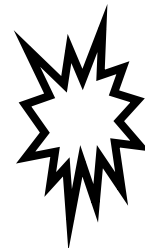
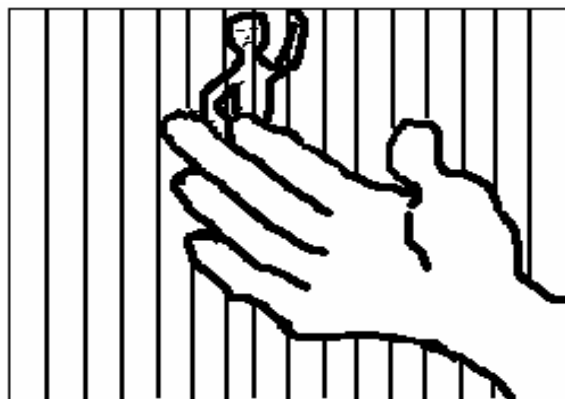


# ZACRO

Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention  
and Rehabilitation of the Offender

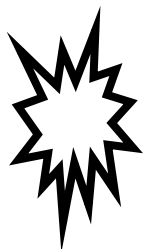


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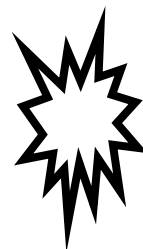


# Annual Report

Focus On Year 2008



## Programs & Activities





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## **Acknowledgments**

The ZACRO Board, National Executive Committee, secretariat and general members would like to take this opportunity to post gratitude to the following institutions and partners which include government ministries and government departments, donors, strategic partners, churches, civil society, the corporate world and the entire ZACRO membership for participation, facilitation and funding programming during the period under review. Without networking, creating linkages and their cooperation - programming could have not be smoothly and successfully implemented and impacted as expected.

Therefore ZACRO wishes them a merry Christmas and happy New Year (2009) of which ZACRO continues to look forward to get the necessary and same support from these organizations during next programming period.

<b>Government:</b>	Acronyms explained.		Acronyms explained.
Zimbabwe Prison Services	ZPS,	Ministry of Justice, Legal and Affairs,	
Social Welfare Department,	SW dpt.	Ministry of Education,	
Ministry of Local Government Rural and Urban development	MLGRU	The National Council of Chiefs	NCC
<b>Donors and Strategic Partners:</b>			
The British Embassy	BE	(German Development Services),	DED
Progressio		Book Aid International	BAI
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Adventist Development and Relief Agency,	ADRA		(CCJP),
Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice	CCJP	Later Day Saints and	
Marimba SDA and Dorcas Ministries			
Zimbabwe Council of Churches	ZCC.		
<b>Civic Society:</b>			
National Association for Non Governmental Organizations	NANGO	Doctors for Human Rights	DHR
Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights	ZLFHR	Environment Africa,	EA
Prison Fellowship	PF	International Committee of Red Cross,	ICRC
Zimbabwe Election Support Network	ZESN	National Constitutional Assembly	NCA
Zimbabwe Doctors for Human Rights	ZDHR		
ZACRO branch members		Christian Care	CC
Open Society for Southern Africa	OSSA	ZAPSO	
<b>Corporate World</b>			
Kantor and Immerman	(lawyers)	Favco	
Mazhandu and Partners	(Auditors)		

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## **ZACRO in PERSPECTIVE**

The Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO) - a non profit making Non Governmental Organization founded in 1923 as a prisoners' aid Society and registered in 1968 as a welfare organization (65/68) presently boasts of countrywide membership in bid to pursue and attain its objectives. The organization operates in all the 10 administrative provinces of Zimbabwe while striving to cover - rehabilitation, humanitarian, integration and restoration needs of inmates numbering over 17 000 in 55 prisons including satellites dotted around Zimbabwe. It is therefore imperative to note the following outlined vision, mission, objectives and values of ZACRO before delving into details outlined in this 2008 annual report apparently focusing on the organization's programs and activities during the year in retrospect.

<b>VISION:</b>	<b>MISSION</b>
A crime free society where everyone is secure and enjoys his or her rights.	To prevent crime and promote rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders in order to have peace in society while advocating for justice in prisons of Zimbabwe
<b>AIMS &amp; OBJECTIVES</b>	
(1) To advocate for justice as well as respect and protection of prisoners' Rights in Zimbabwe.	(2) To facilitate re-integration of prisoners in Zimbabwe into the Mainstream society.
(3) To mobilize various communities to fight crime in the country.	(4) To promote the rehabilitation of offenders & ex-prisoners in the country
(5) To provide humanitarian assistance and amenities to prisoners	(6) To study and seek further penal reforms based on rehabilitative legislations.
(7) To facilitate Zimbabwe to practice of international and regional minimum standards of treating prisoners.	
<b>VALUES</b>	
<b>**HUMANITY</b> ZACRO exists for the purpose of providing humanitarian services to society and not for private material benefit of its members.	<b>***VOLUNTARISM</b> Members of ZACRO shall invariably remain volunteers driven by dedication and compassion to the target group
<b>**IMPARTIALITY</b> In dealing with the offender or the offended, ZACRO shall remain non – judgmental.	<b>***GENDER EQUALITY</b> ZACRO shall always remain conscious of gender without without prejudice or bias.
<b>**NON DISCRIMINATION</b> ZACRO shall not discriminate on grounds of color, race, sex, creed, nationality or political beliefs	<b>***UNIVERSALITY</b> ZACRO's cause is universal as enshrined in UN Crime Prevention Commission & other regional instruments

## **FOREWORD: *From the Secretariat***

During year 2008 - ZACRO managed to score high in some of its programming and intervention areas which mainly involved prisons visits, rendering humanitarian and educational assistance, facilitation and provision of rehabilitation (micro) projects, half way home and restoration services to inmates and ex-offenders.

- As outlined by Mr Edson Chiota, ZACRO's national coordinator - this was despite that the period under review was characterized by a number of issues which affected programming. Economic hardships coupled with hyperinflation, acute shortage of basic commodities, funds from the banks and low donor funding had negative impact on programming activities during the period under review.
- Again, the political environment was not conducive for programming not only by ZACRO but by all Non Governmental Organizations in Zimbabwe. On the other hand prisons conditions mainly associated with food and clothing crisis, which called for massive humanitarian intervention after prisons conditions in Zimbabwe fell far short of the United Nations Standard minimum rules of treating prisoners to which the country is a signatory.
- The year saw civil organizations mainly those which are humanitarian natured suspending food distribution to their target groups. Many of the NGOs had to confine their operations at a time government almost wanted to deregister some of them. In fact the political climate bad as it was – saw some few civil organizations not only scaling down operations but ceased operations in the country. Some of them were accused by the ZANU PF government for aligning with the opposition in particular – the two formations of Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), ahead of the harmonized elections on March 29 and the June 27 2008 run off which was
- Sound partnership with Progressio resulting in having a Development Worker and consultant was most welcome. However more details on programming which impacted positively are well documented in this report

**Mr Edison Chiota  
ZACRO**

*National Coordinator  
expressed  
concern over economic  
natured  
problems which affected  
programming  
although ZACRO scored much  
in  
many of its intervention areas  
during the reviewed 2008  
programming period.*





However during 2008 there was high level of documentation in terms of producing sound reports, project proposals, concept papers, human rights programming, presentations and general level of communications in and outside the organization while everything seemed to have been normalizing by time of compiling this 2008 annual report. The remaining major event was the Annual General Meeting set for end of November 2008. Other key areas which improved involved cultivation of team building and spirit among secretariat staff, creating strategic links, marketing ZACRO, program management and development, capacity assessment and staff development. Some organizational policies which were not in place were

also formulated and were waiting to be effected by the organization once they are adopted by the general assembly, the board and the management committee. After holding a secretariat strategic planning workshop in June 2008 in Harare, the ZACRPO secretariat staff became more organized and focused on carrying out their programs and activities. This was after they formulated most suitable action plans which were in line with the consolidated broad strategic plan for the organization whose target performance period is year 2010 though shortage of resources, funds in particular threatened to halt progress when programming during the period under review.



## **Situational Analysis of Zimbabwean Prisons.**

As well documented in this annual report it is vital to acknowledge the situational analysis of Zimbabwean prisons before acquainted with the ZACRO programming and interventions during 2008. Important to note was that prisons continued to remain as secretive and closed institutions to majority people yet real experiences in the prisons revealed numerous issues around plight of inmates which demanded intervention by ZACRO. This was in the wake that conditions of prisons deteriorated drastically while political will was not responding to the challenges facing Zimbabwe's prisons. Findings revealed that with a capacity around 17 000, the country's 55 prisons including satellites were overcrowded

which was one of the major challenges facing prisons during the period under review. Other problems affecting the penal institutions included unhygienic conditions, lack of proper food, medical facilities and care, spread of diseases – in particular HIV Aids and opportunistic diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB). In fact food and clothing constituted a massive humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwean prisons. Meanwhile ZACRO supported imprisonment for the benefit of society through correctional means with emphasis placed on rehabilitation, integration, restoration, provision of humanitarian assistance to the inmates and ex-offenders while advocating for liberal penal reforms involving positive human rights

programming. Such interventions by ZACRO were in line with complementing efforts by Zimbabwe Prison Service (ZPS) which involved introduction of more professionals like social workers to work around the welfare, rehabilitation of inmates and restoration ex-offenders into the main stream society. The

interventions were testimony involving shifting prisons from mere incarceration centers to correctional and rehabilitative institutions while Zimbabwe maintains UN and other protocols on Standard Minimum Treatment Rules of prisoners to which the country is a signatory.

### **Overcrowding in prisons**

Many of the prisons remained too small and very old after converted by government from farm houses into prisons. Examples are Hurungwe and Tabudirira farm prisons. Other prisons like Mazoe farm prison and Chikurubi female prison which were made of corrugated metal structures during the colonial days remained not expanded and refurbished. In these prisons - inadequate floor space in cells further resulted in overcrowding which relatively did not match

United Nations standard minimum rules of treating prisoners to which Zimbabwe is a signatory. As the result - overcrowding was one of the predisposing conditions for the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and opportunistic diseases like TB, and cholera which resulted in deaths of some continued to be recorded at various prisons mainly -Chikurubi Maximum and Harare Central prisons among others.

### **Hygiene and sanitation**

- Poor hygiene and sanitation was major concern in the prisons. Water cuts were frequent. On many occasions this saw sanitation consisting of one bucket in the corner of a multi-occupied cell, with water for washing and drinking being provided in another bucket. Most cells in the country's prisons with toilets were not flushing due to unavailability of water and malfunctions, thus health hazards increased in the prisons. At times - some of the ill inmates with communicable diseases were not separated – a situation that saw those affected by opportunistic diseases such as TB affecting others. Let alone, many of the female prisons did not have

cleaning facilities such as detergents, brooms and protective cloths when cleaning cells and toilets. Lack of sanitary facilities – saw inmates ending up tearing their ragged blankets when relieving themselves in the toilets which frequently saw the toilets blocking. Also some cells did not have a toilet. This was most common with female prisons in the country. Inmates in cells without toilets ended up using a bucket for relieving themselves. The health hazards associated with this practice remained major worry to the inmates who did not have soap to wash their hands, bodies or uniforms.

### **Uniform and bedding needs**

- There was great need for adequate bedding and uniform requirements in the prisons. In fact shortage of uniforms was major cause of concern in prisons. Many times prisoners were seen wearing tattered and torn uniforms. There were also reports of prisoners going almost naked while they had the right to proper

clothing like other human beings. In fact most inmates had one pair of shorts and shirts apparently tattered and torn and rarely washed due to inadequacy of water and soap. Where there was severe overcrowding, prisoners could sleep on the floor while blankets were inadequate. Disadvantaged group of prisoners that included women and their

innocent children in prisons were also

severely affected in this regard.

### **Diet and other food needs**

- Food was available in some Prisons with farms. Those without farms were faced acute shortage of food. At times food provided was not properly prepared and was mostly of inadequate nutritional value. Just as the whole country was affected by hyperinflation among economic problems - shortage of basic needs like cooking oil and sugar continued to affect operations of prisons and welfare of inmates. Budgetary allocations to the prisons were also very low. In fact the general prisoners' requirements prescribed in statutory instrument 1 of 1996 fell far short in the prisons. Prisoners were supposed to be given bread, tea, margarine or jam, milk, sugar among basic needs but these

were not available. They were taken for leisure items as one inmate related. Mostly they were given sadza (starch alone) and vegetables and not much exposed to a full diet. This saw some of the inmates suffering from pellagra partly contributed to high death rates in the prisons. Also most worrying were children living with their incarcerated mothers in prisons who were not allocated their own rations. They had to share rations with their jailed mothers. This saw the children having inadequate food. They were further exposed to diseases like kwashiorkor in the prisons. This saw ZACRO stepping up its intervention involving rendering humanitarian assistance to the prisons.

### **Medical and drugs supplies**

- Predisposing conditions like overcrowding, poor sanitation, poor food preparation and inadequate washing facilities rendered prisoners extremely vulnerable to some common diseases like diarrhea, cholera, malaria, TB and HIV /Aids. In the face of shortage of medicines and medical equipment prisoners obliged to buy their own medicines through their families. But the obvious truth was that only those with money afforded the much needed drugs.

proportion of the general population in the prisons was affected with HIV/AIDS which explains why ZACRO had to step up intervention efforts towards fight against HIV/AIDS in prisons. Most appreciated is that - though in Zimbabwe Anti - Retroviral Tablets (ARVs) were expensive these were available in prisons. The main problem was that nutritious food was not available which was necessary to boost immunity of inmates affected by the pandemic. The shortage of food in most prisons remained a scenario undermining disease mitigation programs in the prisons

- On the other hand a high

### **Educational needs**

Despite that Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that, "everyone (including prisoners) has the right to education, this universally acknowledged right was not enjoyed by many prisoners. This was due to break down of social relations and support hence they lacked resources to fully pursue education in the prisons. This saw ZACRO intervening towards boosting educational needs and development for prisoners mainly by supplying them with learning materials such as text books and stationery while the organization paid examination and trade tests fees for inmates. Only disturbing was that there were no check and balances on educational development in the prisons. The ZPS

Education department was not doing justice to this cause by not channeling committed prison officials who are teachers to teach the inmates. In fact prisoners were teaching themselves.

