



INSIDE HOPE

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EDUCATION: THE KEY TO HOPE



There is hope everywhere you look. A child in poverty, a mother struggling against the odds, a city worker battling against the clock. The key is knowing how to spot it. If there is one place we at HOPEHIV see hope more clearly than others, it is here, in community schools and classrooms across sub-Saharan Africa.

By supporting communities as they work to make education accessible, we see poverty's vicious cycle broken again and again.

In this issue of Inside HOPE, we draw on the lessons learned over so many years. We share with you some of the exciting ways in which we are seeing tangible - quantifiable - change in the lives of vulnerable children and families. We'll take you to the classrooms that are filling up with children eager to grasp hope for themselves.



RELEASE HOPE WITH REGULAR GIVING

Having served Africa's orphan generation since 2000, we have spent a lot of time in community schools. We have seen them built from scratch, battle the odds and confound the sceptics.

But it is not enough to be able to spot a good school or tell where one needs encouraging. You have to be able to nurture and provide it with the resources it needs to flourish, year in and year out.

That's why we're inviting you to join us in giving regularly by direct debit. It's an opportunity to invest in our work to combat the effects of poverty and

HIV/AIDS on orphaned and vulnerable children and young people by supporting great projects like The Pre-School Programme in Zimbabwe and Hands@ Work in Zambia.

Regular giving allows us to improve our efficiency and really maximise our impact. It helps us to know what projects we can commit to, and to offer support from a place of far greater financial security. If you don't yet give by direct debit, please would you consider it? And to those of you that do, thank you!

“ I REALLY LIKE RICE AND CHICKEN. AND THE COLOUR RED. AND READING BOOKS. AND SCHOOL. ”



STORIES FROM THE CLASSROOM



Meet Chiwa

ZIMBABWE'S PRE-SCHOOL POTENTIAL

Chiwa*, like most five-year-olds, knows what she likes. And she knows what bothers her as well:

“I get sad when my stepmother makes me work and stay in the kitchen. I also get sad because my stomach is always upset and sore.”

Chiwa knows precisely what her dream future looks like too:

“MY BIGGEST HOPE IS THAT I WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE GOING TO SCHOOL.”

In Zimbabwe, where Chiwa lives with her stepmother and her stepmother's boyfriend, her likes, dislikes and hopes are not at all unique. Especially her hopes. Like so many others, Chiwa understands that education really matters.

But, like much of life in Zimbabwe, gaining a good education is not all that simple. When the government made pre-school education, which is fee-paying, a requirement for entry into primary school, which is free, it condemned in a single stroke many orphaned children to a life of illiteracy at the age of four. Children like Chiwa.

But - thanks to the work of our partner, Oasis - Chiwa did not get caught in the gap. **In 2003 Oasis pioneered The Pre-School Programme (PSP), a unique project that equips local churches to set up high quality, free pre-schools for orphaned and vulnerable children, making access to primary education possible again.**



Oasis prepares volunteers as teachers, starting with three months' full time instruction followed by nine months' practical on the job training and support. It ensures that a government accredited curriculum is taught, and that - through weekly visits - standards remain high.

PSP is a great model of sustainable development. By using existing church buildings there are no construction or maintenance costs. Teaching and oversight staff are all sourced from local congregations, and (after training) are paid by the local church. What's more, responsibility eventually passes on from Oasis to the church and community itself, allowing the work to continue long after Oasis has left. Each year Oasis identifies six schools that are ready to be weaned off direct funding and support themselves financially, allowing six new pre-schools to be started in other communities.

The results speak for themselves, with one pre-school in an urban suburb of Harare seeing the number of pupils enrolled treble within its first three years. Since we started working with Oasis on this project in 2003, **over 8,000 children have been given access**

to education by attending a PSP pre-school. While small fees (\$10 a month) are charged to those children who can afford them, those who cannot afford to pay have their fees waived. Some families contribute what they can – offering firewood, cooking oil or maize, or by coming in and serving as a parent-volunteer.

Tilly is one of the many trainee teachers who has also benefitted from the project. Now aged 21, and in her second year of preparation as a pre-school teacher, Tilly is an orphan herself. Despite having stayed at school long enough to gain O-levels, she struggled to find work. With no way to buy food or pay her younger sister's school fees, life was extremely tough and Tilly became depressed.

