



Orphan Programme

SHAREAfrica has been supporting orphans in Zambia for over 10 years. During this time many children have benefited from an education that otherwise they would not have had.

Most children on the programme are cared for by Christian families that cannot afford to pay for the children's education.

Presently 181 children are being sponsored. The sponsorship money, currently £15 a month, is used to pay school fees and provide a few basic essentials.

Information about the children, such as payments, visit reports, school reports, pictures and so on, is held in a custom designed computer system. The system is used for administration but can also be accessed by sponsors to follow the progress of the child they support.

In Zambia two people plus one vehicle are assigned to the Programme. Because the children are spread across the country, visitation and information gathering is time consuming

We have many children waiting to be sponsored. If you want to sponsor a child then please either visit our web site www.shareafrica.com or complete and return the cut-out form on page 6.

We thank all who faithfully support the Programme. Although you may never meet the child you support you can be assured that the money is being used wisely and that somewhere every morning a child is walking to school as a result of your generosity

Education structure

Brother Wandu who administers the Programme has prepared the following news update.

The Zambian government education system is essentially a 2-9-3-4 structure, where a child has two years of early childhood, nine years of basic education from grade 1 to grade 9, three years of high secondary education from grade 10 to 12, and four years of tertiary education to first degree level.



There are also community schools run by the community with voluntary teachers some of whom are untrained. With such a mix the quality and standard of education offered varies tremendously.

Early childhood education is limited to a few government schools in the urban and some peri-urban areas, whereas there are many private schools offering early childhood education for those preparing for entry in grade 1 at age 7.

For those who attain good 'O' levels and are accepted by tertiary institutions, the government provides limited scholarships for a few of the public universities, based on social and economic criteria.

Education Spread.

By means of our programme of sponsorship by believers SHAREAfrica has, for some time, provided children with an education, for which the pupils, their guardians and we are grateful to the Lord.

The money used to meet the sponsored child's school expenses such as fees, uniforms and books has in the past been paid to the guardian or orphan, who would in turn pay the school whatever is due.

This has now changed as we now make the payments to the school which enables the school to help procure other needed items such as books, uniforms, shoes, and school bags.

Some schools only accept payments made direct to their bank account. The deposit slip is then presented to the school as proof of payment. Other schools, especially rural and community schools, are paid in cash.

Although paying the school direct instead of giving the money to the guardian has made the work more involved, the school authorities are pleased since they are assured that the fees for every child will be paid.

There have been occasions when parents and pupils have not paid school fees, or have delayed payment, thus affecting the running of the school. Under these circumstances most schools withheld examination results until the fees were paid or, alternatively, they suspended the child."

The pupils too are happy with the arrangement that we pay the school directly as some of them have been victim of their guardian using the money for 'family emergencies' resulting in their being suspended from classes until the fees are paid.

Most of the sponsors money is used for school fees, gift packs and other essentials. The administration costs of the programme are heavily subsidised by SHAREAfrica.

Visitation

All children are visited three times a year. They are in diverse geographical locations and backgrounds but clustered around Christian assemblies. We have picked a few to tell you something about them.

The heat of Lusitu

Kasosa lives with her mother and two sisters in the Lusitu area of Southern province and is one of the 16 pupils on the programme from this area. She is in the first level of the education at Saint Kizito nursery school and hopes to proceed to grade 1 next year.



Kasosa

Her sister **Evelyn** is in grade 9 at Lusitu Secondary school. The other sister Esther is in grade 6 at Lusitu primary school.

Evelyn's eye ailments have reduced and her performance at school improved after the fitting of an artificial eye in her right socket and the supply of sun shades for protection.



Evelyn

This family is a female headed household who depend on the sale of vegetables which they grow along the river bank.

Of particular mention is **Blackson Justin Mwila**, also from Lusitu and now in grade 11 at Chaanga Secondary school.

The school which was converted from a primary into a secondary school to give secondary education to the pupils in the area is about 60 kilometres from Blackson's home and has no school boarding facilities.

