

# ANNUAL REPORT 2008

**ZIMBABWE AIDS ORPHANS SOCIETY, FINLAND**

*IN COLLABORATION WITH*

***DZIKWA TRUST FUND, ZIMBABWE***



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## ANNUAL REPORT

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

### **I. BASIS OF OPERATIONS, STRATEGIC AIMS and OPERATION PRINCIPLES**

#### **Purpose, objectives and values**

Founded in Finland in 2003, the *Zimbabwe AIDS Orphans Society* (henceforth the *Society*) is a grassroots-level organisation committed to development cooperation. It has no political or religious affiliation. The Society's philosophy stresses the right of poor orphans in developing countries to receive basic education and to grow and develop into adulthood in safety. The purpose of activities is to secure the basic education of talented and needy orphans safely in their own community in one poor township of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. The Society focuses its support on Dzivarasekwa, a densely populated township with some 150,000 inhabitants.

Year 2008 marked the Society's sixth year of operations, though actual support activities began back in 1992, when the Finnish founders sponsored the education of one boy. At the end of December 2008, the Society's programme covers 400 orphans in Dzivarasekwa.

The underlying aim is to empower African orphans and give them the means for a fulfilling life. Special emphasis is placed on the education of girls. The basic values fostered by the programme are: hard work, honesty, a sense of responsibility and commitment, initiative, openness and help for the less fortunate.

#### **Approach to operations**

Operations take the form of long-term help, taking local conditions into account. The Society's cooperative partner in Zimbabwe is the *Dzikwa Trust Fund* (henceforth *Dzikwa*) founded in 2002 to oversee and direct support activities. According to the written Memorandum of Understanding between the Society and Dzikwa, the division of responsibilities is as follows:

- The Society raises sponsorship fees, donations and other funds and resources from its members, sponsors and other supporters, including the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs under its NGO Development Cooperation Programme. The Society places the funds, project support and other resources in their entirety at the disposal of Dzikwa for purposes set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Dzikwa plans, directs, monitors, and implements all operations on the spot. The persons in charge are in daily contact with the children.

Dzikwa pays all expenses arising from the children's education, meals, health care and other activities direct; no money is given to the children or their guardians.

In 2008, the Finnish founders, Seppo Ainamo and Oili Wuolle, spent about half the year in Zimbabwe overseeing the running of operations.

#### **Scope of support**

Support given through Dzikwa covers school fees, school levies, school uniforms, footwear and sports gear, books and other school equipment plus one daily hot meal, essential health care, cultural, environmental and sport education, and participation in at least one sporting and one cultural event a year. With support from the Society, Dzikwa runs a shelter house for 30 homeless orphans. Every effort is made to keep the number of children so low that staff members are familiar with the home conditions, school performance, state of health and personality of each child individually. A record with photographs is kept of each child.

### **Selection of children**

The Dzikwa children qualifying for full support must satisfy five basic criteria: (1) they must be orphans or half-orphans; (2) they must have started, or be about to start, school in Dzivarasekwa; (3) their guardian must be without means to pay the compulsory school fees and other expenses; (4) they must be doing reasonably well at school; and (5) they must be well behaved and keen to learn. The majority of the children chosen for the programme are referred by their school; others come on their own initiative or at the request of their guardians.

## **II OPERATIONS IN 2008**

### **SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

#### **Number and distribution of children.**

In 2008, Society support focused on two groups of children, known as *Alpha and Omega*. Each of the children in the Alpha group has a personal sponsor and receives full support in the course of the year. The children in the Omega group do not necessarily satisfy all five criteria. They do not receive full support and do not have a personal sponsor. Their need is, however, so great that without support from Dzikwa they would drop out of school.

**At the end of 2008, the Society was giving support to a total of 379 orphans.** The Alpha group had 191 children at the beginning of the year and 203 at the end. Numbers fluctuate partly because the programme adapts to the needs of the children and partly because some children may move away whilst others urgently in need of help may come to Dzikwa's notice. In the year under review, Dzikwa accepted every applicant who met the programme criteria. By the beginning of the current year, 2009, however, the situation has changed radically. Relative to our budgeted resources, the number of children in need of help in Dzivarasekwa has risen so high that we are no longer able to accept all applicants and can select only the most suitable.

Distribution of full-support children (Alpha Group) at the beginning and end of 2008

	1.1 Girls	31.12 Girls	1.1 Boys	31.12 Boys	1.1 Total	31.12 Total
Primary 1-7	81	85	48	39	129	124
Secondary 1-6	35	46	22	27	57	73
Further studies	3	2	2	4	5	6
<b>Total</b>	119	133	72	70	191	203

The break-down by school and school-level is given on our web site [www.zim-orvot.org](http://www.zim-orvot.org).

The number of children receiving limited support (Omega group) rose to 176 in the course of 2008. Of these, 100 were in primary school and 76 in secondary school.

In 2008, 30 children passed the primary school final exam, 18 sat for O-levels and 6 for A-levels. One of our students, Blessing, was awarded a BA from Midlands State University - the first of our girls to earn her bachelor's degree. Brenda completed her National Certificate in pharmatechnology and intends to continue to National Diploma Level. Grace has reached the same stage in hairdressing. Gift is continuing to the City & Guilds upper level in motor vehicle systems. In August, three youngsters started their studies at polytechnics (in tourism, journalism and teacher training).

### **School achievement**

With the support of the Society, Dzikwa helps the children financially and in other ways to attend school. The children, for their part, are expected to work hard. In 2008, the average grade required of new children entering the support programme was 60%, as calculated from the maximum number of points. Children at boarding school and in one private secondary school are expected to achieve an average grade of 66%. Dzikwa collects the report of every child each term, that is, three times a year. The data are entered into databases and analysed. If there is a drop in a child's grades, every effort is made, together with the child, the teachers and the guardian, to find out more about the child's circumstances and to understand why performance has deteriorated. In 2008, Dzikwa gave some 20 Alpha children admonitions to improve their school performance or face removal from the full-support programme. Children are always given a second chance if the reason for poor performance is ill health or an otherwise difficult life situation.

There was a clear increase in the number of **regular extra lessons** given in the year under review. Extra lessons are essential as the children's home conditions are not conducive to study for lack of space, light, a desk, other equipment, and peace and quiet. In 2008, the children's education in Zimbabwe was severely disrupted by the harsh economic conditions and by teachers' strikes, particularly in the second half of the year.

Four retired local teachers give regular extra lesson to primary school children three days a week throughout the year. The groups meet in the yard of the Dzikwa Board vice-chairlady's home and, in the rainy season, in Dzikwa Junior House. There was a marked increase in the number of extra lessons in Maths for O-level and A-level pupils. These lessons were given by an experienced teacher from the Teachers' Training College. During their school holidays, the O- and A-level pupils were given extra lessons also in other subjects by local secondary school teachers. The pupils at Dewure boarding school received extra lessons in Maths, Accounting and Science at school.

