

Kaloko News



HELPING RURAL ZAMBIAN COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

Summer 2014

THE GOATS HAVE ARRIVED

When Tom Kelly, a long time Kaloko Trust supporter, visited Luansobe last year he was struck by how few livestock there were in the area. A lot of the farming families have only been living there for a relatively short time, many having moved out of the mining towns when they lost their jobs. Consequently, few have had the time or money to buy or breed cattle or goats. Tom pledged to raise money to help the most vulnerable families, those headed by elderly widows, to get some goats.

Kaloko has recently implemented this new project funded by Tom, along with friends from Whitchurch Rotary Club and the Purley Overseas Trust. It has run a goat-rearing training course and distributed three females and one male goat to each of ten widows. These ten recipients nominated a further ten widows who also attended the training course and they will in time be passed four young offspring goats. As part of the training, each family was taught how to feed and medicate the goats and had to construct an elevated goat pen near their houses to keep the goats safe and dry. A total of 81 widows registered an interest in the project and it is hoped to continue it in future years.



A completed goat pen

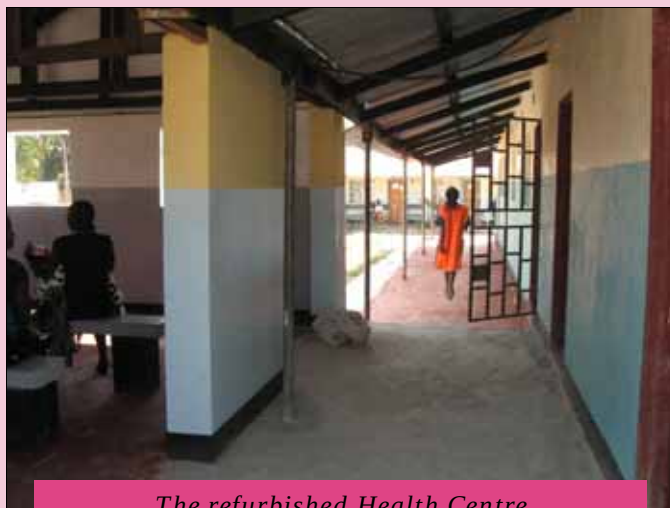


The ceremony to distribute goats to the widows

Clinical Officer Follows Renovation

With the recent improvement of the Luansobe Rural Health Clinic (RHC), renovated last year with the kind support of the Beatrice Laing Trust, the Evan Cornish Foundation as well as friends and family of Dr Stephen Gillam, the local Department of Health has finally agreed to post a Clinical Officer to the centre.

Ms Catherine Kaira, who arrived this year, is a qualified and licensed mid-level practitioner. She diagnoses and treats disease and injury, performs routine medical and surgical procedures, orders and interprets medical tests, and refers patients to other practitioners where necessary. The provision of more qualified staff to the RHC shows how Kaloko's programme of improving the health infrastructure in the area is being matched by increased support from the local Department of Health.



The refurbished Health Centre

Kuboko Health Outpost and Community School

In 2013 Kaloko and the Kuboko community, with support from the Eleanor Rathbone and Greendale Charitable Trusts, constructed a new Health Outpost building as a site for providing health outreach activities. Regular clinics now offer immunisation and growth-monitoring for the under 5s, disease screening and treatment, family planning consultations, as well as anti-tetanus injections for mothers. Staff from the Luansobe Rural Health Centre walk or cycle the 6km out to the village to also give appropriate health education lessons.

When health clinics are not being held, the building is used to accommodate a new community school with 42 pupils, all just starting their first year in grade 1. Taught by two unqualified high school graduate teachers, the school is funded by the parents' contribution of £5 a term for each child. Once registered, the teachers will be able to attend Government training. Kaloko has provided some old desks and, a team of students from Varndean College in Brighton has just returned to the UK after constructing a toilet block and making more furniture for the new school.

Over time, initiatives like this school at Kuboko, often grow. Many other local schools which started with similar modest beginnings are now large and flourishing Government-supported primary schools.



Children enjoying their new school at Kuboko

New High School

The Luansobe Upper Basic School (LUBS) is bursting at the seams with over 1,300 pupils in grades 1 to 12. After much lobbying from Kaloko and the local councillors, the Department of Education has finally agreed to construct a purpose-built high school on a 30 hectare site donated by Kaloko Trust.

The new high school will run grades 10 to 12 and accommodate 1,000 children, some of them local day pupils, but mostly boarders who will come from the surrounding more distant rural areas. Work has already started on the teaching blocks, dormitory and 28 staff houses, and the school is expected to take its first pupils in January 2016. LUBS, which is situated nearby, will then revert to being a primary school only. Having a first class high school available locally will enable many Luansobe children, who may not have been able to afford to board elsewhere, to continue their education.



Work has started at the site

Sponsorship achievements

With sponsorship covering four schools in the Luansobe area - the Kaloko Crèche, Luansobe Upper Basic, Kandulwe and Kwesha Schools - there are now 2,207 children benefiting from the scheme.

