

**A Study of How the Lusaka SOS Children's Home Rebuilds
the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Lives and
Capabilities.**

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Abstract

The study examined how the Lusaka SOS Children's Home (re)builds OVCs lives and capabilities using the capability approach, and the qualitative methodology. The latter brought me into physical contact with the key informants in order for me to listen to their plight. In this way, SOS seem to be contributing towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (which include achieving universal primary education and reducing infant mortality by 2015) by cutting hunger and poverty in half among OVCs. It was found that while families were best suited in raising children, SOS had done a lot in rebuilding and transforming the lives and capabilities of OVCs. The assistance included provision of decent shelter, medical facilities, education, food and protection from abuse. This assistance is a fulcrum in rebuilding capabilities for OVCs as children knew what they were capable of doing and achieving in their lives. SOS was able to help in instilling the self confidence while OVCs expressed happiness with the SOS intervention. They spoke for themselves on how poverty emanating from their own parentless status could be reduced. This shows that functionings (achievements) and capabilities vary through time and space (that is geographically) depending upon the intrinsic characteristics of the OVCs concerned, and the prevailing social costumes.

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Declaration

I declare that this thesis has been composed by me and all work recorded is my own. Quotations have been distinguished by quotation marks and all the sources of materials have been acknowledged.

Dedication

To my wife Mudenda, thank you for your support in last eight months. May the good Lord continue giving you strength!

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Acronyms

CBD -Central Business District

CBO- Community Based Organisation

CCC- Child Care Committee

COVCC-Community Orphans and Vulnerable Children Committee

CRC – Convention for the Rights of a Child

CWAC-Community Welfare Assistance Committee

DCI-Development Cooperation Ireland

DFID -Department of International Development

DSWO-District Social Welfare Officer

HIV/AIDS – Human Immunity Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

IMF- International Monetary Fund

JICA- Japanese International Cooperation Agency

KDI- Kinderdorf International

MCDSS – Ministry of Community Development and Social Services

MDG-Millennium Development Goal

MMD-Movement for Multiparty Democracy

MOF- Ministry of Finance

MPU-Micro Projects Unit

MYSCD-Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development

NGO- Non Governmental Organization

OVCs – Orphans and Vulnerable Children

PRSP- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

PWAS-Public Welfare Assistance Scheme

UNFAO- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund

UNIP- United National Independence Party

ZDHS – Zambia Demographic and Housing Survey

ZIHP-Zambia Integrated Health Project

SOS – “Save Our Ship” however, in this study it will imply “Children in need of help”

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CHAPTER ONE

Traditional view of Orphans and Vulnerable Children by the community is that they are objects of pity, poverty, charity and hand-outs. Being without a family and 'personal integrity' leads to stigmatization and discrimination.

1.0 Background to study

The plight of children in varying contexts of poverty has been extensively highlighted in the media. Available reports indicate that the situation of these children is deteriorating while their number continue rising. There are multiple causes to this situation, ranging from disease, war and poverty. According to UNICEF, Sub Saharan Africa has more than 15 million children who have lost one or both parents due to AIDS while millions more are believed to be living with sick and dying family members (www.unicef.org, 22.12.2004). These are regarded as among the most vulnerable and are in need of protection and it is thus feared that these children (orphans) would miss out on their childhood due to poverty.

1.1 Statement of the problem

Childhood is viewed as a prime time in each individual's life as it marks the foundation for an anticipated better future. However, the recently launched 2005 State of the World's Children Report by UNICEF; "Childhood under threat" shows how poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDS in many parts of the world threaten the ideal of childhood, especially for the orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). Poverty has a depriving effect on the mechanisms that ensure a child's physical security, health, mental development and overall freedom to live lifestyles of their choice. There is a negative impact on children caused by the demise of parents especially where these children are not placed into the care of a member of the extended family and have not been left with disposable assets. This affects the process through which children acquire capacities for self satisfying lives.

Some of the negative consequences and to some extent manifestation of poverty among OVCs include, being forced into prostitution at tender ages for the girl-child, while both the girls and boys are forced into child labor in order to generate income for survival for themselves and their siblings. This is coupled with streetism which involves begging usually done for survival. There is a direct link between hazardous activities and incidences of diseases such HIV/AIDS among OVCs. These activities, thus, render the status quo of OVCs to that of suffering from psycho-social and economic impact of deprivation (UNICEF, 2004).

In trying to improve the situation and capacities of OVCs, a lot of strategies outside the family related caring system have emerged and one such measure is the use of Children's Homes which in most cases are being administered by churches and NGOs as detailed in chapter five. Under this system, children are provided with basic needs and other forms of support while in residence of an institution which offers a family-like environment. I intend to examine ways in which children acquire coping capabilities to re-establish normal and self fulfilling lives.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The purpose of this study is to examine how the Lusaka SOS Children's Home (re)builds OVCs lives and capabilities.

My specific objectives are;

1. To identify underlying factors that leads to institutionalized care and support for OVCs.
2. To examine the opportunities and dangers for (re)building the capacities of the OVCs by the Lusaka SOS Home. Is the set-up of Children's Homes done in ad hoc form or as part of a systematic strategy for a long term developmental exigency (need) on (re)building the capacities of OVCs?
3. To find out the types and routine of activities that take place in Lusaka SOS Children's Homes.
4. To observe how children experience or perceive the intervention of the Lusaka SOS Children's Home.

1.3 Methodology

A qualitative approach was used in the study because it is more interactive (Maykut and Morehouse, 1994). I chose this approach because of my prior work experience as a Social Welfare Officer which helped me to understand and appreciate the problems that people undergo in a more inter- mingling manner. I have, however, given a detailed chapter on the research methodology in chapter three. In the said chapter I explained how a qualitative approach was used, and how people interacted.

1.4 Significance of the study

Children should be nurtured into adulthood that will have learnt their roles at home and in society. This is important for early socialization of children as argued in chapter four on children as competent social actors. Crehan (1992) argues that this is a critical requirement to the family and household survival as well as the social cohesion of the community. This way of nurturing children and of equipping them to perform different social roles is a good way in which individuals acquire the expected characteristics of their person hood. This process calls for a rigorous documentation effort into the activities that aim to improve the welfare of children.

In Zambia I have not seen much information that has been empirically derived regarding the state of wellbeing of OVCs in relation to points of their residence. Worse still, there are few analyses on the well being of orphaned children in the developing world that can be relied upon as a measure of the extent of this problem. Gordon et al (2003) observed that there is, in fact, a surprising lack of direct information on children per se with notable exception of basic health and education. This means that available information on children is derived from measures of their family or guardian. Altering the impact for which OVCs seek opportunities to inherit their right to love, care and protection is paramount. This study seeks to contribute towards improving availability of information on children by presenting an analysis on how Lusaka Children's Homes influence children's livelihoods.

It is coming at a time when the numbers of OVCs are increasing, culminating into the overwhelming support mechanisms that are currently in place. This study would help stimulate a coherent and more practical means of caring and supporting OVCs. The long term expected outcome of this exercise is to enhance the status of OVCs as part of the human category traditionally considered as the 'window of hope' (Kalumba, 1997). It is helping in building the capacities of OVCs as discussed in chapter four under the capability approach.

1.5 Defining key concepts in the study.

1.5.1 Defining an Orphan and a Vulnerable Child.

Abebe (2005) argues that there are 'famine orphans', 'malaria orphans', and children abandoned mainly due to poverty. There are also orphans due to loss of parents as a result of the HIV/AIDS. For the purpose of my study, I have defined orphans as children who have lost one or both parents while vulnerable children are those who come from irresponsible parents or whose guardians have been incapacitated by critical illness, old age or severe disability and cannot therefore look after them. Thus, Vulnerable Children are either abandoned or neglected while others have been dumped at birth by their mothers. Poverty and failed relationships are often blamed for the problem of dumped babies, and Zambia's weak law enforcement means that the culprits are never caught. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) are usually placed under the care of a capable family related carer. The acronym 'OVCs' is used throughout this document to refer to these children.

1.5.2 What is a capability?

According to the Ministry of Finance (2003), a capability can have varying meanings to different people. To vulnerable groups, a capability may mean improved attendance to school, change in incidences of harmful cultural practices which create more vulnerability such as property grabbing, while for a gender activist it may include improvement in women's participation in decision making as reflected by a number of women in executive positions, number of women speaking in public meetings. For my

study a capability is living a life which is more fulfilling that one can be happy with upon reflection.

Therefore, capabilities can be defined in general terms as assets (both material and social) and activities required for a means of living (WWW2.essex.acuk/Research programmes/SusD4LocEcon/srls.htm, 22.02. 05). In this case, a capability enables OVCs to cope and recover from stress while enhancing their livelihood. In this manner, a capability influences the lives of OVCs. Therefore, there is need to understand the structures and processes at Lusaka SOS Children's Village that transform these capabilities into desirable outcomes. The concept of capability will further be discussed in chapter four.

1.6 Structure of presentation

The first chapter of my thesis is the introduction, followed by chapter two which is Zambia; country profile, then Research methodology and study area. The Theoretical framework is chapter four followed by OVC problem in Zambia and The role of NGOs in development as chapter five and six, respectively. The last part is structure and processes that help transform OVCs capabilities in chapter seven while Analysis of the findings and Summary, conclusions and Recommendations form chapters seven, eight and nine.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Zambia; Country Profile

'We will uphold the values of good corporate citizenship and seek to contribute to the wider economic, social, and environmental well being of Zambia'-Konkola Copper Mines of Zambia.

This chapter deals with issues related to the country profile of Zambia. It discusses the Political landscapes, Population, Climate and Weather of the country. Besides these issues, the chapter also highlights matters of the Convention for the Rights of Children which ultimately lead to the procedures for formation on Children's homes. It gives a brief outline which relates on how to set-up a children's Home. The chapter sets the tone in harnessing the Convention for the Rights of Children. The country has put up standard procedures on which the Commissioner for Juveniles Welfare plays a crucial role to be followed when one wants to set up a home for children.

2.1 Political landscapes

The country changed political governments three times from 1964, the year of political liberation from colonial masters. The first Republican government was of United National Independence (UNIP) which ruled from 1964 to 1991 when the second government under Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) took-over. In 2001, the then president, passed on the mantle to the present one who will rule until the end of 2006 when there will be fresh elections. In the meantime there are a number of political parties which have sprung up to challenge the incumbent government. The UNIP government was more socialist than the MMD which emphasizes more on liberal markets (MMD, 1990). The latter government tends to have negative consequences for the OVCs, although they have enticed many NGOS to operate in the country.

2.2 Climate and Weather in Zambia

Zambia is located in the interior of the continent of Africa which has given her a unique climatic condition. Because of her interior geographical position and high altitude, Zambia has moderate climatic conditions. It is characterized by three distinct seasons which occur in succession.

- Cool and dry season from April/May to August

- Hot and dry season from August/September to October/November
- Warm wet season from October/November to March/April

The cool dry season starts from April/May to August with average temperatures ranging from 14 to 32 degrees Celsius. This is the traditional harvest period for most agricultural crops. The hot dry season which occurs in August/September to October/November has temperatures ranging from 26 to 32 degrees Celsius and these are prevalent in most parts of the country. While the warm wet season has temperatures averaging between 26 and 32 degrees Celsius. The highest temperatures are recorded in the low-lying valley regions of the Luangwa, Zambezi and Kafue rivers, and by the shores of Lake Tanganyika, Mweru and Bangweulu of over 40 degrees Celsius. The effect of altitude and latitude is visible in Mbala and Chirundu. Mbala which is 1800m above sea level has an annual temperature of 19 degrees Celsius while Chirundu on the other hand which is only 430m has 25 degrees Celsius.

Rainfall distribution is seasonal and decreases as one moves from north to south. The northern part of the country receives rainfall for six months while the southern parts have four months of rainfall. On average, the Northern, Luapula, Copperbelt and North-western provinces receive about 1,400mm while Lusaka, Southern, Eastern, Central and Western provinces receive about 700mm of rainfall annually. Lowest rainfall is recorded in the middle Zambezi-valley.

2.3 Population in Zambia

According to census data of 2000, the annual growth rate was 2.9%. The total population was at 10,285,631. Of this population 49.1% was under 15 years of age, with a life expectancy of 54 years, and infant mortality of 78 per 1,000 live births. It is estimated that currently, around 920,000 people in Zambia are living with HIV, which is the major contributing factor to increasing numbers of OVCs (MSYCD, 2004). The issue on OVCs will be further discussed in chapter five.

Although the country's population density is low, it has one of the highest urban populations with more than 2 million people living in the capital city of Lusaka alone.

The major ethnic groups of Zambia are Bemba, Tonga, Nyanja, Lozi, Kaonde, Lunda and the Luvale. However, in 1990 the number of non-Africans living in the country was 506,604. The population of Europeans was at 1,146, Asians, 10,526, Americans 8,311, and others at 496,721.

Below is the census data from 1963 to 2000.

Census year	Population growth	% of female	% of male	total population
1963	Not available	50.5	49.6	3,405,788
1969	2.6	51.1	48.9	3,998,644
1980	3.1	51.1	48.9	5,661,800
2000	2.9	50.64	49.36	10,285,631

Source: Central Statistical Office

2.4 Economic landscape

The incidence of poverty in Zambia has shown much improvement since the mines were privatized. The exchange rate of the official currency is currently (end of 2005) trading at 3,200 to a USA dollar from 4,800 at the beginning of the year.

The donor confidence following the restructuring has gone up as vindicated partially in the box 2.4 below.

Box2.4

The Japanese government has cancelled the remaining 692 million USA dollar of Zambia's debt. This represents a 100% debt write off by Japan. And the governments of Zambia and Russia have signed an agreement to write off 1.1million USA dollar while 43.5 million USA dollars was rescheduled to be paid by December 2011 from 2009.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Lusaka, Zambia

The Kwacha has made a dramatic recovery gaining a record 35 percent in value between February and December 2005. This could however, be an exaggeration since we are in an election year when appeasements tend to be common.

2.5 Procedures for formation of Children's Homes in Zambia

2.5.1 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Children's Homes are presently formulated out of the international consensus on the need for increased protection, participation and provision for children as contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1989. The framing of the UNCRC is designed in such a way that it should be viewed within the perspective of the development of human rights law within the United Nations system (Shimba, 1989). The preamble has a carefully worded proclamation that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance (UNCRC, 1989). However, Kj rholt, (2001) argues that discourses that construct children as competent social actors with rights to participate in society, and have a say in matters that affect their lives have been flourishing among childhood researchers, NGOs and actors in the field of international and national policy.

Children in this vein are taken to be wonderful gifts that should be universally nurtured carefully so that the best human beings are gotten out of them. This entails that there should be adequate investments in the welfare of OVCs in order to improve the future supply of quality manpower needed in the national development efforts.