*Picture: Extra lessons at Junior House*

At the most, 25% of Dzikwa children were receiving extra lessons at primary level. The marked increase in numbers at the beginning of 2009 has almost doubled the size of the group meeting regularly. About 10% of O-level and A-level pupils had regular Maths extra lessons. During school holidays, nearly all O-level and A-level pupils were receiving extra lessons.

Harare International School selected Dzikwa for its *Interact* programme. In 2008, groups of pupils and teachers from the school visited the Shelter house on Saturdays to give the Dzikwa children lessons, mainly in Maths and English. They also did handicrafts and other extra-curricular activities with them. Sponsor Markku, who is a computer applications and IT expert, taught basic computer skills to small groups of pupils. Together with Blessing, who has finished her university studies, Tsidzo, a student in psychology, organised training in peer education for small groups.



### **Schools**

In 2008, Dzikwa children were attending all five Dzivarasekwa state primary schools and three municipal primary schools. In addition, there were children at three Dzivarasekwa secondary

schools (two state and one private day school), and at two special schools for the handicapped. The majority of the children are at day school. Of the A-level and O-level pupils, 28 were at Dewure Secondary School and Gutu High School boarding schools, 250 km south of Harare. One A-level pupil attends the Kwenda Mission High School, a Boarding school 150 km southeast of Harare. There were 21 girls and 8 boys at Boarding school. Dzikwa can send a child to boarding school, with the consent of the sponsor and based on a joint application by the pupil and his or her guardian. To be eligible for boarding, a pupil's home conditions have to be particularly difficult and his or her school performance consistently above average.

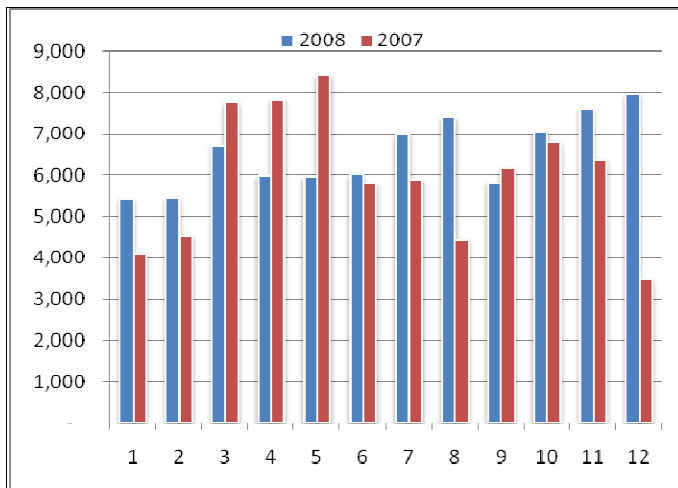
For more information about schools, please visit our website [www.zim-ortvot.org](http://www.zim-ortvot.org).

## OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT

### Daily meals

Zimbabwean day schools do not provide meals for pupils. Last year marked the sixth year running that Dzikwa served the children one hot meal every day of the year. In 2008, the grand total was just short of 79,000 meals, an increase of about 10% on 2007. On the busiest days, meals were served to over 280 children.

*The following diagram depicts the number of meals served (in thousands) by month.*



The meals consist of a maize-based dish (*sadza* in Shona), vegetables and small portions of either meat or fish (*kapenta*). The meals are prepared over an open fire in a shed in the grounds of one of the schools by six mothers of Dzikwa children. The cooks, in two groups of three, alternate every two weeks. They keep a meticulous daily record of the children who come to eat. Both Alpha and Omega children are entitled to a daily meal.

*Pictures: Children wait their turn to eat with Oili & Karuwa stirs the meat pot*



In the course of 2008, Dzikwa bought 21 bullocks, which, when butchered, yielded about 4,500 kg of ready-cut meat. In addition, Dzikwa bought 16,500 kg of maize meal, 900 litres of cooking oil, 750 kg of dried kapenta (*Limnothrissa miodon*) fish, 400 kg of beans, 175 kg of soya grain and large quantities of basic vegetables (onions, tomatoes, cabbage, spinach). Lunch is served from 10 am to 2 pm on weekdays and from 11 am to 1.30 pm at weekends. In addition to this lunch eaten by the children together, Dzikwa provides daily breakfast and dinner for about 30 children in the Shelter.

The purchase of food parcels, begun on the initiative of the Finnish actor Matti Ranin in 2007, continued throughout 2008. Fifty parcels were bought and distributed to the guardians in the direst need and to other old and destitute residents of Dzivarasekwa.

During the year, thousands of kilograms of food were bought in the course of two trips to neighbouring countries, South Africa and Botswana. In October, a consignment of food and toiletries was ordered from a Johannesburg cash-and-carry wholesaler that has set up a special Zimbabwe service.

At the beginning of 2009, the number of children coming for the daily meal has grown enormously, numbering over 450 on the busiest days. In February of this year alone, Dzikwa served 12,092 meals.

### **Health care and welfare**

With the support of the Society, Dzikwa was able to take children with acute health problems to a doctor or hospital and to purchase medication as prescribed. Typical mild disorders were colds, gastric upsets, parasites, various skin diseases, minor contusions and, occasionally, malaria. Services also included acute dental care, eye tests and purchases of glasses. Towards the end of the year, the cholera epidemic raging in the country spread to Dzivarasekwa. Six of our children were infected but luckily all survived. Dzikwa had to purchase quantities of strong cleansers and disinfectants, water purification tablets and medicines.

During the year Dzikwa children paid 141 visits to the doctor. The majority of these were to a private clinic in Dzivarasekwa that gives Dzikwa a 50% reduction. For the second year running, the local municipal clinic was presented with a box of medical supplies collected by one of the

Society's supporters in Siuntio, Finland. A few children were taken to specialists' private surgeries, and one boy was hospitalised for epilepsy. One boy, Tatenda, died of meningitis in December. Dzikwa bought leg braces to help straighten the knees of Ashley, a girl suffering from cerebral palsy. Now Ashley is able to walk with crutches and is no longer confined to a wheelchair.

Medical costs were partially covered, as previously, by a German organisation, Harare e.V., which includes sponsors among its members. Dzikwa continued the arrangement whereby Harare's private hospital, St Anne's, provides, when required, beds and the services of an operating theatre free of charge. The only expenses incurred by Dzikwa are for doctors' fees and medicines.