### Treatment of prisoners

Compared to colonial regime days prison management involving ill-treatment of prisoners was gradually going away owing to training of prison officials. These were orientated to realize and respect prisoners' rights in the country's penal institutions. However at times work on the prisons farms by the inmates was compulsory rather than taken for a

rehabilitation exercise. After all prisoners complained that the forced labor was strenuous. Some of the inmates were found doing work for prison officers even though this does not tally with prison rules. Many times, the inmates polished shoes for the prison officers while kneeling down which further degraded the offender and dignity gradually lost while incarcerated



### **Legal Concerns**

During the period under review, ZACRO noted with concern that the majority of prisoners in Zimbabwe were relatively poor people. These often lacked resources or funds to cater for legal representation. Some of them sent to prison committed minor crimes but can not be released. This was because they did not have lawyers to represent them. Some remanded inmates could spend over two years without trial. Given this situational analysis of the

prisons in Zimbabwe ZACRO had to emerge as a force to reckon regarding sourcing and rendering humanitarian assistance to the target group who included the inmates, ex-offenders and relatively to their families too. This was besides being engaged in other programs and activities involving prison visits, rehabilitation, restoration, the half way home and lobbying work in its interventions during the period under review



## **Outline of ZACRO programs and activities during 2008**

Initially ZACRO programming during the year under review was centered on the following programs and activities. Some of these programs and activities were not effectively carried out by the organization due to a number of problems including inadequate resources and severe economic problems which characterized the year in retrospect. In fact actual programming started in March 2008 after the organization secured resources from the organization's traditional funding partner – the British Embassy. Also late disbursement of funds by the organization's leading donor saw programming affected. This was mainly between September and October when programming funds which included salaries for the secretariat covering this period until March 2009 took long to be disbursed. However, despite the numerous problems in place, ZACRO had initially planned to undertake the following programs and activities though a few of them were not effectively implemented owing to lack of resources and the prevailing harsh economic

### **Initial Outlined 2008 ZACRO Programming Activities**

- Prison visits
- Rehabilitation of inmates involving facilitation of micro projects in the prisons and rendering educational assistance
- Re-integration of ex-offenders
- Crime prevention involving society
- Counseling
- The half way home project
- Rendering humanitarian assistance
- Campaign against the death penalty
- Orientation Program
  - a) In Prisons and
  - b) For those released
- Creation of strategic links, documentation, staff and institutional development.

### **Programs Management, Control and Planning.**

It is vital to note that as all programming activities could not take place over the year owing to the stated problems on the ground the organization had to re-examine its programs management, control and planning to suit the problems faced by the organization and other Non Governmental Organizations in the country.. However it is acknowledged that among major programs and activities ZACRO successfully managed to undertake a number of prisons visits which were important regarding unearthing situational analysis and formulating relevant intervention measures to cover the needs of the target group. However, ZACRO had to focus on fine-tuning its elements of programs management, control and planning. This was in bid to suit available resources in the face of the economic environment in Zimbabwe. Hence the organization had to hold a secretariat strategic planning workshop in Harare in June 2008 during which a clarification of the aims and objectives for each program was outlined and emphasized. This further included having a well defined target group for each program and the need to establish the standards of performance against which success is measured. As the result ZACRO had the programs defined in both quantitative and qualitative forms while having clear cut off points and clear program design and knowing that without planning and measurement there would be no control of the programs. This further called for program designing defining parameters, by which the program was to be implemented and the model of program considered too. On implementation - the actual execution of tasks to achieve the desired objectives was considered while monitoring and evaluation required feedback and a system of reporting information which was accurate, relevant



and timely was in place during the period under review which all applied to all programming activities by ZACRO during 2008 and outlined in this annual report.

## **Prisons Visits Programming**

### **Prisons Visits Routes**

While there are 55 prisons including satellites in Zimbabwe - ZACRO was responsibly supposed to conduct prisons visits to all these penal institutions in pursuing its mission at national scale. The prisons visits were mainly meant to undertake assessments on needs of the target group as well as making follow ups to last visits done the previous year (2997). On the ground about 30 prison visits were conducted by the organization during 2008. In order to fully cover all the prisons, the program divided the prisons into two main regions – the Eastern and Western regions. The prisons in the Eastern region which were supposed to be covered by one group of the ZACRO secretariat staffand these included:Harare, Marondera Mutare,Chipinge\ Mutoko, Murewa Bindura, Mazowe, Banket, Chinhoyi, Hurungwe, Kariba.

The other group was to cover the following prisons in the Western region Chivhu, Masvingo, Chiredzi, Kadoma, Kwekwe, Gweru, Shurugwi, Mberengwa, Zvishavane, Bulawayo, Gwanda and Hwange.

### **Why More Prisons Visits in 2008?**

*As outlined by Mr Charles Mudehwe, ZACRO programs manager – ZACRO members visited the prisons aiming at conducting situational analysis of the prisons ion Zimbabwe, assessing plight of inmates. Implementing and following up on programs, meeting target group and marketing ZACRO*

**Mr Charles Mudehwe: Busy at Work!**



*While Mr. Mudehwe maintained that the organization was determined to conduct more prisons visits - Year 2008 was difficult not only to ZACRO but to other Civil organizations. The economic environment characterized by hyperinflation, poor funding and inadequate resources negatively impacted on visitation programming during this period Under review.*

**Planning**

Given the harsh economic environment in the country and a host of other related problems on the ground - planning for prison visits programming was important and had to be undertaken by ZACRO of which the following components within planning were considered by the organization.

- Availability of resources
- Knowledge on combination of prisons to be visited especially those within the same route
- The timing of the visits and which other program personnel to also benefit from the program
- Assessment of the areas where ZACRO is likely to get the most impact.

**Situational Analysis.**

Mainly ZACRO carried out prisons visits to be acquainted with situational analysis of the prisons and when carrying out the situational analysis one was:

- Supposed to know the target group.
  - To be familiar with prison officers.
  - To undertake close observation and questionnaire data gathering

**TARGET GROUPS were:**

**The sentenced and remanded offenders, prison wardens, officers and the immediate prison population for they stood better platform when shedding light into the official plight of the offenders and their needs.**

- And to undertake follow ups on beneficiaries while marketing ZACRO at the same time.

### **Summary of Prisons Visits in Mashonaland, and Manicaland regions.**

**Table one....**

Situational Analysis per Prison	Challenges, Needs and Interventions
<b>Ridigita (Background Information)</b>	
<p>The visit to this satellite prison of Marondera prison was done by Mr Mudehwe and Miss Bhunhu on 11 March 2008. The prison was generally clean, spacious and well aerated so much that hygiene standards were alright. At the prison the inmates were engaged in farming and rabbitry project. Some inmates were engaged in welding, fence and shoe making and were benefiting from these projects.</p>	<p>Though technical education was pursued at the prison, academic education was hampered as most of the times prisoners concentrated on farming while they lacked text books and a library. They thus requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting balls for inmates to play and relax</li> <li>• A piggery project.</li> <li>• Starter packs to enable them start projects upon release from prison and be set to lead decent lives</li> </ul>
<b>Little Kraal (Background Information)</b>	Challenges, Needs and Interventions
<p>The prison was well aerated and generally clean. Rehabilitation projects included rabbitry, farming, welding, pottery and art. Education was pursued by the inmates while there was a teacher who taught both the inmates and the prison officers.</p>	<p>There was no enough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading material at the prison. Thus ZACRO donated some of the reading books needed by the inmates.</li> <li>• However – inmates due to be released were concerned with their lives after prison experience in terms of having decent life.</li> </ul>
<b>Rusape (Background Information)</b>	Challenges, Needs and Interventions
<p>The pair of ZACRO staff – Mr Mudehwe and Miss Bhunhu visited the prison on 12 March 2008. Situation on ground was pathetic. Health and hygiene issues were major concern. TB was prevalent. The prison looked dirty and smelly thus posing a health hazard at this penal institution. Generally conditions at this prison were bad and humanitarian assistance in various forms was needed.</p>	<p>The most need was</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing as most inmates needed decent clothing</li> </ul> <p>While some walked half nude and requested khaki and white cloth to make uniforms and resources for kitting, sewing and shoe making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They too wanted to pursue soap making and Carpentry. By time of visiting there were no projects on ground except knitting done by female inmates.</li> </ul>
<b>Mutare Remand (Background Information)</b>	<b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b>
<p>ZACRO staff – Mr Mudehwe and Miss Bhunhu visited the prison on 12 March 2008. Gardening was in place. Health standards were generally alright but more had to be done on hygiene and house keeping issues. Inmates needed to learn but they lacked resources. This is despite that the remand inmates stayed for period time at the prison and did not resort to learn.</p>	<p>Inmates needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A library, academic and recreational books</li> </ul> <p>And other reading materials, legal representation and funds to pay bails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources were needed to start small projects and sustain themselves and be empowered with skills and enable them start their on projects upon release.</li> </ul>
<b>Mutare Farm (Background Information)</b>	<b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b>
<p>The prison was visited on 13 March 2008 by Mr Mudehwe and Miss Bhunhu. Rehabilitation projects</p>	<p>Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The prisoners wanted more books for the</li> </ul>

<p>at the prison included building, welding, rabbitry, education, piggery and farming. Health issues were generally good although hygiene issues needed a bit of attention.</p>	<p>Library and stationery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other needs included soap, hence they requested resources to start a soap making project and oil presser since they were struggling to get cooking oil for the inmates..</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chivhu (Background Information)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>The visit was on 14 March 2008. The situation at the prison houses both male and female inmates were pathetic. The male section was dirty, smelly and filthy and attention was needed to help the inmates. However to sustain themselves they pursued gardening, fence and shoe making though at low scale. Technical education was there though this needed further boosting by availing more resources.</p>	<p>Inmates clamored for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books for the library which had just been established.</li> <li>• Inmates intending to review their cases needed legal Representation. Others applied for bails and needed funds</li> <li>• Other requests were vegetables seeds for the garden.</li> <li>• The inmates too needed soap among basic needs and maintain high level hygiene at the prison.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chikurubi female prison visit (Background Information)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>The visiting team on 21 May comprised of Mr Mudehwe, Mrs Ponde, Miss Bhunhu and Miss M Gwasira (ZACRO member – marketing). They got facts on the ground mainly on the needs of women and children in the prison. The visiting team was met by CPO Makamure who was standing for the officer in charge and SPO Murodza - the rehabilitation officer. There were a total of 316 women at the prison and the breakdown was as follows.  Convicted 270, Not convicted 34, Mental patients 12, Children – girls 14, Children boys 16, Pregnant women 13, and 48 Sick inmates. Most of the crimes committed by the women were economically driven like gold panning, theft and stock theft. Most kids in the prison were between 2 to 3 years. The youngest was three weeks old and 18 of the children attended the Day Care Centre run by Prison Fellowship. The kids attending fed at the Centre. They only returned to the cells when sleeping with their mothers. PFZ donated 100ml of Vaseline and 500 grams of washing soap to the mothers. The children in the prison were also increasing while their mothers’ relatives were not willing to take and stay with them. The rehabilitation officer approached some children’s homes to place some of the kids there but most of them were full. There was need to talk to ZNCW and be engaged to help on the reunification process and link with children’s homes.</p>	<p>A lot of pregnant mothers and the children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• were not registered</li> <li>• Did not have basic needs like clothes, spirit and sanitary which they needed most..</li> </ul> <p>The last sanitary consignment was donated by Farai but could not continue donating to the prison while they extended this benefit to other institutions. ZACRO had to source sanitary from the corporate for the inmates.. Sanitation problem was further enhanced by water crisis at the prison. The women had to fetch water from afar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnant mothers and those with babies did not receive visitors.</li> <li>• There was strong need for supplementary food like peanut butter and other proteins.</li> <li>• Thus ZACRO donated 5 boxes of supplementary food and had to feed the mothers, their babies and the sick women. They too wanted relish and ZACRO sought help from FAVCO which donated vegetables for this cause.</li> <li>• HIV/Aids was prevalent at the prison though VCT had been conducted three days before the visit while 48 were diagnosed positive. Of the 48 people 14 were already on ARVs and 6 were on Corte. They needed to start a program to help people understand more about the disease. <b>Other needs were:</b> Baby clothes, Vaseline, soap and pea nut butter and skills empowerment ventures like adult literacy sessions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Harare Central Prison (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>The prison visit was done on 1 July 2008 by ZACRO staff members - Mr. Charles Mudehwe – the Programs manager and Patronella Bhunhu – the Welfare Manager The</p>	<p><b>The Education Section.</b>  The students had many requests which included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A level text books mainly Accounting, MOB and</li> </ul>

