Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Photographs and Success Stories from Other Households in Distress
Programme Activities, Mbala, Zambia

Students supported in school and Poultry Income Generating Activity
to help with payment of school fees
SUCCESSFUL STORY

Eunice Kamangu Nangoma
Being an orphaned girl is not easy at all and here is my story:
My name is Eunice Kamangu Nangoma and I am 14 years old. I live in Chituku Village in Mbala District. I am a grade 6 pupil at Chele Community School. I am the fifth born child in a family of 4 girls and 4 boys.

My father’s name is Peter Singoma and my mother is Maggie Namusokwe. The first born in our family is Conselia Nangoma aged 21 years old and she is married now with two children. The second born is Priscila Nangoma aged 23 years old and married with two children after she stopped school in grade 8 and the third born is Peter Singoma who is 20 years old and he is doing grade 10 at Mbala Secondary School and he is been paid for by a good Samaritan from Mpulungu District. The fourth born is Patrick Singoma who is 17 years old and he is in grade 7 at Ndundundu Primary School here in Mbala. Clement Singoma is the sixth born and he is aged 10 years old and he is not in school because our mother is unable to pay for his school fees. Then the seventh born in our family is David Singoma aged 7 years old and he too is not in school due to financial problems. While Dorothy is the last born and she is aged 5 years old.

My father died this year on 21st January, 2017 due to swollen legs and stomach and his death has contributed to our sufferings. Even the time he was alive, we still had to struggle in our lives because he was not able to meet our basic needs such as food, clothes and education. This contributed to my siblings to stop going to school and opted to get married at a younger age. It also contributed to me starting school very late in 2012 at the age of 9 years old instead of 7 years. I also stopped school in grade 4 and stayed at home for a year due to financial problems. My mother took the responsibility of taking care of us the children however she couldn’t meet all the basic needs we needed most. And this forced her to look for employment at a farm called Tanganyika Farms were she is paid K25 equivalent to 2 euro pay day and she works for less than a month because of other needs.

Then in 2015 my elder sister who had stopped school in grade 8 got married and she took me with her and enrolled me in grade 5 at Chele Community School. Chele Community School is a school which has been constructed in our village by the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – Households in Distress Programme to help underprivileged orphans like me. I felt very happy to go back to school where I am schooling in grade 6. At this school, parents are able to pay for their children because it is affordable and very close to the villages were the underprivileged children come from. I am able to be in grade 6 this year because of the support the HID Programme provides for me by paying for my school fees.

The HID Programme has also trained me in horticultural production; that is, how to grow oranges, lemons, bananas and other citrus plants. The HID Programme has also planted a number of citrus plants at my school and I am among the pupils who participate daily in watering and weeding around the plants. On a personal level, I have been supported with 4 bananas and 3 oranges that I have planted at my home.

I am therefore thanking the school management and the HID Programme for helping me to meet one of my basic needs, which is education. I am now able to read and write English and Chibemba, one of the local languages spoken in my community. I am doing very well at school and this has also contributed to the community members, mostly adults, to seek help from me in assisting them in writing and reading their letters. Indeed this has increased my interest in my wanting to continue going to school. And my prayer is that one day I will become a teacher so that I can help the underprivileged children in our community to learn how to read and write.

Therefore, I say thank you to all teachers and to members of staff of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – Households in Distress Programme and their donors for the support you are giving to me and to all other underprivileged children at my school. God will reward you for your good work.”
1. Conduct one each on-site awareness campaign on harmful traditional and cultural practices for chiefs and village head persons; in relation to HIV and AIDS in 15 chiefdoms.

2. Five days Trainer of Trainers (ToT) workshop for 25 traditional leaders on Gender Based Violence.

One of the real achievements of the HID Programme through this project was that of training 5 Chiefs (Traditional Rulers) and 20 Village Head Persons in issues of Gender Based Violence and their commitment to personally take responsibility to participate in the awareness campaigns on GBV to all their subjects in their respective Chiefdoms. Culturally speaking Chiefs and other traditional rulers in our communities do not directly participate in sensitisation issues because their leadership status does not allow them to do so. When they agreed to get involved in the sensitisation of GBV, HID Programme felt it was a notable achievement that the Programme considers to be a success.
SUCCESS STORY - LISTEE SIMUYEMBA

My name is Listee Simuyemba and I am 56 years old. I am married with five and we live in Kazongolo village in Mbala District. Four of our own children are attending school in grades 9, 8, 4 and 3 respectively. Apart from our own children, we also look after two single orphaned children aged 11 years and 9 years respectively. One of the orphans is at school doing grade 4, while we have failed to take the other child to school due to financial problems.

As I mentioned earlier on, the two single orphans we are keeping are the children of my brother who died in 2010. The children were initially living with their mother. But she decided to remarry in 2011 and left the children with me as her new husband didn’t want to live with the children. This situation brought in a lot of challenges to me and my wife because we were struggling in paying for school fees for our own children. And this also led to us failing to meet some of the basic needs of our own children.

