

Joint Handbook

of the Orphan Ministry at the LBS Mwika (HUYAMWI)

and the Orphan and AIDS-program of the ELCT ND (OAPND)

paper 16: The Building Fund of HuYaMwi

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I. History

1. Introduction

Considering that decent accommodation belongs to the human rights and recognizing that housing conditions for many orphans and widows suffer of severe damages HuYaMwi started the Building Fund Program in 2004. Through this program HuYaMwi assists parishes to support needy orphans and widows either with essential housing equipment (like beds, mattresses, blankets, cooking equipment etc.) or by repairing or building houses.

Applying for repairing or building a house the parish needs to be aware of the necessity to cover at least 40% of the total costs while HuYaMwi is taking care of the remaining 60% up to a maximum of 960.000 TZS. Through sharing the costs and by helping to construct the buildings people of the community grow to be more aware of their neighbors' problems.

2. Results

So far 11 parishes applied for support through the Building Fund:

- For the parish of Rau – 1 stick mud house was renovated
- For the parish of Kisamo – 1 blockhouse was built
- For the parish of Uuwo – 1 blockhouse was built
- For the parish of Msae – 1 stick mud house was renovated, 1 mud blockhouse was built
- For the parish of Lole – 1 stick mud house was built
- For the parish of Shokony – 1 stick mud kitchen was built
- For the parish of Mawanjeni – 1 stick mud house which was built by evangelist students of Mwika Bible College
- For the parish of Kondiki – 1 blockhouse is still under construction
- For the parish of Kiruwani – 1 mud stick kitchen was built
- For the parish Maringa – 1 blockhouse is still under construction
- For the parish of Kirimeni – 2 blockhouses were built, another one is still in process

New house of a widow in Kirimeni (not yet finished)



old house (danger of collapsing!)

II. Challenges

1. Rising Costs

The expenses for constructing a house are permanently rising due to the increasing costs of material. Therefore, HuYaMwi and the parishes face major problems continuing to support new building projects.

So far the HuYaMwi policy has been to build solid blockhouses. In 2005 the calculated total costs of a 3-room blockhouse were approximately 1.600.000 TZS¹. Up to now HuYaMwi covers up to 960.000 TZS of these expenses. Compared to a blockhouse the building costs for a mud stick house are fairly low: 420.000 TZS. This means you could build almost 4 mud stick houses for the price of 1 blockhouse. Considering the durability of 7 – 10 years for a mud stick house in the long run it makes sense to continue building blockhouses. Still, the question is whether it is more sufficient to help right away and to reach more families even though within a few years help might be needed again or if it is better to provide substantial and long lasting support to fewer families.

2. Contribution of parishes

Since starting the Building Fund Program HuYaMwi has given the starting capital for constructing the houses. Experiences show that as soon as the money provided by HuYaMwi is used the construction work often stops for some time because the parish struggles to continue financing the project. Therefore, it maybe should be considered if the parish should provide the starting capital itself and HuYaMwi will take over as soon as the contribution of 40% is achieved.

3. Construction expert

So far the procedure has been as follows: the application for a new building has to pass the local orphan committee and the leading pastor of the parish before being transmitted to

¹ Since 2005 the costs of material have increased so the total amount for constructing a new blockhouse is no longer 1.600000 TZS.

HuYaMwi. According to the HuYaMwi guidelines it is not necessary to involve a construction expert as an advisor. It should be reconsidered whether there is a need of a construction expert in order to find out if a building might be stable enough to be repaired (which would save money) or if a new building is necessary.

4. Social environment

Up to now there haven't been any reports or feedbacks about the social effects of building new houses for orphans and widows. It needs to be investigated which kind of influence it has on social relationships. It is very possible that neighbors who live under similar bad conditions but are neither a widow nor an orphan envy them the new house. This might cause problems within the neighborhood and the community.