



Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK

Situation Report

Introduction

Zambia is one of the African countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with over one million orphans.

Sadly, education is prohibitive for many, owing to the costs associated with attending school. Although no fees are charged for primary education in Zambia, families must provide shoes and uniforms. At secondary level, school and examination fees are also charged. Furthermore, while committed to universal primary education, the government has failed to provide enough school places. This has left communities with no option but to set up their own community

schools, which are valuable but poorly resourced and struggle to meet the needs of orphans who often represent up to half of the pupils.

Consequently, Zambia's orphans are trapped in a cycle of poverty. It can only be broken by providing access to the education and skills training which will enable them to secure long-term employment. In a country where over half the population struggles to meet its daily food needs, much more needs to be done to mitigate the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on orphans and vulnerable children, and the households taking care of them.

A word from our Chair

Despite the huge number of orphans in Zambia, relatively few are cared for in orphanages. Instead, it is usually the poorest who sacrifice the most to look after Zambia's orphans. They are taken in by grandparents and extended family, or raised by older siblings – the poor looking after the destitute.

Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK only works with small community groups so that we can target those children and carers most in need. We firmly believe that, above all, access to education enables orphans to transcend the poverty of their childhood.

Lord Turnbull
Chair, ZOA-UK
November 2012

Charity background

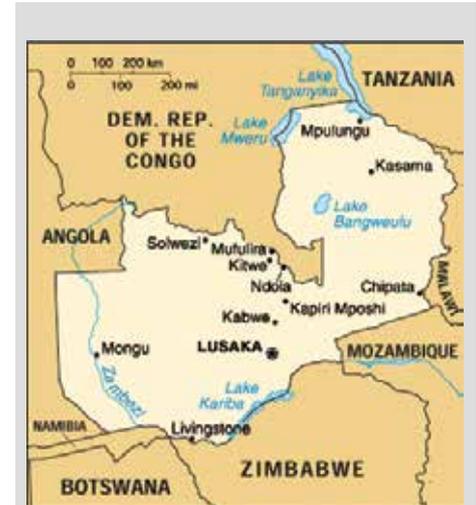
ZOA-UK was founded in 2006 by a group of UK based individuals who had previously lived, and worked, in Zambia.

Its mission is to enable as many orphans of AIDS as possible to realise their potential by:

- Assisting children to complete their schooling by providing books, uniforms and fees – as well as food supplements where necessary
- Helping school leavers to acquire skills for the world of work
- Funding income generating activities, the profits of which allow the community to support their own orphans

ZOA-UK works through our sister organisation in Zambia (ZOA-Zambia), which is run by a board of Zambian voluntary Trustees. ZOA-Zambia is responsible for the initial assessment of projects and recommendations for funding, plus ongoing monitoring. The close relationship between ZOA-UK and ZOA-Zambia not only allows for good governance, but is crucial to enable the disbursement of funds in the most effective way possible.

ZOA-UK raises in the region of £75,000 per annum. The vast majority of the costs of the charity's operation in the UK are met by its Trustees, meaning over 98% of any money raised from charitable trusts and the general public goes directly to Zambia.



Zambia is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, with a population of around 12 million. 44% of the population is concentrated in a few urban areas along the major transport corridors, whilst rural areas are sparsely populated

Partner projects

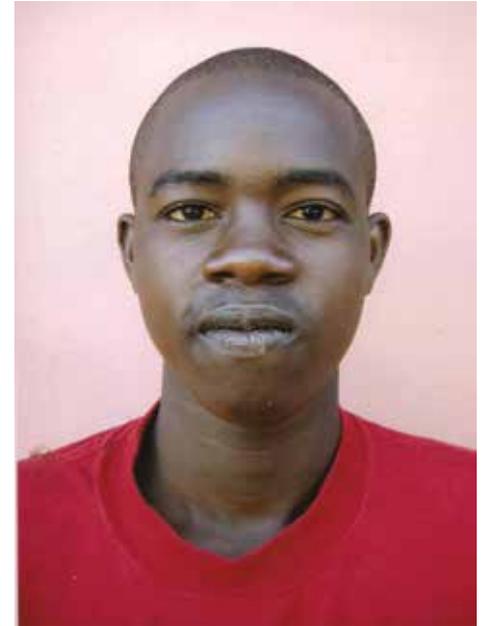
ZOA-UK mainly works with small, well-run Zambian community organisations – our partner projects.

