

Community Bicycle Transport Project

PROJECT SUMMARY

Using discarded bicycles collected in the UK and shipped to Zambia, the project will assist more than 300 rural families to access more appropriate and cost effective means of transport. This will enable them both to carry their farm produce to market and to more easily access important health, education and other community services. The project area in N. Zambia suffers from very rudimentary road systems and no public transport. Additionally, using the receipts from the sale of the bicycles (to be sold at 50% of local prices), the project will train four local bicycle mechanics, set up two competing workshops and use the remainder to fund the next container of bicycles or other equipment to be shipped from the UK. Of the £9,000 required for the project Kaloko Trust is confident in raising £6,500¹ from other donors and is now seeking £2,500 to enable us to start the project early in 2009 with the first bicycles reaching Zambia by mid-year.

Objective

To improve livelihoods and quality of life of more than 300 rural families living in rural Zambia by improving access to appropriate and cost effective means of transport and expanding marketing possibilities for sales of agricultural produce.

Budget

1. Sea transport to Beira	£ 3,500
2. Rail/road transport to Luansobe	£ 4,500

Total Freight	£ 8,000
3. Administration fee to <i>Re-Cycle</i>	£ 350
4. KTUK Monitoring and evaluation	£ 650

TOTAL PROJECT COST: £ 9,000

Overall outcomes

- >300 farming families receive higher prices for agricultural produce thus improving household income
- >300 women are relieved of the heavy burden of back-carrying produce to market

- >2,400 members of farming families have improved access to health, education and other community services
- 4 young persons trained and set up in two bicycle repair workshops

Kaloko Trust

Since 1989 Kaloko Trust has been working to relieve poverty, in the Luansobe² area of the Copperbelt Region in rural Zambia. Kaloko Trust UK was established in 1995 and works with the local partner organisation Kaloko Trust Zambia to develop local agriculture and income generation, through self-help projects, and by promoting the environmentally sustainable use of natural resources. From this basis the Trust works to advance education and to promote the healthcare of rural communities through training and the support of schools and health clinics. The different programmes run fall into the following categories:

1) Agricultural Training & Development

Improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers by helping to develop agricultural production and increasing access to markets and services.

2) Natural Resource Management

Helping rural communities to improve access to water and to make more sustainable use of local forest resources.

3) Community Social Development

Working in partnership with rural communities and the Zambian government to provide education, promote healthcare and address the issue of HIV/AIDS.

4) Enterprise Development

Helping to develop local enterprises that add value to local produce, generate income, raise skill levels, provide employment and support local economic activity.

Further details can be accessed on the website : www.kalokotrust.org. A full version of the 2007 Annual Report and Accounts is available on the Charity Commission website www.charity-commission.gov.uk by entering the number 1047622 in the box in the Search the Register of Charities.

¹ By end Dec 2008 £6,250 has already been raised.

² 11 communities with >10,000 inhabitants

Background

For many rural farmers in Zambia there is little realistic chance of formal employment. Income generating opportunities are limited and the main economic activities revolve around agricultural production and the harvesting of natural resources such as wild fruits, mushrooms and honey. Even when producing their own food, families still need cash income to purchase necessities such as salt, soap, clothes, medicine and to pay school fees, so each year farmers need to sell a portion of their produce. At present most farmers are passive sellers awaiting the passing of the occasional trader who might offer them something for their surplus produce. Many farmers sell immediately after harvest because it is only then that buyers come to visit the farms but it is also when prices are at their lowest. The imminent arrival of a tar road within 6 kms of the project area means that finally they might be able to move their produce off the farm and sell for a better price at the central market, or to wholesalers, in the city of Ndola. However, they first have to move their produce along forest tracks to the roadside to be then loaded on to trucks. The most appropriate form of transport for this initial transport stage is the bicycle. Additionally, bicycles can also be used by the farmers and their children to go to school, take sick family members to the health clinic or to attend the various community meetings and events which have normally required a long walk in an area where populations are so spread out.

