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BASILWIZI ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Lwiindi ceremony in Zambia (in front row: Chief Sinazongwe on the left; Chief Siansali in the middle; Chief Sinakoma and his wife on the extreme right)

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Acknowledgements also go to the Board of Trustees for their guidance throughout the implementation period and by way of their dedication and commitment made it possible for the organisation to deliver even at a time when the organisation was facing serious funding challenges.

We are also greatly indebted to our partners and donors: Action Aid International Zimbabwe, Austrian Embassy in Zimbabwe, EC delegation to Zimbabwe, UN Women, Save the Children Zimbabwe, Concern Worldwide, HIVOS, The British Embassy, Firelight Foundation, Disaster Development Centre (DDC) at Northumbria University, DFID (UK), ADA/AZFA, Silveira House and Jesuits Orphans Trust. The financial support made it possible to implement a few activities during the reporting period.

Our networking partners also deserve a special mention in this report as Basilwizi learnt a lot from them during the reporting period. Recognition is made of NANGO, Progressio Zimbabwe, ZAN, Pamberi Trust and NAWISA.

We would like to thank Basilwizi staff, particularly our frontline field workers and volunteers (focal persons), the local leaders and the community at large for their commitment to Basilwizi programmes and related activities.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	-	Austria Development Agency
AZFA	-	Austria Zimbabwe Friendship Association
AIDS	-	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
CADEC	-	Catholic Development Commission (Now CARITAS)
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
ISAL	-	Internal Savings and Lending
ITC	-	Information Technology Centre
KLCMP	-	Kariba Lakeshore Combination Master Plan
KMTC	-	Kulima Mbobumi Training Centre
NAP	-	National Action Plan.
NAWISA	-	Network of Advocates on Water Issues In Southern Africa
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
ZAN	-	Zimbabwe AIDS Network
ZILPA	-	Zimbabwe Indigenous Languages Promotion Association
ZVAP	-	Zambezi Valley Advocacy Project



A lobby meeting between the chiefs and the Permanent Secretary of Education, Sports, Arts and Culture, Binga, October 2011

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents an overview of all programme activities implemented by Basilwizi in the five Zambezi Valley districts during the twelve months period from January to December 2011. The first part of the report gives a general overview of the operating environment followed by a detailed description of the various project activities. The report further highlights achievements, lessons learnt and challenges during the period under review.

2.0 GENERAL OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The operating environment was calm, stable and conducive for project implementation throughout the Zambezi valley. However, the Zambezi valley still has a big challenge of poor communication infrastructure in road networks and tele-density. Tyunga, Gokwe North 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's operating areas. Basilwizi Trust (hereafter simply referred to as 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 from 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 support visits after the trainings to ensure transferred skills are put to good use by community members.

During the period under review, the Zambezi Valley hosted provincial awards for top performing schools and children from Matabeleland North province in Binga district. 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. During the reporting period Basilwizi successfully handed over the Public Access Point (PAP) and a completed mini-solar grid to Binga rural district council and Siabuwa High School respectively. The solar grid was a donation, through Basilwizi, from the Rotary clubs of Belmont in Bulawayo and Linz in Austria. The handover of the PAP was braced by a donation of books to the Binga Rural District Council Community Library from the Funkfeuer Initiative of Linz in Austria, who are providing technical assistance to the Tonga. Online project frequently. Basilwizi also received a generous donation of computers and other related equipment from the Austrian Embassy in Harare.

Some challenges met in 2011 were the end of funding for two projects (the ICT promotion and the community participation) funded by Austrian Development Cooperation and the EC delegation to Zimbabwe respectively as well as the closure of the Austrian Embassy end of the year. The closure of the two projects affected a total of ten (10) employees, three (3) of whom were ladies in various positions in the organisation. It is difficult to overcome the loss of such valuable backing but we are hopeful that other funding partners will further complement our concerted and strategic programmatic efforts that are meant to help foster lasting social change in the Zambezi Valley.

3.0 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.

3.1 Basilwizi Vision

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

3.2 Mission Statement

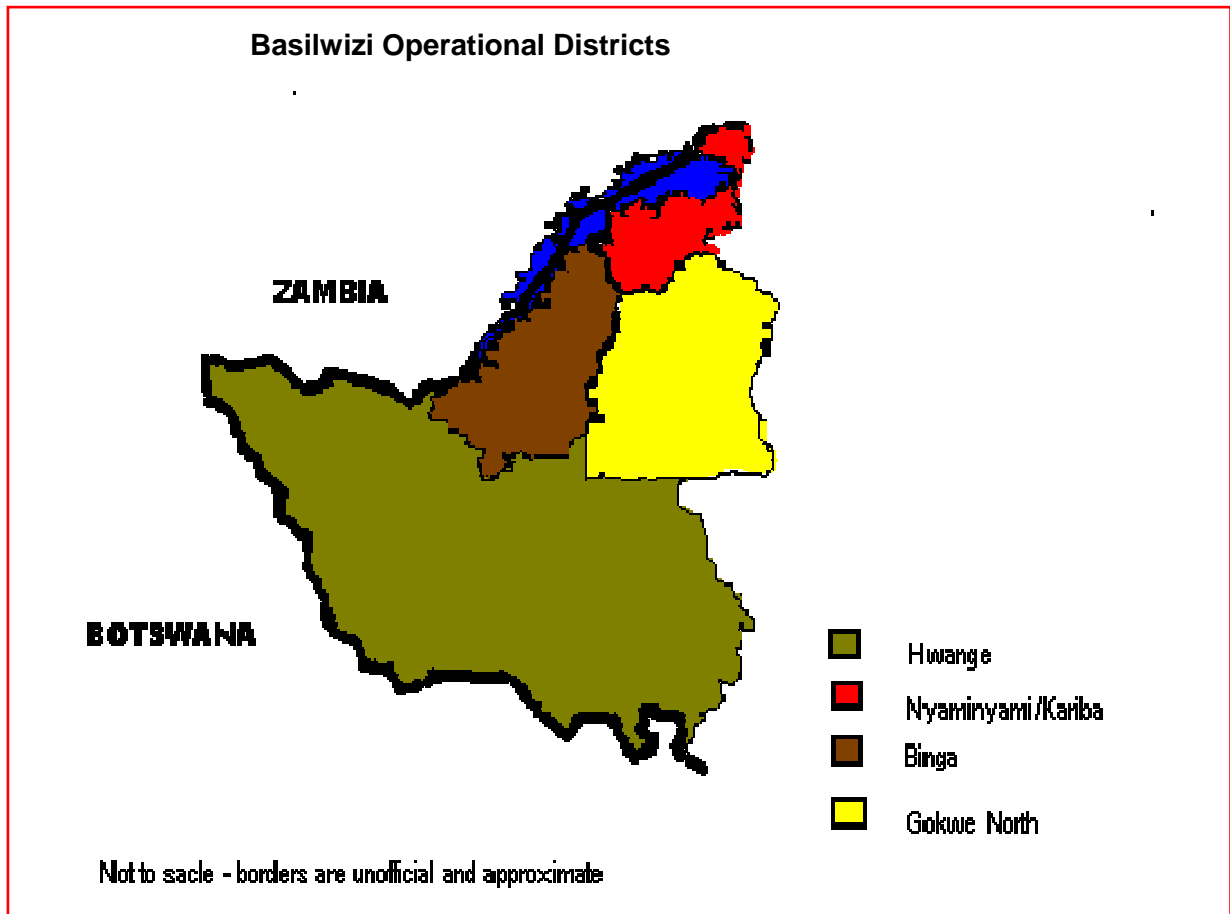
Basilwizi is committed to building the capacity of the Zambezi Valley communities – men, women, young and old, able and disabled – with skills and knowledge required for them to realise improved and sustainable well-being and free themselves from poverty.

3.3 Strategic Objectives

Basilwizi seeks to achieve the following main objectives:

- 3.3.1 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 / from Lake Kariba;
- 3.3.2 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;
- 3.3.3 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;
- 3.3.4 To promote the cultural and educational development of the beneficiaries;
- 3.3.5 To combat and reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic through community based intervention strategies;
- 3.3.6 To promote gender, child protection and disability mainstreaming in all programme activities of the organisation and
- 3.3.7 To enhance organisational capacity and ensure effective implementation of Basilwizi goals.

3.4 Geographical Coverage:



4.0 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Staffing and Personnel

Basilwizi Trust has a staff complement of 23 employees based in three different offices. Six such employees are based at Head office in Bulawayo, 13 in the Nyaminyami/Gokwe sub-office and four in the Binga/Hwange sub-office.

4.2 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. Basilwizi just entered into another lease agreement with Nyaminyami RDC for new office space that caters for the increase in the number of staff and operations in that area. These sub offices are crucial for cost effectiveness in reaching out to our program participants as they cut our dead mileage travelling from head office to the field by 192,000km per year. The sub offices also ensure that program participants have easy access to our services in the field.

4.3 Equipment and Vehicles

Basilwizi continues to mobilize material resources to better serve the community. In the period under review, Basilwizi received computers donated by the Austrian Embassy, which closed its country offices in Zimbabwe with effect from 31st December 2012. Our partner

CWW, continues to shine on our work and donated a further four field motor bikes to Basilwizi for the PRP project in Gokwe and Nyaminyami. CWW also assisted Basilwizi set up a Vsat communication infrastructure for the Kariba sub office, a development that has greatly improved communication between the field office, head office and partners. Binga office continues to suffer from lack of long term connectivity although an internet connection modem was acquired in the year to improve communication with head office.

5.0 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The year 2011 was a difficult one to the organisation. Total grant receipts were \$312,168.61 and the greater part of it received during the last half of the year. The opening balance was \$111,994.96 and total expenditure was \$ 347,473.48 for the year. Acknowledgements and appreciation go to AAIZ and CWW who stood by the organisation through the difficult period of 2011. EU and HIVOS grants ended in March while the PRP2 Livelihoods grant ended in June. However Basilwizi and CWW won a regrant to expand the program into Nyaminyami district. HIVOS also renewed our relationship through a regrant for the next three years totalling Euro135 000 with the first instalment released in September 2011.

Below is a table comparing our income levels for the past three years.

Income	2011USD	2010 USD	2009 USD
Grants Received	312,169	525,823	412,286

The table above denotes an increase in grants received of 27% from 2009 to 2010 and a reduction of 41% in 2011. The reduction 2011 is attributable to the closure of EU and Hivos. The reduction in income creates operational challenges for the organisation, it results in some employees losing their jobs and failure by the organisation to meet its indirect costs.

6.0 PROGRAMME AREAS AND ACTIVITIES

Basilwizi's interventions focus on four main themes. These themes are; Governance support, Education and Culture Support (ECS), Sustainable Livelihoods and Health support Programmes. From the four thematic areas, individual projects emerge that help Basilwizi towards achieving organisational vision. Together with the main themes, the organisation addresses key cross-cutting issues of gender and development (with ZUBO Trust also contributing to the achievement of this cross-cutting issue), disaster risk reduction (DRR), child protection and disability. The themes chosen are fundamental in addressing the underlying causes of poverty in the Zambezi valley and in promoting effectiveness of the organization in dealing with community priority issues. Under these major programmes, there are currently the following projects: PRP II in Gokwe North and Kariba districts – the Food, Income and Markets (FIM) Project, Community Empowerment Project, OVC and HIV & AIDS for Hwange, Education and Culture Project and TOICULT funded by HIVOS.

6.1 Community Empowerment Project

The community empowerment project works in partnership with Action Aid International Zimbabwe's Participatory Development Programme (PDP) (formally building local democracy – BLD). 2011 sees the closure of the current phase of support on this project by AAIZ and a second phase has already been agreed on spanning years 2012 to 2013. The project aims at enhancing the capacity of right 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 participatory development is key to this project. The project is implemented in Binga, Hwange and Gokwe North districts.

6.2 Summary progress on outputs

During the period under review Basilwizi reached out a total of 1,022 (503 females and 519 males) in various community project activities such as community planning and budgeting, lobby and advocacy as well as policy dialogue meetings/engagements in the Zambezi Valley and at the national level in Harare. The table below shows the detailed project activities:

6.2.1 Achievements

The most important of the positive outputs of the Participation Democracy Project during the period under review are those which clearly demonstrate how leadership, advocacy and peace building (problem solving skills training) and the provision of the basic information has had a major impact on lobby groups to present their preferences, concerns and priority needs to their leaders. In particular it is encouraging to not that communities are using information acquired through leadership and communication workshops to tackle their own problems. The local leadership has taken gender as an important aspect for poverty alleviation after a realisation that lack of equality between men and women aggravates and perpetuates socio economic hardships. Traditional leadership has also realised that gender cannot be separated from general development.