These organisations have all been set up by local people in order to address the situation within their own communities. The leaders offer their time on a largely voluntary basis and are in need of modest financial support either to fund the start-up of income generation activities or to pay for school expenses and food supplements. We know a little about the lives of all the children we sponsor – like Mike and Henry.

Opposite: Mike with fellow pupils at Hope and Faith Community School.

Every April, the headmistress of our partner school in Lusaka (Hope & Faith Community School) sends pupils out on to the streets to talk about the school and to encourage them back to education. Five years ago **Mike Mwanza** (right), then 11, was one of the kids who followed these pupils back to the school gates. The teachers decided to integrate him into the school and to provide him with board and food because he was living rough and alone on the streets. Mike was unable to read so he started in Grade 3, with much younger pupils. Mike thrived at school and within a year he was reading and writing and moved up to Grade 5.

Mike is now 16 and passed his full grade nine certificate earlier this year - a great achievement seeing as nationally only 31% of children passed. Mike eventually hopes to study engineering or law and is one of 14 Hope and Faith graduates we are currently supporting through upper secondary school. It costs in the region of £350 per year to attend school at this level in Zambia – uniform, tuition and exam fees must all be paid for.



Henry Ndamu (below right), now seven, was born with HIV. He lives with his 83 year old great grandmother. When a volunteer from our partner project (John Laing Home Based Care) first visited the family in 2009, they found Henry in a very bad state. The project took him to a clinic, where he was put on antiretroviral treatment. His condition has quickly improved and our partner project now pays for him to go to school and takes him to regular medical appointments and supplies him with food supplements. The money to do this comes from the profits of an income generating activity run by the project – they make and sell sausages - and ZOA-UK raised £3,600 for the initial costs and set up of this operation. In the picture below, a project volunteer is handing Henry and his great grandmother food funded by the sausage project profits. Henry's great grandmother is very happy with Henry's progress, telling us: "I love Henry, he reminds me of his parents. When he got very sick I became afraid, but thank you for the help you gave to us, please continue because Henry loves school and I want him to finish his education".

In just one six month period, profits from the sausages also paid for:

- Exercise books, pens and pencils for one hundred orphans and vulnerable children
- The expenses of the children's five volunteer community teachers (there is no state school provision in the area)
- The transport for 12 children on antiretroviral treatment (including Henry) for their routine check ups
- Drugs for the treatment of other illness and infections amongst the children
- Ten sacks of mealie meal (maize flour) for the poorest children



Chibolya Community School



Over the past year, we have worked in partnership with another UK charity, Build IT International, to build a three classroom infant school in Chibolya, a village in Zambia's Southern Province.

Chibolya's inhabitants are extremely poor and previously their children were schooled in a cramped, disused beer hall with no running water.

The total build cost £75,000. The project trained 12 local men and women in building skills and they were successful in their TEVETA Trade Tests in April 2012. This certificate acts as a formal qualification that will help trainees access work. Volunteers from

the local community also made a huge contribution to the build – clearing the site prior to construction and making 18,000 bricks and roof tiles from local materials.

The school welcomed its first pupils in May 2012, with a formal opening planned for January 2013. It holds 200 children (preschool to grade four) and is owned and run by village elders. The new school is bright, modern and spacious and will hugely improve these children's ability to focus and learn. We continue to raise funds for the Chibolya Education and Health Organisation to pay for classroom equipment, books and stationery, as well as uniforms and shoes for the school's pupils.



Above: The new school.

Future plans for Chibolya

Work continues at a fast pace.

We are now in the process of building a teacher's house and second latrine block, and installing a dedicated water pump for the school and its vegetable garden.

We have big plans for the school as it has the potential to transform the future of this very poor community where 90% of adults are illiterate. With more funds we would build additional classrooms to provide full primary education up to grade seven, enabling graduates to move up to the second-

ary school in nearby Mazabuka. We would also like to install electricity – lighting would permit us to run a second school session (in the afternoon and evening) allowing more of Chibolya's children to receive an education. In addition, lighting would enable the villagers to use the building as a meeting place and community centre.

