

**Editorial**

**Ruth Payne**



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Apologies for the delay in the publication of this second issue which was due out in May. Unfortunately, a slipped disc in my back forced me to take time off and I am only now resuming work on this project. It has been a frustrating time and I would like to thank stakeholders for their patience and understanding over the past months. In particular, I was disappointed to not make my scheduled trip to Zambia in July. However, I hope to visit early in the new year. So, there is a lot of news and I do hope this issue will bring you up to date with each other's activities. I am excited to bring you some very interesting reports from our Core Community Groups (CCGs), which were introduced to you in the last issue, and from our Research Partners. Both provide crucial insights into the daily realities of CHHs and their communities. This kind of feedback is vital to develop our understanding of CHHs so thank you for all the hard work and please keep sending in your

news! From this side, there have also been some interesting developments. In March, Felicité Holman (SCA Supervisor, known as 'Felix') and I travelled to Germany to present a research report to one of our donors, Misereor e.V Germany. The presentation of the research findings and networks in Zambia went well but unfortunately, Misereor are unable to fund the feedback programme (planned with stakeholders in October 2006) because of changes in funding regulations. However, together with Street Child Africa and Royal Holloway University Supervisors, I am discussing other options for implementing these ideas. Watch this space! In May I was pleased to meet with Sauro Monnecchi, Co-ordinator of Street Children's Services at Ndola-based research partner, Rainbow Project. Sauro made a visit to SCA's UK Headquarters on his way to take leave in his home country of Italy. Sarah Burt, our Project Assistant, has been busy updating the project website to include research partner profiles and will soon be posting information on CCGs. At SCA, we say goodbye to Fr Patrick Shanahan, Founder of SCA, who will be retiring in August. Whilst Patrick will be officially 'bowing out' of SCA, he will continue his Supervisor Role until project completion. In September, I will be making my annual presentation to the SCA Board of Trustees. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our PROJECT LOGO COMPETITION. Please send in your ideas. The winning individual or organisation will be presented with an exciting PRIZE!

**NEWS FROM ZAMBIA**

Thank you for sending in your news. It is particularly encouraging to read about CCG activities and see how these groups have developed in different ways. Ruth Payne has been in contact with groups through letters, emails and phone calls. Msisi CCG writes: *"We do hope this letter finds you well? We are fine and very busy also...CCG members say many thanks for your on-going commitment to this project and we look forward to continuing to work with you..."* whilst Kashitu CCG wrote in May: *"The CCG in the villages of Kashitu-Zambia are saying bye-bye rain and welcome winter! How is the UK and everywhere else in the world?!"*

**Rainbow Project, Ndola  
Sauro Monnecchi**

Operators have decided the topic of CHHs should be an agenda item at each monthly meeting, enabling the group to regularly discuss CHH issues they face in their communities and learn from each other's experiences with them. Mrs Bwalya (Kaloko Emmaus Centre) suggested that there is a need to revise modalities of how families and children are assessed in order to understand more about what is going on in these homes. She said *"...some of the children have regular meals only during the days they go for classes at the community school of the centre whilst unfortunately the parents are unable to provide basic needs to the children for many various reasons."* She reported one specific example of a child *"...whose family is not only unable to support him but he is the main breadwinner."* The group agreed that active participation in the research should help raise personal and community awareness of CHH, resulting in better advocacy.

**Rainbow Project Operator: Kaloko Emmaus Centre  
Mrs Bwalya**



The Kaloko Emmaus centre © Rainbow Project 2007

Kaloko compound, with its 10,000 inhabitants, is situated in peri-urban Ndola, 10km south of the town centre. The compound developed mainly during the seventies, when many factories opened. At present Kaloko has a very high rate of unemployment due to the declining industrial area. Most factories reduced activity, closed or migrated elsewhere and many people are now living on daily piece-work working on nearby farms. Kaloko Community School, built by Rainbow Project, has become a centre of relief for families. When the school was first open (2003) it had about 200 pupils coming from within the community. Now, there are over 300 enrolments. Breakfast is provided each day and a light meal 3 times a week - a good incentive for parents to send children to school rather than to work. Areas of intervention of Rainbow in Kaloko compound are education, nutrition, income generating activities (IGA).

