

Makeni Ecumenical Centre

2009 Annual Report



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Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Makeni Ecumenical Centre. We are pleased to share with you our 2009 Annual Report highlighting a number of activities that took place in the year 2009.

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1. Executive Chairman's foreword



*"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."
Psalms 127:1*

It is with this belief that we have been able to do the things we have done in the year 2009 as Makeni Ecumenical Centre. We thank God for seeing us through the many challenges that the responsibility of providing education, health and community services to the vulnerable people and to orphans in and around Makeni area put on us. We count it as a privilege to be part of the team of God's servants who have been entrusted with a mission to the world.

It is with this background that I, on behalf of the Board, Management and staff of Makeni Ecumenical Centre, bring to you an overview of what we have achieved and the challenges we faced during the year. In order to achieve our objectives, Makeni Ecumenical Centre's work is broken into seven areas, mainly: Education – Pre-school to senior secondary, Skills training, Income Generation Production Units, Agriculture Settlement and Extension Services, HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention, Family Planning, and Orphanage and Home-based Care for children.

During the year 2009 we have retained all of our 52 staff members and hosted two long-term volunteers. The staff is broken down as follows: Management (5), Maintenance (9), Adult Training Programme (8), School (15), Security (4), Driver (1), Family Planning (2), HIV/AIDS (1), Orphanage (6) and Tuck shop (1).

We were able to achieve many of our objectives during the year because of the financial support we received locally and from outside the country. An amount of K1.261¹ billion was raised during the year and K1.186 billion was spent on programmes and operations. Full details of income and expenditure will be given in the Financial Report of 2009 on request. Each department has endeavoured to discuss its own performance as possible and where necessary statistical details are provided.

We are very much indebted to the Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council (NGOCC) Zambia, the Friends of Makeni worldwide, African Aids Angels (Canada) and Kloosterkerk (Holland) in partnership with Kerkinactie. A full list of our supporters and donors is outlined at the end of this report. We are also grateful to all our visitors and volunteers for their interest and work during the year. We are very grateful to the Board of Managers of Makeni Ecumenical Centre for their guidance and commitment as well as the members of staff for their hard work and humility.

May God always bless us all.
Love, Joy and Peace.
Fr Andrew Mukuyamba

¹US\$1 is equivalent to ZMK4,800

2. General news

First lady graces the 39th Graduation Ceremony



The First Lady, Madam Thandiwe Banda, this year graced the 39th Graduation Ceremony as Guest of Honour. On arrival she did a conducted tour of the various parts of the Centre. Some of the sections she toured were the St Nicholas Children's Village, the livestock production unit and the newly-built secondary school building. She commended the board, management and staff for the work of Makeni Ecumenical Centre. In her message to students, she encouraged them

to go and work hard so that the nation benefits more from their contribution. She further urged them to continue upgrading their education. A total of 65 students graduated. Mrs Banda later kindly donated office furniture to the Centre.

Bertha Kabwe at Solwezi College of Education

High-flying Bertha Kabwe was this year enrolled at Solwezi College of Education on a two-year primary teacher training course. She has kept up her spirit of hard work and is not distracted by anything from her focus on her education. The end of year promotional examinations could not stand in her way. The college authorities have been impressed with her performance and conduct.



Bertha has no doubt been an example to the young orphans of St Nicholas Children's Village. We wish her the best for 2010 and look forward to her graduation ceremony.

Dutch Ambassador opens secondary school



It was another eventful day when the Netherlands' Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Harry Molenaar, officially opened the secondary school building at Makeni Ecumenical Centre on November 6, 2009. The new three-classroom block was constructed with financial help from the Friends of Makeni in the Netherlands at a cost of K200 million.

In his message to the Centre, Mr Molenaar thanked MEC for opening a secondary school in Makeni to lessen the distance covered by pupils needing secondary education. The occasion was also attended by the Chairperson of the Friends of Makeni, Mrs Truus Veldkamp and her husband, Mr Jan Veldkamp. The pupils performed various Zambian dances to spice up the occasion.

3. Adult Training Programme

3.1 Agriculture Department – Benjamin Zulu

The Agriculture Department remains one of the most versatile and busy departments of Makeni Ecumenical Centre. In the year 2009 we had a plate full of activities that were carried out predominantly by the four members of staff in the department. Three staff from other departments covered mathematics, entrepreneurship and communication skills teaching. Settlement extension duties were carried out by two members of staff – the Senior Settlement Officer and the Settlement Officer.

The targets in the year were to

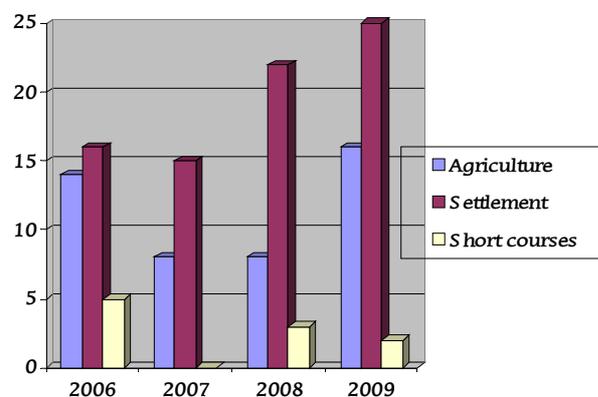
- enrol and train 25 settlement students and 20 agriculture general students;
- increase broiler production by embarking on a chain rearing of 400 birds per batch;
- increase sow unit at the piggery from five to ten as well as to increase pork and sausage production;
- embark on self-sustainability projects, such as the selling of fertiliser and seeds to support crop productions in settlement villages, and production of vegetable crops for the department.

