



Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK (ZOA-UK) Supporter Newsletter Spring 2010

ZOA-UK's mission is to enable as many orphans of AIDS as possible to reach their potential. We currently support over 1,200 orphans and vulnerable children through 13 different projects across Zambia. We work with small, grassroots organisations which would ordinarily find it difficult to secure external funding. Many are based in very rural locations and all rely upon the work of volunteers from within their own communities. The scale of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Zambia is huge and the need remains enormous.

An update from ZOA-UK's Chairman, Lord Turnbull

I was fortunate to visit five of the projects ZOA-UK is supporting in Southern Province in September of last year. I met at first hand the leaders of the communities, saw what they were doing, and saw – indeed touched – the benefits that ZOA-UK help has brought – the hammer mill grinding away as we spoke, the bicycles and blankets we had bought, the uniforms the children were wearing, the maize stored for food supplies and the exercise books piled high for the start of term.



Above: The man who came to express his thanks. The children are wearing school uniforms made on the sewing machine in the picture – an enterprising way the community has found to save money.

The immediacy of it all was very powerful. I could also see clearly how narrow is the margin between getting by and abject poverty, how a small amount of help, whether a batch of chickens, a sewing machine or paying school fees, can significantly widen the margin of safety for those living from day to day. I was warmly welcomed everywhere and perhaps most touched when a man, who spoke no English, silently joined one of our meetings with two children of his deceased siblings. He came because he had heard someone from ZOA-UK had come and he wanted to say thank you for the help he had received to send the children to school.

ZOA-UK funded four new partner projects last year – one of these is Chibolya Education and Health Trust, a largely voluntary organisation serving Chibolya village and surrounding communities. The grant from ZOA-UK paid for 100 children to attend school, many for the first time. I met a number of these children during my visit and they all showed huge enthusiasm for learning, which was matched by the extremely positive attitude of their teachers. However, they are hampered by the fact that the infant school is housed in an old beer hall with poor facilities and no running water. ZOA-UK is therefore also seeking funders to finance the rebuilding of this school to provide greatly improved facilities for the students, as well as a skills training centre for teenagers.



Above: Children at the Chibolya infant school show great enthusiasm for learning, as do their volunteer teachers.

I also visited Maala Tuzume Luyando, a new project in Namwala district where ZOA-UK has funded the construction of a chicken house and the purchase of chicks. Small income generating activities such as this enable a community group to earn income so that they can directly support the orphans and vulnerable children within their own communities. It is also a valuable opportunity for the youth to learn about small animal husbandry.

Right: Chicks purchased with ZOA-UK funding provide a steady source of income for the local community.



Below: The slogan on the t-shirt reads "Let the children go to school". Education is key to securing a better future for Zambia's AIDS orphans.



I came away from Southern Province confident that the money we raise gets through to those that need it most. There is a wealth of community groups in Zambia who are getting on with the task of looking after their orphans with very little support from the authorities. Everywhere I found carefully kept cash books and meeting records. I met genuine, committed people who do not complain or blame. They are proud to display what they are achieving with the small resources given to them or which they generate themselves.

Below right: A hammer mill at Choonga Family Health Trust purchased with a grant from ZOA-UK. The income generated by the mill is used to support the needs of 332 orphans and vulnerable children in the community.

I frequently asked people how many orphans and vulnerable children they were looking after. The answer could be 30, 50, 100 or more. But each time it was clear that this was only a fraction of those in the neighbourhood who needed help.

Below: Text books piled high for the start of term. ZOA-UK funds school supplies across a number of our projects – which are essential if the children are to have access to quality education.



Our plans for 2010

We were able to send over £52,000 to Zambia last year and would hope to substantially increase that figure in 2010. We must continue to fund those children we have already committed to support year on year, whilst at the same time work to strengthen the whole community so that, in time, they will be able to support themselves without external help. One of the best ways we can do this is through the provision of income generating activities, such as the purchase of a hammer mill or small livestock.

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of our sister charity ZOA-US, which was established by concerned individuals with Zambian connections in Washington to raise money from within the United States. We continue to retain close links with ZOA-US and are proud to have supported over 40 projects in Zambia between both charities.

Both ZOA-UK and ZOA-US work through our sister organisation in Zambia (ZOA-Z). ZOA-Z is responsible for the initial assessment of projects and recommendations for funding, plus ongoing monitoring. ZOA-Z is run by a board of Zambian voluntary trustees with just one paid member of staff. The close relationship between ZOA-UK and ZOA-Z not only allows for good governance, but is crucial to enable the disbursement of funds in the most effective way possible.