Role plays that were presented by various groups during gender campaign workshops clearly demonstrated that our society is highly patriarchal and this has a skewed influence in the operating areas on gender dimensions. Women are marginalized in decision making and leadership by a variety of processes that begin at infancy. Also women lack experience in decision making and leadership in the public arena because girls, in contrast to boys, are socialized to play passive roles and given little opportunity to make decisions or develop leadership skills outside the family context. Girls are kept largely within the confines of the household and family where they are protected and taught to accept decisions that others, parents, teachers and, brothers make on their behalf. As a result of this lack of experience in a public context, girls tend to the lack self-confidence and skills needed to function effectively in positions of formal leadership. An added handicap for many is their lack of capacity due to discrimination in access to education and training; women therefore have higher levels of illiteracy and fewer years of schooling than men.

In addition to the above below are some more of the outputs from the field activities;

- There is now increased confidence and enhanced participation of the communities and local government structures in development, governance and accountability interventions. For instance, the Binga chiefs engaged the Matabeleland Provincial administrator to allow the Tonga children to sit for only Tonga language at grade 7 instead of sitting for both Tonga and Ndebele in view of the PED directive, since Tonga is predominantly spoken in Binga.
- In Musuna village, Hwange district, locals held self initiated engagement meetings seeking clarification from Sibankwazi police officers why development meetings were not allowed to take place in the ward before any police clearance. These engagements became an issue after the Simangani Ward councillor and Agritex officer were arrested for organising development meetings without the approval of the police. After these engagements, no police clearance is necessary for holding development meeting in the area, a first for the community of Musuna.

- Sinansengwe lobby group successfully lobbied Army generals to abort an abrupt re-location of Army construction brigades which were working on a new school in the area to another before completing their work.
- Communities are now better prepared to organise themselves and work on a collectively agreed on issue like that of Sinakoma villagers demanding improved services from the department of veterinary services to avert a livestock disaster in the area.
- Fisher groups in Tyunga and Binga have also engaged the National Parks and Wild Life Management Authority to rectify issues of double taxation on fishing permits which ultimately affects fisher groups' incomes.



Above in the photos: one of the dialogue meetings held in Tyunga

- The staff trainings on governance and lobbying and advocacy have benefitted staff members by broadening their knowledge on documenting success stories or Most Significant Change stories.

6.3 Zambezi Valley Advocacy Project (ZVAP)

Although the project does not have current funding, some activities are ongoing as a result of impact of the just ended project. The project still receives some financial support from

Silveira House, a partner organisation.



1. Dried fish being sold by fishermen 2. Impala decorating the CAMPFIRE Office in Nyaminyami 3. A vehicle purchased through CAMPFIRE profits for Mola ward through a Sustainable utilization of the natural access.

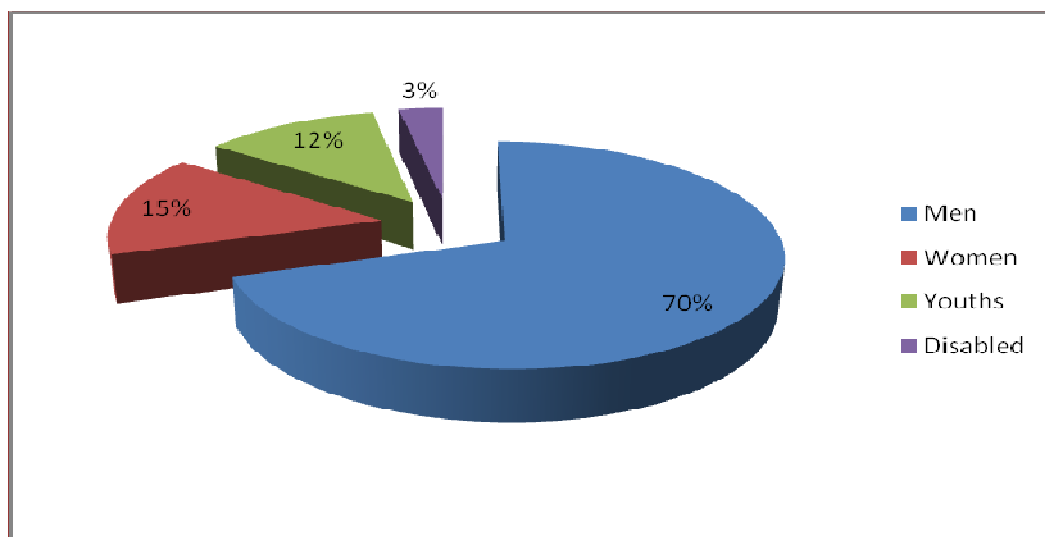
At the centre of Basilwizi's development work is the work on promoting local access and benefit sharing schemes for proceeds from natural resources. Basilwizi works to promote a culture of conservation for natural resources as well as sustainable exploitation of same for poverty reduction. In this project, 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 on natural resources conservation and exploitation. During the period under review, the project reached a total of 245 beneficiaries, mainly in organised community structures.

