

Joint Handbook

*of the Orphan Ministry at the LBS Mwika (HUYAMWI)
and the Orphan and AIDS- program of the ELCT ND (OAPND)*

paper 14: Evaluation and expansion of the use of the counterbook

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I. History

A. Introduction of the Counterbook in 2005- First statistics in 2005/6

The so called „counter-book“ for orphans was introduced in 2005 by HuYamwi being a basic tool for data collection and evaluation.¹ It was first used for the data collection of HuYaMwi in 2005/2006 giving the accurate data of eleven congregations.²

At this time the effects of this filing system were already visible, as it was giving a better focus on the target group by kicking orphans out, who already have moved away or which already have exceeded the age of eighteen (cluster 1), which was almost 20% of the original target group. Additionally the method helped us to focus on the orphans needing financial help (cluster 4 to 6) being only 75% of the original target group.

B. Results of the OAPND statistics 2007

In 2007 the method was accepted as an OAPND-method and until September 2007 OAPND collected the data of 61 congregation, from which 44 were already using the accurate counterbook method. 7968 orphans have been identified, 4099 as needy ones. In general the statistics delivered by the method is giving a very clear, reliable picture: a percentage 12,46% of all children between 0-18 years are orphans, a figure very close to the data indicated by UNICEF for Tanzania: 14%³ The Tanzanian AIDS-atlas is giving an average between 12,1-13,9% for the Kilimanjaro region.⁴

Additional HuYaMwi/OAPND performed a comparison of five congregations using the counter-book in 2005/6 and 2007. The increase or decrease in different clusters shows the efforts of the congregation done since the last evaluation.

- Decrease of Cluster 0 is showing, that the committee was continuously visiting the orphans to measure their neediness.
- Increase of Cluster 1 is showing that the committee kept its file well, kicking out orphans who have moved away or who have exceeded the age of 18.
- Increase of Cluster 2-3 is showing the committee really started to filter out the non needy orphans or that orphans received help and moved from needy to not -not needy
- Decrease of cluster 4-6 is showing that orphans received help and moved to a lower level of neediness.

Generally this data must be compared with the general growth of orphans. So in all compared congregations the number of orphans increased from in 708 orphans 2005/6 to 806 orphans in 2007 (a growth of 13,8%). This means even if a congregation invested a lot of efforts to help the orphans, some clusters from 4-6 may have grown just by newly added orphans.

¹ See paper 8 of this handbook: filing system.

² See paper 10 of this handbook: Statistics 2005

³ See UNICEF, children on the brink (2003).

⁴ TACAIDS, Tanzanian Atlas for HIV/AIDS indicators 2003-2004 (2006), p. 28.

II. Seen present shortcomings

Nevertheless the returned data show some difficulties in the use of the method. A evaluation team of HuYamwi discussed different issues:⁵

A. Unclear definition of terms

The definition of the term „children“ is not yet fully standardized. Should only „Lutheran“ children be counted or all children. This leads to wrong data based on these figures.

Therefore we need to introduce a **new column „religion“** in our report format.

B. Unclear cluster-definition

So far the statistic depends on the common sense of the committee members in the congregations, how to measure the neediness which places an orphan in a certain cluster. This may lead to different handling of the method in different congregations.

C. Cluster 5 (long term help) needs to be split up

It would be helpful to make more detailed studies about the kind of help needed in cluster 5 and to split it up in the following sub-clusters

- Scholarship
- SIP
- Building Fund.

D. Detailed information about cluster 6 (emergency)

In order to provide help more quickly we need to find a mechanism to report these cases quickly to OAPND/HuYaMwi.

III. Seen advantages

1. The method is easy to teach and can be quickly implemented.
2. The method is generating valid and reliable data (see history above)
3. The method can be transferred to other needy groups (see suggestions below)
4. The method is focusing the target group (see history above)
5. The method can be used to evaluate the work of a congregation by evaluating the increase or decrease in the different clusters.

IV. Suggested expansion of the method to other target groups

A. Possible target groups

1. Disabled people (this is already done by the diaconical department ELCT ND)
2. Most vulnerable children (MVC)
3. Widows
4. Seniors

B. Linking different lists

Between the different lists of counted needy people links are possible by abbreviations, for example:⁶

O-#### for orphans

S-#### for seniors

W-#### for widows

D-##### for disabled

For example a widow is registered as W-23, her orphans can be shown in her entry as O-24, O-25, O-26.

⁵ The meeting was hold on the 23.10.2007.

⁶ I used English abbreviations, as the Suaheli „m“ being the starting letter for many words is not suitable.
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V. Use of the counter-book for the definition of strategic goals.

A. To reduce the orphans in Cluster 0

By assessing the orphans in cluster 0 this cluster must be reduced and these orphans are attached to the other clusters 1-6. This means that the available data becomes more specific.

B. To reduce the number of orphans in Cluster 6

This are emergency cases, which must be handled very quickly. Right now we don't have sufficient information about these cases. In order to respond to this cases quickly we must have something like an emergency fond.

After receiving first aid to stabilize the situation of the orphans, they should be moved to cluster 4 or 5.

C. To plan the needed help and to look for available funds

1. Long term help in cluster 5

2. Small material help in cluster 4

3. Advice and counseling for all clusters, especially for cluster 3.

D. To evaluate the work done by examining the increase/decrease in different clusters.

