

# Kaloko News



HELPING RURAL ZAMBIAN COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

Christmas 2010

## Through the Eyes of the Community

A recent socio-economic survey conducted across the Luansobe area in July 2010 reveals a range of fascinating results. Holger Vogt, in his final year of a BSc degree in International Development at the University of East Anglia, spent over a month interviewing 120 households in 13 villages across the programme area. According to the research, nearly half the households are new to the area, having lived there for under a decade. Family size has fallen in recent years to an average of 6.7 people.

Holger's findings show that, of the 25 different activities implemented by Kaloko since 2005, the most useful were seen by the community to be pupil sponsorship, health training, mosquito-net distribution, HIV/AIDS checks, beekeeping training, bicycle sales, community school construction and food security loans. 91% of all households had participated in some type of Kaloko activity over the past two years, most of which were related to health and education. 45% had participated in four to eight activities, with 6% taking part in more than eight, and 49% in three or fewer. Interestingly, the study noted that those families which had participated in more activities tended to have higher average incomes than those involved in fewer projects.

The study also examined what communities felt to be their prime needs today. Water supply ranks high, with more boreholes and irrigation systems requested by most households. Improved educational provision is also seen as a priority, with 52% of households stressing the need for a school in their area, 12% requesting a pre-school and 39% needing assistance with school fees. These sentiments reflected the findings that 87% of households have over three children of school age, but only 69% of these are actually at school. Explaining non-attendance, 58% said that they could not afford fees while 16% said that the nearest school was too far away. It was also found that children, on average, walk 69 minutes to their nearest school.

***Luansobe life:** Simon Kawaya, 34, is married with 4 children. Pictured at Ruesanga Dam with a male goat he borrowed to breed with his two females. Following the recent survey, Kaloko plans to train more farmers in animal husbandry.*



## Number One Killer

In its ongoing fight against the killer disease malaria, Kaloko Trust plans to extend its Malaria Education Programme to reach many more vulnerable families in Luansobe.

Kaloko's work in distributing mosquito bed-nets and in educating residents on cause and prevention has seen tangible success. Nevertheless, despite a drop in malaria fatalities, the disease remains the number one cause of death in rural Zambia. A recent survey by Kaloko shows that a quarter of heads of families in the

Luansobe area are still unaware of the cause of the disease, and over one family in five has no bed-nets for protection. Of those households which do have nets, 66% do not have enough for the whole family. With the onset of rains in November, and the corresponding increase in mosquitoes, malaria will continue to claim lives. Over the coming year Kaloko aims to reach approximately 400 families.

**£10 from you would enable us to supply a family with a bed net and vital health education.**

## EDITORIAL

KTUK Director, Renato Gordon

**A**s 2010 comes to an end, we pause to look back on the year's achievements. Happily, despite the state of the UK economy, donors have not only maintained, but have increased their support for our projects. We are very grateful. More resources are being sent to Zambia, and the results for the year are substantial. Kwesha village, as an example, has two new teachers' houses and, as in Luampesa, residents are also benefiting from a new health outpost. Class sponsorship is buoyant, supporting over 1,300 children. Four boreholes were drilled and fitted with hand-pumps, and four management committees were trained to maintain them. 36 people living with HIV/AIDS have been helped to generate income by rearing poultry, while a group of elderly women now receive basic support in caring for their orphaned grandchildren. Transport problems have been alleviated by Kaloko's local sale of another 349 bicycles, and beekeepers have benefited from help in processing, packaging and marketing their honey. The list is impressive, but we must also ask what the communities themselves think of these achievements; we must ask whether we are making the most effective contribution to a real improvement in the lives of the people of Luansobe.

The flow of information from the field is one of the great strengths of the partnership between Kaloko Trust UK and Kaloko Trust Zambia whose staff live in the programme area and continually monitor responses to our varied activities. We also conduct formal surveys, canvassing local opinion to guide our future direction. In a recent field study Kaloko examined the impact of past projects. This research provides vital feedback on needs and priorities - as seen by the community itself. Together with empirical data gathered in the survey, and by the Rural Health Clinic, we see tangible achievement in many areas. As the safe water programme has expanded, so the incidence of water-borne disease has fallen. The HIV/AIDS programme has resulted in better practice by traditional birth attendants with the consequent reduction in birth complications. Those living with HIV/AIDS are being tested, counselled and treated with anti-retroviral drugs, and the poultry-rearing project has raised both their income and their status in society. Although Kaloko is just one partner in these efforts, the results are gratifying.