A psychology student, Tsidzo, who is herself from Dzivarasekwa and is in her last year at Chinhoyi University of Technology, spent a large part of 2008 with Dzikwa. She contributed to Dzikwa's work by setting up advisory, counselling and discussion sessions to help the more withdrawn children and to promote their communication skills.

### **The Dzikwa Shelter and new Junior House**

The majority of the orphans live with relatives, the tradition of the extended family being strong in Zimbabwe. Nevertheless, there are some without a decent place to live, and for them Dzikwa has maintained a Shelter house since June 2005. At the end of 2008, there were 32 children in the Dzikwa Shelter. The children are in the care of Piona, a matron employed by Dzikwa, who lives in the house, sees to their daily needs, keeps an eye on them generally and liaises with guardians. The Shelter also runs a library for Dzikwa children, and provides facilities for extra lessons, cultural evenings and parties.

After a long search, Dzikwa was finally able to rent a second sizable house at the end of the year. This six-room house is now known as Junior House. One of Dzikwa's two field workers, Petronella, moved into the house with her own two children and four Dzikwa children. The house is also used for storing supplies, for extra lessons and club gatherings and, if necessary, for meetings. The room walls were painted, the toilets and washrooms renovated, the doors and locks replaced, and security grilles and colourful curtains bought for the windows. In addition, new bunk beds were purchased for the children.

### **Tree planting and vegetable garden**

Due to the periodic scarcity of firewood, Dzikwa has launched its own long-term tree planting project. Firewood is needed daily for the school kitchen and, because of electricity cuts, for the shelter houses as well. Negotiations were started with Mr. Mhakayakora, a self-taught environmentalist who lives in his own eucalyptus wood near DZ #4 school, and with the Forestry Commission in Harare. Dzikwa intends to conclude a long-term agreement for use of part of the wasteland rented by the Forestry Commission from the City of Harare for a tree plantation scheme. The aim is to plant a 30-hectare area over the next 10 years, which will call for some 60,000 seedlings. Mr. Mhakayakora will be responsible for tending the seedlings and for planning and directing the practical side of the work. Dzikwa children will plant the seedlings and, in that way, learn about the importance of trees for sustainable development.

In November 2008, Dzikwa children planted the first 400 eucalyptus seedlings. The next 2,600 will go into the ground in May once the people using the wasteland for growing maize have harvested their crops.

*Pictures: Caroline with her own seedling & Dzikwa children plant eucalyptus seedlings*



Another new breakthrough is Dzikwa's vegetable garden, which has been established in a 3000 sq. m. area set aside in the back yard of DZ #4 school. The children helped with preparing the soil and with planting. The first harvest was not very good as the project suffered from lack of resources and good advice at the beginning. A student hired by Dzikwa for practical work attachment switched to another course just at the critical moment in September. The intention is to grow mainly beans, tomatoes, cabbage, spinach and onions to be used in Dzikwa's feeding scheme.

### **Children's recreational activities**

In the year under review, a total of 814 Dzikwa children took part in nine extra-curricular events.

As in previous years, the main joint recreational event was the Dzikwa Trust Sports Day, which, in 2008, was held at the University sports ground on 29 August. Altogether 263 enthusiastic Dzikwa children took part in the Sports Day. They were divided as usual into four teams, Cheetah, Impala, Kudu and Sable, and competed both as teams and as individuals. A written record was kept of all results. Guest of honour was the Chief Executive Officer of Harare Central Hospital, Mr. Nderere. Harare's leading newspaper, The Herald, carried a short piece on the Sports Day in its sports pages. The first practical job of the young Finnish volunteer Kata was to measure and weigh all participants.

On 26 January, the German sponsors, Harare e.V., organised a soccer tournament, Dzikwa-Mabvuku Street Soccer. Dzikwa's under-15s boys won their category. The Zimbabwe-German Society, for its part, organised a soccer tournament in which Dzikwa's team of big boys placed third.

At the beginning of May, the spectacular annual Harare International Festival of Arts/HIFA was enjoyed to the full by several Dzikwa children. Oili and Seppo took 45 children to various events. In September, a total of 102 Dzikwa children had a chance to attend the joint choral concert for schools. The children were taken to the local REPS theatre twice; six went in February, and as many as 113 went to see the traditional Christmas pantomime, which this time was Mother Goose.

On 2 December, Dzikwa held its own Christmas party, which was attended by 270 children and Father Christmas.

Dzikwa Shelter was the venue for a number of cultural evenings at which the children put on their own programme of poetry recitals, plays, dances, choir singing and marimba performances.

A 200-strong crowd of children entertained sponsor Rauno with singing and dancing to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in May.

Altogether 27 children who had done particularly well at school or whose sponsors were visiting went on outings to the Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage near Bulawayo, the Great Zimbabwe Ruins, the Victoria Falls, the Bulawayo Natural History Museum, the Imire and Chengeta game reserves or the Antelope Park.

*Pictures: Moffat and Fadzai enjoy an elephant ride at Imire & Stella feeds a rhino at Chipangali*  
([www.imiresafairanch.com](http://www.imiresafairanch.com))    ([www.chipangali.com](http://www.chipangali.com))



The instruction in music, singing, dance and drama started by the local music and dance group Pamuzinda in 2006 and financed by the German sponsors, Harare e.V. continued with enthusiasm. In the course of 2008, about 60 children took part regularly in marimba, dance and drama groups, which met for two hours on Saturdays and Sundays. The German sponsors made a short DVD of the children's performances, which has been shown in Munich (Harare's twin town). Dzikwa's own 20-voice choir continued under the direction of a local retired teacher.

*Pictures: Dance and marimba rehearsals in Junior House yard*



Our first Dzikwa girl, Brenda, got engaged on 30 August 2008. Her wedding was held at the end of January 2009.

### **Sponsors, other supporters and visits to Harare**

At year end 2008, there were 192 sponsors (163 at year end 2007): 156 from Finland, 14 from England, 5 from Scotland, 14 from Germany and 2 from Zimbabwe. The Finnish sponsors include two schools, one trust fund, a branch of the Finnish women's "Martta Organization", a couple of other companies or clubs and one trade union branch.

By the end of the year, the number of children without personal sponsors was 13. However, the increased need for help and the children's distress pushed the number of children without sponsors up to 61 in March 2009.

The Society had 34 other supporters, in Finland, Germany, England, Scotland, Sweden and Norway. Once again they made a vital contribution, notably in covering the cost of meals and in donating funds for the building project.

All sponsors receive regular information about their children. They can exchange letters and can also visit Zimbabwe to meet the children in person. Altogether 11 sponsors and supporters visited Harare in 2008. Four of them were from Germany and seven from Finland. The Society's vice-chairman, Esa Ojanen, visited Harare at the beginning of May.

