

CHIUZIRA EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (CEDC), MALAWI

Chiuzira Education and Development Centre is a community based organisation established in 2000. It is located in Chiuzira Village, Traditional Authority Tsabango about 10 km east of Lilongwe Capital City Centre in Malawi.

The Centre is a collection of the Chiuzira Orphan Care (COCC) looking after orphans, the Chiuzira Nursery and Primary School, the Chiuzira Underfive Clinic providing health care, the Chiuzira Adult Literacy Centre providing education to old people, the Chiuzira Marjorie Lloyd Library, an information resources centre, and the Chiuzira Community Centre Hall and Ground. It looks after more than 450 including 100 elderly people and more than 350 children. It is governed by a voluntary committee elected from seventeen villages. It has five Trustees responsible for assets, legal and financial matters of the organisation. CEDC was initiated by the Chiuzira Community who realised that despite being so close to the capital city, they were still living in absolute poverty of diseases and ignorance.

With its own funding, the Committee constructed an administration block in 2007. Between 2007 and 2009; the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust provided a total of £13,000 in institutional support. This money was used for procuring capital equipment, provision of wages and allowances to teachers and support staff, provision of food to school pupils and procuring teaching and learning materials.

Following an independent external evaluation done in November 2009, the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust committed itself to support the Centre for an additional three years (2010 to 2013) with institutional support of £10,000 each year. The outputs of this support have been encouraging. Enrolment of pupils at the school increased from 38 in 2000 to 328 to date due to the school feeding programme. Nutrition status of children has improved with no cases of malnutrition amongst the children. More than 40 adults are now able to read, write and count. The support has also provided employment to teachers, administration and support staff.

The Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust facilitated acquisition of funds from the Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee for infrastructure development and provision of utilities. In 2009, the Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee provided a total of £17,613.58 for the construction of four classrooms, toilets and provision of water. After successful completion of this phase, further funding from Guernsey amounting to £40,000 was approved for the construction of extra four classrooms, a community hall, a clinic and the purchase of desks.

Despite being on the edge of Lilongwe City, the area had no access to clean and safe water until June 2009. The community used water from shallow wells and incidences of water borne diseases especially cholera was reported during the rainy season. The result of the support from Guernsey included the reduction of water borne diseases, especially cholera. For example in 2009, five children died due to cholera. Since the connection of water, no case of cholera has been reported in Chiuzira. The Underfive Clinic has provided several services including measles vaccination, HIV & AIDS testing and counselling, health education and sanitation. The pupils are now able to learn in proper

classrooms seated on desks. Previously, they were learning in a dilapidated church seated on a dirty floor.

The funding from both the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust and the Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee have motivated other individuals and organisations to support Chiuzira. Dr Keith Lloyd and Mrs Marjorie Lloyd from Guernsey provided a total funding of £13, 000 for the construction and restocking of a library in 2009. CEDC is also receiving Likuni Phala nutritious flour from the Feed Children International and at the end every year, The Lilongwe Lions Club and American Friends of Chiuzira provide Christmas gifts to the children.

Chiuzira Education and Development Centre is where it is because of the Ellen Jane Rihoy Trust's support which has triggered additional funding from other development partners.

Daulos Mauambeta

Chiuzira Education and Development Centre

Location of Chiuzira Education and Development Centre



The initial Class behind the Church building which used to be the classroom



Children learning under proper classroom situation



Feeding programme at work



The Chiuzira School