Training Facilities

Training was conducted in Lima Hall for agriculture general. The settlement class used one of the unused poultry pens at the production unit for their theory lessons. For poultry rearing, pig production and meat processing the same facilities were utilised for practicals and production.

Enrolment

Enrolment in the year 2008/9 was much better than the previous two years; however, more marketing efforts will still be needed for short courses to have a meaningful impact on our target groups as well as contribute towards self-sustainability. The enrolments for the last five years are shown below.



There is an increasing trend for long courses as opposed to short courses. The enrolment figures are higher for agricultural settlement than general agriculture because the programme targets the vulnerable, who in the end benefit through the provision of a 10-acre piece of land.

3.2 Production units

Crop Production



The department started crop production with organic and inorganic maize in the demonstration fields. Vegetables such as cabbage, onion, tomato, rape, *amaranthus*, pumpkin leaves, beans and cassava leaves were part of the crops that helped the department to effectively implement the crop production programme.

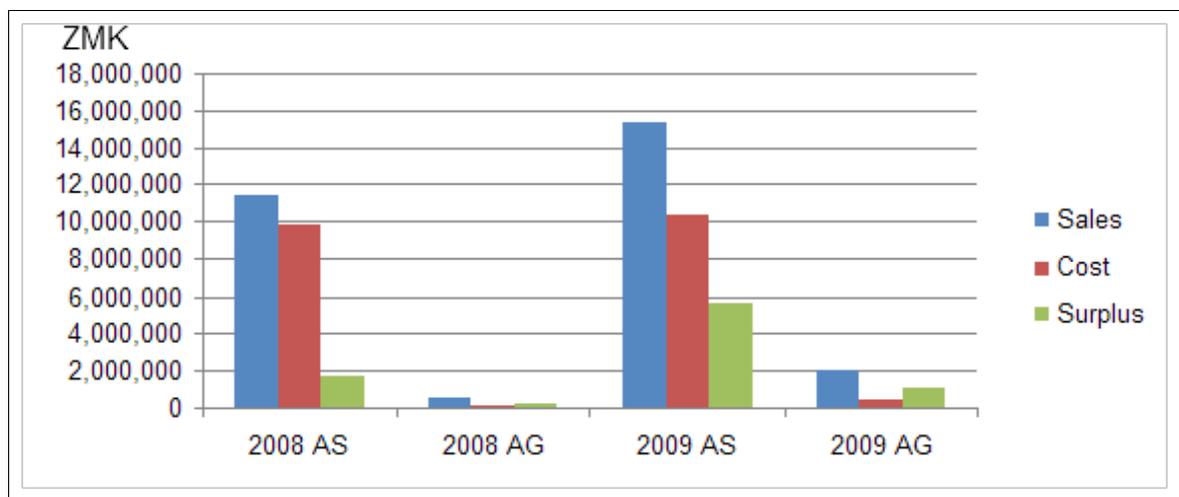
The crop section was negatively affected due to inadequate water for irrigation as the water system had one of its tanks broken.

During the year we hosted a student from Chipembi Farm College for two months. The student was accommodated within the Centre and worked in the Crop and Livestock production units.

Crop production contributed well to the income generation efforts of the agriculture department. Sales stood at K17.3m (including 2.0m from agriculture general), expenses at K10.6m and the surplus raised was K6.7m.

The performance of the Unit in 2009 increased by 31.2%. Below is a comparison of the years 2008 and 2009.

Comparison of Sales, Costs & Surplus for 2008 and 2009



Poultry Production

We have intensified broiler production at 400 birds per batch. During the first batch of 2009, the department suffered high mortality due to the condition known as *ascites*.

There was no help from our veterinary experts. Mortality stood at 56% and we have since changed the supplier. The total sales were K8.37m and the surplus was 0.7% of the sales. Had it not been for the high mortality rate the unit would have made a reasonable contribution to the Centre.



Mushroom Growing

Mushroom growing was planned for all-year production. However, this plan was not carried out due to the roof at the mushroom house breaking and needing complete repair. The repair took a long time due to resource constraints. We appreciate the help we received from the agriculture settlement students. It is definite that in 2010 mushroom production will resume as before.



Pig Production & Pork Processing

The piggery unit now has 10 sows, 2 boars, 67 fatteners and 19 piglets, a total of 98 pigs. This was a tremendous achievement compared with just 4 pigs in the year 2000.

