

Final Report to the Fondation Eagle, December 2020 (revised 26.1.21)
Zambia Orphans Aid-UK
Lubushi Boarding House for Girls, Zambia
Reference number: FF 481 02
Date of grant accepted: 14th June 2019
Amount: £28,754
Lubushi Boarding House for Girls, Northern Province, Zambia



Project Objective

The aim of this project was to address inequality with girls' access to education in rural Zambia. ZOA-UK requested support to construct a boarding house so that particularly deprived female orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) from remote rural areas can attend their nearest school in Lubushi Parish, Northern Province. In rural areas of Zambia 27% of females have no education at all, compared to 18% of males (1). The plan was to allow at least 64 girls to board during term-time so that they can attend school whilst ensuring they have a safe and secure place to stay, thereby reducing the risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, early marriage and prostitution amongst an extremely vulnerable group.

Background to Lubushi

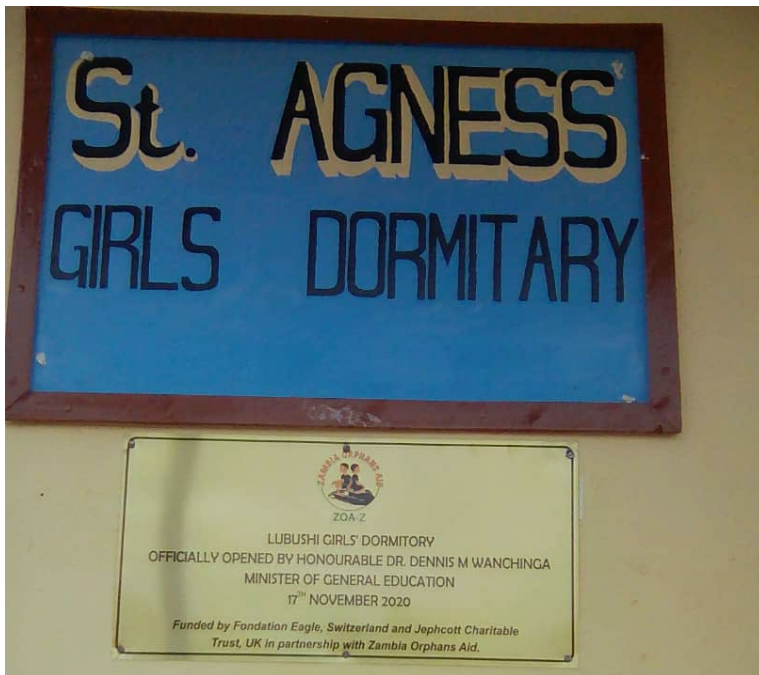
Lubushi is a deprived, rural parish in Northern Province, far away from the more prosperous capital Lusaka and the industrial Copperbelt. Despite a new tarmac road, it remains very isolated, especially in the rainy season (between January and March) when roads are usually impassable. Lubushi School has around 1,000 primary and secondary pupils and receives students from five areas, namely: Mpalapata, Mulila, