



October
2020

Family Feeding Programme

SHARE Africa Zambia's Family Feeding Programme (FFP) is a new programme aimed at improving food security at household level. The targeted beneficiaries will be households looking after orphans and vulnerable children who are presently on SHAREAfrica's sponsorship programme. Additionally, we are extending the FFP to include the elderly, widows, and people with special needs. We have committed to run the programme for 12 months during which time we will monitor progress and assess the benefits.

Although the need is massive, there is a limit to what we can do, therefore the programme will be limited to the 140 families caring for the orphans plus 60 more families or recipients mainly from the assemblies where the orphans attend.



Justification

The reasons for undertaking the programme:

- The evidence of undernourished children has been clear from visits to the families where the children live.
- The support previously given to children, omitted siblings in the same household who were equally in need. We also listened to feedback from the families who said that providing a daily meal was their biggest challenge. We felt it fairer therefore to use part of the child's sponsored allowance to provide a monthly food supplement that could be shared with other children in the family.
- There is widespread evidence that children who are hungry do not perform well at school.
- The mortality rate for children under five is 50 in 1000, and for adults up to 60 years it is 574 per 1000.
- Malnutrition is a major burden on the Zambian health care system. Nationally, 40 percent of children under 5 years are stunted. Analysis by age groups shows that 54% of children from 18 months to 2 years have stunted growth.
- The effect of current economic downturn has seriously affected household incomes. Many are unemployed and even roadside traders are finding it difficult due to covid-19 restrictions. Many assemblies now cannot afford to support their own widows and elderly.

Nutritious Food Corn Soya Blend (CSB)

Corn Soya Blend (CSB) is a "super cereal" that previously we made in small quantities for people with special needs. With a small increase in capacity it is possible to produce the targeted amount.

The CSB is made based on the WFP standard of FBF-V-13 which has 13 vitamins and 3 essential minerals. The main ingredients are soy and maize which we source from the SAZ farms. The ingredients are milled, cooked, and packed in 25kgs bags - as shown in the picture.

The cost to produce 1 bag is approximately £15

Malnutrition is the greatest threat to children's health and wellbeing

FFP Administration

The Orphan Sponsorship system is relatively unchanged. School fees and school supplements will be paid as before. The gifts to children such as clothing, books, and school accessories will still be given but at a lesser value.

Here is how the programme works:

- Every month a 25 kg bag (CSB) will be given to the parent or guardian who cares for the child. Included will be a 200g cup which is the recommended daily measure for each serving.

- b) The 25 kg bag should be sufficient to feed 4 children for one month.
- c) Each bag will be labelled and dropped at the assemblies where the orphans attend.
- d) A further quantity of CSB will be delivered to support the widows and elderly in the same assembly. The elders will be responsible for allocating the food at their discretion.
- e) The Admin team will visit the households to monitor benefits of the program.
- f) A small gift such as schoolbooks, clothing or sanitary items, etc., will still be given to the child on every school visit.
- g) The 200 bags (5 tonnes) of CSB will be produced at the SAZ factory using produce from the Farming Programme.
- h) A new (second hand) vehicle has been purchased to do the distribution.



Additional Distribution

Assemblies in Lusaka at Chunga, Buseko, Ng'ombe, Garden, John Laing, Kanyama West, Kamwala, Chawama and Makeni are now receiving bags of CSB. There are over 40 assemblies in Lusaka, so it gives an idea of how relatively small this contribution is. Other outlying areas like Mumbwa, Siavonga and Serenje where we already have children on the programme will receive a 3 month's supply up front.

We will do whatever is within our means to expand the programme but firstly we must learn how this programme is working.

Other assemblies in farming areas affected by drought are also asking for help. But we will aim to help them from stocks of maize meal which we have held in reserve at Chipata.



Slow Progress at Lusitu

Progress on building has been slow. This is because the saints are busy in the fields looking for trees to cut to make charcoal. Their families are hungry, and this is their only means of income. For the past three years the region has suffered recurring crop failures due to poor rainfall.

We wonder what the conservationists would say in answer to chopping down trees for charcoal. Sadly, there is no easy answer other than relocate the people to a more fertile location – what nomadic people have done for centuries. However, political, and economic constraints will prevent that from happening. It is ironic that these same people were relocated from the fertile banks of the Zambezi 70 years ago to this location to make way for the Kariba Dam.

Even if people were paid not to cut trees, charcoal would still remain the best available fuel for cooking. Even in places where there is electricity, the cost and inconsistency of supply makes charcoal a domestic requirement in most households. Solar ovens, cookers, and kettles are not sufficiently advanced to compete with charcoal, plus they are too costly to produce. Biofuel is a rare option

since you need the biodegradable material to produce it, and the heat efficiency does not compare with charcoal. (We will continue to look for solutions as tree felling is not a sustainable option).

