



# Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK (ZOA-UK) Supporter Newsletter Winter 2010/11

ZOA-UK's mission is to enable as many orphans of AIDS as possible to reach their potential. We are on course to raise around £80,000 in 2010, a record. We continue to enjoy the loyal support of our members who make regular contributions, and in addition a number of friends have made very generous donations. We are most encouraged by the commitment and dedication of all 13 of our current partner projects. However, the challenge remains daunting – the HIV prevalence rate remains around 14% and the number of orphans continues to grow. 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 pandemic on orphans and vulnerable children, and the households taking care of them.

## Update on Libuyu Community Youth Training Centre, Livingstone

ZOA UK's Vice-Chair, Shimwaayi Muntemba, visited our partner project in Livingstone in September. Founded in 2003, the centre provides skills training for orphans and vulnerable children. Its activities include sewing and tailoring, plumbing, carpentry and brickwork. In addition, the centre runs indoor and outdoor sports activities for the children, computer classes, and promotion of HIV/AIDS awareness.



A ZOA-UK grant funds a poultry business to generate income to support these training activities. The centre started with 100 broilers in 2007, rising to 300 in 2008 and now up to 600 broilers of different ages (pictured, left). They use manure from the chicken litter to fertilise a commercial garden and also to produce vegetables for the catering department's lessons. On the day Shimwaayi visited the centre, over 50 children from the community were receiving information on HIV/AIDS from peer educators. After the talks, the children stay and play at the centre. Indeed, this type of outreach takes place every week day afternoon.

## New projects

ZOA-UK is pleased to be in a position to support several new partner projects during the course of 2011. This includes Hope and Faith Community School in Lusaka, a primary school set up by the community in 2004. We will be funding a feeding programme for 63 of the 560 orphans currently attending the school. This is of particular importance because it has been proved that good nutrition leads to better school attendance and performance. The photo opposite shows the children gathered for morning assembly.



We will also be funding a small community group, based in Lusaka, to start up a new sausage making business in order to raise funds to support the 150 orphans in its care - a first for ZOA-UK! We will be sure to keep you updated on the progress of these, and other new projects, over the course of 2011.

## ZOA-UK sponsored children moving on to secondary school education and beyond

Many of the orphans ZOA-UK started supporting through primary education in 2006 are now ready to move on to secondary school and even tertiary college. Whilst it is fantastic to see them progressing, this raises new fundraising challenges for us because the cost of funding a child at this level is far higher than for a child of primary school age, due to the requirement to pay tuition and exam fees. Countrywide, just 18% of children go on to attend secondary school in Zambia – an opportunity we take for granted in the UK.

We are therefore incredibly grateful to two charitable trusts who have helped us to fund a large proportion of our secondary school pupils this year. The children are all based in and around Kasama, a particularly poor and remote area in the Northern Province. Kasama town lacks an industrial base and its economy largely depends on trading and subsistence farming. The Estelle Trust is funding 85 pupils (68 of whom are at secondary school or tertiary college) through our partner project, Kasama Christian Community Care. The Waterloo Foundation is funding a further 35 pupils from nearby Lubushi to attend their nearest secondary schools in the Kasama area. We would also like to thank a number of ZOA-UK friends who have generously pledged their support for these children during 2011.

### New website launched

We are delighted to announce that our new, and much improved, website is now live at [www.zoa.org.uk](http://www.zoa.org.uk). Visitors can find information about our objectives, projects and trustees, as well as download publications. A big thank you to Sasha Scott who gave his time so freely to build the site for us. You can also now follow us on our Facebook page (listed under Zambia Orphans of AIDS UK).

### Sponsored challenges

ZOA-UK supporters have certainly come up with inspiring ways to raise money this year.

Cameron Durdy, aged just 12, cycled with his dad from Edinburgh to London. Despite doing this in July, the winds and weather were so bad in the highlands that at times they found themselves having to pedal to even go downhill! It took them eight days to cover the 547 mile journey and they raised a fantastic £6,000 in sponsorship. Also in July, Jim Potter (ZOA-UK's Treasurer) climbed the highest mountain in Europe – Mt Elbrus in the Russian Caucasus. He battled ice, snow and altitude sickness to make it all the way up to 16,500ft, raising over £5,000 in sponsorship.



*Above: Cameron during his cycle ride.*

We would love to hear from anyone who is considering raising funds for ZOA-UK through a sponsored event, and are on hand to supply materials and advice for any fundraising initiatives.

### The year ahead

Quite simply our aim is to help even more orphans during the year ahead, of which there is sadly no shortage. To do this, we are reliant upon 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 believe that ZOA-UK stands out because the projects we fund in Zambia have all been set up by local people in order to address the needs within their own communities. Although we are still a small charity, we are confident that our strategy is sound and that we are able to spend our donations most effectively in order to give Zambia's orphans and vulnerable children access to education and a brighter future.

*Left: Just a few of the children ZOA-UK will continue to support through 2011 and beyond.*

**Contact:** Jim Potter  
42 High Street, Balsham, Cambridge CB21 4EP  
Tel: 01223 890162, Email: [admin@zoa.org.uk](mailto:admin@zoa.org.uk)  
[www.zoa.org.uk](http://www.zoa.org.uk)

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