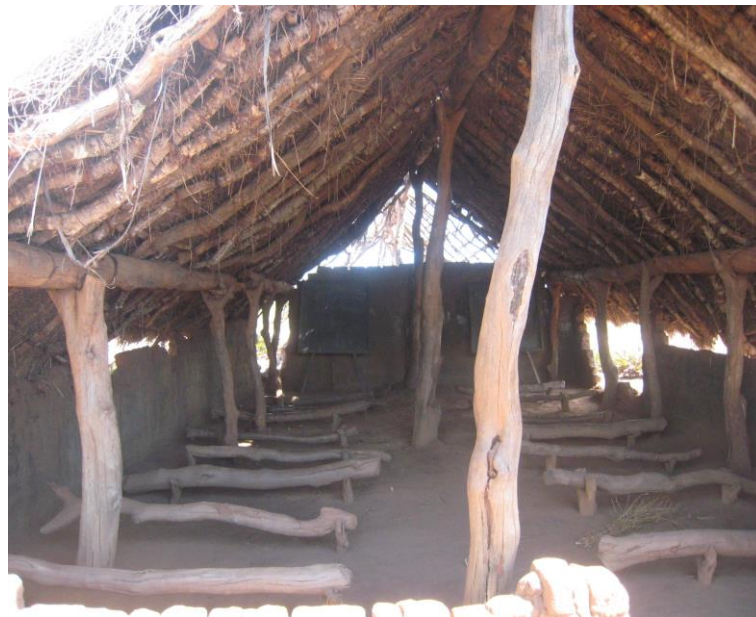


## 1. CBO MWENJE WERUPONESO – PROJECT REPORT FOR 2012

Located in Administrative Post of Zembe, Gondola District, Manica Province of Mozambique.

The community seemed to have neglected the school completely and the pole and mud structure under falling thatch, with logs and stones for seats had become a constant physical and health hazard to the children, the teacher and all who entered it. No effort was being put towards the improvement of the school in all aspects. There were no toilets at all or any safe drinking water at the school.



With the intervention of Mwenje weRuponeso, the old structure was demolished and in its place a 2-roomed block of classrooms was constructed by the CBO in collaboration with the community. The walls were constructed with baked bricks, but no cement. VSO intervened with the roofing materials (timber and zinc roofing sheets) cement enough for the floor of one classroom and a chalkboard as well as benches and tables for the students. In the old building, besides the danger of the threat of the collapsing of the building, the roof leaked so that the sand floor became damp or even muddy. With the intervention, children were protected from dust, wind, rain and any other weather phenomena. Those children who had dropped out of school and those who frequently absented themselves from school started to attend school frequently and enrolment was boosted as was reported by the teacher, Mr Sandram. They were all happy to be associated with the beautiful school building. The teacher was motivated and the parents were motivated too.

Children could now sit on benches instead of logs with books on their small, inexperienced laps. They were now in a classroom with good ventilation, with a high roof and a cement floor and the teacher could write on a cement chalkboard affixed to the wall. The CBO also provided school bags sourced from Africare and each child has a bag in which to carry bags.





The CBO focused mainly on educating children with the main thrust being on Orphaned and Vulnerable Children.

The community had a negative attitude towards the OVC mainly due to lack of awareness. The adult members, as well as the youths in the community breached every human and child's rights particularly when it came to the OVC, all this due to lack of awareness and to some extent due to illiteracy. The community is close to Chimoio town and has a mixture of a population made up of migrants from different regions, therefore, they do not have a common culture and tend to be individualistic as each one concentrates on his/her own family. As a result of this individualistic trend, if the parents of one family pass away, then the children of that particular family have to fend for themselves as no one feels the obligation to care for the other family they are not attached to.

VSO intervened by funding a Capacity Building workshop to train the community members on Psycho-social support to the OVC in particular. After the capacity building exercise, the CBO

volunteers carried on with counselling other community members on the need to care for each other and respect human rights, including children's rights. More OVC were reached out to and registered and the sphere of influence was increased as there were more capacitated volunteers to do the outreach.

An unfortunate occurrence took place when the said classroom block was brought down by a strong storm. The community worked as one to do everything possible to provide solutions to the problem. A temporary shed was erected upon the ruins as plans were made to construct a stronger structure which can withstand the test of time.



The community has shown a change of attitude as is demonstrated by the way they were quick to put up another temporary structure after the destruction of the other one. Another member of the community offered his 2hectare patch of land to be used as a sports field (which did not previously exist) for the new site of the school. Children who were previously staying home for various reasons now frequent school. Some parents have themselves started attending lessons for adult literacy in the same school.

Previously, the community depended upon the government and donors in different forms, for any resources to help them as well as the OVC in this community. Income generating activities such as chicken rearing, kitchen gardening and field crop production were established and/ expanded.

After the intervention, community members are now involved in income generating projects which are producing yields. The problem is still noted in the lack of appropriate storage facilities to avoid post-harvest losses. The storage structures are made of pole and grass and there have been disasters where the structures have been razed to the ground (destroying all the grain) by the veld fires which occur every year. This means that besides loss of the harvested goods, deforestation is also rife since the granaries have to be replaced every year by cutting more and more trees for reconstruction.



Income generating projects such as poultry, horticulture and field crop production are being carried and the income from the sales of surplus are ploughed back into the development of facilities such as the school for OVC. However, the turnover is very minimal to bring about a very significant change as the resources are limited.



It requires a lot of support in marketing strategies, construction of modern storage facilities to avoid post-harvest losses, drought mitigation and conservation in its diverse forms.



August 2012 saw the completion of the first stage of the construction of a 2-classroom block of classrooms comprising a zinc roof on concrete pillars and concrete slab. The next stage will be to put up the walls, window, doors and furniture.

