



**Autumn
Newsletter
2022**

**Cecily's Fund
& Kaloko
Trust Zambia

Zambia Trip
2022!**

**Christmas
Appeal 2022**



Welcome!

WELCOME

It has been an eventful year of new beginnings and historic endings. As we write, news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, has broken, and across the country, we enter a national state of mourning in remembrance and honour for her service and duty.

Cecily's Fund also welcomed a new Zambian partner, Kaloko Trust Zambia (KTZ) as we begin to take on the work of Kaloko Trust UK which has closed its doors after 30 years of supporting vulnerable communities in rural Zambia. This will see Cecily's Fund expand its reach and impact in Zambia. You can read more about this on page 3, and on page 6, you can read our interview with Willard Chitimbo, Executive Director of KTZ.

Finally, after two years of forced absence, the team flew to Zambia. On pages 4 and 5 we share Director Cheryl Hooper's trip report and look at how your support is driving a range of important projects all of which are helping families and children to be more resilient and financially independent.

As Christmas approaches, we look at this year's **Christmas Appeal** on page 7, 'The Big Give', where we hope to match your donations to create an even bigger impact for those we work with. Your support is the cornerstone of our work and ensures we can keep working with our partners in Zambia.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, we've had great fun preparing it and we're grateful for the opportunity to share what we do with you.

Thank you!

Cover picture credit: Jill Flowers

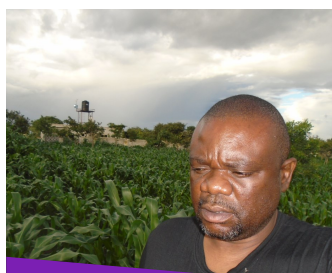
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Cecily's Fund is named in memory of Cecily Eastwood, who died in Zambia during her gap year in 1997. The charity was set up by her parents, Alison and Basil. Over the years, our work has helped over 20,000 children and we've spent over £6 million on projects in the country, building brighter futures in Zambia and helping to break the cycle of poverty.

Social

Follow us on: Twitter, Facebook and YouTube: @cecilyfund and on Instagram: @cecily.fund



About and Contact

Cecily's Fund is registered charity **1071660**. Our work makes education possible for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia.

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Cecily's Fund and Kaloko Trust



Earlier this year we announced that Cecily's Fund would be taking on the work of Kaloko Trust

Kaloko Trust (KTUK) faced closure after 30 years, and the charity was keen to ensure its work wasn't lost. KTUK and Cecily's Fund share similar values and commitment to supporting vulnerable children and communities in Zambia. This synergy combined with Cecily's Fund's high quality programmes, made working together a natural progression as KTUK entrusted us to continue the legacy of its work.

We have begun to integrate KTUK'S Zambian rural community projects into our portfolio. The team visited local schools and borehole sites in March and met with Executive Director Willard Chitimbo. This is an expansion for Cecily's Fund, enabling us to use our experience and add value in the hard to reach rural communities of Luansobe where access to external support is non-existent.

Cheryl Hooper, Director at Cecily's Fund says; 'Cecily's Fund has worked in Zambia for 25 years. Taking on Kaloko Trust's work enables us to expand into rural areas, increasing the level of support we can offer communities where poverty is endemic. This is a chance for us to deliver more impact through our experience and know-how, and build on the work of Kaloko Trust.'

KTZ works in Luansobe, about 280km from Lusaka and 4 to

5 hours by car. It's remote. The roads are rough and small scale farming dominates. With a population of 10,000, KTZ's work has focused on supporting building and maintaining schools and teacher accommodation, installing boreholes for clean water, and working with the local community to encourage them to send their children to school. Custom and tradition is strong in this part of Zambia and change is slower. But with change comes benefits, a new school, clean water, and KTZ also supplies and sells cycles for local farmers to get to work.

There's been a lot of improvements over the years but there is still much to do. Attracting teachers to the local school is challenging, even with the Zambian Government's recent recruitment drive, because accommodation and services in rural Luansobe are limited. Cecily's Fund is working with KTZ to develop new programmes that continue to address the needs of local people and looks forward to adding value and capacity where it is needed most.

