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*Road network is still a problem in some parts of Zambezi valley. These pictures show a road in one ward in the Zambezi valley. The road was destroyed by the heavy rains in late February 2010*

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	-	Austria Development Agency
AZFA	-	Austria Zimbabwe Friendship Association
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
CADEC	-	Catholic Development Commission
CAMPFIRE	-	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
CBO	-	Community based organisation
CBS	-	Community Based structures
CCMT	-	Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation
CDU	-	Curriculum Development Unit
CWW	-	Concern Worldwide
DA	-	District Administrator
DDC	-	Disaster and Development centre, At Northumbria University, UK
DRR	-	Disaster Risk Reduction
DFID	-	Department for International Development (UK)
EC	-	European Commission
EHT	-	Environmental Health Technician
EU	-	European Union
GPA	-	Global Political Agreement
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT	-	Information communication Technology
ITC	-	Information Technology Centre
KLCMP	-	Kariba Lakeshore Combination Master Plan
KMTC	-	Kulima Mbobumi Training Centre
NAP	-	National Action Plan.
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organisation
NUST	-	National University of Science and Technology
OVC	-	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PHHE	-	Participatory Health and Hygiene Education
PRPII	-	Protracted Relief Programme (phase 2)
PVO	-	Private Voluntary Organisations
RDC	-	Rural District Council
SAT	-	Southern African Trust
SCUK	-	Save the Children, United Kingdom
SDC	-	School Development Committee
UK	-	United Kingdom
UNICEF	-	United Nation Children's Education Fund
UNIFEM	-	United Nations Fund for Women
VIDCO	-	Village Development Committee
WARDCO	-	Ward Development Committee
WEP	-	Women Empowerment
ZILPA	-	Zimbabwe Indigenous Languages Promotion Association
ZVAP	-	Zambezi Valley Advocacy Project
ITC	-	Information Technology Centre
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
ADA	-	Austrian Development Agency
AZFA	-	Austria Zimbabwe Friendship Association

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## **1.0. INTRODUCTION**

This report gives an overview of Basilwizi Trust (henceforth referred to as Basilwizi) activities over the period of six months starting from January to June 2011. The report begins with a brief description of the general operating environment during the period under review. Project activity status, results, achievements and challenges encountered will also be discussed.

The operational environment was calm and allowing for Non Governmental Organisations, Basilwizi included to conduct community based activities. However, the Zambezi valley still has a big challenge of poor communication infrastructure in road networks and tele-density. Tyunga and Nyaminyami road networks still remain in very bad state characterized by pot holes and washed away bridges, making it difficult to access some of Basilwizi Trust' operating areas. Basilwizi has been able to conduct its activities in targeted areas with no external interferences. The organization has a lot of support from the traditional leadership and community at large. The support from the communities is evidenced by calls for more support by Basilwizi with skills training to provide refresher and new skills that are important for effective development work and, also to assess the progress or impact of the skills provided. This call translates into a need for increased follow up meetings and visits after the trainings to ensure tranfered skills are put to good use by community members.

The quarter under review has seen the Zambezi Valley, Binga district to be specific, hosting provincial awards for top performing schools and children from Matabeleland North. Throughout the preparation and hosting of the awards, Basilwizi was actively involved, a testimony of the organisation's sound working relationship with the ministry of education, sport, art and culture. In the same quarter, Basilwizi successfully handed over a completed mini-solar grid to Siabuwa secondary school. The solar grid was a donation, through Basilwizi, from the Rotary clubs of Belmont in Bulawayo and Linz in Austria.

Basilwizi closed two projects funding cycles in the quarter. These projects were the community participation and the ICT promotion funded by the EC delegation to Zimbabwe and HIVOS respectively. By the time of writing this report, Basilwizi was in the process of submitting new applications for the renewal of funding with the two cited donor partners. The closure of the two projects affected a total of ten employees, three of whom were ladies in various positions in the organization.

## **2.0. BACKGROUND OF BASILWIZI AND PROGRAMME AREAS**

Basilwizi continues to target Hwange, Binga, Gokwe north and Nyaminyami districts of Zimbabwe bordering lake Kariba. Since 2010, Basilwizi has also aggressively increased their work in the district of Sinazongwe in southern Zambia. The targeting is mainly guided by the

same principle in that we work with communities that were displaced by lake Kariba's construction in the year 1957. These communities face the same developmental challenges up to date. Basilwizi aims to work with these communities to ensure development is realised and poverty is reduced. In pursuing this, Basilwizi is guided by the vision and mission outlined below.

## **2.1. Basilwizi Vision**

“Sustainable people driven socio-economic development in the Zambezi Valley.”

## **2.2. Mission Statement**

Basilwizi is committed to building the capacity of the Tonga and Korekore communities –men, women, young and old, able and disabled – with skills, knowledge required to enhance their self reliance and self determination through community empowerment and sustainable livelihoods strategies in order to improve the conditions under which they live.