The pupils themselves have to pay for boarding spaces in grass huts in villages near the school and prepare their own meals. Some pupils who are called 'weekly boarders' would stay in such a hut from Monday to Friday, then leave for their homes on Friday afternoon to come back on Sunday having stocked up on food and other requirements for the coming week.

The living conditions in these huts are not conducive for study, and the time taken to prepare food and other chores does not leave enough time for the pupils to concentrate on their studies. It is however encouraging to find that Blackson is exerting himself to study hard in an environment where the temperature soars to the low forty degrees centigrade.

Blackson, in the picture below, pays K80 per month as rent for his hut, and needs K500 for his food and accessory needs.



Blackson Justin Mwila

The 15 orphans out of the 16 in the Lusitu area are spread out in different grades.

The sixteenth orphan, **Neverson Hakawa** has a spinal problem that has affected his mental development and is therefore mentally retarded and does not attend school. At 9 years of age Neverson is still a baby. Though he is not in school some amount is given to his family to enable them meet some of the challenges they face in looking after him.

Among farmers

In the Mgawa area of Chipata district in the Eastern province SHAREAfrica is supporting rural farmers to grow peanuts on the peanut Outgrower Scheme. We have taken on 6 orphan children in this area who are attending classes at Chideza and Mkhota primary schools, such as **Lazaro Banda** in grade 5 whose guardian is an elder in Mgawa assembly.



Lazaro Banda

Higher Numbers

In the Kafue area we have 39 children. Kafue is located 50 kilometres south of Lusaka. The children are mainly from two assemblies, Central assembly in the shanty township called Zambia Compound and Roadbridge assembly close to the Kafue river. These two townships are among the poorest in Kafue - they have no piped water.

Of the 39 orphans being supported in this area, 17 are girls ranging in school grades 1 through to 8.

Three other girls are in grade 12 and will be sitting for their final high school exams this October/November. One of them is **Shakiela Mambonge** at Happy Christian Academy in Lilayi who has relocated from her grandfather's house in Kafue to her cousins home which is nearer her school. If she passes her final exams she hopes to study health science.



Shakiela Mambonge

Tracing their steps

Another positive outcome from the requirement to pay for each child at their school has been the opportunity to seek and find those children we had not seen for some time due to the distance the schools were from their homes. Previously it was the guardians who were given the money on the pupils' behalf. Such was the case of **Ainess Sinkala**.

We had not seen Ainess Sinkala (who now uses the names INESS KABAGHE) from the time she moved from Nkumbi International College to Mkushi Coppermine Secondary school where she is in grade 12, some 40 kilometres off the Great North Road before Mkushi, on a potholed gravel road that took what seemed like hours to reach there.



Iness Kabaghe

We met Iness in the head teacher's office and learned from him that she was a good student and very well behaved. Her

performance in class was good but needed to improve in some of the subjects in view of the final exams coming up at the end of the year.

We paid K1,600 to the school for her school fees and a holiday tuition fee of K150. The head teacher encouraged her to take advantage of the holiday tuition and remain at the school during holidays to polish up her weak subjects.

There has also been the added benefit of meeting head teachers or senior teachers who have shared information about their schools, the pupils and most of all, have encouraged us to expand the programme. The widespread poverty has severely damaged

opportunities for orphaned and vulnerable children, a problem that teachers are acutely aware of.

Home visits

When the children were previously being met at the assembly halls and given the school fees, there was not much time to visit their homes, but this time around there was a deliberate effort to visit them and one such visit was a great eye opener.

While in Luombwa in Serenje district of Central province, we visited the home of Cassius Kunda an orphan who lives together with his aunt and sister.

This grass hut is half built with brick while the top part is only covered with some pieces of cloth, and the two of them sleep on the floor with very scant bedding. After this visit it became apparent that home visitations are very necessary to help make informed assessments on how best to help such families and prioritize how to utilise any gifted monies.

For Cassius and his family, we had to come back the second day bringing them food and blankets.

