

APG23' s experiences with Participatory Development in Zambia



Social Forum 2012, 1-3 October

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 - Rainbow project
 - Chichetekelo Youth Project
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Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

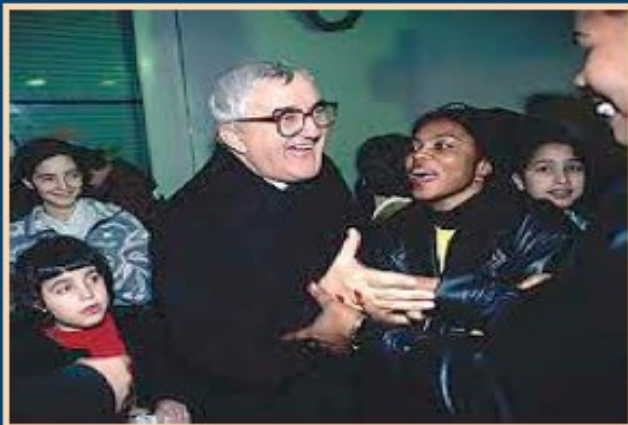


Founded by Father Oreste Benzi in Italy

International Lay Association of Pontifical Right

Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Present in 27 countries (5 continents)



Committed to sharing directly life with poor and marginalized people and removing the causes of poverty, injustice and marginalization

Promoting the society of "gratuitousness"

Members belong to all status of life



- ***Sharing life with children in need, youth, persons with disabilities, old people, Rom and Sinti, prisoners, drug users, alchoolics, vulnerable women, people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS...***
- ***298 Family-homes, 34 Therapeutic Communities, 31 Daily-centres, 13 Co-operatives, Houses of Prayer, Fraternity homes, night shelters, open families etc***
- **Development projects**
- **Presence of Nonviolent Peace Operators in zones of conflicts**
- **Advocacy**
- **Presence at the United Nations**



Guiding Principles on Development

***HUMAN DIGNITY AS CORE VALUE
INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT
PEOPLE-CENTRED
PARTICIPATORY
HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED***

Inspired by:

- Direct sharing of life with persons living in poverty and/or marginalised
- Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church
- UDHR, UN Charter and Declaration on the Right to Development

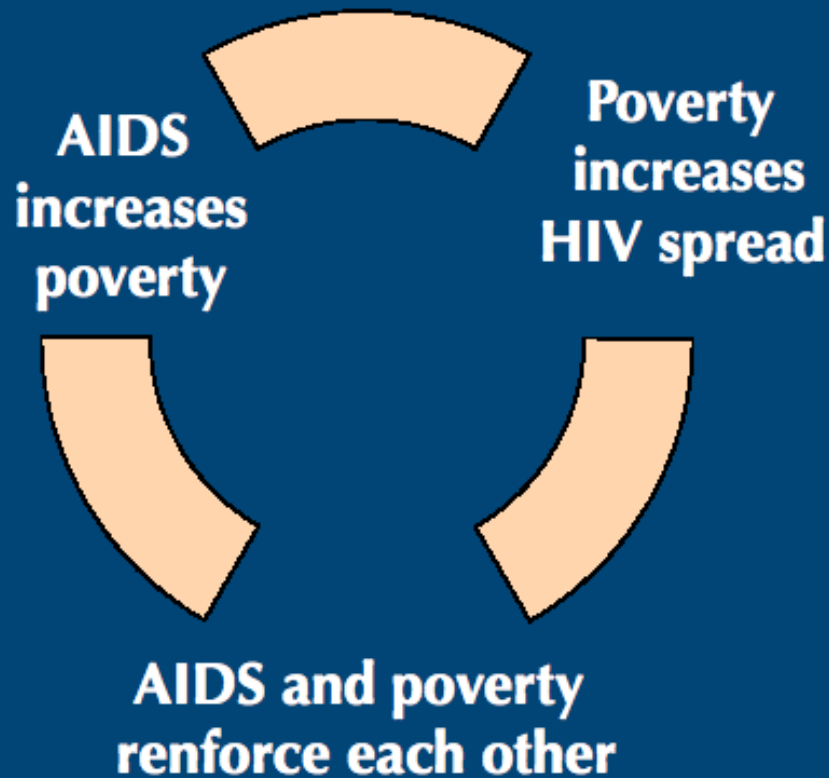
ZAMBIA



Overview of poverty and HIV/AIDS in Zambia

- Devastating impact of the epidemic in all sectors of society
 - HIV prevalence around 14.3% among adults ages 15-49 years
 - 1.1 million persons living with HIV/AIDS
 - HAART coverage: 72% (2011)
 - Around 690,000 AIDS orphans
 - Many children roaming the streets
 - Poverty incidence estimated at 64%
 - Vicious circle AIDS-Poverty
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The vicious circle AIDS-Poverty