## **2.3. Strategic Objectives**

Basilwizi seeks to achieve the following main objectives:

- To empower the affected people to advocate for developmental changes and their inclusion in decision making processes on issues that affect their development particularly the use of resources around I from Lake Kariba;
- To assist the beneficiaries to improve their socio-economic well being, through the establishment of people centred development projects that meet the basic material needs;
- To facilitate the putting in place of legislation, policies, procedures and practices that enhance the capacity of men and women to access, utilise and control their natural resources;
- To promote the cultural and educational development of the beneficiaries;
- To combat and reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic through community based intervention strategies;
- To promote gender, child protection and disability mainstreaming in all programme activities of the organisation and
- To enhance organisational capacity and ensure effective implementation of Basilwizi goals.

## **3.0. Organisational Development**

A number of changes took place in the organisation during the period under review. The changes are explained in the sub sections below:

### **3.1. Staffing and Personnel**

During the period under review the organisation lost ten staff members under programmes department due funding challenges. The key projects that were supporting most staff members

came to an end in March and June 2011. The most affected was Binga sub Office where 7 out of the ten employees had to stop serving the organisation. Basilwizi continues to fundraise to ensure delivery of sound skills to our target beneficiaries.

## **2.2. Sub Offices**

Basilwizi maintains two field sub-offices. One office is in Binga and serves the Binga/Hwange program area while the other is in Siakovu, Nyaminyami district and serves Nyaminyami/Gokwe north program areas. In both sites, Basilwizi is leasing the properties from where we operate.

## **3.2. Equipment, and Vehicles**

Basilwizi continues to mobilize material resources to better serve the community. In the period under review, Basilwizi did not get new hardware except for one internet connection modem acquired for Binga sub-office to improve communication with head office.

## **3.3. Staff Development**

With the challenges in funding the organisation is facing, Basilwizi kept a low profile in staff capacity building activities in the period under review. However, three officers continued to receive support to further their education. The officers concerned are Danisa Mudimba, Constance Chiutsi and Guyson Siampongo (2 females and one male). The three are pursuing various degree and diploma level studies in areas related to their work.

## **3.4. Short courses**

Through our partners, Save the children and UNwomen, staff members have been able to attend to short courses relevant to our work. Some of the courses attended included gender and disability mainstreaming as well as child protection. Basilwizi is very much indebted to these partners for such good work.

## **4.0. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Basilwizi's programme thematic areas include Governance support; Education and Culture; Sustainable Livelihoods and Health support. From the four thematic areas, individual projects emerge that help Basilwizi towards achieving organizational vision. The organization also addresses cross-cutting issues of gender; disaster risk reduction and disability. Under these major programmes, Basilwizi is implementing the following projects: Advocacy on access to natural resources, , Protracted Relief Programme phase II (PRP II) in Gokwe North and Binga districts, Community Empowerment Project, Community Participation Project, Education and



Culture Project.

## **4.1. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT**

The community empowerment project is funded by Action Aid International Zimbabwe. The project aims at enhancing the capacity of rights holders in the Zambezi valley to take control of their own development, including the capacity to articulate their needs, to organise themselves and engage duty-bearers such as local authorities for better service delivery. Holding duty bearers to account for their action and promoting local level democracy is a key to this project. The project is implemented in Binga, Hwange and Gokwe North districts.

During the period under review, a total of 232 community members were trained in various skills ranging from leadership and communication, advocacy and lobbying, conflict resolution and community based monitoring and evaluation skills. Of this total, 121 were women and 111 men in various capacities and structures in the community.

### **4.1.1. Significant changes noted**

For the quarter under review, it is interesting to note that women participation in this project increased significantly from last year same period. In 2010, same period, the project reached out to a paltry 47 women compared to this year' 121, representing a 157% increase. Women are now realizing the need for them to take part in development activities in their communities. A number of success stories have been recorded under this project. Project participants continue to give overwhelming support to the project as evidenced by their own statements quoted below. The following citations are testimony of the support of the project from participants:

*“Basilwizi should continue providing us with skills trainings to enhance our skills. The skills trainings are there to help us improve our community plans, leadership and responses to developmental initiatives and do not influence laziness. The work of Basilwizi is okay as it is , there should be nophysical incentives because these make people lazy, we are seeing such sad changes in other wards where people are given handouts. People are no longer ploughing because of the handouts they are receiving.”*

The statement above on its own shows that people are gaining a lot of skills from Basilwizi community participation Programme. The project enhanced the participation of community members on developmental projects. At the quarterly review workshop which was attended by lobby groups from Binga and Gokwe North, participants indicated how they are using the skills gained from training workshops being implemented by Basilwizi.

Mageye ward managed to lobby for the establishment of a primary school in their ward. By end of June 2011 the school had already started operating with grade 1 to 3 classes. The community was also working at the site to construct classroom blocks. The money to construct the classroom blocks came from parents and well wishers who were influenced by the community's zeal to

support the project with cash and cement. Below are some of the pictures of the structures put at Mageye Primary School during the first quarter.