It is not apparent when you see children at school to know what their conditions are like at home. For many life is a real struggle with frequent illness often caused by lack of food or polluted water. Some, as in the case of Cassius, are born HIV positive which makes them even more prone to infection and many life threatening illnesses. Others live with elderly grandparents who have little or no income and expect the children to work, such as selling vegetables or working in the field.

In Sichoobo village, the home of Doris and Dorothy Shabusale, we also discovered they had very little food. Provisions were purchased and left with the mother. Mr Shabusale, the grandfather of Doris and Dorothy, is an elder in the Sichoobo assembly.

During the next visit we will attempt to visit more homes. We will also include a blanket in the gift pack that is given to all pupils on the programme.



The room where Cassius and his aunt sleep



Cassius and his aunt outside their home

Record Keeping

We have had challenges in this area, but prayerfully the pieces to address them are now falling into place. A dedicated vehicle is now available, new computers have been acquired, a data entry person is on board to update and enter new information. In order to provide more accurate timely information we are determined to increase the frequency and length of visitations to homes and schools and to update the records immediately we get back to the office.

We ask for your patience and trust in due course the situation will be as it should be. Thank you. *Wandĩ*

Lilongwe (Malawi)

Brothers Samuel Kapanji, Perter Chola and Richard M'honie travelled back to Lilongwe in Malawi to finish the building work at the assembly hall. Windows are now installed and the building is now finished. The believers in Lilongwe are grateful for the help provided. It is a small assembly in a predominantly Muslim community. Although there have been no reports of physical persecution, evangelism in the area is a considerable challenge requiring a great deal of courage.

The assembly hall is located in a poor area. Here is an extract from the report sent by the brethren involved in the building work - *"Let us pray for Malawi in terms of food security. There is such glaring hunger which you can see in the face of the brethren. Had it not been for the food we brought to eat together during the week we were with them there would have been practically nothing from them to feed on"*.



The new hall at Lilongwe



Plastering the walls



Polishing the cement floor



Fitting window frames

Teaching in Mgawa

The presence of the new hall at Mgawa, with proper benches and solar lighting conducive for evening meetings, has in itself attracted people to an already expanding assembly. Though the numbers have grown, not many believers are literate enough to study the Scriptures for themselves but depend on those who pass what they have learned from yesteryears, some of which unfortunately is spurious. It is for this reason that the development of the assembly at Mgawa needs regular systematic bible teaching.

During May brothers Wandi and Samuel visited the area and took time to teach on the role of sisters in an assembly. This was followed up by a meeting with the elders to emphasize the teaching.

The elders' commitment to bring such topics for Bible study to an assembly where there has been no consistent Bible

study in the past is a significant and encouraging development. Believers who visit the area have been asked to spend time with them teaching basic church doctrine.

In an after-meeting with the elders, a copy of a trust deed on the use of the assembly hall was read, explained and subsequently signed. This too is an important development as the doctrines and practices espoused therein would help in their study of the Scriptures and the application of practices within the local Church.

It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm for Gospel outreach. We are sure that the same Spirit that has blessed the Gospel will enlighten the dear saints to follow the scriptures in other matters.

Another quantity of Bibles was left for distribution.

Out-growers Scheme

Since the middle of May farmers at Mgawa have been harvesting and shelling groundnuts. Everything is done manually; digging the plants from the ground, removing the pods, drying them and shelling the pods by hand. It is a time consuming process. The good news is that the harvest this year is much better than in previous years.

We expect 85 farmers and their households will benefit from the scheme this year. Selecting lead farmers to train and advise a group of 10 others has been a major success. This has greatly simplified the overall management.

Harvesting is done by members of the households who own the fields. Hiring labour at harvest time is difficult which makes it a challenge for small households to acquire the labour they need; it is particularly difficult for widows and those with young families. This dependency on manual labour is why subsistence farming in rural areas is confined to small plots. It is therefore understandable why no progress has been made in improving the conditions of these people. There has to be a major rethink on how simple automation can be introduced through collaboration and consolidation so that economies of scale can be reached.

Bicycles were given to lead farmers so they could visit other farms to help with the logistics of moving and storing grain.