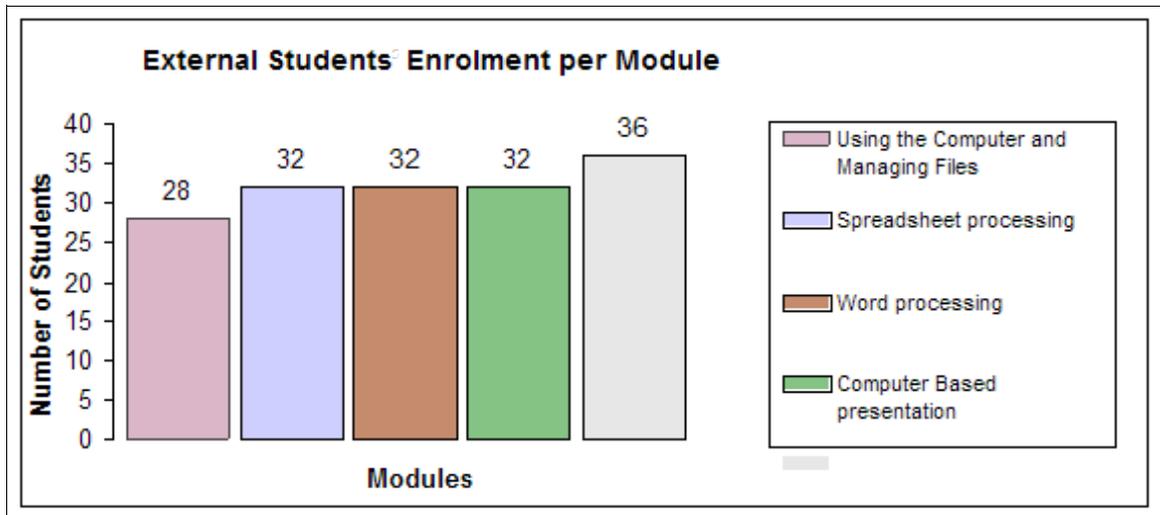
The unit size will be increased to 15 sows in 2010. This means that the unit will have approximately 160 pigs before selling and production times.

3.3 Computer Department – Joseph Mumba

Many activities were undertaken by the computer department during 2009. We trained seven members of staff in word processing, which increased our capacity to efficiently use computers. We also trained twenty Adult Training Programme students.

The number of pupils attending computer lessons increased from 136 in 2008 to 200 in 2009. This is due not only to increasing confidence of parents and guardians in the initiative, but also to the introduction of senior classes.

A total of 160 external students attended our programme in the year under review. The distribution is shown in the chart below.



In July we upgraded 27 computers for ease of work such as the installation of latest application software.

Challenges

The department faces a number of challenges in executing duties to the expected standard. Lack of an internet connection, under staffing and lack of skills in computer hardware maintenance and upgrading all play a part in holding back our progress.

Future Plans

We hope to benefit from the work of the 'e-brain' forum in Zambia, a knowledge-sharing community facilitated by the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), and also from other internet services suitable for educational institutions. The lab needs renovation if funds become available.

The computer department can contribute much more to the self-sustainability of the institution given the right equipment and training. Computing is a constantly changing field and regular upgrades are needed to keep pace.

3.4 Carpentry and Joinery – Bringnas Saviye



The Carpentry & Joinery Department had its own share of challenges and successes in 2009. The objectives that were set for the year included training 15–20 students in carpentry and joinery and enhancing the production of wood products for sale as part of the income generation activities for self-sustainability.

We managed to enrol five students and they all sat for the final examinations. All the students passed their practical examinations and the class average was 66%, while for theory only one failed and the class average pass was 59%. These low enrolments not only affect Makeni Ecumenical Centre, but other training providers in Lusaka as well.

Production unit

The Production unit has gradually been increasing its role in the self-sustainability programme of Makeni. Though the production flow has been less than anticipated, it is evident that the future looks promising. In 2009 sales stood at K17.1m with a profit of K5.4m, a 31.4% profit. The department has played a significant role in the improvement programmes in the orphanage, basic school and many other sections of the Centre.



Tools and equipment

We had a boost in our stock of tools and equipment when some of our visitors and volunteers donated to us. We had 57 different tools and equipment donated by Albert Meems, Swier Edens and Truus and Jan Veldkamp. Albert and Swier helped upgrade the safety features of the industrial carpentry machines. The machines are safer to use now than they were before. This is an encouragement for students.



Staff development

The maintenance section falls under the Carpentry & Joinery Department and four members of staff were trained in metal fabrication through the financial support of the Friends of Makeni. This was to build capacity in the maintenance workers to enable them to handle welding works and in fabricating items such as desks, windows and grill doors. It is hoped that the new desks for the secondary school will be done by the department.

3.4 Electronics Department – Maj. B.M. Nsama (Rtd)

Electronic Systems Maintenance And Repair (ESMR), a completely new programme under the auspices of the Technical Education Vocational Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA), is the integration of the two formerly separate courses of Radio & Television Maintenance and Office Equipment Maintenance. Until 2007 Makeni was offering the former.

The separate courses disadvantaged students because of limited applications in the field of work. The former course covered modules such as Trade Theory, Trade Mathematics, ESP-Communication Skills and a Trade Practical based on radio and television.

The new course under the TEVETA Qualifications Framework has modules such as Electronics, Communication Equipment Repair, Office Equipment Repair, Engineering Science, Engineering Mathematics, ESP-Communication Skills, Entrepreneurship and Computer Applications (ICT). This format has been recognized under the SADC Protocol on Technical Education in the sub-region and beyond. Makeni at the moment has two streams running side by side with nine students in each class.

Training Programme Performance Audit

ESMR Year 2

The intake started in January 2008 with a good number of candidates, but due to mostly financial reasons some dropped out. This course presents new challenges in equipment acquisition, especially for office equipment, materials development and continuous assessment criteria. Some of the office equipment required for training include photocopiers, faxes, computers, printers and telephone hand-sets.

ESMR Year 1

The intake started in January 2009 with 12 students (3 female and 9 male). The programme is progressing well and indications are that course content should be covered in good time with ample time for intensive revisions. Three students dropped out due to personal reasons. Generally, there is hope for improvement in future enrolments.

Training Equipment

Looking at the scope of the programme, the training aids and equipment are not adequate and appropriate. We have some run-down radios, Television sets and obsolete measuring equipment. However, we received a donation from UNICEF through TEVETA comprising monitors, system units, a scanner, printer, copier, laptops and projectors. This equipment has been quite useful for teaching purposes, though most items came with a range of faults requiring more attention.

