

Pop-up Schools Teacher Training

ZIM-COV-PUS-P03



Harare, Zimbabwe



Education

Total Budget \$120,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

FEB 19

FEB 23



Overview

Our partners provided a full academic program for vulnerable and out-of-school children from poor communities in Harare. They also provided a high level of psycho-social support to students and their families. They trained members of the local community who are unqualified teachers to become mentors, thus raising leadership capacity and empowering a community to start educating children without a costly school building. The goal was to develop the mentor training program and a teaching/learning resource kit covering 10 levels/grades in all curriculum areas. It was very difficult due to covid lockdowns but the program pivoted to add a growing digital platform. It was decided to close the school in Dec 23 due to escalating rent and to refocus post covid on becoming a training and resource program.

Objectives

Impact



Mentor training course

10 courses were developed and delivered to mentors and external participants during the project, reaching 119 people from 21 external organisations and a total of 15 internal mentors. A classroom resource package is being rolled out.



Complete set of resources

A full resource set for Grade 1 is close to 90% completed. Term 1 and Term 2 resources were released to three new start-up schools established by former mentors. The remaining terms' resources are undergoing final edits.



Quality education for students

With the learning station (of 88 students) closing in Dec 2022, our partner has refocused to become a training and resourcing program. 8 of the 11 mentors have started their own low-cost education initiatives, giving 75 students resources and support.



Development team

A future plan will allow the development team to continue to draft training and learning resources. The digital training course is starting to reap the benefits, with interest from a range of organisations and the capacity to reach more people.



Life change

- Young people learnt to read and write and are well equipped with strong, positive character traits
- Mentors given confidence and skills, showing the rest of the low-income community that they too can 'make good'
- Children saved from a life on the street, drugs, prostitution and theft, and have hope for a bright future



How to read with understanding

Participant feedback indicated a shift in their thinking about reading and their communities: "I once thought there was no way to help illiterate children – that they were born dull, but now I see there is a lot I can do to help children read, even with very few resources. I have learned to be more creative in my lessons, making them fun and engaging."

"Everyday I have many children from the neighbourhood come to my home and normally I turn the television on for them. Since the training, I now plan to use some of the time reading to them."

Left: participant pack for mentor training course.



Teacher trainees celebrate the end of the 'Teaching Children to Read with Understanding' course.

A social worker's experience

As a social worker in training I found the course very empowering, from realising the importance of being prepared for any situation to having the tools and knowledge to respond to a crisis and how to report an incident. I gained a much deeper understanding of the importance of child protection and how it should be practiced. The speakers and presenters were excellent and it was run very smoothly through the use of videos. I also enjoyed the task groups, which gave us a chance to discuss and analyse different scenarios where child protection measures come into play.

Right: one of the mentors with a flyer advertising a new school starting up.

