



# Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK (ZOA-UK) Supporter Newsletter Summer 2013

**Childhood is tough for Zambia's estimated 1.2 million orphans. The most effective way to enable these children to secure regular, salaried jobs in the future is for them to remain in the school system – and enabling them to do this remains our priority. In 2013, we must raise over £100,000 to support our 13 partner projects across Zambia and ensure that over 2,000 children stay in education.**

We are pleased to report a busy start to 2013, with a number of exciting new developments and project updates to share with our supporters:

## **ZOA-Zambia Team**

Our Lusaka office, ZOA-Zambia, has made great progress over the past six months since the appointment of our first Executive Director (Dumasseh Mfula). The team has submitted several proposals to international funding agencies and initiated closer involvement with the District AIDS Task Force. ZOA-Zambia held a review meeting for all our partner projects from across the country on 24<sup>th</sup> April (the costs of which were kindly sponsored by The Estelle Trust). This was an excellent opportunity for our project leaders to come together and share working practices and formulate strategies to deal with the challenges ahead.



*Above: Dumasseh (left) works closely with our Project Co-ordinator, Grace Liywalii (right).*

## **Northern Province Women's Development Association (NPWDA)**

NPWDA was founded by Mrs Nawila over 20 years ago when she took in two children found abandoned in the bush. The group has steadily grown, as other families have taken in orphaned and abandoned children. The guardians have very little themselves – it really is a case of the poor helping the destitute. ZOA-UK has supported NPWDA for the past four years, funding a total of 38 orphans. Children like Ken Kanyungulu (pictured right), who lost his father aged four and mother aged six. Ken and his siblings were taken in by an aunt who later died and it was at this point that NPWDA volunteers took the children under their care (providing food, clothing, school fees and school supplies). He commenced grade one in 1999, passed all his exams at school and is now studying teacher training at Malcolm Moffat College.



## **Rise Community Aid Program (RICAP)**

The HIV prevalence rate in Kafue District is over 19% and in 2005 a group of local volunteers formed RICAP to provide palliative care to people living with AIDS and to provide support to the rapidly rising number of orphans. RICAP's 70 volunteers run a feeding programme for malnourished children and provide educational and psychological support for the children under their care – children like Naomi and Costa (pictured opposite), orphaned when both their parents died in 2011. The children soon stopped going to school because their grandparents could not meet their basic food needs, let alone afford the compulsory school requisites. ZOA-UK funding enabled RICAP to intervene last year, paying for food, school fees and clothing, as well as psychosocial support from trained caregivers. Initially, Naomi and Costa were very shy and timid when they returned to school but they are slowly learning to cope with the loss of their parents and to make friends with their peers and to play again.

**We wanted to take this opportunity to tell our friends and supporters about a major new fundraising appeal we have launched this summer – the extension of Hope and Faith Community School to provide secondary education for some of the poorest children in Lusaka.**

### **Hope and Faith Community School Building Appeal**

ZOA-UK has been providing school dinners for over 120 orphans at Hope and Faith Community School since 2010. The school is based in N'gombe compound, one of the slum districts in Lusaka with an estimated 2,000 households, and was set up in 2004 by the local community to help those children most in need socially and economically because there is no state school in the area.

Hope and Faith has traditionally only catered for children up to grade nine – after which point they have transferred to government secondary schools to complete the final years of their secondary education (grades 10-12). However, this has proved most problematic due to a lack of school places in nearby schools and the requirement to pay fees in these schools which is beyond the reach of many of the parents and guardians. This is unfortunately a country wide problem with a staggering 70% of Zambian children leaving formal education once fees must be paid. Consequently, most of these children will continue to live in extreme poverty - surviving hand-to-mouth, through street selling and subsistence farming. Girls, in particular, are at risk of pregnancy, early marriage and prostitution.



*Above: The school's 700 pupils gather for morning assembly.*

Hope and Faith has therefore opened to forty grade 10 pupils for the first time this academic year (Jan-Dec 2013). The plan is for the school to eventually extend up to grade 12, the last year of secondary school in Zambia. The proposed new building will not only generate additional space for the increased pupil numbers, but also provide the necessary laboratories so that teaching staff can cover the curriculum. There are good jobs available for well-educated Zambians and particular skills shortages for those with a science background. Five new mines are scheduled to open in Zambia's Copperbelt by 2017, creating new jobs for qualified geologists, engineers and physicists.



The plans also include a new dining hall and kitchen. This is essential because pupils currently take their meals outside, in the school's small courtyard (as shown in the photo, left). This is particularly difficult in the rainy season because there is very little shelter from the elements. In other months, they also have problems with wind blowing dust into the food. The dining hall will be able to accommodate 300 children per sitting and make a tremendous difference to the working conditions of staff and pupils alike.

**The total budget for the new building is just under £50,000. We are doing all that we can to raise this money during 2013 and are close to the half way mark. Any additional donations from our friends and supporters would make a fantastic difference and bring us ever closer to our target and the start of building work at the school.**

#### **How to donate to ZOA-UK?**

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

**Registered charity number 1145721**

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