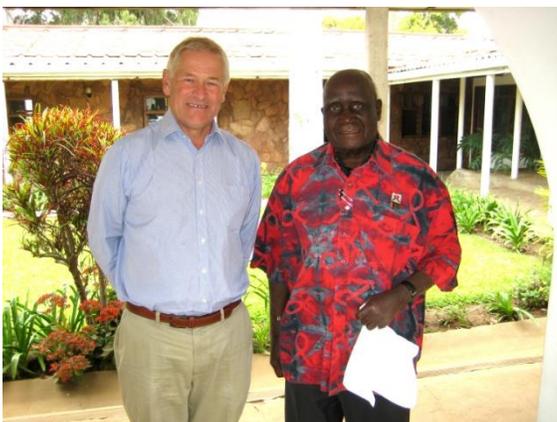


Above: The ZOA-Z office in Lusaka

None of this would be possible without the overwhelming generosity of our supporters, who can be assured that their donations are spent extremely prudently - the vast majority of the costs of the charity's operation in the UK are met by the trustees themselves meaning that over 98% of money raised from the general public is sent straight to Zambia. We are also pleased to report that we now have a part-time fundraiser working for us in the UK, Sarah Gwynne. Although Sarah will be spending most of her time applying to charitable trusts and foundations, she is also available to supply materials and advice for fundraising initiatives and to help our trustees develop ZOA-UK's network of friends and supporters.

Support from Zambia's First President

Although a small charity, we are confident that ZOA-UK is making a profound difference to the lives of those orphans and vulnerable children we support across the country. We respond to needs in the community by forming long-lasting and sustainable partnerships with small, locally run projects. We are pleased to share extracts from a recent letter by Dr Kenneth Kaunda, First President of Zambia:



Above: ZOA-UK's Chairman Lord Turnbull and Dr Kenneth Kaunda, First President of Zambia.

"Already, in Zambia, ZOA is reaching needy persons where some long established organisations do not go.

"I have learnt that in many parts of our country, ZOA has been helping children towards completing school. 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 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 the 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."

How can you help?

We rely upon the generosity of our supporters to fund this vital work. A small amount of money goes a long way in Zambia. It costs just £40 a year to support an orphan of primary school age and £120 for an older child at secondary school. If you would like to make a donation please complete the form below. Alternatively, do let us know if you are able to donate on a regular basis and would like to become a 'friend' of the charity.

If you are already one of our regular supporters, we ask that you continue to spread the word amongst friends and colleagues. We can only expand our work in Zambia with the help of new donors and the most effective way for us to achieve this is through the recommendation of our existing supporters. Likewise, if you can support ZOA-UK through a sponsored event, work-place fundraiser or similar we would be most grateful and pleased to provide any promotional materials that you may require.

Zambia Orphans of AIDS (UK), Registered Charity Number 1116460

Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/zoauk/donate or by using this form

I would like to donate the sum of £.....

Title..... Surname.....

Forename(s).....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Telephone(s)..... Email.....

GIFT AID: I confirm that I am a UK income and/or capital gains taxpayer and want Zambia Orphans of AIDS (UK) to reclaim tax on this and all future donations until I notify you otherwise.

Signed..... Dated.....

1. You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying Zambia Orphans of AIDS (UK)
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that Zambia Orphans of AIDS (UK) reclaims on your donation in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 that you give)
3. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your tax return. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify contact your tax office and ask for leaflet IR 113 Gift Aid
4. Please notify Zambia Orphans of AIDS (UK) if you change your address
5. Completing the declaration does not commit you to making any further donations. It merely allows Zambia Orphans of AIDS (UK) to reclaim tax on this and any future subscription or donation that you might choose to make

Please send this form when completed to The Treasurer, ZOA-UK, 42 High Street, Balsham, Cambridge CB21 4EP

ZOA-UK Trustees

The vast majority of our trustees have lived and worked in Zambia, or are Zambian. We have first-hand experience, coupled with a genuine commitment to the country.

Lord Turnbull (Chair)

Jim Potter MBE (Treasurer)

Geoffrey Croome (Secretary)

Shimwaayi Muntemba (Vice-Chair)

Peter Brown

Prue Murdoch

Tom Murdoch

Eileen Nkwanga

Keith Rennie

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