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Donors offer 800 million HIV test kits

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US donors offer 800-million/- HIV test kits

From PETER TEMBA in
Moshi

US-based Trinity Biotech has donated 40,000 HIV test kits, worth 680,000 US dollars or 816m/- to Kilimanjaro Region.

The Director of Zerf Charitable Fund, Ms Elisabeth Allen, said here yesterday that the kits would go to needy villagers, orphanages and health facilities.

The kits were shipped directly to St Joseph Hospital in Moshi municipality for distribution, she said adding that Zerf Charitable Fund worked together with Dr Wilhelmina Fredericks from Zerf Production Canada to get the donation.

Ms Allen said one of their main focus was Hedaru, Same district, an area she described as a high-risk for HIV/AIDS, adding that the fund was working with a local group called Kikuhe.

She said the fund plans an orphanage, a school, to conduct HIV tests and support agricultural activities for sustainable

nutrition.

Meanwhile, a Childreach International, which works in nine countries worldwide, including Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, plans to construct a nursery school and a playing ground in Mahinda village in Rombo district with United Kingdom standards.

The Project Manager, Mr Sean Murphy, said initially a classroom to accommodate 70 children will be built in the next three years. Some 14 people from Newcastle, UK have been recruited to work with the project.

Fifteen girls who will handle the children in the envisaged English medium nursery school, are being trained. Some 20 trainers from UK will come to Tanzania next month.

"We want to help the children as much as we can and to the best of our efforts," he said, adding that the envisaged goal is to train children to be creative, think differently and be able to solve their own problems.