

Zambia Orphans Aid UK

Improving participation in education



ZOA-UK aims to empower every child to achieve their full potential through education, a proven pathway out of poverty. We work with six grassroots, community-based partners, in particularly deprived communities.



Our story

Zambia Orphans Aid UK (ZOA-UK), founded by Zambian development expert, Dr. Shimwaayi Muntemba, aims to support disadvantaged children to reach their potential. Our diverse board, including seven members of Zambian heritage, ensures culturally sensitive and sustainable assistance, addressing the needs of the target population effectively. By empowering British Zambians in leadership roles, we foster ownership and responsibility, resulting in inclusive programming. Collaborating with community groups, ZOA creates sustainable solutions, providing access to education, including uniforms, books, fees, and nutritious meals. We also create inspiring learning environments, support vocational qualifications, provide sanitary pads for girls, and address mental and sexual health issues, including abuse and harassment.

Our impact in 2023

- 1,529 children received community-based counselling to improve mental health;
- 2,428 taught about puberty, menstruation and the value of girls' education;
- 591 received life-skills training to improve decision making;
- 405 adolescents had HIV testing in school;
- 859 children benefited from workshops to address sexual harassment;
- 224 children in primary and 229 children in secondary education;
- 1,903 children receiving nutritious school meals, keeping them focused on learning;
- 51 young people in vocational training to help them access work;
- A new Boarding House & Physiotherapy Centre for an inclusive education school in Kafue.

ZOA's approach

Children's performance in education is often hindered by challenges they face outside of school. Within every classroom, there are children who struggle academically and face a higher risk of dropping out of school simply because they are hungry, experience abuse or exploitation or have high levels of stress and anxiety. That's why ZOA works with community schools to help them address a range of the psychological and financial barriers that make it difficult for children to actively participate in lessons. One of the ways psychological barriers are addressed is by training teachers and other frontline workers and volunteers as Psychosocial Counsellors. This better equips them to counsel children, identifying and addressing challenges they are experiencing that affect their ability to participate in life.

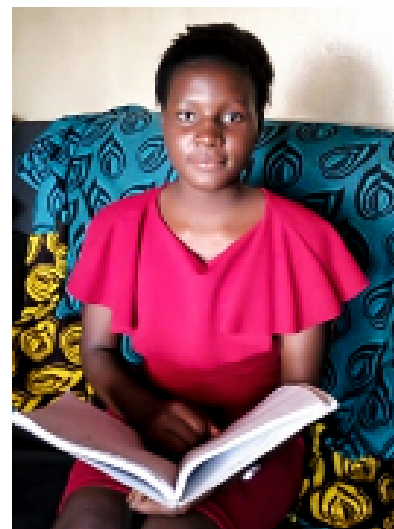
ZOA Case study - girls' education

Meet Diana, an 18-year-old ZOA-supported student

"I was 12 when I started my periods. I was afraid and I didn't know what to do. I was thinking 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.

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."

Diana, pictured right, has benefited from ZOA's menstrual hygiene training. Both boys and girls take part in order to teach them about how their bodies are changing and to break down stigma and reduce teasing.



ZOA also trains teachers and other frontline workers how to teach girls to make their own reusable sanitary pads in home economics classes. With access to reusable pads that can last two years, girls like Diana have far more confidence to go to school during their period. This is one of the many ways we're working to keep girls learning and improve their educational outcomes. Thanks to programmes like this, Diana and her peers are less likely to miss school, giving them a greater chance of completing their education.

More about ZOA

- ZOA-UK founded in 2006;
- Projects managed, monitored and evaluated by sister charity, ZOA-Zambia, from Lusaka;
- Use the **Child Status Index**, a development tool that assesses how children's basic needs are being met, to guide **evidence-based decision-making**;
- Implementing partners are NGOs that can demonstrate **accountability & transparency**;
- The UK organisation has a lean structure of four part-time, home-based staff so more of our funding can be spent helping children in Zambia;

Our successes

- Awarded **A+** and **A++** for our two **FCDO** funded projects;
- Awarded two **BBC R4 Appeals**, in 2018 and 2023 - **Mwaksy Mudenda** presented in 2023 helping raise £47,000;
- Take part in **The Big Give Christmas Challenge** each year - raised £20,000 in 2023.

Contact details

Katy Dore, Executive Director- katy@zoa.org.uk

Postal address: Zambia Orphans Aid UK, Lytchett House, 13 Freeland Park, Wareham Road, Poole, Dorset, BH16 6FH

Telephone: 01223 901006

www.zoa.org.uk