<p>purpose of the visit was to distribute vegetables for the inmates in light of the food shortages affecting the prison. Also ZACRO had chance to meet students attending school and heard their requests. This was a follow up on the students whom ZACRO intended to pay for their exam fees.</p>	<p>Shona set books - pens, rulers, pencils, A3 drawing paper and globes for light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note – A lot was a lot lacking at the education Section which could hinder performance of the students. The organization needed to make an intervention so that learning was made easier.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chikurubi Female prison(Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>ZACRO visited the prison on Thursday 19 June 2008 and the purpose was to donate supplementary food stuff for the sick patients, pregnant mothers, children and breast feeding mothers. The rationale for choosing Chikurubi female was that most of the sick, pregnant and breast feeding mothers were not getting enough food The children were not included in the prison budget and ZACRO saw it noble to give them supplementary feeding. The rationale for choosing Harare central prison was that there are sick inmates who are under skills training but did not have adequate food. This hindered their progress and ZACRO had to give them supplementary feeding.</p>	<p>When The visiting team met Jane William a member of WOZA who was arrested for political violence. She enlightened ZACRO that there was urgent need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sanitary pads, Vaseline, soap and water at the Prison. She gave us contact people that we can talk to at ZCTU so that they can help with sanitary wear. Upon release she was interested to work with ZACRO and improve the plight of prisoners.</li> <li>ZACRO also talk to the rehab officer on the wish to intensify a hair saloon project apparently run at a small scale while it has been proceeds from this project helped the prison acquire basic needs like toilet detergents</li> </ul>
<p><b>Harare Workshop (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations and way forward</b></p>
<p>ZACRO had chance to meet the officer in charge of the carpentry department and got requirements needed to make two beds and two wardrobes for the half way house. ZACRO managed to get the requirements and assured the officer that the organization was going to acquire the materials needed and start working on the items</p>	<p>The rehabilitation officers were to compile reports on the Impact realized from the supplementary feeding scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>However, the Chikurubi rehab officer compiled a list of requirements needed for the intensification of the hair saloon project. ZACRO was to be in touch with Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) on the issue of sanitary wear while set to chip in on the need and demands of the women and children in the prison.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hurungwe Prison (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>The prison visit was held on 20 August. 2008 The purpose of the visit was to familiarize with the prison and conduct a need assessment since it was the first time to visit the prison. The visiting team comprised of ZPS and ZACRO officials. These were Assistant Commissioner Chikwature – the Officer commanding Mashonaland region, Superintendent Munjoma – regional security coordinator, Principal Prison Officer (PPO) Mashingaidze, (PPO)Chikowo and Miss Bhunhu – the ZACRO Welfare Manager. They were welcomed by the officer in charge; Superintendent Makumbe who highlighted the problems the prisoners and officers were facing. The most pressing issue at the prison was water crisis. Generally – offenders at the prison were healthy and were well fed. There was no food crisis as the prison grows and grinds its own maize. The prison could be a potential food basket for the region if fully utilized as there was plenty of fertile land again. It was good site for bee keeping for bees and good bee forage were available</p>	<p>The visiting team met offenders and their needs were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>soap, clothing and blankets and transport upon release as most of them were from far areas like Harare. Thus the officer commanding the region promised to resolve this and assure transport for the released inmates and complete their sentences in Harare or at a prison nearer their homes.</li> <li>Further more the prisoners needed: Chemicals for cleaning toilets, medical supplies such as pain killers and bandages while they most wanted salt to flavor their relish and more carving equipment.</li> <li>The prison has garden, orchards and seed beds Where they nurse tobacco seeds and needed inputs and raise production while acquiring farming skills too. Thus they suggested having a borehole since there was under ground water and boast their farming projects. Most often they did not have what to do which could lead to escapes and unruly behavior among the inmates and they needed recreational facilities.</li> </ul>

<b>Kadoma prison (Background Info)</b>	Challenges, Needs and Interventions
<p>On 2 September ZACRO welfare manager Mis Bhunhu held a meeting with the Mashonaland Rehab Coordinator. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss challenges that faced in the region and try to come up with ways to overcome the challenges. Prior to the meeting the Rehab Coordinator had undertaken a visit to Kadoma Prison and ZACRO noted that:</p> <p>The farm prison housed both males and females. On the visiting day - the prison had 670 inmates, 7 were female offenders. There were two children at the prison, one aged 3 months and the other five months.</p>	<p>Health standards were deteriorating mainly due to limited drug supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thus the prison badly needed the drugs.</li> <li>• The sewer system was malfunctioning which caused an outbreak of diseases and requests from this prison included: soap, balls, salt, scissors, stationery, clothes for babies, Vaseline and sanitary.</li> <li>• The prison also wanted to start a rabbitry project.</li> </ul>
<b>Chikurubi farm (Background Info)</b>	Challenges, Needs and Interventions
<p>The organization also visited Chikurubi farm during this period under review. The prison intended to start a rabbitry project and had already made the structures to house the rabbits. This was necessary in terms of boosting food production and skills empowerment for the prisoners.</p>	<p>The prison needed: Resources and rabbits and to kick start the project ZACRO was to transfer some rabbits from Mazowe Prison to Chikurubi farm after Mazowe showed greater competence in the project now spread to other prisons.</p>
<b>Chinhoyi prison. (Background Info)</b>	Challenges, Needs and Interventions
<p>At Chinhoyi prison bee keeping project was progressing fairly well. The offenders firstly acquired bee keeping skills through training. The region however needed to expand the bee keeping project to Hurungwe prison and other prisons that has good forage. This was welcome as the region was suffering from an acute shortage of food and offenders going for days without anything to eat which increased death rate of offenders thus humanitarian assistance was urgently needed.</p>	<p>Inmates requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification after the bee keeping training.</li> <li>• They requested ZACRO to source food for the offenders</li> </ul> <p>The prison requested aid in form of transport for some dead inmates after relatives were not collecting them while the mortuary was over populated and ZPS was not coping up with pauper burials which were expensive.</p>
<b>Chikurubi prison visit by (Background Info) Dorcas Ministries on 24 August 2008:</b>	<b>Observations</b>
<p>The 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist church requested to visit the prison and meet inmates. Dorcas Ministries – the church’s women wing had seven participating members with Miranda leading the crew after showed interest to assist inmates mainly women and children in prison. The program was arranged by the Welfare Manager, Miss Bhunhu. Though she got sick on the visiting day - Ms Matingo and Mr. Mudehwe led the group into the prison. Mashonaland Regional Coordinator Zharare graced the occasion. The women shared experiences in the word of God and testimonies from the prisoners. They were moved by performance of the prison choir. The rehabilitation officer who gave vote of thanks expressed joy and hope that the relationship will continue. An exchange visiting program was arranged for interaction to create a leeway to reunification upon release. In fact the visit was a great success in terms of spiritual uplifting and moral busting to those in prison Dorcas Ministries</p>	<p>The event created a platform where society can directly talk to talk prisoners and instill hope for them to continue interacting after release.</p> <p>Although prisoners were being punished for their wrongness; the church noted that rehabilitation was still necessary for them. They noted that churches and other charitable organizations did not know that they had a vital role in resolving challenges faced by the prisons, and achieve objective of making prisons be correctional and rehabilitative centers..</p> <p><b>In response:</b></p> <p>The rehabilitation officer was very impressed with the exchange program initiated by ZACRO at Chikurubi with the Dorcas Ministries.</p> <p>The idea – noble as it was had to be intensified to other prisons with various denominations. Thus ZACRO agreed to try and intensify the program by visiting a number of different churches and get offenders</p>

<p>prepared and availed some cloths, toiletries, bath soap, petroleum jelly, tooth paste and netball –which were shared among 300 inmates. The visitors arranged to play netball against the inmates and hoped to interact with male the prisoners after mobilizing more resources.</p>	<p>participate actively and make the program a success. The rehab coordinator was yet to get approval from the Officer Commanding and facilitate next visits</p>
<p><b>Marondera Prison Visit (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>ZACRO visited the prison on 11 March. Another visit was on 21 October 2008. The ZACRO staffesr – Mr Mudehwe, Miss Bhunhu –and the Development Worker – Mrs Ponde accompanied by Elizabeth Banda – ZPS rehab officer and Evangelisto Kabasa – the Legal programs director from Legal Resources Foundation visited the remand section of this prison. They met Maisiri - the Officer in Charge. Holding capacity was 358 and carrying capacity was 605. Male prisoners were 591 and females ones – 15. Children were just two - one boy and one girl. Remand inmates were 218, males ones being 215 and females just three. Time frame of the longest serving remand prisoner was two years. Though main activity at the prison was farming and gardening the inmates had spend three months having one meal per day.</p>	<p>The inmates needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More food, uniforms or cloths. ZACRO had to donate four boxes of supplementary feeding for 20 sick patients, two breast feeding women and one pregnant woman.</li> <li>• Respiratory infections like diarrhea and pellagra were major diseases. HIV/Aids was prevalent. The umber of ART patients were 20. There were 4 TB patients on medication and seven psychiatric patients and six deaths were recorded by time of compiling this report. The inmates further needed legal representation hence ZACRO was to partner with Legal Resources Foundation and channel legal resources to the inmates.</li> <li>• The inmates also needed: Educational assistance and an examination centre and library books and inmates needed transport to prisons with examination centers. Other needs were Vaseline, soap, food, preparation and clothing for babies, soccer balls, uniforms and visitations.</li> </ul>

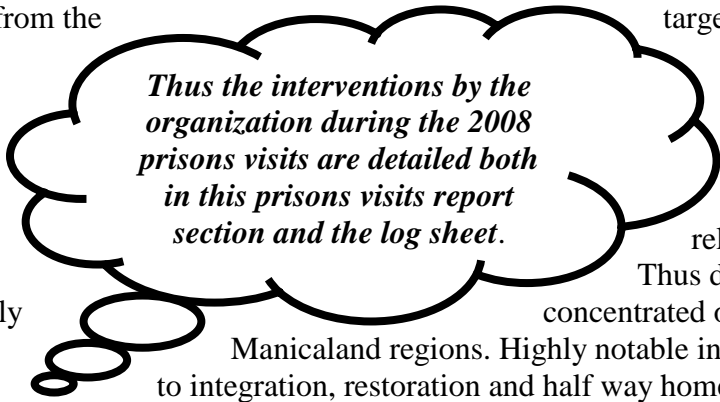
## **Intervention Areas Following Prisons Visits. Reflections on mid 2008 programming**

Against a background involving economic hardships characterized by hyperinflation and shortage of resources ZACRO held a secretariat strategic planning workshop which focused on fine tuning programming and suit demands of the economic crisis prevailing in Zimbabwe and enable ZACRO to meet demands of its target group. This was within the framework of the organization's broad and consolidated strategic plan whose performance target period is year 2010. Hence during the period under review ZACRO intensified prisons visits – assessing needs and exploring intervention exercises through rehabilitation and restoration of the inmates. Thus initially ZACRO intensified the prisons visits Mashonaland and Manicaland and had spread out to Midlands and Matabeleland after ZACRO had not been very active in these regions owing to the numerous problems encountered during the programming year in retrospect.

The secretariat then agreed to have programming center on the following:

- **Rehabilitation and integration activities.**
- **The halfway house had to be upgraded and put to better use by released inmates for a short period of time whilst reunification was short.**
- **There was also need to focus on restoration activities after prison visitations.**

Following the prisons visits there were efforts towards to start or reinforce small micro projects and other rehabilitation projects. Such interventions in the prisons were considered after numerous requests from the target group. Major highlights are summarized in the humanitarian, rehabilitation and sheet. ZACRO considered some of the requests from the inmates, ex-offenders and their relatives or dependants and officers too. Thus during the first half of 2008 ZACRO mainly concentrated on prisons visits in Mashonaland and Manicaland regions. Highly notable interventions ranged from rehabilitation to integration, restoration and half way home needs and these are indicated in the following tabulated information. Although interventions varied from one to another depending on needs of the target group - problems affecting prisoners which included shortage of food and clothing among prison issues around their plight were registered in almost every prison visited which called for an urgent form of humanitarian assistance intervention in all the country 55 prisons. This all explains why luring and channeling humanitarian assistance in the prisons was major programming activity after prisons visits by ZACRO during 2008.