Long-term, we plan to set up an on-site skills training centre where older children can study farming, carpentry and tailoring. This will greatly enhance their employment prospects and will generate revenue for the school from selling goods produced in lessons.



Above: Pupils are pleased to have use of a new toilet block and to be able to wash their hands.

We seek out the most vulnerable communities

The majority of our projects are rural and ZOA-UK plays an especially valuable role in helping communities which are too small and remote for bigger charities and official programmes to reach.

We fully encourage our partner projects to establish their own income generating activities so that, in time, they will no longer be reliant on external aid.

The **Mphanshya Orphan Farm** in Chongwe was established in 2002. There are 40 orphans who stay on site during school holidays but go back to their respective extended families when school is in session. The farm grows maize, pumpkin and cassava, and rears pigs which feed the orphans and are also sold to fund the children's education. The children progress well and former residents have gone on to become teachers, electricians and nurses. This year, a generous grant of over £3,000 from The Estelle Trust has enabled us to support the start-up of two additional income generating activities: vegetable growing and rearing chickens.

We also support projects in Zambia's Northern Province, including **Kasama Christian Community Care (KCCC)**. We have funded KCCC since 2006, raising over £13,000 each year to support 80 of its orphans. However, it has become clear to us that KCCC's management has the capacity and skills to develop new programmes to specifically train carers in small animal husbandry so that they can go on to set up their own small businesses. This would be a major new project and one for which we are currently seeking funding.



We are confident that, with continued help, many of the orphans we support will achieve their aims – just like **Cleuda Mapulanga** (above). Cleuda's father died when she was 14 and she was forced to drop out of school to find money to feed her siblings. However, with her teacher's encouragement and our support, she finished school and completed a diploma in Office Management in December 2011. She has since secured a job as a School Secretary and Stores Manager which allows her to provide better care for her epileptic sister.



Right: An extract from a thank you letter sent to ZOA-UK from a Hope and Faith pupil we support who was orphaned at the age of 12. She hopes to go on to study nursing or law.

We also support a handful of projects closer to Lusaka, Zambia's capital city. This includes raising nearly £4,000 each year to part fund a feeding programme for 600 children attending **Hope and Faith Community School**. The school is based in N'gombe compound (district), one of the poorest areas in Lusaka, and was set up by the local community in 2004 as there is no state school in the area. The Headmistress was struck by the high rate of absenteeism amongst the poorest students, in particular the orphans. She investigated and found that most were eating once a day, some days not at all, and were too hungry to walk to school. So the school started providing nshima (corn flour porridge), soya pieces and cabbage. In the words of the headmistress: "The school became famous overnight. The school population almost doubled and parents pleaded to have their children enrolled". The pupils are now achieving real academic success – with the school getting top results in the latest government exams. This is a remarkable achievement for the school, demonstrating both the dedication and enthusiasm of the 16 teachers (who only earn about one-third of what they would do in a government run school) and the commitment of its pupils and the households supporting them.

A photograph of a handwritten note on lined paper. The handwriting is in cursive and appears to be from a young person. The text is partially obscured by a grey bar at the top and bottom. The visible text reads: "for them and for their kindness heart God gave them. At school I am doing fine, I take nine (9) subjects which is the Mathematics, History, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, physics, Religious Education, Civic Education and English language. I am working hard at school because when I will complete my education I want to do nursing or to study the Law. I always pray".

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Looking to the future

New Higher Education Fund

We currently support 1,800 children a year of either primary or secondary school age. However, 14 have recently worked their way up to tertiary college and two are now at university. We are immensely proud of these bright, hard-working young people but we now face a new fundraising challenge as college and particularly university expenses are far more costly than school - this year we are paying £10,200 to support these 16 alone.

Although desperately poor, Zambia remains politically stable, with abundant natural resources. The growing mining and construction sectors are creating employment, but only for the qualified. Higher education enables orphans to secure regular, salaried jobs. If an orphan goes to college and secures work they will feed and educate their siblings and care for elderly grandparents, thus transforming the lives of

many. We must therefore plan ahead and are in the process of establishing a Higher Education Fund for the children we are currently sponsoring at secondary school, who are future candidates for university or college.