RAINBOW PROJECT



➤ **MULTI-SECTORAL MODEL OF CARE ON A LARGE SCALE FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

➤ **A STRATEGIC PLAN TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY BASED RESPONSES TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

➤ **EMPOWERING WHAT IS ALREADY WORKING AND ADDING WHAT IS LACKING**



RAINBOW PROJECT

**Since 1998 in Kenya, Tanzania
and Zambia (Copperbelt province)**

Aims

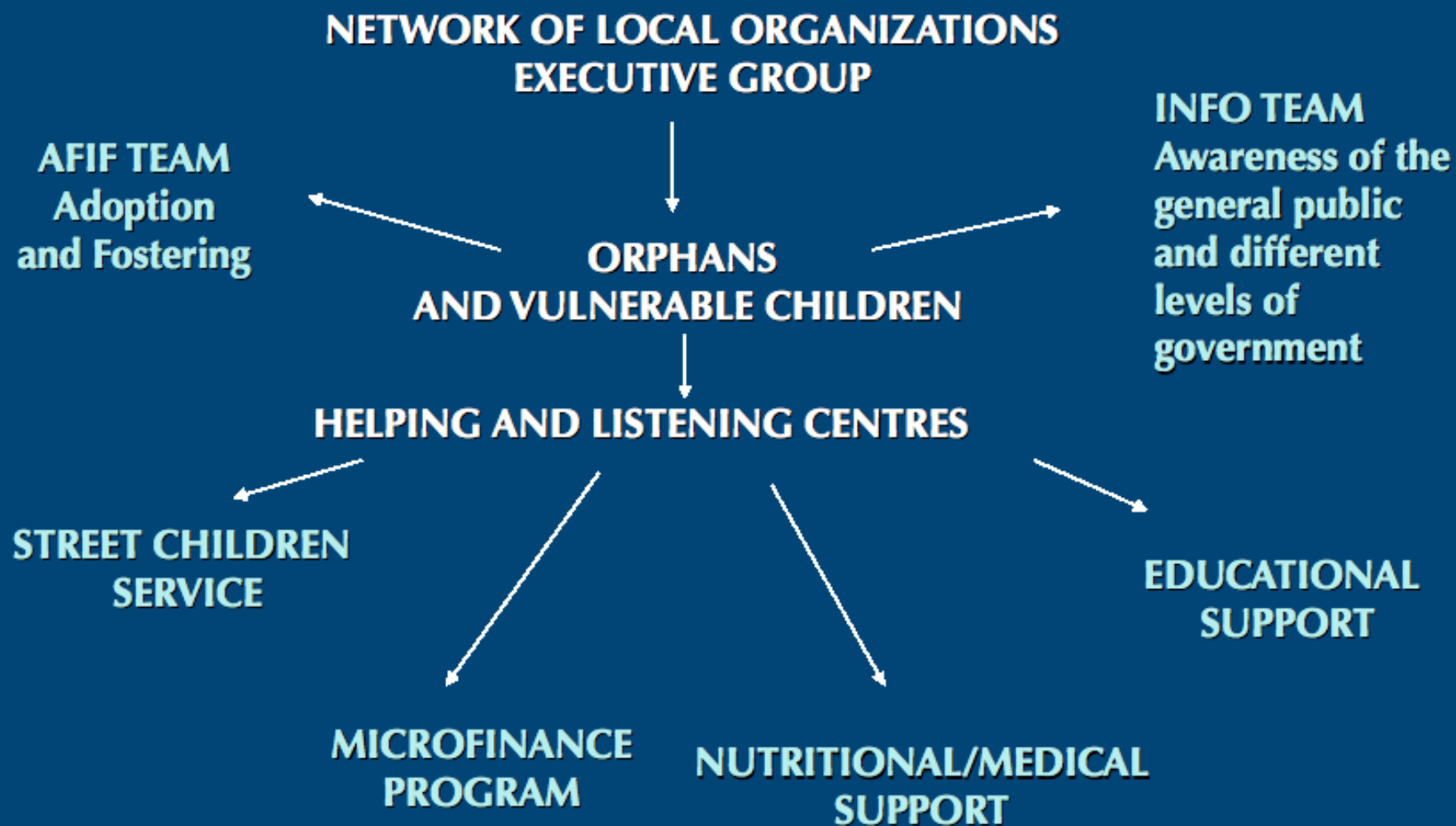
- to extend coverage of assistance to OVCs
- to support the traditional extended family model
- to make nations aware of the AIDS emergency

