

Report of the Annual General Meeting of the Chipunga Employees on GRACE issues

Chipunga, 26th December 2005

Agenda:

1. Evaluation of the first year of GRACE support to Chipunga Employees
2. Suggestions for second year GRACE support
3. Confirmation / appointment of committee members, Chipunga Health Committee and Chipunga Development Committee
4. Identification of three youth representatives for the Football World Cup youth exchange programme in Stuttgart in July 2006
5. First Aid training of Ruth Ehret

Topic 1 and 2

Procedure: forming of homogenous subgroups such as

- Women
- Young Men
- Men

to discuss the following questions

1. What went well with the GRACE support in 2005?
2. What did not go so well with the GRACE support in 2005? Why?
3. What is the way forward for the 2006 GRACE support?

Reports of the subgroup discussions

Women

1. In all a big thanks to the friends of GRACE in Germany. Through their help, the women of Chipunga were helped greatly!
2. In future, a loan scheme for starting small businesses for women would allow income for women.
3. For the children a nursing school (kindergarten)
4. To organise an under five clinic once a month at Chipunga
5. Support in getting maize for the critical months January to April
6. Receiving training in health issues (by Ruth?)
7. Improvement of the water supply for the compound
8. For employees living outside the compound: no iron sheets for roofing material, thus leaking of roof during the rains

Young Men

1. In regards to football:
 - a. Thanks to GRACE; we are the only team in the region who play in a nice tricot!
 - b. Lack of football boots
 - c. Lack of footballs – most others are already worn out
 - d. Lack of transportation to the football matches in the region
2. Health
 - a. Thanks to GRACE; the hospital bills are paid by GRACE
 - b. Continuous re-stocking of the first aid box
 - c. On weekends there is no transport to Mzuzu
3. Water supply in the compound: there is a real problem
4. Education
 - a. Thanks to GRACE for the support for secondary school fees
 - b. The fees have significantly increased, the budget for support is limited
 - c. No further support programme for students who have finished with form 4 – suggestions to support post school students also in attending courses
 - d. School fees to be paid by one person; it happens that the school fees are given out by GRACE through the MD but they don't reach the school

Men

1. Education
 - a. We are thankful for the support of GRACE
 - b. The support should be extended to courses after the secondary school as well
 - c. School fees have about doubled: if possible the budget should be increased
2. Health
 - a. Thanks to GRACE for paying the hospital bills
 - b. A training for the four volunteers (2 women; 2 men) is badly needed
3. Livelihoods
 - a. The blankets are not lasting for long. The quality is poor and the size should be bigger
 - b. Mattresses should be included in the programme apart from the blankets
 - c. Water supply: a water pump is needed

- d. Improvement of the houses: apart from the contribution of GRACE, Chipunga Farm should pay for the labour. This applies for the well and for the floors of the houses
- e. Goat programme: if no goats can be found, the programme should supply the employees with cows

Topic 3

For now, the members of both committees are confirmed.

Topic 4

Lengthy and heated discussions arose on this issue. Clarification for Willi assisted in the identification process. Main criteria for the delegates were

1. Good manners and behaviour in order to represent Chipunga area well
2. Fluent in English language
3. Connected to sports and football
4. If possible inclusion of one female delegate

The preliminary conclusion for the appointment of delegates were as follows

1. Miss Mercy Mwamulima
2. Mr. Kelvin Msiska
3. Mr. James Malopa Ngiwra

(Confirmation depends on medical approval)

Next steps to follow:

- Medical approval
- Names to Ditzingen
- Requests for invitation letters from UNESCO, Stuttgart and Ditzingen
- Visa applications
- Series of training sessions for the delegates prior to their departure by Willi

Topic 5

Ruth conducted the first session on first aid for all employees. The topics were

- What to do when someone has a wound and is bleeding?
- What to do when someone has been bitten by a snake?
- What to do when someone has a fracture?
- Questions and Answers

The meeting started by 11 am and ended by 3.20 pm