



ZOA NEWS

Zambia Orphans Aid Supporter Newsletter



Clear **Vision** For Zambian Students

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DROUGHT UPDATE AND
BIG GIVE APPEAL

In 2023 ZOA's student survey found that **only 1% of students had access to glasses** or contact lenses. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness estimates that 20% of Zambian students have unmet eye care needs. This leaves many children unable to learn effectively in the classroom.

ZOA has been piloting a project to **improve students' eye health** and train teachers to identify and address visual problems.

- **Teachers at Twavwane School were trained** to conduct basic eye screenings and referrals;
- **Professional eye screenings** were provided to 1,134 students and teachers at Twavwane and Hope & Faith schools. This identified 245 students and six teachers needing glasses, 29 needing eye drops, and three possible cataract cases;
- **Glasses and eye drops were provided** and cataract cases referred for management and surgery at local health clinics;
- Twavwane has **strengthened referral systems** with local health providers and is using magnifiers to help reduce eye strain.

Teacher, Mr Hudson Lungu explains *"The eye care training was very good as sometimes we have pupils who have been performing poorly in class and now we know it is due to poor eyesight."*



A Tribute To Freedom Mpande



It is with great sadness we share the news that our friend, Trustee and former Treasurer and Secretary, Freedom Mpande, passed away recently. Freedom had been ill for some time.

Freedom (pictured) was born in Zambia, but came to the UK on a mining scholarship to study at Leeds University. Following the privatisation of the mining sector, Freedom returned to the UK becoming a Chartered Accountant and had a successful career in the Civil Service.

Freedom joined the ZOA board in 2020. The ZOA team extends its heartfelt sympathy to his wife Lesley and children, Sula and Isla.

Celebrating 60 Years Of Independence

On October 24th Zambians around the world celebrated Independence Day, this year marked the 60th anniversary of Zambia's independence from the U.K. Celebrations took place around the U.K. Pictured right, ZOA Trustee Venansio Kabwe and ZOA Chairperson Garnet Mulomo, taking part in Zambian Independence Day celebrations in Leeds wearing ZOA-UK T-shirts.



New Curriculum



Pictured Above, A Busy Classroom At Twavwane School In Lusaka

Zambian schools face imminent reforms to the curriculum. Efforts by the Zambian Government to address poor learning outcomes have led to the development of a new curriculum that is being rolled out to schools from 2025. Starting with early childhood education, other grades will be rolled out between 2026 and 2030. Schools ZOA supports, who are not due to receive government funding for the rollout of the new curriculum, are concerned that they will not be able to afford the books required. ZOA is currently looking at the best way to help.

Danielle's Return To Zambia

As you may know, ZOA's Fundraising Lead, Danielle Harris, was born in Zambia. In June she returned for her first monitoring trip for ZOA, to visit Chibolya and Twavwane schools, witnessing first-hand the impact of the work we have been supporting over the years.

Danielle watched lessons and spoke to the pupils and teachers as well as some of the families. She saw the dedication of the teachers and enthusiasm of the young pupils and older tertiary students and graduates.

Many challenges remain. Danielle heard first-hand about the difficulties caused by drought-related power shortages and saw classrooms with very limited resources.

Staff told her about hungry children, who rely on the schools to provide their only meal of the day. This situation has been made so much worse by the drought, with many families struggling to buy staple foods.



Girls Share A Plate Of Lunch At Twavwane School



Danielle Interviews Children At Twavwane School

During the trip, Danielle was able to meet many of the fantastic teachers and caregivers, who teach, feed and care for the children ZOA supports.



Preschoolers Counting With Recycled Bottle Tops

Team Changes

She's Back! Lily Chamberlain, recently left her role as ZOA's Digital & Communications Lead, but we are delighted to announce that she is returning as a new Trustee, supporting ZOA's digital & communications work.

HELP FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN LIKE SALOME

ZOA is taking part in The Big Give's Christmas Challenge 2024. From **noon on 3 December to noon on 10 December**, your donations to ZOA will be **doubled** up to £10,000, when made via **www.biggive.org**. Get ready to double the difference for disadvantaged Zambian children. This year, ZOA's appeal will raise funds to **help feed hungry children**.



Meet Salome. She is 12 years old and lives with her mum, dad and three sisters in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. She relies on school meals that ZOA helps provide. Salome explains:

“When I Am Hungry I feel Very Weak. The School Meal Makes Me Feel Better. Sometimes At Home There Is No Food”.

Double The Impact

£13 could pay for a child to receive school meals for one year - **Big Give doubles that to two children!**

£25 could get 25kg of mealie meal & 5kg of beans to a hungry household - **Big Give makes that £50!**

**Christmas
Challenge**

BigGive

Drought Update

A five week drought, during the country's traditional rainy season has brought **devastating consequences** to children in Zambia in 2024.

Widespread **food shortages have increased hunger**, affecting children's health and development.

For vulnerable families, **surviving on as little as one meal a day**, attending school becomes increasingly difficult.

The rain has returned but **half the harvest has been lost**, so, ZOA is working hard to feed and support children so they can remain in education and build better lives.

How To Donate

Visit **www.biggive.org** or scan the QR code to visit ZOA's Big Give Christmas Challenge page.

If you miss the appeal you can still donate to our work by visiting **www.zoa.org.uk**, or contacting Katy on **01223 901006** or **katy@zoa.org.uk**.



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