



NEWSLETTER

Zambian Visit 2023

As you may be aware we carried out our Annual African Trip for close to 5 weeks. We visited our projects, reported on all our Child Sponsorship Schemes and caught up with all our 3rd Level students around the country. We visited Namakaka School seven hours into the Bush where I'm told the children had never before seen white people! We carried out all our Food Programmes that you all so generously supported. In all we travelled over 5,000 Km by road on Tarmac and Bush Roads in temperatures from 29 to 34 degrees.

In this edition we will give you an account of our visit.

Meet and Greet 3rd Level Students, Lusaka

We met eleven TOUCH Ireland 3rd level students, three of which graduated last year and the other eight are still studying various courses e.g. Pharmacy, Medicine, Economics and Hospitality. For a few of them it was their first time to meet each other and share experiences. It was lovely to meet them all again and catch up about their studies, share some lunch and presents. Captured in the photos: Leonia, Naomi, Chimwemwe, Songiso, Method, Mubiana, Tryness, Clara, Jackie, Bianca and Angel. We also had Sylvester Mweemba (TOUCH Coordinator- Lusaka) with us; Sylvester also supports the students if needed.

Ndola: Houses for Vulnerable Single Mothers

After a seven-hour journey on one of the busiest roads in Zambia (The Cape to Cairo Road) we arrived in Ndola. It was a very hot day 29 degrees and made the journey very tiring.

We met up with Lulu, her twins George and Alice and also Lucky and her son Muna. We have been supporting these vulnerable single mothers for 3 years with rented accommodation, food and medical support.



The main purpose of our trip to Ndola this year besides visiting them, was to look at buying a house for the girls.

Cherise Mukabale from Ndola and Victor her colleague had sourced some properties for sale. We looked at a few houses spending the afternoon traveling around Ndola compounds.

We were successful in finding a property that will be very suitable and safe for their children. We will keep you updated on the progress!



<https://youtu.be/jNgNJQsrJn8>

5 Weeks in 5 Minutes, a snapshot of TOUCH Ireland's visit to Zambia in April/May 2023



TOUCH FC Boots, Match & Food Programme.

We presented 18 pairs of Football Boots to the Team as can be seen from the photos all players were very happy with their colourful new boots.

Then we went to a cup game against Heroes FC from Mongu. It was a difficult game but TOUCH FC persevered and won convincingly by 3-0. No doubt the new boots played their part!

After the game we held our Food Programme which was very much welcomed by all the players.

Thanks to all that supported our iDonate Fundraiser it made 18 young players very happy.



Donate to TOUCH Ireland

By PayPal on the TOUCH Ireland Website: <http://touchireland.net/> - By Cheque made out to TOUCH Ireland or by Cash
Please send your Donation to TOUCH Ireland, 17 Monread Meadows, Naas, Co. Kildare

Namakaka Community School

As you are aware we have started to build a new School Block for the Children of Namakaka deep in the Bush in the Southern Province of Zambia.

<https://youtu.be/ToJgYlfg8c>

Difficult but Great Day!

<https://youtu.be/ZpdpoVdryTc>

We left Mazabuka to Monze and from there headed for Nico and then headed deeper into the Bush. As you can see it was an eventful trip.



After seven hours we arrived in Namakaka Village where we got an amazing welcome from the people. We have started the construction of a new school block for 150 children approx. As you can see from the Video it was an eventful trip.



At the time of our visit we had just finished the Foundation Slab.



After meeting all the Village Heads, Dignitaries and Children there were speeches of gratitude and appreciation to TOUCH Ireland. We then held our Food Programme for the Children in 34 Degs of Heat!

Namakaka Food Programme

We had previously sent the money to buy the Mille Meale and cooking oil for almost 90 families. There was great excitement as you can imagine and also a lot of organizing on the day. You will see the happy faces from the photos, it was a huge task. The children also got copies and pencils for school.



By doing the food programme it has encouraged the parents to send their children to school; Evaristo Matola (Teacher) our contact in Namakaka says that now all the children want to attend school.



We left the children and parents happy with the promise of their new school and support from TOUCH Ireland.

With the rising costs of fertilizer, climate change and poverty, it has become increasingly difficult for families in the rural regions of Zambia. Especially a place like Namakaka where support like this is nonexistent.

Please keep up your Support for these children and their School.

FOOD Programmes



Flamboyant Special School

Mazabuka Child Sponsorship & Food Programmes, Southern Province.

We visited Flamboyant Special Needs School where we funded the building and equipment of a physiotherapy block, opened in 2014. The school has 122 children registered and has a very impressive programme for the children in relation to education. Cledwyn Mazuba, Head and Coordinator at the School was there to meet us with the children.

Here we distributed Millie meal, Cooking Oil, Soya Pieces, Sugar and Rice to some of the children as part of TOUCH Ireland's food programme for Flamboyant.

Gloria Muleya who is from Mazabuka and has just completed her Nursing Diploma sponsored by TOUCH Ireland spent the day with us.