6.3.1 Progress on outputs and results of the project

The project managed to bring together people of different community standing especially the minority groups of women, youth and the disabled. However there is still more to be done to ensure more women are active in community development initiatives. The workshops still

need to work on attracting special populations to attend community development meetings and activities and these be mainly women and the youths.

Participation in advocacy skills training workshops



The big gaps in participation of different groups are attributed to the nature of businesses involved. There are very few women who participate in fishing activities and CAMPFIRE projects. The scenario is even critical when it comes to the participation of people with disability.

6.3.2 Achievements/Successes

- The project received funding for the construction of a fish warehouse from the British Embassy worth US\$49,000.
- With the financial support from Silveira House, the project was able to take a task force or steering committee to Harare to engage the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Management (MoENRM) on key issues emanating from the valley.
- As a result of the engagement meetings with the MoENRM, the PWMA has organized a series of public meetings in the four Zambezi Valley districts to address or explain a number of contentious issues around fish and other wildlife resources with the RDCs and communities.

6.4 Health Support program

Under the HIV and AIDS programme, Basilwizi is currently implementing two projects. The Firelight Foundation funded OVC and HIV and AIDS Project in Musuna village in Simangani ward, Hwange District, is targeting children and their families and strives to promote positive behaviour change strategies in the context of Tonga culture. Another education sponsorship grant is funded by the Jesuits AIDS Trust and targets orphans and vulnerable children from Binga and Nyaminaymi districts. The following activities were implemented during the reporting period.

6.4.1 Achievements/Successes

- The construction for the grinding mill, a project for OVC in Musuna, has been completed. The only work in progress is to connect the grinding mill to the electricity grid, since it is an electric powered-mill – see photos below.
- School fees for were paid for the ten children at Neshaya Secondary school.



Figure 1 (above) *completed grinding mill house*



Figure 2: Children sponsored by the Firelight Foundation



Fig 3: Community elders assembling the grinding mill at Musuna.

6.5 EDUCATION AND CULTURE PROGRAM

Basilwizi's Education and Culture program seeks to revive the culture of the Zambezi Valley communities which is threatened with extinction by modernisation and assimilation into other dominant ethnic groups in Zimbabwe. The program also aims at ensuring the teaching of ChiTonga in schools in the Zambezi Valley districts as well as promoting the use of Morden ICTs for information access and sharing among the communities.

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 saw the first national examination of Tonga language at grade 7 level in the formal education system. In a snap survey conducted by Binga district education offices, all schools in Binga had children registering 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, a situation quite encouraging considering the heterogeneity nature of Nyaminyami district.

6.6 TONGA ONLINE ICT AND CULTURAL PROMOTION PROJECT (TOICULT)

Proudly sponsored by: AAIZ, AZFA, British Embassy, CWW, EC, Firelight Foundation, HIVOS, Jesuits Aids Trust, PRP, UNwomen

On the other hand, the program through the Tonga.Online project has actively supported a total of 13 ITC centres in the Zambezi valley as well as one community radio station in Sinazongwe, Zambia. On the Zimbabwean side, 12 ITC centres have been supported to establish media clubs whose members originate community news worthy stories that go into the newly established 'Twabane' newsletter. The centres also receive weekly newspapers and children and youths go through the papers, critiquing them and sharing news with the less literate community members. The project also currently supports six community cultural dance groups who have been supported to perform at cultural festivals like Shangano in Vic. Falls as well as localised shows in the community. May 2011 saw the Tonga.Online project successfully handing over a solar electric grid and mini water purification plant at Siabuwa High school donated by the Rotary Clubs of Linz and Belmont with the logistical support of AZFA. This donation has helped alleviate suffering among the 700 school going children at Siabuwa high as they now have unlimited lighting for their evening studies as well as clean drinking water.