Finland's Ambassador for Zimbabwe based in Lusaka, Sinikka Antila, paid a short visit to Dzivarasekwa together with economist Sari Jormanainen on 17 September 2008. Esa Salminen, who works at the country office of the Service Centre for Development Cooperation (KEPA) in Mozambique, paid a visit to Dzikwa in October.

*Picture: Happy football team*

### **Donations in kind, other special donations and the freight container**

Many of the sponsors remembered their children with generosity by sending small parcels or depositing extra money to buy



things locally. All gifts were gratefully received and brought great joy to the children. Once again, a big thank you – *tatenda* – from all Dzikwa children for the enormous number of Christmas presents. We were still giving out Christmas parcels to over 100 children in January 2009.

A school in England that closed down, Heresford School, donated 400 tracksuit tops and 450 t-shirts to Dzikwa children back in November 2007. These were sent to Zimbabwe as air freight with support from the Crown Agents Charitable Fund in England. The consignment was finally cleared through customs in March 2008 thanks to the combined efforts of the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare and our volunteer Hanna. The gifts were formally distributed to the children in May in the yard of Dzikwa #4 school. Guest of honour was Zimbabwe’s Minister of Health and Child Welfare. A short DVD was produced of the occasion.

**Container for Harare:** A major achievement in the year under review was sending a full-size container to Zimbabwe. Over 16,000 kg of goods made the journey to Harare! The Society received so many donations that one-fifth of the goods had to be left in storage in facilities kindly provided by Allun Grilli restaurant and the Bank of Finland in Vantaa. Thanks to the principal of Klaukkala School, Society was able to assemble the piles of goods intended for Zimbabwe near the main entrance of the school. From there, a band of volunteers packed, weighed and transferred the packages to the container parked in the school playground on 2 August. The age-old Finnish tradition of neighbourly help (“*talkoot*”) showed its strength! Warmest thanks are extended to everyone who helped and also to all those who donated items for our orphans in Zimbabwe. Special thanks go to the members of Lohja Rotary Club for collecting and repairing dozens of bicycles, Plastex Oy for donating plastic water containers, and Klaukkala K-Supermarket for big price reductions on dry food. The Society also received generous financial help for the freight costs – our heartfelt thanks to all donors. In Harare, lockable storage space was put at our disposal free of charge by Global Plastics.

*Pictures: Ilona distributing items to the children & Lucia got a big parcel*



### **III BUILDING PROJECT 2008**

#### **Construction of the Dzikwa Activity Centre**

Dzikwa aims to build its own activity centre on the site it owns in the middle of Dzivarasekwa, next door to the police station and the health clinic. There will be no accommodation in the main building, which will house the Dzikwa kitchen, a dining/lounge area for 120 -150 children at a time, conference and study rooms, an 18-seat computer studio, two extra-lesson classrooms, and office, storage, washroom and laundry facilities. The lounge will be equipped with TV, DVD and video

equipment and will have a stage at one end. Also on the site there will be a basketball court, a caretaker's cottage, a vegetable garden, and a waste-sorting area plus a bore well with water tanks and diesel generator. In 2008, the Society and Dzikwa concluded a separate cooperation agreement on the implementation of the project.

Last year, 2008, proved to be exceptionally problematic for the building project. With the economy spiralling ever deeper into recession, the chronic shortage of goods combined with mind-boggling hyperinflation delayed construction. The instability of the political situation and, in particular, the presidential and parliamentary elections held at the end of March brought the country to a halt. Dzikwa made a conscious decision to postpone construction, the price of supplies having skyrocketed, most noticeably in the second half of 2008.



The Society's fundraising efforts did not succeed in attracting either major donations for the project or the kind of backing that would have enabled Dzikwa to sign a contract for the main building. The Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs did not grant the project any assistance at all, the renewed 3-year project support grant being applicable only to regular operations.

A favourable development was the commitment by Old Mutual, the biggest insurance company in southern Africa, to take on the management of the Activity Centre building project as its contribution to community responsibility. Experts from Old Mutual's Property Department are putting their practical experience and management skills at Dzikwa's disposal free of charge. In 2008, Dzikwa received assistance in tracking down suitable and reliable building contractors, revising the project's cost estimates, preparing tenders and drafting contracts. Old Mutual is also preparing and leading the project's operational follow-up meetings.

In the course of 2008, building work moved forwards in small steps. The Rujeko Street side palisade fence together with its guard house and gate was completed, and the foundations were laid for the caretaker's cottage. With assistance from the Australian Embassy in Harare, a water survey was conducted on the site, and a bore well was drilled to a depth of 31 metres. In addition, ground was cleared and levelled for the basketball court.

*Pictures: The ground is prepared for the basketball court & Rujeko Street is cleaned up by the Dzikwa site palisade fence*



New life was breathed into the Activity Centre building project at the beginning of 2009, when a company called Durawall constructed a boundary wall round the three unfenced sides of the site. The intention is also to build temporary kitchen/storage facilities and to surface the basketball court so that the children can sit there to have their lunch. There are also plans to connect electricity and water to the site and to install the bore well pump. The dramatic increase in the number of children coming for the daily meal is forcing Dzikwa to rethink the cooking arrangements as a matter of urgency.

#### **IV INFORMATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN FINLAND**

In the year under review, the Society received positive publicity in Finland. The national daily Helsingin Sanomat published three articles on the work carried out by the Society and Dzikwa, on 14 January, 4 August and 21 December. The articles reported our sponsorship operations, the packing of the container at Klaukkala, and the distribution of goods to the children in Zimbabwe. The Nurmijärvi local paper, Vartti, ran an article on the container on 6 August.

In its 29 August issue, the magazine Suomen Kuvalehti published a feature article on the Society and its work. From August to November, volunteer Kata posted a regular blog about her experiences in Zimbabwe in the magazine's web version.

Other welcome publicity was given by:

- The paper Reppuri, which, on 3 August, carried a story by sponsor Rauno about his stay in Dzivarasekwa in May
- The December issue of the Bank of Finland's in-house magazine Pankko (4/08), which reported the Bank's €10,000 donation to the Society
- The web pages of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs <http://global.finland.fi>, which published an account by Esa Salminen (KEPA) about his visit to the Dzikwa children in Harare.

At the beginning of the year, the revamp of the Society's website [www.zim-orkot.org](http://www.zim-orkot.org) was completed. The pages are now considerably more interesting thanks to the addition of regular news updates and the ample use of photographs. Special thanks are due to Hasan & Partners for the new design and to Terhi and Timo for website maintenance. The technical implementation was purchased from Optinet Oy.