This situation made me to join Kawimbe Village Orphan Support Group in 2012. This group gets support from the HID Programme that supports the community volunteer groups (known as Village Orphan Support Groups) with livelihood interventions that enable the groups to raise money used to meet the educational needs (among other needs) of some Orphans and Vulnerable children in their respective communities.

In 2015, I was one of the guardians of orphans who were chosen by the Households in Distress Programme to be trained in entrepreneurship skills and livestock production. During the training, I developed interest to go into piggery. I chose piggery because I found that rearing of pigs was a good business in our community where there was readily available market and selling of the pigs will help me to raise enough money to enable me to support the two orphans and my own children in the area of education. I therefore used the start-up capital I was given to buy 2 piglets (1 male and 1 female). The pigs have since multiplied from 2 pigs to 12 pigs as of now. We have been feeding our pigs using locally produced feeds such as cabbage, nshima and sunflower cakes.

The support I have received from the HID Programme has helped my family to increase our household income. This has enabled me to meet some of the educational needs of the school going children. I therefore thank Misean Cara and all the funders who support the Households In Distress (HID) Programme to continue with their good support as it has lessened our burdens in taking care of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in our communities.
SUCCESS STORY - DEBORAH KAUZI

My name is Deborah Kauzi and I am 30 years old. I am married with two children; a boy aged 7 years old and a girl aged 5 years old. I live in Kalesu village in Mbala District. My son is doing grade 1 at Muzombizi Primary School. Apart from our own two children, we also keep two orphaned children; a boy aged 9 years old and a girl aged 14 years old. The boy is in grade and the girl is in grade 5 at the same school where our son is enrolled.

I am an improved person Living With HIV since 2008. I discovered my HIV status in 2008 when I got pregnant and went to the Ante Natal Clinic at Senga Rural Health Centre where I was tested for HIV and the results were HIV Positive. My husband was also tested and he was found to be HIV Negative; and he is still HIV Negative up to date. We are therefore known as a discordant couple (i.e. a couple in which one partner is HIV positive and the other partner is HIV negative). I was referred to Mbala General Hospital where I did a number of tests before I was finally put on ART the same year (2008).

In 2009 I started experiencing some opportunistic infections in form of coughing and swollen legs. One day, a community volunteer (or caregiver as they are commonly referred to) by the name of Lilian Nanyangwe (who is also HIV Positive) working with the HID run Home Based Care (HBC) programme visited me at my home and informed me of the services the HID Programme provides to those who are HIV Positive. And this prompted me to join the HID run Home Based Care (HBC) programme. I was greatly taken care of by the Caregiver and the HID-HBC programme staff. As I was chronically ill, the HID-HBC programme staff helped me with medical drugs that helped to treat the opportunistic infections I used to suffer from as a result of my HIV positive status. The HID-HBC staff further supported me with nutritious food supplements aimed at improving my health status and the food supplements really helped me as I have been taking ARVs. In January, 2014 I went for a CD4 Count test and I was told that my CD4 Count had reached 1,751 as my health status had improved considerably; thanks to the care and support I had been receiving from the HID-HBC programme. I no longer experience a high rate of opportunistic infections any more.

Due to my improved health status, I was weaned off from the chronically ill Home Based Care (HBC) programme and enrolled on the Livelihoods support programme. I was glad when the HID Programme enrolled on livelihood support as I was economically run down after the prolonged period of illness that had taken up most of our resources as a family. In 2015, the HID Programme, with funding from Misean Cara, invited me to attend a workshop on entrepreneurship skills and livestock production. After attending this workshop I was given 3 local chickens which have so far increased to 15 chickens. I hope to rear more chickens that I will even be able to sell to the market which is readily available in our community. This kind of support has helped me improve my health status hence my husband and I are able to raise enough money to send my son and the two orphans that we have been looking after to school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the HID Programme and Misean Cara for the support given to me and other People Living With HIV as this support has helped to improve my household income and nutritional status as we use some chickens as food for the family. I urge Misean Cara to continue supporting the HID Programme so that other people in my condition can benefit from this life changing support. May God bless you all for the support you have been giving to us.
Additional Photographs from HID Project Interventions

- Group presentation during local food processing, and preservation methods

- Some of the local foodstuffs cooked during the on-site local food processing and preservation methods

- Livelihood Coordinator demonstrating how to plant an Orange tree to some beneficiaries

- An orange tree after being planted
Five days Entrepreneurship skills and Business Management to 28 identified HID beneficiaries

Trainer of Trainers workshop for 15 faith/community leaders (all denominations) and school teachers on the formation of Anti-AIDS clubs in local communities and schools.
Youths during on-site sensitisation workshops on formation of Anti-AIDS clubs in churches and schools