



Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK (ZOA-UK) Supporter Newsletter Autumn 2011

HIV/AIDS accounts for around three quarters of the estimated 1 million orphans in Zambia. Since 2006 we have been working hard to enable as many of these children as possible to reach their potential. We do this primarily through supporting educational projects.

Life in Zambia is incredibly tough, 70% of the population live in extreme poverty and average youth unemployment is around 23%, rising to 50% in some urban areas. Education greatly improves these young people's opportunities, aspirations and earning potential and is the key to a brighter future.

Furthermore, studies in Zambia have shown that the more schooling young people have, the less likely they are to become HIV positive. This is for two reasons: firstly, schools deliver direct HIV education; secondly, receiving formal education raises self-esteem and gives children the confidence to reject risky behaviours. This has a particular impact on Zambian girls who, when educated, are 3 times less likely to contract HIV.

Our Projects

School Support Project in Kasama, Northern Province

We have been supporting this project since 2006. Working through our local partner, Kasama Christian Community Care (KCCC), we support 98 orphans and vulnerable children to attend schools and colleges. We supply the children with: uniforms, shoes, books and stationery and pay their school and exam fees. We also fund KCCC field officers to monitor the children's progress and work one-on-one to help children who are not doing as well as they could. KCCC also support the orphan's guardians to set up income generating activities, this ensures the children don't have to absent themselves from school to find food. In order to give these children the best possible future we have committed to supporting all 98 through secondary school. Because school and exam fees are payable at secondary level this project is our largest financial commitment and each year we need to raise around £12,000 to keep these orphans in education.



Above right: Belinda and her four siblings lost their parents some ten years ago. With the help of KCCC, the children were able to continue with their schooling. Funds were also provided three years ago for seeds and fertiliser so the siblings could farm the family plot of land. The family is now self-sufficient and living together in the building pictured right. Belinda has recently expressed an interest in tailoring training and KCCC are helping her explore the available options.

Double awards honour for ZOA-Z

ZOA-Z is our sister charity in Zambia. The Board of volunteers is responsible for assessing and recommending projects to ZOA-UK and for ongoing monitoring.

Dr Alwyn Mwinga, ZOA-Z member, recently became the first African to receive the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) lifetime achievement award for her exceptional commitment to the fight against HIV and AIDS.

ZOA-Z Patron, Father Michael Kelly, has received President Banda's presidential award for his outstanding contribution towards education in Zambia - Congratulations to them both!

Network of Zambian People Living with HIV and AIDS, Namwala Chapter - (NZP+ Namwala)



Above: Clive Mboози, Finance and Admin officer, proudly poses with the new layers

Namwala has been struck particularly hard by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and an estimated 9,000 orphans of AIDS live there in extreme poverty. NZP+ Namwala runs 60 support groups for 1120 adults living with HIV/AIDS and 300 orphans of AIDS. We have been supporting 100 of the orphans under their care for two years now. These children were out of school and subsisting on one poor meal a day, or not eating at all some days. Our funding pays for food, uniforms, text books and stationery and we are delighted that the children are now attending school and eating well. This year the group requested £2,500 for more school supplies and some layer chickens. They are very keen to become more self-sufficient and to take on additional orphans. The chickens are now producing three boxes of eggs a day which are being sold to the local community and this raises around £210 a month for the orphan's care.

Lubushi Orphans Update

Last September we wrote to you about the Lubushi orphans. Lubushi is a small village, 80 km from the nearest secondary schools in Kasama. The local community set up the 'Lubushi Parish Rural Orphans Resettlement Scheme' to send bright orphans to secondary schools in Kasama. We fund their school fees and farm supplies. LPRORS and the orphan's carers then grow crops to feed themselves and to pay for uniforms and travel costs. Last year, thanks to your generous donations and a grant from the Waterloo Foundation we were able to support 35 children at secondary school. We are thrilled that in December 18 of these children graduated. This year we need to raise £5555 to support the 17 children still at school and the five graduates who have now started at tertiary college. We feel honoured to be able to help these children who have worked extremely hard to overcome great hardship and do so well in school.



Above: Father Tenson, project leader, with one of the pupils, Daniel Masua

Please could you become a Friend of ZOA-UK?

Regular, reliable donations are vital to our work as they ensure we can support a child right through their schooling. £10 a month will pay for a Zambian orphan to attend secondary school - giving him or her the skills needed to work themselves out of poverty.

If you are already a friend could you please consider increasing your donation? There are many more orphans who would be truly grateful for the opportunity to attend school.

A Friend membership form is attached and an electronic version is available on the 'help us' section of our website. Thank you.

Other Ways to Donate

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

Contact: Jim Potter (Treasurer)
42 High Street
Balsham
Cambridge, CB21 4EP
Tel: 01223 890162
Email: admin@zoa.org.uk
www.zoa.org.uk

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