Strategies

- Operational networking with more than 34 community based organizations
- Community-based approach
- Participatory development at all levels
- Twin-track approach
- Capacity building
- Advocacy



RAINBOW INTERVENTION PLAN



RAINBOW EXECUTIVE GROUP



MICROFINANCES

AIMS

- to improve the standard of life of vulnerable families
- to preserve the local culture
- to return to people, especially women, the opportunity to have a prominent role in their own development
- to reduce dependency syndrome
- to develop personal independence and self confidence
- to reach self-sustainability after the program has ended

STRATEGIES

- Awareness groups consisting of vulnerable families that are already caring for orphans
- Twin- Track approach aiming to find a balance between short term needs and long term self-sustainability
- A four years program



Twin-Track system

First track

- **Each Rainbow centre identifies twenty five vulnerable families who will go through farming and management skills training for ten days**
- **Each family is given an average of one hector of land to cultivate maize beans and groundnuts**
- **Each family receives, as a loan, agriculture in-puts in terms of seeds, fertilizer and tools**
- **Initial and refresh training in agricultural and agricultural technical assistance provided**

Second track

- **direct assistance in term of food, education for children and other basic needs for three months**



Twin-Track system

Loans are given without interests

In the fourth year the agriculture inputs (seeds, fertilizer and tools) are given as a grant

Average percentage of repaying back is around 95 - 98%



Rainbow figures 2011-Zambia

11.874
vulnerable people
(9.466 children)

