



Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK (ZOA-UK) Supporter Newsletter Spring / Summer 2011

ZOA-UK's mission is to enable as many orphans of AIDS as possible to reach their potential. We have funded 22 projects across Zambia over the past four years - all small, grassroots organisations which would ordinarily find it difficult to secure external funding. Many are based in rural locations and all rely upon the work of volunteers from within their own communities.

Latest news

We are pleased to report a busy start to 2011, with a number of exciting new developments to share with our supporters:

Chibolya Education and Health Organisation

We are delighted to confirm that we have secured funding to build a new three-classroom school, at a cost of around £65,000, at Chibolya village in Zambia's Southern Province. The children are currently educated in a disused beer hall with no toilet facilities or running water so the new building really will make a tremendous difference to their education. We are working in close partnership with another charity, Build IT International, to implement this major project. The community has been fully consulted throughout the planning process and the finished school will be owned and managed by village leaders. Indeed, the community has already rallied voluntary support to help clear the site prior to construction. It is hoped that the new building will be up and running in time for the start of the next school year in January 2012.



Above: The new building will look like this community school in Makangwe (south of Lusaka) which was completed by Build IT International earlier this year.

Funds released to Zambia

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to transfer over £47,000 to Zambia at the start of the year. Shimwaayi Muntemba, who founded ZOA, has recently visited a number of our existing projects and networked to help find financial support for new projects. We are pleased to report that American Rotary clubs have kindly agreed to fund the construction of two bore holes at Mpashya Orphans' Farm. The forty children who live on the farm are currently fetch drinking water from a local hospital, 3km away. The provision of water on site will greatly increase crop production on the farm, resulting in both improved diets for the children and excess produce which can be sold to pay for their school fees and educational supplies.

Celebrating ZOA's 10th Anniversary

It is now ten years since ZOA was first set up in Washington and a special fundraising lunch was held in Lusaka to mark the occasion. The guest of honour was Dr Ben Chirwa from the National AIDS Council of Zambia, with the music and entertainment provided by children we support from the El Hassan Childcare Adoption Society.

Right: Children supported by ZOA at Tangata Community School in Zambia's Central Province.



Libuyu Youth Community Training Centre update

We are pleased to report that one of our original projects, Libuyu Youth Community Training Centre, continues to grow from strength to strength. The centre provides skills training for orphans and vulnerable children and has recently entered into a partnership with a local pizza restaurant which caters to tourists visiting the nearby Victoria Falls. The partnership is proving a real success, with Libuyu training young people to work in the restaurant and receiving a percentage of profits back in return.

Funding urgently required for two new partner projects

We want to take this opportunity to tell our friends and supporters about two new projects we are raising funds for during 2011:

The **Chipata Dzithandizeni Nutrition Group** has been in existence for over 25 years, providing vital nutrition-related support to vulnerable households in the Chipata community in Zambia's Eastern Province. Programmes include the promotion of drought resistant crops, distribution of food supplements and monthly growth monitoring of pre-school children. The Nutrition Group was donated a grinding mill in 1995, which provided much-needed grinding services to the local community and generated income to be used for the group's activities. However, over the last five years, the mill has deteriorated to the point that it is now in need of rehabilitation and upgrading.



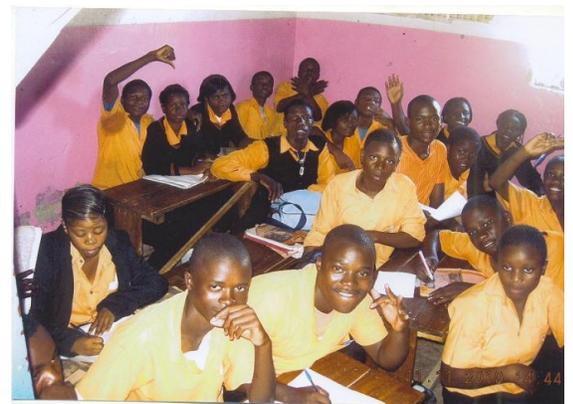
ZOA-UK is therefore seeking funds to pay for this essential work. If we can finance the upgrade, then the profits from the grinding mill will be used to support the Nutrition Group's orphan feeding programme on a long-term basis. 961 target beneficiaries have been identified in three urban areas of Chipata. They will receive food supplements including beans, kapenta (local fish), mealie-meal and cooking oil. In addition, the Nutrition Group will support the households caring for these orphans through training in improved livelihood and food production techniques.

*Above right: Children waiting at one of the project's feeding programmes in Molozi.
Left: One of the project's 'under fives' growth monitoring clinics.*

This is a one-off request for support, with all future repairs and maintenance work for the upgraded mill to be met by a contingency fund set aside from the mill's profits. The Nutrition Group is able to fund the small items of expenditure (such as sockets, switches, cables and fan belts) with help from the local community, but ZOA-UK must now raise £3,500 to pay for the larger items such as the new motor and starter boxes.

Hope and Faith Community School in Lusaka was set up by the local community in 2004 and attended by over 560 children. Orphans are given free tuition, whilst non-orphans pay a small fee. Clearly, since all the children come from poor families, the fee is not enough to pay the 16 teachers a great deal and they only earn about one-third of what they would do in a government run school. However, the dedication and commitment of the teachers is truly inspiring and the pupils are achieving real academic success. Indeed, the school recently attained the best results in the whole compound (local area) in the government exams.

Rosemary Mumbi, the school's headmistress, has asked ZOA-UK to help fund their feeding programme which enables all the orphans to eat breakfast and lunch at school. This is of particular importance because it has been proved that good nutrition leads to improved school attendance and higher academic performance. We must first raise £4,000 to fulfill this commitment during 2011.



Above: Grade nine children taking part in a debate during their English lesson.

How to donate to ZOA-UK?

- By cheque to our Treasurer (see address opposite)
- Online at www.justgiving.com/zoauk/donate
- Online at www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/zambiaorphans

Registered charity number 1116460

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