

Joint Handbook

of the Orphan Ministry at the LBS Mwika (HUYAMWI)

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

paper 21: HuYaMwi FIELDWORKER PROGRAM

Author: Deacon Samwel Mori.

The program of fieldworkers was introduced 2006 with the idea of improving the communication system between HuYaMwi and the cooperating congregations. The program first started with only 9 pilot congregations.

Fieldworkers are people who volunteer for the orphan ministry at a congregational level. They are willing to visit orphans twice a week. They received training through HuYaMwi on how to carry out their weekly visitations, making a monthly working plan and giving reports.

They report all important information to the orphan committee of the congregation as an impulse for discussion and implementation.

This program was in its pilot phase last year. It was successful due to the fact that it changed our system of communication to the congregation: Nowadays we have information about the work done in the congregation every month through our fieldworkers. They meet every month at the Bible school for the purpose of giving reports, sharing experiences and preparing a monthly plan for the following month.

This program has been very successful, so this year we trained more fieldworkers for the pilot and network parishes. Now, every parish cooperating with HuYaMwi has a fieldworker. Furthermore - due to its success - this program will be adopted by other projects dealing with people in need. For example, the East Kilimanjaro District has already established this program to its diaconic work. HuYaMwi helped the district to train their fieldworkers.

- The Fieldworker program simplifies the work of HuYaMwi and the respective congregation. The most important point is that it helps to address the needs of the orphans quickly and to keep information and records.
- Fieldworkers help to update the orphan statistics using the counter book method: changing the status of orphans in the clusters due to the changes caused by different supports distributed by their parishes.

- Fieldworkers help to supervise and report about different programs of HuYaMwi in their parishes, for example about the SIP PROGRAM, the building fund, the medical fund, etc.
- Fieldworkers are a very important link/bridge between HuYaMwi and congregations, orphans, widows, HIV/AIDS patients and congregational diaconic committees. They play an important role for the congregation and for HuYaMwi as well.

Strengths

Fieldworkers are hard workers. They devote their time to visit those who are neglected in our community.

- They use their skills and knowledge to make sure that those who feel isolated are treated respectfully and cared by the church again.
- They are able to prioritize the needs of different needy people in the congregation.
- According to their capacity they conduct counseling and guidance to some cases.
- They are the perfect resource to enable the congregation to make a practicable plan for needy people due to knowledge, skills and experiences of different needs of people in the respective community.

Challenges

- Some do not receive cooperation from the church leaders.
- Through their visitation fieldworkers may find people who are in need, but the process of decision making in the congregation may be the barrier to give services to them.
- Although they are volunteering doing all the work they have no support when they fall in needs themselves. They may take orphans, widows, HIV/AIDS patients to the hospital for medication. But when it comes to their own and their children's needs there is no help.
- Once HuYaMwi planned on giving the fieldworkers something in order to motivate them and asked the parishes to give the same amount. Some parishes, however, failed to contribute their part.