*Community members working in turns at the school site. A teacher's house and some shades for children to learn under.*

In Simatelele ward, Binga district, the community managed to lobby the District Development Fund (DDF) to construct a bridge across one of the rivers that usually cuts off the school and clinic from the rest of the district during the rainy season.

In Musuna village, Hwange district, the community mobilised themselves and formed a stock theft taskforce which include Sianzyundu ward in Binga district and Simangani ward in Hwange and Zambia communities adjacent to Musuna. This was done after the Musuna community learnt that stock theft was jointly perpetrated by both the Zambians and Zimbabwean criminals. The Musuna community initiated the taskforce and mobilised other people in areas where stock theft was a problem.

*"We realised that our cattle were being stolen too much. Initially we thought that it was the Zambians who were stealing from us but later we realised that even our children (people from our own area) were also involved. They would come here as if they were visiting and later you will hear someone complaining that their cattle were missing. We then thought of Basilwizi skills on community participation and we said let us stand up and be united on this. We set up a committee working together with police in Musuna. Whenever a suspicious person visited our village we would report them to the police and they would be interrogated on why they had visited the area. After sometime the number of stockthefts went down and we heard people from Sianzyundu and Saba complaining about the same problem and then we shared with them our experience and the idea that we used and they joined us in this taskforce. This time we have very few cases of stock theft in the valley." Said Mr. Nyoni, a village head from Musuna Hills in Hwange.*



### 4.2. ADVOCACY PROJECT

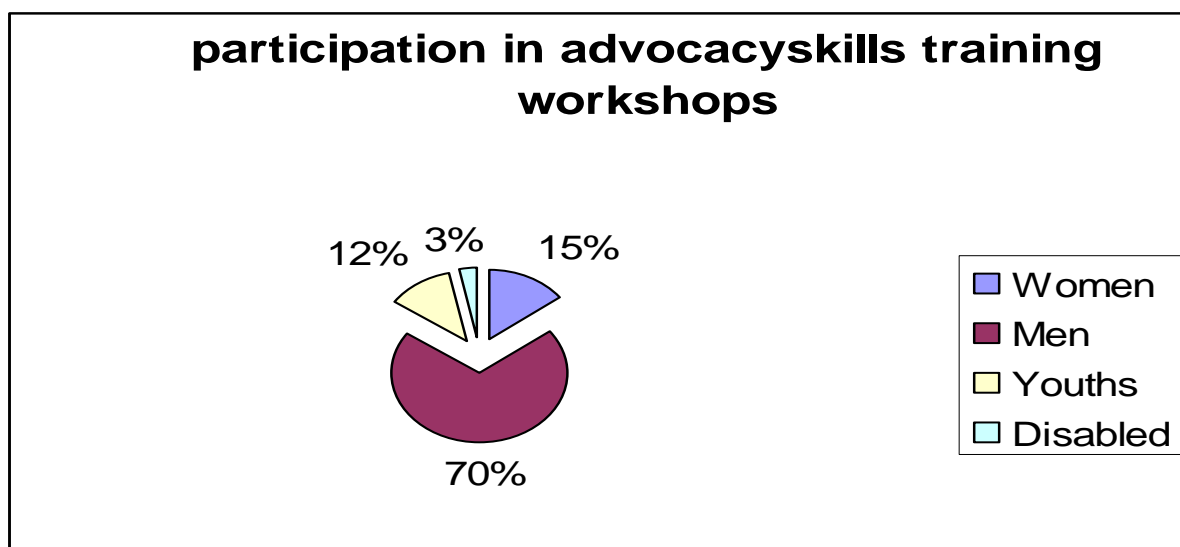


1. Dried fish being sold by fishermen      2. Impala decorating the CAMPFIRE Office in Nyaminyami 3. A CAMPFIRE product for Mola ward Sustainable utilization of the natural access to natural resources for the benefit of the communities is key.

At the centre of Basilwizi's development work is the work on promoting local access and benefit sharing schemes for proceeds from natural resources. Basilwizi works to promote a culture of conservation of natural resources as well as sustainable exploitation of same for poverty reduction. In this project, Basilwizi has been working with Silveira House as well the University of Northumbria university, school of applied sciences, in the UK. The project seeks to influence policy reforms through community initiated advocacy for an equitable distribution of revenue from natural resources abundant in the Zambezi valley. In the project, the partners work to build the capacities of local development structures of CAMPFIRE, VIDCOs and WARDCOs for better planning of natural resources conservation and exploitation. During the period under review, the project reached a total of 245 beneficiaries,

## 4.1 Progress on outputs and results of the project

The project managed to bring together people of different calibre especially the minority groups of women, youth and the disabled. However there is still more to be done. The workshops still need to work on attracting special populations to attend community development meetings and activities.



