



# KOCEBUKA NEWSLETTER

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (KCF)

### WHAT IS KOCEBUKA?

Kocebuka Community Foundation is a duly-registered Zambian Non-Government Organization working for vulnerable sectors in the rural villages in Zimba District and nearby areas.

**Kocebuka** is a Tonga term that means to look back. Our organization believes that genuine development shall be inclusive—one that benefits not only the few but every member of society. Hence, in pursuit of development, we do not only look after ourselves, but we try to look back and make sure no one is left behind. This newsletter is a quarterly publication of Kocebuka to share updates on our endeavors and advocacies.



Group photo with the training participants



Site to be developed for bee-keeping and tree nursery

### BEE-KEEPING PROJECT IN ZIMBA COMMENCES

by William Mapepo, Project Officer

Kocebuka is now at the onset of setting up an Apiary (bee-keeping) Demonstration Center. This project is through the funding support of Tokushima International Cooperation (TICO), a Japanese non-government organization that has been extending community development support to Zambia.

So far, it is the only project of such kind in the district. When completed, it will help both rural and urban communities in Zimba and neighboring towns Kalomo and Kazungula. This is a two-pronged project, on promoting sustainable development by taking care of the environment and as an income generating activity. The project hopes to generate income to support programs and services of Kocebuka for vulnerable sectors, as well as create job opportunities for the operation of the site.

Two major products will be produced:

Honey – for home consumption and other health benefits

Wax – a by-product of honey, it is of great importance for the manufacturing industry.

The same site shall also serve as a nursery for fruit-bearing trees and indigenous plants.

We wish to express appreciation to our partners in the district who despite their busy schedules relentlessly extend their technical expertise in this project.

### KCF Implements 7-month project with DAPP

by Elvis Mwanalushi, Project Officer

In December 2016, Kocebuka entered into partnership with Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) to implement a US Aid-supported project meant to improve the welfare of OVCs and their families through targeted advocacy along HIV and gender-based violence and savings.

The goal of the project is to improve the welfare of orphaned and vulnerable children by strengthening their capacities, families and communities in providing care and support.

Kocebuka's role in the project is to train the out-of-school youths in life skills, their families in savings (how to manage limited resources and utilize them prudently) as well as communities around them in issues of gender-based violence.

So far, a total of 33 parents (20 women and 13 men) have been trained in Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) and 12 groups were formed. Thirty-two (32) out of school youths (15 females, 17 males) have also been trained as trainers on HIV prevention and reproductive health who eventually facilitated formation of clubs in their respective communities. Also, 35 (17 women and 13 men) were trained as trainers in order to increase awareness on gender-based violence.

The training participants were drawn from three wards: Zimba and Luyaba Wards in Zimba District, and Mayoba Ward in Kalomo District.

It is hoped that at the end of the project 600 households will have improved capacities along economic strengthening and savings, at least 21 youth clubs have been formed to conduct life skill sessions and 500 households will have increased awareness on gender-based violence and child protection.

The project will end by June 2017.



## BREAKING THE PRISON WALLS OF SOCIAL CONFINEMENT

by Passwell Nyambe, Program Manager

In the quest to improve the lives of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), Kocebuka Community Foundation has mounted a multi-faceted strategy with a strong multi-sectoral base.

The plight of Persons With Disability (PWDs) in society is one of exclusion with the family circles and the larger community. The lack of access to structures of socialization renders persons with disabilities to be considered ultra-centric and difficult to manage, cooperate and assimilate. Families and societies have consequently presented insurmountable barriers to persons with disabilities.

With technical and Financial Support from **Community Based Rehabilitation**, Zambia Support Program over the years, Kocebuka community Foundation has developed analytical and responsive capacity to design customized interventions in Disability programming. In order to begin the elaborate process of changing the community mindset, Kocebuka Community Foundation has designed an array of Advocacy, Mitigation, Care and support strategies that aims at changing the structures of perpetration into robust proponents of disability welfare. In collaboration with other key stakeholders, the organization is operating under the umbrella of Inclusive Development with an overarching focus on social inclusion.