Seppo and Oili spoke to the Helsinki International Rotary Club about their work with the orphans in Dzivarasekwa.

Sponsors and backers have received the annual report for 2007 and the operating plan for 2008. In addition, sponsors and other supporters have been sent seven detailed newsletters reporting on activities in Dzivarasekwa during the periods that Seppo and Oili were there as well as other short bulletins. The newsletters and bulletins were published on the website in the Ajankohtaista/News column in Finnish and English. Sponsors also received by e-mail an updated report and photograph of their own children.

In December, the Society held its Christmas lunch, with an African flavour, at the Café Terminus in Helsinki. The occasion also served as a get-together for sponsors. They and others interested in the work of the Society could hear about daily life in Dzivarasekwa and listen to the experiences of

volunteers who had worked with the orphans. They could also ask questions about the support programme and related matters. There was a good turnout, with 130 adults and 20 children.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.zim-orphot.org](http://www.zim-orphot.org)

## V STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

### Organisation in Finland

The Society does not pay any form of salary, wages, expenses or other form of remuneration to its officers in Finland. All the work is undertaken on a voluntary basis. The Society's members, sponsors and other supporters have all been increasingly active in participating in the Society's work. By the end of 2008, there were 141 paid members of Zimbabwe AIDS Orphans. The Society does not operate out of any fixed office facilities in Finland.

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held at the Munkkiniemi High School in Helsinki on 12 April 2008. It was attended by 30 members.

**The Society's Board:** Ulla Haukka-aho (Chairperson), Esa Ojanen (Vice chairman), Merja Grandell (Treasurer), Petri Mero, Terhi Tiikkainen, Oili Wuolle (Secretary), as well as Louise Park-Ahonen and Helena Pelkonen, deputy members.

The Board met six times in 2008 and held one meeting via email.

Risto Ekholm (Authorised Public Accountant, Audit Polar Ltd.) acted as the Society's auditor and Leila Kanninen was deputy auditor.

### Volunteers

To date, all volunteers coming to work with Dzikwa in Zimbabwe have received their bed and board free of charge. During the reporting year, the level of interest in participating in our work on a voluntary basis has increased considerably. At the beginning of the year, Hanna, who is a student in risk management at the Laurea University of Applied Science, spent three months in Harare working in the field and managed excellently on her own – keeping an eye on operations – while Oili and Seppo were in Finland from March to April. In the autumn we received a visit from Kata, who had matriculated in the spring of 2008 and who also spent three months helping in the programme. Finally, Ilona and Leena, who had been on an exchange programme with a university in Namibia, arrived in Harare at the beginning of December and were given the responsibility of sorting the goods from the freight container and distributing them in Dzivarasekwa. Two students from Umeå University in Sweden cancelled their agreement in response to guidelines on travel to Zimbabwe issued by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign affairs.

*Picture: Kata brings greetings from a sponsor*

### The organisation in Zimbabwe

Over the reporting year, Dzikwa's field organisation was fortified. In 2008, Dzikwa had five permanent employees on the pay roll: Assan Mponda, accountant; Petronella Moyo, field officer; Levita Chenera, new field officer; Piona Matienga, new matron in the Dzikwa Shelter and Priscilla Takawira, who is responsible for the children at boarding school and for procurement. In addition, Dzikwa has six fixed-term employees who have worked as cooks and five tutors. A further five tutors will be taken on during the school holidays.



Dzikwa has also been able to offer regular employment in wood chopping, tree planting, kitchen-gardening and garbage collection. Over the year, Dzikwa provided employment for approximately 20 part-time workers. In addition, Primrose, a university accounting student, regularly helped in the office over the year.

Dzikwa's weekly operative meetings have gone well: While Oili and Seppo were in Finland, they were represented, on a voluntary basis, by Chris, a local business man who also represents various Finnish companies. His mandate was to ensure the weekly meetings were effective and to prepare for the procurement of large orders. The operative meetings are also an opportunity to train the staff.

The organisation's operations continue to be overseen by Stephen Chifunyise, Chairman of the Dzikwa Board, who is a renowned playwright and former Permanent Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Education. In December 2008 the Board decided to establish a local "Friends of Dzikwa Trust" organisation, in order to give practical support to the Trust's operations and to enhance the organisation's sustainability.

**External evaluation of Dzikwa:** Dzikwa commissioned an independent evaluation of its operations from international consultants Ernst & Young, to look into the adequacy of the staffing and the organisation's efficiency as well as its perceived development needs. The report, "Organisation & Operations Audit", was ready in February 2008. The analysis recommended strengthening the reporting lines, making job descriptions and employment contracts more formalised, and hiring three more staff members. Two of these have already been taken on and the job descriptions have been drawn up.

### **Wider impact on the community in Dzivarasekwa**

Dzikwa now has a significant influence on the children, their families and the schools in the township. Next to Harare municipal council, Dzikwa is the second largest employer in Dzivarasekwa Township. The Trust's building plot in the centre of the community and the Activity Centre building project have added to the level of awareness of the Trust's work and provided the locals with a sense of the permanency of Dzikwa's work. Relations with the local authorities and schools have continued to strengthen over the reporting year. For example, Dzikwa has been involved in repairing and maintaining the bore well in the DZ #4 school's grounds and assisted the local authorities in the work to open up some badly blocked sewage pipes. Hundreds of families are now able to collect clean drinking water from the well that Dzikwa has repaired. The Trust's food distribution to the neediest residents has continued. The newly initiated tree planting project has added to the level of awareness of environmental sustainable development. During the year, Dzikwa also donated eucalyptus saplings to the local police authorities and to DZ #4 school. In addition to helping the five handicapped children Dzikwa has on its lists, it also gave assistance to a special working place for the guardians of handicapped children, where the children are given day care.

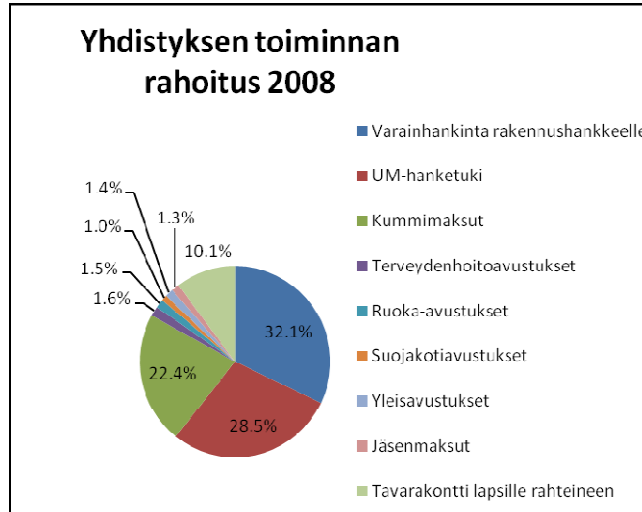
## **VI THE SOCIETY'S FINANCIAL STATUS**

### **Actual operational income and State support**

In accordance with a decision by the Board, the structure of the payments from our children's sponsors was redefined this year. The children's personal sponsors paid 180 euro a year for a primary school child and 240 euro for a secondary school child (Forms 1 to 6) in a State day school. The support fee for a child in the private sector secondary school was 300 euro. A child attending boarding school in Forms 1 to 6 cost 360 euro a year, including full board and travel. On top of this,

many sponsors made small personal additional contributions to their children. On average, we received approximately 225 euro (covering schooling, food, health care as well as sports and cultural activities).

