

## **JOINT HANDBOOK**

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

### **Paper 18. Small income generating projects. (SIP)**

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#### **1. Introduction**

HIV/AIDS illness and death are the center of a complex web of interrelated knock on effects with implications for the well-being of individuals, households, and communities. This disease together with other diseases jeopardizes the future security of the society in which children live. Children are the most dependent and vulnerable members of the society. Affected households have less areas of land under cultivation compared to non affected households. This indicates that the society will increasingly be unable to survive shocks brought by drought etc. Families like these are economically insecure, because during parental illness household income falls and resources are channeled towards the care of the sick adult.

As a result, children get less food and are withdrawn from school in order to free resources to care for the ailing adult and to provide labour. The death of the parents removes the most energetic people who were the bread winners.

Families are becoming impoverished due to the loss of earning and the costs associated with parental death. There is an increasing inability for households to survive as functioning economic units, especially during stress such as famine.

In the past, poor households received support from members of their community. However, nowadays traditional community safety nets are overburdened in many communities due to increasing poverty and growing number of poor households.

All this indicates that these households need support for their survival.

#### **1. The efforts used by HuYaMwi**

In the year 2005 HuYaMwi started to think of a way to support these families with orphans and widows or orphans who are living with their guardians. This was the result of the work which was done by HuYaMwi on provision of material supports to orphans. The needs of some people showed clearly that they have nowhere to depend on. This led to initiatives to support some households by small income generating projects.

These initiatives play a vital role in supporting and protecting the most vulnerable households of orphans, widows and HIV/AIDS patients.

The goals are:

1. To strengthen and support the capacity of families in order to protect and care for orphans

2. To strengthen economic coping capacities of families and communities
3. To channel resources towards the communities in order to support them in responding to the increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children
4. To secure the basic livelihood of persons, families and communities who are hardest hit by the impact of the epidemic.

The support is provided to several clusters of households. This aims to help them by working in small groups and in ways that do not undermine the community by coping or increasing dependency. These initiatives help the families to be economically independent and avoid dependency.

We hope that if orphans or the family who take care of them have a small income generating project it will help them with small needs and demands such as buying pens, pencils, exercise books etc.

HuYaMwi conducted seminars on how to plan for a small income project, how to write a simple project proposal. To qualified groups capital was given as well as seminars on how to manage a project (project management skills).

After these seminars all groups from different parishes sat together, planned for their project and prepared a simple proposal. We had a total of five groups with four to six members. Most of the groups were interested in a chick project as a simple project which they can manage easily. Few groups were interested in having a milk goat or pig project.

All groups were given money to start their project as per their proposals. We have a system to visit all groups to know their progress. In general, all groups succeeded to start their project and are in good progress.

Through this project we are going to prove that if orphans and their guardians receive education about their problems and possible solutions they are able to solve some of their problems themselves. Through SIP the households are slowly reaching their original level again and the economic cracks in the families are smoothed.



Milk goat project at Maring'a congregation, it involves three orphans and three guardians.



Chicken project at Shokony parish.



Orphans in front of their chicken hut at Shokony.

### **Results**

1. Up to now, some groups managed to use their project to support their children (orphans) for small materials. One group from Uuwo even paid school fees to one orphan at secondary school.
2. Other groups divided the project into more than two projects which shows the expansion of their project.
3. The involved orphans are learning self-reliance.

### **Challenges**

There is no good work without challenges and usually, challenges are open gates towards success.

The following challenges turned up:

1. Some SIP groups are asking for more capital to start a cow project which needs a big capital and the running costs are high.
2. Some groups dissolved even before the end of the first phase due to misunderstanding among them. At least this is a sign that it is difficult for some people to work in groups.
3. Some groups failed to pay back the capital so that other groups benefit the same capital.

Up to now HuYaMwi has already spent 2,500,000 TZS for 16 groups from different congregations working with HuYaMwi. There are still groups which are waiting to receive their capitals next year.