

Chiedza Community Based Orphan Welfare Organization, Bonda, Zimbabwe



The Chiedza Community Based Orphan Welfare Organization (CCBOWO), based in Juliasdale in Nyanga, Zimbabwe, was founded in 2005. Their mandate is to foster leadership among members of community co-operatives to address HIV/AIDS issues and to build income-generating projects to fund their activities.

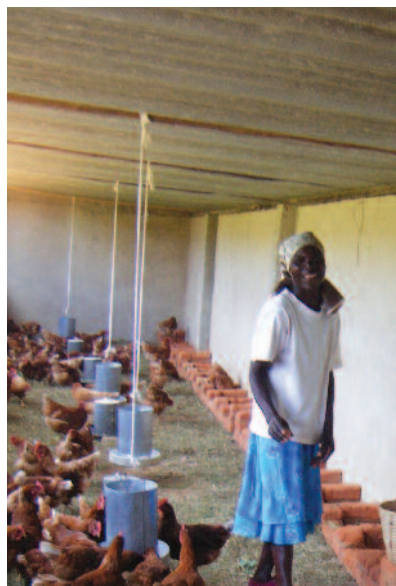
Chiedza (which means Light) was formed with the support of members of the Bonda Art and Craft Centre, some of whom are artists represented by ZimArt, teachers from the Bonda Mission's primary and secondary school and a nurse from the Mission's hospital. The participating artists support Chiedza by donating 25% of their sales.

Since Chiedza was formed 101 orphans have been supported through payment of school fees (two at university, 45 at high school and 57 in primary school). The organization provides meals for 52 orphans and their caregivers. They have also facilitated the fostering of 22 vulnerable children within their community.

ZimArt-in-Trust started supporting Chiedza in 2006. Chiedza requested help with a vegetable garden which would provide food for the children and their caregivers. We provided the inputs, seed and fertilizer for four community gardens, purchasing and delivering the inputs to Bonda.

In 2008/2009 ZimArt-in-Trust initiated an income generating poultry project at the Bonda Art and Craft Centre, in collaboration with MAMA-Africa Foundation. This included the purchase and delivery of all building materials, hiring of a builder and paying for construction labour. Two chicken houses were built. ZimArt-in-Trust also purchased 200 birds, medication and feed.

The chickens are layers and Chiedza is now able to supplement their orphan feeding program with eggs. Revenue from egg sales pays for all overhead costs, leaving additional revenue to support Chiedza's feeding program. The pilot has been so successful that Chiedza has secured funds from the Firelight Foundation and SAT to initiate similar chicken projects in nearby communities.



In 2008/2009 ZimArt-in-Trust also provided on the ground support to Chiedza by overseeing the grant by the Harbinger Foundation for a drip-irrigation system. We were involved in a needs assessment, sourcing the equipment needed, delivery and installation of the system.

In 2008/2009 we responded to a list of requests from Chiedza ranging from emergency food supplies and agricultural inputs, to a money safe and office supplies.

In 2010 Chiedza was successful in securing funding from several organizations so ZimArt-in-Trust will not be providing any more financial support. Our focus is now based exclusively on monitoring and assisting with the management of the gardens and chicken project.

Chiedza orphans and their caregivers will be some of the beneficiaries of clothes and other donated items being shipped to Zimbabwe in 2011.

(top) Orphans and other children from the community come to the Centre for a meal after school.

(bottom) The egg project, funded by ZimArt-in-Trust and Mama Africa Foundation, generates income for orphan care.