### **Midlands, Masvingo and Matabeleland prisons visits**

The organization engaged in massive prisons visits although most of these were conducted between September and October 2008. The prisons visits in these regions were during the second half of the year under review. ZACRO was led out by Mrs Ponde the Development Worker, secretariat visited most of the prisons in these regions during the last quarter of 2008. The purpose of the prisons visits was to conduct need assessment for potential programs that the organization wanted to engage in with the different prisons. The visits were conducted from May



**Table four.**

<b>Initial Mutimurefu prison visit (Background Info)</b>	<b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b>
<p><i>Initially</i>; when ZACRO visited this prison they had a meeting with the officer in charge of administration, the Chaplin and rehabilitation officer. There were 383 offenders, 30 were female and 3 - aged less than two months. There is a small library with very old books and another spiritual library for the Chaplin though the library needed revamping. Some offenders were pursuing education and there was a ZIMSEC and an educational support component was needed. Mutimurefu has a clinic and with seven nurses. A doctor from Masvingo made regular visits to the prison. Self testing kits could be used at the clinic provided the nurses were orientated on how to use them. Testing was done on a voluntary basis after it had been done on a large scale though ZPS officials mentioned that New Start Centre being responsible for all HIV/ training of officers and inmates in peer education and psycho social support..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnant women needed preparation for their unborn Babies, sanitation or utilities such as soap and Vaseline.</li> <li>• Food deficient illnesses and opportunistic infections were on the increase hence death rate of inmates was on increase but the prison did not have a mortuary. Many bodies were not collected by their relatives while pauper burials were expensive for the prison and bodies decomposed before burial arrangements were made.</li> <li>• Inmates suggested starting a carpentry project and making coffins and burry inmates with coffins.</li> </ul> <p>Inmates also needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uniforms and transport facilities for released inmates, set books for examination grades mainly grade seven, O and A Levels, trade tests fees and the prison workshop to be revamped and resources for arts and cultural activities availed.</li> <li>• They welcomed HIV/Aids programming with some C and D Class offenders serving relatively long sentences being ideal to train as peer educators. Officers were also to be trained and sustain program monitoring.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chivhu Prison (Background Info)</b></p> <p>The prison housed 170 inmates – 9 women and 161 men. There were four children from with two from same mother and a five year old boy in the female prison set up. One of the babies was hospitalized at near by Chivhu hospital due to malnutrition. The prison housed offenders with sentences of up to 36 months - hence peer education program could be easily implemented using the long term offenders as peer educators. The prison also had a district hospital for referral purposes. Chivhu prison also housed remand inmates both male and female.</p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests included food for children, clothing, soap or Sanitation. And one child who had grown very old needed to be institutionalized somewhere.</li> <li>• One offender died from Tuberculosis – which is major Opportunistic infection contributing to deaths of inmates. The New Start Centre visited the prison monthly doing voluntary counseling and testing but did not have a sustainable follow up program for counseling and psycho social support and avoid the VCT to create more problems than solutions. Government availed Anti Retroviral Treatment but serious food shortage had counter effects to the objectives of the treatment. Thus training inmates on HIV/Aids without offering further supplementary food had serious effects on the success of the program. Prison officials were however keen to be part of ZACRO HIV/Aids program provided support was involved. Other requests were</li> <li>• Recreational materials and help the inmates relieve stress.</li> <li>• The station received one ball from ZACRO but it was not Enough for the many inmates. Knitting and crouching were potential projects and help female inmates without any viable activity done in their section.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Second Mutimurefu Prison Visit (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Inside Mutimurefu Prison and challenges faced.</b></p>
<p>The second field visit to Mutimurefu was on 8 May 2008. The purpose of the visit was to meet the</p>	<p>The Officer in Charge, Mr. Marange who welcomed the ZACRO and Masvingo Community initiative highlighted some of the</p>

<p>Adventist Development and Relief Agency Committee (ADRA) in Masvingo which had made a donation to the female inmates and their children in prison. The total quantity of 31 boxes of 36 packets of rice. The food was sourced through Ponde, the Development Worker. The staff went for the field visit to Mudehwe the ZACRO Project Teclah Ponde the Development Worker. They held a meeting with ADRA Committee representatives at Masvingo Down Town Lodge. Other members present included: Mr. Alois Ponde: ADRA Chairperson, Mrs. Sanna Mazorodze: ADRA Committee Member, Mrs. Ruramai Tavaruva: Committee member and Mrs. Maud Mudota - Committee Member, Ms Memory Gwasira: Volunteer. The ADRA Chairperson who welcomed everyone to the meeting gave a brief explanation that ADRA was the Adventist Church wing responsible for spearheading relief and development services and its membership was not limited to Adventists only as some committee members were from other denominations like Roman Catholic Church, Harvest House, and Dutch Reformed Church including Adventists themselves. As a relief initiative, ADRA initially focused on giving soup to street kids but when plight of children in Prison was brought to their attention, they sought assistance to these kids. They thus mobilized the 31 boxes of food and some second hand clothing for children.. They were much keen to assess the impact of the donated food especially that given to children who were already malnourished. A lot of people were not aware of the challenges faced by offenders and their dependents hence Mr. Mudehwe explained objectives of ZACRO and how ZACRO was working with offenders and try to alleviate challenges they faced. The result - volunteers were keen to work with ZACRO and market it.</p>	<p>challenges that were faced particularly by the female prisons such as lack of Sanitary ware, food for the babies in the prison, soap and Vaseline ng other needs. They welcomed provision of tyres used to e Manyatera or sandals for the inmates. r major needs were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sanitary ware for they were using pieces of cloths which was a hygiene problem and health hazard</li> <li>• washing and bathing soap</li> <li>• Vaseline</li> <li>• jerseys especially since winter was fast approaching</li> <li>• panties</li> <li>• sugar or salt to put in porridge</li> <li>• eanut butter for the porridge of children</li> <li>• Clothes and warm clothing and nappies for babies.</li> </ul> <p>Among the female offenders were some under Antiretroviral Treatment who needed supplementary food to enable them take medication. The team therefore donated 4 boxes of food towards supplementary food for breastfeeding mothers and those under treatment. Some cloths donated to three babies. The ADRA representatives made an undertaking to source for tyres and make Manyatera for female offenders.</p>
<p><b>Shurugwi Female prison – Midlands province. (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions.</b></p>
<p>At Shurugwi prison the visiting team met the Officer in Charge. The prison had just benefited from the Presidential Amnesty hence the offender population was very low. There were only 22 female inmates while the prison has a holding capacity of 50 though at times it housed more than the holding capacity. Of the 22 offenders, 8 were on remand, one was pregnant with no preparation</p>	<p><b>Needs:</b>  They had a netball pitch and needed netballs.  Food for children was inadequate and there was no supplementary food for the sick and those taking ARVS and there was need for a peer education program on HIV/Aids.  Baby clothing and preparation material for expecting mothers was needed too. The prison however does not have a clinic. Sick inmates were taken to Shurugwi hospital. It was envisaged that it</p>

<p>material for the on coming baby. The offenders housed at Shurugwi were serving sentences of not more than 36 months. Many offences committed involved gold panning. However there were no meaningful programs run at Shurugwi. There was a knitting machine but was old and broken down and was taken to Connemara Open prison</p>	<p>would be difficulty to do any Voluntary Counseling Test (VCT) at the prison. The officers therefore recommended that peer education training and psycho social support was more ideal for the Shurugwi Female Prison. Following this they also specifically asked for a supplementary feeding to cater for the sick, children and pregnant mothers.</p>
<p><b>Whahwa Young Offenders: Midlands Province. (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>At Whawha the visiting team met the Officer in Charge of Whawha, the senior rehabilitation officer and officers who were teachers. Whawha young offender housed inmates between 16 and 20 years old. Holding capacity was 218 and offenders mainly committed rape, house breaking and robbery. Of these 47 were D Class offenders – their maximum sentences were not less than 6 years. Education was key focus area. The education programs ran from grade 1 to form 6. They were being assisted by representatives from the Adventist church but found it difficult to pay examination and trade tests fees for all students eligible to write exams. The prison had a library manned by a library while more books were needed. The death rate at the prison was very low. The last death was recorded in 2003. The food situation was generally alright as compared to other prisons. Offenders were still getting two meals per day. It also had a clinic as well as admission ward manned with trained nurses. At the same complex is Whawha Medium prison which had a hospital. Serious cases were therefore referred to the hospital. The prison had a workshop with trained artisan officers who taught technical skills to some of the offenders in the area of welding, carpentry and mechanics.</p>	<p>Needs were:  Tools and new machinery to replace ill maintained machinery for the workshop. – Text books, writing pads and stationery for studies and examinations. – Seeds for gardening such as tomatoes, carrots, onions and spinach which could enhance the inmates’ diet. School furniture and chalks were also needed. The prison had to borrow desks from nearby institutions to enable inmates to use them for examination purposes. The one desk and chair that was in one of class rooms was in sorry state, the rest of the inmates learnt whilst seated on the floor. –  There was also request for assistance in tertiary education for offenders who successfully completed their A levels. –  Repair of cooking utensils was also requested.  Inmates were engaged in some sporting activities like soccer and using plastic balls and other materials available and nthus they requested balls from ZACRO.  In the HIV Aids area, the prison had some offenders trained as peer educators by the Midlands Aids trust. These could assist in the HIV/Aids program and only required IEC materials. The officer in charge stressed the need for a strong counseling program after Start New Centre was conducting VCT but their counseling service was reportedly weak. The clinic could do the testing using self testing kits once orientated on how to use them. They also asked for more food and have two meals per day, salt, cooking oil or other dietary supplementary food for all those who were already under medication.</p>
<p><b>Ntabazinduna Prison Matabeleland Province (Background Info)</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges, Needs and Interventions</b></p>
<p>Ndabazinduna is a satellite prison under management of Bulawayo Central prison. The ZACRO visiting team had a meeting with the assistant officer in charge and the rehabilitation officer and later on toured the prison. There were only seven inmates with sentences r from 3 to 6 months. The cells had no toilets. They had to use some plastic gallons as toilets. The holding capacity of the prison was very small, holding only those few seven inmates while facing severe food challenges. The prison - a training centre for ZPS recruits, had the few inmates staying there offering cleaning and support services to those recruited to be officers by</p>	<p>The inmates requested:  Cooking oil or salt, plates to serve food, soap, Vaseline and hand towels. Because this prison was designed to train ZPS officers, the officer in charge was of the opinion that the HIV/AIDS peer education program could be incorporated at the training centre and requested the program at this prison. Trained recruited officers would then cascade the model to their placement stations. Because of the set up at this prison ZACRO decided that the program could be structured differently to other prisons by targeting ZPS staff only. The staff would then reach out to the few inmates who were housed at the prison. This was also because inmates were serving very short sentences hence it would be costly to train them as peer educators whilst their duration of stay was relatively short.</p>

**From Left: The secretariat trio of Mr E Chiota – ZACRO National coordinator, Mrs T Ponde, Development Worker and Miss P Bhunhu – the Welfare Manager who went on massive prisons visits in Masvingo/ Midlands and Matebeleland provinces on need identification and situational analysis of the Zimbabwean prisons**

the ZPS.



<b>Khami Maximum Prison, Matabeleland Province (Background Info).</b>	<b>Health Section Challenges</b>	<b>Education Section challenges</b>
<p>The prison - one of the biggest prisons in Matabeleland had a holding capacity of 900 inmates. Of these 300 were sick with different ailments including HIV and Aids. Thirty five were admitted at the prison hospital and 80 were under Anti Retroviral Treatment. ZACRO held several meetings with different people including: the officer in charge; prison Chaplin, regional rehabilitation officers, programs officer, hospital matron, head of education, The prison is designated into four sections- A, B, C, and D and the hospital. Khami Maximum was part of a prison complex which housed Khami Medium, Mlondolozhi, Khami Female, and Mlondolozhi Mental Hospital Prison. All other prisons were serviced by Khami Maximum hospital where all the sick were referred to. However the hospital faced challenges like shortage of drugs and other materials to use like gloves while it did not have a mortuary and bodies were taking long before collected.</p>	<p>The prison experienced; Lack of drugs like crotrea, material and equipment to use like gloves and trolleys, food crisis and special diet for the sick. General hygiene materials ie soap, Vaseline and toothpaste. The hospital with a laboratory had nurses, other offenders who worked there as nurse aids and lab scientist who does the testing Some officers at the centre who did peer education were helping with the training. The offenders welcomed the peer education program but emphasized on the need for psycho social support and an effective counseling scheme as the previous sessions that had been conducted by the New Start Centre had not yielded the positive result but instead has caused an increase in the death rate.</p>	<p>A total of 252 offenders were pursuing education from basic to tertiary level. There were 23 grade seven, 35 O level, 9 A level and 10 tertiary level students. <b>Challenges:</b> The prison - an examination centre had no furniture for the students to sit on. The training depot helped only when there were no recruits on training - There is a library and a librarian too but books in the library were obsolete and out of syllabus while there was strong need for text books to facilitate easy learning. Exam materials like stationery were needed urgently while they were about to write the 2008 examinations. Other needs included: Chalks, boards and materials for preschool level. The prison further requested recreational materials like balls for offenders in their spare time. They also wanted postage stamps for inmates to communicate their relatives.</p>

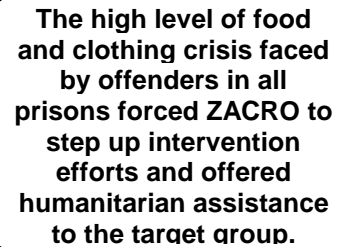
**Table Six.....**

<b>Mlondolozhi prison hospital and challenges</b>	<b>Bulawayo central remand prison and challenges</b>
<p>Mlondolozhi - a hospital prison houses mental patients. By time of visiting it had 98 inmates - males and females, four children, psychologists, administrator and a nurse.</p> <p><b>Needs:</b> The prison was experiencing serious food crisis especially for mental patients under treatment who needed a lot of food and these requested more food from ZACRO.–</p> <p><b>Other demands were:</b> Baby clothing mainly for expecting mothers, sanitary wear, soap and Vaseline for female offenders, new equipment after the prison had a sewing workshop but had obsolete and malfunctioned equipment. They too needed candles, torch or rechargeable lights to use when experiencing power cuts, gardening seeds like carrots, rape and onions to occupy the mental patients. They also requested resources for rabbit keeping, plates, knives, hard brooms, disinfectants and bins. The officers welcomed peer education program but like all other prisons they emphasized the support component.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> ZACRO donated thirty plates – courtesy of the welfare Manager Miss P Bhunhu which would be used by the inmates.</p>	<p>The visiting team met the 2<sup>nd</sup> officer in charge and a nurse. The prison had 560 male inmates. Of these 281 were already sentenced and there was one female at the time of visiting. The prison services four satellite prisons that are around Bulawayo. <b>Challenges</b> were slightly different from other prisons. They housed remand inmates with shorter sentences. However the following were the challenges faced:</p> <p>They requested transport after experiencing serious transport problems involving ferrying remand offenders to attend court. The result - the remand prisoners spend long time before trial.</p> <p>The prison was not spared from food shortages – thus they requested more food while the death rate was very high. Inmates requested postage stamps to communicate with their relatives. There is a small library needing intensification but the scope of the books in the library was not wide hence ZACRO was called on to donate more books.</p> <p>Inmates further requested indoor games like chess, draft, snooker and other recreational materials to occupy them during spare time and money for bail payment for some inmates who had been granted bail and ZACRO managed to pay bail for 4 inmates. While emphasizing the need for solid support system to accompany the peer education program</p>