The chart, below, illustrates the division of the Society's incoming finances, 2008:



**Key:** 1.3% Membership fees; 1.4% General (unspecified); 1.0% Shelter; 1.5% Food assistance; 1.6% Health care; 22.4% Sponsorship payments; 28.5% Ministry for Foreign Affairs development funds; 32.1% Fundraising for Dzikwa Activity Centre; 10.1% Container shipping.

The actual operational funds came from sponsors' payments, special donations and assistance as well as the development funds granted by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In 2008, we were in receipt of just under 48,000 euro from regular sponsor payments. On top of these, the Society received donations and assistance for the Dzikwa Shelter, health care and food as well as general, unspecified donations, totalling close on 12 000 euro. Health care accounted for a little below 3,500 euro, food for about 3,000 euro, the Shelter for 2,000 euro and general donations for about 3,500 euro. In all, the Society collected approximately 59,000 euro from the children's personal sponsors and others. We had budgeted for 55,000 euro of this income.

### **Finnish State support 2008**

During the reporting year, the Society received a 60,000 euro grant from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs under its NGO Development Cooperation programme. The funds received in 2008 were the final part of the overall 180,000 euro grant made in favour of the Society for 2006 – 2008. The Ministry sets clear boundaries for the application of these funds to administrative costs; they cannot be made to finance any investments.

The grant from the Finnish State has gone a considerable way to enabling the Society to continue supporting 176 children with exceptional social need in addition to those in the Trust's Alpha group. Additionally, the grant was used to finance the children's daily food and health care and to cover the expenses of the Dzikwa Shelter. During the reporting year, the costs for the Dzikwa programme's food supply doubled, health care costs rose by 40% and the cost of acquiring school equipment and supplies rose 20% over last year.

By the end of April 2009, the Society has to submit a separate report to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on its use of the grant. The Auditor gives his own report to the Ministry.

*The Society's regular income for 2008 totalled approximately 119,000 euro.*

### **New decision on a 3-year grant**

In the reporting year, the Society made a new application for 3 years of development aid from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and in December 2008 it received a new favourable decision for 2009 – 2011 amounting to a total of 280,000 euro, with a breakdown for the years as follows €100 000 + €90 000 + €90 000.

An application was made for a 500,000 euro grant to support the construction of our Dzikwa Activity Centre. However this was not granted for the following reasons:

- Zimbabwe's uncertain political, economic and social conditions;
- A lack of committed local stakeholders;
- The light Zimbabwean membership base of the Dzikwa Trust Fund's Board – a total lack of local corporate or institutional members and two Finnish Board members (Oili & Seppo)
- Uncertainty related to the maintenance costs of the Activity Centre and covering the increasing costs in Zimbabwe.

For the coming year, 2009, the Society has received an additional 15,000 euro from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. This grant is for providing development education and awareness creation for a wider group of school children in Finland. The Society will visit several Finnish schools in the autumn of 2009 in cooperation with OAJ, Finnish Teachers' Association.

### **Operational expenditure**

The majority of the Society's expenses are incurred by the Dzikwa Trust Fund in its role of direct provider of support to the orphans, totalling over 125,000 euro in 2008. In addition, donations of 15,400 euro were made to Dzikwa in the form of the contents of the freight container sent to Zimbabwe. Donations to the Activity Centre were monitored separately in the accounts. Transfers written to the construction of the Activity Centre totalled approximately 16,000 euro for the reporting year.

Travel expenses to Zimbabwe were approximately 7,600 euro. The Society's administrative expenses were 3,200 euro, which is 3.1% of income from ordinary activities.

### **Specific fundraising**

Other fundraising is separated from payments by sponsors and from other regular acquisition of funds for education support. *Total other funds raised came to 91,700 euro.* Of this, 74,100 euro was in monetary form and approximately 17,600 euro in donated goods. The container contents accounted for about 15,400 euro in addition to over 2,100 euro's worth of furniture for the Activity Centre. Contributions to the freight costs of the container came to just under 6,000 euro.

Payments totalling 2,820 euro were made as Society membership fees.

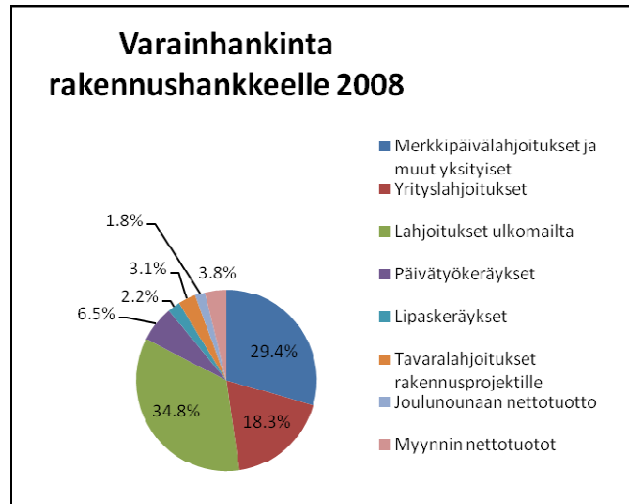
A majority of the Society's fundraising activities focused on the Dzikwa Activity Centre's building project in 2008 and gathered a little below 62,000 euro. Some of the funds raised were donated specifically for the building project and the remainder were allocated on the decision of the Board. The Board used 14,000 euro of unspecified donations towards the ordinary activities of the programme, as costs in Zimbabwe rose dramatically beyond expectations. On the other hand, the

building project progressed far more slowly than anticipated and it was considered that not all the funds would need to be allocated to 2008.