There are no silos or storage sheds in the area so they have rented a shed from the district Cooperative to be used for storing the unshelled and shelled nuts.

Manually operated shelling machines have been provided to speed up the shelling process. Different types of shellers were tried in the past but without much success - these new ones seem to be working better.

Our one small tractor has made a difference but it is grossly inadequate to meet the demand. There have also been issues with maintenance due to the remoteness of the location and the lack of mechanical skills. If we increased the equipment then it would justify a resident mechanic / workshop and create income for another family

Two peanut planters and one digger are on order from China but we really need more tractors and more cultivating equipment.

The benefits of the scheme can only be assessed by monitoring those involved. This year we will take a sample from the 85 farmers and ask them to compare their cash income from last year to this. If there has been an improvement then we will ask how much of the improvement they think is due to the SHAREAfrica intervention. We will then take into account the size and age of households, the size of fields, the amount of training received and so on. As in all charitable (Christian) support we must be able to gauge the effectiveness of the intervention.



New bicycles for lead farmers



New Shellers



Rented storage shed in Mgawa used for storing shelled and unshelled nuts

Sponsorship

In response to questions about sponsorship, here is how you can do it.

Sponsoring an Orphan is done via Standing Order at a cost of £15 a month. It can be done through our web page www.shareafrica.com or you can, cut out and complete the form below and send it to SHAREAfrica (address below). Once we receive the Standing Order we will contact you with information about the child and explain how the programme works.

Making a donation can also be done via the web site or by sending us a cheque payable to SHAREAfrica. If you would like to make a monthly standing order to the **Farming Programme** you can also do so by ticking the appropriate box below and

Orphan Programme

Farming Programme

NAME AND ADDRESS

BANK DETAILS- ACCOUNT DEBITED

BANK	
BRANCH ADDRESS	
POST CODE	
ACCOUNT NAME	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	
SORT CODE	

PAYMENT DETAILS

AMOUNT IN FIGURES	
AMOUNT IN WORDS	
PAYMENT PERIOD	<i>Monthly</i>
FIRST PAYMENT DATE	
FIRST PAYMENT DATE	<i>Until further notice</i>

BENEFICIARIES BANK TO BE CREDITED

BANK	BARCLAYS BANK PLC
BRANCH ADDRESS	1 ST ANDREWS SQUARE
	EDINBURGH
	EH2 2BD
SORT CODE	20-29-23
ACCOUNT NAME	SHARE AFRICA
ACCOUNT NUMBER	10592935

SIGNATURE	
DATE	
TAXPAYER YES / NO	

The Share Zambia Farm



Harvesting is now in process and although yields will be down on last year the overall picture looks reasonable. Of the 70 acres planted 20 acres were infected by aphids. We think this was due to late planting but the reason is still unsure. The damage affected only the younger plants.

The farm grows a seed crop which is used to supply the farmers with seed for the following year. We are hopeful that the crop will be sufficient to meet the needs.

There have been challenges with the water supply which had a knock on affect with hired labour. The solar pump failed which meant there was no water on site therefore water had to be carried in from other wells. Some of the water got contaminated and many workers fell sick. It just shows how dependent the people are on things we take for granted. A new pump has been shipped from Lusaka and should be installed before this article goes to press.

Crop rotation is especially important when growing seed. The same crop can only be planted in the same field 1 in every 3 years. This will pose some difficulties since dividing the 100 acre field into three leaves us with too little space to grow sufficient groundnut seed to meet the increasing demand. We really want to expand the Out-growers Programme but we cannot do that if we don't have seed. (Getting a license to grow seed is a lengthy process and is not something we can outsource to the farmers). The district Chief has offered another 100 acre field for £1000 but it requires clearing and we would have to drill a borehole. This is a matter for prayer.

We have also been approached by believers in other areas of Zambia who want to join the Outgrowers Programme. Our experience over the last 3 years has shown that with a guaranteed market farmers can improve their conditions. It is a slow process and requires up-front investment, but by spreading the scheme to other areas it reduces the risk posed by unpredictable rainfall. This is another matter for prayer.

Contact information

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