We also recognise that there is no room for complacency. The communities of Luansobe constantly face new challenges which must lead Kaloko to re-tailor its interventions to address current issues, such as youth unemployment, declining soil fertility and rising fertiliser prices. We must use the resources with which we have been entrusted most carefully. Only by measuring and reviewing our work, and by soliciting opinion on current needs, can we ensure that what we do is appropriate and cost-effective. It is an ever-changing journey, and our great thanks go to our generous supporters who are travelling with us. Your contributions continue to make a lasting difference to the lives of so many in Luansobe. I know that they join me in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, Happy New Year.

## ACHIEVEMENT COMES FIRST AT LUBS

2010 has been a year of change for Luansobe Upper Basic School as it welcomed two new leaders to take the school into the new decade. Azzan Mungala, formerly of Chiwala High School, was appointed Headmaster in July, with Kopeka Chola from Fiwale Upper Basic School joining him as Deputy Headmaster.

Speaking to Renato Gordon, Director of Kaloko Trust UK, during his recent visit to Zambia, both educationalists stressed that improved academic performance at LUBS was their priority. Mr Mungala said that they would immediately focus on pupil and teacher punctuality, as well as establishing a regime of monthly revision tests and improving the standard of homework set for pupils. In addition, said Mr Mungala, they intend to institute an annual school Open Day when awards for outstanding achievement will be given to both pupils and staff.

Kaloko Trust, confident that LUBS is under strong double leadership, continues its support. The past year has seen several developments at the school, which now has just short of 1000 pupils, including the re-roofing and electrical wiring of ten teachers' houses and the construction of four additional latrines. The laboratory and Beit Trust classroom blocks have also been wired, and Kaloko has provided salaries for boarding house staff. In addition, 90 double desks have been supplied, along with football and netball equipment and costumes for the pupils' Drama and Dance Group. LUBS is now well set for the year ahead.



*Strong double leadership for LUBS, with Headmaster Azzan Mungala (pictured right) and Deputy Head Kopeka Chola both set on improved academic standards for their 993 pupils.*

## Clinic-on-Wheels

**F**ormer volunteer Nick Frost made a return visit to Kaloko this summer with a dual purpose. Not only did he help his partner Emma Iavarone, a teacher, look after the group of nine Varndean College students during their field trip to Zambia, he was also delighted to present a bicycle to the Luansobe Rural Health Clinic. The bicycle, given by Nick's mother Sandy Frost, will be used by clinic staff to conduct village inspections, supervise community-based volunteers and carry out home visits to patients living with HIV/AIDS.

## Specialist Advice for Health

**D**r Steve Gillam, Director of Public Health Training at the University of Cambridge, is the latest UK visitor to receive a warm Kaloko welcome. Accompanying KTUK Director Renato Gordon on his visit to Zambia in November 2010, Dr Gillam spent considerable time at the Rural Health Clinic, as well as meeting with local officials from the Department of Health. Giving of his extensive medical experience which spans more than three decades, Dr Gillam will present his recommendations to Kaloko Trust on how it may most effectively support health activities in Luansobe. He is also considering ways to develop links with Cambridge to enable medical students to work in Luansobe to gain first-hand experience of the health issues confronting the developing world.

*Dr Steve Gillam shares his specialist knowledge at Luansobe, together with Scottish volunteer Sharon McDowall who has spent three months teaching biology and English to pupils at LUBS.*



## Spreading their wings

**T**he Luansobe poultry-rearing project has truly taken off this year, extending to 25 new members from the HIV/AIDS Support Group who have each been trained and equipped with a starter pack of 19 chicks, feed and medicines. All new members, having successfully reared the chicks at their own homes, have now sold the first batch and have each bought a further 25 birds using the funds generated.

The small-scale enterprise was originally set up in 2009 primarily to increase incomes for families affected by HIV/AIDS, but also to improve the social status within the community of those living with the disease. The founding group is still in production. Using a repaired chicken house, which they now rent, they raise batches of 200 birds every two months.

Encouraged by the success of the project, Luansobe Upper Basic School has also begun its own poultry scheme, currently rearing 100 birds. Some of these will be sold locally to raise money to sustain the enterprise, while others will feed pupils boarding at the school.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

**N**ot a man to sit back waiting for others to find solutions, Joseph Tauro, who runs the Kaloko print shop as a private enterprise, has raised £700 through his own hard work to buy a second-hand Gestetner A4 printing machine. Conscious that his business depends on improved volume and quality, however, he needs to obtain a larger A3 machine to ensure that he offers a full service his customers.