The Building: The work is being done on the basis that the saints do the labour and SAZ provides the building materials. But because of the drought the locals had little food for their families therefore the work has stopped. SAZ has now started a 'food for work program' where everyone working on the building will be given food for their families. We know this is not ideal, but it will speed up construction.



Above is the picture of the Hall and the building team.

We will also repair a dry bore hole and solar pump which could provide water for animals as well as a small vegetable patch for the assembly.

Amidst all the challenges the saints have steadfastly held on to the Gospel. They meet within the shell of the building every Lord's day.

A sad note:

Brother John Kaoma Kapesa from Chirundu assembly was attacked by a crocodile in Zambezi river whilst drawing water. He was saved by nearby fishermen but emerged with a fractured arm and some severe bruises on his other hand. We thank God that he survived as it is a rare case for someone to survive an attack from a Nile crocodile; he is currently hospitalised in Lusaka.

Brother John often travelled 30 kilometres to Lusitu assist with the building. He needs our prayers for a speedy recovery.



New Building at Kamlaza



Background

The outreach work at Kamlaza started in 2016 with the brethren at Chipata Central Assembly. The brethren were prompted to commence the outreach work at Kamlaza due to the couple that had to travel a long distance to have fellowship with the saints at Chipata Central. The mission work which started out small with 6 believers meeting in Brother Chisala's home has steadily grown to 20 believers in fellowship and 40 to 50 attending the Gospel meeting.

A visit to the Chief

On 8th September, the brethren from Kamlaza Assembly accompanied by the leaders from Chipata Central, visited Chief Zamani to ask for a plot of land to build a permanent structure where believers could meet to worship the Lord. The Chief gladly granted the

brethren's request and instructed his headmen to allocate enough land along the main road. We are pleased to confirm that the headmen have since apportioned 50m x 30m land within Kamlaza village.

The Lord's Provision

It is from this background that the brethren appealed to Share Africa Zambia (SAZ) for financial help to build a hall measuring 10mx18m, along with a borehole and hand-pump.

The same week that the request was forwarded to SAZ, a gift was received from an assembly that was closing in the UK. The money was equal to the amount requested by the believers in Kamlaza.

We thank the Lord for this provision and trust that the new assembly in Kamlaza will grow and be a blessing to many.

The Building

As with most halls the locals are encouraged to contribute what they can. This gives them a sense of ownership as well as encouraging unity when working together to complement one another's skills. The money gifted will buy all materials including fixtures and fittings. The labour will be done by people from Kamlaza and Chipata. The financial responsibilities for the project will be given to two people from SAZ. The work has just commenced with completion expected by the end of the year.

Footnote

Chief Zamani was impressed by the work that SAZ is doing to support farming in the area. If the building work goes well, and we continue to support the community, the Chief has said he will grant land for the development of other SAZ projects. The Chief is very aware that impoverished communities in his chieftom need an economic stimulus if people, particularly the youths, are to remain in the area.



Meeting at Chief Zamani's house. The chief is third from left with white T-shirt



The Church in Zambia (Eddie)

While Christianity in Zambia dates back only two centuries, Christianity in Africa dates to

the first century, when the earliest Christians made their way to the great city of Alexandria, Egypt. A millennium later, sub-Saharan Africa became open to the Gospel.

Missionaries, responded to Christ's mandate to preach and to teach all peoples, and carried the message of Christian hope throughout the land. These dedicated brothers and sisters cared for people in all dimensions of their lives: spiritual, physical and social. They introduced systems of education and health care that continue to serve the needs of people.

Nevertheless, for much of the first half of the 20th century, the assembly population remained modest, partly because of the cultural perception that Christianity was exclusively European with embodied legacies of colonialism. The inequalities in wealth and social status between Europeans and the indigenous population seemed incompatible with the Word of God. But despite the growing disparity between African nations and the major economies, the Zambian nation has embraced the Gospel and has now one of the highest percentage of Christian populations anywhere in the world.

Today, there are more than 1,500 assemblies in Zambia with an estimated 150,000 believers. However, when you visit many of these assemblies, you understand the extent of the deep poverty, inequality, and seemingly insurmountable social dilemmas. Yet despite the difficulties there is joy in the face of travail, and hope in the eyes of the young. (SAZ, in a small way, are trying to bring hope)

The Oxen Project

The Oxen project which started as a pilot project with 24 farmers has proven to be a positive initiative. Our survey of the 24 farmers that were given oxen has shown an increase in yield of about 70% compared to previous years.