*After prisons visits in these regions during the last quarter of 2008 ZACRO was still by end the programming period involved in some interventions in response to needs arising from situational analysis which included rendering humanitarian assistance, fostering rehabilitation, restoration and half way home projects log sheet.*

## Humanitarian Assistance Program

The political and economic problems experienced by Zimbabwe during the programming period created a humanitarian crisis to many Zimbabweans and the prisoners were not spared. From the situational analysis of the prisons - food shortages were rampant in the penal institutions. This saw offenders in most prisons having at least one meal per day while porridge did not have sugar and the relish – mainly vegetables without salt and cooking oil. This saw a significant increase in death rates in the prisons. Nutrition deficiency related illnesses such as pellagra and kwashiorkor affected many offenders. These suffered weight loss, while opportunistic infections such as diarrhea and herpes affected them too. Some of those on ART resorted to stop taking medication after suffering effects involving taking medication without food. ZACRO had to step up efforts involving sourcing and channeling humanitarian assistance mainly in form of food and cloths to some of the prisons. Hence gratitude is posted to the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) which channeled food stuffs in form of maize, beans and cooking oil which were distributed to the prisoners, ex-offenders and dependants with the later serviced under the half way home project. This saw 33 released inmates paying courtesy call at the half way home at the ZACRO headquarters in Harare seeking various forms of humanitarian assistance and were given food by the organization. Most of these ex-inmates and dependants of those incarcerated covered under the half way home project were helped subject to their needs which encompassed humanitarian and restoration needs. As noted by ZACRO welfare manager, Ms Patronela Bhunhu - the high level of mainly food and clothing crisis faced by offenders in all prisons left ZACRO without choice except to step up efforts and offer humanitarian assistance to the target group. Analysis conducted by programming staff revealed that the death rate had significantly increased because of lack of food in the country's prisons. Thus upon joining ZACRO the Development Worker, Mrs Ponde identified needs of inmates at four prisons. She was engaged in resource mobilization for children in prisons and sick inmates. She approached Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA) and sourced supplementary food for sick women prisoners and their children in prisons which included Mutimurefu in Masvingo, Marondera, Chikurubi female and Harare Central. Hence ZACRO managed to foster good relationship with ADRA which donated 77 boxes of food stuffs for the women prisoners and their children in the prisons. Also Mrs. Ponde linked ZACRO with FAVCO - a company that deals with fruit and vegetables. The result - ZACRO managed to obtain vegetables from FAVCO and distributed these to Chikurubi Female and Harare Central prisons on 1 July 2008.



**The high level of food and clothing crisis faced by offenders in all prisons forced ZACRO to step up intervention efforts and offered humanitarian assistance to the target group.**

**Other forms of humanitarian assistance.**

Government continued to provide low budgetary allocations to the Zimbabwe Prison Service; hence ZPS could not adequately provide other basic needs for inmates. As the result shortage of uniforms or clothing and sanitation in general was a major problem. As cited by Miss Bhunhu the welfare manager – inmates at Rusape prison were most affected by shortage of uniforms. Some of them could be seen walking half nude. This prompted the organization to further source cloths from churches and individuals which were distributed to the inmates. As the result ZACRO posts gratitude to Marimba Park SDA which donated cloths on 23 July and its wing - Dorcas Ministries which donated sanitation to women and children at Chikurubi female prison.

Counseling Services Unit (CSU) donated sanitary to help the female offenders which were distributed to them on 23 July 2008. Again the organization had to pay for transport of released inmates to their respective homes as a humanitarian gesture after many busses were reportedly turning down traveling warrants which the ex-offenders were given by the prison on day of release. This was mostly done under the service of the half way home project. Among those helped was one ex-inmate who was helped with bus fare to Mutoko on 16 July 2008. The old inmate who stayed at ZACRO premises under the half way home project helped the secretariat set up a vegetable and flower garden and beautified the ZACRO headquarters in Harare.



ZACRO has always been committed to donate to women prisoners and their children. In the picture, these female prisoners holding their babies at Chikurubi female prison received cloths, toys food staffs among other goodies during festival days of 2008 from ZACRO.



### **Humanitarian Assistance - Critical Evaluation.**

After the target group faced a severe humanitarian crisis during the period under review. The situation – characterized with economic problems encompassing hyperinflation and poor budgetary allocations to the Zimbabwe Prison Service – saw the ZACRO secretariat staff strategizing and programming again in June this year in bid to meet humanitarian needs of prisoners, ex-offenders and their dependents. During this period of humanitarian crisis the humanitarian intervention had to be re-engineered - mainly focusing provision on rendering love, kindness , of basic needs and facilitating all that made up the welfare of the prisoners or inmate and be set to restore dignity. While the humanitarian program offered most basic needs such as food, bedding material, clothing and provision of medical drugs and equipment most vital the organization had to employ strategies for the humanitarian assistance to impact positively. These included need identification first then followed by quantifying methods to determine the volume or level of the assistance to be rendered. Networking, creating strategic linkages and partnerships with other organizations was therefore of paramount importance during the period under review and this was in bid to source and channel the humanitarian needs to the target group during year 2008. However ZACRO had consider resource mobilization, considerate distribution logistics while monitoring and evaluation of the humanitarian assistance program was of paramount importance at very stage of the program after the humanitarian crisis was severe in the country’s prisons.

Thus the humanitarian program focused on providing economic and social welfare needs of the target group while complimenting efforts towards rendering humanitarian assistance after noting that during 2008 government was not doing justice in fulfilling the humanitarian needs of prisoners.

had to be focusing provision the ex-human

to cover

The prisons struggled to get funds and resources to undertake pauper burials. Hence during this period under review - ZACRO provided resources mainly in form of transport to families

### Humanitarian assistance / deaths and burials of inmates

During monitoring and evaluation - the severity of crisis associated with humanitarian assistance without urgent attention saw a number of deaths recorded in Zimbabwean prisons. Although the prison administration continued to be tight lipped on official statistics of inmates who died in the prisons during this period under review, ZACRO was well informed that a number of inmates died in the penal institutions owing to various ailments among them HIV/Aids.

struggling to bury their relatives having died in prisons.

Hence ZACRO helped in the burial of Villian Parere in Chivi; Masvingo. On 4 July 2008 ZACRO also helped the Makumbe family with transport to Mabvuku cemetery and buried Makumbe their relative after he died at Harare Central prison

Table Two....

<b>Year 2008 Halfway house, Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Log Sheet</b>			
<b>Month/Date</b>	<b>Beneficiary's name</b>	<b>Nature of Donation</b>	<b>Value (old currency)</b>
14 February	Washington Ndimuyana	Bus fare to Mutare	110 Million
March	Chivhu Prison	Vegetable seeds and newsprint	
March	Marondera Prison	Bail payment for inmates	
April	Mutoko Prison	Food stuffs for baby Ngel	1,09 Billion
8 May	Mutumurefu Prison	Food stuffs and clothing	60 Billion
21 May	Chikurubi Female Prison	Food stuffs, clothing	122 Billion
28 May	Harare Central Workshop Prison	Food stuffs (Rice from hunger)	57,5 Billion
28 May	Harare central Prison	Trade test fees	3 Billion
4/5 June	Chinhoyi Prison	Bee keeping project	
6June	Ridigita Farm Prison	Two soccer balls.	14 Billion
6 June	Mutumurefu Prison	One netball and I soccer ball	14 Billion
9 June	Chikurubi Maximum Prison	Exam fees (O level and A level)	44,45 Billion
16 June	Harare Central Workshop	Exam fees (O level and A level)	70,6 Billion
19 June	Chikurubi female prison	Rice from Hunger	150 Billion
19 June	Harare central Workshop	Rice from Hunger	114 Billion
<b>Dependents</b>			
March to date	Prisoners' dependants	Food rations	Variable
29 May	Unity Siyakisa	School fees payment	10 Billion
17 April	Stanely Matongo	Bus Fare and food rations	300 Million
26 March – 8 May	Nyasha Chiremba	Halfway house	
18 June	Kansile Kansile	Clothing	
<u>Additional tabulated notes</u>	Chikurubi Female	Visited the prison for need assessment towards women and children's plight -Sourced food and clothes for women, children and the sick. -ZACRO managed to get rice packages from ADRA and FAVCO that saw inmates getting supplementary feeding.	
	Harare Central	The prison managed to get	

		supplementary feed in the form of porridge and vegetable from Prison Fellowship and FAVCO respectively.	
	Harare Central Workshop	Supplementary food from ADRA towards the sick who were and those who were participating in practical learning.	
	Mutimurefu	Sourced and supplied food from ADRA towards the sick and also sourced cloths for children in the prison.	
	Little Kraaal	Initiated rabbitry keeping project and library by donating books	
	Ridigita	Rabbit keeping	
	Mutare Farm	Rabbit keeping	
	Rusape	Need assessment	
	Khami	Need assessment and books donated.	
	Hwahwa Medium	Need assessment	
	Khami maximum	Need assessment	
	Mlondozi	Need assessment	
	Bulawayo central	Need assessment	
	Bulawayo central	Need assessment	
	Shurugwi	Need assessment	
	Ntabazinduna	Need assessment	

## Rehabilitation Program

Despite the numerous problems encountered by the organization during the period under review, rehabilitation was one of the key intervention areas successfully carried out by ZACRO. The process involved bringing offenders back to normal life and or normal standards of behavior. *For interventions refer to the log sheet table*

**The objectives of the ZACRO rehabilitation program were as follows;**

- Seeking reformation of inmates through setting up of micro projects in the projects
- Facilitating re-integration of ex-offenders into the society
- Providing coping skills for the ex-offenders
- Linking them with the available resources

Reducing re-offending and bad habits among the ex-offenders

### Components of the ZACRO Rehabilitation Program

#### **Intervention Strategies:**

The ZACRO Rehabilitation program focused on the individual's interaction with the society in which he or she finds himself while his or her coping skills were linked to accessibility of available resources. The ZACRO Rehabilitation program followed a problem solving approach as one of the intervention strategies.

## The rehabilitation interventions focused on the following:

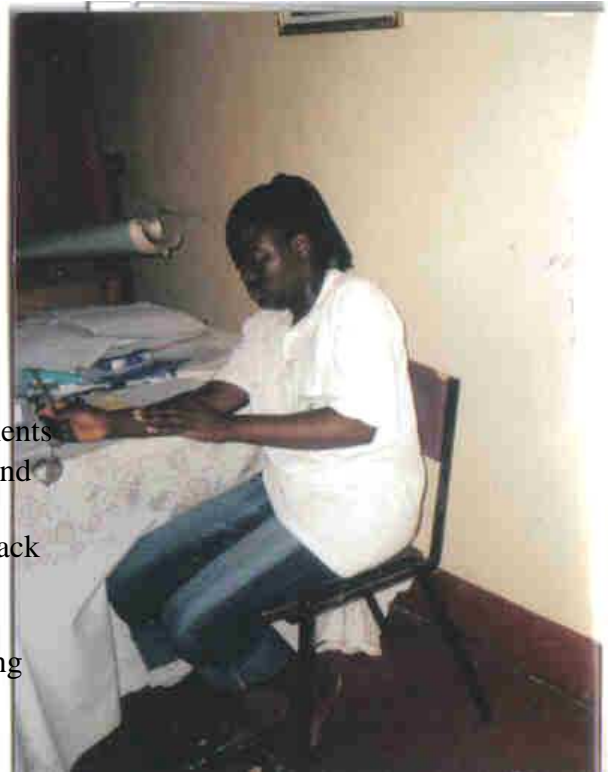
- Creation of a sound relationship - will enable the client to air out his/her problems and views which led her or him/her to obtain help. This would do away with lack of trust and resistance that was likely to prevail.
- Linking the ex-offenders with resources to enable them to have a livelihood
- Provision of short term shelter (halfway house) in cases of offenders who did not have anywhere to go or who were in transit
- Facilitating them to acquire identity documents
- Provision of clothing i.e. collection of second hand clothes
- Provision of transport fares to take them back to their homes
- Provision of food and
- Provision of Work through capacity building them with skills training and paying for educational assistance for both academic and Technical trades. Another intervention strategy was the task centered approach. The main focus of this Strategy was to train the individual and use his or her own internal as well as external resources to better cope with the demands of the society.

Emphasis was therefore placed on the following points

Training the offenders on the social skills made them cope up with.

- The tasks focused on were usually practical and simple such as orientating them to employment and explore conflict resolutions on reintegrating. Project starter packs could be made available while access to resources or linkages to resources could be created.
- The offenders could also be oriented in areas such as where to look for work, how to fill in forms, how to conduct a job interview, and how to handle questions asking for criminal records..
- Relationships needed to be cemented, exploring causes and looking for strategies to resolve

Interpersonal conflict both at work and at home.



***{In 2008ZACRO Welfare Manager Miss Bhunhu was responsible for rehabilitation, Restoration Humanitarian, Half way home needs for inmates, ex-offenders & relatives }***

## Skills Development

**Interventions** *In the pictures - Above are prisoners at Mazowe farm prison implementing the rabbitry project after training. Below Chinhoyi prison inmates are busy mastering skills in bee keeping – a project sponsored by ZACRO in partnership with Environment Africa as part of rehabilitating offenders and empower them with technical skills.*



The skills development intervention has been a strategy which ZACRO had been engaged in over a long period of time. To undertake this there was need to put resources – mainly funds in place for the skills development. The only major worry was shortage of resources which relatively affected ZACRO towards offering project starter packs to inmates acquire technical skills. This was despite that skills development enabled the inmates and ex-offenders to be empowered with different skills in different trades and earn a living from this after incarceration. However the organization managed to set up micro projects like bee keeping at Chinhoyi prison, rabbitry at Mazowe – a

project which was further extended to Ridigita, Little kraal and Mutare farm prison.