Working in Luansobe is a new challenge and with KTZ we are navigating our way through to better understand the landscape and the opportunities it brings; helping us to support more children to improve their lives and opportunities by working together with the community for solutions that last. To support our journey in Luansobe please consider making a donation: cecilysfund.org/donate

Zambia Trip Report 2022:



In March this year, Director Cheryl Hooper, and Programmes Manager Stephen Barlow, visited Zambia to catch up on the impact of our work in Kitwe, and to meet new partner Kaloko Trust Zambia, travelling for 10 days across Zambia's Copperbelt.

Luansobe – rural Zambia

On landing, at Ndola's new international airport Cheryl and Steven travelled to rural Luansobe to see the work of KTZ covering a huge geographical distance from Luansobe and Masaiti districts to Kapiri. The team saw 4 schools that will now benefit from support through Cecily's Fund. The biggest challenge here is the need for basic infrastructure; clean water, sanitation, and housing for teachers, and an urgent need for more latrines and toilets for learners. The CF team heard that children were walking up to 10 km each way to school and observed the clear dedication and commitment of Head Teachers, staff, and, volunteer teachers despite few teaching resources. The team also witnessed the impact of KTUK's borehole installations, which provide safe drinking water and prevent critical water-borne diseases for up to 200 families per borehole – without boreholes, people rise at 5am to travel the long distances to draw water from unclean shallow wells.

Cecily's Fund sees great scope and potential to add value to KTUK's legacy through community development, peer health education, and the introduction of GROW savings groups. Planning for how we develop these starts in earnest next year.

Kitwe: Our holistic approach brings community and schools together

From Luansobe the team went to Kitwe to meet CHEP and 5 partner schools to see the impact of our capacity-building work with them. Cecily's Fund is working with 8 schools; 6 community schools and 2 government schools. The over-arching aim of our collaboration is to develop a sustainable partnership model to improve the learning outcomes for especially vulnerable children and close the gap between the most marginalised children and other students.



The team saw the impact of the abolishment of school fees – a sudden wave of children that has swelled class sizes to over 100, but infrastructure and teacher support remain the same. However, the passion, dedication, and commitment of Head Teachers in all schools were overwhelming, as was their appreciation of CF's forward-thinking capacity-building support for schools that focuses on a holistic approach to the learning and care for the most vulnerable children.

The team visited Wusikili Secondary school, one of 2 Government Schools in our programme. Wusikili has a dedicated Head Teacher with 22 classrooms, 1447 pupils of whom 239 are vulnerable. During the visit the team witnessed the impact of our long-standing peer education programme when they met Joseph Mbene, a volunteer chemistry teacher who had volunteered without pay for 6 years. Joseph was originally supported into school by Cecily's Fund and trained to be a Peer Health Educator. The impact of this training has endured, and he continues to share his skills to help other disadvantaged children.

The team watched a recently trained Peer Health Educator facilitate a session for Grade 9 students. After the 40-minute session, which tackled substance misuse Cheryl discussed the impact of the training with 4 newly trained PHE, she said; "They told me it was life-changing, especially about confidence, self-esteem, public speaking, and teaching skills."



We Visited Projects in Luansobe and Kitwe



At Luyando Community School headed by Catherine Bwilu, Cecily's Fund is providing finance and IT training along with a laptop and desktop computer. As well as improved financial systems, they are now able to input pupil data and monitor academic results, and a new food garden provides essential nutrition for children who are not able to have regular meals. CF has also introduced 2 Peer Health Educators to support the children. Luyando serves 1000 pupils from 3 remote communities of over 10,000 people and the next nearest school is 5km.

Luyando School is also connected to a GROW savings group established in 2021, which was formed as part of our holistic approach to strengthen community support and parent engagement through schools. The team attended a meeting and listened to the group discussing their chosen topic 'How to deal with the challenges we face as women in our households'. Many women in GROW groups are left to look after grandchildren abandoned by their teenage children, and, with men unemployed, the women explained the struggle they have to look after an average household of 6- 7 children. The women enjoy the friendship and support from meeting weekly and share the lessons learned via group discussions with their husbands.