We also received a donation of a radio from the Executive Chairman, Fr Andrew Mukuyamba, and this has further alleviated challenges of the syllabus to do with radio. We also obtained a high technology range of training tool kits. The kits are electro-mechanical, but there is a need to procure an extra kit specifically for PC maintenance.

3.5 Home Economics Department - Regina Nyirongo

The Home Economics Department performed relatively well in 2009. The enrolment stood at 14 and 11 graduated with full certificates. Our target of 20 students enrolled per course still remains a challenge despite enhanced marketing initiatives put in by the institution. However, many positive aspects have been noticed in terms of enquiries and demand for accommodation by prospective candidates living in distant places. Management will need to work on the challenge of providing accommodation for all courses.

The cafeteria has been gaining momentum recording sales of K16.3m, purchases of K10.7m and profits of K2.9m (17.5%). It is expected that the margin will improve as we are consolidating our means of obtaining food from cheaper sources as well as bulk buying of other supplies. We will also be producing confectioneries for our tuck shop.

There are many things that need to be done:

- opening of incubators for graduate students who will on a voluntary basis decide to remain at MEC and be engaged in commercial activities to develop their skills while waiting to get a job elsewhere. The primary activities they will be doing is tailoring of uniforms and other products for sale;
- renovating of the kitchen to bring it to acceptable standards as well as the general refurbishment and the creation of more space and storage facilities;
- acquiring of additional small equipment such as cutlery, a colander, baking tins and mixing bowls, bobbins and bobbin cases for tailoring;
- regular servicing of machines;
- employing one permanent staff, if resources permit.

3.6 Library – Martha Mbiya

Use of the library has been increasing as more and more books are being acquired and received every year. The library received several books from different organizations and individuals. The American Center loaned us four books on library classification systems.

List of books and titles received this year

Donor	Number of items	Titles/category
Zambia Library Services	100	Mathematics books for secondary education.
Anton Dil	17	Computers, Electronics
Truus Veldkamp	1	Talking about domestic abuse
Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation	1	Art of Life
The Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation, NGOCC, World Health Organisation, Adult Education and Development, ICT update, Compas	Several	Book, magazines, periodical, Serials

Visitors

This year we had a group of women visitors from Denmark, namely An Hofkens, Mieke Claus, Mieke De Bats and Arlette Andries.

Mieke Claus taught at the Home Economics Department some time ago and in 2009 donated many needlework items.

4. Basic and Secondary School - George Halubobya



Makeni Ecumenical Centre Basic School has continued to grow and now has senior classes. Initially a Grade 10 class was opened, accommodated in the Electronics Workshop, which had been renovated and converted into a dual-purpose facility, catering for an electronics workshop and school laboratory.

Left: New classroom block at MEC School

Now we are delighted to report that a new three classroom block has been built to cater for the senior section. This was made possible with the financial support of the Friends of Makeni Foundation from the Netherlands.

The new building was officially opened by the Netherlands Ambassador to Zambia, His Excellency Mr Harry Molenaar, on 6th November 2009. The function was also attended by Truus Veldkamp, the Chairperson of the Friends Foundation in Holland, and her husband, Jan Veldkamp. The occasion was characterised with excitement and the pupils performed various dances and activities to entertain the guests.

School Enrolment

The school enrolment for the year stood at 378. The table below shows the enrolment by category:

	Pre-school	Primary	Secondary	Total
Students	44	182	152	378

Our school enrolments are sometimes affected by transfers of children owing fees. (Some parents withdraw their children and enrol them at other schools when they are persuaded to pay outstanding amounts.)

It is sad to note that in the course of the year the school lost one Grade 9 pupil, who died of malaria.

Staffing

The school has 14 teachers. The school administration consists of Mr G. Halubobya, the Headmaster; Mr C. Mbale, the Deputy Headmaster; and two senior teachers, Mrs M. Halubobya and Mrs G. Zwani.

The number of teachers in the school is inadequate since most teach more than 32 periods per week. This affects the standards that have to be attained. With additional grade levels in the coming year we will need to employ four more experienced teachers in English, History, Chemistry, Physics and Biology, with diploma or degree qualifications.

Teaching Materials

We thank the Friends of Makeni for purchasing more than 200 assorted school textbooks for use in the school. However, there is still a need for more books and other teaching materials.

Examinations

The Grade 7 results, as usual, were the first to come out. Out of a total of 28 pupils who sat for the examinations, 21 pupils made it to Grade 8 giving us a progression rate of 75%. There was a serious drop in performance compared to 2008 which stood at 93%.

The Grade 9 Examination results came slightly late. Our performance was not very good, although we did better than the national pass rate which stood at 58% country wide. Out of a total of 56 candidates who sat for these examinations, 38 of them made a full certificate representing a pass rate of 68%. In 2008 we also recorded 68% passing rate.

Steps have been taken to improve our results in 2010. We introduced two streamed classes, Grades 9 A and B, according to the performance of the students and going by the learning morale and academic enthusiasm. We are hoping to achieve one of the best results ever recorded at this level.

Education tours

Various educational tours were done involving all pupils from the Pre-School, Primary and Secondary School sections. The different groups visited the ZNBC Television station, Muvi Television and the National Assembly.

Sports

Our school has also participated in sports very well. The first ball games were hosted by ourselves against our neighbours, Bayuni Basic School. The football results were fairly good but the netball results were disappointing. We also played with two more schools and our results were fair.