**Impact:** What ever limitations encountered towards assisting the inmates and ex-offenders to change their behavior and avoid re-offending behavior - the rehabilitation program attempted to address the offence behavior of offenders and the consequences of incarceration. Thus the program facilitated the following:

- Helped individuals to clarify their attitudes and beliefs and influence positive behavior change;
- Explore the offender's self image and enhance self-esteem, confidence, and self respect;
- Facilitated the acquiring of social skills leading them to be assertive, flexible, manage conflict, anger and decision making and respond to peer pressure. **Hence** during the programming year ZACRO continued to acquire rabbits from Mazowe farm prison. This rabbitry



project was sponsored and set up by ZACRO in 2006 at Mazowe being the first pilot micro project of this nature. Some rabbits from this penal institution were transferred to other prisons which now have thriving rabbitry projects. Also released inmates pursuing the rabbitry project were given two rabbits each upon release in bid for them to start their own rabbitry projects and sustain themselves in the main stream society.

## **Terms and Conditions to Access the Rehabilitation Program;**

**Eligibility:** During the period under review the rehabilitation Program was intended to start in the prison through skills development hence ZACRO facilitated the setting up of micro projects in the prison and inmates participated in the various skills training processes which they most benefited. The program was also aimed at released inmates who had referral letters from the prison they served which mentioned the nature of crime committed, length of sentence and date of release and their prison numbers. The duration of the rehabilitation intervention was determined on activities conducted though initially ZACRO wanted to start with short term programs which did not exceed one month for the released inmates. There after the offender would be wined back into the community to continue with the skills acquired.

### **EDUCATIONAL Development:**

#### **Cornerstone of Rehabilitation**

ZACRO assured support towards educational while empowering them with self-help skills for prison. This was in line with Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which states that “everyone (including prison inmates) has the right to education.” Although this universally acknowledged right is supposed to be enjoyed by everybody regardless of social status, many prisoners were in the past unable to pursue education because of break down of social relations and support hence they lacked resources when one is imprisoned. Also poverty and economic woes including hyperinflation further saw the prisoners unable to finance their own education. As the result ZACRO was often asked to assist the inmates. Hence during 2008 the organizations sourced various library books for the offenders and spend money on examinations and trade testing fees for prisoners pursuing education in the penal institutions. Thus over the year there has been high demand for both academic and recreational books by inmates which saw ZACRO stepping up intervention efforts towards supporting the Prison Library Project. This was also in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Offenders which states that “Every institution (prison) shall have a library for the use of all categories of prisoners, adequately stocked with both recreation and instructional books and prisoners shall be encouraged to make use of the library which ought to be enjoyed by prisoners.

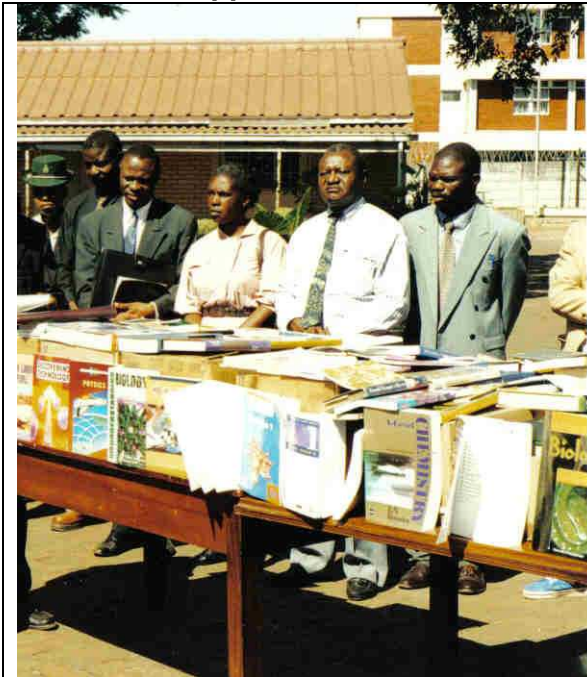
**Monitoring and Evaluation and projects:** The organization made sure that the rehabilitation program was closely monitored and evaluated till the process assured setting up of a livelihood program within the ex-offender's community

**Busy learning while incarcerated!**



*As portrayed by the situational analysis there was need by inmates to pursue education while they did not have Resources in the prisons. Thus ZACRO was as the result concerned with educational development in the Prisons. The organization was committed to distribute educational materials which included text books mainly sourced from Book Aid International through the University of Zimbabwe and other Learning aids to inmates. In the picture an inmate is caught up learning in the prison..*

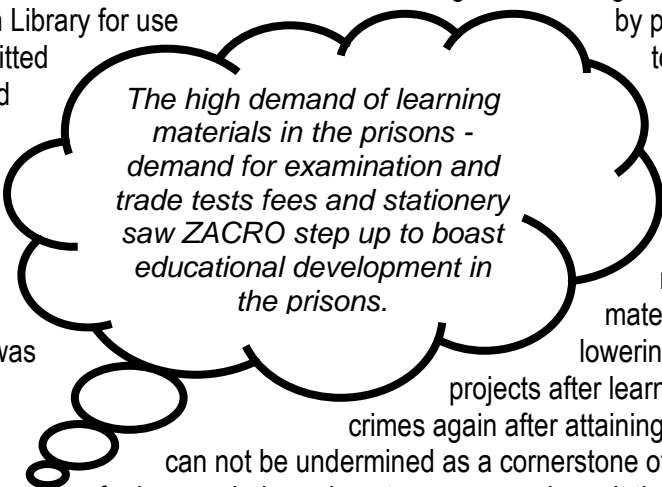
**Support from Book Aid International and the University of Zimbabwe.**



*As done every year, ZACRO received books including text and leisure books from Book Aid International through the University of Zimbabwe which the organization channeled to inmates pursuing education in the prisons as well as providing leisure books to all prisoners.*

### Distribution of Books.

ZACRO extends maximum gratitude to Book Aid International for channeling books through University of Zimbabwe which the organization distributed to the Prison Library for use in this intervention, ZACRO was committed and played crucial role in helping and result many inmates realized that towards development, social freedom. They learnt that fundamental towards reducing technical skills. The project also prisons and demand for learning further noted that rate of recidivism was employed or engaged in self help former prisoners turned to commit prisons. All proved that education some of them who were sentenced ZACRO to see that there was a library at every prison. The organization distributed over 1 000 various books to the inmates in the country's penal institutions and by time of compiling this report ZACRO was still distributing the few remaining books to the target group.



by prisoners and prison officers. In to serve the cause of education rehabilitating prisoners. As the education was fundamental progress and human education is considered poverty after equipped with raised the literacy level in the materials was high in 2008. ZACRO lowering after ex-offenders were either projects after learning in the prisons. Very few crimes again after attaining academic achievements in the can not be undermined as a cornerstone of rehabilitation among inmates, for long periods such as ten years or above It therefore remained great wish by ZACRO to see that there was a library at every prison. The organization distributed over 1 000 various books to the inmates in the country's penal institutions and by time of compiling this report ZACRO was still distributing the few remaining books to the target group.

### **By August 2008 ZACRO distributed Books to following Zimbabwean prisons during 2008**

<u>Recipient (Prison)</u>	<u>Number of academic books allocated to prisons..</u>	<u>Recipient (Prison)</u>	<u>Number of academic books allocated to prisons</u>
<u>Mutare prison</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>Harare Central</u>	<u>58</u>
<u>Khami</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>Kwekwe</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Hwahwa Young Offenders</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>Bulawayo</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Chikurubi Maximum</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>Masvingo</u>	<u>59</u>
<u>Mazowe</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>Chinhoyi</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Hwange</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>Mutoko</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>Chikurubi Farm</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>Rusape</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Mutimurefu</u>	<u>40</u>		

### **Follow up and Evaluation**

ZACRO always made follow ups assuring that the donated books were fully made use of by the target group. Main concern was monopoly of the books by prison officers who were also out to better their educational status at the expense of the prisoners. Thus ZACRO followed up and assured that there was balance in use of the book such that they were shared equally among the inmates – in particular those learning in the prisons.

### **Impact and Expected Results**

The following was noted by ZACRO after distributing the books and rendering of relevant support towards educational development in the country's prisons.

- There has been great interest among inmates to pursue education.
- High level of literacy was gradually noted among inmates A number of inmates thus managed to pursue “O” levels and “A” level education in the prisons and a handsome number passed.
- Some pursuing higher education were able to pass with many of these from Harare Central Prison workshop who were equipped with technical skills for use when securing employment engaged in self help projects.
- Also provision of recreational books assured removal of boredom and stress associated with incarceration among the inmates. The result – the rate of recidivism lowered in the society after those engaged in learning while in the prisons were not turning to commit crimes again as many of these successfully sought employment or were engaged in income generating projects in the country.



Other learning aids such as pencils, pens, exercise books, calculators, rulers, paper, and chalks among others other than academic books were needed by the target group.

There was also high demand for recreational text books among the inmates to deal away with boredom and stress associated with incarceration.

**Noted gaps and way forward**

Some of the books were not relevant, therefore there was need to channel relevant syllabus academic books. The inmates were also in need of local text books in particular those pursuing vernacular languages. More technical oriented academic books were needed by those pursuing technical education in the prisons.

- The inmates felt that learning aids other than academic books must be supplied to them which also assure smooth educational development in the prisons.
- Lastly more examination centers were yet to be introduced in some of the prisons to allow inmates pursuing education in the prisons sit for the subjects they will be pursuing.

**Recreational facilities and Rehabilitation in the prisons.**

*Promoting and facilitating sporting activities to inmates did not only prove to be part of rehabilitation but had the prisoners be engaged in the sporting activities like soccer which removes boredom associated with incarceration and reduce possibilities of one escaping from the prison. In this picture from the ZACRO morgue - the team sponsored by ZACRO showcasing C Mudehwe (keeling left) - the programs manager and B Makuvarara (standing akimbo) – the organization’s vice president before playing*



*Mazowe prison was committed to promote soccer in the prisons. However this year the team could not perform as expected owing to lack of resources but the organization managed to donate as many balls to the penal institutions for the prisoners to play and while up time while incarcerated while others resorted to take up sporting seriously and rely on this upon release from the prisons.*

**Half Way House Project – Design and 2008 programming activities:**

The organization carried out the halfway house project which basically involved provision of a temporary accommodation at its headquarters in Harare which was meant to house ex-offenders. During the period under review 33 ex-offenders passed through the half way home. They were seeking various help. Despite limited resources the organization assured that these ex-offenders - many of them who have just been released from prison were helped. In particular ZACRO helped them by giving attention to their individual needs which included:

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- Rende home

**Objectives of the Half Way House Project**  
 Basically the half way house offered ex-offenders a safe home and facilitated: rehabilitation, restoration and humanitarian services to the target group.

**Half way House Visi**  
 see them rehabilitated



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*In the picture is Miss Patronella Bhunhu (standing at the center) Busy recording and distributing food handouts to ex-offenders and families of those incarcerated while from right Mr Mudehwe, the programs manager and Ms Mating, administrator looks on.*

### **Terms and conditions**

#### **1. Eligibility**

For one to qualify and be housed at the Halfway house the following terms had to be met.

The person:

- Had to be a released ex-inmate with a prison number
- Had to have details of the prison where he/she served his/her sentence
- The individual should have served in prison for a minimum of two years.
- Had to have a referral letter from the rehabilitation officer, Chaplin and or the of the prison
- Had to have a national identity card.

**2.Duration of Stay:** The duration of stay at the Halfway house was not more than 30 days (one month). The specific duration of stay depended on the individual circumstances. After the stipulated term the ex-inmate was handed over to his relatives who were set to continue monitoring and giving additional family support and assist the individual.

Officer in Charge

#### **Programming at the half way home**

As part of rehabilitation the half way house was a place meant to offer skills development. It was also a place offering a deliberate effort that brought up restoration of the rights and dignity of the ex-offenders while ensuring that they had a starting point for life they were to face in the main stream society. If it were not shortage of resources different projects were supposed to be implemented at the home depending on the needs and demands of the ex-inmates. After close monitoring of the performance of the ex-inmates, they had to be weaned off and given starter packs to assist them earn a livelihood. ZACRO had to continue monitoring the individual for a certain period while ensuring that the individual was well integrated into his or her community. However major limitations in the face of a harsh economic environment, inadequate resources and hyperinflation affected full operation of the half way home project during this period under review

## HIV/AIDS Programming in the Prisons.

As highlighted by Mrs T Ponde – the Development Worker; the partnership that ZACRO made with Progression was significantly based on enabling ZACRO to initiate an HIV and AIDS program in Prisons in addition to capacity building and governance issues. Thus during the prisons visits carried out around the country during 2008; - rehabilitation officers highlighted that HIV and AIDS prevalence was high and a significant number of offenders were suffering from opportunistic infections. The situation was magnified by the inadequacy of food and nutrition experienced in the prisons which negatively affected the immunity systems of those already affected by the pandemic.

*ZACRO Secretariat assured addition of HIV/Aids component in all programming missions*



It was therefore imperative for ZACRO to initiate an HIV and AIDS Program spearheaded by the Development Worker. Introduction and reinforcing HIV/Aids mitigation program was necessary in the penal institutions and in view of the unavailability of resources currently faced by ZACRO, the secretariat resolved that.

- a) ZACRO would add
- b) a component of HIV and AIDS awareness in many of its proposals which was done during 2008 although some of the proposals were yet to be responded to by the funding partners.
- c) In the meantime the Development had to start on material development on the HIV Aids program for trainers since that activity did not require financial resources.
- d) The organization also undertook to actively fundraise for the HIV/Aids program and assure its smooth implementation in the country's penal institutions..