345 families
in micro-credit program

4.092
Vulnerable families

330 Aged people
in 9 nutritional centres

13
training and
refreshment course

9 helping and
listening centres in
18 compounds /areas

5.000 Children
helped to attend school

11 community schools

33
teachers supported
in community schools

80 children
with disabilities
supported

2.013 people
supported with
general assistance
and medical support

420 street children
in 5 shelters

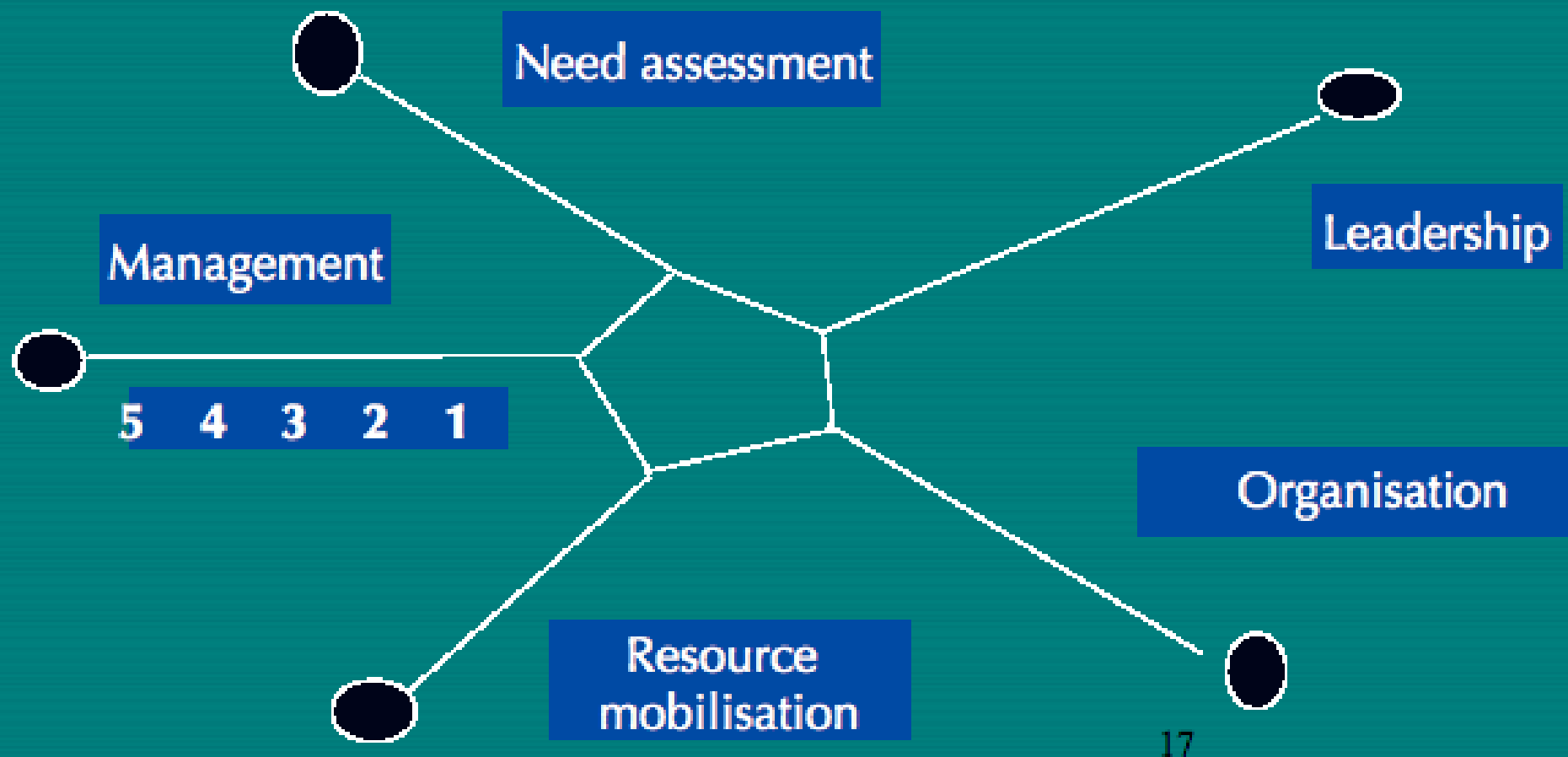
2.228 children
received nutritional support

25 adults in literacy
program



Rainbow project: community participation

- The spidergram (Rifkin et. al, 1988)



CHICHETEKELO YOUTH PROJECT (CYP)



- CYP began in 1997 with 33 youth from a dumping area of Ndola
- Chichetekelo = Hope
- Short and long-term interventions
- Three phases (1 Kansenshi, 2 Nkwazi, 3 Misundu)
- Dealing with both the root causes and symptoms of the phenomenon of children living on the streets

*youth from the dumping areas and streets
restored in their dignity and provided with an
opportunity for total transformation in their
lives*



**vulnerable youth prevented roaming the streets and being
more exposed to high risk behaviors**

**youth being able to guarantee to themselves and their
families sustainable household food security and basic
needs**

Through

Education
Skills training
Recreational activities
Job opportunities
Spiritual formation



Summary of activities

Phase 1 Kansenshi

- Day and night street visits
- Drop in centre
- Counselling
- Emergency shelter
- Transient home
- Recreational/sport activities
- Family tracing
- Family reunification

Phase 2 Nkwazi

- Daily centre for 150 children
- Residential centre for 36 children
- Community school
- Recreational activities
- Promotion of personal skills and attitudes
- Girl child program
- Family empowerment
- Spiritual formation

