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**And all District Social Welfare offices
through out the country.**

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH Department of Social Welfare

Basic facts about the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS)



PUBLIC WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME (PWAS)

INTRODUCTION

The Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS) is Government's Social Assistance programme aimed at mitigating social economic shocks and other negative effects such as, poverty and the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

PWAS OBJECTIVES

- To assist the most vulnerable in society to fulfil their basic needs particularly health, education, food and shelter.
- To promote community capacity to develop local and externally supported capacity to overcome the problems of extreme poverty and vulnerability.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

The PWAS provides supplementary assistance in addition to that provided by the communities and extended families. Therefore, the Scheme is not meant to replace the traditional forms of support.

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Assists households with basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and repatriation to stranded persons. The assistance is in-kind support.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

Children from households registered under PWAS are provided with necessary school requirements. The Scheme caters for primary and secondary pupils only and does not extend to tertiary level. However, our District Offices provide recommendations to programmes such as bursary schemes to children from destitute families accepted into local colleges and universities.

HEALTH CARE SUPPORT

The Health Care Support assists identified destitute persons with orthopedic medicines and appliances, such as artificial limbs, shoes, clutches and spectacles.

The support is implemented in conjunction with the Ministry of Health.

COUNSELLING

The Department of Social Welfare offers Counseling Services to complement the material assistance and makes referrals to appropriate institutions for support. The PWAS in this sense aims at developing self-reliance thereby discouraging the dependency syndrome

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

PWAS targets extremely poor older persons, orphans or neglected children, chronically ill or disabled persons, female single headed households.

HOW TO ACCESS ASSISTANCE

All persons in need of assistance are identified by Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWACS) or referred by other relevant authorities to District Social Welfare Officers.

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Social Welfare Headquarters does not provide any form of assistance. The main responsibilities of headquarters are policy matters.

OVERALL THE PWAS DOES NOT:

- Provide assistance for secondary medical treatment of ill clients or specialized treatment outside Zambia;
- Deal with employment opportunities
- Provide assistance to pupils in Private Schools.
- Provide loans or business grants
- It is not the mandate of PWAS to provide assistance for the burial of destitute persons.