Using an ox-drawn plough not only enables farmers to cultivate larger fields, but also allows them to prepare fields for planting much sooner. This enables them to take advantage of the small time-period when conditions are best for planting.

The oxcart has further minimized wastage which was caused during post-harvest when the farmers delayed in transporting their produce from their fields immediately after harvest.

A further benefit is being able to transport day to day essentials such as containers of water and firewood.

Considering the positive impact that oxen, ploughs, and oxcarts have had during the last two seasons, SAZ will buy a further 6 pair for the coming season. More would be great, but this is what we can afford for now.

Our aim going forward is to create a loan fund that can be used to buy oxen, and for the farmers to repay the amount by contributing a small amount of their produce. This means



more farmers can benefit and that year on year the scheme should grow.

Disease is always a risk therefore it is likely that some animals will die. If this happens there will be an agreement among the farmers that money from the fund can be used to replace the animals.

The introduction of oxen and the provision of quality seed are the two things that have contributed most to improvements in farmer earnings. But with over 200 farmers asking for animals it is impossible to provide for everyone. We will continue to do all we can.

Expanding the Farming Programme and Adding New Employees

We are pleased to say that the expansion of the farming activities, plus the success of the 2020 season has allowed us to add six new people to the payroll. The expansion will take us into new areas in the northern part of the Eastern Province where there are 6 assemblies that have been appealing for help for some time (Mphata, Thanthwe, Kapata, Musandile, Nyambo, and Kaphale).

The six new employees are :-

- Ronald Phiri will be responsible for managing inventory which includes accounting for materials received, packaging, and storage.
- Sebastian Bwalya, who has experience in mechanics, has been appointed as Logistics Manager to oversee the transportation of materials. Sebastian's mechanical skills should also be useful in maintaining SAZ vehicles.
- Prince Mwanza, will be the project manager for the Outgrowers Scheme (OTG). With the additional farmers being added to the full sponsorship scheme we felt there was a need for this new position.
- Sydney Lupupa has been a part time bookkeeper in Chapata for several months. With the expansion of the work Sydney will become a fulltime employee responsible for the financial books as well as monthly reports.
- Felisia Banda and Betanigo Banda have been hired as fulltime farm supervisors. One at each of the seed farms belonging to SAZ.



Mwewa, Mussa, Prince, Sydney, Sebastian, Felisia, Ronald, Betanigo and Masauso

All 6 new employees are less than 35 years; 4 are from assemblies in Mgawa and Chipata, while Prince and Sebastian are believers from the Reformed Church of Zambia (RCZ).

Providing stable employment lies at the heart of poverty reduction. As well as providing income, it creates skills and gives people a sense of purpose and self-esteem. We also pay fair wages which should benefit the many dependents in their households.

Plans to extend to another Province

Mwewa, our director of Farming and Mussa our Farming Manager, are exploring options to expand the programme to the Northern Province. Many farmers there are equally in need of help. The potential for SAZ to develop new varieties of bean seed and grow them in the Northern Province where climate is more suited to beans, is worth considering. It will take time to establish a relationship with the believers in the area and to find people who can take responsibility, but if the improvements we are seeing in the Chipata can be replicated elsewhere then it would be worthwhile.

Food Factory Update

By God's grace, with the addition of the new feeding programme we have been able to employ four more youths as permanent staff. These youths failed to finish school due to various challenges and were in desperate need of employment. Although their academic ability is poor, they are hard workers and very keen to learn about food processing. Two are coming from the local Makeni assembly and two from the evangelical churches.

It is routine for all workers at the factory to meet for prayer before they start work. The office staff are in a separate building therefore they do not participate, but it is encouraging how these young believers left alone in their work environment understand the need for prayer.

Everyone is paid above the minimum wage and, as we try and increase volumes, we trust that there will be a future for these dear people and their families.



Chilufya Kalima



Rhoda Banda



Chrispin Kasong'u



Bornface Zulu



Our latest new cereal product is called Choco Pops. It is the first time this product has been made in Zambia. We pray that it will be bought in sufficient quantities to justify the production.

We are in negotiations with a major food distributor who delivers to one of Zambia's largest supermarkets. He is interested in taking four of our

products but we have still to agree appropriate terms.

We are also expecting two machines.

1. A new Flaking machine from China. The old machine that was used to develop cornflakes was unable to produce the flakes to a consistent standard.
2. A new Extruder. This machine will be used to cook the Corn Soya Blend for the Feed the Family Programme. The present machine can only run small batches which means the workers have to work shifts to make the required quantities.