The challenges facing community schools are huge. Kawemi School is in a remote Kitwe district. Local buses go only halfway to a bush outpost, the school is a further 45-minute drive. Kawemi has 399 pupils, 2 volunteer teachers, and the Head Teacher. There is no electricity and only one small solar panel.

There is a shallow, unusable well and a critical need for a borehole and toilets. Facilities at the school are non-existent with 15 desks in the entire school. The team met the dedicated and committed Head Teacher, "His passion and leadership are what drives the school through these challenges and harsh environment" said Cheryl. She noted that; "There is a challenge in making it safe for PHE's to visit, it's remote with limited access, but after visiting, we've found a way". Working with CHEP, PHE visits will coordinate with Kawemi's GROW group, 'Buyantanshi' (translates as 'Going Forward') monitoring visits, so that Peer Educators can travel safely with CHEP staff. Buyantanshi's focus is on farming, and the CF team is looking at how to support the group with farming and livestock business development training, and the production and growing of sunflowers to make sunflower oil.

Sunshine Community School

In such a short visit so much was learned, the team continued to meet long-time supporter and inspiration, Gift Chalmer, the founder and Head Teacher of Sunrise Community School which has grown from its original cow shed building supported by Ipsukilu GROW Group, to its permanent structure today. As one of 8 schools we support, Sunrise received a laptop and desktop computer, and the Head Teacher and Treasurer have benefited from financial management training provided by Cecily's Fund.

Cheryl and Steven also met women who had formed 2 social businesses, which make and sell low-cost reusable sanitary towels and provide confidential health information to vulnerable women and girls at the point of sale. The original objective of the CF programme was to form 2 businesses that have a social mission that could give back to local communities through the making and selling of products, including low-cost reusable sanitary towels for adolescent girls. The training has not only taught women a variety of tailoring skills, but also business development. As a result of this intervention, we hope to see fewer girls missing school due to menstruation, a greater understanding of basic rights and sexual health for girls and women, and the provision of products or services that fill an unmet social need.

The trip to Zambia gave the chance to see the impact of Cecily's Fund's work achieved through your support. As we continue to strengthen communities and help children access education, we hope you will continue to support this valuable work.



Introducing Willard Chitimbo

We met with Willard Chitimbo, Executive Director at KTZ to learn more about his work, the community and the challenges they are facing.

Willard is based in Kapiri-Mposhi, about 50km from Luansobe or 40 minutes by car and 280 km from Lusaka. Luansobe was bush until 1989, but with the introduction of a school, a clinic, and access to mains electricity it's now a community of 20k people, farming crops such as white maize and soya beans.



CF: How did you get involved with KTZ?

WC: I'm a professional social worker with a family background in farming, so working for KTZ bought my two skills together. I understand how vulnerable rural communities are, my decision in life was to help rural communities attain social mobility.

CF: Tell us about your work

WH: It's about access to education and we do that by making the infrastructure available, we build and maintain the school, improve access to clean water with boreholes, building toilets, and health education. We also take donated bikes and repair them to sell to farmers. The roads are bad and bikes are the cheapest mode of transport. The money we raise goes back into the charity. Right now we want to build a computer hub so that schools can get online and pupils can learn new skills.

CF: You help 10,000 people a year, what challenges do you face?

WC: Customs are strong - we noticed that girls were missing school because they were kept at home when on their period. So we invested in reusable sanitary pads and gave them out, demand is high but its making a huge difference with more girls going to school now. Also, when there's a choice it will be the boy who gets to go to school, we're working to make that more equitable.

CF: Is it difficult to recruit teachers in the countryside?

WC: Yes, the teacher recruitment freeze combined with working in a rural area is challenging, as accommodation is limited. But the freeze has been lifted now by the new government, which means we may see a better ratio of teachers to pupil, but this brings new challenges - where will the teachers live, there are no rentals here.

