



# ZOA NEWS

*Zambia Orphans Aid supporter newsletter*



Pupils at Chiboyla School with their emergency food rations

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## Zambia faces worst drought in ten years

As Britain is predicted to have the wettest Autumn in nearly two decades, parts of Zambia face their worst drought in ten years.

There are 1.7 million people currently facing severe food shortages and this is expected to rise to 2.5 million by March 2020 when the next harvest is expected to be ready.



Loveless, 84, told us: "I care for three children. Since the rains failed this year I've had difficulties feeding my family. We didn't harvest anything at all. We eat once a day but at times we don't eat. When they go to school it's good because they normally have a meal there."

ZOA already supports partners to provide school meals but this is not enough to stop children going hungry. We've committed an extra £5,000 to purchase beans, maize and high energy protein supplements for pupils and their families.

This will fill the gap for a short time but it is not enough to feed them until the next harvest.

**Find out how you can help on p4**

## Another brick in the wall



In July work started on a wall to prevent further vandalism and illegal building at Twavwane School, Lusaka. In addition a new disabled toilet block and refurbishment of the existing block will ensure children have access to adequate toilets and clean water. Twavwane's catchment area was badly affected by the cholera outbreak in 2017/18 so this work is vitally important.



Dorothy Mwabe, 17, who'll benefit from the new boarding house.

## New boarding house for girls

We are building a girls' boarding house for 64 girls at Lubushi School for the academic year starting in 2020. This will help girls who live far from the school to access school and reduce the high number of pregnancies amongst students.

The Headteacher explains what is happening to girls who rent locally, *"Six girls have become pregnant in the first half of this year already"*.

The community are so keen for this work to go ahead that they have made all the bricks needed for the new building and the funds required have been donated by two generous trusts. THANK YOU!

## Mental health services in Northern Province

49% of the students we surveyed have felt at some point that they don't want to continue living anymore and in the past six months at least 80% have experienced symptoms of poor mental health. Too many children experience stress and trauma that causes low self-esteem and aspirations.

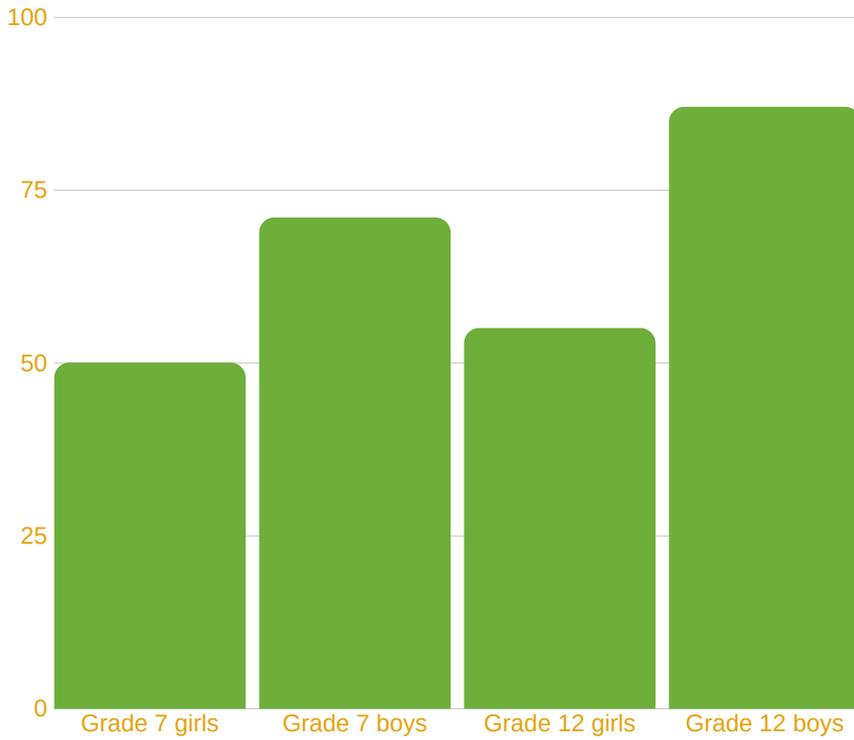
Problems must be identified and quickly addressed so students don't fall behind and drop out of school. But there are no services available. That's why we've launched a two-year pilot to train 40 schools, field workers and volunteers to provide counselling and improve systems so children don't slip through the net.