Of the other funds raised, 38,000 euro came from monetary donations from Finland and a little below 24,000 euro from other countries. Many of the donations that originated in Finland came from such occasions as anniversaries or retirement parties, where a child’s sponsor or other benefactor had requested that any gifts should be made as donations to the Society’s construction activities. Some sponsors donated lecture fees to the Society and one private sponsor gave a gift of 2,000 euro. Of the corporate sponsors, Gard Baltic Oy (Ltd) donated 850 euro and SP Fund Management Company 1,500 euro. The Bank of Finland made a donation of 10,000 euro in acknowledgement of the considerable and continuous contributions and efforts to the Society made by many members of the staff of the Bank of Finland - the Financial Supervision Authority. Two schools, the Helsinki School of Natural Sciences and the Anttila School in Lohja, gathered just under 4,400 euro with their ‘charity day’ work, for the Society. On top of this, our collection boxes yielded 1,500 euro. The Board also allocated the funds raised by the December sponsors’ lunch, of over 1,100 euro and the Society’s craft sales receipts to the building fund, totalling over 2,500 euro.

**Funds from elsewhere for the building project** came most notably from the Royal Arch Order in Scotland, who donated 16,000 euro, Antti’s donated presentation fees came to 2,500 euro, our German sponsor Henning gave 1,500 euro raised in honour of his retirement party and ABG Sundall Ab (Ltd) donated 1,000 euro.

*The chart below illustrates the funds and goods donated to the building project:*



**Key:** 29.4% Anniversary and similar donations; 18.3% Corporate gifts; 34.8% Donations from non-Finnish sources; 6.5% Schools’ ‘charity day’ donations; 2.2% Collection boxes; 3.1% Goods donations for the building project; 1.8% Sponsor lunch; 3.8% Net handicraft sales.

Fundraising costs came to over 11,000 euro, much of which is accounted for by the freight costs for the container of 7,000 euro.

### **Fund raising challenges**

Special fundraising in 2008 did not progress as planned and outlined in the fundraising plan of 28 April 2007. Applications were made to four Finnish trust funds, to no avail. Further the Society was

unable to gather adequate voluntary resources to arrange any effective or broad fundraising campaigns in Finland. The planned Internet fundraising project did not materialise either.

### **Financial results for the period**

*The Society's posted a surplus of approximately 31,900 euro at the end of 2008.* The surplus arose solely from the halt brought to the Activity Centre building project in the second half of the year. For this reason, not all the allocated funds were transferred to Zimbabwe. It was felt that funds should be transferred as and when needed, rather than in advance of requirements. A transfer to Zimbabwe of 30,000 euro was made at the beginning of 2009.

### **Fundraising permit in Finland**

The Society's existing fundraising permit, number OKU 1196A expired on 31 December 2008. Application for a new permit was made to the State Provincial Office of Southern Finland at the beginning of 2009 and a new permit, number OKH371A, was granted for the period 20 February 2009 – 31 December 2010 valid for the whole of Finland, with the exception of the autonomous region of the Åland Islands. *The registered account for the fundraising permit is: Centre for Zimbabwe Orphans, Nordea, 174530-61657.*

## **VII OPERATING ENVIRONMENT IN ZIMBABWE AND THE DZIKWA TRUST'S FINANCIAL SITUATION**

### **Working environment**

The operating environment for the reporting period was extraordinarily difficult in the second half of the year from an economic, financial and schooling point of view. The country's economy remained in a deep depression and Zimbabwe's unemployment level is estimated to be around 90%. Life expectancy has now dropped to 34 years for women and 37 for men. The country's vast deficit and galloping inflation fuelled by being financed by the constant printing of banknotes became still deeper, reaching unprecedented levels of hyperinflation. By the summer of 2008, inflation levels rose to a world record level of 231million per cent and no inflation figures have been published since August. There was a critical shortage of cash during the entire reporting period, on top of which, by the end of the year, cheques written out in Zimbabwe dollars were no longer accepted, and a majority of purchases and procurements were being paid for in foreign currency.

At the end of August, the central bank ordered 10 zeros to be removed from the Zimbabwe dollar and again 12 zeros were removed in February 2009. At the beginning of 2009, the currency market was freed, meaning that the country's own currency ceased to be used entirely. All prices are now stated in the US dollar and/or South African rand.

Due to the economic strife, the situation for schools in Zimbabwe was grave throughout the reporting year. The State no longer had the means to pay the teachers' salaries. Teachers went on strike, sometimes for extended periods, particularly at the end of the year; teaching was fragmented and reports were left unwritten for the third term due to the lack of grades and exam results. Some schools demanded a certain amount of foodstuffs in payment for each child who wrote the matriculation exam, and the final results and exam inspections have, in many cases, taken until April 2009 to be completed.

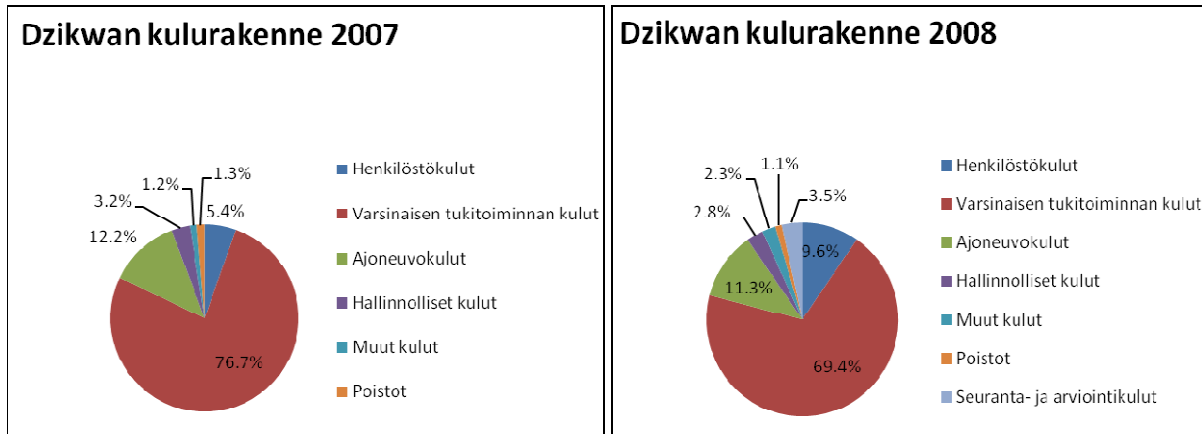
Despite this, Dzikwa was able to operate normally and, in the face of challenges, even increase its basic operational levels in terms of the orphans. Through exact and careful financial planning, bulk

buying and taking advantage of situations flexibly, and with the help of an extensive network of contacts, Dzikwa managed to make things work. The situation was such that, at times over the year, we had to pay our local employees some of their salary in kind, ie in foodstuffs.

The political situation has not directly affected the day-to-day running of Dzikwa's operations. The residents of Dzivarasekwa and all the relevant schools continued to react very positively to the orphans' support programme and to the building project. The same can be said about the attitude of the key Government Ministries and other authorities.

