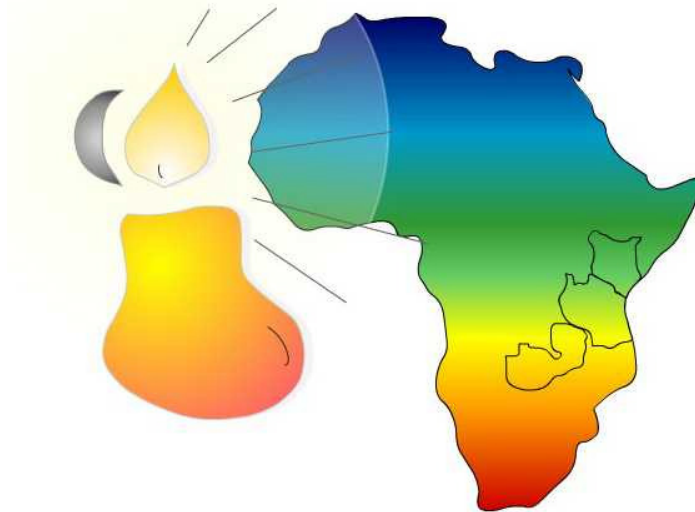




ASSOCIATION POPE JOHN THE 23rd

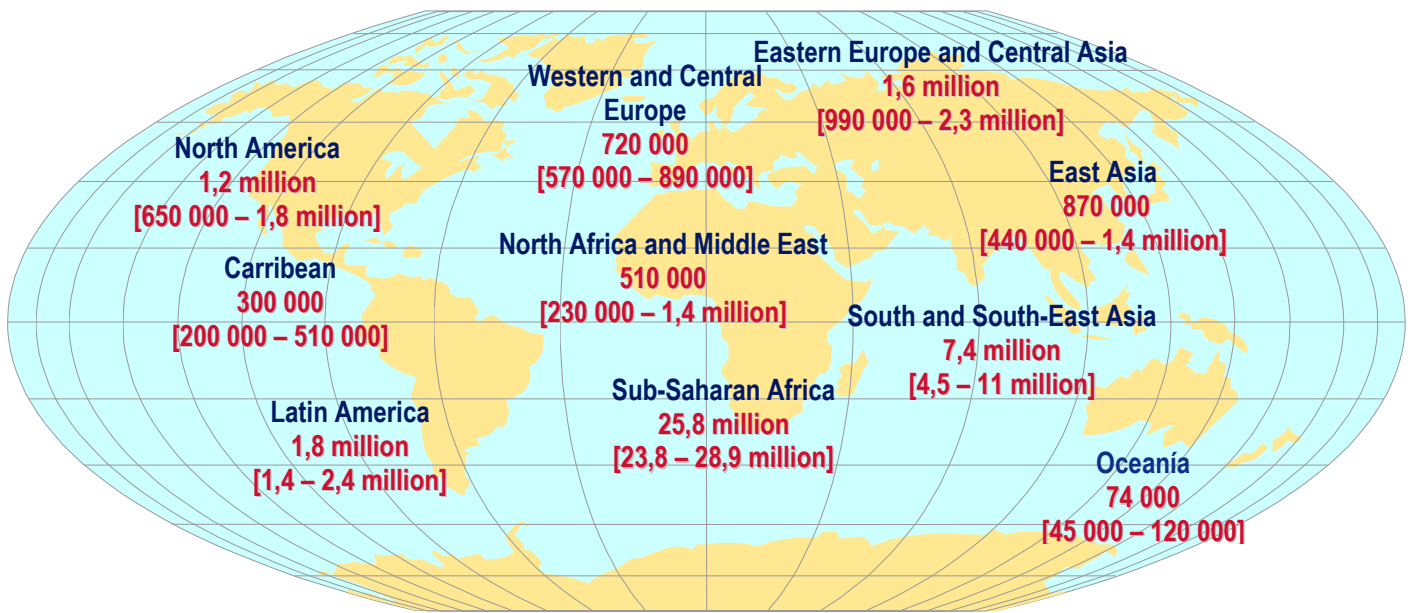
RAINBOW PROJECT

**A LARGE SCALE MODEL OF CARE
FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**



ZAMBIA

Adults and children estimated to be living with HIV in 2005



Total: 40,3 (36,7 – 45,3) million

Font: “Aids epidemic update – December 2005” - UNAIDS



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- Every minute one child dies because of AIDS related causes;
- Every day 6.000 youth between 15 and 17 years old become HIV positive;
- Every years 650.000 children become HIV positive because of mother to child transmission;
- Over 2 million children and 12 million youth are HIV positive;
- 15 million are the children orphans because of AIDS;
- 60% of the total population living with HIV/AIDS is in Sub Saharan Africa. More than the 85% of children affected by HIV/AIDS all over the world is living in the same area.

