

PAVEMENT PROJECT REPORT

Name of Project : Pavement Project

Reporting : Quarterly

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Compiled By : Mr. W. Nyahwedegwe

**Supervised By : Mr. J.I Chikumbu
(Coordinator)**

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INTRODUCTION

Viva Network in Zimbabwe in partnership with Life Words has been running a project called Pavement Project since 2016. The project is a child counselling and trauma healing program which utilizes the use of pictures. In this project, Lifeworlds trains counsellors who are termed “Life Words Workers” to administer counselling using the Picture Me Process. This training comes with a ready-made “Green Bag” that has all the pictures needed during the process of counselling children. The training given to the counsellors is very practical and takes the counsellors through the actual process from arrangement of the green bag to the position of effectively counselling a child for trauma healing. VNZ in partnership with Life Words have so far trained 2 groups of counsellors. The first training of counsellors was successfully arranged and done in 2016. In this training 13 (thirteen) counsellors were trained representing 7 (seven) organizations. The second group had 11 people representing 6 organizations and churches. Counsellors from the 2 groups were commissioned to train at least 3 people per month. This report will give an account of the work of the counsellors for the period between October 2018 and December 2018.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the period October to December 2018, the counsellors were actively involved in Child Counselling and support through the Green Bag (Pavement Project’s Tool). There has been a great transformation among the children reached to with some getting emotionally healed, some families reconciled, children’s hope restored, physical healing and some children getting scholarships for education through the implementation of Pavement Project. In Total, about 237 children were reached during this period. Glory be to God.

LIFEWORDS WORKER (COUNSELLOR) EXPERIENCES:

Based directly on the workers’ experience in the use of the bag, the following are their overall reports:

- Children are getting born again, so many children after the green bag just love Jesus
- Even the elderly are getting impacted
- Many children released from fear
- Many children being turned from drugs
- Children start seating at a distance, afraid, then they will be moving bit by bit by the time we finish the child will be close
- Churches have been planted through the bag and child evangelism

IMPACT

Generally all the workers that were trained as counsellors are successfully using the tool with great success. The green bag is bringing great success and more hope to the children. From the beginning of using the green bag, counsellors continue to report major effects on children after counselling

with the green bag and these include change of behavior, reduction of numbers of child-criminals, reconciliation of families, restoration of self-esteem and self-worth, families and children coming to Christ.

TESTIMONIALS/ FEEDBACK

Pastor Chikazhe gave a feedback in which she explained the challenges she came across as they introduced the Greenbag programs to new areas in Mazowe and Binga. They have also partnered with one church in China which allowed for the creation of a New Day Education Fund. Utilising the Greenbag has allowed her to move around in different schools and opened opportunities in assisting children. She confirmed that she has developed a passion in counselling children and has become part of her everyday life. She has drawn lessons from this program since the introduction in 2016 despite the challenges she came across. She confirmed a transformation among the children she counselled as she stated that she is now using the Greenbag as a tool for evangelism. Another achievement is that she became a board member of the New Day Education Fund as they assessed the work that she has been doing. The coverage of children reached within this quarter reaches to 50 by which some have also received Christ as their personal saviour.

ACOP Rugare, represented by Theo mentioned that they experienced resistance at first to which children were not easily opening up, but with time they developed trust. Also he confirmed that the green bag encouraged him to study and master the word of God. He also mentioned that there has been a lot of changes in children's behaviour due to the counselling they received. The lesson he mentioned is that he has come to realise that the tool is powerful in transforming lives. The reach that has been covered in this last quarter amounts to 15.

Mrs Takawira mentioned that she has managed to counsel children with the greenbag but requires a bigger platform that allows exposure to children to which she can counsel. She also mentioned that she has applied the techniques of the greenbag to women experiencing problems. She confirmed that there is still work that needs to be done in ensuring children's lives are transformed. Also mentioned that this programme cemented a relationship with children she worked with. The number of children that has been counselled so far are 2.

TURN-UP FOR FEEDBACK MEETING

Generally, the counselor turn-up for the December feedback meeting was very low. Besides participants having gone for holidays and in part affected by the harsh economic conditions. We deliberated on possible initiatives that we may implement in the coming year 2019 for better coordination and effectiveness.

A suggestion from Mr Chikumbu was that there is need to keep a database of the counselled children to allow a follow up so as to ensure there is progress made and assess the impact of the program. This will also allow for evidence of work done. Another suggestion was to introduce camps to which the Greenbag program which can also be used where counselling can be applied.

The encouragement was to not tire but keep on making a difference in the lives of children. Also the counsellors were encouraged to utilise the pocket cards and drawings in the bag and use the feedback form so as to be able to measure progress.

Suggestions were also to introduce external counsellors that can further train members to encourage the pavement counsellors in utilising the greenbag. Also the suggestion was to ensure the counsellors are equipped to the extent of training and delegate fellow co-workers.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Zimbabwean community is ready for child counselling services and many children are in situations that really need someone to reach out to them. There following are some of the opportunities presented by the situation:

- Wherever the green bag is utilized, organizations and churches have shown great reception and are ready to utilize the picture me process in their organizational child counselling
- There is more and more need for pavement project to be utilized in Zimbabwe's rural communities
- Through VNZ, more networks continue being opened which will allow for more children to be reached

CHALLENGES

There were not too many challenged faced this period, although the following were noted to have affected partially.

- Lack of Privacy
- Impoverished people feel they need to be paid for allowing their children to go through counselling sessions
- Reading and language translation challenges

CONCLUSION

We are continuously praising God for pavement project and for Clara. The number of children being reached continues to increase and more organizations are motivated and ready to be trained and start using pavement project. The green bag is indeed making a big impact on both the trained counsellors and the children being ministered to. Organizations are discovering more value, serving better and reaching out to children more impactful. More doors are opening for the network and there is hope that more children will be reached out to in Zimbabwe.