

Kaloko News



HELPING RURAL ZAMBIAN COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

Spring 2008

Sponsorship Extends to Kandulwe

Kandulwe Community School is growing rapidly and, for the first time, will receive sponsorship from The Kaloko Trust this year to help fund building, furniture, equipment and extra teachers.

The school, which began five years ago with 40 children, this year accepted all 7 to 15 year olds who applied and now has 220 pupils in its seven classes. Teacher-in-Charge Mrs Odines Kanakila heads a team of seven teachers, two being paid by the state and five by the community. Although schooling in Zambia is free, the state cannot provide enough salaried teachers, and community teachers rely on an allowance paid for by community contributions. Demand is heaviest at junior levels, with over 90 children in Grades 1 and 2.

Although final building work continues on the new classroom block funded by corporate and individual donors, classes have moved in. Furniture will be funded by donors and, it is hoped, with help from the District Department of Education. Two additional teachers' houses are due to be completed by the end of May, with the community contributing sand, stone and labour to make bricks. The school, sited on 12 hectares given by the local chief, grows maize and beans to feed the children and community members working on school buildings. A well and borehole provide water, and there are three latrines.

Kandulwe, running from Grade 1 to 7, maximises use of local facilities. The local health outpost, completed



How it used to be. Veronica Kumuenda teaches Grade 2 children, using an ant-heap in lieu of a blackboard



Mrs Odines Kanakila and PTA Chairman Mr Laban Chityaka show the new classroom block (behind)

with Kaloko Trust funding, has a waiting room which doubles as a Grade 7 classroom. Two small consultation rooms provide teacher accommodation. In a similar move, Serenje's Health Outpost, built by Kaloko in 2006, houses Kambaya Community School. The sole teacher, Peter Misondo, who teaches all 79 pupils in Grades 1-4, says 216 children want to attend but there is just no room. The Kaloko Trust, which has donated teaching materials, hopes to build a school there in the future.

LUBS Thrives

2008 brings exciting developments at Luansobe Upper Basic School. Proposed as one of four schools of academic excellence in Zambia, it now has 900 pupils in 23 classes. Headmaster, Vincent Haanyama Haabanyama reports that a Grade 10 class began this year, with plans to offer Grade 11-12. Proposals for a new Grade 10-12 campus are with the Zambian government. Under the £130,000 project, Kaloko Trust Zambia (KTZ) will provide land and staff housing.

Other developments include the completion of the Grade 8 and 9 classroom block, thanks to £10,000 from the Beit Trust, and the construction of a £19,300 science block, funded by Caritas, to be completed this year. It is hoped that the Copperbelt Health Education Project may finance a new food hall and kitchen. With appropriate technology playing an increasing role, plans are underway to install a bio-gas digester for cooking gas and to light the science block. The school is keen to move ahead in upgrading its solar power system, funded by The Kaloko Trust UK Trustees' Appeal, and installing a small back-up generator.

A Hive of Activity

Luansobe Beekeeping Cooperative (LBCS) expands with growing confidence and autonomy. The cooperative, whose 28-strong membership has swelled to 91, has now taken over from Kaloko Trust the recovery of equipment loans to farmers trained before and during 2007. Five farmers who trained last year have already begun to repay loans carrying 10% interest; a good indication of the project's viability.

Production figures support the optimism. A total 110 kg of processed honey and 32 kg of honey wine were bought by the LBCS in 2007, with estimated sales at 983,000 Kwacha (£137). 10% of profits go to those involved in processing. Last year, training and support were the first phase of the three year project which is funded by the Innocent Foundation and individual donors. Two groups of 25 farmers underwent basic training in April and August, and the first has received start-up equipment. LBCS executive members and contact farmers also trained in extension work, mud-hive construction and financial management.

2008 developments include refurbishment of the LBCS building, with walls and roof extensions built, and a further £3,000 has been provided by KTUK. The LBCS executive now also coordinates equipment distribution and conducts quality inspection of new hives.



LBCS building refurbishment moves forward

New Sources

In a drive by The Kaloko Trust to help communities access different sources of funding for vital projects, Kwesha Community is now able to start building its school's first permanent classrooms.

Classrooms are critically needed in many communities. While 48 basic schools in Masaiti District enjoy permanent structures, 44 have poor or no facilities and pupils are often taught outside under the trees. Until now, the school at Kwesha used old mud-brick buildings and straw huts but a £8,800 grant from the development agency, Caritas, means many of the 304 pupils and four teachers can look forward to soundly-built classrooms. Foundations for the two-classroom block have been laid, and a diesel borehole pump has been installed to provide water. KTZ is helping by providing a tractor and trailer to transport stone and sand, and the school also hopes to secure assistance from the Constituency Development Fund to build teacher housing.

The same diversified approach was taken to find funding for new water supplies, with communities installing 12 boreholes with £44,000 from Caritas.

Upgrade at Kebumba:

Lewis Jere, KTZ Director, by the popular well at Kebumba, presently topped by an old tyre, which is to be up-graded this year. KTZ has set aside £1004 for concrete rings and a cover for the shallow, hand-dug well, as well as a windlass and bucket



Field schools up and running

Awelcome newcomer to the Kaloko community is Agricultural technician Lubinda Mukumbuta, from Zambia's Department of Agriculture, who aims to boost development through training and information. Since his arrival, he has set up field schools teaching new technologies and methods to farmers in the area where the main crops are maize, cassava and sweet potato, rape, onions, cabbage and tomato. Keen to advise on the different crop varieties available, he believes farmers should look to longer maturing maize varieties, as well as using shorter season varieties for early (green cob) harvest.