The ASSOCIATION POPE JOHN THE 23RD, operating in Zambia since 1985, started a project in 1998 with the aim of supporting a large number of children affected in different ways by the HIV/AIDS pandemic:

THE RAINBOW PROJECT LARGE SCALE MODEL OF CARE FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN.

To understand Rainbow as model of care for children in distress on large scale, it is necessary to point out some considerations:

A civic society is organised with normal social and economic structures.

When a national disaster comes, strategic plans and special mechanisms are put in place in order to face the new particular situation for a determined period of time.

New institution can be put in place, but most of all it is the already existing structure that has to be made able to face the emergency situation.

The country should mobilise and organise the already existing resources and find new resources for the added needs occurred.

Usually strategic plans are quite obvious in emergency situation due to natural disasters like e.g. earthquake, twister, or in situation like a civic war.

It seems to be more difficult to think about strategic plans in a country where the normal daily conditions of life are usually in chronic poverty and where the emergency situation is the results of a silent war like the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Being a silent war it doesn't mean that the results are less violent and less devastating for the life of the victims and the survivors and for the whole nation.

Unfortunately, the awareness and the interventions of the national and international community are not going as fast as the desperation and the loosing of hope of the people coping with the pandemic at the grassroots level.

The most vulnerable victims of this war are the children affected by the pandemic in different ways. Children living with sick parents or sick relatives, the orphans left without one or both parents and the children HIV positives.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC

The situation of the children in distress, mainly due to HIV/AIDS pandemic, in Africa today requires a strategic plan able to lay down a net of answers to the different needs of the children in each area for a certain period of time.

A strategic plan is usually implemented by the Government using the existing structures and mobilising new resources to respond to the added needs.

But also NGOs, Churches, different groups and the whole civic society is called to lend a hand to these children who have become everybody's responsibility. The aim of our strategic plan is to reach and help a many children as possible at national level.

The necessary assumptions for the strategic plan are:

1. To make it clear that the adopted mechanisms are implemented under an situation and that they would not have meaning in a normal situation,
2. The plan must be able to face the emergency situation in a short period and to propose solutions for a medium/long period,
3. It must be able to give different answers to the different situations faced by the children in the daily life,
4. The plan has to be implemented in identified areas (e.g. compounds) and give easily access to the beneficiaries,
5. The plan has to be foreseen for a certain period of time. Any extraordinary mechanism needs to be verified and adapted after a certain period of time e.g. three years,
6. The plan must mobilise, at different levels, the existing resources at national, provincial, local and community level and fill the eventual gaps finding new resources,
7. Monitoring and evaluation must be done regularly.

During the first years of the AIDS epidemic, orphans were not a problem. Traditional mechanisms, like the extended family, took care of the children when their parent(s) died.

However, in the last years many reports indicate that the extended families cannot cope any more with the ever-increasing number of orphans. According to many reports child abuse is increasing especially among orphans. This abuse takes many different forms e.g. physical, mental, sexual, child labour and discrimination.

In order to divert the anger, cruelty and misunderstanding of the community from these children, people not only have to be made aware of the situation, but they too have to be educated to become responsible and willing to lend a helping hand with the orphans and vulnerable children.

RAINBOW PROJECT: A POSSIBLE WAY

RAINBOW IS A MODEL OF CARE WITH THE AIM TO HELP LARGE NUMBERS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN, MAINLY ORPHANS OF AIDS, KEEPING THEM WITHIN A FAMILY.

THE AIMS OF RAINBOW ARE:

- TO REACH AND HELP A LARGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN.
- TO KEEP THEM IN A RELATED OR NON-RELATED FAMILIES BY SUPPORTING THESE FAMILIES PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND MATERIALLY;
- TO MAKE THE NATION AWARE OF THIS UMANITARIAN EMERGENCY.

THE INSTRUMENTS OF RAINBOW ARE:

- TO LINK THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT, IN ORDER TO WORK TOGETHER;
- TO INCREASE THE ACTIVITIES THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALREADY DOING.

The spirit of Rainbow is to keep the children in related or non-related families, mobilising the community and networking the different organisations that are already working on the field.

The project tries to achieve its aims through the establishment of co-operation and collaboration between implementing organisations, which focus on OVC and to increase these organisation's efforts. As such, the project is basically a funding organisation for the organisations that are willing to work within the framework of the Rainbow Project model.

