

CREATING A *BETTER* WORLD FOR EVERY CHILD THROUGH EDUCATION

PROTECT A CHILD &
CHANGE THE WORLD



NEW HOPE FOUNDATION

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JUST TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THIS

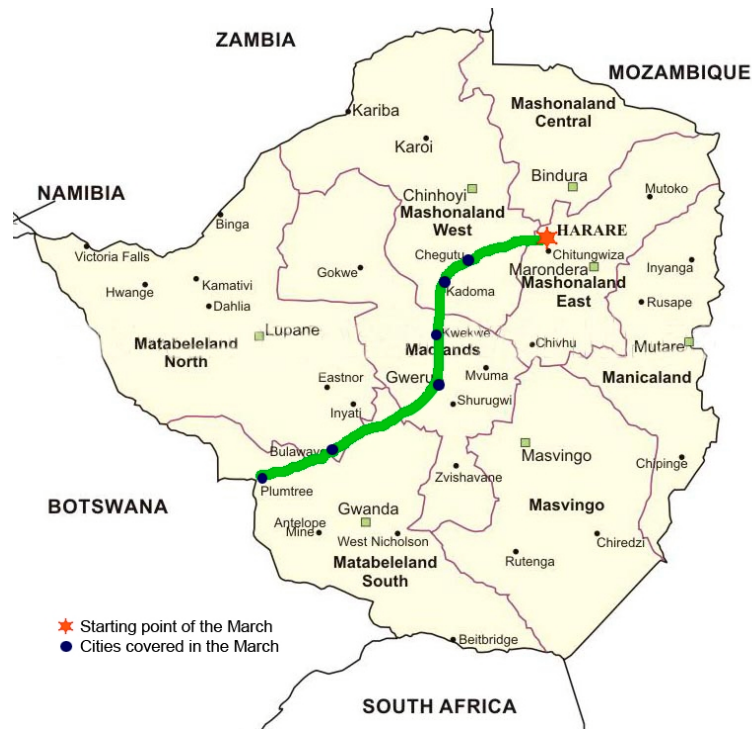
New Hope Foundation's aim is the progressive reduction of numbers of children and women suffering because the HIV & AIDS pandemic through the elimination of child labour country-wide, with the eradication of the worst forms (Child Trafficking) an urgent priority it works to mobilise public opinion against the broader injustices contributing to child labour, through its efforts to end child labour, it condemns any system that require children to work, both at the regional and national levels, through exerting pressure to achieve political changes and jointly developing policies and actions to achieve a unified response to child labour, illiteracy and poverty.

Since it began operations in 2000, New Hope Foundation has worked to achieve results in several ways: through mobilising of public opinion against the broader injustices contributing to child labour, urging the Zimbabwe Government to ratify and enforce existing laws and put pressure to use national and international resources to support education for all children.

New Hope Foundation has country-wide programmes which promote policy reform, and putting in place concrete measures to end child labour so as to reduce new cases of HIV & AIDS in children; through awareness raising campaigns intended to change social attitudes and promote ratification and effective implementation of ILO child labour Conventions. These efforts have resulted in hundreds of children being withdrawn from work and rehabilitated or prevented from entering the workforce.

GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST CHILD LABOUR ZIMBABWE INITIATIVE 2007

In its effort to end child labour and Trafficking in Zimbabwe, Last year 2007, New Hope Foundation, with support from The Global March Against Child Labour Organisation based in India, successfully Organised and hosted a physical march from Harare to Plumtree on child labour and HIV & AIDS, beginning on the 1st of December 2007 to 31 December 2007 covering the provinces of Harare, Mashonaland West, Midlands, Matabeleland South and Bulawayo. A total of 541 km, with One hundred (150) people involved in the march, covering the entire 541 kms. Participants were New Hope Foundation staff, Global March Organization representative(s), child parliamentarians, children from the communities where child labour is rife, representatives from various child focus humanitarian organizations and some government departments.



The Global March Against Child Labour Zimbabwe 2007 Route Map

CHILD LABOUR?

Child labour is a complex problem with many causes. While family poverty is often cited as the single most important factor pushing children into the workforce, HIV & AIDS and numerous others come into play as well. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the AIDS pandemic has been particularly hard on children. Millions have been orphaned and forced to work to survive, while others have had to give up education to work in order to support sick parents. In addition, the loss of teachers to the disease has put pressure on already fragile school systems.

Whether a child is a boy or a girl can also determine at what age they are sent to work and in which particular occupation. Gender differences also takes affect on a child's access to education and assistance.

Whilst child labour takes many different forms, a priority is to eliminate without delay the worst forms of child labour as defined by Article 3 of ILO Convention 182:

(a) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(b) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

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(c) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

(d) Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

HAZARDOUS CHILD LABOUR

Hazardous child labour is defined by Article 3 (d) of ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) as:

(a) Work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;

(b) Work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;

(c) Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;

(d) work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;

(e) Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

(d) Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

More specifically, hazardous child labour is work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed, or injured and/or made ill as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements. Some injuries or ill health may result in permanent disability. Often health problems caused by working as a child labour may not develop or show up until the child is an adult.