SEPO Food Programme, Kaoma

This programme consists of 24 Vulnerable Children from the Kaoma area coordinated by our good friend Mr. Harrison Walubita.

Sepo Food Programme provides vital food support for these children and their families. It also allows us to keep contact with these children to see if we can be in a position to help them with their education.

Today **Misheck Kainda** who is a double orphan and has gone forward to G12 with very good marks and **Nalukui Kwalyela** who has progressed to G9 needed support with shoes and uniforms. With your support we were able to purchase these items for both of them. They were so happy as they didn't know how they were going to afford them.

OUR food support is so important for these children and their families as people are struggling to feed their children.



SEPO Food Programme

Kandongo & Bush Food Programme

Our day began early to get ready for our trip to Kandongo to do a food programme for 100 of the most vulnerable Families; we also had the copies and pencils for 300 children.

On the way we collected lollipops for 300 children that we forgot to buy yesterday and that would not do!

When we arrived at the school all the children were waiting for us, including the smaller children from Pre- School. As you can see from the photos it was a great morning, we would have loved to be able to help more families but unfortunately our budget would not stretch any further.

But we managed this much with your support. We left them happy with their food supplies and headed back to Kaoma.

Mangango Food Programmes & Child Sponsorship

Off to visit two schools, Namalazi and Kalundu **Namalazi** has 320 children and as always there was a great welcome. First, we carried out our Child Sponsorship and then Food Programme. Thanks to Martin Shula who has been here since the beginning for organising the children.

The school has now 8 paid government teachers

Kalundu Community

School some distance away. Here we met Miriam the Head Teacher and repeated the exercise of Child Sponsorship and Food Programme. In Kalundu there is 365 children receiving an education and they now have 6 government teachers.

Whisper Mother & Baby Nutrition Centre

We travelled 220 Km rough road to Mongu which is on the edge of the Kalahari Desert.

Here we met Inonge one of the women from the centre to go and buy Soya meal for the families. Then on to the Whisper Centre, where we were given a warm welcome as always. The Soya Meal was distributed and lollipops of course. It was lovely to see all the children doing so well.



We think back when we constructed these schools; they only had mud huts and no paid teachers!

It's great to see the improvement in the education system in Zambia and to know we all played our part.



We carried out more food programmes at St. Clements Community School, Kaley and the Elderly in Kaoma

Lusaka Child Sponsorship - New Pupils

We visited **Guardian Angels school**, Chilanga for Child Sponsorship photos and reports as we are increasing the numbers of the children being sponsored. We then went straight to **St. Patrick's school** Mapepe where we are increasing the number of children for sponsorship. They were all a bit nervous meeting us for the first time as some of them are quite young but relaxed after getting lollipops and sweets.



While it is great to be in a position to increase the number of children sponsored in Guardian Angels and St. Patrick's, we would still like to be able to help more children like these. If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact us.

St. Michael's School



Following our return from Kaoma we visited **St. Michael's School, Lusaka** for Child Sponsorship. We were delighted to see the school doing so well with nearly 2000 students attending between the Primary and Secondary school. TOUCH Ireland originally built 3 buildings of 3 classrooms, Teachers Houses and a Kitchen area. The Government has since built a Secondary school, so it is now a fine school.

Back in Lusaka and off to Chipapa

We travelled to Chipapa about 30 KM from Lusaka on a dirt road to visit Chipapa Skills Training Centre. Here, there is a Hospitality, Food and Nutrition training school and a Tailoring Centre. The tailoring school was funded by TOUCH Ireland some years ago. Here we met with Sr. Catherine to discuss the progress of 4 students we are supporting to do the Hospitality, Food and Nutrition course. The students are on holidays at the moment but we had met them all in Lusaka over the last 2 weeks since we arrived. It was good to hear that they are getting on well.



Kaoma Hospital visit: We bought bars of soap, tubs of Vaseline and baby moisturizing cream to bring to the Hospital. We visited the Maternity ward and Children's which was funded by TOUCH Ireland. Here we met with some mothers with their sick children and gave them soap, Vaseline and lotion. They were happy to receive the gifts and a lollipop put an extra smile on their faces. They use the Vaseline after bathing the babies on their skin as it helps to keep them warm in the winter. Some of the premature babies were tiny; you would wonder how they survive. *We would love to do more but at least we did some small thing for some Mothers and Children today, thanks to all who support us at home.*

Laptops for 3rd Level Students On this trip we were able to supply five more students with Laptops to assist them in college.

Three laptops were donated by Newbridge Family Resource Centre through our friend Anne Murphy. Two we purchased in Lusaka with funds from our Education Grant Scheme.

These days in college so much information and support for students is through the internet and it is essential for students to be able to access the internet when not in college. *We are always looking for good new or second-hand Laptops to help students.*



It was a busy trip but as always we had to say goodbye and that's always sad after being here for over a month.

Thank you again to all our supporters at home for helping us to support these Children/Youths

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