The assistance rendered by these implementing organisations should provide comprehensive assistance for OVC in defined areas. This comprehensiveness is based on a number of interlinked interventions, based on a needs assessment. These interventions can be done by one or more organisations. The collaborative efforts by the organisations are co-ordinated and organised in the defined area through the "Rainbow Unit".

The aims, the instruments and the methods used by the model have been identified in order to make an intervention on an emergency situation due to a national disaster going on because of HIV/AIDS pandemic. The instruments and methods have been studied according to the particular cultural conditions of the country.

The model tries to reach its aims finding a balance between the need of pure assistance in terms of food, education, medical assistance etc, and the need to propose a possible solution on the long term, trying to avoid, as much as possible, any dependence syndrome (twin track approach).

Rainbow Project has been implemented and experimented for seven years (1998 / 2006) in Ndola, Copperbelt Province, by the Association Pope John the 23rd and adopted as model of care by the Catholic Diocese of Ndola. It has also been implemented in Kenya and Tanzania since the year 2002.

Great importance is given to the Advocacy for the rights of children through active actions.

Targeted groups:

Direct beneficiaries

- ◆ Orphans and vulnerable children
- ◆ Families caring for orphans and vulnerable children
- ◆ Poor and handicapped people

Indirect beneficiaries

- ◆ Associations, groups and Ngos working in the field
- ◆ Primary and secondary schools
- ◆ Micro economy of the area

The model tries to reach its aims by finding a balance between the need for pure assistance in terms of food, education, medical assistance etc, and the need to propose a possible solution for the long term, trying to avoid, as much as possible, any dependency syndrome.

RAINBOW MODEL

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS



RAINBOW EXECUTIVE GROUP



AFIF TEAM

Adoption and fostering
Identification team

INFO TEAM

Awareness and formation
of the general public
and different level of the government



RAINBOW UNITS



HELPING AND LISTENING CENTRES



FIRST AID FAMILY HOME

AWARENESS AND SUPPORT GROUPS

NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

MEDICAL SUPPORT

**EMPOWERING WHAT IS ALREADY WORKING AND ADDING WHAT IS LACK:
THIS IS THE RAINBOW WORKING SYSTEM.**

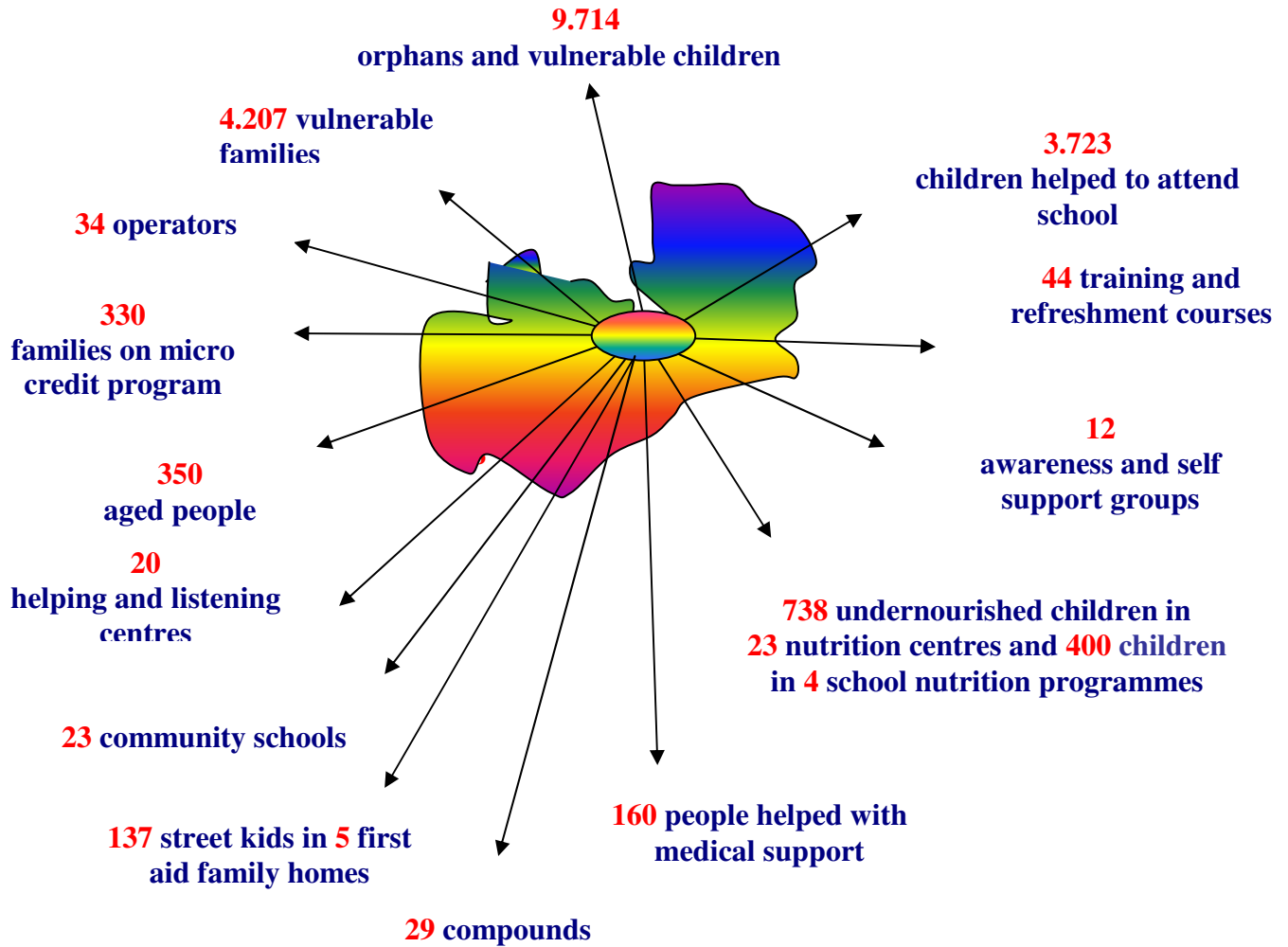
The instruments and methods have been studied according to the particular cultural conditions of the country. Great importance is given to advocating for the rights of children through active actions.

