



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia

Since our last Update the Project is excited to announce that training has begun! Since February, 50 young mothers have started attending the training designed to address the challenges they face in daily life.



UPDATE FROM MABLE

The Project has finally started with 50 young mothers on board. The selection process was completed successfully in collaboration with mentors and church leaders. Prior to the training, a review meeting for Church leaders and the young mothers was held to explain the Projects' planned activities and the expectations of participants. Participants have provided relevant information about their circumstances in order that progress may be tracked and adjustments made to continually improve the relevance of the training provided.

We have reached all our targets for the semi-annual period. Two trainings were conducted, both in Sexual and Reproductive Health. The first training session proved to be very challenging as we did not have toys or mattresses for the children to rest. However, through the Church Contribution Budget we managed to buy these things before the second training session. As a result the session went smoothly as the children were less restless.

As we look to our next steps we recognise the need to build the confidence of participants in the Project, for them to remain and be empowered.

"I am so thankful for allowing me to be on this project. I have learnt a lot of things within the short period of time. Given the opportunity would like to go back to school and become a nurse."

- Rachel, one of the young mothers on the project.



PRAYER

Dear God, we thank you and worship you for all you have done for your people in all generations. Lord God we pray for the success of the Journeying Together Project. We pray that as the young mothers learn life skills You lead them to obey Your voice. We know Lord that without Your help we can do nothing; especially as the Project is just starting and we do not know what lies ahead. We pray for the children on this Project that their needs will be met. Thanking you always.

Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- The Journeying Together Project seeks to empower the women through providing education in a variety of subjects. The young mothers value education and most are disappointed at having been unable to complete their school education. Do you think education is as valued in Scotland?
- Sometimes the young mothers have been misinformed about matters like nutrition, family planning and gender justice. What do you think the best approach might be to improve the young mothers knowledge on these topics?

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RACHEL

After the death of her father her mother remarried. Her stepfather became verbally abusive when drunk and would

refuse to buy food or pay school fees. Rachel found a boyfriend to support her instead but sadly, when she became pregnant, he refused to take responsibility. After learning of her pregnancy, her stepfather refused to accept her and chased both her and her siblings from his home.

Rachel is a hairdresser and the income from this enables her to feed and take care of her child, Grace (3), and helps towards sending her brothers to school.



CATHARINE

Catharine is 15 and has a baby boy, Michael Jaza. The father of the child is a foreigner who does not support Catharine.

Catharine, who had been on target for passing all her school exams that year, went into labour during one of the exam papers. Now she would like the opportunity to return to school and work towards her dream of becoming a teacher.