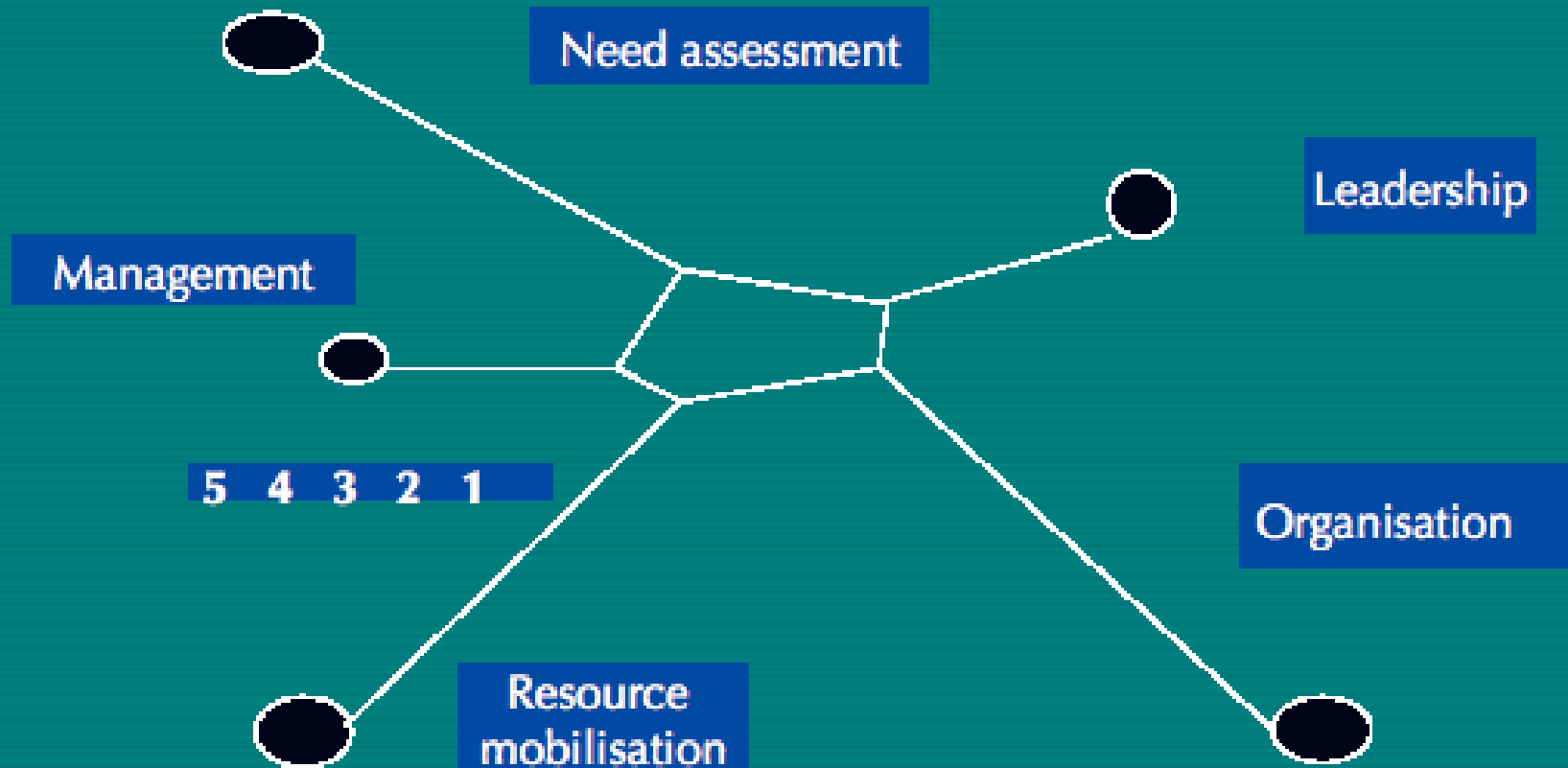
Phase 3 Misundu

- Hostel for 100 youth
- 3 years training in carpentry, mechanics and agriculture
- Education (secondary school)
- Family empowerment
- Counselling
- Medical support
- Commercial activities (farm, icecream shops)
- Job opportunities (including stages in private companies)

ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than 400 youths supported
 - 40 youths successfully completed grade 12 since 2005
 - 18 youths studying in different colleges in Zambia
 - 200 children integrated into government schools from the Community school
 - Improvement in the health of children through nutritional and medical support
 - Improvement in the economic levels of the families through family empowerment programs
 - 40 youth trained in carpentry, mechanics and agriculture now self employed and able to sustain themselves and their families
 - Self-sustainability of the project almost reached
 - Reduction of street children in Ndola
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CYP : community participation



CYP involves representatives of youth and families in the executive board and cooperates with the Development Residential Committees

CONCLUSIONS

Rainbow and Chichetekelo projects work complimentary and at different levels as comprehensive approach of APG23 to the situation of orphans and vulnerable children

The two projects exemplify People-centred and Participatory Development where community participation is key to success

Local communities know very well what is good for their own development; it is a matter of offering opportunities to express themselves and be empowered