As we have increased our participation, it is expected that the results will improve next year.



Exchange programme with Scholengemeenschap

Last year we started a school exchange programme between Makeni Ecumenical Centre School and Scholengemeenschap (The Hague, Holland) coordinated by the Friends of Makeni. It is hoped that the exchange programme will assist in helping the people from the two schools learn more about each others' environments, culture and educational approaches.

5. Health and community support

5.1 Family Planning Clinic – Dapheen Mkandawire

Registration of clients for the year 2009 for family planning was encouraging compared to 2008, despite shortages of Noristerat injectable contraceptives since March. We have attended to 2375 acceptors, of which 910 clients are new. Those under outreach amounted to 347 clients. Details on the rural outreach are under the HIV/AIDS segment of this report.

A sum of K2.3m has been raised from the sale of cards and membership fees. Safe Plan, which is sold at K1000 per 2 cycles, raised us K542,000. K273,600 was spent on purchasing this contraceptive.

The supply of contraceptives as from January this year is as follows.

Contraceptives	Quantity
Oralcon-F	2979 cycles
Microlut	1720 cycles
Depo-Provera	1000 pieces
Noristerat	400 pieces
Male Condoms	8456 pieces
Female Condoms	250 pieces

Though Noristerat went out of stock in March, some clients bought their own from drug stores using prescriptions from the Family Planning Clinic. The female condoms are seemingly not preferred by most women.

All our contraceptives were sourced from the Ministry of Health with the exception of Safe Plan, which we buy from the Society for Family Health.

5.2 HIV/AIDS prevention and home-based care

AIDS awareness and prevention – Catherine Oreta

The HIV/AIDS Prevention Project concentrated its activities in rural areas, including the Makeni Settlement Villages, because in these areas there is a big knowledge and awareness gap compared with the urban areas. The main objectives of the project are:

- to help prevent new HIV infections;
- to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS especially in the rural areas;
- to promote and conduct voluntary counselling;
- to encourage behaviour change and encourage Christian morals;
- to encourage public HIV/AIDS discussions in order to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Individual and focus group discussions were run at the Centre, targeting especially mothers coming for family planning services, and reached out to about 3500 women. HIV/AIDS awareness videos were also shown to the same target group.

Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT)

Over 1,100 people were counselled and tested for HIV. The details are tabulated below:

Location	Negative cases	Positive cases	Total Tested
Makeni Static Clinic	774	103	877
Kalwelwe	87	9	96
Mwomboshi	107	13	120
Chinkuli	0	1	1
Shikatende	19	5	24
Percentage	88%	12%	
		Total	1118

We distributed 60,000 male condoms to 745 clients and 8,000 female condoms to 200 clients for HIV prevention. The challenge of HIV/AIDS prevention, awareness and mitigation was more demanding in 2009 as can be seen from the statistics (1,118) as compared with 2008 which stood at 138.



Right: Mrs Oreta carrying out Rapid HIV Testing

Capacity Building Training and enhanced Rural Local Outreach

Eighteen rural, community-based, psychosocial counsellors were trained in rapid HIV Testing.

There were three counsellors from each of the six rural sites:

- Munyati – Mumbwa District
- Mwomboshi Settlement Village – Chisamba District
- Kalwelwe Settlement Village – Chisamba District
- Chinkuli – Chongwe District
- Chisamba Ranch Settlement Village – Chisamba District
- Shikatande – Mumbwa District



Rural outreach programme bicycles were given to all the participants.

Monthly visiting targets were set at 120, 25 and 90 in Shikatende, Munyati and Chinkuli respectively.

Home Visits

105 homes benefited from the home visits program. This was 59% more than in 2008. Individual, couple and family counselling was conducted. Gospel messages were also shared. John Laing, Kanyama, Konga and Patel areas were visited. The last two locations are in the Makeni area.

Rural HIV/AIDS and Family Planning Outreach

Outreach activities with Zambia Helpers Society in Mwomboshi and Kalwelwe went on smoothly except for the challenges in obtaining all of the necessary contraceptives. We conducted individual counselling to 2000 clients on issues related to HIV/AIDS and referred them to their nearest health centre for further action. The mobile outreach for Family Planning services recorded the following results:

Mwomboshi Settlement Village (193 clients)

Contraceptive	Old Clients	New clients	Total
Oralcon-F pill	56	94	300 cycles
Microlut pill	0	28	84 cycles
Depo-Provera inj.	0	15	15 Ampoules
Total	56	137	

Kalwelwe Settlement Village (154 clients)

Contraceptive	Old Clients	New Clients	Total
Oralcon-F pill	43	71	342 cycles
Microlut pill	0	35	105 cycles
Depo-Provera inj.	1	4	5 Ampoules
Total	44	110	

Anti-retroviral Therapy

The number of clients on anti-retroviral therapy in Mwomboshi, Kalwelwe and Chisamba has increased to sixteen from ten in 2007. Some of these clients go to Kabwe General Hospital, Liteta Hospital in Chibombo and Lusaka every two or three months for review as well as collecting drug supplies, depending on the individual cases.

HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy

The HIV policy is an important part of the project's outreach and awareness strategy. We have maintained wearing of T-shirts every Friday. It has been the management's desire to include students and pupils once resources are available.



In 2009 we were privileged to use the 50 green golf shirts (in picture) which were part of the various items donated by Mr Tony Linthorst to the Agriculture meat processing unit. We called this a 'timely donation' because it came at the time we needed to replace the 2008 golf shirts.