However, I have given a detailed discussion and account of Children as competent actors, and child spaces further in chapter four under the theoretical perspectives.

The substantive provisions of the UNCRC (twenty-one articles) underline the delegated intentions that the state parties are supposed to adopt and incorporate into their national laws that govern their social, economical, cultural and political programmes. The state parties are expected to protect children within their jurisdiction, provide for the children a number of benefits according to the needs and to facilitate children's participation in matters that directly affected their lives and wellbeing. Hence, these famous three Ps sets the international agenda regarding the global perception of children and their general welfare. Specifically, Article 3 subsection 3 of the UNCRC is very explicit on the need to establish standards for care of children in child care facilities (see box 2.5.1).

The convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been ratified by Zambia and many other countries in the world, is the guiding document worldwide for children's rights. However, it might be rather easy to ratify a Convention, but it is not easy to implement the recommendations. For instance it was not in line with the Convention to keep children in prisons for longer periods together with adults as they might come out as full-fledged criminals (UNCRC, 2005).

Box 2.5.1

Article 3 subsection 3 states that `State parties shall ensure that institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, healthy, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision`.

Source: Convention for the Rights of the Child

2.6 How to set-up a Children's Home in Zambia (procedural)

The Juveniles Act, Chapter 53 of the Laws of Zambia provides for foster care and the establishment of Children's Homes. These institutions are meant to offer shelter to children who for some reason cannot stay with their parents or members of the extended family. Such children whose parents or guardians are for some reason, not able to exercise parental care and guidance are referred to as children in need of care. Protection of these children is done in the manner that reflects the global intention stated in Article 20 of the CRC (see box 2.6).

Box 2.6

Article 20 subsection 1 states that `A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State`.

Source: Convention for Rights of Children

OVCs constitute the bulky of such children who are in need of care. In spite of these provisions, institutional care is considered to be a measure of the last resort because children are expected to be cared for within their immediate and extended family in accordance with the Zambian tradition and culture (National Policy on Social Welfare).

The provisions in the Juveniles Act outline the requirements and procedures one has to follow when establishing a Children's Home. The Act further provides for the appointment by the Republican President of the sitting Director of Social Welfare as Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare, while other professionals in the Department of Social Welfare are appointed by the Minister as Juveniles Inspectors. Since Juveniles Inspectors are domiciled across the country, it is expedient for them to carry out delegated duties on behalf of the Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare. Hence in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act in running of Homes as shown in Box 2.7 below, Juveniles Inspectors conduct on the spot inspections to these Homes.

Box 2.7

Criteria for setting up of Children's Homes

- 1. A person in charge of the Home shall give notice with respect to the establishment of the Home to the Commissioner for Juvenile Welfare.**
- 2. The notice which should be given shall state;**
 - a. Address of the Home.**
 - b. Date when it was established.**
 - c. Name or names of managers and their Curriculum Vitae**
 - d. Name or names of a person in charge of the Home.**
 - e. Age group for infants for which it is designed to carter.**
 - f. The average numbers of infants the Home will carter for and the current number.**
 - g. Copy of the certificate of Registration from Registrar of Societies.**
 - h. A health Policy for the infants admitted to the Home.**

Source: Juvenile Act, Cap 53 of the Laws of Zambia

Thus, the notice to the Commissioner of Juvenile Welfare on the establishment of a Home has to be made through the office of the Juveniles Inspector as an official on the ground. This includes providing guidelines on the general day to day management of the Home. This completes the legal infrastructure which governs the conduct in the provision of general child care services.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Research Methodology and study area

A decade long of working as a Social Welfare Officer, listening on a daily basis to stories of despair regarding the plight of OVCs strengthened my resolve to continue working with them as a resident too. I endured listening to heart rending stories of children who have to bid farewell to the comforts of urban life lived under the guardianships of their demised parents. Similar stories like the one contained in Box 3.0 increased my impetus of trying to find ways of ushering OVCs into the future when they are equipped with personal capabilities.

Box 3.0

I have just returned from a funeral of our last born sister, but how old are they? Maybe for those try to taking them to SOS Children's Village or contact their grandmother so that she can make arrangements to stay with them in the village. Otherwise me there is no nowhere else to take them. I said there is no space for them to share, our house is only two bed roomed house and especially after I collected three children left by my deceased sister. By the way, sir, who told my name to you'

Source: Commuter Conversation

The phone conversation in Box 3.0 was picked while commuting on an inter-town bus during fieldwork. I did not pick all that was discussed in the conversation since I was not party to it, but it sounded like an uncle was being asked to travel to collect children of a relation who had just died. The man was so agitated that he began to shout to the other person on the other side of the phone, emphasising to him or her not to insist on him going to collect the children. Apparently, he seemed to be the only viable person in the extended family to offer refuge to the now orphaned children. I can only wonder to myself as to where those children are by now. There are many children, I thought, in worse off position as they may not have grand parents who are alive and whose members of the extended family were not available to lender assistance. Coming to NTNU reassured me that I was in the right path for the underprivileged.

The excitement that comes with the period of fieldwork can carry its own mixed emotions, hence one better balances them up! Reuniting with the family and peers can sweep one's own solid grounding towards the shores of success. Peers can accord a revered status which may make it difficult for a student to collect all the data required for

the project. Other peers do it with a hope to deplete the change from the fieldwork stipend. My tenacity, right from the doors of NTNU to under-take a dignified child related geographical assignment was strong. While at NTNU, I chose methods of data collection that were available for the arduous task. Besides, the prior stories that I heard over the sufferings of OVCs made me believe that there were many similar untold stories that I needed to listen to, hence I chose a qualitative approach towards my studies.

Location map of Lusaka SOS Children's Village



3.1 Location for Lusaka SOS Children's Village

Lusaka SOS Children's village is located about 6.5km north of Lusaka Central Business District (CBD) along the Great North Road. It is on the formal exit route to the Copperbelt, and other northern towns of Zambia. Lusaka SOS is spread on a 15ha land, though right in the middle of the densely populated residential compounds which act as a hub for some of the hard core criminals. To protect its property, the village is surrounded

by a perimeter fence. It is at the margins of the capital city bordering with Chibombo district in the north.

3.2 Methods of data collection

The research was undertaken using a qualitative approach since these studies seek to offer an understanding of the daily experiences of the participants selected for the study from their places of usual interaction (Maykut and Morehouse, 1994). This means that as a researcher I went to interact with the orphans and vulnerable children at their natural setting in order for me to discover issues to be learned regarding the impact that SOS village is creating on their lives.

Marshall and Rossman, (1994) states that the aim of a qualitative research approach is to explain phenomena under study using qualitative data derived from interviews, documents, and direct observation. Therefore, my focus was to employ methods of data collection that would take me to places of the children's natural settings which included the hostels, playgrounds, classrooms and places of their guardians in various compounds where they reside. I made observations, and interviewed them about their lives at these places of daily discourse. Thus, the study through this design enabled me to understand the experiences of OVCs in the context of being brought up in a Children's Home or household other than that of one's own biological parents. In using such interactive methods of data collection, the research acted as a gatherer of meaning from the data which is often in form of people's words and actions.

Overall, qualitative approach helps to harness the unique quality of human beings, the ability to talk and consequently express their views on a range of subject matters.

3.3 Sampling procedure

The children who participated in interviews were selected using purposeful sampling. This means that I selected children who fulfilled a particular criteria requirement mainly age (above 14 years), one year of stay at the village, and ability to discuss issues without being inhibited. I asked for permission from the Director of SOS village to interview the

selected children. The main goal in selecting children in this manner is to gain a deeper understanding of how lives are experienced with the intervention of SOS by discussing with a carefully selected group of children. This approach acknowledges the complexity that characterizes the children. I sampled a group of children with extreme attributes because they are particularly illuminating. Such cases were helpful, too in avoiding technicalities associated with their age where the law forbids talking to a certain age group without express permission from their guardians. However, my sample was ultimately one that reflected the scope and range of OVCs' experience of SOS intervention.

3.4 Data Collection techniques

My research used two types of data, namely; primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is the unpublished data which I gathered from my key informants, while secondary data are the materials such as books, articles or reports which have previously been published, or unpublished but documented. Primary data was collected using interviews with key informants, direct observation and previous personal knowledge. This data assisted to explain children's experiences, types of activities children engage in at SOS, the dangers and opportunities that are presented to the children by this institution. I also indulged in direct observation in order to see how life is spent and the nature of the benefits in terms of basic needs to the children.

Secondary data was obtained from documents such as government policy documents, quarterly performance reports that the village makes to the Juveniles Inspector at the Department of Social Welfare. This data is vital in assessing whether the activities of the Village are enhancing children's capacities and opportunities that are needed to realize their aspirations. I assessed the Juvenile Inspector's reports generated from the statutory inspectorate that were made to the village.¹ I also obtained secondary data from other records at the village such as SOS Kinderdorf periodic brochures.

¹ The Zambian law demands that such institutions are regularly visited to assess their adherence to set standards of operating a children's Home.

3.4.1 Direct Observation

According to Berg (1989) and Becker (1970), direct observation requires the researcher to be in the field or present in the natural settings where the phenomenon under study takes place. The beauty with this method is that it allowed me to discuss real actions as they occurred. Therefore, it helped me to check the validity of other data collection methods. This being the case, I needed to use an overt approach to gain access to the village. I made contact with the Director of Social Services at the village to find out the possibility of carrying out an academic research with guarantees of minimum cooperation and support from the staff at the village, and was granted. I was assisted with every measure possible to ensure a smooth data collection process.

My presence at the site of the study enabled me to get first hand information which to a large extent is reliable in explaining the situation about OVCs. In order to understand the lives of the OVCs in their own terms, I spent a lot of time with them at SOS village. This posture is known as indwelling which means to exist, in an interactive spirit (Maykut and Morehouse, 1994). I had to interact with the OVCs while noting what was happening, what is pertinent to the lives of OVCs and how they described their lives. This implied that I had to suspend my personal ways of viewing the world, although one weakness of this method is that my apparent presence can be reacted to in a manner that can hinder the acquisition of relevant data especially from the OVCs.

However, I assumed an unobtrusive presence to minimise the adverse attention from all the concerned by proclaiming to be a visitor who has deep seated interest in interacting with children. The members of staff were apprised of the overt manner under which the study objective was to be done as explained above. Clearly, this procedure is time consuming and can prove expensive but it remained an ideal approach for my research.

Data regarding the changes in lives of children who are below the stipulated age of participating in an interview was obtained using direct observation. This observation focussed among other things on; nature of clothing, food, beddings and the kinds of behaviour that may come-up as a result of being under institutionalized care. Data

obtained using direct observations was useful in gaining insight on the inherent weaknesses and strengths of using SOS village for caring and supporting OVCs, and the data are apt in commenting on the types of activities and routines found at the village.

From the above, it is clear that the main issues are when to observe, during what events and whether the research is visible or hidden. But as explained above, I was very reflexive in ensuring that I collected data that was relevant for my study.

3.4.2 In-depth interviews with key informants

I interviewed eighteen key informants; Coordinating Director for SOS village, Social Worker at the Village, two village mothers, two OVCs recently discharged from the village, one guardian or next of kin to an OVC at the Village, Commissioner of Juvenile Welfare and the Juvenile Inspector in the Department of Social Welfare. I also held interviews with the Director of Child Affairs at the Ministry of Youth and Sport to gauge the government policy direction on children. As indicated above in the section on purposive sampling, I also held interviews with eight SOS domiciled children that are above fourteens years, because these have developed diversified views over life.

The children were consulted on how their lives have changed, and the general experiences of the intervention from SOS. The government officers were asked to make comments regarding the policy of government on institutionalized care and support of OVCs, and on how their offices perceive this intervention. Comments were sought regarding the underlying factors that lead to enlisting children and households for SOS support and how according to the experiences of their offices, livelihoods have been influenced. The Juvenile Inspector is a key player, because recruitments of OVCs are done through his office.

SOS gives a quota to each district on the number of children to be sent from those districts and identifications of these beneficiaries is done by this office. OVCs are discharged from SOS through this office to their next of kin. The Juvenile Inspector makes quarterly inspection visits to the village. At her office, I studied social family backgrounds from the case records of the OVCs admitted to SOS Children's Village.

The above key informants were interviewed using an interview guide in which broad interview questions formed the basis for asking subsequent probing or exploratory questions to the interviewee. The interview guide was preferred because of the latter aspect of supplementing questions on the interview guide. The probes allowed me to explore how lives are influenced by services offered by SOS children's village. Probing is useful in seeking additional information. For OVCs, the interviews focused on obtaining information about their life histories placing emphasis on the critical moments in their lives. Life histories helped me assess whether their interaction with SOS children's village has expanded their freedoms for choosing the life that they have reason to value.

3.4.3 Personal knowledge

My previous personal knowledge as a Juvenile Inspector in the Department of Social Welfare was crucial in knowing sources of data and types of data to be obtained from specific sources. Appropriate questions for probing were raised based upon the prior knowledge of the operations of the village. Thus, personal knowledge was not to be used as a source of information but as a means towards gathering data in the field, as well as using it as an opportunity to search for deeper knowledge into the study. In order to reduce the impact of bias for pre-assumed factors from prior experience of the subject I was asking general questions such as "what do you think you have gained by being at SOS?" I allowed my interviewees to steer the focus of the interview based on what connotations they had.

3.4.4 Focused Group Discussion

I also felt that there was need to fill gaps on data collected using interviews and direct observation, therefore I conducted a focused group discussion on factors that lead to vulnerability following the death of parents, and on main areas of deprivation for OVCs. I formed two groups representing different ages and sex. Each group was composed of six members of mixed gender and age (14 to 18). The number of groups and topics on this exercise was constrained by limited time and funds available for refreshments. However, it proved worthwhile because pertinent issues were brought to the fore.

The above data collection techniques were suitable for my chosen theoretical framework in that, in order to evaluate how capacities of children are influenced by SOS to live fulfilling lives, there is need to go in the field to observe and listen to their experiences. It helped me to assess by seeing physically what activities are undertaken by the SOS, and discuss children's perceptions or experiences of living in the village. This was done by seeing the type of basic needs that they are aided to access and how these help expand the opportunities for OVCs. Similarly, interviews enabled me to seek explicit explanations on how particular activities can increase the freedoms of children, as well as shielding them from the environments that abates exploitation, abuse and violence both in the short term and long term.

3.5 Data validity and reliability

Kithin and Tate (2000) argue that validity concerns the soundness, legitimacy and relevance of a research theory and its investigations or practice. This involves questioning sources by assessing the extent to which the data that is collected reflects its reality and authenticity. As outlined above, I used complementary data collection methods so that they help to counter check, and ensure validity. According to the Zambian law, and ethically it is not allowed to interview children below the age of 14 years; hence as said above I sought permission from the Village Director. The village staff helped me to eliminate biases arising from the information collected from the children.

