

# Education for orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia

Zambia **direct** funding target: £200,000

In the Copperbelt Province of Zambia, many children have lost one or both parents to HIV and AIDS, leaving them with the responsibility of caring for younger siblings and with little money for school uniforms or books. Oxfam is working with communities and local authorities to achieve a high-quality education for all, giving future generations the chance to lift their communities out of poverty.



*Three pupils sharing a desk for two makes learning more difficult.*

## The Project

This project aims to help orphaned and vulnerable children in the Copperbelt Province to get a high-quality education. Teacher-training sessions will be introduced to improve the quality of education being offered; pupils and teachers will be provided with better educational resources; and essential work will take place to improve school buildings and facilities. The project will also encourage parents to get involved in running community schools, and will help people to lobby authorities for increased education budgets.

### Project aims

The overall aim is to raise the quality of education by:

- creating a suitable learning environment in schools by improving the classrooms, building new water sources and latrines, and develop school libraries
- improving the quality of teaching in ten schools so that the children have a better chance to learn and develop
- improving the governance of schools by assisting the formation of school management committees
- directly supporting 660 of the most vulnerable school children by providing 500 with learning materials; including paying the school fees for 400 secondary school children; and the exam fees of 160 high school students so that they can complete their schooling
- training teachers on how to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS issues, and providing after-school clubs for young girls
- improving the management and accountability of schools at a district and national level.

Supporters, communities, local partners and Oxfam – working together to change lives

## Background



*Most of the community schools use churches for classrooms. This project will improve school infrastructure.*

The Copperbelt Province has one of the highest population densities in the country. In one district alone, there are 90,660 orphaned children who have

lost either one or both parents, often to HIV and AIDS. Orphaned children often find it harder to attend school due to the extra costs of school uniforms, books and stationery, and because they are often left responsible for earning money or caring for younger siblings.

In 2005, the Zambian government introduced free primary education for all rural schools, and since then, school enrolment rates have significantly increased. Despite this, there is still a very high drop-out rate. Only 24 per cent of children complete their secondary education. Of this

amount, only 61 per cent manage to pass their end of school exams and can progress onto higher education.\*

Oxfam has helped to bring together more than ten educational organisations to form the Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF) which advocates for universal, quality basic education. Now we want to expand this work to ensure that the very poorest children have the chance of a quality education and the life-long benefits it bestows.

\*2007 Educational Statistical Bulletin, published by the Ministry of Education in Zambia.

## The Plan

### Activities:

This project will:

- build or rehabilitate 40 latrines, six water points and make basic repairs to infrastructure at ten schools
- provide 200 desks, teaching materials and make improvements to two school libraries
- support refresher training for 20 teachers in effective teaching methods to improve the quality of teaching and learning
- carry out HIV-awareness training for teachers, school committee members and students, and support after-school clubs for young girls
- assist with the formation of ten school management committees. Provide training in school governance enabling parents and students to hold teachers and education authorities to account for their conduct and management
- provide funds for 500 orphaned children to purchase uniforms and books so they are able to attend school, of these 400 are secondary school students, who will also have their school fees paid
- pay the fees to enable 160 high-school students to take their senior exams
- support our local partners to campaign to influence policy and practice in education at a national, provincial and district level.



*The only toilet at Kopolo Community school. This project will improve sanitation facilities.*

## The Impact

As a result of the project:

- At least 660 orphaned and vulnerable children at risk of dropping-out will continue their schooling and reap the life-long benefits of education
- all students attending the schools will benefit from a better-quality education and learning environment
- teachers and students will be significantly more aware of HIV and AIDS issues, while young girls attending after-school clubs will have a stronger support network
- proper water and sanitation facilities will ensure fewer students are absent due to illness

- parents and local organisations will be better informed, and able to demand higher educational standards in their communities.

### Who will benefit?

All 7,000 students attending the schools will benefit from improved facilities and quality of education. In addition, 660 of the most vulnerable pupils at the ten schools will benefit from direct support. Twenty teachers will benefit from learning new teaching methods.

Many more vulnerable children will indirectly benefit as a result of our advocacy work.