**Friends of the Street Children, Kitwe  
Christopher Mulenga**

Street children appear from underneath market stalls and tables where they spent their rough nights. *"It isn't easy today uncle"*, lamented one of the dirty angels (14yrs). He had no idea where his next meal would come from because the government has erected a poster next to him which clearly indicates in bold writing "DO NOT GIVE ALMS TO STREET CHILDREN"! Headless\* has been on the street for almost a decade and is well accustomed to street life. He came to the street when he was almost 6, and has never seen his family since. Headless has lacked many things in his life, but most noticeable is the lack of love from a responsible adult.



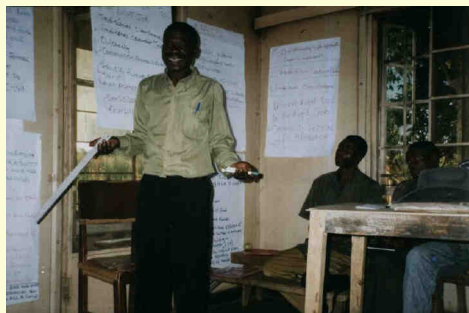
The New Site at Kawama © Friends of the Street Children 2007

Friends of the Street Children works towards restoring dignity to street children. Therefore a new building has been erected, to be used as a classroom for them and a place where they can sleep. The walls and roofs can be used as a refuge for the children who know no other life. Friends of the Street Children would like to thank the Romilly Forshall Foundation, St. John Houghton School, Wild Geese and Street Child Africa for their relentless efforts in making our dreams a reality. Many children both on the streets and around the community of Kawama will benefit from such efforts. At least Headless will have somewhere to lay his head!

\*Not his real name

**Kashitu CCG  
Joshua Mudenda**

The Kashitu core community group was very excited to read through the first issue of the newsletter claiming that: *"the newsletter carries stories that are educative, informative."* The CCG in the villages of Kashitu-Zambia has had several meetings



Kashitu CCG Workshop on CHHs and child Rights © RENATO 2007

and discussed a lot of issues. On 17<sup>th</sup> April the CCG participated in a workshop to learn more about child abuse and child rights. The workshop was initiated and attended by CCG members and run by volunteers from the local Kashitu Research Partner, RENATO.

**Msisi CCG  
Gilbert Ngenda & Katherine Tembo**



View of Msisi Compound © Ruth Payne 2005

The group have increased their meetings to twice a month. Members have been discussing the issue of alcoholism amongst parents and guardians. In many households, they have observed how young people are taking on considerable household headship responsibilities, including looking after children and finding and preparing food, because parents and guardians are drinking heavily. Such observations support findings from this research that drinking related problems are a factor contributing to child-headedness. The group related two stories from Msisi compound. In the first house, a 10 year old boy is taking care of his aunt because she and other relatives are involved in drinking activities. In the mornings he goes to school and after he knocks off he earns money by doing piecework, carrying water from Kamwala South to Msisi compound (a distance of about 3km). He earns 15,000K per day which he uses to buy food and materials for school. In the second house, two sisters, 16yrs and 18yrs, live together with their father in a

rented two room house. With the benefits he received after he was laid off from work, the father has begun drinking heavily with his brothers, leaving his daughters to look after him,



Charcoal Market, Msisi Compound © Ruth Payne 2005

themselves and their home. The eldest sells oranges in town, whilst the younger goes to school and helps her sister when she 'knocks off' by selling oranges outside their home. The Msisi CCG is informally piloting various strategies with neighbours and friends in the community to assist them. One of the ways they have been trying to help is to advise parents and guardians on managing and saving money so that they reserve at least some funds for food for their children. In Gilbert's recent letter, he writes: *"...we are busy going in the community to see what we can do....we are doing this as a group: whatever we do we do it together as CCG members..."*

**Mulenga CCG & Mandevu CCG – WATCH THIS SPACE!**  
Reports have been posted and will appear in the next issue!

**Want to find out more about these projects or get in touch? Contact Ruth Payne at: [ruthedp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruthedp@yahoo.co.uk) or visit: [www.streetchildafrica.org.uk/research](http://www.streetchildafrica.org.uk/research)**

**Article of Interest: Sally Graham Researching into CHH in Jinja, Uganda**



Sally in Uganda © Sally Graham 2005

In 2006 on behalf of Street Child Africa (SCA) I carried out research in Jinja, Uganda. The purpose of this was to explore the needs of children who were living together in family groups without the presence or support of an adult to help them. Such family groups are sometimes called Child Headed Households (CHH) when an older child takes the full responsibility for younger children. One can immediately realise that this older child, because of this responsibility, loses his own childhood. This issue is of deep concern to SCA because the children, in most cases, have to support themselves by seeking a living on the street to earn enough money to simply feed, house, clothe and educate themselves. In this effort to survive they are exposed to all the dangers associated with this lifestyle. SCA commissioned the research to find out how children could be helped to meet their needs and keep family members together.