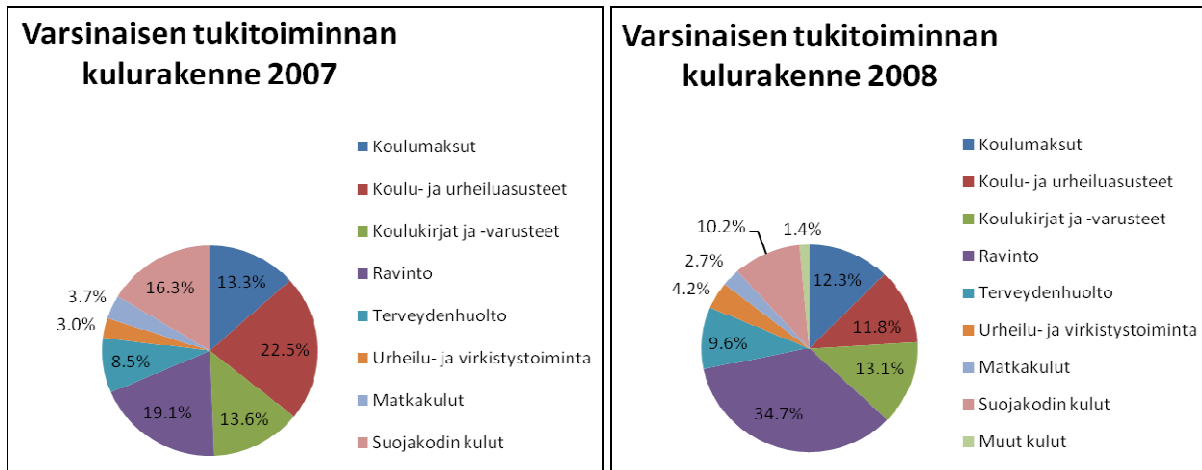
### Dzikwa finances

Dzikwa's **total expenditure for 2008 was 143,600 euro** (excl. container). The chart below illustrates the breakdown of expenditure by main sectors compared with 2007:



**Key:** (2007)2008; (5.4)9.6% Staff costs; (76.7)69.4% Actual education support costs; (12.2) 11.3% Transport and vehicles; (3.2)2.8% Administrative costs; (1.2)2.3% Other costs; (1.3)1.1% Depreciation; (n.a.)3.5% Evaluation report.

Dzikwa's actual **operational expenses totalled approximately 99,700 euro** and a breakdown of expenses for 2007 and 2008 is illustrated by the charts, below:



**Key:** (2007)2008: (13.3)12.3% School fees; (22.5)11.8% School and sports uniforms; (13.6)13.1% School books and supplies; (19.1)34.7% Food; (8.5)9.6% Health care; (3.0)4.2% Sports and cultural activities; (3.7)2.7% Travel/fares; (16.3)10.2% Shelter; (n.a) 1.4% Other expenses.

In addition, 9,00 euro in construction costs were activated in the Dzikwa financial statement in 2008.

Dzikwa succeeded in raising about 28,400 euro in direct donations from large non-Finnish sponsors, over the year, towards the construction of the Activity Centre. The largest donor was again the Royal Arch Order from Scotland. The Australian Embassy financed the drilling of our bore well, to a cost of USD 8,300. Old Mutual, a major local insurance company, made considerable contributions to the building project by committing its real estate development expertise to Dzikwa free of charge. This in-kind support has not been represented in monetary terms in the Dzikwa financial statement.

As previously, Dzikwa's accounts were audited in Harare in 2008 by Camelsa Chartered Accountants for a nominal fee.

### **Challenges to operations and construction in 2009**

The operating environment will remain extremely challenging in the near future. The 'dollarisation' of the Zimbabwean economy implies that pricing transparency will improve and the cash shortage will likely ease. On the other hand, the country is still in the midst of a deep economic depression and the newly established two-party Government of National Unity is faced with huge challenges in re-building the country. Education and health care alone would require an estimated USD 2 billion in support to reactivate. The worst price spikes in foodstuffs and other consumer goods seem to be levelling out, but price levels remain extremely high in relation to neighbouring countries. Dzikwa will need to remain proactive in acquiring the basic goods and materials required for its activities and will need to continue buying in bulk.

Cost levels in Zimbabwe in the near future may even rise somewhat above forecast levels. Setting school fees in US dollars has added considerably to education costs at the beginning of 2009, at the same time as the distress experienced by the children of Dzivarasekwa has worsened. There has already been a 20% increase in costs over the budget presented to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs for 2008. In reality, cost levels are expected to be as much as 60% higher than in 2008. The Society will re-examine its budgets for the coming years and will consider cutting back on the number of children it supports, making a clear increase in the sponsorship payments or finding completely new sources of funding.

The worst global economic downturn in 60 years could have a significant influence on the Society's operations in many ways: (1) Zimbabwe may not receive the financial stimulus it requires from neighbouring countries and the international community, either in size or in timing. The cost of sending the children to school remains inordinately high and may even endanger the continuity of educational institutions. (2) The Society may not get sufficient large donations to undertake the Dzikwa Activity Centre construction in the manner planned. (3) The Society may lose some of its existing sponsors or gain too few new sponsors as unemployment levels grow in Finland and elsewhere in Europe, meaning that the number of sponsored children will have to be cut back or new funding sources found.

Picture: Girls from Dewure secondary school & Happy primary school children



### CONTACT DETAILS

In FINLAND:

Zimbabwe Aids-Orvot ry

Purotie 3 A 33

FI-00380 HELSINKI

Tel: +358 9 8137207

and + 358 40 7211405/ Seppo Ainamo or +358 40 5922543/Oili Wuolle

Email:

[seppo.ainamo@kolumbus.fi](mailto:seppo.ainamo@kolumbus.fi)

Website: [www.zim-Orvot.org](http://www.zim-Orvot.org)

In ZIMBABWE:

Zimbabwe Aids Orphans

P.O. Box HG 916 Highlands

HARARE

ZIMBABWE

Tel: +263 4 497487

and +263 912 210855/ Seppo Ainamo or +263 912 403485/ Oili Wuolle

Email: [dzikwaTrust@africaonline.co.zw](mailto:dzikwaTrust@africaonline.co.zw)

SUPPORT THE DZIKWA ACTIVITY  
CENTRE CONSTRUCTION BY  
MAKING A DONATION!

REGISTERED ACCOUNT:  
CENTRE FOR ZIMBABWE  
ORPHANS,

NORDEA, 174530-61657

IBAN: FI0517453000061657

FUNDRAISING PERMIT NO:  
OKH137A

*Picture: Dzikwa children on Sports' Day 2008*

