

Kaloko News



HELPING RURAL ZAMBIAN COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

Christmas 2012

Looking to the East

Kaloko Trust Zambia (KTZ) is steadily extending its area of operation to include Kashitu, a neighbouring district to the east of Luansobe. Here, rural communities confront many of the same difficulties and challenges as those identified in Luansobe over the past two decades.

Kashitu, a large district with severe deforestation from years of charcoal production, has little in the way of social infrastructure, having only one school with permanent buildings and a single health centre serving the widely-spread population of 25,000. Safe drinking water is scarce, health is poor, school places fall far short of demand and economic opportunities are few.

Over the past 18 months, KTZ has worked in partnership with a local Kashitu charity, the New Renato Community Society (named after Father Renato Kizito Sesana, an Italian Catholic parish priest in Kashitu in the 1970s). Early efforts have been aimed at ensuring safe water for more families, with KTZ drilling and equipping three boreholes there since 2011, but initiatives to boost economic opportunity and help farmers diversify have also been launched. This year, KTZ trained a group of Kashitu farmers in beekeeping and equipped them to establish their own apiaries. The new bee farmers have now turned to KTZ for help to form a cooperative, on the same lines as the Luansobe Beekeepers' Cooperative, which will process the honey collectively and sell their produce.



Kaloko UK Director Renato Gordon meeting with members of the Shakupota community in Kashitu

Missing Mangos

In much of rural Africa, you can spot even the smallest settlement from miles away because of clusters of vibrant green fruit trees poking above the surrounding dry brown bush - leafy bananas, unruly guavas, tall papayas and dark glossy-leaved mangos. Oddly though, fruit trees are a rarer sight in Luansobe.

A survey conducted by UK volunteer Holger Vogt in 2010 goes some way to explain why. Holger's study showed that half the residents, many of whom came from towns where the mines had closed, have lived in Luansobe for under ten years, and many have been there for five years or less. The data shows, too, that these 'newcomers' have accumulated less than longer-term residents - less of everything. Not only do they have fewer assets such as bicycles and radios, they have less livestock, fewer chickens, smaller areas of land under cultivation - and fewer fruit trees. Only 7% of recent arrivals reported that they had eaten any yellow fruit or vegetables in the previous 24 hours, compared with over 35% of more established residents.



In the knowledge that yellow fruit provides vital vitamins and minerals in a balanced diet, Kaloko Trust Zambia (KTZ) is hoping to launch a fruit tree propagation and planting programme. Working with schools, water and dam management committees, women's groups and farmers' cooperatives, KTZ will train groups and help them establish tree nurseries of mango and banana, guava, papaya (paw paw), orange and lemon. Under the scheme, group members will tend the seedlings until mature enough to plant near their homes. The vision is, in a few years' time, for all Luansobe's families to enjoy the benefits of fruit trees - rich harvests providing better nutrition for their children and the bonus of cool shade in the heat of the day.

An introduction from the Chair of Trustees

2012 has been a year of solid consolidation for Kaloko Trust UK - and for our major partner Kaloko Zambia.

Thanks to a robust fundraising strategy in the UK we continue to be successful in funding our operating budget of around £200,000 per year – although we are always nervous about having sufficient ‘unrestricted’ funding - the money we can use for our very modest UK overheads of staff salaries and office costs. Which reminds me that I must start with a tribute to Renato and Mark for their continuing fantastic work, not only keeping our finances on track but doing so on a shoestring UK budget.

In terms of what we spend funds on, our strategy is to continue to extend the provision of core services - clean water supply, primary schools, basic local healthcare - to the wider local community in Luansobe/Kashitu. This year we are delighted to have helped provide two teachers' houses, two classrooms, seven boreholes and two health outposts. This expansion is both about building sustainability and resilience for local people in local villages, and lessening the demands on (and increasing accessibility to) what were at one time the ‘core services’ at Luansobe.

We are very pleased at our steady progress here, and elsewhere in the newsletter you will read about Mark's recent visit to the projects, and some of the stories which translate strategy into the benefits for local people. Do let us know if these newsletters and the website tell you what you need to know about our work. Feedback always helps us improve our service!

But we never stand still. In discussion with local communities and the Kaloko Zambia team we are always working on how we can make a greater impact. For example, we are currently thinking through how we support primary education in our new community schools by expanding our school sponsorship activities, finding more medium-term funding partners - and perhaps even switching some resources from our ‘home school’ of Luansobe Upper Basic. These are difficult discussions and decisions, and they are taking place within a wider debate with Kaloko Zambia about where our education priorities should be in a country with declining formal employment, particularly for school leavers. Should we continue our relatively expensive bursaries for children at secondary school, or focus more on primary and upper basic classes? What should be our balance in terms of supporting formal and vocational education to maximise the economic opportunities of the largest possible number of young people?