5.3 Home-based care and vulnerable children – Catherine Oreta

Educational support programme

The home-based project mainly targets orphans and vulnerable children who live with their guardians in the compounds and Makeni Settlement Villages. The main aim is to help improve the quality of life of these children and help lighten the burden of their aged grandparents by providing support and care in education and food supplement.

The key result of this project is that the children obtain education and their quality of life improves. Sixty-eight children benefited from the educational support programme. The support covered only the first and second term since there was no funding to cover the third term. Unfortunately this meant that a good number of pupils were adversely affected. Some were not allowed to attend school as a result.

Food supplementation programme

Fourteen households from Linda, Chawama, Kanyama Compounds and Chisamba Settlement Village benefited from Mealie Meal monthly rations. This, like the educational support programme, was funded under the NGOCC Basket Fund. The food supplementation programme ran up to October before resources were totally utilised, partly due to the increase in the price of mealie meal.

6. Agricultural settlement



In 2009, 21 out of 25 settlement students were settled. The other students should be settled after paying outstanding tuition fees. Mwomboshi settlement village received 3 families and 20 were settled in Chisamba.

Left: The truck loaded with household goods for new Mwomboshi settlers.

Below: typical house in the first year of settlement.



Above: A common scene on arrival – household goods being moved to shelter.

Population

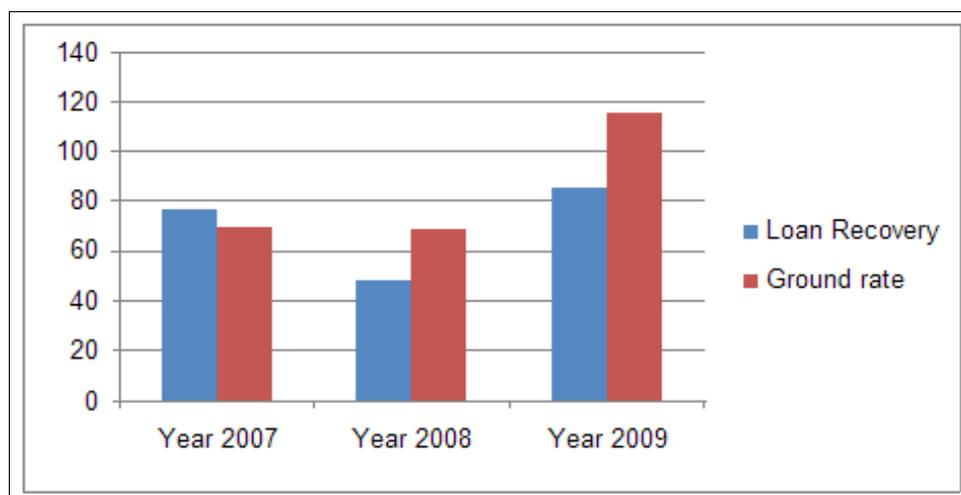
The population has been increasing by an average of 12 people per year for the last five years. The family population in 2009 stood as follows:

Village	Families
Mwomboshi	86
Chisamba	156
Kalwelwe	42
Kafue	20
Mwembeshi	86
Total	390

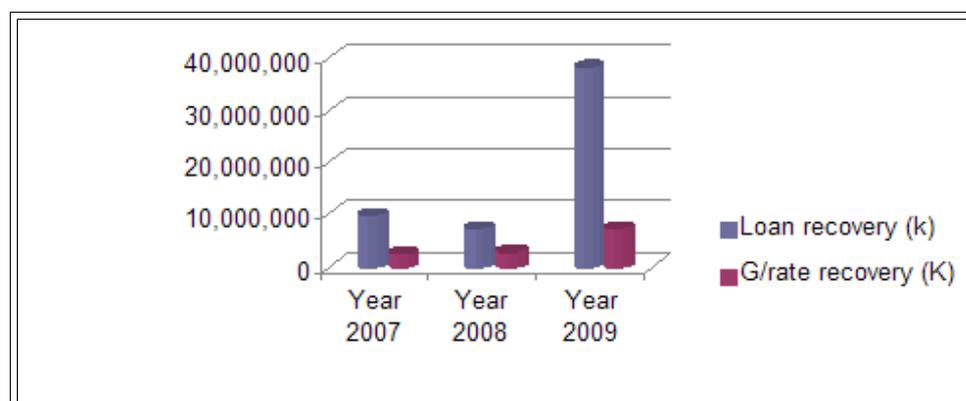
Loan Recovery

Ground rates and loan recovery in the year under view started in January, after cautioning loan defaulters. A number of farmers responded amidst apprehensions over possible sanctions against them. 86 settlers paid their loans and 116 paid ground rent. In 2008 we only had 49 paying their loans and 69 their ground rent. Our loan recovery increased by 547% at K38.3 million while ground rent recovery increased by 267% at K7.2 million comparing with the year 2008. The best response was recorded in Mwembeshi Settlement Village.

Number of settlers paying loans and ground rent



Loan Recovery 2007-2009



Visitors

Mwembeshi and Mwomboshi Settlement Villages hosted visitors from 'The Art of Life' youths. They visited Mwembeshi Settlement during the day and later spent a night in Mwomboshi Settlement Village. For some this was their first feel of deep rural darkness.



Left: Art of Life youths in the Mwomboshi Settlement Villages

Mwomboshi was also visited by Jan and Truus Veldkamp. They also visited Chisamba, Kalwelwe and Mwembeshi. The two visitors explained the operation of the [Friends of Makeni in Holland](#), to the settlers.