Above: Siabuwa solar panels being installed for the mini solar grid

AZFA and the Funkfeuer team also successfully handed over 16 state of the art computers in a well laid out and networked Public Access Point in Binga community library in September 2011. The donation will go a long way in enabling the wider Binga community access information as well as connect with the outer world. The Funkfeuer team, led by Rupi, also donated books of various kinds to the library in Binga at a colourful ceremony blessed by teachers, school children, Ministry of Education officials, district administrator's office and many other stakeholders.



Lwiindi ceremony took place in Zambia in chief Sinazongwe chiefdom from the 30th of July 2011 to the 2nd of August 2011. From the Zimbabwean side, the ceremony was attended by officers from the Binga District Administrator's office, thirty (30) members of Sinakoma Cultural group and two officers from Basilwizi.

6.6.1 Some notable achievements/successes

- At the meeting with the PED, it was agreed that Ndebele should be replaced by Tonga in Binga and if there were headmasters not committed to teaching the Tonga language then these should be asked to leave the district.
- Despite the financial constraints at the beginning of the year, Basilwizi was able to organise local cultural groups and chiefs to attend the Lwiindi ceremony in Zambia.
- As one of the outcomes of the meeting with the PED, Traditional Chiefs managed to arrange, through the PED, an engagement meeting with the Permanent Secretary of Education in October 2011.
- 12 community media clubs established and running in Binga district
- Community newsletter established from the ITCs in Binga
- Six community cultural groups identified and supported to revitalise Tonga culture



1. ITC sign post at Tinde High 2. Boys relaxing at an ITC sign post at Sianzyundu, courtesy of funding from HIVOS.

6.7 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROJECT

In partnership with Concern Worldwide (CWW) Zimbabwe, Basilwizi received another grant from the Protracted Relief Program (PRP) in 2011 after the first phase had ended in June of the same year. In the first phase, Basilwizi implemented the project in Binga district (in partnership with Save the Children) and in Gokwe North (in partnership with CWW).

The second phase funding expanded Basilwizi's Livelihoods support activities to Gokwe North and Nyaminyami districts. Activities covered are mainly under the Food Income and Markets (FIM) project as jointly developed by Basilwizi and CWW. In the extension programme, CWW remains the grant holder and technical partner.

6.7.1 Progress on outputs and activities (PRP)

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 as 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 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:

Some achievements of PRP in Pictures

1. Nutrition gardens

Kamudada NG selling vegetables



Improved food security for PRP participants



6.7.2 Achievements/Successes

- ◆ The project has helped improve nutrition in the communities. Through gardening project, people are now having a balanced diet in the targeted rural wards.
- ◆ The project has also increased income in the families by selling vegetables, excess crop yield from CF and livestock sales.
- ◆ Equality and equity in terms of decision making is realised among women participating in ISALs.
- ◆ A greater number of women in ISALs are now able to save money.

6.8 WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The Women Economic Empowerment Project is funded by UNWomen. Basilwizi is the principal recipient while ZUBO Trust is a sub-recipient and implementing partner to the project. The project focuses mainly on women's economic, social, cultural and political empowerment in the Zambezi valley. Currently the project is focusing mainly on Bbindawuko women fishers as well as Siachilaba fish market women. In August 2011, Basilwizi and ZUBO achieved a milestone by successfully handing over a fishing rig to a women only fishing group. This was the first of its kind in the whole country. Basilwizi and ZUBO received an overwhelming support from the ministry of women affairs, gender and community development who sent in the principal director to official launch the rig.

Pictures below summarises achievements by the Women empowerment project



Above: Women cooperative (BBindawuko) members on board of their newly acquired asset



Above: Manjolo women garden holders showing off their produce



The UN WOMEN Country Programme Manager's speech as presented by a representative (Mr Marshall Karidozo) at the official hand over of the fishing rig.



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.

7.0 NETWORKING AND COORDINATION

The year 2011 witnessed increased networking at national level for Basilwizi Trust as a total of 25 events and meetings were attended by various members of the team. Basilwizi also had a sizeable number of international networking activities with some officer attending training workshops in TCDC in Tanzania as well as South Africa. It is this hyped up effort in networking that has contributed in new and potential partnerships with organisations like Progressio, KNH, PACT and others. In 2011, Basilwizi renewed its active membership with NAWISA as well as establishing a new relationship with WaterNet in Harare.

8.0 RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND FUNDRAISING

Resource mobilisation and fundraising is an ongoing activity in Basilwizi. Basilwizi operated on a shoestring budget during the greater part of 2011. To address the serious funding gap, Basilwizi continues to engage in active fundraising efforts in order to increase its funding levels, deepen and diversify its funding base. A number of funding partners have generously invested in supporting our four programmatic themes through their donations.