At community level, the organization is undertaking structured cultural and traditional introspection to demystify disability. Society is deeply steeped into inimical superstition that tends to promote a judgmental attitude that sentences persons with disabilities into prisons of life confinement. Within families, persons with disabilities are ostracized, kept in subhuman environments, restricted from social interactions, denied opportunities of recreation, discriminated and denied their basic human rights.

Kocebuka is currently providing family counseling and support services to persons with disabilities and their host households.

The organization has targeted community structures such as churches, business houses, hospitals and schools to facilitate an inclusive access for persons with Disabilities.

In collaboration with the medical fraternity, the organization is facilitating referrals and linkages to medical support and acquisition of assistive devices (prosthetics). The organization has also engaged with leadership structures to facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for an inclusive society.

The organization is closely working with the following;

- Community based Rehabilitation-Zambia Support Program (Technical and Financial Support)
- Disability Rights Watch-Zambia(Strategic Litigation)
- African Community Projects-Canada (Assistive Devices)
- District Medical Office-Zimba Mission Hospital (Physiotherapy Services)
- Department of Social Welfare (Policy guidance)
- Zimba District Council (Technical and logistical support)

Over the next months, the organization will enhance its capacity building and awareness-raising among the partners structures in the communities. The organization also invites support from individuals, institutions who can provide in-kind, material or technical support.

## KCF hosts partner International Vision Organization for a two-week outreach in Zimba

by Passwell Nyambe, Program Manager

Through a protracted engagement and a myriad of communications beginning late last year, Kocebuka Community Foundation was privileged to host International Vision organization (IVO), a Canadian organization from 14<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> March 2017. International Vision organization is double pronged organization focusing on Eye care and Education Support.

Through our all-time ally and supporter, Dr. Sue Wallace, we started a general discussion on the possibility of exploring possible community support priorities areas. In realization of the skill set among the IVO Team, it was finally decided that Computer Lessons, Climate Change Adaptation Education and Strategic Income Support to Schools through orchards be undertaken during the visit. This finally launched a prolonged process of preparation which could be completed until the last day.

At our end, we had to prepare the groundwork! A process that was laden with setbacks and invaluable lessons. We engaged the main partners (Education) to work out the training modalities. In recognition of the capacity gaps, it was resolved that all the schools be represented in this training in order to maximize the impact. A total of 35 teachers were earmarked for this training which was planned for 1 working week. The training was planned to be undertaken at Luyaba School, however, due to heavy rains, we had to change the venue to Nakowa Primary School.

Also a number of schools had to be identified for orchard support. Due to scarcity of water, most schools were dropped off the initial list. Fruit trees also had to be arranged as we do not have any nurseries in Zimba.

With invaluable support from the Local authority, a vehicle was availed to facilitate movements during the two weeks of IVO visit.

We also had to identify women clubs for Climate Change Adaptation Education with the department of Community Development.

The IVO team (Dr. Peter Huang, Katie and Stephen Huang, Mardinger) arrived in Zambia on 10 March 2017. We had our briefing and planning meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The training for computer lessons started on 13<sup>th</sup> March and run through to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. A total of 24 teachers representing 24 schools in Zimba District were trained in Information, Communication and Technology studies. The training ended with a grand certification ceremony attended by officials from the Ministry of Education and District Commissioners` office. A total of 19 tablets were donated to select and severely disadvantaged schools.

The week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> March running through to 24<sup>th</sup> saw us running Climate Change Adaptation workshops for 80 women from 4 women clubs and setting up orchards in 6 schools.

The IVO team facilitated these trainings and support technically and financially. It was a great privilege to have hosted this team. We look forward to continued support and visits over the years to come. We continue monitoring and offering moral support to schools.

