

***Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, Zambia's First President,  
Message on ZOA.***

After I left Zambia's presidential office in 1991, I have spent a lot of time in dealing with the HIV and AIDS pandemic. I, like many others, have found that HIV and AIDS shows many challenges.

Yet starting only in 2006, Zambia Orphans of AIDS, ZOA, continues to show great example in mitigating the effects of HIV and AIDS. ZOA has focussed on supporting vulnerable children and their families.

Already, in Zambia, ZOA is reaching needy persons where some long established organisations do not go. Many organisations have concentrated on areas and local partners that are very easy to reach, thus leaving out a large number of those in need.


I have learnt that in many parts of our country, ZOA has been working well with local organisations and projects. I have learnt of how ZOA has been helping children towards completing school. ZOA has supported school leavers in acquiring skills that will enable these young persons have vocations and meet various basic needs. Supporting the young ones with education and skills helps build the capacity of families to meet basic needs and live life in a manageable manner.

I also note ZOA's efforts in psycho-social counselling for orphaned and bereaved family members. In addition, ZOA is greatly involved in protecting the girl child from abuse and sexual exploitation. All such support is important component that all of us dealing with HIV and AIDS should learn from.

I must thank ZOA Chairperson, Lord Andrew Turnbull and his team of co-workers who are trustees, volunteers, partners in Zambia, and donors and supporters in UK and other parts of the world. They are making a major contribution in strengthening vulnerable children, their families, and approaches to fighting HIV and AIDS.

Their work together is demonstration of the calling, "Love your neighbour as thy self," and to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I urge you to join the calling by supporting ZOA.

Thank You,

  
Kenneth David Kaunda,  
*First President of the Republic of Zambia, October 2009, LUSAKA.*