Since he began the enterprise two years ago, Joseph has developed a range of good products, from receipt books and stock control cards to school reports and clinic patient records, which he sells to small businesses and institutions. He has found it impossible, however, to source spares and type-face replacements for most of the old presses he took on from Kaloko. With the arrival of electricity, the simple Gestetner presses provide the most cost-effective solution. But he cannot afford the £2,000 needed for the larger model.



**Can you help?**

*Joseph Tauro (left), battling to find spares for old presses, needs an A3 Gestetner printing machine.*

## GLIMMERS OF HOPE

**82,000** Zambians contracted HIV in 2009, according to the country's National Strategic Framework 2011-15. Kaloko Trust currently runs three projects supporting those living with HIV/AIDS and although the disease continues to take its horrible toll in Africa, there are signs of hope and progress.

According to an IRIN PlusNews report in September, 22 of the worst-affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa have reduced the incidence of HIV by over 25% in the last eight years, with Zambia being one of the best achievers. The report also noted that 60 - 80% of pregnant Zambian women are receiving HIV testing. Globally there is more heartening news:

- Over five million people now have access to life-prolonging antiretroviral drugs (ARV), a twelve fold increase over the past six years.
- 45% of pregnant women living with HIV in low and middle-income countries receive ARV medicines to prevent transmission of HIV to their infants - up from just 10% in 2004.
- Male circumcision, proven to lower men's risk of infection by up to 60%, is being rolled out in several African countries.

**Six-year-old Lushomo Nguni** was the youngest of three winners of the recent 'Creation' art competition at Luansobe Upper Basic School. The event was the brainchild of UK Kaloko supporter Alan Hopper who said, "The results were remarkable.... We had a pre-dominance of African animals, plants and trees, showing the importance of children's everyday lives in their thoughts about who created this wonderful world.' The LUBS art was exhibited alongside local photographic work at Alan's church in Willerby, East Yorkshire.



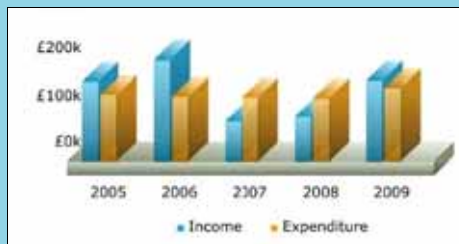
**A big thank you** to all our supporters during 2010 and in particular to our school class and grandmother sponsors. Many of you have increased your annual donation or monthly standing orders this year. This is very much appreciated and has helped us to maintain our level of support for LUBS, Kandulwe, the crèche and the grandmothers.

**£10 a month** supports the grandmothers or a crèche class

**£15 a month** supports a class at LUBS or Kandulwe School

## Held to Account

Kaloko Trust UK has recently published its **Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts**, setting out its achievements, income and expenditure for 2009. You can find the full report on the publications page of Kaloko's website, or on the Charity Commission website. Please contact us if you would like an emailed or printed copy.



**The Kaloko Trust UK** works to relieve poverty and raise livelihoods in rural communities in Zambia, southern Africa. Promoting local development of agriculture and self-help projects to generate income, it encourages the sustainable and responsible use of natural resources. The Trust promotes education and healthcare through improved access to schools, clinics and clean water.

Established in 1995 as a registered charity (No. 1047622), The Kaloko Trust UK (KTUK) supports the activities of our partner organisation, Kaloko Trust Zambia (KTZ) by securing funds for KTZ programmes and providing management support and capacity building. It also offers technical assistance, recruits specialist volunteers and publicises KTZ's activities. In 2009, 92% of funds raised were spent on charitable activities with the rest used for governance and generating further funds.



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## Books by Pelican Post

**T**wo of Luansobe's community schools may now look forward to expanding their modest libraries and developing pupils' reading skills thanks to a new initiative between Kaloko and UK partner charity Pelican Post.

The practical web-based scheme allows supporters to buy books and send them direct to Kwesha and Kandulwe Schools where there is urgent need for more learning resources. Kwesha, not yet under Kaloko's Class Sponsorship Scheme, is in particular need. It has only eight books, all of which are written in the local language Bemba. Despite the shortage of books, however, the school is producing admirable results, with 29 Grade 7 pupils recently sitting public exams, 21 of whom were awarded a Grade 8 reading standard.



With your help, these deserving schools can achieve so much more. By visiting [www.pelican-post.org](http://www.pelican-post.org) you will see details of each school and can choose from the carefully compiled list of books designed to meet the needs of all reading ages. Remember, reading empowers people. The long-term legacy for Luansobe's children will be enormous.

## Our printer

*Kaloko News* is printed three times a year on a recycled silk paper by our local, long-time printers, **One Digital**. See [www.one-digital.com](http://www.one-digital.com) or call 01273 887575.

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