Just a few thoughts for us to ponder over coming months! But I must close by thanking all of you - our supporters and funders and friends - for your continuing interest and support. Without you we couldn't do the work we do to create better lives and growing opportunities for our Zambian communities. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jim Smyllie, Chair of Trustees, Kaloko Trust UK

SAFE WATER FOR HUNDREDS MORE FAMILIES

In an urgent drive this year to ensure safe water for more rural families, Kaloko has drilled seven new boreholes in recent months.

As part of an ongoing programme, 11 boreholes have been sunk since 2009 providing clean water to 2,200 people. Nevertheless, safe supplies were not meeting growing demand and there was still a concern about the high number of cases of preventable water-borne diseases. The 2012 project, giving 1,400 more people access to safe water, includes two boreholes in Kashitu which were drilled and fitted with hand-pumps in collaboration with another local community-based organisation, the NRCS.



Borehole being drilled at Chikwete village

Kaloko has been working with communities at all the sites to set up water and sanitation committees, each comprising five local residents. Members have been equipped with repair kits, and have had practical training in borehole maintenance and pump repair, as well as in water-related health issues and managing maintenance funds raised from user contributions. The committees have agreed to check and service each borehole and pump at least once a year to maintain water quality, avoid major breakdowns and ensure that they practice their repair skills regularly.

1. Continue LUBS, Crèche and Kandulwe CS **sponsorship** support - recruit more donors for the new community schools
2. Continue to support old people caring for orphaned **grand-children**, expanding the programme from 8 to 12 families
3. Complete Kandulwe second **classroom block**
4. Rebuild part of the **RHC**
5. Build Mwaitwa **2 classroom block**
6. Drill and equip 7 or 8 **boreholes**
7. Build 2 or 3 **health outposts**
8. Implement improved **stove** project
9. Train and equip 25 to 50 new **beekeepers**
10. Assist 100 **farming families** with agricultural inputs and technical advice
11. Train/equip 20 female heads of household with **chickens**
12. Continue the **Peer Education** programme in four schools
13. Agro-forestry project to propagate and plant **fruit trees**
14. **Skills training** & supply of tools to young people

**SUMMARY
PLANS FOR
2013**

KTUK's Mark Whitaker monitors Luansobe's progress

Many jobs involve a day in the office but every so often it's a stimulating change for me when the office in question is in the remote Zambian bush. In late July, I spent ten days with our partner organisation Kaloko Trust Zambia (KTZ) to see the progress since our last visit and how our support from the UK can best help the communities. Between Kaloko UK Director Renato Gordon and me, we try to ensure a twice-yearly visit to observe progress at first hand and assess how funds are being used.

I met up with KTZ Director Dr Lewis Jere in Lusaka and we travelled together by bus to Luansobe, using the five-hour journey to catch up on recent activities in the community. It's always hard to know quite how long that trip from Lusaka will take. On various visits, I've experienced over-loaded buses, breakdowns, and worries about fuel when there was a national shortage. But the new dirt road to Luansobe, now flat, straight and free of potholes, made travelling much easier and gave the entire area a more accessible feel. As always, it was good to reach the Kaloko campus, to settle into the village and see how things had changed. The volunteers' comfortable rondavel accommodation was especially busy on this visit, with two UK and four Finnish volunteers coinciding with my stay, and it was good to have company in the dark of the chilly evenings and to cook our suppers together, often with the local staple *nshima* (maize meal).

KTZ staff are now used to our visits and are well-prepared for our incessant enquiries about how funds are used. Records this year were in good order, with invoices available to back up spreadsheet information. I was also able to visit many projects and to meet with several communities during my stay. The progress is encouraging - the new schools, health outposts and boreholes and the sacks of maize harvested by the sponsored grandparents of HIV/Aids orphans. Lewis Jere has clearly formed a sound relationship with the community. This approach, together with the wider reach of projects, has earned KTZ increased trust and respect among local people. There was a positive atmosphere in the community and in my discussions with KTZ staff. Current projects are moving on well, and with visible knock-on benefits; new shops in the local market and many more bicycles bouncing along the tracks and roads. There may be poverty in Luansobe, but there is also a sense of energy, enjoyment and entrepreneurship and, above all, an enthusiasm to build a better future.



KTZ's Lewis Jere gets feedback from Luansobe residents about local issues (Mark took the photo!)

UK Director, Renato Gordon: Looking at the long-term

I am often asked how Kaloko decides which projects to support and how best to support them. Identifying areas of need is the easier task, but designing the projects so they have maximum and sustained results is a more difficult process.

