

“Girl Returns to School”

Education nurtures the dreams, hopes and ambitions of every child and helps to guarantee a child's future. In a country where the government says education is free but is never really free as there are still PTA fees to pay coupled with the high poverty levels, getting an education is difficult for most families. It is important that a child is educated if the family will improve in their standards of living.

DAPP-ZAMFAM contributes and supplements government's efforts of having an educated citizenry through supporting OVCs to go to school. Ruth Pelekelo of Libuyu Compound in



Livingstone has returned to school after years out. Ruth, a grade 5 at Libuyu East Community School said, “I can now go to school and never have to worry about being sent back home. My performance has improved very much. I am confident that with this support from DAPP-ZAMFAM, I can become a teacher in future.” Ruth who was also chosen to be a peer leader of the kids club added that the knowledge that they received in the club through Response Network has helped her live healthy and work together with fellow peers in and out of school.

Beauty Pelekelo the mother to Ruth said that she had seen her daughter's behaviour change due to the education. She told the Response Network officers that before ZAMFAM came to her aid, Ruth used to play the whole day which made her become repulsive towards school but now the situation has changed as Ruth needs no help or pushing to go to school. Speaking with tears almost falling from her eyes, Beauty added that it was a great scenery to see her daughter prepare and once again return to school after a long time out. Mrs. Pelekelo added that even though she was a member of the Village Action Group (VAG) yet to receive business loans, she is happy that her child was back in school and was optimistic that the family's standard of living will be improved with the knowledge she has received through the VAG coupled with the business loan. “I wish to say thank you to DAPP-ZAMFAM for supporting me and urge you to continue as I still have a long way to go.” Ruth said.