*The big gaps in participation of different groups is attributed to the nature of business involve. There are very few women who participate in fishing industry and CAMPFIRE project worse when it comes to participation of people with disability, there are very few people. A lot of awareness on women's participation is still very key in fishing industries.*

## 4.2. Significant changes noted

Success stories continue being told in the Zambezi valley from the previous advocacy work done by Basilwizi and Silveira House. In Binga district the fishermen who actively participated in the advocacy project are now enjoying the fruits from the advocacy work. Binga based fishermen now have an active fishers union that unite them for collective lobbying on issues that impact on their trade. This structure now has more experience and networks that the committee created after the project end of the DFID funding. The fishermen are now able to create networks with no assistance from Basilwizi/ Silveira House. For example the fishermen in Binga are now being recognised by government departments which includes the ministry of Small and medium Enterprises. The number of cooperatives joining the Kujatanakwesu Kapenta Union has grown to 15 up from ten (10) at the start of the project in 2007.

CAMPFIRE is also yielding good results especially in Nyaminyami district where wildlife is still available. Some participants at the CAMPFIRE training workshop had the following stories to share.

*“We want to thank Basilwizi/Silveira House for these trainings. We were not aware of some of these things. Now we know that the committee should consult us as well. We thought that it is the committee’s business to decide and tell us what they want, we did not know that it is us who should decide how to use the money for our dividends. “Today we have learnt good things. All bad things that we were doing should remain here. Chairpersons are the ones who should follow the right procedures. The chairpersons are the ones who interfere with the treasurer’s roles and give people ward funds without consulting others. Our chairperson is the one person who needs to change. Ndovanobata mari bachipavanhu tisinakubumirana Nhasi vanzwa nesuwo tanzwa zvinofanira kuitwa. ” Said one of the committee members from ward 6 and 7 in Nyaminyami district.*

Another story collected from Mola ward who bought a truck from their ward dividends:

*“The direct payment that our local authority has adopted is very good. Now we have a T35 truck which we did not dream of before. All this shows that now things have changed. The T35 will help us a lot. Some times as a ward we receive goods but we would be forced to walk 10 to 15 KM to go and collect our share or we will pay a lot of money to bring goods from Siakovu. I still remember we paid USD1000 to bring our maize seeds from Siakovu. This money was too much we would have used may USD100. Also this area has no bus our people foot to Siakovu 45km to catch buses from there. This T35 to us it’s a blessing because our transport problems will be eased.” Said the participant During the CAMPFIRE training in Nyaminyami District.”*



Mola ward had a different story from ward 6 and 7. The community members had queried the way the old committee used the ward dividends to the RDC who then went and changed the committee after a lot of lobbying was done. Basilwizi continues to be recognized by stakeholders in the natural resources management circles for the significant work done during the life time of the project. Even today Basilwizi is still being invited to the key workshops and meetings organized by key stakeholders like the National Parks and wildlife management Authority. This is testimony of the project impact and an assurance of sustainability of the interventions carried out.

### **4.3. Sustainable Livelihoods project**




Basilwizi has been implementing a sustainable livelihoods project in Binga and Gokwe North since 2007. Save the Children and Concern Worldwide are grants holders for Binga and Gokwe north project areas respectively. The main goal of the project is to prevent destitution and reduce poverty in the Zambezi valley. The project is funded by a consortium of donors with DFID as the lead. During the period under review, the project managed to reach out to a total of 4,692 participants, 2,650 of them being women and 2,042 men. More women were reached in the period as a result of the project focus on nutrition education for lactating mothers as well trainings in PHHE. A total of 690 garden tools and equipment were distributed in Binga’s wards 2,14,20,23,&24 for use in nutrition gardens. In Gokwe north, the project completed the lining of six wells

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in six community gardens, six water troughs for livestock water points and expanded the water harvesting and holding tanks at Nadobe dip tank. Some of the work done is depicted in photographs below:

Activities for the quarter	Comment on the activities
<p><b>1. <u>Nutrition gardens</u></b> Kamudada NG selling vegetables</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 NGs managed to plan on their own and bought seed using their previous season savings. 8 community gardens needed support of 50% contribution on the procurement of seeds</li> <li>• 11 NGs are now selling the vegetables increasing HH income.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improved animal health</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 goats out of the 348 distributed were affected by hearty water and mange particularly in Simchembu 30.</li> <li>• Farmers are advised to link their small livestock committees with LDCs and DVS to enable them in buying the vet drugs and improve on livestock health.</li> <li>• Census to determine the actual goats is in progress in preparation of the pass on the gift scheme.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>FOOD</b></p> 	<p><b>SECURITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 310 Farmers were trained on seed saving for the next season</li> <li>• CF members are encouraged to harvest and store seed separately from saved seed.</li> <li>• CF are food secure are encouraged to treat their seeds with grain protect ants and other effective traditional methods</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The water point committee, local trained builders, communities and the pump minders managed to construct one animal drinking water trough at Chubi borehole. There is improved clean water for animals and currently the shutters for molding concrete are being used by Africare.</li> <li>• An average of 1440 beneficiaries was reached from 18 water points rehabilitated.</li> <li>• 6 Wells were lined and the wind race were fitted</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1200 community members were trained on PHHE</li> <li>• Practical evident of health clubs through construction of pot rakes, rubbish pits personal hygiene, competitions on sweeping the homesteads and reduce cases of diarrhea cases in the wards.</li> </ul>



## **4.3.1. Significant Changes**

The project has helped improve nutrition in the communities. Through gardening project, people are now having a balanced diet in the rural areas. The project has also increased income in the families by selling vegetables, excess crop yield from CF and livestock sales.