By time of compiling this annual report feedback from British Lottery Fund had not yet been received but the group still made a commitment to fund raise for the program.

### **Other notable programming activities**

#### **Banket Certification:**

The organization participated as stakeholders at the Banket Certification that was held on 25 July 2008. The organization helped in the organization of the certification and also donated some goods that were worth \$6 805 trillion that were to ensure that the function was a success. The certification was a worth event as it equipped offenders with skills that they can use upon release and they have actually been privileged with start packs. Thanks to TRB and ZPS for the partnership as it has helped in the rehabilitation of the offender.

#### **The 2008 Prison festival.**

The Zimbabwe Prison Service (ZPS) held its annual festival in Harare, in the slum high density suburb of Mbare at the Stodart netball ground on 26 July 2008 - an event that was attended by members of the community; stakeholders including civic groups, prisoners drawn from prisons located in all the four regions, prisons administration officials, prison officers, top government officials and the inmates themselves. In fact the event was an eye opener that made ZACRO see that it was worth to decentralize the event to be regional event as it helps to facilitate re-integration of the offenders into the mainstream society. As the tradition, the Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO) among other stakeholders such as Prison Fellowship, National Arts Council, Mutasa Meats and Harare City Council, - participated at this year's festival. ZACRO had ample time to mingle with its target group(s) who included the prisons administration officials, prison officers, Ministry of Justice - Legal and Parliamentary Affairs officials and the inmates drawn from prisons located in the four regions in Zimbabwe.

The inmates had chance to perform at the festival. ZACRO had the opportunity to critically explore concerns of prisoners which they related in competitions involving drama, poetry, traditional dance and choral music while the organization focused on areas of intervention. This was befitting for this year's festival was based on the need to rehabilitate inmates while preparing for their future in particular upon release into the mainstream society.

During prison festival - ZACRO also had the opportunity to display banners underlining some of its activities with main messages focusing on need to rehabilitate offenders as well as encouraging society to fight and prevent crime.

Most vital to note was that government was now seriously considering rehabilitation of inmates than letting them subjected to mere incarceration without any element of reformation involved.

Hence the presence of the following top government and ZPS officials was of paramount importance towards reinforcing rehabilitation programs in the prisons apparently numbering 55 including satellites in the country as they expressed great need to reinforce liberal penal reforms in Zimbabwe.



**Civic organizations** including the Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO) which contributed towards holding the festival and participated in the event emulated government intentions to dwell on full scale rehabilitation of offenders in the country's prisons. ZACRO whose main objectives include rehabilitation and restoration of offenders and ex-inmates respectively as well as rendering humanitarian assistance to the same target group felt that it was high time the ZPS stand to consider full scale rehabilitation of offenders and this reflecting milestone moves towards provision of liberal penal reforms mainly within the country's penal system. **Thematic interpretations**

However, ZACRO emulated government efforts towards full scale rehabilitation of offenders. Hence a government representative, Dr Olivia Muchena emulated festival theme - "Promoting Self Sustenance to Rekindle the Lost Hope," maintaining that prisoners may lose hope while many could be forgotten by families and the society. The problem of stigmatization was rampant and needed to be addressed. As the result - the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Zimbabwe Prison Services (ZPS) were encouraged to promote rehabilitation of offenders. This was different with the past which saw prisoners subjected to paramount torture and abuse of human rights. However modern management of prisons had

changed over time. As at the festival Inmates could mingle with the public. Even language associated with prisoners was gradually changing. Inmates are not suppose to be called “bandits,” but were prisoners who are kept by prison officers. In fact there must be a notable turn around towards attaining minimum standard rules of treating prisoners which should become part of the cornerstones for liberal penal reforms in the country.

### **. Secretariat strategic planning and performance evaluation**

At the end of the three days the participants had an opportunity to reflect on the program and gave the following feedback:

- The workshop was an eye opener and it enabled the secretariat to appreciate my role within the organization
- The workshop revealed that there are many critical areas such as policies which the organization needs to put in place as a matter of urgency
- I have benefited from the workshop deliberations and it has enabled me to get in-depth insight of the programs run by ZACRO

The workshop was long overdue and it will go a long way towards improving ZACRO’s image as an organization and also to improve on its corporate culture.

- The workshop environment was conducive for the Exercise and the administrator was commended for the choice of venue. In fact the workshop achieved its desired objectives. The responsibility was now with staff members to implement what had been recommended. The participants also appreciated the development worker for having designed and facilitated the workshop for ZACRO secretariat

#### **Conclusion.**

The workshop enabled secretariat to conduct thorough self introspection, identify gaps and improve organizational performance. *“This is the beginning of a process. ZACRO will build upon this process and continue to improve from where the organization is,”* summarized Mr Chiota

### **Capacity Assessment and Staff Development**

The secretariat strategic planning held at Pandari Lodge in Harare in June assured critical assessment of the capacity of ZACRO secretariat in terms of programming needs and implementation. The staffers conducted self assessment and assessed the extent to which they were suitable for their posts and what they needed to do to enhance their capacity to improve on their job performance. The result by end the programming year remarkable change was noted in this regard. However a lot of needed to be looked into in terms of staff development and remuneration. Another major concern was on organizational policies which not in place. This came after secretariat noted that ZACRO did not have policies governing some of the key issues. There was need to develop a Human resources policy which outlined clearly issues such as: study leave, annual Leave days, remuneration and pay slips. Also there was need to draft a policy on human resources which would set up parameters to guide the organization and give the secretariat the mandate to undertake staff development programs. Other policies that were urgently needed included the: workplace , human Resources, finance, motor vehicle, members or volunteers, buying and purchasing policies as well an HIV/AIDS policy. However which were prioritized were: human resources, finance, buying and purchasing, workplace policies and these were drafted by the Development Worker and were only awaiting adoption by the Annual Meeting by end of 2008 before put into operation

### **Other ZACRO programs needing full exploration.**

During the programming year ZACRO was set to carry out the following projects and activities but these could not be fully explored mainly owing to prevailing economic problems and in particular lack of resources.

• **Crime Prevention Program:** Crime prevention was one of ZACRO's key focus areas and was to undertake the program in partnership with law enforcement agencies such as the police, security companies and community neighborhood watch committees. However, lack of resources hindered this program even though the organization had a concept paper in place to be submitted to potential donors or partners while the organization was networking well with main parties such as the police and the community in a move that was to effectively reinforce crime prevention in the community being mainly initiated by ZACRO.

• **Community Service Program:** ZACRO having been in the championing of the introduction of the community service action in Zimbabwe in bid to reduce the holding capacity of prisons as well as to promote integration of offenders into their communities, there was need for ZACRO to explore how it could work with offenders under the community service program. The organization had in the past probationers serving under community service at its headquarters while facilitating rehabilitation and restoration of the offenders back into the mainstream society and were mainly from Mbare Magistrate Court. However, this year the organization did not receive probationers as courts were mainly resorting to sentencing and imprisoning offenders. ZACRO noted that the program was plagued by a host of problems including lack of resources, inadequate refresher training of the community services officers, magistrates and public prosecutors among major problems and there was need for Non Governmental Organizations to intervene and rescue the program from collapse also in the face of a harsh economic environment prevailing in Zimbabwe. However, ZACRO made major strides towards reinforcing the community service by creating linkages to secure resources for this program. On the other hand, the organization tasked the Information Officer Mr. Wonder Chakanyuka to formulate a concept note on community service which would be available to stakeholders funding partners as initial base for luring resources for this program and this document was formulated and only awaits submission to relevant parties.

• **Counseling Program:** Whilst ZACRO was undertaking ad hoc counseling sessions - over the period under review ZACRO saw the desire to have a fully fledged counseling program. There were many offenders which had issues which could be addressed by counseling. This could also go a long way towards influencing behavior change and rehabilitation. However, due to shortage of resources and need to have more specialization in this program it could not fully take off the ground though remaining as one of ZACRO's major intervention areas.

• **Orientation Programs in prison:** ZACRO noted in depth that the prison environment was a community in itself, with different ways of engagements, with laws, regulations and expectations, hence an orientation program for offenders to the prison environment would assist the offenders to understand the prison environment, know the challenges that they were going through and face after incarceration while focusing on how to cope with stress associated with the prison environment and experiences.

#### • **The Anti Death Penalty Campaign in Zimbabwe.**

ZACRO has over the past years campaigned significantly against practice of capital punishment in Zimbabwe and continue to do until its total abolition in the country. However, over the period under review the organization lacked funding hence the campaign was not carried out at full scale as compared to the previous years. However, secretariat presented the issue at the annual Chiefs Conference held in Bulawayo this year during the organization wanted to seek the audience of President Mugabe over the issue and lobby him to abolish this legislation in the near future. However, the Information Officer – Mr. Wonder Chakanyuka who was responsible for carrying advocacy work involving the anti death penalty campaign continued to produce campaign materials more flyers on the campaign ahead of securing funds and other necessary resources and fully facilitate the campaign in the country. More research was done on the practice and need to abolish the death penalty in the country while sensitizing opinion leaders, members of Parliament, senators and the press during the period under review. The Information Officer had a concept paper formulated on the campaign against the death penalty in Zimbabwe. The document was only waiting to be submitted to potential donors to fund this crusade against practice of capital punishment in Zimbabwe. Also ZACRO stated the need to abolish the death penalty

during a workshop held by Zimbabwe lawyers for Human Rights held in Bulawayo from 3 to 5 October 2008 in a paper the organization presented on realization and protection of human rights for prisoners hence in a way networking and luring support among the civil society members and key stakeholders to abolish the capital punishment in the country. This follows that Zimbabwe has executed about 78 death row inmates since attaining political independence in 1980 while about 60 inmates were on the death row awaiting execution while exposed to inhuman, degrading and tortuous conditions and it remains commitment by ZACRO to abolish the death penalty in Zimbabwe unless affected by inadequate resources as in 2008.



### **Administration and Institutional Development**

ZACRO improved immensely this year in terms of administration issues. This mainly related to accounting systems though the administrator - Ms Loice Matingo pictured here was yet to train in pastel accounting. Financial Audits were produced accompanied by the auditors' report. She coordinated events. These involved choosing a venue – Pandari Lodge for hosting the secretariat strategic planning workshop on 10 to 12 June 2008. She played a role in the Banket certification program. However the image of ZACRO partly improved as a flower and vegetable garden was put up at the ZACRO headquarters. More should have been done on this note if it were not for inadequate resources. During the year under review – ZACRO acquired two laptops, a computer and a printer, two digital cameras from Human Rights Forum while there was installation of another internet service to ease communication with other organizations

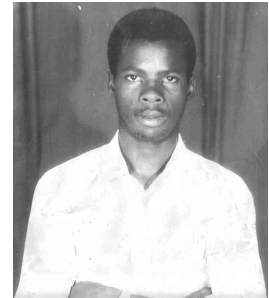


### **Knowledge Management and Documentation:**

Considering that knowledge information or and documentation is vital in management

\ any organization Mr Wonder Chakanyuka, ZACRO's Information Officer said much improved in terms of information management and documentation during the period under review.

{Hence in the picture: the ZACRO Information Office, Mr Wonder Chakanyuka Related the importance of knowledge management and documentation. during 2008 programming period.}



### **Importance of Information Management Documentation by ZACRO and during the year in Retrospect!**

#### **Documentation:**

ZACRO documents like any other organization were either internal or external and most vital and available documents were as follows.

- User manuals, pamphlets, memorandums, reports of programs and meetings, strategic plans, news letters, partnership papers, concept papers, code of conducts, project proposals and administrative documents among other vital documents.

However it is important to note that with the arrival of the Development Worker – Mrs Ponde and the Welfare Manager – Miss ,

**Thus the Information;** Helped to ensure that decisions of all kinds are likely to be correct if most appropriate knowledge is available.

- Reflected on market trends while marketing products.
- Served as a commodity that directs advertising to people most likely to be interested in particular products.
- Portrayed image of the organization as well as leading to be known either by target groups, partners or donors in line with its operations.
- Served management needs to monitor, control and plan the organization
- Served needs of workers in dealing with clients

the level of

documentation in 2008 immensely improved in the organization with to be done in areas which include filing among other areas involving information management and documentation. Of more importance formulation of proposals, partnership or concept papers and presentations by the Secretariat team comprising of the Development Worker – Mrs Ponde, Information Officer - Mr W Chakanyuka, the Welfare Manager – Miss P Bhunhu and the Programs Manager – Mr C Mudehwe improved much. By time of compiling this annual report a number of proposals were lined up and some of them already send to funding partners and the organization was hoping to get more funding and resources for programming

**Also there were organizational policy documents which needed to be in place.** The Human resources policy was being worked on by the Development Worker – Mrs T Ponde. Other policies to be looked into, formulated and presented to the National Executive Committee (NEC) for adoption included the Finance policy, Motor vehicle policy, Members or volunteers policy, Buying and purchasing policy, HIV/AIDS policy, Gender policy and Education policy

### **Data Base Management**

Thus internal and external documents were stored in a data base in one form or another during the period under review.