9.0 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.
- Limited financial resources for the payment of head and sub office bills and recruitment of administration assistant for the effective running of the office.
- Girl children who are receiving educational support from Basilwizi need career guidance and counselling. Two (2) children being sponsored by Firelight foundation fell pregnant and could not proceed with their education although one child dropped from school due to ill health.
- Continued donor fatigue in availing funding on HIV/Health programs in Zimbabwe affecting our Health thematic program.



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

10.0 Significant changes realised in the year

Basilwizi and partners' advocacy work on the promotion of the Tonga language achieved a huge success as the year saw the ministry of education, through the Zimbabwe Schools Examination council; issue a circular advising and directing schools to examine Tonga language at grade seven national examinations in 2011. This followed prolonged advocacy by Basilwizi, Silveira House, ZILPA and TOLACO on the marginalised languages' status in Zimbabwe. The examination of Tonga language took place in October 2011 with all schools in Binga district, four in Gokwe North and seven in Nyaminyami sitting for Tonga language. By the time of compiling this report, school authorities were still compiling statistics from the results to determine performance of children who sat for the Tonga examination.

The year 2011 also saw Siabuwa High school in Binga receiving a 7.5KV solar system and a basic water treatment plant from the Rotary clubs of Linz in Austria and Belmont in Zimbabwe. The mini solar grid has already started bearing results at the school as pupils and teachers are now able to use computers for information sharing. The solar grid is also expected to encourage qualified teachers to stay at the school thereby improving the quality of lessons delivered to the pupils.

AZFA and the Funkfeuer team, through Basilwizi Trust successfully handed over a Public access point (PAP) at Binga community library to the local district council. In addition to the twelve networked computers handed over to council, Basilwizi also donated books worth over US\$4,000-00 to assist in equipping the community library with adequate reference material. The public access point is expected to contribute towards broader information sharing and archiving for the Binga community.

The third quarter witnessed a renewed working partnership between the ministry of Environment and natural resources management and Basilwizi Trust. Following a lobby meeting organised and held in Harare with traditional leaders and the minister of

Environment and natural Resources management, a team from the ministry's head office was dispatched on a community outreach mission to listen to people's concerns. This was the first of its kind in Zimbabwe and has improved relationships between the community and government line ministries.

Bbindawuko, women cooperative made headlines in September 2011 after successfully launching the first and only fishing rig manned by women in Binga, courtesy of UNWomen and the Ministry of Gender and community development. Through ZUBO Trust and with support from Basilwizi, eleven women in Siachilaba ward of Binga graduated from fish traders to fishers and markers of the much sought after Kapenta fish. By the time of compiling this report, Bbindawuko cooperative has been harvesting three times more Kapenta than the established male led groups.

11.0 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 Siakobvu on the 30th of June and attended by Basilwizi director. The Nyaminyami CEO 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.
- ✓ Maintaining constant communication with donor partners helps facilitate the timely release of funds in the future.
- ✓ Basilwizi's continued work with government line ministries enhances acceptance of our work and support from government officials.
- ✓ Where communities take ownership of the project, sustainability of the project is guaranteed. Basilwizi saw the Siabuwa community actively taking a lead in the implementation of the solar and water project funded by the Rotary clubs of Linz and Belmont and have successfully safe guarded the infrastructure handed over to them against thieves.

12.0 CONCLUSION

Despite Basilwizi experience on dwindling funding base, late disbursements of funds from existing partners continue to disturb and retard the smooth flow of activities implementation. Funding contracts that ended in the first and second quarters of the year from the EC and ADA affected Basilwizi personnel base as a total of 10 officers had to be laid off. This development put a lot of strain on the skeleton staff remaining in the organisation as they had to split to cover field implementation, networking, and partner meetings and monitoring. Basilwizi had to do a lot of replanning and rescheduling of certain activities to remain on track with implementation progress.

Basilwizi 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 environment and natural resources management in Basilwizi's work towards community development. Honourable Minister David Coltart personally expressed satisfaction, at the better schools awards ceremony held in Binga, 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, HIVOS, The British council, ActionAID, Firelight Foundation, UNWomen 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 year with a lot of energy and hope to help contribute to solving problems faced by the Zambezi valley communities.