Unfortunately the models of bicycle sold locally, which are imported from China and India, are not robust enough for the task and cost more than many families can afford. Using bicycles discarded in the UK and collected by the charity *Re-Cycle* the Kaloko project will provide 400 robust reconditioned bicycles to be sold at 50% of the local cost thus enabling many more families to purchase this appropriate form of transport. The project will also train four local bicycle mechanics and assist them in setting up two competing workshops to render bicycle repair services to the community. Another UK charity *Tools with a Mission* have also agreed to assist the project by supplying maintenance kits to equip the two planned workshops, as well as bicycle repair stands and smaller individual bicycle repair kits.

Needs Analysis

Kaloko carried out a specific consultation in July 2004 with several communities in the project area

and this clearly identified transport as a key concern. Communities asked for support with transport, and with bicycles specifically. They repeatedly cited lack of access to transport as being one of the major limiting factors both in developing economic opportunities and in their full participation in local activities. Despite their best efforts economic development is being held back. A clear example given was a family who were able to grow surplus food thanks to training and support from Kaloko but then unable to access markets to sell the produce, thereby making the training ineffective in terms of improving income. The recent offer of assistance by the UK charity *Re-Cycle* has now created an opportunity to directly address this issue.



Existing example: Eunice Malekana carries a barrel of 50 scones to market three times a week. She supports six children and four orphans with this vital income

Activities

1. Kaloko UK will receive from *Re-Cycle* and *Tools with a Mission* a container of 400 reconditioned bicycles, tools and repair kits
2. The container will be shipped to Dar-es-Salaam and then transported by rail/road to the project site at Luansobe, Copperbelt Province, Zambia
3. 400 bicycles will be sold by Kaloko Zambia for an average of £20 each

4. Four young people will be trained and equipped to set up two local bicycle repair workshops
5. Proceeds from the sale of the bicycles will be used to cover the training costs in Zambia and surplus funds will be used to cover transport costs for future containers of bicycles and/or other donated items (eg sewing machines, carpentry/plumbing toolkits) which will be combined with training programmes to develop income generating activities.

Project Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries will be the more than 300 households who will purchase the 400 bicycles at a reasonable cost. Locally there is an average of 8 members per household; therefore the project will directly benefit at least 2,400 people. Subsequently the revolving fund will continue to have a direct impact on 2,400 people each year as further containers of second-hand bicycles, or other equipment, are brought over.

A second group of beneficiaries will be women. Women often carry heavy sacks of produce on their backs over long distances to market. The use of a bicycle will alleviate this burden. Kaloko Trust has an established reputation for positively supporting women in development and this project will deliberately include the targeting of households headed by women.

The third group of beneficiaries will be the children attending the local schools. Many of the children are either too young, or live too far away, to walk to school and back each day and bicycles will enable them to access school more easily.

Four school leavers will be trained in basic bicycle repairs and assisted in setting up two commercial workshops.

Project Implementation and Reporting

Kaloko Trust UK (KTUK) staff will be responsible for making the arrangements for the container to be shipped to Tanzania and then transported on by rail to Kapiri Mposhi, Zambia which is 40 kms from the project site. Kaloko Trust Zambia (KTZ) staff will be responsible for organising the customs clearance exemption, the final delivery by road to Luansobe and the offloading, storage and subsequent sale of the bicycles. They will also organise the training of the four bicycle mechanics and assist in the setting up of the two workshops. Funds received from the

sale of the bicycles will be carefully recorded and reported on to KTUK each quarter as will local training activities and associated expenses. Surplus funds will be remitted back to KTUK by being offset against the existing flow of funds from the UK to Zambia and will then be utilised by KTUK to cover shipping costs for future containers. Project progress will be regularly reported in the Kaloko Newsletter which is produced three times per annum and sent out to all donors with fuller details included in the Trustees Annual Report.



