

Primary and Secondary Education Programme, Lusaka, implemented by Bwafwano

In our last annual report, we said we would work with Bwafwano to:

- continue to run the community school at full capacity;
- cater for an increase of Bwafwano children in government schools from 1,150 to 1,400;
- provide for an additional teacher and supply cover;
- improve support for children moving up into government schools;
- support children to retake examinations in grades 7 and 9;
- reinforce the network of contact teachers in government schools and increase pupil retention and performance; and
- help the contact teachers to establish school-based committees at government schools with children we support.

How did we do? In 2008/09 with Bwafwano we:

- enabled 756 children (381 girls and 375 boys) to be taught and fed at the community school, including 217 new children;
- paid for the employment of a new permanent teacher and supply cover;
- supported 1,273¹⁰ children in government schools (602 girls and 671 boys), 200 of whom moved up from the community school;
- encouraged the nomination of a contact teacher in each of the 17 government schools where there were children supported by Bwafwano;

Our grant funding to Bwafwano in 2008/09 was £55,737 (2007/8 – £37,754)



- worked closely with contact teachers to ensure greater support for the children who moved up from the community school;
- supported twelve children to retake their exams in grade 7 and nine in grade 9
- further improved our working relationship with government schools' administration.



Uniforms are not required at Bwafwano's community school. Cecily's Fund covers the cost of all teaching materials. So all children have to worry about is learning their lessons.

¹⁰ Some children were kept back in Bwafwano's school to improve their skills before they move on to government school. Others moved away from the area. Both factors affected the number of children we supported to move into government school this year.

Activities in 2008/09:

This year marks a milestone for us as the first four Bwafwano children, supported by us since our partnership began, will complete grade 12, the final year of secondary school.

Despite the sharp rise in Zambia's food prices last year, we ensured that all 756 Bwafwano children continued to receive a nutritious meal each day to encourage attendance and performance.

The recruitment of another teacher, Stephen Mwape, has improved the teacher-pupil ratio. The community school rarely closes and the use of supply teachers this year has allowed regular teachers to take well-earned holidays. We also welcomed a new pre-school teacher, Mrs Mwale.

In order continually to improve the quality of teaching, Bwafwano's teachers attended training at government schools and a Ministry of Education course for community school teachers. Bwafwano has also organised parent-teacher meetings and workshops on the importance of education, particularly for girls.

Support for children has been more than financial. Bwafwano's Education Officer,

Bambala Kataso, has counselled grade 8 children through the difficult transition from primary to secondary government schools. With Programme Officer, Isaac Phiri, he has trained and advised contact teachers, helped grade 9 and 12 pupils to prepare for exams and given career talks based on Hod'i's model.

The fact that the first of our students are making it through to the end of grade 12 speaks for the effectiveness of Bwafwano's caring and attentive approach to the education of these children and hundreds more like them.

In 2009/10 in partnership with Bwafwano we undertake to:

- continue to run the community school at full capacity;
- support a further 200 children to move into government schools;
- work with other organisations and the Ministry of Education to develop Bwafwano's support for pre-school children;
- link with other organisations to develop extra-curricular learning;
- further develop monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of our support and identify areas for improvement;
- work with Bwafwano to identify and meet the learning needs of its staff.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children

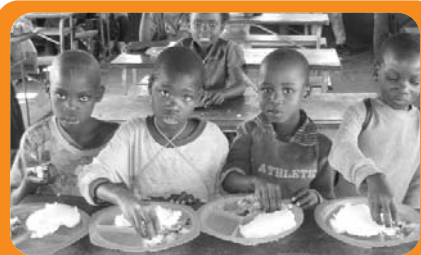
62% of the children Bwafwano supports have lost one parent, 24% have lost both parents, and 14% have one or both parents who are living with HIV. 17 children are HIV positive and are doing well with treatment at Bwafwano's clinic.

Performance

Marks of over 50% were achieved by 62% of Bwafwano pupils and 65% of our government school children. 45% of the latter were girls.

Attendance

Only 2% of the community school's pupils (compared to 2.5% nationally) and only three of our 1,273 children at government schools dropped out this year.



We pay for Bwafwano to provide lunch every school day for children at the community school. For many it is their only meal of the day. Helpings are large and filling because children cannot concentrate in class if they are hungry.

(Photo: Three Oaks Trust).