During their visit to Mwomboshi they also checked the progress on the teacher's house which is under renovation. They were quite happy with the progress on the ground.



Left: Jan and Truus talking to members on developmental project.

6.1 Development projects

In the year under view the department undertook some new and existing projects in the settlements. Summaries are given below.

Goat pass-on project

The goat pass-on project is one of the new projects which the department started in the 2009. The project helps farmers to have livestock that may supplement their crop income.

Six goats were bought for Mwomboshi and Chisamba settlements. It is anticipated that in 2 years' time the goat pass-on project will start to bear fruit. The number of kids so far born are 4. Kalwelwe Settlement Village will also be on the programme in the year 2010.



This project was made possible with the financial assistance of the Rotary Club of Claremont, Cape Town, South Africa through Mr George Muller. The 2008 part of the project was funded by the Colonies of the Benevolent in Holland through Mr Dimitri Knobbe.

African AIDS Angels – Agriculture Extension Support

Assistance to settlement villages from African AIDS Angels started in 2008 and was extended in 2009 to 35 settlers from an initial 21. All important activities of the project were carried out with ease.

The year 2008 beneficiaries were from Chisamba Settlement Village. Out of 21, two were removed from the list due to unforeseen circumstances. The additional 16 beneficiaries in 2009 are settlers from Mwomboshi Settlement Village.



Beneficiaries: 80 year old Mr Nkhuwa and 76 year old Mrs Zeli Nkhata during field monitoring in Mwomboshi in November 2009

Mr Silwenga addressing the farmers on the project and its link to self-sustainability

The Extension Support project targets very vulnerable farmers and caters for support in basal and top dressing, seeds, weeding and agricultural lime. A total of K23.1m was spent covering inputs and transportation. This project is very critical to Makeni since it is intended to create self-sustainability in the target beneficiaries. Makeni management has made it a point to do monitoring and on the spot checks twice a year, besides the regular monthly programme by the settlement staff.

Fertilizer & Seed Support Project (FSSP)

Since its inception the FSSP has been gaining ground in the settlement villages and will soon be a reliable alternative to the government run fertiliser support programme. The FSSP is likely to expand to cater for farmers in the nearby surrounding villages also. A major setback in 2009 was a lack of reliable and secure storage facilities so that the project inputs could be delivered early enough during the year.

With sales of K27.8m and purchases of K22.7m, there was a surplus of just over K5.1m. If resources allow, we intend to distribute at least 100 bags of fertilisers in each of the settlement villages.

Hammermill Project in Chisamba

The hammermill project has made tremendous progress because the two houses intended for it have now been completed. The engine is also done. What remains is the miller, which will cost about K15m to obtain. It is hoped that in 2010 the miller will be procured if funds are available.

Animal Draft Power Project

The genesis of the ADP Project was sponsored by Kloosterkerk Worldwide. In 2009, the ADP Project turned two years old on the ground in both Chisamba and Mwomboshi.

Contrary to last year, when only 20 farmers used the facility for land preparation, 27 farmers used the facility in 2009. Both settlements have recorded conception of their cows so it is likely that by 2010 we will have a calf in each village.

Though there are challenges in getting everyone involved in the care and management of the draft animals, the ADP committee deserves commendation.

Upgrading a teacher's house in Mwomboshi

This project was undertaken with financial help from the Friends of Makeni. The house is a prerequisite for attracting a government teacher. Having a trained teacher enables the school to receive government grants and it is easy to convert the school into a government-run school. Arrangements by the community Parents Teachers Association have been made to get a teacher to come once all the finishing touches are completed.



In conclusion, there were many successes in 2009, but the agriculture department has a lot of potential to do better if projects are implemented according to plan, through timely funding, and staff capacity is enhanced in skills-deficient areas.

7. St Nicholas Children's Village – Ireen Chinyama



Above: First Lady, Madam Thandiwe Banda, holding Nicholas when she visited in September 2009

Right: Our youngest child, Nicholas, at the orphanage



In early 2009 the orphanage had 29 children before four older children were integrated with their families. Four other children were admitted from Chisamba Settlement Village – three girls and one boy. The grandmother who was looking after them died and there was no one to take care of them. The total number of children now at the orphanage is 33 – 14 boys and 19 girls.

Devotions

Daily prayer meetings and Bible sharing are conducted under the supervision of any staff on duty. Children were gathered in the Dining room every morning around 05:30 hours. They sang songs and later prayed. Bible Sharing and prayer for the day are conducted by any chosen child or those who would volunteer. The programme is repeated in the evening after supper. This helps the children develop spiritually. There are children who are good at leading worship songs and we always encourage them to develop the talent.

Counselling

We have counselled children on life issues in general, on how they should live and how they should regard the people they were living with so that even when they leave the orphanage they will not have difficulties adapting to new challenges in their life. We have counselled them on what sexual and other forms of abuses are and who could possibly be the abuser. We have explained to the big girls and boys generally about personal hygiene, abstinence and the consequences of unhealthy relationships. Spiritual counselling has also been cardinal.

Education

A timetable for children to do their homework and home study has been drawn up. This covers mostly the afternoon period after school. It was observed that only younger children were keen to follow the timetable. The older children only went to study when they were persuaded. However, the timetable helped some children to develop their interest in studying and increased their understanding of topics they did not grasp in class.



Help was given to those with little interest in studying and those who have problems in learning. This is one of the areas where a number of young volunteers have been helpful.