RAINBOW PROJECT IS OPERATING IN ZAMBIA, KENYA AND TANZANIA

DIFFERENT SITUATIONS OF NEED	PERCEIVED KEY SOLUTION (S)	RAINBOW'S ANSWER
Perception of the need	An open ear at grass roots level	HELPING AND LISTENING CENTRES: These centres have the tasks of listening to people, looking for children in distress, verifying the cases of children in distress, recording data about each child, informing Social Welfare about those children who are completely abandoned and neglected and referring cases to other relevant Rainbow units.
Increased poverty among families affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and caring for OVC	Support the families through the Twin Track approach – micro credit scheme	AWARENESS AND SUPPORT GROUPS, consisting of families that are already caring for orphans and vulnerable children.
Children stopping attending school	Educational support	EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT: This unit has the task of finding different ways to guarantee the right of the child to be educated. The guide line is to try to send the child to formal schools and, when this is not possible, to provide community school education.
Increase of malnutrition	Nutritional support	NUTRITION CENTRES Every day grandmothers or aunts of OVC come to ask for help because the babies they are looking after have not been breast fed since their mothers died. In these centres we try to meet their needs.
Increasing number of kids	First aid family homes, rehabilitation centres	STREET CHILDREN SERVICE: These are family homes which are able to care for children who have remained without any stability for a certain period of time. While the children stay, in co-operation with Social Welfare, a more stable solution for each child is found.
Decreasing respect for children's rights	<i>Info team's advocacy action</i>	INFO TEAM: The task of this team is awareness training for the general public and different levels of government, as well as advocating for the rights of the children.
Abandoned children	Adoption and Fostering Identification Team	AFIF TEAM: (Adoption and Fostering Identification Team). This team is working to identify and form families who are available to accept (non-referred) orphans coming from the First Aid Family Homes.
Mother to child HIV/AIDS transmission	Nutritional and medical support	MEDICAL SUPPORT Medical and nutritional support in order to prevent HIV/AIDS Mother to child transmission . general medical support to poor and vulnerable people.

**RAINBOW FIGURES
2005**

ZAMBIA



"WHEN HISTORY PROCEEDS WITHOUT JUSTICE, THOSE WHO HAVE THE POSSIBILITY TO DO SOMETHING, HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DO IT"

