

ZOA NEWS

Zambia Orphans Aid Supporter Newsletter



In this issue

- 01 Uniform-making
- 02 Your invitation
- 03 Drought / Solar
- 04 St Clare's school
- 05 Menstrual hygiene
- 06 Curriculum news
- 07 Team news
- 05 Appeal

Dressed For Success

School uniforms promote equality and can enhance a sense of belonging in the school community. For many children the uniforms ZOA provides are their only usable clothing. But, buying uniforms is not only expensive but unsustainable, so in 2024 ZOA launched a pilot to help schools transition to producing and selling uniforms within their communities.

In September, a workshop taught five schools how to use sewing, knitting and overlocking machines to make skirts, shirts, trousers and jerseys. Machines have been supplied to participating schools, with fabric and other materials made available from local haberdasheries.

The schools have been busy making and marketing uniforms to their students, with the most vulnerable receiving them for free. Ongoing mentoring is coordinated by Hope & Faith School - an early adopter of uniform-making. The pilot has a target of producing uniforms for 2,200 students, which would reduce uniform costs to £5 per child - a reduction of 75% on the cost of buying them - representing great value for money!

Pictured above: children at Simooya school in their smart new uniforms.



ZOA-UK's Chairperson, Garnet Mulomo, is delighted to extend a special **invitation** to you for an exclusive online event celebrating Africa Day 2025.

Join us online on **Tuesday 20th May, from 6-8 p.m.** for an evening filled with meaningful conversation. ZOA-Zambia's CEO, Grace, will be joining the event and will be able to answer your questions about our work.

R.S.V.P. by email to Katy@zoa.org.uk or call +44 (0)1223 901006

The Impact of Drought In Zambia



Children queue for lunch at a school in Lusaka.

Zambia continued to grapple with the aftermath of its most severe drought in four decades. A five-week drought during last year's rainy season led to crop failures and water shortages, creating food insecurity throughout the year.

ZOA's support for school meals has made a big difference to the lives of affected children. Daily school meals have proved a reliable source of food for students whose households have been forced to cut back on food. But, with surging food inflation (20.6% in February) the school's food budget has been insufficient to meet demand, so ZOA approved additional funding in December, helping the schools' kitchens continue their vital work.

Solar Power

Zambia's reliance on hydropower has proved to be a major weakness with power outages (load-shedding) often taking place with no notice for days at a time. This situation has made it very difficult for schools (and businesses) to function as normal. With low water levels a continued risk in Zambia ZOA is planning to help schools transition away from the national grid, to solar energy.

ZOA plans to start by providing basic solar infrastructure to schools and has undertaken a solar audit of our partner schools to understand what they need to start the transition.



New Dormitories For St Clare's

ZOA has built dormitories and toilets to allow a new secondary girls' school to open in Chibombo District, 25 km from Lusaka. Girls in Zambia often drop out of school to marry or have babies, with a third married by the age of 18. To encourage girls to focus on learning a safe, boarding environment is being created where they can complete their education to Grade 12. A generous donor gave St Clare's (ZOA's partner) 24 hectares where they have built classrooms and toilets. ZOA's support will ensure the school can admit students in 2026.

Menstrual Hygiene

ZOA continues to roll out Menstrual Hygiene sanitary-pad-making. In November 2024, 32 teachers from 10 schools learnt how to make reusable pads and teach girls to make them in home-economics classes. This sustainable approach is helping to reduce the amount of school girls miss during their menstruation.



Curriculum News

Curriculum changes have begun in all Zambian schools. Schools have been designated as primary or secondary with a separate head required for each. Primary has been reduced to five years, secondary extended to six and degrees will be reduced to three years. There will be a greater focus on skill-based learning, critical thinking and problem solving. Changes are being implemented between 2025 and 2028.



With your support we raised £20,160 through the Big Give Christmas Challenge!



Farewell Cynthia Zukas



The ZOA team is saddened to share the news of the passing of Cynthia Zukas (1931–2024), a founding Board Member of Zambia Orphans Aid - Zambia and a passionate supporter of the arts.

Co-founder of the Lechwe Trust and a key figure in the Zambia National Visual Arts Council, Cynthia was honoured with the Ngoma award, an MBE, and the PIMA. Our heartfelt condolences go to her family and friends.

Running For ZOA

Semara Date-Jeremy recently ran the North Bristol 10k, generously fundraising for ZOA, cheered on by her Zambian fiancée and in-laws.

"It was definitely a challenge but one that I thoroughly enjoyed and made it all the more worthwhile knowing that I was supporting a great charity!"

Thank you Semara, for your hard work and generosity.



Semara (left) and sister, Tiana, at the finish line

ZOA Away Day

On 24 January ZOA-UK's staff and trustees met in London for our annual away day. As we have no office our annual away day is our only opportunity to gather in person as a team. We were delighted to be joined by ZOA-Zambia Chair, Dr. Kankasa-Mabula.

Lively discussions ensued on ZOA's purpose and projects and we all left reinvigorated and keen to further, in the words of our Chairperson, Garnet Mulumo, our 'noble' cause. Many thanks to our friends at DLA Piper for hosting us so warmly.



ZOA-UK Staff And Trustees With Dr. Kankasa-Mabula



Please Help Secure The Future Of Simooya Secondary

Simooya School has been warned by the Ministry of Education that it must open science labs by 2026 or close its doors to secondary students. ZOA's funding for this work has fallen through so we are **urgently fundraising and need YOUR help!**

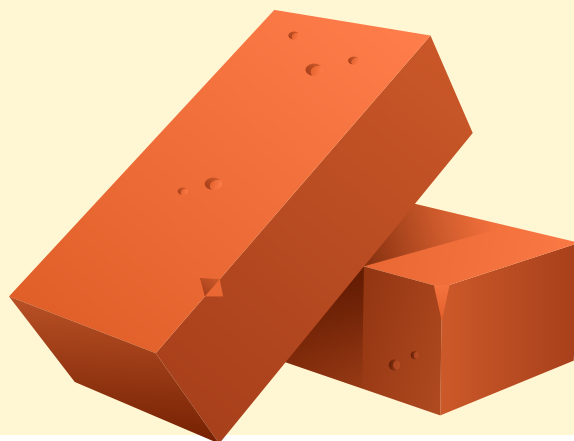
Simooya is a rural community in Pemba District (Southern Province). Its children cannot access other secondary schools, so **without local places they will drop out of education.**

Buy A Virtual Brick & Help ZOA Start Building

How YOU Can Help

ZOA must find £50,000 to secure the future of the school. We hope to raise £35,000 from trusts and foundations, leaving us with **£15,000 to find.**

We Must Sell 150 X £100 Bricks To Reach Our Target



HOW TO BUY YOUR BRICK

We appreciate whatever you are able to donate. Please donate by visiting **www.zoa.org.uk** or send your cheque to **Zambia Orphans Aid UK, Lytchett House, 13 Freeland Park, Wareham Rd, Poole, BH16 6FA**. For more information please contact Katy on **+44 (0)1223 901006** or **katy@zoa.org.uk** Thank you.

Registered with



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