

Report 2006

The children in the care of the association SidEcole are particularly vulnerable. Orphans of one or both parents who live in a situation of destitution. Sometimes up to 8 or 10 live in one room, they often suffer from malnutrition and frequently have to take on the care of family members who are ill and weak, mother, father, grandmother and others. Some work in quarries, others are head of the family for their younger brothers and sisters.

Schooling : 373 children

The children in the charge of SidEcole attend school regularly and apparently with pleasure. They study hard and look happy again in part thanks to the regular meal they receive at midday, the games they play in the group and the new life that protects them from the dangers of spending the day on the street. Some even start to imagine a future with a job. **The teachers have noticed that they arrive earlier at school in the morning, that they can concentrate better and that they leave later after school. They are livelier and more joyful!** They learn not only basic skills like reading writing and arithmetic but also receive **information on prevention** of diseases like Aids and malaria. Some children have been able to take and pass exams at the end of primary level and some have moved on to secondary level (21) or are doing a vocational training (9), a few (4) are at university.

School meals: 370 to 400 children

Support through school meals enables us to relieve or improve nutrition deficiency and malnutrition

.The younger children receive a breakfast of cereals with a banana or an egg. The older children also receive a midday meal with posho, (corn), leguminous plants and sweet potatoes. The nutritional state of the children has much improved and the teachers inform us that **better school results are** the direct consequence of regular meals. The children are more active, they look healthier and they have gained weight. **The children are ill less.** It is true that adequate nutrition plays a important part in improving the quality and length of life of those that live with VIH/AIDS: however the extreme poverty of some of the families dampens our enthusiasm.

Financial support to schools

The 6 « mummy houses » of the St Moses orphanage now have their own library. The « mummies » encourage the children to read and read to them at bedtime. **Reading has a calming and curative effect on the children** who have had traumatising experiences.

Arts and crafts

Every Friday afternoon the primary classes (boys and girls) of levels 4 to 7 learn manual skills, which can be used to generate earnings later in life.

Uniforms and school material: 260 children

In the village communities of the Lower Zambezi (Zambia), in distributing uniforms and school material exclusively to orphans we have become aware of the fact that it is very difficult to choose a specific population of children who need help: indeed many other children are needy and dressed in rags.

Prevention, information on Aids

This project, in cooperation with a local NGO, in Zambia has two complementary components: visits of the villages (9947 people have been reached) and 3-day camps (187 children), where they see films, take part in discussions, where posters are distributed and they receive condoms and information brochures.

New programme : 62 children

SidEcole made the decision to help a family, at Busia, a town right on the Uganda/Kenya border. Over the last few years, Mama Orphans has taken in children found on the street, some are only 3 or 4 years old (!), and has put them into school. This family has sold everything they possessed even the car to pay for food for these orphans now numbering 62. Last year funds were running out and the state of the children deteriorated, as they were not getting regular meals. Their living conditions were also dreadful and yet the police and local people continued to bring in abandoned children. SidEcole therefore decided to help them - how could we refuse? - with the backing of Pro Victimis who are funding the construction of dormitories. Apart from funds for the meals, school material and uniforms, 62 mosquito nets were provided as well as two sewing machines.

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