

## **Zambian youth workers visiting Ireland during One World Week 2011**

### **Barefeet Theatre Zambia - Felix Chali**

Barefeet is a creative arts and performance organization that stages projects, rehearsed and presented mainly, though not exclusively, by children who are on, or formerly have been living on the streets of Zambia. The project uses theatre, art, dance, music and creative writing as a tool to engage with and support the development of children most at risk of disengaging from their communities. Barefeet offers them an opportunity to have their voices heard and a channel through which to express themselves. Felix works as a facilitator and is eager to learn more and develop his skills. He has a keen interest in youth radio and 'crumping'- hip hop style dancing. Felix also has varied youth work experience with the Scouts, Africa Direction, Grassroots Soccer, Restless Development, Community Youth Concern, and Society for Women Anti AIDS in Zambia, Lusaka Township Tours and Bora Arts Theatre in Zambia. He uses a lot of games and participatory activities in his presentations. For the future, Felix is particularly interested in acquiring skills in using mass media to advocate for youth issues. He would like to learn more from Irish youth organisations who use media including radio/ TV programs to advocate for youth.

### **Grassroot Soccer Skillz (GRSZ) Zambia - Moomba Mbolongwe**

GRSZ is a national NGO that has been operating in Zambia since February 2005. Using the power of soccer to educate youth, mobilize communities, and inspire behavioural change, Grassroot Soccer Education (GRS) works within Zambia to deliver an effective HIV prevention and life skills curriculum to vulnerable youth.

The GRSZ approach uses the power and popularity of ball sports and other games to break down cultural barriers, to educate young people, and to bring communities together to fight HIV/AIDS. GRSZ uses its unique, activity-based Skillz curriculum, based on Albert Bandura's Social Cognitive Theory, specifically his Social Learning Theory, to develop self efficacy and to empower individuals to become role models within their communities.

The curriculum is administered through ten practice sessions within government, community and private schools, as well as football academies and community centres in Lusaka communities and two refugee settlements. In addition to these interventions, GRSZ holds community VCT challenges and tournaments to blanket communities in a consistent message of HIV prevention, and family planning/reproductive health information. These events combine GRSZ sport-based activities, entertainment, and fun with free VCT (Voluntary Counselling and Testing) and referrals to other services. GRSZ currently has 100 active Peer Educators (or "coaches") working in their respective communities reaching out and educating people about how to avoid HIV infection. Despite the name, GRSZ use a series of games (using tennis balls, rope, cans etc ) to demonstrate messages for youth.

Moomba has varied experience and has been with GRSZ for 16 months, heading up a large Elton John Aids Foundation project. Since June 2011, Moomba has been responsible for the logistics, planning and coordination of much of this work. She has practical knowledge and experience in matters affecting youth on the ground as well as youth management. In her previous work, Moomba worked with traditional leaders such as chiefs and headmen in rural areas all over the country to raise awareness on the dangers of certain traditional

practices such as sexual cleansing. Moomba would like to be learn more from youth organisations in Ireland that work on advocacy issues and/or development & youth empowerment.

### **Restless Development, Zambia - Hellen Chaponda**

Restless Development is a youth-led organisation that works in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sport Youth and Child Development to implement youth-led and youth-focused development interventions with young people (aged 11-29) in schools, colleges of education, communities and in the non-formal youth sector. The organisation works across Zambia's nine provinces, building the capacity of youth and development organizations to create a generation of inspirational youth leaders. The organisation aims to increase youth leadership, youth entrepreneurship and youth sexual reproductive health.

Hellen has excellent knowledge of national and international youth policies on gender and development, advocacy, HIV/AIDS, Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Life skills education and has a very keen interest in Global Youth Justice issues. She is very confident, positive, dynamic, passionate, articulate and eager to learn. Hellen is part of the Restless Development expert volunteer alumni and also part of the 'Advocate for Action' team. She has varied youth work experience with Young Women in Action in Zambia and other women's movements and organisations. She mentors youth workers and is very keen to use the knowledge gained on the exchange visit to Ireland to improve and adapt her current programmes. Hellen uses various games and other participatory methods to deliver youth work. Hellen is also interested in meeting any youth organization that deals with the government in policy engagements and advocacy, or youth entrepreneurship, gender and development.

### **YMCA Zambia - Darius Musokwa**

Darius works with a YMCA Drop in Centre working with the street children/vulnerable youth, providing nutrition to the children/youths, health care and family tracing of the beneficiaries, psychosocial support, counseling and mentoring of street children and re-integration into formal education, skills training in short and long term courses.

Darius is particularly interested in meeting youth organisations in Ireland that offer recreational activities/or sport such as football and field youth work e.g. outreach, and visiting different people and places to get a scope of youth work in Ireland. He hopes to learn and share different cultures and to further learn about how young people come together and socialise, how they spend their free time and come together to exchange ideas around various issues concerning youths and their contribution to National Development. Darius also hopes to learn and share challenges we face in working with children and youths, assessing the impact of our interventions, benefits and how these issues can be addressed and improved on among youth workers. Lastly, Darius wishes to learn and discover new developments in this field of working with children and youths and also learn how different organisations work, including how involved the Government of Ireland is in effective implementation of projects/programs dealing with the children and the youths.