<p><b>Nature of Data bases in ZACRO during 2008 and those yet to be created were as follows:</b></p>	<p><b>However ZACRO could still improve its knowledge management system(s) if its resource mobilization base that includes a reliable and efficient printing capacity while improving the following areas of operation mainly within the information department of the organization.</b></p>
<p>Filing, Computer storage of knowledge, Library, Notice Boards, Pictures or Video Productions and charts and documentation of advocacy and lobbying materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further training of staff on computer packages stepped up.</li> <li>• Storage devices needed to be acquired.</li> <li>• Documents needed to be classified accordingly</li> <li>• There was supposed to be clear flow of information</li> <li>• Information needed to be centralized for easy accessibility.</li> <li>• Computers and devices needed regular upgrading.</li> <li>• Staff was to further master management of change in ITC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conveyance of data bases included:</b></p>	<p><b>Provision of data security considered during the programming year and yet to take place included adoption of the following:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy retrieval of data</li> <li>• Easy manipulation of data</li> <li>• Easy retrieval for Reference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of back up storages</li> <li>• Copyright rights placed on information produced.</li> <li>• Viruses had to be always checked against.</li> <li>• Passwords were considered in computers.</li> <li>• Software was always evaluated while the Programs Manager always assured constant smooth working of machines and be relevant to the marketing of the organization.</li> </ul>

### **The Progressio and ZACRO Partnership.**

The year 2008 saw a partnership created by ZACRO and Progressio. Mrs Tackler Ponde – the Progressio Development Worker and HIV and Aids program development adviser – started her contract on 31 March 2008

She facilitated a secretariat strategic planning workshop which focused on;

Secr

- **Programming priorities:** Reviewing the organization's broad and consolidated strategic plan such that programming by the secretariat fit the broad strategic plan.
- The secretariat had to reflect on the organization's vision and mission, thus helping the secretariat staff to clarify the mandate of ZACRO as an organization.
- The workshop focused on organizational culture and image of ZACRO.
- The secretariat staff agreed to improve ZACRO's work environment both inside the organization and outside and as the result ZACRO was set to improve its image to stakeholders especially the prison fraternity.
- Staff capacity assessment:
- Job descriptions were clearly spelt out. Staff identified needs for further

After the workshop initiated by Mrs Ponde having secured funding from DFID the staffers had an opportunity to reflect on their programs and gave the following feedback:

- The workshop was an eye opener and it enabled the secretariat to appreciate the role of the Development Worker within the organization
- The workshop revealed that there were many critical areas such as policies which the organization needed to put in place as a matter of urgency
- The Development Worker herself benefited from the workshop deliberations and it enabled her to get in-depth insight of the programs run by ZACRO
- In this workshop was long overdue and it will go a long way towards improving ZACRO's image as an organization while set to improve on its corporate culture.



- The workshop had more that achieved its desired objectives; thus it remained the responsibility of the various staff members to implement what had been recommended and by end of year most of these were carried out by the staffers.
- As the result the secretariat staffers appreciated the role of the Development Worker in ZACRO after having designed and facilitated the workshop. It enabled ZACRO to conduct a thorough self introspection and identify areas which needed to be worked on and improve its organizational performance. Thus the National Coordinator summarized the workshop well by saying, *“This is the beginning of a process by the organization.”*

• **Programming;**

While ZACRO had a number of programming activities conducted – program planning and reporting of activities needed to be streamlined. Each program had to be contextualized, and planning focused on the beneficiaries or target groups who had to be clearly identified. Capacity gaps were also noted in the planning, monitoring and reporting of program activities. These were worked on and improved. Thereafter the secretariat staffers came up with effective operational plans which they applied throughout the year.

**ZACRO as observed by Development Worker during 2008 programming period.**

ZACRO as a membership based organization with members countrywide faced difficulties over the year in retrospect, seeing membership not generally involved in organizational activities. The main branches which were active included Midlands and Mashonaland while Bulawayo; where ZACRO's President – Mr Gullab resides, there were no activities taking place in this region. Unfortunately inadequate resources and funding hindered programming during the period under review. However most of these problems were encountered owing to arrival of the Development Worker Mrs T Ponde under a partnership agreement with Progressio who provided excellence in consultancy, capacity building, resource mobilization - mainly through effective documentation, HIV/Aids mitigation programming in prisons, networking and creating linkages.

## *Key responsibilities, Activities, progress and impact*

### **Orientation with prisons in Zimbabwe and Activities.**

Upon starting to work with ZACRO - Mrs Ponde identified needs of the inmates at four prisons. She was engaged in resource mobilization for children in those prisons and sick inmates. The Development Worker approached Adventist Relief Agency (ADRA) and sourced supplementary food for sick female prisoners and their children in prisons which included Mutimurefu prison in Masvingo, Chikurubi female prison and Harare Central Prison. Mrs. Ponde also managed to link ZACRO with FAVCO - a company that deals with marketing of fruit and vegetables. The result - ZACRO managed to obtain vegetables from FAVCO and distributed these to Chikurubi Female and Harare Central prisons.

Mrs Ponde was effectively engaged in capacity building with main focus placed on planning, research, documentation, knowledge management, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation.

She assisted ZACRO with effective proposal writing which included proposals on plight of women and children in prisons, the prison visitation program, the Anti Death Penalty campaign and the food and security proposal for farm prisons. All these proposals except the one on the campaign against the death penalty had a component of HIV and Aids programming since ZACRO did not have resources for the HIV and Aids program.

- Mrs Ponde provided technical assistance to ZACRO and its branch members in matters pertaining to corporate governance for example building capacity of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and subcommittees, developing and reviewing organizational systems and policies. She was involved in formulation of policies such as human resources policy after she successfully managed to build capacity for the NEC and secretariat staff when she hosted a secretariat strategic planning workshop for the organization in June in Harare. Based on needs analysis she provided assistance in the development of training manuals and tool kits while set to conduct HIV / Aids related trainings – components of which to include psycho-social support, home based care, nutrition, mainstreaming HIV/Aids and awareness raising for prison wardens, prison inmates, ex-offenders and where possible the spouses of inmates and ex-offenders. This was after she got insight into the magnitude of HIV Aids problem which has become worse in prisons and need HIV/Aids mitigation programs to be introduced in prisons. By end of the year the Development Worker was just waiting for resources mainly funding for the program to effectively start in the country's prisons.

- The Development Worker also played a pivotal role in the development of awareness raising and marketing strategies for ZACRO as an organization. She also worked on a media strategy in bid to effectively raise awareness to stakeholders on the work of ZACRO. Hence Mrs. Ponde managed to foster good relationship with ADRA which donated 77 boxes of food stuffs for the women prisoners and their children in the prisons. She also managed to market ZACRO Marimba SDA donated cloths and Dorcas Ministries donated sanitation to women and children in Chikurubi female prison. These took time off for a prison visit where they shared the word of God and played netball with the female offenders.

### **Other Major Partnerships and Linkages Created**

Besides networking and creating linkages with Progressio and other notable groups such as ZESN, ADRA, ICRC, FAVCO, Environment Africa, Lawyers for Human Rights, NANGO and of course the British Embassy among major

partners of the organization during 2008 - ZACRO endeavored to network and link with both local and international natured civil organizations. Some of the highlights on this note are as follows.

- One of the major highlights on programming was participation of ZACRO in the March 27 harmonized elections. Its members were fielded as observers. The organization is a coalition remembers of Non Governmental Organizations under the Zimbabwe Election Support Network which provided about 11 000 observers country wide during the harmonized elections. It was not a shift from the traditional objectives of ZACRO which include rehabilitation, restoration and offering humanitarian needs to inmates but the organization just had its members participate in the democratic process involving election buy virtue of citizens and facilitating free and fair lections in the country.

- Other major highlights saw Mrs Ponde closely networking with Christian Care and she was Guest of Honor at their Annual Christian Care Week on 24 September 2008. She made a presentation on ZACRO and how the churches can play a meaningful role in bringing hope and spiritual strengthening to those in prison.

- ZACRO also participated in a number of civic society activities and functions and interacted with other organizations while promoting the work that ZACRO was doing.

- The organization which is part of a coalition under Zimbabwe Election Support Network participated in the observation of the March 29 harmonized elections. However ZACRO members and those of other civil organizations could not observe the June 27 run off for it was a one man contest involving President Robert Mugabe after Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai - leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) did not contest

- ZACRO worked on creating linkages with Lawyers for Human Rights. The organization participated in a two day workshop with Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights where the National coordinator made a presentation on conditions in Zimbabwean prisons and human rights for the prisons. This paper appeared on the website and generated interest among many Zimbabweans. Journalists also picked up the information for publication in the international press. While networking was under way by end of the programming period ZACRO was yet to finalize on a partnership with Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) which was interested in legislation and advocacy work around plight of inmates.

- ZACRO was also liaising with the Open Society for Southern Africa which needed to examine the prison environment in Zimbabwe and a concept paper was supposed to be drafted and dispatched to this organization.

- The organization was also networking and negotiating with International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Harare with a view to get more humanitarian assistance mainly in form of food stuffs to starving inmates in the country's prisons.

- Also Action Aid indicated willingness to augment ZACRO efforts towards mitigation of the HIV/Aids in prisons though this was poised to start a pilot project in only two prisons.

- Also there was possibility to partner with ZAPSO which indicated to offer HIV testing kits to be used in the prisons.

## **Membership Drive.**

While ZACRO stepped up resource mobilization and fundraising mainly through effective propjet proposal writing programming most worrying is the organization did not embark on massive membership drive as expected. ZACRO had immense opportunity to boost membership drive but commitment by recruited members or just lack of volunteerism immensely affected the membership drive – a process to have been carried out not only by the secretariat but by branches ZACRO participated in the March 29 2008 harmonized elections and its members who participated as observers did not contribute much to the organization are other programming activities. Many were engulfed by political violence after observing the harmonized elections in the country hence developing low interest to participate in ZACRO programming activities. However the economic environment denied many of the ZACRO members across the country to be actively involved in pursuing the objectives of the organization during 2008. Although annual programming reports were yet to be filled - only Gweru branch had tangible activities which included visits in terms of prisons visits, educational assistance to inmates and rendering

humanitarian assistance to inmates at Hwahwa and Shurugwi female prisons. Other branches such as Harare, Kadoma, Kwekwe, Gokwe and Bulawayo were yet to embark on massive membership drive, revisit their branches and have form vibrant branches while a branch was about to be opened in Masvingo – courtesy of Mr Ponde and the ADRA members while there was also need to open, revive or form another branch in Mutare and boast membership of the organization at full national scale.







### **Resource Mobilization,**

#### **Institutional and Financial Support.**





- The organization has been struggling with resources. ZACRO was mainly funded by the British Embassy. Initially the funds only covered salaries and programming activities for only three months. The funds could not cover long term programming activities; hence few prisons visits were carried out during 2008. While ZACRO tried to look for resources – the political environment in Zimbabwe was not conducive to do any meaningful fundraising. The March 29 harmonized elections and the June 27 run off made mobility difficult and getting additional resources was near impossible. The situation became more pronounced because ZACRO was located in Mbare - apparently Harare's oldest high density suburb which is well known of political activism, and associated violence and intimidation. The government also issued a restriction order in the level of programming activities which NGOs could be engaged in. Hence during the election days there were no activities on the ground during this period of year 2008.
- During the period under review support from the basket funding partners made it necessary for ZACRO to undertake its programming activities. The funds further covered part of the salaries for the ZACRO secretariat personnel namely the administrator, the programs manager, national coordinator, welfare manager and information officer. Only hindering programming during the two months of September and October – the secretariat were not paid till the third month after the organization's traditional funding partner did not release funds in time. However ZACRO had also some projects outside the basket funding that were also running during the period under review. In addition the administrative costs that were incurred in 2008 included communication – phones and Email; vehicle maintenance, computer accessories, computer maintenance, electricity, rates and fuel.
- The hyperinflationary environment that prevailed in the country had a negative impact on programming, planning and budgeting. Fuel and cash shortages also affected programming and some of the planned activities had to be shelved. However in the face of the prevailing economic crisis, the organization's national treasurer, Mr Augustine Nyamayedenga had no choice except to encourage secretariat to undertake planning and tight budgeting during the year. As usual the organization underwent a custom annual auditing by Madhawi Auditors and these audited reports can be requested from the ZACRO secretariat in Harare However, ZACRO has to mobilize more resource in the face of the harsh economic environment prevailing in Zimbabwe id ever the organization would practically and effectively pursue and achieve its interventions during the course of the coming programming period.

The ZACRO secretariat and board members'  
 Message - the wish for a merry Christmas and prosperous 2009 to strategic partners!

**ZACRO Secretariat during 2008.**

		
<p><b>Mr Edson Chiota</b> (National Coordinator)</p>	<p><b>Mrs Teclah Ponde</b> (Development Worker)</p>	<p><b>Miss Patronella Bhunhu</b> (Welfare Manager)</p>
		
<p><b>Mr Charles Mudehwe</b> (Programs Manager)</p>	<p><b>Mr Wonder Chakanyuka</b> (Information Officer)</p>	<p><b>Ms Loice Matingo</b> (Administrator)</p>

**The ZACRO Board Members**

		<p><b>The 2008 programming period</b> –though affected by the harsh economic environment that prevailed in Zimbabwe – the ZACRO secretariat in photo (above) attained team work towards interventions in prisons while the board supported the secretariat. However the funding partners mainly the British Embassy, other strategic partners, civic organizations and others mentioned in acknowledgements are wished a merry <b>Christmas</b> and prosperous <b>Year 2009</b> while expecting continuous and positive partnerships and networking as was during the 2008 programming period.</p>
<p><b>Mr K. Gullab</b> President</p>	<p><b>Mr A. Nyamayedenga</b> National Treasurer</p>	<p><i>For further details on this 2008 annual report contact:</i></p>
		<p><b>ZACRO National Secretariat - Information Department –</b>  <b>PHYSICAL ADDRESS: POSTAL ADDRESS:</b>  <i>Stand No. 12922 P.O BOX MSK 260</i>  <i>NDhlela Way Mbare, Harare</i>  <i>Mbare Tel: 263-4-770046 / 772946</i>  <i>Harare Fax: 263-4-770046</i>  <i>Email:zacrehab@mweb.co.zw</i></p>
<p><b>Mr B. Makuvarara</b> (vice President)</p>	<p><b>Mr Gowu</b> National Secretary</p>	<p><i>End of annexed information.....</i></p>