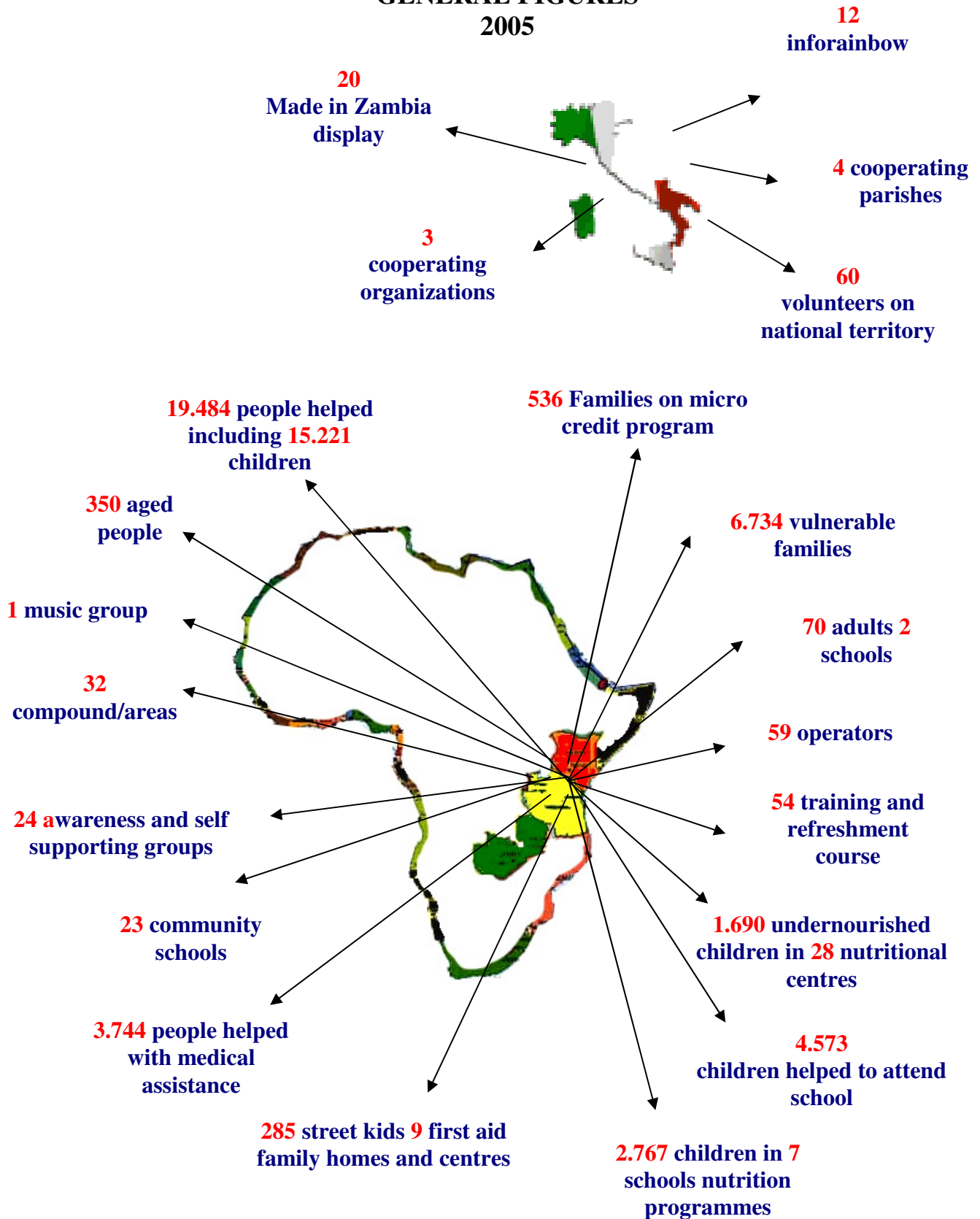
MAY OUR LORD JESUS ALWAYS GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO ACT .

Rainbow Project



RAINBOW PROJECT

GENERAL FIGURES 2005



**"Looking at the way in which we are indifferent in our world and don't even know about the suffering we create; looking at the problems that we think are important and at the arrogance and selfishness we use to judge those who again today will not eat and will not be paid for the job they do,
I feel more and more convinced that the only possible solution is to shift from charity to justice.**

This is not only for the sake of the poor but also for the sake of the rich who often live without knowing fully what the consequences of their actions are.



When I go around in the compounds I see people humiliated and destroyed by misery and victims of terrible diseases, I think of the way we live here and I feel truthfully within myself the words of Jesus on the Cross, "Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they do".

Everybody among us who has seen or understood can become an operator of justice, trying to repair this big injustice, putting on his/her shoulders the people who are considered the rubbish of this world, those who nobody wants.

Only when the rich stop ignoring and start rebelling against this indifference through a choice of justice will this hope not be anymore a little candle but will become a bright light, a light that many people of goodwill will be happy to follow.

Thank you for all you have done up to now for the children of the Rainbow Project.

Garuti Elisabetta
Rainbow Project
general coordinator