The results for terms 1 and 2 were collected and the performance of the 28 children who are in Pre-school up to Grade 7 was very good. The children in Basic School did not do well, with only a few managing to reach an average score. We are trying to help the girls to concentrate on their school work. Mr Nyirenda helped the boys with their studies since he too was studying in the evenings. Extra evening studies from 1900 hours to 2100 were conducted in one of the classrooms during exam time.

Orphans and vulnerable children support in education

The results for some children under support in education were received. These included Elizabeth Mwamba, Esther Chisenga, Audrey Kabwe, Emmanuel Soko and Peter Chirwa. Those whose results were not good were even counselled by the administration to work hard.



On the bright side, Bertha Kabwe started her teacher training course at Solwezi Teachers' Training College in 2008, passed her Promotional Examinations and she is now in second year.

Most of the children are being sponsored by the Friends of Makeni in the Netherlands and we are very grateful for their assistance.

Health

We have had 40 different health cases in 2009 from February to December 2009. Fortunately, none of them were more serious than coughs or fevers. Children attended the clinic and responded well to medication.

Nicholas is currently receiving medical attention from CorpMed Medical Centre, a private hospital with whom we are collaborating under the Tiny Tim and Friends Project. He has been responding very well to medication. In April 2009, all the Aunties and the Children except Nicholas went through voluntary counselling and testing with the Tiny Tim and Friends Team and all the results were non-reactive.

Production Unit

Maize was planted in the garden and production was very good. Children enjoyed eating the fresh maize.

After harvesting maize, various vegetables were planted such as Chinese cabbage, rape, beans and pumpkins (including for its leaves). These vegetables did not do as well as was expected.

"Some maize for you Mrs Dil"



Currently we have planted tomatoes, *impwa* (African egg-plants), Chinese cabbages, cabbages, cauliflowers and carrots. The *impwa* and tomatoes

germinated very well and the children are transplanting. Interest and enthusiasm is gradually growing in the children and staff. We are sure that gardening will soon be a joy to many.

Handicrafts

Girls made pillow cases for all the children and skirts for the small girls. Knitting was done and necklaces were made. The boys did paintings on pieces of canvas. All the children were also taught some stitches to use when mending their clothes. A good number of handicrafts have been taught to the children by the various volunteers that do visit the Children's Home. Most of the handicrafts are sold for fund-raising purposes.

8. Donors, volunteers and partners

Visitors

Several visitors, individuals, and representatives of organisations were received during the year 2009. We are grateful for their invaluable support, fellowship, donations and contributions to the work of Makeni Ecumenical Centre. Visitors included:

Visitor	When	From
Madam Thandiwe Banda (first lady of Zambia)	Sept	Zambia
Truus and Jan Veldkamp	February and October	Holland
Ardette Andries, Huiebe de Bats, Mieke Claus and An Hofkens	February	Belgium
Doxa Ministries Representative	February	Zambia
Mr & Mrs Takawire of ZNS	February	Zambia
Joke , Anne and Rinse (Hanze University)	April	Holland
Mr Tembo from John Leigh (visiting son Nicholas)		Zambia
Eden Institute (Lecturers & Staff)		Zambia
Tiny Tim and Friends Team	April	Zambia
Art of life	August	Holland
Christian Aware Team	July	UK
Seventh Day Adventist Youth Zambia (John Laing Church)		Zambia
Albert Meems and Swier Edens	August	Holland
Gordon and Julia Lowes	September	England
Grace Ministries University of Zambia students	October	Zambia

Donors and donations

Many people from around the world donated items including clothes, food, educational materials, toys, furniture and money, both local and foreign.



Our major donors include African AIDS Angels (Canada), the Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council (Zambia), Friends of Makeni worldwide, Kloosterkerk Worldwide (Holland), Little St Mary's Cambridge and Saanich Community Church (Canada). We are so indebted to them.

Other donors in 2009 included:

1. Afrox Zambia Limited, who donated some mattresses and blankets;
2. Mrs Maza, who donated some clothes;
3. Mrs Hakamangwe, who has been donating some fresh vegetables like carrots;
4. Miss Chibale, who has donated clothes on several occasions to the orphanage and some shoes;
5. Mrs Zulu, who donated some sweet potatoes;
6. Mrs Nkhata, who donated a bag of maize;
7. Settlers from Mwomboshi donated charcoal and also a bag of maize which we made into *sampo* (very coarse maize meal cooked like rice mainly for breakfast);
8. Mr and Mrs Takawire of ZNS, who donated some clothes and prayed for the children;
9. the Seventh Day Adventist church donated some clothes and cleaned the orphanage surroundings;
10. two volunteers from Tiny Tim and friends donated some clothes to Nicholas;
11. Gordon and Julia Lowes bought slippers for the girls and sneakers for all the boys;
12. the Belgian ladies, who supplied bedsheets and materials for making skirts for the small girls and also slippers for all the children;
13. University of Zambia students from Grace Ministries donated some food, clothes and money;
14. women settlers from Mwembeshi Settlement Village Community club donated some clothes and several handicrafts they made;
15. Mrs Singleton donated some video tapes, slippers and old clothes for making door mats;
16. Revd and Mrs Alfred Mulenga made a cake for the children and bought some drinks to bid farewell to the children at St Nicholas when Mrs Mulenga was leaving for a new parish south of Makeni;
17. the Friends of Makeni through Jan and Truus donated items such as pots, cups, benches and different types of food for the children to improve their diet.

We also are indebted to many donors we have not itemised on the list above.



*With all best wishes and warm regards from the staff of
Makeni Ecumenical Centre.*