## **4.4. Education and Culture support**

Basilwizi's Education and Culture project seeks to revive the marginalised Tonga language and culture in the Zambezi Valley communities which is under siege from other dominant language groups in Zimbabwe. Basilwizi advocates for the teaching of ChiTonga language in schools in the Zambezi Valley region where the language is dominant. The organisation also supports Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the Zambezi valley with school fees and other related learning materials. The project provides financial and material assistance to these children to help them attend school. On the teaching of the language Basilwizi works in partnership with Silveira House and in collaboration with the ministry of education, sport, art and culture. The secondary education sponsorship in Binga, Gokwe North and Nyaminyami is funded by the Jesuits AIDS Project based in Harare and, Firelight Foundation based in the United States of America supports activities covering Musuna village in Hwange district. Basilwizi is supporting 41 (16 girls and 25 boys) OVCs in ten established secondary schools in Binga, Hwange and Nyaminyami.

The period under review has seen the ministry of education, sport, art and culture issuing a circular to all district education offices allowing children to choose between Shona, Ndebele and Tonga language as the second language over and above English. The year 2011 will see the first national examination of Tonga language at grade seven level in the formal education system. In a snap survey conducted by Binga district education offices, all schools have children registered to write Tonga language at grade seven in October 2011. While this is feat worth celebrating, Gokwe North only had a few schools registering Tonga for examinations at grade seven. Nyaminyami had seven out of twelve schools registering for Tonga language.

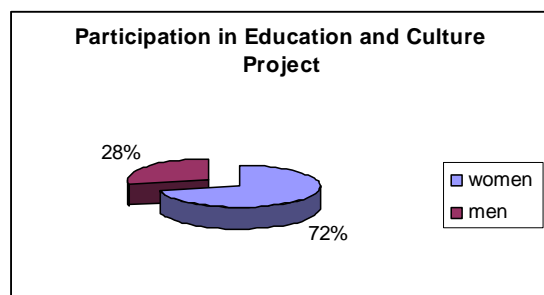
Musuna OVCs managed to get a grinding mill project from Firelight foundation. The project will help meet the financial requirements of the sponsored children's school and examination fees. Basilwizi purchased building materials for the building of the grinding mill which included, cement, 3600mm asbestos, roof screws with washers, 152x50 x6200mm Timber, 230mm Damp proof course, 115mm brick force, 230mm double doorframe. The community contributed by molding 6 000 earth bricks for the project. By the time of reporting the building was at roofing stage. Musuna community and OVCs were very happy about the project. One of the school leavers said she hoped the project will ease incidences of school dropouts in the community of Musuna. She noted that those of her peer who would have failed to attain all five 'O' level passes will soon have a fall back plan in their bid to re-sit the examinations.

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## 4.4.1 .Progress on outputs and activities of the project

A total number of 188 people (53 males and 135 female) were reached during the reporting period. . A collection of details of children under education secondary support programmes was compiled for 2011.



## 4.4.3. Significant Changes

The performance of children is improving compared to the past three years. However the pass rate for girls still remains low. One of the sponsored girl child Primrose Mumpande was elected to be the Child Senator in Binga district, an opportunity to promote the plight of poor and vulnerable children in Binga district.



*Child Senator- Primrose Mumpande 2. Fact Muleya (at Basilwizi Offices) who scored 8Bs 3. Tracer Muleya who passed an impressive 7 subjects at Manjolo Secondary School. . 4. Grinding mill being removed from the vehicle to the storeroom before it is installed.*

This year the department has achieved a significant success of having the ministry of Education recognize the effective teaching of the Tonga Language by granting grade seven permission to write Tonga paper at the end of the primary education course. This is really a biggest achievement even though this is a beginning of a lot of work ahead of the TOLACO and the writers to start working of secondary education material.

## 4.5. RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

The Arts, Research and Documentation (ARD) focuses on the development of Arts and Culture in the Zambezi Valley, with an initial focus on documentation and dissemination of material on Culture and Cultural Heritage of the People of the Great River both on the Zimbabwean and

Zambian sides. In carrying out its work, the ARD department also runs a small sound and video recording and editing studio that is based at Binga High School. Video Editing has remained a challenge due to the capacity of the studio computer. Public address facilities have always been provided for public national events in the district in line with the Tonga Online Project drive to improve communication through various technologies. During the period under review, the project managed to compile a collection of Basilwizi work into a video documentary for use in fundraising efforts. A copy of the video has already been shared with ActionAid International Zimbabwe for use in helping Basilwizi to mobilise resources. The project also supported the training and setting up of a functional board at Sinazongwe community station in Zambia. In this training, a total of eleven participants were trained which included, six males and five female board members. A work plan was also developed.