This year sponsorship funding has provided furniture for the LUBS science laboratory; upgraded and re-roofed the boarding and toilet facilities; provided grade 8 and 9 scholarships for 80 pupils; improved staff housing; maintained and upgraded classrooms; bought text books and teaching materials; paid sports club fees; provided extra teaching staff and food and hygiene materials for the children. Thirty-seven orphaned children have been assisted with shoes, uniforms and school materials. We'd love to expand sponsorship to help other small rural primary schools but finding new sponsors is always a challenge. If you know anyone who would like to help please put them in contact with us.



Kandulwe pupils using their new classroom

Beekeeping Benefits

A few years ago Mrs Judith Nkoloi sadly lost both her legs when a truck she was travelling on, taking her farm produce to market, overturned trapping her underneath. Despite her misfortune Judith is still very active and helps her husband Simon and two daughters to run the family farm. Being a wheelchair-user, cultivating the crops has been hard work, and when Kaloko Trust offered a local course in beekeeping last year she was quick to sign up.

In the past two years Kaloko has trained 30 new beekeepers in the Kashitu area and this year, with support from the Oakdale, Miss K M Harbinson's, Gibbs and WA Cadbury Trusts, will be assisting another 20 farmers with both practical training and a starter kit of hives and equipment. Between them Judith and Simon now manage eleven hives producing and selling around 15kg of honey from each hive. Judith says that she is so pleased to find an activity she can do from her wheelchair and be able make a meaningful contribution towards the family income.



Mrs Nkoloi with her husband

Bumper maize harvest

This year, as harvest starts, a record maize output of 3.35 million tonnes is forecast by the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Following a good rainy season, the farmers of Luansobe are busy reaping a bumper crop, with expected yields 30 percent higher than even last year's above-average harvest.

Marketing has always been difficult for the families living in the remote rural areas without roads or transport, but this year a network of small traders has set up buying stations out in the bush. When enough maize has been bought and bagged-up, the traders organise for a truck to come to the nearest road to take it to the millers or Government warehouses in Ndola or Kapiri. Although farmers receive less when they sell locally they often prefer to get the money immediately instead of waiting, sometimes for months, to be paid by the city-based bulk buyers. Adrian Muhengwe set up his buying station near Mikata, and other small businesses have sprung up around him as farmers use the money he pays to buy basic groceries from other small traders.



Mr Muhengwe's buying station near Mikata

Bikes and tools

Working with the UK charity Re-cycle, the Kaloko Trust has sent nearly 3,000 second-hand bicycles out to Zambia. With so many bikes now in circulation, the need for repairs is growing and local mechanics have established two workshops in the area.

Some spares are sent out along with bicycles and others can be procured locally. Kaloko uses most of the spares it receives to pay the mechanics who assemble and check all the bicycles before their sale at affordable rates. These spares allow the mechanics to provide a full service of spares and repairs to local customers, but they have had a problem getting hold of appropriate tools. Following a visit to Luansobe by Richard Evans of Re-cycle, the organisation kindly sent out specialised tool kits which were given to each of the two groups of mechanics.

Kaloko also works with UK charity Tools with a Mission and has recently received carpentry, electrical, building and auto-mechanic toolkits which will be provided to young apprentices on the artisan mentoring scheme.



Local mechanics receive specialised tool-kits

NEW KALOKO CHRISTMAS CARD

Kaloko's beautiful Christmas card this year was inspired by our beekeeping project and the cooperation of the farmers who come together to build hives - as shown in the bottom picture on the card. It was specially painted for us by artist and Kaloko supporter Katy Hood. A big thank you to her.

Last year's card, featuring a range of our projects, is also still available. Please support us at Christmas and spread the word about what we do.



Cards are available from Kaloko at the address below for £4.00 per pack of 10 (plus postage).

UK postage: £1.50 for 1-2 packs; £2.80 for 3-6 packs; £3.80 for 7-10 packs.

Please send a cheque made payable to the Kaloko Trust, stating your address and how many packs you'd like of each design.

The Telephone Tree

Not long ago you couldn't make a telephone call anywhere within 40 miles of Luansobe. People had to travel to the nearest town of Kapiri Mposhi and use a landline to conduct their business or speak with family and friends. Then a series of transmission towers were erected along the main Lusaka to Ndola highway and the population of Luansobe were able for the first time to use a mobile phone - but *only* if they stood under a certain tree. It became known as 'the telephone tree'. Someone built a bench there, and often one found a queue of people waiting to sit at the precise spot where they could receive the signal.

Two years ago after the arrival of electricity in Luansobe, and intense lobbying by Kaloko Trust Zambia, MTN erected a transmission tower next to the Luansobe Rural Health Clinic. Now mobile phones can be used anywhere within a 15 mile radius. This has truly transformed the lives of the local population: the health clinic can call out the ambulance from Masaiti if needed; the children boarding at the school can speak to their parents; farmers can find out prices and organise the collection and sale of their produce; and Luansobe no longer feels so isolated. Some people, however, still prefer to sit under the telephone tree to make their calls.

Using the telephone tree with the new transmission tower in the background



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

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 2013, 94% of funds raised were spent on charitable activities with the rest used for governance and generating further funds.



HELPING RURAL ZAMBIAN COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEMSELVES

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

Find us on

facebook