CF: What's the best thing about your job?

WH: Seeing communities improve their lifestyles. When communities improve their livelihoods, there is so much appreciation shown by their actions of having attained what they initially thought to be out of their reach.

CF: What's the most challenging aspect you face at work?

WH: The time it takes to convince communities to change their mindset.

CF: What keeps you motivated?

WH: Job satisfaction. I've been doing this for 18 years, there's nothing more rewarding than seeing a poor community develop.

CF: What does a typical day look like for you?

WH: I visit Luansobe twice a week, the rest of my day is emails and reports! My day ends at about 6pm when I eat, watch the news and then it's off to bed.

CF: If you weren't working for charity, what would you be doing instead?

WH: I'm a seasoned farmer. As a side hustle I have 22 hectares of land and an orchard, plus goats and chickens. Last season, I produced 500 bags of white maize, 50 bags of soya beans and 52 bags of sweet potatoes. I've farmed all my life and grew up in rural Zambia, going to school was a challenge.



Fundraising & Community



The Cecily's Fund Christmas Appeal 2022

Please help us to GROW this Christmas.

This Christmas, Cecily's Fund is working with 'The Big Give' a donor who will match every pledge we receive to help us reach our target of £25,000!

This will enable us to set up 8 new GROW savings groups in Kitwe district and Luansobe and will help improve the lives of more than 160 vulnerable women and 500 children. Our Christmas Appeal 2022 supports the most vulnerable women who need help to gain financial independence and make a better life for themselves and the children in their care. With your help we can tackle the problem of inequality and lack of opportunity for women and girls living in extreme poverty in Zambia.

With your support we can reach our Christmas Appeal target of £25,000

Your support will be life-changing, so please donate to our Big Give Christmas Appeal this year!

You can donate online or use the donation form in this newsletter – **Thank you!**

London 10K Stars!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the London 10k on Sunday 10th July. Feedback from Mathew Iles who was part of the Southborough School team that ran for us was;

"That was the most gruelling run many of us have ever run. We truly struggled. Still, we all got round. We made it to 'The Thistle' for Air con and nice sarnies!"

£2000 was raised by the school runners which will help to transform lives for communities and children in Zambia.



Opera Fundraiser

A big thank you to Veronica Oakeshott, trustee of Cecily's Fund and Cecily's cousin, who staged an opera in her mother's garden, sharing the proceeds between Cecily's Fund and the Ukraine humanitarian appeal. Over 150 people attended and each charity received over £1700. The highly accomplished 'Wild Arts' group performed a light hearted and eclectic mix of arias from classical to modern. Veronica said;

"It was such a gorgeous evening – the garden was filled with music, flowers and sunlight. We hope to do it again!"

To Give To Our Christmas Appeal:
cecilysfund.org/donate

Christmas Appeal 2022

Your gift makes a difference!

£5 supports our feeding programme

£50 helps to keep a child in school for a year.

A regular donation helps us to plan ahead, and gift aiding it helps us claim an extra 25p on every £1 you give. Your personal data is only used to process your donation and keep you updated with our work.

Yes, I want to give Cecily's Fund a donation of... £

Gift Aid: I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. This includes any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years.

Please tick to confirm the above:

Title

First name or initial(s)

Surname

Full home address

Postcode

Email

Date

Signature

This form **must be signed in order to be valid.**

Registered Charity No: 1071660

Please return this form to:

Cecily's Fund
Top Floor, 6 Church Green
Witney
Oxon
OX28 4AW

Thank You For Your Support!

Bank Standing Order Mandate

(Please also fill in the left-hand side)

This is an instruction to your bank. Please fill in the form, return it to us, and we will process it for you.

Please pay Cecily's Fund

CAF Gold, Sort Code 40-52-42 A/C No. 00089893

The sum of: £

Each month

Each quarter until further notice

Each year

One off

Date of first payment

Bank name

Bank address

Name of account holder

Account number

Sort code

Signature

Date