Mikkelsen (1995) argues that reliability is the degree to which the findings are independent of accidental circumstances of the research. Bias associated with poor sampling techniques remain the source of concern in child studies. These may occur through cultural norms or interpretation, especially when using research assistant who would not understand the language. I therefore asked the presence of SOS staff who dialogue on daily basis with these OVCs. Permission of presence from the staff from SOS was sought in order to minimize such biases. These were helpful in minimizing errors that would arise due to language barriers.

In this sense reliability therefore, is obtaining consistency of a measure in a research. It addresses how accurate my research methods and techniques produced data from the OVCs lined for interviews. In other words, under reliability there should be sufficient grounds and convictions to enable someone else have the same experience as the original observer and appreciate the truths about the treatment that OVCs receive in their households. In qualitative research, reliability therefore, is a lack of the normal integration of thoughts, feelings, and memory into the stream of consciousness of the past experiences. In order to avoid the prejudices of past explanations about the status of OVCs, interviews were augmented with direct observations and information contained in other records and documents.

3.6 Recording my field notes

I wrote down various observations and important conversations in the field so that they are fully utilized in the analysis of the data. According to Maykut and Morehouse (1994) qualitative field notes should contain what has been seen and heard by the researcher, without interpretation. This entails that I had to record the events as they unfolded but without interfering with the way events were unfolding. I adopted data recording techniques that did not intrude in the events. Unobtrusive excuses from the setting to go elsewhere to write down some of the observations that are important to recall was used for some settings.

During observations where unobtrusive excuses were not possible, I wrote down the details of my observations immediately after leaving the village. However, this was not desirable due to possibility of failure to recall the details after sometime. In case of informal interviews, I sometimes communicated to the staff or children, depending on whom I was dealing with, that what they had to say was important and writing their words down would help me remember. Such communications impressed upon them that they are important collaborators in my research, which in turn motivated them to cooperate more with the research. The overall aim in recording field notes was to as much as possible try to capture the exact words and trying to describe what is going on.

3.7 Other problems encountered during data collection

The study area was changed from SOS Kitwe to SOS Lusaka, because the latter had been in operation for a number of years, while the targeted one was only officially opened this year (2005). Hence, in terms of finding existing workable systems such as experience of staff, children's experiences and other aspects of evaluation, SOS Lusaka was found more attractive.

Furthermore, SOS has evolved a vibrant outreach program where assistance is targeted at the households that are in dire need. This is aimed at increasing coverage and to enable the institution reach many orphans and vulnerable children. In the wake of this discovery I changed the first objective of study. I opted to rename it as 'to identify underlying factors that are considered when enlisting OVCs for SOS care and support'.

Not all targeted heads of government offices were interviewed as planned but replacements were easily found who were reasonably competent enough to answer the study questions (please see 3.8 below). The absence of targeted officers was possibly because my appointments were taken to be secondary and were over taken by emerging activities of their office. However, the quality and validity of data collected was not affected in any way as explained below.

3.8 Limitation of the study

As indicated above, during preparations some high level government officials would give lofty assurances about their presence for interviews, yet they become conspicuous when required to articulate the cardinal issues in their offices. They tended to delegate junior officers whom they knew can easily be disciplined should they mishandle the same assignments. There were certain matters that could only be disclosed by the same senior officers. The junior officers were wary of such wraths and in turn tended to omit very important details of the research.

It was not feasible too, to evaluate all areas of Lusaka SOS operation due to the time constraint for this fieldwork exercise, while some cost implications inherent in some methodologies also made it difficult to carry-out a meaningful study. For instance, it was going to be interesting to see truly, if there would be no aspects of gender that were to emerge in the focused groups. Of equal importance was to assess if in the age-related groups no variations were going to materialize, since each age group in many occasions tend to hold different generational views on issues of common indulgency.

3.9 Mode of data analysis

The data that was collected from both primary and secondary sources was analyzed using interpretive-descriptive ways. According to Maykut and Morehouse (1994), interpretive-descriptive is an exploratory way of analysing data which uses people's words and meaning. Strauss and Corbin (1998) argue further that in using this, one has to focus on OVCs' lives, emotions, behaviours and lived experiences, as well as organisational functioning, social movements, phenomena, and interaction. The purpose was to examine OVCs' words and actions in narrative or descriptive ways as experienced by them. The focus of the research was to determine the questions that were asked, and in turn the data that was obtained.

3.10 Conclusion

As a researcher, I sought to describe patterns which emerged from the data obtained from the OVCs. As highlighted above, samples were usually smaller so that it becomes easy to identify recurring words, and meaning. In this kind of research, the researcher therefore empathizes with OVCs, and usually has to go forwards and backwards to acquire meaning contained in their answers. Despite samples being small, one can generalize on issues that are being described in a context which may apply to similar situations.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Theoretical framework

This chapter defines the geographical perspective of my study, by explaining the theoretical framework upon which the study is based. It is through this chapter again, that this research adds up to the contemporary theoretical debates and approaches, that aim at enlightening the readership by giving the concepts which review the major theories for analyzing such findings. The capability approach concept forms the core of the theoretical framework due to its nascent and budding nature. There is another theory used which is children as competent actors which have been used for many years in analyzing data.

Scholars like Preston (1997) argue that the theoretical framework is important as it guides us with the kind of explanations to be used in the study. They provide a dimension to understanding and in making subsequent recommendations for the objectives of the work of SOS Children's Village in rehabilitating children.

4.1 Space and Place

Space and place is a basic ingredient when undertaking a geographical study aimed at explaining circumstances that surrounds a particular phenomenon. They offer a contextual perspective from which specified sets of events under investigation should be analyzed and interpreted. This trend of having a theoretical base for making interpretation traces its precedence and background from the early stages of development of the subject of geography. This practice gives a perspective as well as a justification for discussing phenomenon in a specified manner. However, it has not been possible to come up with a single universally agreed view regarding the meaning and purpose of the subject of geography.

One of the plausible philosophical positions is that espoused by the legendary Kant which contends that space is not an empirical concept but a necessary representation (Kant in Werlen, 1993). He argued that the discipline of geography was concerned with descriptions. An attractive and more contemporary point of view is the one advanced by

Werlen (1993), who contrasted Kant's notion when he stated that space is a frame of reference for the material sides of social actions which serves as a concept for classification purpose. He justifies the classificatory characteristic of space as one which enables us to describe the order of physical objects using their specific dimensions while the conceptual framework aspect helps us to explain the impact of the social actions of human beings on the physical world. Under this view human beings are seen as actors who transform the social world where they are domiciled.

Werlen (1993) extends the horizon of this argument when he suggests that the new focus should be on the subjectivity of the actions in relation to the physical world. This means that OVCs as human beings are subject to many forces that are not within their control. As such social actions that reproduce the social world rather than space should be the focal point of emphasis. Under space, OVCs' lives are highly localised and spatially restricted. Children's material space is only meaningful when considering the performance with certain intentions, and under certain social (and subjective) conditions. The localisation and subjectivity of physical categories of action to the socio-cultural conditions is what becomes to be termed as place. Thus, place is that portion of space occupied by a person or object. This shows that actions taken are different at different places due to varying characteristics of the socio-cultural factors. Holt-Jensen (1999) defines a place as an exact restricted part of space defined by a particular content.

In the case of my study, place is represented by the institution called SOS Children's Village, which derives its meaning from its inhabitants, the OVCs. In undertaking this study, the prime goal is to provide an explanation on the constraining and enabling aspects of socio-cultural, psychological, and material factors in terms of the conditions and consequences of actions on OVCs (Werlen, 1993). Holt-Jensen (2004) similarly, points out that space is contained in objects in the sense that object is said to exist only as far as it contains and represents within itself relationships with other objects. Sack (1997) argues further that place unites the realms of nature, social relations and meaning. This clearly, shows that place has a direct influence on the formation of and development of

self (Holt-Jensen, 1999). Correspondingly, Curry (1996), points out that the place of space in geography is in theory.

Therefore, efforts of SOS Children's Home in altering the status quo regarding the deprivations in terms of capacities among OVCs are stationed in the, space and place perspective of geography. OVCs are a troubled and vulnerable category of childhood. Childhood in this case is the identified space of personhood in which there are consequences for those categorised as children as well as the counter-category of adults (Qvortrup, 1997). This is a period when children are dependent upon parents or someone entrusted with the responsibilities of guardianship. This anticipated support from the parent or guardian is in terms of physical basic needs, and moral guidance for the acquisition of capacities to deal with the demands or burdens of the future. As implied, the issue of prime importance is the actions of the Children's Home in attempting to alter the status quo of the OVCs' vulnerability. This view is consistent with Werlen (1993) who advocates that actions rather than space should be the focus of inquiry in human geography. Holt-Jensen (2004) in supporting this viewpoint summed it up that actions are, however, actions in space.

This supports the view of Kant (1781) in Curry (1996) who contended that space and time cannot be perceived but that we are only able to perceive a series of instants, or objects that seem to occupy volume. In this case, OVCs are part of the broad group of children occupying this space (childhood). Other geographers have argued that it is better to designate such kind of space as relational space since its representation is according to its relationship to other objects (adulthood). This means that for us to recognise that life exists, it must be contrasted with death just as light is defined by the presence of darkness.

4.2 Capability Approach

Capability approach is a broad framework for making assessment of individual wellbeing. It highlights the difference between 'means' and 'ends', and between substantive freedoms (capabilities and outcomes) of the individual involved. Poverty is

identified as the main obstacle to human ambitions. According to Kabeer (2001) poverty is seen in terms of deprivation, either in relation to some minimum basic needs or to resources necessary to meet a particular need. This perception reflects the focus of recent approaches to development that emphasize people-centeredness; social capacitation, fulfilment of human needs and substantive freedoms. Pieterse (2002) argues that in using this view point, development can be said to be enabling as it is seen to be enlarging people's choices. This is a shift from the earlier conception of development that prescribed the exploitation of natural resources and opening of markets for the benefit of the country (Jenkins, 1992). This new strand on development accentuates human flourishing and human rights as the prime goal of development (Friedman, 1992). This alternative approach to development ascended to the development agenda as a response to the failure of economic growth to benefit the poor and the marginalised through trickle down effect.

The capability approach was pioneered by Amartya Sen's work on capabilities and entitlements. Sen (1993) argues that wellbeing (or the standard of living) be considered in terms of human functioning and capabilities, that is, what people are able to do and be, or the quality of their lives, and on removing obstacles in their lives so that they acquire the freedom to live the kind of life which upon reflection, they find value in it. Wellbeing in this vein is seen in terms of a person's ability to do valuable acts or reach valuable state of being (Sen, 1993). Thus, people choose the life they have reason to value. Functioning in this regard is taken to mean an achievement while capability is the ability to achieve. Sen (1999) argues further that there is a strong case for judging individual advantage in terms of that person's capacities and his/her substantive freedoms to pursue the kind of life he or she has reason to value while income is a predisposing condition for an impoverished life.

The overriding advantage of this approach is based on its ability to explore a broader range of 'means' as well as 'ends'. The 'means' in this case are a person's endowments while the 'ends' are that person's functioning achievements. The 'ends' have intrinsic importance, while the 'means' are instrumental for reaching the goal of increased

wellbeing, justice and development. The waning of traditional support and care system in which members of the extended family assumed social responsibilities over the orphaned children has deprived the OVCs of the capabilities to a decent livelihood. This system is overstretched making members of the extended family less receptive to OVCs. Crehan (1992) observed that rights and obligations of children are primarily determined by norms of kinship. A child's relationship with the head of household is an important factor on the welfare of a child within that household. A distant relative may be treated harshly than the head's own child. This is reflected in the performance of household chores and the access to food and other essentials within the household. Thus, OVCs find themselves performing odd household chores such as selling merchandise at the market. These activities undermine OVCs' capabilities to the desired self respect and dignity required for their well being. Under such circumstances, children are de-motivated from seeking refuge with relatives and opt to fend for themselves through illegitimate survival strategies.

The strides of the Children's Homes are publicly acknowledged as noble attempts aimed at positively influencing the lives of the OVCs. This is based on the fact that services offered at these institutions are those aimed at meeting basic needs as well as enhancing the capacities of the children to live self fulfilling lives. My focus in using this approach is to assess how the SOS Children's Homes impacts on OVCs' freedom to choose life they have reason to value. According to the capability approach, the ends of wellbeing should be conceptualised in terms of the OVCs' capabilities to undertake activities they would delight to partake in, and to be whom they want to be. This is contrary to obtaining trends where extenuating circumstances of poverty lead OVCs to engage in odd activities such as child labour, prostitution, begging in streets, and stealing. The achievements (functionings) constitute what makes life valuable. They include being literate, healthy and being respected within their communities.

The prime goal is that, OVCs get the freedoms (capabilities) to lead the kind of lives they want to lead and to be persons they want to be. Once they have the freedoms, they can choose to act on those freedoms in line with their own ideas of what constitutes a

good life. The OVCs therefore, should be given an opportunity to be part of a community with fixed places of abode where they can participate in all activities that are supposed to be undertaken by children of their age.

Thus, the capability approach will enable me to evaluate SOS Children's Village according to its impact on OVCs' capabilities. It will help me examine the opportunities available for good livelihood such as whether OVCs are well nourished, and whether conditions for this capability (sufficient food supplies and food entitlements) are met. It will further seek answers on whether OVCs are healthy, and whether the necessary resources for this capability such as access to medical care, protection from infectious diseases, and basic knowledge on health issues are present. Questions will be answered regarding whether OVCs have access to education, and whether the activities of the Village support them to cope with struggles of their daily lives. From OVCs' perception or experience of the intervention of the Village I will be able to know its impact on other capabilities such as guaranteeing of protection from abuse, and other freedoms such as being able to foster real friendships. Thus, the capability approach will enable me to cover the full ground of OVCs' wellbeing while they reside at SOS Children's Village.

According to Robeyns (2004), the ability to exploit a good in order to achieve a desired functioning is influenced by three groups of conversion factors; personal (such as gender, physical conditions, and literacy skills), social (such as public policies, social norms, and power relations), and environmental (for example, geographical location and climate). Personal conversion factors influence how a person can convert the characteristics of the commodity into a functioning. If a person suffers a disability or deformity, then a bicycle is of little help to enable the functioning of mobility. Hence, knowing the capabilities that OVCs own is not enough to know which function they can achieve. Therefore, we need to know much more about the OVCs themselves and about the circumstances in which they are living. Thus, there are other means that function as inputs in the creation or expansion of capabilities for orphans and the study should be able to highlight the material and non material circumstances of SOS Children's Village that shape OVCs' opportunities and circumstances that influence the choices.