Thanks to Oasis, Tilly was given training, work and a sense of purpose. It was, she says, **"my life-saver, hope-giver and up-lifter of my miserable life"**. Today she supports herself and her sister through her teaching job. She also enjoys the respect of others in her community.

"They never thought," she says, "that I was there to serve our future leaders."



2013 brings some exciting opportunities for the project, with plans to help 2,000 orphans and vulnerable children through the 34 PSP pre-schools, and train 18 new teachers.

HOPEHIV SUPPORTERS PLAY A VITAL ROLE FOR PROJECTS IN THEIR EARLIEST PHASES.

By providing funding for one-off trainings and other key items, together we are investing in good foundations that will allow the existing schools to work towards independence - and make room for new pre-schools to be opened.

Those future leaders include girls just like Tamsin*. Like Chiwa she is just five years old, and she's busy learning key skills at the Rose of Sharon pre-school that Oasis helped to start. When she first enrolled at the start of 2012 her mother shared with the staff her concerns about Tamsin's limited speech and halting pronunciation. Was there anything that could be done to help her little girl?

Staff worked diligently with Tamsin, using play, singing, games and rhymes and everything else at their disposal to encourage her to speak. **Twelve months on, her teacher reports that Tamsin is now a different child to the little girl she first met. She can now speak fluently, and pronounces many words very well.**

Despite the challenges, Chiwa, Tilly and Tamsin no longer face an insurmountable hurdle. Instead, thanks to their education, they face a future where dreams and reality are not so very far apart.



*Names changed to protect their identity

TRANSFORMATION IN ZAMBIA

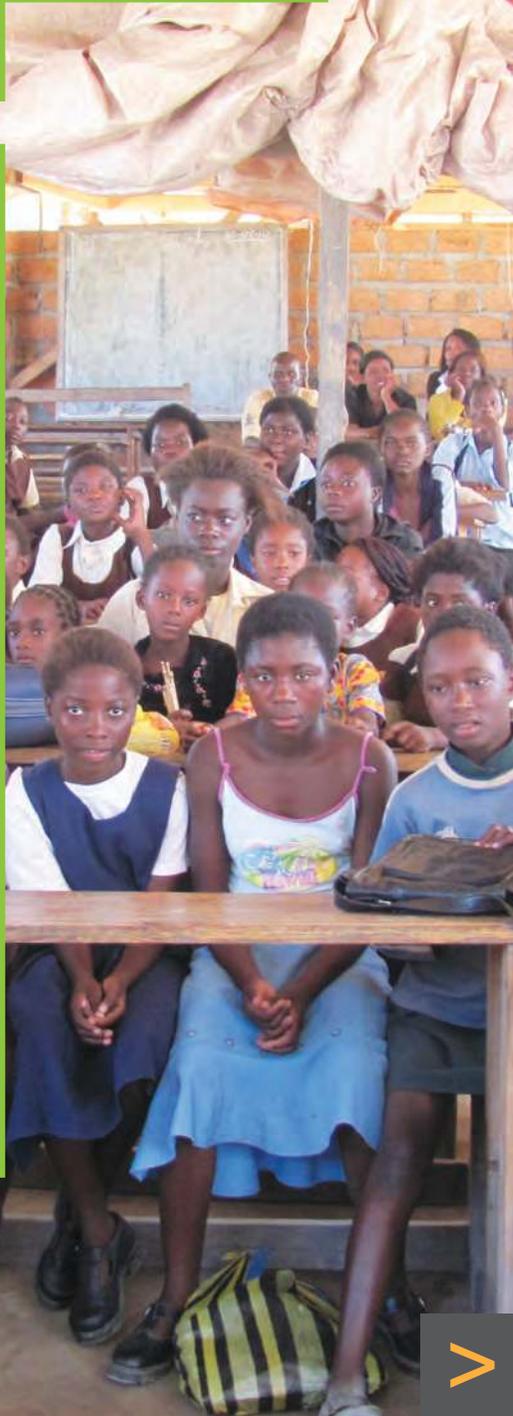


Nelson Mandela once said that 'education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world.' He was right.

At **HOPEHIV** we know from experience that children who are literate and numerate not only have much better employment prospects, but they also stand a far better chance of enjoying good health, avoiding abuse and participating in community life.

For orphans and vulnerable children, education plays an even more critical role. School provides the ideal opportunity for an orphaned child to learn in a structured environment alongside others, helping them to become self-sufficient and integrate into mainstream society.