### 4.5.1 Significant Changes

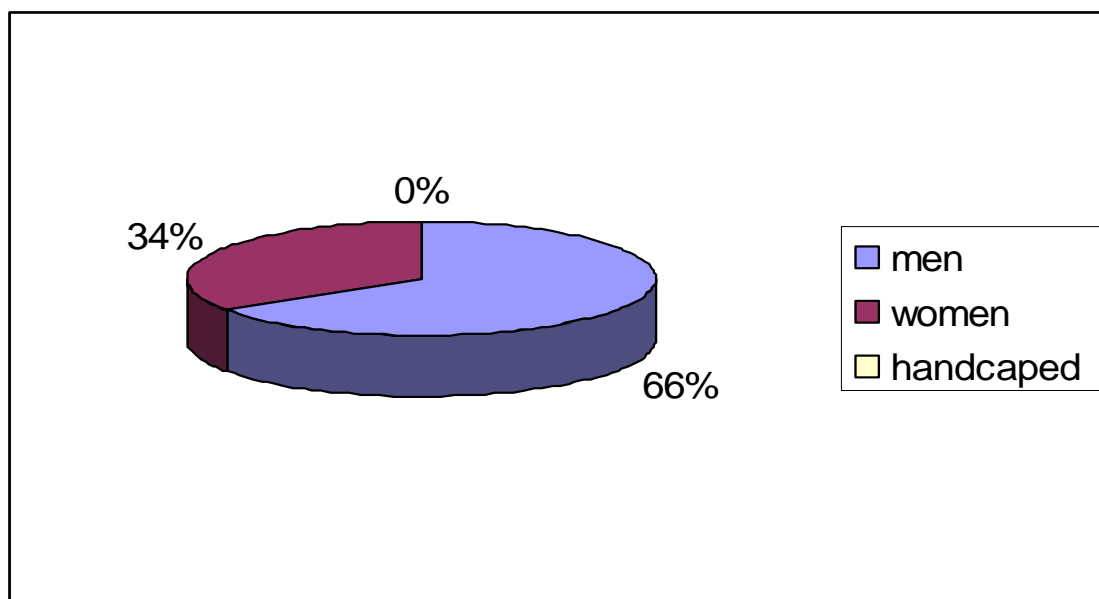
The project managed to revive the collapsing Sinazongwe radio and studio centre in Zambia in the chieftainship of Sinazongwe. Sinazongwe is one community where the Tonga people who were affected by the construction of the Kariba Dam live today. The project also produced a marketing video for Basilwizi's fund raising efforts.

### 4.6 ICT promotion project

The Information Communication Technology promotion project works with schools in Binga district to promote the teaching and use of ICT for learning purposes in the district. The project is supported by ADA, AZFA and HIVOS. The ICT department provides technical support to sixteen (12) Information and Technology Centres in primary and secondary schools in Binga district in Zimbabwe including 1 basic School in Zambia.

This is what one community member had to say about this project, *'We see the Tonga Online project as vital to the transformation of the Zambezi Valley and the local communities should take advantage of the potential of new information and communication technologies and develop their skills, through the established ITCs, to exploit the services effectively'*.

## 4.6.1 Progress on outputs and activities of the project



The pie chart above shows the participation of men, women and the handicapped in the project for Information and Technology. IT is a growing new approach in development where all people should be taking active participation where resources are available. Like in other projects, the people with disability are lagging behind in this project, the issue that needs close assessment and action.

## 4.6.2 Significant Changes

Siabuwa secondary School received a mini-solar grid from Rotary International and the Rotary Clubs of Linz and Belmont. The solar system provides electricity to the school allowing children and significant others to use effectively the ITC in the school. The project finally launched in May 2011 and in attendance were the key stakeholders from the ministries and local authority and, the funding partners from Austria and finally Basilwizi and Siabuwa community.

Another significant impact of the project is the Siabuwa water treatment project. The installation of the water tank at Siabuwa improved the water quality that is now used by the school. The tank was donated by Save the Children Zimbabwe based in Binga district.



1. Basilwizi Staff preparing to load the tank to Siabuwa 2. The Tank in the vehicle ready to be transported to Siabuwa for installation.

ITCs have been clearly labeled and identified, courtesy of the support from HIVOS. Teachers and Community participants appreciated the setting up of ITCs noting this is as a step forward in the development of the district as it will contribute toward a knowledge based society.



1. ITC sign post at Tinde High 2. Boys relaxing at an ITC sign post at Sianzyundu 3. The Solar Panel at Siabuwa secondary school.