### Monitoring and evaluation

Project implementation will be assessed on a monthly basis. An end of project review will be conducted to identify the successes and challenges of the project.

### Sustainability

Working through local people and partners will enable the community schools to be more effective and sustainable. Oxfam's aim is to deliver long-term change through our advocacy work, endeavouring to make vast improvements to the quality of education across Zambia.

## The People



### Helping girls

"This project provides me with the things I need to go to school. My parents are not able to do this. More girls will go to school now." *Jennifer Mwaba, a pupil at Kafue Bridge Basic School, Kitwe*



### Finishing school

"The uniforms, books and pens provided by this project are helping me to finish my schooling". *Peter Banda, a pupil at Kafue Bridge Basic School, Kitwe*



### Community management

"This project will improve the capacity of the communities to manage the schools and also provide for the needs of the orphaned and vulnerable children". *Happy Malanda, Project Manager, ZEDAO*



"The project provides a comprehensive approach to education: it will build the capacity of civil society organisations while at the same time improve the learning environment for pupils". *Mweenda Mumbuna, Education Co-ordinator, Oxfam. Photo: Oxfam*

### The Partners

We are working through two partners; the **Zambian Education Development Advocacy Organisation (ZEDAO)** and **Children in Need – Kitwe (CINDI)**. ZEDAO specialises in providing practical assistance with school infrastructure, management and teacher training. CINDI's education programme has already helped over 9,000 orphaned and vulnerable children to access education.

## About direct

By supporting *direct projects* you're joining a global network of supporters, local people and partner organisations, all working with Oxfam to end poverty and suffering for good. From helping whole communities to protect themselves against disaster, to working with national governments to transform a country's schools, to helping individual families to earn a living, all *direct projects* offer you the chance to change lives.

### Our commitment to you:

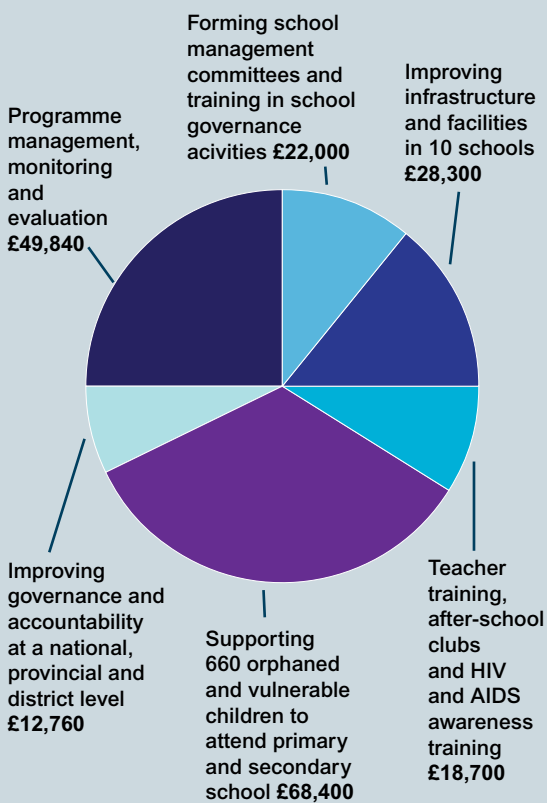
- One hundred per cent of your money is invested in your chosen project
- You'll receive 6 and 12 month progress reports on your project
- Email alerts when new information is posted on the website
- A dedicated account manager to answer questions and keep you informed.

### Other countries needing your support:

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Philippines, Sudan, Tanzania, Viet Nam, West Africa regional.

## The Budget

**Total £200,000**



## Zambia: country profile



Population	11.5 million
Development	Ranked 165th (of 177) on the HDI <sup>1</sup>
Life expectancy at birth:	40 years
Percentage of the population living on less than \$1 a day	64%
Percentage of the population living on less than \$2 a day	87%
GDP per capita	\$1,203
(UK GDP per capita \$33,238)	
Adult illiteracy rate	32%
Youth illiteracy rate	30%
Net primary enrolment rate	89%
Net secondary enrolment rate	24%

<sup>1</sup>The UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: life expectancy, education and standard of living.

All data is sourced from the UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008.

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