But while the benefits are so clear and the requirements so simple, for many children in the world's poorest communities, there are just too many obstacles barring their access to education. The cost of school fees, books, pens or uniforms alone can be enough to prohibit many from even reaching primary school. In countries like Zambia urban areas have too much demand for too few places, while in rural communities children might live as far as 24km away from the nearest school. For a small child - let alone one of the 14.8million in sub-Saharan Africa who has been orphaned by HIV/AIDS - it is simply too much to ask.





And yet, there is hope. Like all our partners, Hands@Work is committed to mobilising and empowering local communities to help orphans and vulnerable children. Children just like Peter, whose father has died and whose mother is sick.



Today he is twelve, but six years ago he was yet to start school, and there seemed little chance of that ever changing. Then Hands@Work opened a community school nearby. In an instant, Peter's life-prospects changed for the better.

So what if it took him two and a half hours to get there and back each day? Peter - along with 120 others - was finally marching towards a brighter future.

Thanks to your support of **HOPEHIV**, teachers have been trained and equipped to deliver formative pre and primary education - both in and outside of the classroom, where Peter and his peers have learned practical skills by setting up and maintaining a sustainable vegetable garden. Home visits from school staff are designed to look out for his emotional wellbeing alongside his intellectual progress. Little wonder, then, that Peter says he "loves school" and looks forward to his education helping him get a job and care for his mother in the future.

Hands@Work currently reaches nearly 2,000 children like Peter, and is equipping local churches through the Luanshya and Kitwe provinces - population 400,000. By using existing buildings and training local volunteers to provide services to complement the school, including home-based care, counselling and food gardens, Hands@Work places a high premium on community ownership and long-term sustainability.

The problems of orphans and vulnerable children in countries like Zambia cannot be fixed overnight, but they can be dealt with by this simple, practical model of local communities being empowered and supported to deliver education where it is missing. Too good to be true? Not at all.

INVEST IN EDUCATION*

PLEASE CONSIDER SETTING UP A DIRECT DEBIT OR INCREASING AN EXISTING ONE USING THE FORM OVERLEAF.

*Funds raised will be used to support all of our projects, not just those profiled here. Visit www.HOPEHIV.org/projects to find out more about how and where we work.

INVEST IN TRANSFORMATION WITH HOPEHIV

Please complete this form and post it to **HOPEHIV**, PO Box 60165, London, SW19 8QJ

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other (please state) _____

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime Tel: _____

Email: _____

I am happy to receive information about **HOPEHIV's** work by email and I understand that I can unsubscribe at any time at info@hopehiv.org. I am particularly interested in **HOPEHIV's** activities and ideas in the UK for: [please tick as appropriate]

Schools Churches Companies Everyone else!

MAKING A SINGLE GIFT

I would like to make a single gift to **HOPEHIV** of:

£ _____ I would like to pay by:

cheque (please make cheques payable to **HOPEHIV**) **card** (see below)

You can pay by Visa/Mastercard/CAF/Maestro as follows:

Card number

Start date / Expiry date /

Issue number (if relevant)

Security code (Last 3 digits on reverse of card)

Card holder's name: _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Using Gift Aid you can make your donation worth more. For every pound you give to us we currently get an extra 25p from the Inland Revenue. Just sign here, it's that simple. **To qualify for the Gift Aid you must pay an amount of Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains tax at least equal to the amount we will claim in the tax year.**

"Please treat all donations I make on or after the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise."

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Tax reclaimed will be used to fund the whole of **HOPEHIV's** work.

MAKING A REGULAR GIFT BY DIRECT DEBIT

I would like to make a monthly donation by direct debit of:

£5 £15 £ _____ starting on the 15th _____

or I would like to increase my existing monthly donation by direct debit to £ _____

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Name and full postal address of your bank or Building Society

To: The Manager _____

Bank/Building Society: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Name [s] of Account Holder [s] _____

Bank/Building Society account number

Branch sort code

Originators Identification Numbers

Reference number [office use]

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay **HOPEHIV** Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with **HOPEHIV** and, if so, details may be passed electronically to my Bank/ Building Society.

Signature [s] _____ Date _____

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.



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The Direct Debit Guarantee. This guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.



• This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. • The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society. • If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, **HOPEHIV** will notify you at least ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. • If an error is made by **HOPEHIV** or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid. • You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to **HOPEHIV**.