Projects are often initiated by the community in Luansobe through conversation with Kaloko staff in the field. A problem is highlighted and various solutions are discussed with local leaders and, depending on the issue, with medical staff, teachers or agricultural experts. We also have a continuous programme of information-gathering, either as part of impact evaluation of past projects or in gathering baseline data so that we can compare the situation before a project and after. From recent large-scale surveys we know that only 43% of residents have access to clean drinking water, over 30% of eligible children do not attend primary school, and those that do have to walk an average of over two hours to and from school each day.

All this information gives Kaloko clear indicators of the most urgent issues, but decisions on effective re-

sponses have to be made. The Luansobe Rural Health Centre records, another source of data, tell us that malaria, respiratory infection, diarrhoea and HIV/Aids are the most common health issues. The question is how to address these problems most effectively? There are various options. We could extend the preventative treatment programme by building a wider network of health outreach clinics; we could focus on drilling more boreholes to provide safe drinking water, or we could help fight malaria by providing and re-treating mosquito nets.

We think very carefully about the design of all new - and ongoing - projects, weighing up a number of critical factors. Firstly, we need the money to fund the projects, the skilled people to staff them and the equipment to supply them. We also have to ensure that their impact is sustained long after the project has ended. In short, local people must be able to maintain their new boreholes, schools and health outposts; suitable teachers must be in the classrooms and qualified Government health staff must be at the clinics treating the sick - even after Kaloko Trust moves on.

Domino Champe, a long-standing Kaloko supporter, provides a true Zambian voice on the UK Board of Trustees which he joined in 2001.



With a strong background in finance and business, Domino's contributions as a trustee are further strengthened by his early experiences in Zambia where he was born and raised. He was educated at Chiwala Secondary School, not far from Kaloko's area of operation, and played a major role promoting

charity work as president of the Rotary-sponsored Interact Club. After O-levels, Domino joined an accountancy firm and was sent to train in Liverpool, where he met and married his wife Hilary. 'It was an exciting six years,' he recalls, 'which gave me excellent exposure to British industry.' After qualifying as an accountant, Domino returned to Zambia with Hilary and their young twin boys for two years. Now living permanently in Britain, he is self-employed as a financial consultant. 'I wish I'd taken this route a long time ago. It is often a challenge,' he acknowledges cheerfully, 'but nobody ever suggested life is easy!' Working with a group of other Zambians in the UK, he has also established a company manufacturing roof tiles in Zambia.

Domino, who says he has learned much about the complexity of development since joining the Board, has visited the Luansobe projects twice. Impressed by Kaloko's achievements in a difficult operating environment, he is full of praise for the enthusiasm of both supporters and staff. 'Their commitment is what motivates me to make a strong and ongoing contribution,' he says, and goes on to stress, 'It means a lot to me to give back to the area where I gained so much from my schooling; it's a pleasure to be part of the effort to help others who are less fortunate.'

Achievement 2012 – not just in Britain

This year has been good; the Diamond Jubilee and the inspiring accomplishments of the London Olympics still ring sweetly for many. But looking beyond these shores, 2012 has also been good to Kaloko, and to the people of Luansobe and Kashitu where the rains were fair and the harvest was better than last year. And where, **thanks to the generosity of donors, much has been achieved.**

With your help, another 1,400 people have access to **safe water**, and we have been able to build two new health outposts at Lumombwe and Kasamwa. These enable staff from the Rural Health Centre to hold **regular health clinics** for the local population of 2,000, especially targeting expectant mothers and children under five. When clinics are not in session, the buildings are put to good use as **classrooms** by local schools which have very limited facilities. In Kamabaya, two teachers' houses have been constructed allowing Zambia's Department of Education to post **qualified teachers** at the community school which has over 500 pupils. Kaloko has also supported more than 1,400 children at four local schools by providing **teaching materials, school furniture and maintenance.**

Fifteen new **beekeepers** have been trained and equipped so that they can set up their own apiaries, and 94 farming families received assistance with **bean seed, fertiliser and technical advice.** Over 400 second-hand **bicycles** were shipped from the UK, along with two consignments of **tools** which are being used in Kaloko's programme to train a group of young people as carpenters and equip them to start their own businesses. And, at the other end of the age spectrum, a group of elderly people who are sole carers for their orphaned grandchildren have received much-needed help with **school uniforms and books**, as well as **seed and fertiliser** to grow food for their young charges. All in all, a fair achievement for one year!

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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 2011, 94% of funds raised were spent on charitable activities with the rest used for governance and generating further funds.



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**39 - 41 Surrey Street
Brighton BN1 3PB, UK
T +44 (0)1273 766 660
E admin@kalokotrust.org
www.kalokotrust.org**

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