Living in a house provided by Kaloko Trust, Lubinda is also gathering data on an estimated 1,104 farming families in the area and identifying their problems. The most pressing of these, he says, is accessing agricultural inputs, such as seed and fertiliser, and the winter water shortage for livestock.

A grateful goodbye

The cheerful face of long-standing staff member, Jessie Ngoma, will be much missed by The Kaloko Trust. Retiring after almost 18 years, she was one of the first three Zambian employees to join founder director Phil Wedell and his wife at Kaloko in 1989.

Jessie, now 55, has held a wide range of posts in accounts, administration, project management and development coordination and was, most recently, operations manager. She remembers Kaloko as just 'bare bush' at the start and delights in the achievements over the years. With her recollections, there is also gratitude; 'I would like to thank UK people,' she says, 'For their generosity, for funding the school and the crèche, for helping sick people...for the jobs created. God bless them for their support!'

In retirement, Jessie will focus on her 10 hectare farm at Kwesha, and on caring for 15 year-old orphan, Flywell, in Grade 8 at LUBS. The Kaloko Trust, and all those who have worked with Jessie, are grateful for her work and wish her great happiness.



Jessie Ngoma: with Kaloko from the start

Testing the water

Two Finnish volunteer students are working at Kaloko as part of their field studies. Both in the fourth and final year of their Environmental Engineering Degree, the volunteers are researching 'harvesting' and using urine as a fertiliser, while assessing the community's reaction to the technologies involved.



Volunteer Antii Hannila inspects young maize fertilised by urine

Antii Hannila, assisted by children from Luansobe Upper Basic School (LUBS) in plot preparation and irrigation, is examining the use of urine, collected from what are known as 'dry toilets', as a nitrogen fertiliser. Under the study, urine is stored for three months to kill bacteria before being diluted with water in equal parts and applied to plots of maize and cabbage. 30 litres of the natural fertiliser are applied every fortnight during the growing period until a month before harvest. Comparative studies, using artificial fertilisers, cattle manure and no fertiliser at all, are being carried out simultaneously.

In a linked social study, Toni Peterri is researching the community's acceptance of the 'dry toilet' itself, a latrine which comprises a hut built over two chambers in which solids and urine remain separate. Specific leaves are added to the waste to aid decomposition and discourage flies.

Boost to rural health

Patients using the Rural Health Centre (RHC) now look forward to the help of a qualified doctor with the new Department of Health Director for Masaiti District holding clinics on the last Friday of each month. This is a great development for the centre which, until

last year, had only one nurse. A second nurse recently joined Nurse-in-Charge Chisa Malenge and his team which includes an environmental health technician and three support staff. Attending to around 150 patients a month at the RHC, the two nurses also visit 12 outlying health outposts once a month.

Serenje Dam has the community's wholehearted approval. Binwell Bwengo, father of eight, is one resident now eager to plant irrigated winter vegetables for the first time on his 10 hectare farm beside the dam. 'I was against the dam to start with, but today I am happy,' he says. The dam, completed in 2005 and full after the rains, will benefit many, he explains, adding that several wells which had been drying up are again full. Following talks with Kaloko Trust, local leader Chief Malambeka has declared land within 50 metres of the water's edge available for use by all local residents. A committee has been set up to allocate land appropriately.



New KTUK Director Visits Zambia

Renato Gordon, the newly-appointed Director of The Kaloko Trust UK, has returned exhilarated by his February visit to Zambia. During a busy two-week schedule at Luansobe, Renato visited over 15 current and past projects, met with the Kaloko Zambia staff members and the Executive Committee, and familiarised himself with field operations, project reporting and financial systems. 'It was a rewarding visit,' he said. 'There is so much at Kaloko which is inspiring and so much that can still be done.'

Although raised in Britain, Renato is no stranger to Africa having worked there for nearly 25 years, most recently in Northern Sudan with the aid agency World Vision, bringing help to the victims of Darfur. As a young agriculturalist with wanderlust, and after 15 years working in commercial agriculture in the Falkland Islands and South Africa, he joined the charity Operation Hunger (South Africa) in 1991 where he managed their National Agricultural Development Programme. With his feet firmly in development, he moved with his wife and young family in 1993 to work with World Vision Mozambique. Initially based in the north, he helped establish a rural livelihoods programme to assist the many refugees returning after the long civil war, before becoming Director of Programme Development and Relief for World Vision in Maputo. Leaving Africa, temporarily, he moved to Papua New Guinea in 2001 to manage a diverse child-focused development programme as World Vision's National Director for the South West Pacific prior to his posting to Khartoum, Sudan.

Renato, who recently returned to England, says he is delighted to be working with Kaloko. "It is a time of transition for the Trust," he explains, "Moving from its initial role in supporting resettlement projects to developing the economic activities and basic health and education services needed by a now more established but still very poor rural community." With plans to review Kaloko UK's development strategy in the coming months, he goes on to say, 'We are working hard to re-align our focus to meet current needs, working more in partnership with government departments, as well as with local institutions, communities and churches. There will be challenges,' he adds, 'but they are exciting challenges and I have no doubt that Kaloko will thrive.'



Local artist Gerard Bisange Moke paints a new sign for Kaloko Trust after the original was destroyed by a truck at the turn-off on

the Lusaka-Ndola road. A former teacher at LUBS, the 53 year old father of five is a farmer and makes a living from both agriculture and his art, which includes portraits and copper-work

THE KALOKO TRUST

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. 88% of funding raised is used for direct project costs, while 12% is used for support and fundraising in Britain.

NEW PROGRAMME SPONSORSHIP!

**£15 a month for class sponsorship at LUBS or Kandulwe Community School,
£10 a month for a class at the Crèche**

Regular donation rates for existing sponsors are unchanged



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