Capability Approach is therefore best suited to offer a framework for explaining the impact of the SOS Children's Village on the lives of OVCs. Nussbaum (1999) points out that, one of the main strengths of the capability approach is that it considers people one by one, that is, it does not lump individuals into families and ignore the relations and unequal distribution of power within families. This approach takes into account the diversity in human beings and the heterogeneities of contingent circumstances. It takes into account the fact that functionings and capabilities vary through time and space depending upon the intrinsic characteristics of the OVCs concerned, and the prevailing social costumes. Therefore, from the details of the factors that lead to institutional care, opportunities and activities of SOS Children's Village, to the OVCs' experiences of the village, I will be able to explain the nature of influence that this institution has on OVCs.

4.3 Children as competent actors

There are various definitions which are employed to define children or aspects related to children. Qvortrup (1997) argues that childhood is a distinct category in our societies with several and often dramatic social consequences for those who are categorised as children, as well as those positioned into the counter category of adults. It is a socially constructed position defined by its relations within our generational structured world. Generationing in this case refers to a social interrelationship process through which some individuals are constructed as 'children' while others are referred to as adults. Inhabitants of each category are ascribed to have unique competences for its activities and identities. Children in this vein are taken to be wonderful gifts that should be universally nurtured carefully so that the best human beings are got out of them. This entails that there should be adequate investments in the welfare of OVCs in order to improve the future supply of quality manpower needed in the national development efforts.



Conducive Social costume (Play Park at Lusaka SOS): *source: field photographs*

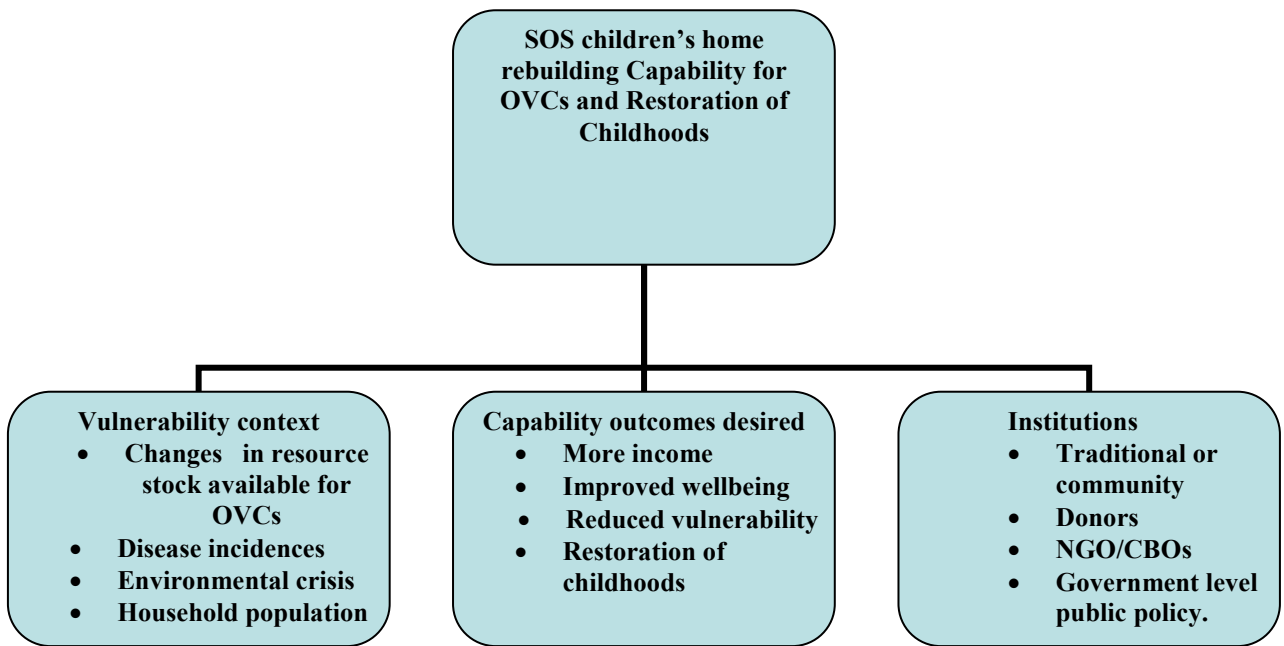
Therefore, children as part of childhood are taken to have these competences. This is seen from the voices of orphans and vulnerable children in the study who know for instance what they want to be in future. You do not need an adult person to expend their entire energy to guide the young ones nor do we need to predetermine their future.

4.4 Analytical model

I have given an analytical model below which shows how I interpreted the role of SOS in rebuilding OVCs' capabilities. According to this model, the vulnerability compromises the ability of OVCs to attain the desirable wellbeing status (in the model referred to as the capability outcomes). On the other hand the institutional structures such as NGOs, government, traditional or community safety nets and donors through various processes such as the policies, regulatory laws, and incentives (both formal and informal) help to lessen the magnitude of the vulnerability context. An example would be a government

policy to give tax exceptions on all materials (such as medicines and educational materials) meant for OVCs being brought into the country by an NGO would have a positive impact on the resource stock available to create desired capability outcomes. The medicines would reduce the disease incidences and generate improved wellbeing for OVCs. The same would be said of school materials which would be used to impart knowledge of various aspects of life such as how to protect themselves from abuse and creation of opportunities for better wellbeing outcomes, bearing in mind that OVCs are competent actors who knows what is best for them. This subject is explored further in chapter six and eight on how institutional structures facilitate SOS to rebuild the lives of OVCs. The vulnerability context is discussed in detail under chapter five.

The Analytical model



4.5 Conclusion

The combination of the capability approach and the analytical model will provide an explanation on how SOS rebuilds the lives of OVCs. Poverty deprives them of the capacity to be what they want. Poverty is seen in terms of deprivation, either in relation to some minimum basic needs or to resources necessary to meet a particular need because of their status as OVCs.

CHAPTER FIVE:

5.0 The OVC Problem in Zambia

You say love to an OVC and you give her a paragraph of development-Anonymous

This chapter portrays the magnitude of OVC problem in Zambia. It discusses my fieldwork findings besides the SOS chapter which is ahead. The chapter explains the factors that are responsible for the orphan problem in the country which has ravaged the country. It specifically looks at the OVC situation and the various responses that are available.

During my field work, I found that there are both donor and community programs attempting to respond to the problem of OVCs. I found that the donor funded initiatives often support household and community responses. Donor responses focused on the provision of psychosocial counselling, education, community livelihoods and advocacy such as domestication of Convention for the Rights of the Child. There are other programs advocating for public awareness of children's rights. Community responses on the other hand are preoccupied with issues of community livelihoods. I found that these reactions are what aided the (re)building of OVCs' capacities.

5.1 Factors that lead to vulnerability

There are a number of factors which leads to vulnerability, like the ones that will be discussed in chapter seven under reasons that lead to institutionalised support and from section on voices of OVCS. Some of the factors form the vulnerability context which was discussed above and they are as follows;

- Age; The OVCs who are younger are not able to defend and fend for their requirement. They may not understand the situation at hand.
- Sex; girls at higher risk of suffering from vulnerability. They are abused sexually and are made to carry out some major household tasks.
- Sizes of households where OVCs find themselves in; in large households OVCs may not easily cope in terms of food and other requirements.

- The relationship with deceased parents; If it is the father who died, they are bound to have more problems since fathers are in most cases the breadwinners.
- Economic activity of the surviving parent; this determines the extent to which OVCs are exposed to vulnerability.
- Separation of orphans and vulnerable children from their deceased parents' estates and from other sibling; the separation from the estates weakens their economic power while the separation from other siblings affects their emotions. In addition, some administrators of the estates tend to abuse their authority due to weaker laws.
- The frequency of moving from one household to the other also increases the risks of suffering from vulnerability.
- Alcohol abuse by some guardians; some guardians tend to spend a lot of time drinking alcohol such that by the time they get home they may not be in a position to find out what children have eaten or done on that particular day.

5.2 Factors Responsible for the orphan problem.

Poverty and HIV/AIDS are typically the main factors that are said to be responsible for the orphan problem in Zambia. In 1998 it was reported that there are 73% Zambians living below the poverty line (PRSP, 2002). This was blamed on the economic liberalization when most Zambians lost their jobs. In rural areas however, the numbers were higher. But in my view, economic restructuring speeded the rate at which people died especially in urban areas after losing their jobs. I experienced that in rural areas there were few alternative sources of income for the majority, as such many people were depressed and lost their lives. This left a lot of OVCs who needed care but unfortunately these children found themselves in institutionalised care. At about the same time, too, the country resorted to external borrowing to finance the budget and invested heavily on import substitution. (PRSP, 2002).

I can add the poor weather pattern which is currently bringing drought periods leaving the majority who remained alive not having enough crops to eat. However, the government

could have sourced drought resistant crops in good time to sustain people's livelihoods, whose animals mainly cattle are also lost, and these lead to death of people. This is by way of depression and actual hunger. Food aid is not coming at expected levels that could sustain their lives. My experience during field work is that people in responsible positions (government leaders) did not respond with drought resistant crops or alternative sources of income for the people.

The government with the support of GTZ and the United Kingdom's Department of International Development (DFID) runs a Cash Transfer scheme for supporting the most vulnerable children and households in Kalomo district. Under the Transfer scheme, a fixed sum is withdrawn at Finance bank at the end of each month. The scheme can reduce absenteeism from school class. It can also improve their nutrition and health which in turn would strengthen the desire of OVCs to lead a normal life.

As for HIV/AIDS, the first case of an HIV/AIDS was first reported in the country in the 1980s (UNICEF, 2004). The report estimates that currently there are 920,000 people in Zambia living with HIV, with about 94000 deaths as result of the disease per year. Abebe (2005) argues that the HIV/AIDS pandemic has a pervasive social, economic and development challenge besides being a medical problem. Most of the victims of these deaths are in the productive age group. My experience during fieldwork is that the awareness message on the HIV/AIDS disease, too, did not come in good time for people to prevent themselves from contracting the deadly disease. This ultimately would have lead to fewer cases of OVCs to be cared for by various household types as will be explained ahead.

5.3 Government Involvement.

My fieldwork revealed that government alone is not enough in responding to OVCs, while it can provide policy directions. However, the Ministries of Community Development and Social Services, Sport, Youth and Child Development, Education, and Health do have projects of children. The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services is participating in protection of children in Conflict with the law,

implementation of the re-designed Public Welfare Assistance Scheme for the Households and vulnerable persons such as the OVCs, while Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development is spearheading dialogue for steering the National Orphans and Vulnerable Committee to function, and draft the National Child policies.

There are also achievements that the government is credited for such as improvements in Public Welfare Assistance, offering free education, Child Care Upgrading program, and spread of Victim Support Units to over 300 police stations and police posts. Implementations, of the Food Security Packs which in turn can promote house hold Security for vulnerable families. There is also the delivery of bursaries support to secondary pupils. My own assessments are that while the government has scored in these areas, the burden on OVCs remains menacing.

5.4 NGO Response to the Problem.

In Zambia, the umbrella body to which most NGOs involved on intervening on OVCs have affiliated to in order to respond to the problem is SCOPE-OVC (UNICEF, 2002). This organization believes that community-led initiatives will have long-lasting impact to the OVCs problem within communities. There are however, many other organizations that are operating independently such as SOS Children's Village who are doing a marvelous job. I further experienced that, given the scale of OVCs in Zambia, the solutions to the OVC challenge is rooted in the community, with the family being in the front line of intervening to the problem.

SCOPE- OVC is designed to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on OVCs in Zambia by mobilizing, scaling up and strengthening community led responses and programs benefiting OVCs. SCOPE-OVC does not impose problems and solutions on communities. Through participation methodologies, the communities define the problems as they see them and then examine the problems to see what solutions can be developed within the community.

I found that, with the catalytic assistance of SCOPE-OVC, District Orphan and Vulnerable Children Committees (DOVCC) are formed. The membership is comprised of NGOs, community based organizations, religious institutions, appropriate government bodies (local and national) and the private sector (www.zambiango.com/operations.zm). Through listening to the community, the DOVCC is poised to assist the community with outside efforts when needed. However, the focus of the program remains for the communities to develop their own coping mechanisms and respond to the OVC situation in the manner deemed most appropriate by them without creating dependence on outside assistance. SCOPE OVC operates in eight districts. In the first phase of the project life, operations were in Lusaka, Livingstone, Kitwe and Mongu.

5.5 Female Headed Households

UNICEF (2002) reveals that this is the most hit household, with the majority of OVCs losing their fathers. Around 6% of Zambian children are orphans who live with their mothers. A further look reveals that in Zambia it is usually men who are breadwinners while women wait for results of men's efforts. Unfortunately, there are still high incidences of property grabbing. I have observed that most people may not know the value of leaving a written will to forestall this practice. This means therefore that many children still have to struggle to find basic means. As I indicated in the chapter above, there are still fewer Victim Support Units points at police stations (less than 300) where most victims would report this vice. This is helping abating the OVCs problem.

I found that sexual cleansing is still prevalent in most parts of the country, ignoring the legal rights of women. Further analysis revealed that, in some areas, that property sharing is tied to this traditional practice. Widows who wish to exercise this discretion of enjoying their legal rights are denied control of the assets left by the deceased. As such most OVCS resort to going to institutions like SOS, while their mothers are left to suffer.

If it is in rural areas these women and OVCs may just resort to doing hard jobs such as weeding in other peoples' crop fields. The fears of such hazardous jobs lead them to giving in to sexual cleansing for fear of less opportunity to control the property left by

their spouses. After all it is women and children who put in a lot of effort in acquiring such property. This is because men usually pretend or spend a lot of time to securing farming inputs. Sometimes, whilst these men are still living, they prefer to go to beer drinking places in the name of securing agro-inputs leaving the women and children to till or care for farm crops. Women rarely join cooperatives when their husbands are still alive. It is also unusual for a woman to attend these cooperative meetings leaving a man to work in the crop fields. This denies their children the opportunity to acquire necessary capabilities whilst their parents are still living.

5.6 Child Headed Households

This is a household where older children take care of their young siblings. I found child poverty to be a growing phenomenon in Zambia. According to UNICEF (2002), 16% of children are orphans. According to the 2002 PRSP, it is more prevalent in small scale farming communities and low cost areas where the incidence of poverty is highest than found in urban areas. It was not common a few years ago to find Child headed household. This time where ever you go it is conspicuous due to deaths of both parents leaving older children to look after their young siblings.

Child headed households and child labor are also phenomena indicative of child distress (PRSP, 2002). There are many sick adults who cannot contribute any more to household livelihood. According to UNICEF (2002), these do not fit social expectations of being house heads in both urban and rural areas, and find it hard to participate as household heads leaving the burden to children.

I found children heading households as a main capability problem, taking the variety of forms such as orphan, street children and working children. Older children drop out of school to take up these responsibilities.