**Introduction**

There have been many enquiries made into the plight of children in Africa. What distinguishes our work in this project is that it was child centred using a variety of approaches that aimed at allowing children's deeply felt opinions to be voiced by them; to hear what children themselves would want us to know. In effect, as experienced adults, we try and suspend what we think is best for children and instead to let them tell us in their own way what *they* considered best. Such a task involved a radical change in our research approach and removal of our own 'filters'! Masese Co-ed primary School was chosen for the fieldwork for the research. This is a government school situated on a hill overlooking Lake Victoria. It has a large catchment area and the population is representative of the urban population of the town. The school has over 1500 (one thousand five hundred) pupils with an age range of 6 to 15 years. This was a suitable place from which to get an overall picture of the diverse circumstances of children in the locality. Our first task following the planning stage was to select a team of research assistants. We held workshops to train them for the job which included meetings with the teaching staff and leaders and members of the various catchment sites. It was at this initial stage that we also went to see the mayor and his staff to renew our links with the Municipal Authorities. This done, the scene was all set for an exciting and fruitful two months.

**Research approach and findings**

The whole focus of the research then was to hear the voices of children in order to elicit what they experience as their most urgent needs for living a family life without the presence of a parental figure. For this purpose a wide range of methods of enquiry were used. Our sample of respondents was 500 participants. The methods we used included the children's personal narrative accounts, in-depth case studies, photo novella, (Wang & Burris, 1994) visual representations, interactive workshops, role play, drawings etc. Children of all ages and both genders were equally represented. Every child was interviewed by a research assistant in order to gather basic data such as age and social circumstances before one of the above methods was used to encourage the children to tell us about themselves in more detail; what their priorities were and how their needs could be met. One of the most graphically informative sources of information was by the use of photographs. We taught fifteen children how to use cameras and asked the children to talk to us individually about why the pictures they had chosen were important to them. In depth case studies were made by the research assistants on the fifteen children chosen for the camera work and in-depth analysis was made of the combined data that emerged.

**So what did the children say?**

There were no major surprises, only poignant reminders of the basic need that children should have as an automatic right, namely, *Shelter, - Food, - Care, - Psychological attention*. The children in this research certainly demonstrated the desire for all these but paramount and in addition was the loudly expressed desire for *education*. This emerged across both genders and all age groups. Is it because children recognise that education not only gives them access to caring adults and guidance but membership to the future?

**So What?**

Much of the research data analysis was concerned with in-depth case studies that viewed the children's lives from a holistic perspective. Desperate though many of these children are, they have developed sophisticated survival mechanisms and creative means of coping with their social and emotional reality. It would be counter productive and damaging to the children to destroy such mechanisms and to create a situation of total dependency on outside help. However small scale interventions on individual basis can be deeply effective and life-giving. This will involve the identification of specific and critical factors that the child is finding overwhelms their capacity to retain that independence, e.g. rent, school fees. SCA has now begun a small and focussed programme of intervention to assist a small group of children. This initiative will be managed and monitored by the team already in existence up at Masese School. Ongoing monitoring will be maintained and an evaluation carried out at the end of the year.

**APPRECIATION OF JUDY JERE (1967-2006)**

Programmes Co-ordinator, Children in Crisis (CIC)



© Martine Koopman 2006

Judy worked for CIC since its inception in 2001, starting as secretary and later becoming Programmes Co-ordinator. She was very much involved in the support CIC offers to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in two catchment areas, Mandevu compound and Lukata village (provision for school requirements; HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns and IGA). Judy oversaw implementation of funded activities and was involved in programme planning. In short, she worked closely with vulnerable children

and families, developing a reputation for care and dedication. Judy was also instrumental to the growth of CIC. When she began, CIC supported just 10 children. At the time of her death, activities had scaled-up, supporting over 2000 children. Judy's work extended beyond Zambia when, in 2005, she appeared on television in the UK in a special report on UNICEF projects in Zambia, also featuring the well know actor, James Nesbitt. Judy was CIC's representative for the CHH Research Project, providing crucial assistance with the formation and early activities of Mandevu CCG and attending our second workshop (Oct. 2006).

