

Third Age Sponsorship Programme

Programme Summary:

In sub-Saharan Africa, 40-60 percent of the estimated 13 million AIDS orphans live with their grandmothers. Instead of enjoying a restful retirement, these elderly women are now struggling to care for AIDS-afflicted family members and their grandchildren on meagre incomes, often with little or no external support.

At a time in life when perhaps they were expecting their own children to be taking care of them, sadly, many of those adult children have died leaving behind grandchildren too young to look after themselves. With limited means and little or no understanding of the disease, grandmothers are now having to act as guardians, providing shelter and food as well as clothing the grandchildren and sending them to school. In so many cases life for both grandmother and grandchildren can be very, very difficult.

Zambia, in southern Africa, has one of the world's most devastating HIV and AIDS epidemics. More than one in every seven adults in Zambia, many in the productive age group of 18 to 45, is living with HIV and life expectancy at birth has fallen to just 40.6 years. This has compounded Zambia's existing economic problems and today it is one of the poorest and least developed nations on earth. Children have been much affected by the AIDS epidemic and in 2007 there were over 700,000 AIDS orphans in the country.

Whilst the impact of AIDS on orphans is relatively well known, much less is reported on the difficulties faced by elderly people in Zambia. According to the Government's Central Statistical Office there are about 500,000 people aged 65 years or older, but independent analysts claim this is a conservative estimate as it is difficult to ascertain the actual number of elderly people living in rural areas. Sadly in some communities neighbours are not always ready to offer help when needed and in addition to the many other challenges to getting old, far too frequently elderly women are victimised by people who suspect them of being witches. Carrying water from the well or stream, cleaning and repairing their mud-walled thatched house

and ensuring that the children are fed and sent off to school are part of the daily chores for ever increasing numbers of grandmothers. Most rural inhabitants are subsistence farmers and although old and infirm, elderly women are still expected to help in the fields. For many of those grandmothers who are looking after AIDS orphans what crops they can produce themselves may be the only food the family have to eat as they have no other income with which to buy food in the shops.



As four of her own nine children have died Esnat Kabemba (aged 79) now looks after several of her forty grandchildren

What you can do: Sponsorship

A lot of charities have sponsorship programmes to help families pay for the education of their children and Kaloko Trust has been assisting children in N. Zambia this way for many years. More recently, assessing the new challenges that the AIDS epidemic has brought to Zambia, Kaloko has noted the increasing burden being carried by the elderly and has developed a sponsorship programme aimed specifically at assisting those grandmothers who due to the death of their own children have taken over the responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.

Whilst Kaloko has already been helping a number of children in these circumstances through its class sponsorship scheme too many are being left out and we now wish to help some of the growing number of grandmothers who are carrying this new burden. Sponsorship means that you donate periodically a certain

amount of money to Kaloko Trust. With this amount Kaloko is able to provide for grandmothers in several ways. The help that is given may vary depending on their needs but will be aimed at relieving them of some of the financial burden of looking after their grandchildren by helping with the payment of school or boarding fees, the purchase of clothes or food and the provision of seed and fertiliser at planting time.

For just £10 per month you could truly help an old lady in need. In return you will get an annual report from Zambia telling you how your contribution has been used as well as regular Newsletters which describe all the other Kaloko activities and new projects soon to be started.

If you are interested get in touch with Kaloko Trust UK and ask for more details.



Senika Kabemba (aged 68) is now looking after nine of the children of three of her daughters who have died in the last few years

Kaloko Trust

Since 1989 Kaloko Trust has been working to relieve poverty, in the Luansobe 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:

- ***Agricultural Training & Development***

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

- ***Natural Resource Management***

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

- ***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.

- ***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.

Zambia: Country Information

- 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)
- 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). 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 Index¹. 64% of the population live on less than \$1 a day and 87% live on less than \$2 a day.

¹ *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 school enrolment) and having a decent standard of living (measured by purchasing power parity and income).*