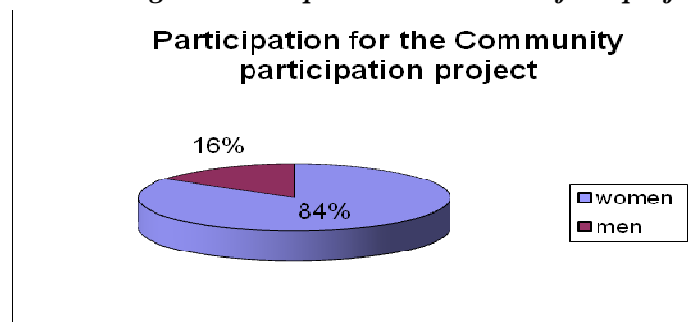
## 4.7 WOMEN AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Basilwizi supports a local and upcoming NGO, Zubo Trust in activities promoting woman empowerment in Binga district. Project is being implemented in Siachilaba ward, with funding from the UNWomen fund. The project aims at promoting the advancement of women in Binga District. Its main object is to enable women access, own and maximize the exploitation of the natural resources including fish resources (*kapenta* and gillnet). The project currently runs an active project at Siachilaba with women in fishing business. It aims to enable women to attain organised fish production that would in turn boost their income as individuals and as a collective group. The fishing and trading of *kapenta* will equip women with business skills and knowledge that will enhance their visibility in the public sphere, strengthen their voices as a collective 'body' and enhance advocacy and lobby for women's rights in the political and socio-economic circles in Zimbabwe.

During the period under review, the women empowerment project reached out to a total of 249 beneficiaries, 39 of whom were men and 230 women. These participants were involved in capacity building trainings as well as participating in a revolving fund to support the financial base of projects participants



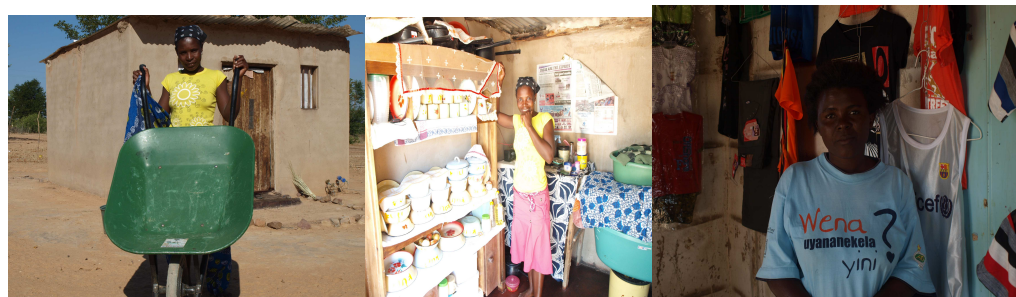
#### 4.7.1 Progress on outputs and activities of the project



In this project there are more women than men participating, mainly because the project directly target women.

#### 4.7.2 Significant changes of project activities

Despite the fact that the actual *kapenta* fishing rig has not yet been commissioned, some impact from the project has already been felt. The project brought unity among members of the women's co-operative and fish traders at Siachilaba fish market. Some women have built houses for their families from incomes earned as a result of a revolving fund support. Other members of the fish market have bought home equipment which include wheel borrows for family use while one lady has now started renting a shop and is selling household groceries and clothing from which she earns at least US\$300 on average. The skills and knowledge gained by Cooperative members after the training offered by Ministry of Youth Development Indigenisation and Empowerment also contributed immensely to their cooperation and unity of purpose.



1. A woman showing a wheel barrow she bought from the revolving fund. The one room behind her is also a product of the revolving fund for Siachilaba ward. 2. the inside of the room with displayed plates bought using proceeds from the revolving fund. 3. One of the fish traders and a member of the women's cooperative showing some clothes in her shop. The women has moved to selling clothes using the money from selling fish.

The two ladies have stories to tell. Read their stories below:

**Woman 1:** *"It's an unbelievable story to see myself progressing at this rate. Big assets are always associated with men. It all started when I put a modern roof on my one room; I realized that I can do it; I am a human being like anyone else in the world. While USD40 was little money as alluded to by colleagues, I worked hard like a bee to reap what you see today. I used the US\$40.00 and made a profit. Within two months I managed to buy some family equipment including a wheel burrow. Buying a*

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wheel burrow means a lot to me. I'm acquiring wealth to a certain extent. I have also bought kitchen utensils to put in my one roomed house. To Zubo, Basilwizi and whoever is giving us this money, I say long live and may God continue to bless you; my life has significantly changed"

**Woman 2:** "I am proud to being associated with Zubo and Basilwizi. I'm realizing that the sky is the limit for a young rural woman like me. Being empowered means having a vision for my life. I am a Manager at my flea market shop. I decided to explore other avenues other than just fish business using the money that was given to me under the revolving fund. I have employed a young man who works for me in my small shop I am renting in the fish market. I buy goods and resale in Siachilaba. Every month I expect a profit of not less than USD300. I have applied for a stand from the Rural District Council, I want to build my own shop. Thanks to Zubo and Basilwizi, I pray that you continue to empower women and support them so that they would realize their potentials like me."