Strengthening ZOA-Zambia

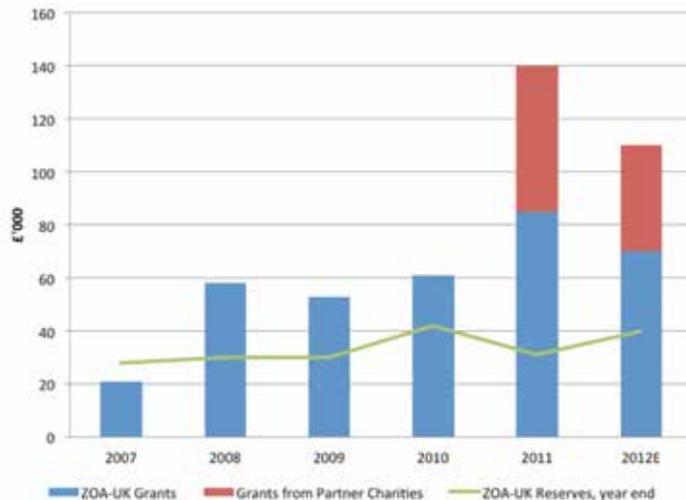
ZOA-Z, our sister charity in Zambia, has recently recruited Dumasseh Mfula, its first Executive Director (made possible with joint funding from the UK and US). Dumasseh joins us with a wealth of experience – previously a senior manager in both Zambia's health and NGO sector, as well as an HIV/AIDS advisor to DFID and Zambia's Ministry of Education. This will enable us to widen our reach on the ground and to consolidate relationships with our existing projects. We will also seek to make new partnerships with other UK and Zambian charities in order to share best practise and expertise.



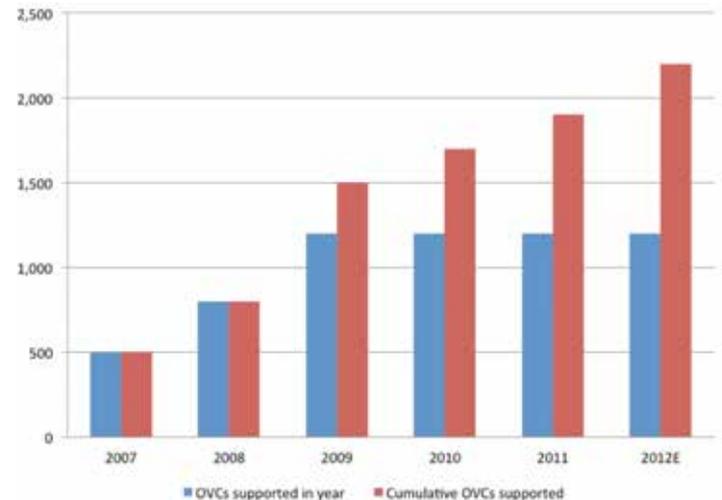
Warren Ngulube missed four years of school while his mother moved from town to town after his father died. Despite this upheaval, and spending time caring for his mother, his headmistress described him as 'brilliant in class'. He has recently been accepted at Munali High (one of the best state schools in Zambia) and is a strong future candidate for university. ZOA-UK strives to raise sufficient funds to enable Warren, and children like him, to reach their full potential.

A charity built upon strong management

ZOA-UK is run by a Board of dedicated Trustees who donate their time, expertise and personal income to enable the effective management of the charity. We value and appreciate every donation we receive and follow stringent procedures to ensure that it is put to the best possible use. We have grown steadily over the past six years, sending over £400,000 in grants to Zambia in order to support some 2,400 orphans and vulnerable children.



Total grants sent to ZOA-UK's projects in Zambia over the past six years



Total number of orphans supported by ZOA-UK's projects in Zambia over the past six years

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SABMiller, one of the world's leading brewers, is proud to support the publication of ZOA-UK's Situation Report. As an African-originated multinational company, operating in 16 African markets (including Zambia), it is constantly working to contribute to the reduction of HIV/AIDS in its spheres of influence.