**Stakeholders share their memories of Judy:**

*"She knocks off from work in the afternoon and is exhausted by the time she gets home. She throws her handbag and files onto the bed. Though tired, she sits with the whole family in the living room, eating African wild fruits. Then she will start to share her day which she spends either on the streets, making sure outreach programmes are implemented or having meetings with stakeholders. You can notice the passion she has for the less privileged. Judy introduced me to working with street children, who respected her like she was their mother. Unfortunately, death came so suddenly. I miss her as an aunt, friend, workmate and all that she was to me. May Her Soul Rest In Peace."* **Ezekiel Mukape, Judy's nephew & Research Assistant, CHH Research Project**



Judy at our workshop, October 2006  
© Ruth Payne

*"I worked together with Judy on many projects and I think her strength was in the relationships she built with the kids. She had a remarkable way of making them feel at ease and safe with her. Everyday Judy and I worked together she inspired me and taught me something new. We miss her."* **Katie Eberhard, Programmes Co-ordinator, CIC, 2005-2006**

*"I first met Judy in 2001 when I first started at CIC. I felt instantly welcomed by her. Over the 4 years we worked together, we became friends, seeing CIC through challenging times. Judy's commitment was undisputed and I admired her greatly. She is, and always will be, greatly missed."* **Julia Porter, Project Manager, CIC, 2001-2005**

**FORUM**

**Responses:**

I heard recently that the Zambia Red Cross Society are running programmes to support CHHs in Kapiri Mposhi. Does anyone know more? **Ruth Payne, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, 2007**

The Zambia Red Cross are, to our knowledge, assisting orphans and widows and are involved in Home Based Care in and around Kapiri Mposhi, but they are not assisting CHHs specifically. **Kashitu CCG, May 2007 & Msisi CCG, July 2007**

**New comments & questions:**

It is very good to see the development of this research project through the presentations Ruth has made to the



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Board of Trustees at Street Child Africa as well as by reading her field reports. I have been privileged to meet some of her contacts in her academic world, in her mentoring circle as well as the translator for this newsletter, Millie. Ruth's ability to work with people at all levels allows her to translate her insights of the problems at the grassroots into suitable academic form which makes valuable and interesting reading.

The newsletter format with pictorial and written reporting allows a deeper understanding of what is happening in her chosen field in Africa. I would like to congratulate all those involved in this project in Zambia and the UK on the newsletter production and send my best wishes for its continued success. **Hilary Riddle, Chairman, SCA Board of Trustees, 13<sup>th</sup> April 07**

Widows are a vulnerable group which the world must monitor closely. Many have no jobs and depend on well-wishers. **Kashitu CCG, May 2007**

Abortion and the abandonment of babies is crucial problem in Msisi compound with some young mothers even dumping babies in toilets. Men promise to look after a girl and her siblings but she ends up pregnant and alone. **Msisi CCG, June 2007**

**Your comments and questions are vital to the success of the 'FORUM'!** Something which may not seem important to you, may be of real interest to others, so please send in any contributions and they will appear in the next issue. Please send your contributions to Ruth Payne by email, fax or post (details below).

**LOGO COMPETITION!** Because of the delay caused by Ruth's back injury, the project logo will be launched in next issue. So, we have decided to launch a COMPETITION to find the BEST LOGO for the project! Don't be shy! Please send in ANY ideas you have. They do not have to be works of art! Remember! This is your project and your ideas are important to us! Please send your contributions by email, fax or post (details below). The winning individual or organisation will receive a FANTASTIC PRIZE!

**NEXT ISSUE!** The deadline for news items, forum comments and logo ideas is **23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**. Please send your contributions by email to: [ruthedp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruthedp@yahoo.co.uk); by fax to: +44 (0)20 8972 9821 or by post to Ruth Payne, Street Child Africa, Brabant House, Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0EY, UK.