5.7 Grandparents Headed Households

These are households that are led by grandparents. Where both parents have died, it is grandparents who look after OVCs. These have grown older to die from diseases caused

by illicit activities. Unfortunately, it has to be the female grand parents. It is rare for OVC to stay with their aunties and uncles. These claim to have many children to look after. I find most men or uncles to OVCs having extra marital affairs or are busy drinking beer. Again, these parents don't have enough energy to care for these children due to their advanced ages. This pushes OVCs to institutionalized care such as the SOS Children' Homes.

5.8 Conclusion

There are several factors that lead to vulnerability of orphans. However, loss of parents is still a critical factor that has caused the loss of capabilities and led to NGO intervention. Although medical treatment has been found that can prolong lives for HIV patients, it is not accessible by the majority of the people. OVCs tend to take higher loads of caring for households. They end up running away to institutionalized care and support. There should be a more deliberate policy by the government to make this medicine more available to the majority if the problem of OVCs is to reduce significantly. This can reduce the burden on grandparents and incidences of child headed households. Poverty reducing programs of the government especially those targeting households taking care of OVCS should be enhanced.

CHAPTER SIX

6.0 The Role of NGOs in Development

This chapter discusses some aspects of the government and NGO relationships in development. While the chapter looks at the involvement of NGOs in development in general, it has a bias on those NGOs which provide services to OVCs. It looks at factors that lead to NGO involvement in development such as politicians, local elites, lower level bureaucrats, and the hostilities of lower level employees of the state toward NGO activity. There is ignorance among the general citizenry over the role of government in taking development to their areas such as during the time of canvassing for electoral votes. This means that rightful beneficiaries are denied of social development.

6.1 Background to NGO involvement in Development.



Orphans relaxing at the round about: *Source: field photographs*

AS observed at SOS, poverty is seen in terms of capability deprivation, either in relation to some minimum basic needs or to resources necessary to meet a particular need. Most OVCs may have found themselves at the village (SOS) due to their acquired status. They have lost immediate beloved ones either one or both parents who could have shouldered the responsibility of providing for them. They are competent in knowing what they want but are deprived due to poverty and other circumstances.

The government has preferences of areas where to take social development and where to provide basic needs (Burkey, 1993). It decides when to take it, such as during canvassing for electoral votes. Therefore, the recent emerging role of NGO involvement in development has come at the time that Western donor agencies have lost faith in the ability of government to bring about social change for the majority of the people. According to Chepkwony (1987), government machineries of many countries have established desks to coordinate such efforts in both recipient and host countries. This is a similar scenario in Zambia where there are various such desks, some of which are at State house while others are at Ministries.

However, NGOs such as SOS have through their projects that are located in periphery or margin of the town, been able to reach some of the poor and the marginal groups in society (OVCS). Burkey (1993) argues that NGOs have afforded to provide them with a range of basic needs, especially to the OVCs. In this way, they are building OVCs' capacities.

6.2 Collaboration between the State and NGOs.

The NGOs have the potential to participate and contribute to several sectors of the Zambian society other than the State alone. According to the Institutional Response Assessment in the Ministry of Youth and Child Development, there are 418 legally registered organizations focusing on OVCs. This registration is done with the Registrar of Societies in Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development (MYSCD, 2004) shows that prominent NGOs such as the SOS Children's Village, Red Cross and Fountain of Hope have managed to integrate part of the OVCs into national development. These NGOs have one challenge which I found, to collaborate with the State unconditionally, while the State defined the level of interaction from the viewpoint of partners in development. I find it to be partnership based upon critical solidarity with the State. In this way, the NGOs do not reflect real concerns of the OVCs. Furthermore they do not reflect the laws formulated through constituent grass roots organizations such that they could interpret their own policy objectives. They do not equally interpret policy of the government but of the agencies that have sent them.

Another problem lays in the fact that donor NGOs of Western countries could be receiving financial subsidies from their governments to be channeled to the third world countries. This assistance have set criteria which the NGOs must adhere to, when distributing materials or funds to the third world countries. Some western NGOs such as Oxfam, United States AID (USAID), Care International, NORAD, and Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI) formerly Irish Aid, GTZ and many others implement policies that may not necessarily be in their interest let alone those of beneficiaries in times of need. Issues like good governances, such as holding democratic elections, anti-corruption policy implementation, and implementation of Poverty Reduction (PRSP) may not totally be in the immediate interest of vulnerable groups like the OVCs.

Additionally, growing funding from western governments to their own NGOs has bred a tendency where staff recruitment base is broadened in order to extend their operational zones in third world countries. The recruitment drive has resulted into recruiting of technical staff that is not different from those who work for western governments and agencies. This staff may not be well motivated.

Mengesha (2000), when writing on Development Roles of NGOs, argues that in the rethinking of development (coming up with another way of taking social development to communities), actors have stimulated belief that NGOs are appropriate to alleviating

poverty, strengthening civil society and promoting participatory grassroots community development. According to the Ministry of Finance, (a hand book for facilitators), (2003), participatory grassroots community development, is the use of workshop method, use of role play pair-wise ranking, cause/effect analysis ,use of seasonal calendars, daily activity chart, social and resource maps, and the use of five friends of planning.

6.3 Advantages of using NGOS in Development

Nonetheless, Mengesha, (2000) argues that NGOs have the potential of accruing development in the Zambian society. Besides making the loudest noise in luxurious and comfortable hotels held in conferences such as those found in cities, and their noise in mass media the NGOS are better at identifying local needs and constraints of the vulnerable. They may be few operating effectively in rural areas but, they are more sensitive and adaptable to the local conditions. The size of SOS has proved that despite their size, NGOs have the motivation which helps them to operate at the low cost.

The NGOs operate in rural areas for longer periods unlike government which is active only during general or bye-elections when they are seeking votes. The central governments are not very visible apart from offering traditional basic social services like schools, medical services among others. Even then its staff is usually de-motivated to serve in such rural areas where they are rarely visited by senior government officials. They walk longer distances to get their salaries, and to seek other entitlements, like leave pay and hardship allowances where it may apply.

The NGOs are less bureaucratic and can implement their decisions at short notice. In most cases, the NGOS have a lot of facilities such as transport which make work easier. Junior government officers would be seen going to ask for stationery from these NGOs in order for them to assist the vulnerable groups such as the OVCs. This is because they cannot easily access it without being sanctioned by their superiors.

6.4 Disadvantages of using NGOs in Development

Other people like Pieterse, (2002) argue that NGOs are autocratic and elitist meaning they are top down and rarely reach the poor. This is unlike the governments which are by their nature designed to serve the entire population. The governments play an enabling, facilitative and supportive role such as influencing the taxation policies on imported or donated goods from abroad for NGOs. It is only the governments which enable or facilitate the movements of these goods and materials for OVCs and other such vulnerable groups. If they feel these are to be used for ulterior motives against the state, the government officials may not allow the flow of these goods and materials. Pre-determined interventions (non community driven) can sometimes give a damaging impression. There are many stories of projects that are not community driven that yield opposite impressions. I have heard of projects promoting agricultural crops not suited for local environments or crops which do not have market.

Mengesha (2000) argues that governments control the laws governing registration, reporting, and accounting. This is unlike NGOs that have to seek government intervention. In most third world governments, there could be fear that NGOs can erode their political power and threaten the national security. As a result they harass and intimidate NGOs in whatever ways possible to them. Lower level government employees may be hostile against NGOs for fear of losing or surrendering their jobs to the NGOs that could be effective in that area of operation. Similarly, as the case was with SOS, party officials may feel these are interfering with its membership.

6.5 Types of NGOS and their activities.

Different interest groups such as United Nations, World Bank, JICA, and others employ different strategies to classify NGOs according to what they want to achieve. These use a sectoral classification of NGOs. It is also possible to say these institutions are many such as NGOs focusing on various sectors like on children, water, health, and integrated rural/urban development. NGOs such as Oxfam, United States AID (USAID), Care International, NORAD, and Development Cooperation Ireland (DCI) formerly Irish Aid, GTZ may attach conditions related to implementation of good governance policy. Thus,

there are many types of NGOs depending on the service at stake. I however find others to be independent in their operations while others may be intended to provide a packaged service of the interest of a particular agency.

My focus was not based on categorization of NGOs. I singled out on one which is focusing on children and other households, the SOS Children's village, which I have described more specifically in chapter seven. At the end of the day I do not find a specific preferred criterion for categorizing the NGOs. Each strategy of categorizing NGOs has a weakness as seen above where NGOs are attached to a particular government agency, especially those from the western countries. Community Based organizations usually do not attach much conditionalities.

6.6 Conclusion.

It is ideal for neither the government nor the NGOs to operate in isolation. Many donor agencies arrive with prepackaged solutions or channel their resources into predetermined sectors. There is need for flexible funding to support communities responding to OVCs. Each player, obviously have its strengths and weaknesses, but a joint effort is a far much better strategy of taking services to the vulnerable persons such as OVCs who find themselves in institutional care of the village. Furthermore, upholding the rule of law and observance of human rights and democratic principles are all tenets that benefit the citizens. When these governance issues yield fruits for the society, a lot of people including OVCs do smile and gets cheered.

CHAPTER SEVEN

7.1 Structures and Processes that help transform OVCS' Capabilities at Lusaka SOS Children's Village.

'A child's heart longs for genuine love so as to be free' -Hermann Gmeiner

This chapter gives a general profile of the Lusaka SOS Children's Village in relation to its structures, and how these are positioned to inspire capacities in OVCs to face the world on their own. It specifically reports on how the design of the Lusaka SOS Children's Home and its developmental activities influences the livelihoods of the children in shaping their own future. The main sources of data which I used in this chapter was from; the management of SOS, the OVCs who are the beneficiaries of the SOS intervention, the officers from government and the various documents which contained information related to the study objectives. The frontline office was the Public Relations wing of SOS which guided me to various points of relevance. The Social Centre which is the fulcrum of outreach activities brought me into contact with various OVCs as explained below. Officers from the department of social welfare in their various capacities as Juvenile Inspectors highlighted the issues of relevance as discussed below.

7.2 Structural Organisation of SOS Children's Village

The field photograph below shows the structural facilities that are found at the Lusaka SOS Children's Village. The explanation on the activities and how these facilities function is given below. The actual structural organization is discussed on the text which follows immediately underneath the field photograph on the next page.



Structural facilities offered at the Lusaka SOS. Source: field photographs

The Zambia SOS Children's Village Trust is an affiliate member of the SOS Kinderdorf International (KDI) based in Innsbruck, Austria which was founded in 1949, and today it has more than 1,567 projects in over 131 countries making it the world's largest private child care organisation (SOS KDI brochure). There are two such villages in Zambia that are presently taking care of children in this manner. One is the Lusaka SOS Children's Home while the other one is the Kitwe SOS Children's Home on the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. The two SOS KDI institutions are designed along ordinary community homes so that they provide a permanent family-like environment for children who have lost both parents and those whose guardians are unable to look after them. The two institutions are at par and are both accountable to the office of the National Executive Director and his national auxiliary staff of the Zambia National SOS Coordinating office based in the capital city, Lusaka.

7.3 Procedures for enrolment at SOS children's village-Institutionalization

SOS Lusaka Trust does not have a criterion for discriminating when considering applicants for admission to its facilities. All vulnerable children regardless of their race, nationality or creed are admitted to the institution as long as they hail from families ravaged by destitution. In fact, it has evolved a transparent and eligibility criterion for admission where partners play an active role in the screening process. In this process a form is filled in by officers from the department of social welfare who afterwards seek a court order to have children fostered by SOS. The basic requirement is that a child should either be orphaned, abandoned, or vulnerable in cases where they came from old or terminally ill parents.

Box 7.3

Target group

Child and Grandparent headed households

This target group was chosen following the stakeholder analysis that was undertaken at the beginning of the program which showed that these households had the highest risk. They were found to be consistently worse off, twice likely to be abused, too young or too old to engage in formal employment, petty trading and piece work, unskilled abandoned without economic asset. In most cases they had in their midst an HIV/AIDS infected person.

Source: SOS Brochure

The vulnerable household in this case is epitomised as a, double orphan headed household, grandparent headed household, those from a single parent who is terminally ill and the grandparent or child taking the role of the breadwinner. In instances where grandparents become a matter for admission, such household heads should not be less than fifty years old.

The bottom-line is to assist households that have no means to recover from stress. It is assumed that anybody below this age-limit is still energetic enough to fend for the siblings through seeking employment or any other means. A household head is defined as vulnerable when he or she is 18 years old or less, inclusive of those in pursuit of formal primary or secondary school. While at this age-limit they are expected to be competent actors, who are still busy acquiring other capabilities needed for future survival. Lusaka

SOS accepts an orphaned applicant to be eligible for enrolment when they have resided in the program's catchments area for at least a year. The final vulnerability criterion is when the household head is not under another support apart from what the SOS Social Outreach is providing.

7.4 Identification and enrolment for SOS support

As alluded to above, the Lusaka SOS program works in collaboration with other partners that have a track record in the field of child welfare. The Department of Social Welfare found in the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services has this attribute at a national scale. The technical input of the Department in securing Committal Orders from the Courts of Law is indispensable. The Lusaka SOS has a tested ally with such a long and an admirable track record not only in identifying child vulnerability, but also in defining parameters of what constitutes contextual defencelessness among the children and vulnerability among adult households. The department uses Community Welfare Assistance committees (CWACs) for such purposes.

Furthermore, the registration on of beneficiary households is supplemented by Community Child Care Committees who are active in outreach programs. These are composed of orphaned households, local leadership officials from police, schools, and of Community Based Organisations (CBOS). These enlist eligible households and are followed by a verification of vulnerability by the Child Care Committees (CCC) whose secretary is the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWOs) and the SOS Village Social worker.

7.5 Developmental Programs and how these influence capabilities for OVCs

In a just society, developmental activities can inspire children to accrue future benefits when harnessed properly. They have good influence on the OVCs' capabilities when we place equal importance on children's education and access to health facilities. These guarantee equal opportunities to OVCs' rights by raising their socioeconomic development. Equity to accessing education is of basic importance and a reflection of social justice that require a policy of affirmative action in favour of the disadvantaged

groups such as OVCs. Cultivation of knowledge, values, attitudes and skills is vital, as these are active champions in the crusade against poverty which ultimately enable OVCs to be instruments of social change. It is these attributes that the Lusaka SOS aims to fulfil so that children as analysed in chapter eight, would enjoy a stable and safer environment.

The sections below tabulate the activities of the Lusaka SOS Children's Home. There are issues tackled under various heading which are later analysed in chapter eight to gauge if the village is providing an environment which responds to the set analytical model and theory.

7.5.1 Outreach Activities of the Lusaka SOS Social Centre

The Lusaka social centre operates a communal program that embraces OVCs and their families, especially those with disadvantaged children. It targets households in the surrounding communities of the institution, especially those that have vulnerable persons in their midst. The social outreach program seeks to provide supplementary household budget for basic needs such as mealie meal, relish, cooking oil, charcoal, and beddings.