Sydney Lupupa (His story)

Sydney was born on 5th February 1986. He is the third born in a family of 9. He has 3 brothers and five sisters.

Sydney is married to Nancy and they have two children, Calisto and Lubuto. Both Sydney and Nancy are in fellowship at Chipata Central Assembly.

Sydney completed his tertiary education in 2015 at Paglory College of Education. His expectation was that he would be employed by the Government when he finished his course. However, his dream didn't come true.

Having waited for almost two years, Sydney decided to apply at a private school as a Mathematics teacher and in 2017 Sydney was accepted to NEM Private School in Chipata.

Sydney was assigned to teach Mathematics and Geography to junior and senior secondary pupils, but despite the school recording profits, management failed to pay their workers with delays of up to 3 to 4 months.

As well as having no income Sydney's worries were compounded when his wife became pregnant.

In the Lord's providence, SAZ was able to give Sydney temporary employment as a bookkeeper. Sydney has demonstrated his ability; he is ambitious, confident, humble, honest, a quick learner, as well as a team player.

Sydney is now a permanent employee and fully committed to the SAZ mission. He has expressed his gratitude to SAZ and to those who support the work for giving him this opportunity.



Supporting the Work

As we introduce our new Family Feeding Programme, we are also making changes to our Orphan Sponsorship Programme, to our Website and to our Online Donations

Online Donation

You can donate online via our website at www.shareafrica.com. We have improved our online giving system using NowDonate. The donate or sponsorship buttons on our website will now take you to the NowDonate website to handle your donation.

You will be asked some initial questions and will be able to select a 'Campaign or Appeal'. You can use this to direct your gift to the Orphan, Feeding, Farming Programme, Church Support, or to the work in general. As you continue you will be asked if you want to register an account with NowDonate. This is not required but it can give you a way to monitor and manage your donations online, if you wish.

NowDonate gives you options to pay by Credit/Debit Card, PayPal or Direct Debit. Direct Debit is new for us but provides an easy way to set up regular direct bank payments online.

The 'Campaign or Appeal' categories – these are set to make it easier to support specific programmes or projects.

For Example:

- 1. Sponsor a child** – you can sponsor an individual child who will start receiving food on the food programme along with the other support we give. You will receive a regular report of home and school visits and will be able to correspond with your child.
We suggest a regular donation of £20 per month.
- 2. Support the Family Feeding Programme** – you can make regular donation to the feeding programme which will enable us to include other vulnerable households. Choose your amount. £5 will give a healthy breakfast to one child or vulnerable adult for a month.
- 3. Support the Farming Programme** – a regular donation will help a farmer to benefit from our out-growers scheme and improve their farming yield. We suggest £20 per month.
- 4. Support the work in general** –
 - a) by regular or one-off donations where the money will be allocated at the discretion of the trustees.
 - b) by specifying what the gift should be used for, for example, an assembly building, oxen for the farmers, Bibles / Hymnbooks, and so on.

The believers in Zambia express their sincere thanks for the support provided over the years.

Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do. (Paul Gal 2:10)

Hilda Musole

Sister Hildah Musole of Nampundwe assembly passed away in August. The late sister was receiving regular gifts from a sister in UK as well as nutritious food supplements from the factory. She was a widow and had been terminally ill for some time. SAZ contributed towards her funeral arrangements. She has left 3 children of which 2 are on the Orphan Programme. The third one has now been included. The children now live with their aunt.



Ways to Support

- 1. BY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD/DIRECT DEBIT** using our website www.shareafrica.com and selecting 'Donations' from the main menu bar.
- 2. BY ELECTRONIC BANK TRANSFER** using either online banking or by instructing your local bank branch to make an electronic transfer. The SHAREAfrica banking details are as follows
 - a. U.K. Donations

Account Name:	Share Africa
Account Number:	10592935
Sort Code:	20-29-23
 - b. Overseas Donations

IBAN	GB56BARC20292310592935
SWIFTBIC	BARCGB22
- 3. BY CHEQUE TO OUR P.O BOX at**
SHAREAfrica, PO Box 401,
Harrogate, HG2 9WZ
- 4. BY STANDING ORDER** Standing Order Mandates are available as downloads from our website or you can contact us by email, post or telephone and we will send out a mandate for completion.

Contact information

**SHAREAfrica, PO Box 401,
Harrogate, HG2 9WZ**

Telephone: 01423879280 or 07889433979

www.shareafrica.com

Info@shareafrica.com or

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Gift Aid applies

Trustees: Alastair Rogers, Leonard Currie, Jim McPhail, Ed Morrow, Paul Richardson