A recent grant has helped launch this project but we must raise another £38,000 in match funding.



Thelma, 18, says: *"There are a lot of things that make me sad. Firstly, my mother and her abusive language and knowing that she is HIV positive. My mother was raped, then she conceived me. This hurts me a lot and made me at one point think about not wanting to live anymore."*

## Exam results



Congratulations to all our students who passed their end of year exams and to our Grade 12 students who were awarded results good enough for them to apply to tertiary education.

## Congratulations!



Misheck Chishimba, 24, graduated from his diploma in secondary teaching.



Augustine Mutale, 24, graduated from his three year nursing diploma.

We supported both of these incredible young men with their college costs and provided them each with a refurbished computer.

## Keeping girls in school



As part of our menstrual hygiene management project our partners distributed reusable sanitary pads to 910 female students and their family members. This is helping to keep girls in the classroom and focused on learning.

*“Diana, 18, says: I was 12 when I started my periods. I was afraid and I didn’t know what to do. I thought there was something wrong with me and I stopped going to school. I used to miss class until my period was finished because I didn’t have pads. The menstrual hygiene training taught me about periods, good hygiene practices, how to use reusable pads and that I can still go to school. The difference is that now my attendance in class has improved.”*

**Girls’ absenteeism has halved.**

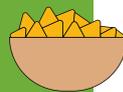
## What you can do

This Christmas why not give a present that can change the future for a child? Instead of buying dad another bottle of aftershave why not kit out a child for school or provide an emergency food package for a child to share with her family over the festive season?

**£12** can provide an emergency food package for a child to share with their family over the festive season



**£25** can provide a child with a nutritious school meal for a year



**£50** can kit a child out with everything they need for school - uniform, shoes, bag, books and pens



**£300** can provide a refurbished laptop for a tertiary student



The great news is if you donate to us through The Big Give Christmas Challenge between noon Tuesday 3rd December and noon Tuesday 10th December we can double the impact of every penny raised.

**It's simple,  
just donate at  
[www.thebiggive.org.uk](http://www.thebiggive.org.uk)**

Please search for Zambia Orphans Aid.

## Staff changes

Grace Kancheya Nkhuwa joined the ZOA-Zambia team in May to replace Elizabeth as the new full-time CEO. She has considerable



community development experience and is already reviewing how we operate and is putting in place systems to improve outcomes for children.

In September ZOA-UK welcomed Rachel Palmer as our new part-time Communications & Digital Lead. Rachel has worked for a number of well-known UK development charities and is managing our external communications.

## Changes to the UK board

A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Keith Rennie, Prof. Hugh Macmillan and Tom Murdoch who've all stepped down from the ZOA-UK board this year. Between them they've devoted over 30 years to our work and although they will no longer be part of the board they will still be involved with ZOA's work. Tom remains our legal advisor.



Freedom Mpande joined the UK board in July. Freedom, who is British Zambian, brings audit expertise to the team.

- If you'd like to donate to us by cheque please make it payable to 'Zambia Orphans Aid UK' and send to Jim Potter, Treasurer, ZOA-UK, 2A Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham, Cambs, CB21 4ES.
- If you'd like to donate via the web please go to [www.zoa.org.uk](http://www.zoa.org.uk)
- If you'd like to discuss other ways to help please contact Katy Dore on +44 (0)1223 890 162 or email [katy@zoa.org.uk](mailto:katy@zoa.org.uk)

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