I asked Justine Lungu to explain the objective of this activity. According to Justine (Box 7.5.1,) the social centre director who prefers to be called Coordinator of the social centre has two foci. The main objective of the program is to mitigate conditions of poverty which leads to an increase of households with vulnerable persons, especially those catering for OVCs.

Box 7.5.1

The first line of response for a prospective child is the social centre. It reviews the needs of children in residence. When a problem is beyond, a child is referred to the village. Every member of the household should be productive.

- **A. Long-term based family care; deals with symptoms, that is, children abandoned.**
- **B. prevention of child abandonment, it's also called family strengthening program so that it reduces pressure on the village.**

Interventions in households include;

- **Short term needs- food, clothing, medical schemes, beddings, school, and shelter, prepare houses for rentals.**
- **Long term empowerment- assets left behind, farm inputs, IGA capital given to some after training them, help to acquire title deeds before improving the structures.**

Youths in these households are placed in vocational training program for skills. Pupils who are not good in school are strengthened in sport activities using different age groups. Others go for arts theatre so that they can commercialise in future. Training others in tie and dye. Multiple IGAs at the end of the day to broaden their choices. Others are given rice at half price. When they repay they are given back their money.

The program is proactive in the residential compounds of chipata, Kabanana, Chazanga and Mandevu. These have a cumulative total population of 89, 299 and 16, 300 households, respectively. As of June, 2003 the centre was assisting 103 households which had a total of 703 beneficiaries. The assistance rendered was in form of food supplements, medical support usually in form of medical scheme at SOS clinic, school bursaries, and dwelling (household development support) improvements such as carrying out renovations to the houses. Additionally, the program supports agricultural business in form of seeds and fertilizer. The program offers psycho-social counselling, and provides medical care to the traumatized and disease stricken families. As at June, 2003 the Lusaka SOS was rendering supporting to 298 children in primary and 17 children pursuing secondary school education. It had put 50 youths in Trade schools to enable them acquire entrepreneurial skills in carpentry and tailoring.

7.5.2 Lusaka SOS Village

All the family-type homes that are domiciled at the Lusaka SOS operate an institution of a sub village. About 15 houses are grouped together to form an SOS Children's community and provides an extended family household headed by a Village Father (Director) who performs the role of a father-head of the Lusaka SOS families. He supervises the village mothers, and other male employees. The foster mothers recruited for the task are supposed to be 40-45 years old, preferably widowed or divorced. The family environment is necessary. The mother figure is important and is assisted by an aunt in a household. The twelve children of all ages (from shortly after birth if they are abandoned) grow up in family houses with conditions similar to those obtaining in an ordinary residential family. These children attend public schools and are encouraged to integrate with those in the surrounding communities.

Enrolment of children to these institutional homes is done from infancy to the age of ten, and children are institutionalized until 18 years of age when they are able to begin their own independent lives. It is at this age that children are discharged from the institution so that they do not corrupt the young ones with ill- manners acquired from their peers or else where.

These ten to twelve children, boys and girls of varying ages grow up like brothers and sisters who are cared for in small family- type group homes known as SOS families. Each SOS family live in a house of its own under the custodianship of the family house mother who is entrusted to provide a sense of care and affection that they need, to ensure their sound development. These SOS village mothers have various competences in terms of vocational trainings. Others are nurses by training while others underwent some mandatory tailor made two years in- house training in child care. The courses include psycho-social counselling, child psychology, nutrition, stress management. Their training is both practical and theoretical. According to the representative of house mothers, a routine is given to a child in the house as in box 7.5.2

Box 7.5.2

Children go to school; the older ones help young ones. They knock off from school at 16.00hours. Each family has a garden where chores like watering of vegetables are done. They make a budget to buy requirements such as shoes. Foster mothers are encouraged to take annual leave, so that they are off from these stressful jobs. Care for kids give them love, respect to replicate the house hold child upbringing. Biological kids are allowed to visit, not to stay.

Look, five kids are going to Ghana international college for those that excel.

Source: House Mother Representative

7.5.3 SOS Educational facilities

The SOS education program endeavours to develop the child, holistically through Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary education. Within the village is an SOS kindergarten which admits children from the Village itself as well as those found in the surrounding communities. There are plans to establish community kindergartens which are to be managed by the local communities. SOS will provide training and assist in sourcing teaching aids.

There is a Hermann Gmeiner school which was opened in January 2001 and has the capacity for 1,000 children. Out of this number, 360 are orphaned and vulnerable children from the surrounding communities. There is a deliberate policy to socialize the OVCS with those from non- vulnerable social settings through school enrolment. This school

has classes from grade 1 to 12. Those from non orphaned settings pay a higher amount of money.

7.5.4 SOS Medical centre

The medical facility was officially opened on 21st of June 2002. Its objective is to complement the existing medical facilities in the area surrounding the Village. It provides clinical services to primary health care cases. The centre provides clinical and medical laboratory services as well as conducts HIV/AIDS awareness programmes in collaboration with other organisations such as the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, USAID, and the Zambia Integrated Health Project (ZIHP). The centre too, is actively involved, in programmes relating to child health such as Child Health Week and conducts the Under Five Clinics. The number of patients being attended to is over 10, 000 patients during each year. According to the medical officer at the centre, for children in residence, the common condition is malnutrition with anaemia, skin conditions such as ring worms, malaria and other chest infections like influenza.



OVCs waiting to be attended at the Lusaka SOS medical centre

7.6 Specified danger occurs at SOS

On the front page of Volume 1, Issue 3 of July to September 2003 the SOS newsletter (quarterly publication), there is a picture of a family house which had been burnt killing two orphans, Josephine Kalonga aged nine and Karen Phiri aged five. According to this article titled '**Tragedy at SOS**', on this fateful night there was an electrical power disruption which forced the residents to use candles to provide light. When it was time to sleep at 21:00 hours, the mother for this family of twelve went round putting out candles. Unfortunately in one room the boys re-ignited a candle and hid it under the bunk bed so that it could give them some light. However, this candle started a fire which the boys attempted to put off. When they failed they started waking up their brothers and sisters, and by the time they were alerting their mother the fire was already burning the ceiling in the roof. This trapped and burnt to death the said girls.

This incidence attracted sympathy in the form of messages of condolences from among others, UNICEF country representative (Stella Goings), Banks and Mindolo Ecumenical foundation. These two children had gone to seek refuge but ended-up perishing.

7.7 Voices of Children on their experiences of life under the SOS Intervention

The voices of children under SOS intervention gave accounts which led them to this institution. Children talked to believed that the tasks of children in modern childhood is to be companionable, to be loved and loving as well as to meet the more traditional requirements to respect, honour and above all to obey elders. Children felt they were not highly localized and spatially restricted. They did not consider obedience to house mothers to mean being within their sight, or to be within particular distances, or inside the SOS authorities or within the house, within a particular room or rooms. Nonetheless, confinement to an area of the house such as in a bed is taken as part of the everyday parameters of a well disciplined childhood. They take the logic of these restrictions as intended to protect them from particular adults and strange ones.

However, OVCs need protection from particular adults given the possibility of abuse by familiar men within the SOS jurisdiction such as Community Mobilizers. A Community

Mobilizer is a committed community member, elected by the Community Orphans and Vulnerable Committee (COVCC) to be in direct contact with the beneficiaries and a linking pin to the SOS social centre coordinator. Each is assigned to 25-30 households which they visit regularly to give the necessary emotional, psychosocial and material support.



Children entertaining guests at the SOS DAY

Since children at SOS come from different backgrounds each one of them has a rational way of solving problems. Some of them would report their concerns to the Village Mothers while others resort to fighting and insults. This is typical of children, I guess, they are free to do things in their own way depending on the influence they acquired. When new children are enrolled to SOS programs and homes, most of them are concerned about money matters. They feel a need to have cash in their pockets to send to siblings who have remained behind. This tendency was attributed to the burden of

providing for their families as well, and was mostly associated with children from child headed households.

Some of the children talked to, had never been in school or had stopped attending school. This made them have an inferiority complex that needed to be changed, to enable them take up their position in society. Most of them were enthusiastic about gaining an education that could enable them become successful and later be respectable. I interviewed eight children and randomly picked five responses as reflected below;

Box7.7.1

My name is MM, I am 16 years and doing grade 10, my father died a month before I was born. He was a motor vehicle mechanic. My mother is in Kalomo. I am from a family of 2 girls. I usually visit the family. Had stopped going to school, do not know other relatives. I was at Cindi in Kalomo who provided food and clothing. Then recommended to come to the SOS Village in 2000. I came to start school in grade six. I intend to become a business lady after school.

Source: Field Interview

Box 7.7.2

My name is DL, I am 15 years old grade 9 pupil. Both my parents died in Solwezi. My biological mother died when I was 2months. Maternal grand mother looked after us. I have 2 sisters and one brother. I came from Ndola to SOS in 2000. The main problem was school. I have benefited through having a good doctor, good education. I have good shelter in terms of beddings. One bed each now, but before coming we used to share one bed. If bed is soiled was a problem. Mothers here have taught us a lot of things such as budgeting, cooking, cleaning of houses, how to be friendly. Teachers are good, spiritual information, good diet hence fewer ailments as compared to before.

Source: Field Interview

Box 7.7.3

My name is CM aged 15 and doing grade eight. Both parents died; mother 1990s and father in 2000. My grand father took care of me. I Came in 2002 to SOS. My step mother did not like me. I had problems with step sister before my father died in Zimbabwe. We were always fighting. Her mother used to buy her a lot of things as such she was always teasing me. Her mother said to me you will die like your mother if you start coming late from your study groups at school. School was my main problem.

Source: Field Interview

Box 7.7.4

I am FKM and I am 16 years doing grade 8. Both my parents are dead. I don't know when my mother died but my father died in 2002. I came to SOS in 2001 because my step mother did not like me. She was always beating me. I was not in school for sometime. Here at SOS I enjoy some measure of respect from those who are younger than me unlike in my fathers' home. I like it being here and want to SOS College in Ghana like Justina Kilumelume and her brother so that I become a doctor in future. Here we perform our chores at our own time, so we have freedom to work at our own pace, not where want to study someone disturbs by sending you to do their things.

Source: Field interviews

Box 7.7.5

My name is SM, I came to SOS on 7th April 2000. Both parents are dead, my mother died when I was 2 months. My grandmother is looking after three of my sisters. School, food clothing and medical care were a problem before I came here. But here I go to school and I am able to see a doctor, the diet is excellent. Teachers are good to me and they encourage me to work hard. They give us spiritual information, I have few ailments now and so many things not realisable without SOS sponsorship.

Source: Field interviews



Pupils mingling at SOS School: *Source: Field photographs*

7.8 Other findings in communities around Zambia

7.8.1 Causes of lack of capability and lack of income for OVCs and their guardians

One of the interviewees but has no OVCs at SOS Children's Village made the following observations which are important in rebuilding capabilities for OVCs. These observations include issues that affect the guardians of OVCs and OVCs themselves in rebuilding the capabilities.

- There is less cash in the economy especially in rural areas.
- Wife battering (beating) is common in rural areas and in residential compounds.
- Unemployment levels (formal jobs) are very high.
- Inadequate agricultural extension and inputs.
- Agricultural inputs are not distributed in time too.
- Small groceries (Ntembas) in rural villages.
- People keep small livestock (chickens and goats)
- Young, such as OVCs are involved in charcoal burning.
- Marketeers selling agricultural produce and this task are left to OVCs.
- Local groupings are not strong, hence not recognized by outside organization.
- Lack of social facilities- community halls for entertainment
- Minimal support for CBOs
- Insecurity of land tenure
- Clean water is a problem, people depend on shallow wells
- Use of traditional medicines is very common because of higher user fees at health centers.
- Many community based schools for OVCS
- Not much skills training for OVC
- Roads are impassable during rain seasons

7.9 Conclusion

SOS has extended the horizon of hope for OVCs in the manner that transforms their capabilities into lives they desire to live. Most of the children know what they want to be

or are capable of becoming, and the SOS institutions are helping them to realise them. The OVCs had lost their self esteem and confidence. The biggest challenge was restoring it and reminding them that they are worth than what their guardians were telling them. They had learnt to come out in the open and not to be afraid of expressing themselves since the Zambian cultural context does not really promote free expression of oneself. I further observed that children loved, respected and cared for each other especially their 'siblings' while they longed to maintain things like personal hygiene. One other advantage of being at the village which I found is the many peer group associations, such as scripture union, dance groups, and drama which tend to improve learning skills or capability skills.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Education is a basic human need, right and not a commodity for the highest bidder on the market!-Zambia Post Newspaper

8.0 Analysis and Discussion of the Findings

This chapter gives an in-depth analysis of various issues that are affecting OVCs in relation to their institutionalized support and care at SOS Children's village which are necessary for building capacities. It further discusses issues raised in the other chapters. It has a detailed analysis of the routine of children as raised from the Boxes 7.7.1 to 7.7.5 and from the management of the Lusaka SOS village. Although the perception of children over the SOS intervention has been reflected in the said Boxes, it is also discussed further on the sections that follow below. I used the capability approach because of its nascent and budding nature in making arguments, and children as competent actors to analyze my data. The two theories offered a contextual perspective from which specified sets of events under investigation should be analyzed and interpreted (Werlen, 1993). This trend of having a theoretical base for making interpretation traces its precedence and background from the early stages of development of the subject of geography.

The whole idea of the chapter is to put into my perspective the various issues that have been raised in the other chapters so that I make an informed assessment of how the SOS intervention in rebuilding the capacities and lives of OVCs is seen. This is because the issues in some cases were raised by interested parties who would have some form of leaning or inclination towards a particular position. The issues raised in the analytical model are also integrated in analysing how SOS is working on attaining the desired capability outcomes for the OVCs.

Thus, the chapter examines how SOS children's village has been rebuilding the orphans and vulnerable children's capacities particularly using the data that was being collected, and how this corresponds with the theories articulated in chapter four. The chapter also looks at how these issues respond to the objectives that were set at the beginning. I will first give a summary of my analysis.

From the beginning factors such as loss of parents and poor community response were found to lead to the institutionalization were given in chapters five and six, while the voices of the children were heard in chapter seven, particularly on what led to their institutionalization. They also explained that they knew what they wanted to be in future as detailed below. Government programs were found to be inadequate as highlighted below and this led to the birth of a vibrant NGO support and care. Outreach programs strengthen the capacity of families and community to care for OVCs.