Hazardous child labour is the largest category of the worst forms of child labour with an estimated 126 million children, aged 5-17, working in dangerous conditions in sectors as diverse as agriculture, mining, construction, manufacturing, service industries, hotels, bars, restaurants, fast food establishments, and domestic service. It is found in both industrialised and developing countries. Girls and boys often start carrying out hazardous work at very early ages. Worldwide, the ILO estimates

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that some 22,000 children are killed at work every year. The numbers of those injured or made ill because of their work are not known.

Child labourers are susceptible to all the dangers faced by adult workers when placed in the same situation. However, the work hazards and risks that affect adult workers can affect child labourers even more strongly. The results of lack of safety and health protection can often be more devastating and lasting for them. It can result in more fatal and non-fatal accidents, permanent disabilities/ill health, and psychological/behavioural/emotional damage.

When speaking of child labourers it is important to go beyond the concepts of work hazard and risk as applied to adult workers and to expand them to include the developmental aspects of childhood. Because children are still growing they have special characteristics and needs that must be taken into consideration when determining workplace hazards and the risks associated with them, in terms of physical, cognitive (thought/learning) and behavioural development and emotional growth.

THE POLICY FRAME WORK

The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** spells out the basic human rights of all children and seeks to protect these rights by setting standards.

It requires State Parties to make primary education compulsory, available and free to all, and encourages the development of secondary education, including general and vocational education, available and accessible to every child.

The Convention recognizes the rights of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with the child's education, or be harmful to the child's development. It requires states to provide a minimum age or ages for admission to employment.

The **ILO Minimum Age Convention, N° 138 (1973)** states that the minimum age of employment should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, shall not be less than 15 years. However, a member country whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed may initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons from 13 to 15 years of age on limited light work that is not likely to be harmful to their health or development; or to prejudice their attendance at school (the ages of 12-14 can apply for light work in countries which have specified a minimum age of 14).

The **ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, N° 182 (1999)**. This requires countries to implement time bound measures for eliminating the most dangerous forms of child labour. The worst forms of child labour consist of:

a) All forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(b) The use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

(c) The use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant International treaties;

(d) Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

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Zimbabwe.

Since the late 1990s Zimbabwe has been struggling with the resolution of fiscal problems; poverty, the inequities in land distribution, and unemployment problems; population pressures; and unfavourable rainfall patterns. It also faces the challenge of a growing HIV/AIDS epidemic, due in part to increasing poverty levels and limited access to basic social services. Since 1990, HIV/AIDS has slashed the average life expectancy in Zimbabwe from 61 to 33 years (2003; source: SOWC, Excel format), and there are now 1 million children in Zimbabwe who have been orphaned due to AIDS-related deaths. In other words, one in five Zimbabwean children is an orphan as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis.

It is very important to intervene in the vicious cycle. Children are the only solution towards addressing the future to Country's Development; the behaviour they adopt today will be used to change the course of their lives in the Future.

The cornerstone approach to these issues is education. Education empowers, strengthens and protects children in multiple ways and must stop being a luxury few can afford. Measures must be taken to ensure that no child is forced to choose between attending school and keeping alive.

Therefore I believe that Schools have the potential to touch every family in every community and every day. Placing every child in a class room has never been more urgent than today. Under threat from the Aids pandemic, children must be able to turn schools as a place of learning inclusion, stability and life saving information about HIV/ Aids.

Global March Against Child Labour- Zimbabwe 2007 was a welcome effort and it should be taken as the beginning of a revolution, that everyone must pledge that they will support this action of change at best and think of children's future as our country progress. Those who are reading this message, I request you to pass the message to those who are in your networks or are near you. For every child we see in our streets today there's a home somewhere, a home with bad memories that need people like us to look at and find solution, the solution is not far from us it's with us. Is there anyone who wants to know the solution??? If you say yes,

Let's take all children back to school!

If we have all agreed that Education is the solution I now take this opportunity to humbly ask all of us to stand up and support the fight against child labour. New Hope Foundation has so far embarked on a three year Action against Child Labour Project being funded by British Embassy, but the challenge still remains as the funding we got is not adequate. All these activities to be covered are done using one car that serves the whole country and needs more than 1000 liters of fuel each month to reach every child who would have called for help, because of this we are failing to meet the demand, because we do not have what it takes to do so.

May we all just spare a moment and think about this.

Contact Details:

Contact Person: Pastor Elfaz Shangwa (aka) Zadzagomo- Chief Executive Officer

**P.O. Box 10175
elfasz9@gmail.com**

Cell 011888098 Email: nhz@zol.co.zw or