Existing example: Jonathan Gwalya and Orbri Tingo head off to market with two bags of maize for sale

Zambia: Country Information³

- Capital: Lusaka
- Government: democracy
- Population: 11.9 million
- GNI per capita: US \$630
- Life expectancy: 40.6 years
- Area: 752,614 sq km (290,586 sq miles)
- Major languages: English (official), Bemba, Lozi, Nyanja, Tonga
- Major religions: Christianity, indigenous beliefs, Hinduism, Islam
- People: Over 70 ethnic groups largely black Bantu
- Monetary unit: Kwacha (approx 7,000 = £1)



³ Statistics from the UN 2007 Human Development Report, World Bank Country Report 2007 and UNAIDS Global Report 2006

- Main exports: copper, minerals, tobacco
- Children: 45.7% of population under 15
- Poverty: 68% living below the national poverty line
- HIV statistics: more than 17% (pop aged 5 – 49)
- Orphans: Zambia has the second highest proportion of AIDS orphans in the world (> 700,000)
- 95% of people in rural areas are subsistence farmers

According to the United Nations, Zambia is ranked 165 out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index⁴. 64% of the population live on less than \$1 a day and 87% live on less than \$2 a day. For some time United Nations indicators for eradicating hunger, achieving universal primary education and reducing child mortality have been in decline. A past legacy of economic mismanagement, debt and disease are said to have contributed to the country's poor economic status today. Politically, Zambia gained independence in 1964, switching from a colonial government into an era of one-party rule lasting 27 years. A multi-party system emerged in the early 1990s and more recently the economic situation has begun to improve.

At independence, Zambia had one of the highest per capita incomes in sub-Saharan Africa. It had large deposits of minerals, a good climate, plenty of agricultural land, and wonderful game reserves. Zambia was encouraged to concentrate on the production and export of copper and it became one of Africa's most industrialised and urbanised countries. Initially the newfound wealth from copper paid for extensive education and health programmes. But following the oil crisis in the 1970s, the price of copper fell dramatically and the price of oil rose. Zambia was forced to turn to the IMF⁵ and the World Bank for assistance. So began some thirty years of Bank and Fund intervention in the Zambian economy with a period of increasing foreign debt, economic collapse and social crisis. During this time Zambia's debts rose from US\$800 million to almost US\$6 billion. Current monies owed by the Zambian government total US\$3.3 billion.

⁴ The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy), being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary level) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity and income).

⁵ International Monetary Fund

Since 1991, to qualify for debt relief, Zambia has been forced to implement economic reforms such as privatisation, trade liberalisation, subsidy cuts and public sector wage freezes. And yet, in the same period and despite these actions, Zambia has had the worst economic performance of any African country that has not suffered from conflict. Its economy declined by 1.7% a year in the 1990s, and by 2003 Zambia had received only 5% of the debt service reduction committed to it. Between 1993 and 1996, Zambia spent four times more on debt servicing than it did on education. The government raised school fees as a result and primary school enrolments fell with almost 600,000 children not attending school, the majority girls. More recently the Zambian government reversed its stand on school fees and access to primary school is now free. However, many schools lack adequate classroom space, qualified staff and appropriate teaching materials and still rely on contributions from parents and other charitable sources.

For poor people in rural areas the consequence of these economic difficulties has been a steady decline in access to such basic rights as sufficient food, clean water, health services and education: 46% of the population are undernourished; 10% of children do not live to see their 5th birthday; only 60% of children go to school; and life expectancy has fallen to 40 years. Against this backdrop of extreme poverty, Zambia now faces yet another crisis: HIV/AIDS. Approximately one in six people are HIV positive and AIDS is now considered the biggest threat to Zambia's struggle for development. It is killing an entire generation, and Zambia now has the second highest number of orphans in the world .

Zambia's climate can be split into three periods. From December to March it is hot and wet, with regular and heavy downpours. The average rainfall at the project site is about 1,000mm a year. From April to August it is dry and cool and then from about September it starts to get progressively hotter until the rains start again. About 70% of Zambia consists of what is termed Miombo woodland. This is a mixture of grassland dotted with trees and shrubs. However, less than 10% of the country is used for agricultural production.