8.2 Explaining the voices of children

8.2.1 What causes the loss of capabilities for Orphan and Vulnerable Children?

In chapter seven, there are a number of reasons that were given by the children that led OVCs to come under institutionalized care and support of SOS. The basic one was loss of parents and lack of willing but capable guardians to provide shelter for them. These children had no homes, they sometimes went to roam the streets where they faced the harsh realities of being homeless, and they did not attend school and had no access to health facilities (Boxes 7.7.1 to 7.7.5). In the streets, they lacked medical care which is a necessary provision in attaining a desired capability outcome. Schools have also a multiplier effect in arriving at good wellbeing status. SOS sent five children to its International School in Ghana where children will have extended opportunities to further their education. It is a potentially capacity and economic boom miracle to befall them since even most of the other ordinary children who live with their parents may not have access to higher education of which presents such opportunities to acquisition of quality capacities.

The existence of a school facility and the fact that most children attested to the fact that they attend school is an indication of the routine of an institutionalized OVC. This routine is confirmed by the interview in Box 7.5.2 which was held with the Representative of House Mothers. She gave a precise schedule where older children would help young ones, such as dressing them up or making their food before leaving for school. Such a routine instills a sense of responsibility in OVCs which is essential for community and

adulthood tasks. This helps to acquire lifelong capabilities and speak as shown on photo below

Such a situation is fortunate because no child can endure hostile environments that deprive them of chances for (re)building their capacities. This showed that the government and other institutions had a bigger role to ensure that children attain skills (lessening the vulnerability context), which could earn them a living in their adulthood.

Furthermore children expressed happiness with the benefits that they had accrued from the SOS interventions which included good diet, access to medical care, protection from physical assaults or beatings, and a friendly environment where they planned or scheduled their activities unlike where they came from where they were not too sure of how the next moment would be (boxes 7.7.1 to 7.7.5). This shows that SOS offers stable environments for nurturing of OVCs. These are requirements that are necessary in reducing the contexts that breeds vulnerability for OVCs as tabulated in the analytical model. Such a scenario offers what I would term as a fertile ground for rebuilding capacities of OVCs.





A residential house (decent shelter) for OVCs at Lusaka SOS

Although there was a fire tragedy (section 7.6 above) that had occurred at the Lusaka SOS, it is still a safer place for those OVCs who came from households where they were verbally and physically abused. The circumstances under which this tragedy occurred are not peculiar to SOS alone, any other household could experience similar incidences. It can be argued that this sole incidence cannot be used as a yardstick to discount the many gains that SOS had achieved in rebuilding the lives of OVCs. Poor service delivery in form of intermittent power supplies by the power company are common in Zambia and the use of alternatives such as candles for lighting is not strange.

As mentioned above from respondents both young and old, they indicated that the main problem is that of losing of parents and guardians who could be helpful in looking after OVCs. As such I find that the importance of the capabilities for OVC and their subsequent (re)building by SOS in the fight against poverty among orphans and

vulnerable children cannot be overemphasised. It is clear from the findings that poverty can be caused by violations of human rights, particularly OVCs' rights to non discrimination in their capabilities. In some homes orphaned and vulnerable children were being subjected to too many household chores which ranged from drawing water, cleaning plates, sweeping houses and taking care of their siblings.



OVCs produce part of their fresh foods at Lusaka SOS

The national government did not give SOS Children's Home conditions in terms of major resources and incentives for its operation. Such acts would not generate enough impact on the vulnerability context of OVCs. If this goodwill existed at appreciable levels it would accelerate the rates at which OVCs attained desired wellbeing status which in turn would be beneficial to the economic status of the country.

The OVCs talked in an unhindered manner of the way they came to SOS intervention. Their voices further revealed that their capabilities, before coming under SOS intervention were compromised by the various repressive guardians. For instance in the case of CM in box 7.7.3 in the last paragraph, the child was being labelled for coming late from her school study group instead of encouraging her in educational pursuits. This particular orphan was being constantly reminded of the manner of death of her mother. This is a very unfair way of building OVCs capacities. This affected child was being deprived of child development activities and interaction with her fellow children in their communities as seen from box 7.7.3.

When OVCs are denied equal access to social services, exploited as labourers, prevented by law or custom from owning or inheriting property, they are definitely vulnerable to poverty. I find the provisions of the UNCRC to be consistent with a traditionally held Zambian view that children are a basic insurance for an old age, and during the time of illness. This notion makes a lot of sense in a nation without a defined state welfare provisions for its citizens.

In view of the above, I consider that there is need to reach the people in every part of the country so that they could be compassionate enough to take care of children who lose their parents instead of rushing (Box 3.0) children to SOS because of its limited capacity to care for them. It is also an alien way which should be of the last resort. There was equally a need to train communities on caring for the sick instead of leaving the burden to the young siblings to take care of the patients. This could benefit such members of communities from available information on prevention, treatment and care for the patients who were suffering from long term illnesses. This could reduce the urge of wanting to push the burden of looking after children to institutions such as SOS whose capacities are limited. There was need to work with community based organizations (CBOs) who could have skilled manpower and a pool of common resources in implementing this strategy.

8.3 Restoring lost childhoods and enhancing coping mechanism

As shown in the analytical model, my experience at SOS has proved that institutions and government institutional processes such as policies can be used as ladders in achieving

the desired capabilities for OVCs and other vulnerable persons. SOS was able to act as buffer zone between the OVCs and their suffering, and subsequently became a means towards the desired capability outcome. The government can provide conducive operational environment by adopting a positive attitude and policies towards the work of NGOs to restore the lost childhoods and coping mechanisms for OVCs. It shows that there should be a liaison between government other than having ‘cat and mouse’ relationship through Juvenile Inspectors. The idea of using the Social Welfare structures such as the Community Welfare Assistance Committees which have been formed by the District Social Welfare Office is a good starting point.

Furthermore, as discussed above government programs are not sufficient enough to reach vulnerable children. Programs such as the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme, Police Victim Support Unit, Zambia Social Investment Fund, and Micro Projects Unit (MPU), Cash Transfer scheme for supporting the most vulnerable children and households as conceded by the Ministry of Finance have proved to be inadequate in assisting the OVCs (MOF, 2002). The means that the Zambian government must seriously think of working with NGOS in implementing programs such as extending free education up to grade 12 to enable more OVCs have access.

Before most of the OVCS went to SOS, they were staying with grandparents who were not employed. Children could excel to go to grade eight but did not have anybody to assist with money to pay for their education. They got their education at community schools and primary schools because there was no requirement for school uniforms but at secondary school uniforms and fees are required which cannot be afforded by OVCs in most compounds. After all it is government’s social responsibility to ensure that every child had secondary education, which needs sponsorship. If OVCs did not go to SOS most of them would have ended up at primary school level because their grandparents who were keeping them could not afford to pay for secondary education.

As discussed above emphasis on policing NGOs is not the best way of restoring the lost childhoods. Soon or later, government leaders would start urging the NGOs such as SOS

to play a role in uplifting standards of the poor in their speeches. In urban areas the OVCs were turning to streets for a livelihood in full view of everyone. They were heading households and they were currently excluded from mainstream education system. They seemed not to be an issue to politicians yet the majority of the populations in the nation were children (chapter two, section 2.2). It will be the case that OVCs will spend most of their time looking for food. Therefore, government should the listen to the plight of OVCs once and for all other than promising doing so all the time, especially during elections time.

8.4 Zambia's Public policy regarding national poverty and OVCs

The record appreciation of the Kwacha (chapter two, item 2.4), which also triggered uncertainties in the money market, had prompted government to call on business houses in the country to reduce the prices of their goods and services so that the ordinary citizen such as OVCs could benefit from the gain of the local currency. Despite the fact that the state can fire these salvos at private enterprises such as forcing price reductions on commodities, this development had not come. Yet, again, in practice, opening markets may not necessarily generate development for the country and allow OVCs' capabilities to thrive. I will further discuss at the bottom on the IMF guidance on poverty reduction in the country.

While the community based organizations should take centre stage in the (re) building of OVCs capabilities, SOS Children's village through its project has reached the OVCs and marginal groups in society and provided them with basic needs. SOS has placed emphasis upon OVCs in rebuilding capacities than on institutional and structural interaction, and cooperation. However, 'independent' and international NGOs like SOS cannot bring social development alone.

Government machineries of many donor countries have established desks to coordinate social change in recipient and host countries. The tendency is to have a substantial impact on national economy at macro and micro levels (Chepkwony, 1987). Nonetheless, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board (2006) has expressed concern over

the widespread poverty in Zambia. The IMF has advised Zambia to priorities the clearing of arrears to various contractors, and reforming the pension scheme. However, they were encouraged by the authorities' commitment to further spending on poverty reducing programs (PRPs) and implementation of a structural reform agenda aimed at increasing productivity and raising incomes, particularly the households looking after OVCs.

The IMF directors were this year (2006) impressed with the maintenance of macro-economic stability. They welcomed the sustained efforts to strengthen the public finances which have contributed to improved macro-economic stability.

However, I find the International Monetary Fund's concern over the widespread poverty in Zambia hypocritical. I find further that its policies such as imposing spending limits on our already much weakened government untenable and contributing to the loss of capability of OVCs. The policies make it impossible for our government to make much progress either in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDG) or in cutting hunger and poverty in half. The MDGs include achieving universal primary education, reducing maternal and infant mortality by 2015.

The indirect control exercised by the IMF over our country's macro-economic policies is straitjacketing government's ability to deal with urgent social, health and economic issues, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and likewise the ability of this country's voters to influence those policies. Zambia's people, especially those who vote, strongly favour greater efforts to improve the health and welfare of the poor, such as the OVCs after all the poor make up the vast majority (73%) of our country's people (chapter two). As such the OVCs talked to had to rely on SOS Children's Home for rebuilding their capacities and for survival? They have their government and Community based organizations that have to do it.

Clearly, our government's decisions are subordinate to the IMF's rules and directions, and the country is held captive by these decisions without much recourse. There is a fundamental contradiction here, between the need to greatly scale up social spending to

fight HIV/AIDS and what can actually be spent under the IMF's current low-inflation monetary policy, which traditionally aims to keep annual inflation rates under five per cent.

I find it most strange that more money be spent in the economy without producing high levels of inflation that the IMF's low-inflation policy permits. But we cannot ignore the fact that donor governments and other financial agencies, including the World Bank, treat compliance with IMF target as the seal of good housekeeping, failure by our government to meet those targets risks a cut-off of external credit which need to go towards rebuilding OVCs capabilities, and restoring the lost childhoods.

8.5 Resources for (re) building capabilities, and restoring lost childhoods.

The IMF can effectively switch-off foreign aid flows to Zambia if it feels the country is not satisfactorily adhering to the agreed macro-economic framework. The MDG of providing universal primary education by the year 2015 is also threatened by the IMF's imposition of budget targets on the country. To meet this MDG, Zambia has to sharply increase our investment in building schools, training and employing teachers, and in making education more accessible to the poor and other disadvantaged children (OVCs).

But, to a large extent the government cannot do so without exceeding spending limits imposed by the IMF, thus making it effectively impossible for the government to meet its MDG commitments and the demands of the orphans and vulnerable children. Clearly, the IMF's policies are having a disastrous impact on the ability of the government to both curb the spread of HIV/AIDS and treat its victims. But the constraints faced by the government as a result of its dependence on the IMF's seal of approval have become ever more obvious since the MDGs were first adopted at the Millennium Summit by global leaders in 2000 (United Nations-Millennium Declaration,2000).

Indeed, with multilateral agencies, including the IMF's sister organization, the World Bank, warning that progress in achieving most of the eight MDGs is lagging badly, the

IMF's insistence on maintaining stringent budget limits appears increasingly strange, particularly in the light of endorsement by leaders of the Group of Eight

The current IMF policies may have seemed appropriate for combating the crisis of hyperinflation in many developing countries during the late 1970s and early 1980s, but its tactic of tightly constraining public spending in order to get inflation down and keep it down is at odds with what is needed today: new monetary policies that allow for a major increase in public spending especially towards OVCs .

As argued by Lewis (1968) the historical record indicates that Latin America in the 1950s and 1960s, and East Asia in the 1960s and 1970s experienced very high economic growth rates despite inflation levels that averaged 20 per cent per year. The short-term inflationary effects of increased and additional resources applied towards tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic pale in comparison with what will be the long-term effects of half-hearted responses on the economy of Zambia. AIDS is an exceptional disease; it requires an exceptional response (chapter six). The fact that the Zambian government is effectively encompassed in by the IMF is doing nothing to promote confidence in the democratic institutions. Hence, SOS has to be called from time to time.

Even the negotiations the IMF claims to be holding with Zambia from time to time can't be real. The negotiating conditions are unequal - an influential and powerful institution discussing matters with a country plagued with problems and difficulties, a country that has already been undermined and weakened. These are the absolute worst conditions for negotiating; the negotiating isn't done in conditions of equality. This is how the IMF is dealing with us. What kind of a future can our people have under such conditions?

The IMF is doing nothing to get us out of poverty with its contradictory commitments which are just blocking our progress. We have no alternative but to struggle and get ourselves out of this quagmire.

8.6 Traditional support for OVCs

The Zambian tradition is arranged in such a way that when a member of the family dies, relatives also share the orphan amongst themselves. These children are taken as 'children

not as orphans'. It is unusual to leave orphans to stay on their own. Several families had a number of orphans and had assumed all the social responsibilities that go with it such as meeting basic needs.

As heard from the voices of OVCs (Boxes 7.7.3, 7.7.2), there could as well be physical beatings of the orphans and vulnerable children and denying them food by their guardians. This a typical punishment in the Zambian society given to a child for failing to perform a chore or a way of inflicting some pain for no genuine reasons. However, as heard from the boxes the children has acquired a lot of benefits after coming to SOS Children' Village. Other than that every individual would like to work in a peaceful environment where their capabilities would be enhanced. There should be no worries behind ones' minds so that work could progress at a better rate.

8.7 Community participation in the care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Community participation is important to community ownership of OVCs programs to care for them. There is need for Registration of OVCs in each community and identification of the most needy. As indicated above, families have a strong bond towards children of a decease family member. Total institutionalisation such as putting them in SOS Children' Village affect their conscience. Few others may feel most often that the child has been taken away while many take it that they have been relieved especially now when there are so many deaths in the midst of diminished housed incomes. There should be volunteers to make school uniforms for OVCs. There is need for agricultural projects so that communities can grow vegetables to feed OVCs (Chapter Seven-SOS outreach project).

The role of property administrators has been misunderstood as there had been situations where administrators of estates assumed ownership of the deceased person's property at the expense of the rightful beneficiaries, OVCs and widows. This deprived them of food and requirements (Boxes 7.7.1, 7.7.2, 7.7.3). The benefit of the property is sometimes transferred to ones' siblings. These both torture the mind as well as the spirit of OVCs. In this way I find the opportunities of OVCs to be enhanced while at SOS Children' Village.