## 5.0. RESOURCE MOBILISATION

A rigorous fundraising campaign has been taking place in Basilwizi as the organisation's current sources of funding are running dry. A number of proposals have been developed as either Basilwizi stand alone or as part of a consortium with CWW and/ Save the children. The table below summarises our efforts in this regard:

Name of project /Proposal	institution submitted to	Targeted area of operation	Value	Status	comments
Peace building	EU	Nyaminyami, Binga and Hwange	Eur 133,000	Pending	Proposal submitted in partnership with PACT
Integrated water and food security promotion	USAID	Binga and Mangwe	US\$1,9m	Pending	Submitted in partnership with ProAfrica
PRP II	DFID	Gokwe North	GBP 97,384.16	Approved	The proposal was submitted in partnership with Concern
PRP II	DFID	Nyaminyami	GBP173,858	Pending	The proposal was submitted in partnership with Concern.
OVC care and support	Firelight	Hwange	US\$10,000	Pending	For the support of Musuna OVCs

By the time of writing this report, Basilwizi was engaged in negotiations with Kindernothilfe, a German based organization promoting care and support to children. Basilwizi has since been invited to submit a full proposal for OVC support in the Zambezi valley. Basilwizi is also submitting a re-grant proposal to HIVOS to support arts and culture in the Zambezi valley through harnessing potentials in ICT for development. Two other initiatives are being pursued with the EU in partnership with AAIZ and CWW which, if successful, will see Basilwizi implementing a sustainable food security project in Nyaminyami and Binga districts. Another call from the EU is also being pursued in a project promoting human rights and democratization in Zimbabwe.

## 6.0. NETWORKING AND COORDINATION

In a quest to keep in touch with the developments in our work, Basilwizi promotes networking for establishing new partnerships and continuous learning. During the period under review, the following networking activities were undertaken:

Activity	Attended by	Dates	Venue	Aims
Min. of education provincial directorate meeting	Mudimba Frank	14 July '11	Regional office, Bulawayo	Update meeting on the progress of Tonga language teaching in schools
Provincial better schools awards, Matabeleland North	Mudimba Frank, Maxwell Munenge	01 July'11	Binga	Meet with provincial education directorate as well as minister of education and lobby for support to the ICTs in schools
UNDP – LICI cluster Zimbabwe on sustainable livelihoods	Rosemary Cumanzala	June '11	Harare	Diversify women empowerment projects
Public debate on Tonga language, culture and music	Rosemary Cumanzala, Frank Mudimba and Danisa Mudimba	May '11	Book café , Harare	Promote Tonga culture and music to a wider audience
Luncheon with Austria ambassador and	Mudimba Frank, Danisa	May'11	Harare	Mobilise support for

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Permanent secretary in the ministry of ICT	Mudimba			Basilwizi's work
Meeting with US ambassador	Mudimba Frank	May'11	Binga	Mobilize resources for Basilwizi
Meeting with the EC delegation to Zimbabwe	Mudimba Frank	May'11	Harare	Mobilize resources for Basilwizi
Meeting with the British embassy representative	Mudimba Frank	May'11	British embassy, Harare	Mobilize resources for Basilwizi
Visit by Ms. Gudrun Steiner of KNH, German	Mudimba Frank, Maxwell Munenge and Peter Munsaka	May'11	Binga, Sinakoma ward	Potential partnership exploration in OVC support.

## 7.0. Challenges

Basilwizi continues to experience low participation of the persons with disability and youths in all project activities, a situation paying testimony to the need to aggressively address this target group. Our donor partners continued to have challenges in hastening the release of program funds and this affected Basilwizi's hit rate in the field.

As has always been the case of the Zambezi valley, our roads continue to be in bad state making mobility difficult in the project areas. However, most rural districts are now re-grading their roads and it is hoped that the third quarter will have better roads. The women empowerment project continues to face some challenges in acquiring a fishing permit for the Kapenta project for National parks and wildlife management authority. Basilwizi continues to explore other alternative routes to addressing this challenge.

## 8.0. KEY LESSONS LEARNT

There is increased support of Basilwizi programs in rural district councils. Nyaminyami CEO openly stated that capacity building programs, like those from Basilwizi, were helping the RDC's to better engage with communities. This was said in a full council meeting held at Siakovu on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and attended by Basilwizi director. The CEO

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castigated politicians and other government line ministries for meddling in issues to do with NGOs. The CEO contended that NGOs' operations were purely a contractual issue between local authorities and the respective NGOs and therefore, no one else had a right to determine how this arrangement works.

### **9.0. CONCLUSION**

The organisation continues to gain popularity and support in the operational areas. The period under review, though marred with financial challenges, saw Basilwizi making more contacts with potential funders, a situation likely to bolster Basilwizi's work. There was also a huge display from government ministries of education, sport, art and culture and the ministry of ICT in Basilwizi's work towards community development. Honorable Minister David Coltart personally expressed satisfaction with the role Basilwizi is playing in supporting the education sector in the Zambezi valley and pledged his commitment to ensure the current relationship is nurtured. Partner organizations, Concern Worldwide and AZFA, were also very instrumental in the successes reported in this period. Basilwizi board of trustees continued to play its pivotal role to keep staff moral high and keep the team optimistic about the future albeit the challenges facing the organization. All this support from various partners and stakeholders in Basilwizi's work should help the organization face the next quarter with a lot of energy and hope to help contribute to solving problems faced by the Zambezi valley communities.