8.8 Environmental Crisis

As indicated on the analytical model, under the vulnerability context food crises not only for OVCs were once primarily triggered by natural disasters like droughts. But according to research by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO, 2005), man-made causes are increasingly to blame.

Climate change was resulting in droughts and flooding (especially in crop field) which were now frequent and threatening people's livelihoods, thus, reducing their capabilities especially for OVCs (Nzowa,2005).Unfortunately, changes in climate has no boundaries. Nzowa (2005) argues that Zambia had experienced crop failures because of droughts, which forced government to import large quantities of food to feed the population. Climate change can also affect the economy because the little money that is available to the country has to be diverted to buy food for the starving Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

The degradation of the environment and natural resources exacerbated by unplanned and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources has contributed to unfavorable climate change scenarios that continue to threaten man and the ecosystem. Climate change was a world-wide phenomenon attributed to global warming caused by accumulation of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide and methane.

8.9 Conclusion

The quality of SOS intervention is building in itself a monument in the hearts of OVCs. This liberation of OVCs from poverty can be summed up as a devotion to the most sublime or inspiring of all causes.

CHAPTER NINE

9.0 Summary, Conclusions and Recommendation

Over and above everything else, Zambia needs to give hope to its youth and prepare adequately for future development of the country by investing in education-Anonymous

9.1 Summary

The field data which I sought to describe patterns which emerged from OVCs was obtained from the OVCs in the field. As I highlighted from chapters above, samples were usually smaller so that it becomes easy to identify recurring words, and meaning. I empathized with OVCs which meant that I had to go forwards and backwards to acquire meaning contained in their answers. Despite samples being small, the findings can be used to generalize on issues that could be described in a context which apply to similar situations or conditions.

I used the capability approach which was pioneered by Amartya Sen's work on capabilities and entitlements. The capability approach stipulates that wellbeing or the standard of living should be considered in terms of human functioning and capabilities. That is, what people are able to do and be, or the quality of their lives, and on removing obstacles in their lives so that they acquire the freedom to live the kind of life which upon reflection, they find value in it.

According to the analytical model, vulnerability compromises the ability of OVCs to attain the desirable capability outcomes. On the other hand, the institutional structures such as NGOs, government ministries, communities and donors through various processes such as policies, regulatory laws, and incentives help to lessen the magnitude of the vulnerability context. SOS as an institutional structure is helping in reducing the impact of the factors that lead to vulnerability of OVCs while deriving some support from the Department of Social Welfare in identifying and screening the needy children. It is helping children to acquire some capability which can enable them withstand hostile economic environments.

Wellbeing in this vein is seen in terms of a person's ability to do valuable acts or reach valuable state of being (Sen, 1993). Thus, people choose the life they have reason to value, while functioning in this regard was taken to mean an achievement. Capability is the ability to achieve. Sen (1999) argues further that there is a strong case for judging individual advantage in terms of that person's capacities and his/her substantive freedoms to pursue the kind of life he or she has reason to value while income is a predisposing condition for an impoverished life.

Thus, the study of the village represented a place where children (OVCs) find themselves at a particular time like during the death of loved ones. On the other hand, poverty deprived them of the capacity to be what they want. Poverty was seen in terms of deprivation, either in relation to some minimum basic needs or to resources necessary to meet a particular need because of the children's status as OVCs.

9.2 Conclusions

In conclusion, one would say poverty has indeed the depriving effect on the mechanisms that ensure a child's physical, health, mental development and the overall freedom to wellbeing of their choice. I have indeed made findings that are consistent with each objective and have made recommendations subsequently on how best to deal with rebuilding or building of OVCs' lives and capabilities.

As indicated in Box 9.2 below, the OVCs are indeed everyone's neighbour, who surrounds everyone for whom we should work for together and do at least something for them. This is also consistent with the theoretical framework of the capability approach which argues that wellbeing should be considered in terms of obstacles to live a life that one desired.

Box9.2

First Republican President Dr Kaunda used to urge Zambians to work together with a view to doing something for mankind. 'That is what led us to be 'One Zambia, One Nation'. We knew that there were more than 70 tribes. Hence in our teaching philosophy of Humanism we refer to man east, man west, man south and man north. Each one of us, we say love your neighbor, this neighbor has no color or ethnic, everything else comes second'.

Source: Zambian post Newspaper, 06.01.06

The message in Box 9.2 calls for taking action by either institutions such as SOS or OVCs themselves in order to build support for them (OVCs). I now wish to present the general conclusions below.

I found that total institutionalisation such as putting the OVCs in SOS Children' Village affect their conscience. These are some of the dangers presented to OVCS by the Lusaka SOS Home, while the opportunity is that, most often, through its housing arrangement (SOS family homes) children were availed an opportunity to have someone to call mother, aunt, brother and sister. The other danger is that, some guardians expressed a feeling alienation that the child had been taken away from them. This alienated the children from the family set up. Yet, others (guardians) took it that they had been relieved especially now when there are so many deaths in the midst of diminished housed incomes.

I felt that there should be community volunteers to make school uniforms for OVCs. Furthermore, there was need for agricultural projects so that communities can grow vegetables to feed OVCs (Chapter seven-SOS outreach project).

SOS village had extended the horizon of hope for OVCs in the manner that transforms their capabilities into lives that they desired to live. Most of the children knew what they wanted to be or are capable of becoming, and the SOS institution is helping them to realise this dream. The OVCs had lost their self esteem and confidence. The biggest challenge was restoring it and reminding them that they are worth than what their guardians were telling them.

On NGOs and government, I observed that there was need for flexible funding to support communities responding to OVCs. Each player apparently had their own strengths and weaknesses. Nonetheless joint effort was a far much better strategy of taking services to the vulnerable persons such as OVCs who find themselves in institutional care of the SOS village. This is so because SOS has been able to supply this flexible funding through

its outreach program. Furthermore, upholding the rule of law and observance of human rights and democratic principles were all tenets that benefit the citizens. When these governance issues yielded fruits for the society, a lot of people including OVCs did smile and got cheered.

OVCs tended to take higher loads of caring for households. They ended up running to institutionalized care and support such as SOS Children's Village. Poverty reducing programs of the government especially those targeting households taking care of OVCs should be enhanced. That is one way that could reduce the burden on grandparents and incidences of child headed households.

As mentioned above, most of the children knew what they wanted to be or are capable of becoming, and the SOS institutions are helping them to realise them. The OVCs had lost their self esteem and confidence. The biggest challenge was restoring it and reminding them that they were worth more than what their guardians were telling them.

The OVCs had learnt to come out in the open and not to be afraid of expressing themselves since the Zambian cultural context does not really promote free expression of oneself. I further observed that children loved, respected and cared for each other especially their 'siblings' while they longed to maintain things like personal hygiene. One other advantage of being at the SOS Village, which I found was the many peer group associations, such as Scripture Union, Dance groups, and drama which tend to improve learning skills or capability skills. These are necessary ingredients for social development which can be used to forget about the worries which afflict those who have lost parents.

The injustices that orphans and vulnerable children were faced with are mainly due to a number of factors as I have explained in chapter seven. They range from loss of parents to traditional practices, which had continued despite the awareness campaigns from NGOs such as SOS Children' Home and Community based Organizations. These are some of the factors that lead to institutionalized care and support for OVCs.

Zambia still has a long way before it can achieve a zero rating for human rights abuse especially of OVCs. The reason for this is that, there is still existence of a lot of ignorance among many people especially, on rights to property left by their dead parents. There were also people in society that continue to deliberately violate these rights, sometimes under the guise of maintaining indigenous traditions or similar excuses. Rebuilding of OVCs' capabilities and restoration of lost childhoods are important aspects of the works for SOS Children's Home.

NGOs as seen through the work of SOS Children's Home and others have a very important role to play in building of capabilities and restoring lost childhoods as seen in chapters five, six and seven. At a time when a lot of effort is going into the encouragement of foreign investment in Zambia, which will in turn enhance the enjoyment by the citizens of several basic rights like the right to employment, it is of particular importance that such acts which have a tendency to scare away potential investors are not allowed to persist. These have mainly come in form of political statements by politicians or local level civil servants who fear for there jobs.

There is need for the police to be continually sensitive of human rights requirements in their work especially for widows and OVCs. The Police Victim Support Unit should extend its operations to cover most parts of the country. In this way they will contribute towards rebuilding of OVCs capacities and help restore the lost childhoods.

During election time voters are made to believe that it is only voting for candidates from the ruling party. This sort of intimidation influence voters to believe that there was nothing they can gain by voting for an opposition candidate, and this has the consequences of diminishing the value of a multi-party system. Multi- party democracy gives the liberty to speech against injustices by all including OVCs.

Whilst grandparents are keen to look after OVCs, they may not have received pension.

They are usually dependent on social welfare program (Public Welfare Assistance scheme.). Where they had been pensioned, the pension is usually too low and erratic. This means that for children who grow up with their grandparents they have to do a lot of domestic work to generate income for these households. Therefore, any opportunity to go to SOS usually proves relieving.

Although government pronounces many things as free for the OVCs, the services are too poor. For instance there are no enough teachers in schools, no medicines at health centres, which is a situation that entails that OVCs have to toil in order to acquire their personal capabilities. This why they are too pre-occupied with money matters when they just arrive at SOS Children' Home because they appreciate what their young siblings are going through.

In view of this I find institutions like SOS to be useful in the (re)building of OVCs capabilities and restoring lost childhoods because it has been able provide these services at no 'cost' to OVCs.

There are equally a number of government programs which are earmarked to assist OVCs such as social welfare, police victim support units. However these are not adequately funded and supported by government making it difficult to work in isolation to the works of NGOs.

9.3 Recommendations

There are many recommendations I would make regarding the lives of OVCs which range from community, NGOS and government programs on how best capabilities can be built or rebuilt.

There is need for the government to increase budgetary allocation to the Police Victim Support Unit and the Department of Social Welfare (public welfare assistance scheme) in order for the OVCs capabilities to be strengthened, in protecting women and children's

rights with respect to property.

Inheritance laws need to be streamlined so that OVCs and women (widows) can benefit fully. There is need for continued efforts by all stakeholders, ranging from NGOs to community based organizations, to educate the public about the OVCs rights, and ensure that instances of violations of rights were reduced.

There is need for long and short-term programs of development as we do with other issues. We shouldn't even be calling the children who have lost parents as Orphans and Vulnerable Children because this is not how we would want children to grow up.

The government should put money in sectors that will focus on alleviating poverty among women and children. Training in skills is cardinal for both OVCs and widows. It is good to emphasize on formal education alone for OVCs. The problem is that when the OVCs finish school, all they want is to find white collar jobs. However, these people can start something if they are empowered. After all, OVCS are not a homogeneous group. We have categories and each category requires different help. We need to change the education curriculum so that people are trained for survival and not just to find a job when they graduate from certificate awarding schools.

Civil society organizations operating in rural areas too, should intensify their campaigns in rural communities to help protect children from parents and guardians. The practice of cultural beliefs and traditional norms that violate widows and children's rights as a way of making them obedient should be discouraged. It is clear from box 7.7.3 where a child is labeled for coming home late.

There is need to mobilize the NGOs and corporate world to donate clothing, education (especially skills training), medical equipment and other materials to institutions dealing with OVCs and widows. These are good in rebuilding capabilities, and restoring lost childhoods.

The News media need to highlight the problem of OVCs, wherever it occurs. The media is an important instrument in making many Zambians aware of the problem of OVCs. It is through this that the problem can be addressed.

There is need to strength social protection because it leads to the fulfillment of human rights of the OVCs who are most vulnerable. This provides services that are strengthened and secured which ultimately lead to human rights and freedoms as emphasized in the capability approach.

As mentioned above, in Zambia, some of the social protection instruments were the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS) and food security pack and education bursaries for OVCs who are in difficult situations. These can bring about improvements in health and nutrition, absenteeism in schools and dropout rates have fallen.

Efforts from NGOs like the United Kingdom's Department of International Development (DFID) and GTZ on the Cash Transfer Scheme for supporting the most vulnerable children and households (aimed at easing women and orphans and vulnerable children's plight) should be encouraged. The scheme should be extended to most areas as it has proved worthwhile (chapter six). This is because women bear a lot of burden for providing for OVCs.

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Other materials used

Volume 1, Issue 3 of July to September 2003 the SOS newsletter (quarterly publication)

Various SOS brochures.

APPENDIX 1: Interview Guide

SOS management

1. (a) When was this village established in Lusaka?
(b) Any reasons on why you targeted this town?
2. Could you talk about the general organisation and structure of Lusaka SOS Children's Village?
3. What are the main factors that influence an admission of an OVC to SOS interventions?

4. (a) What kind of programmes do you have for the children?
(b) What are their aims, objectives, etc?
5. Has SOS fulfilled its vision of improving capabilities for OVCs?

Senior government officers

1. Could you talk about the policy of your office regarding the care and support of OVCs?
2. What role does your office play in the operations of Children's Homes?
3. According to your policy; what circumstances should lead to institutionalised care of children?
4. In your view, how does SOS Children's Village rebuild the lives and capabilities of OVCs?
5. Could you talk about the successes and weaknesses of SOS Children's Home activities?

OVCs

Before admission to SOS.

- 1 (a) Could you describe your life, before you came here?
(b) What were the main problems that you were facing?
2. (a) How did you fulfil these needs ; school, food, shelter, clothing ,etc .
(b) What were your coping strategies?

At SOS

1. When were you admitted to this Village?

2. What were the main reasons that made you come here?
3. Could you explain the types of activities and schedule of programmes that are undertaken by SOS? Which ones are you involved in yourself?
4. (a) Could you please describe your experiences of being at SOS?
 (b) Do you think you have gained something by being at SOS?
 (c) What are the advantages and disadvantages of being here?

After being discharged from SOS

1. Describe to me your life changes following your discharge from SOS
2. Could you explain what you have benefited, or missed by staying at SOS.

Village mother

1. Explain your background prior to your deployment at SOS?
2. What is involved in your role/job at SOS?
3. Would you describe a typical case of an OVC at the time of admission?
4. Describe the manner of the OVCs' response to the activities that take place at SOS.

Guardian to resident OVCs

1. (a) In what ways are you related to the child?
 (b) What happened to the parents?
2. Could you explain to me the circumstances that led to the child to be admitted to SOS?
3. In what ways has the welfare of the children changed after admission to SOS?
4. What advantages and disadvantages exist in using SOS to address livelihood needs of the OVCs?

Member of the public not related to OVCs.

1. Could you explain what your experience about or the happenings in the community regarding OVCs? How about at Lusaka SOS Children's Village?
2. Kindly explain the activities that are undertaken at this village.
3. To what extent do you think it helps alleviate the plight of OVCs?

4. In order to meet the expectations of the public, what are your suggestions for improvement?
5. In your view, what do you think should be the future of the services offered at SOS regarding improving the welfare of OVCs?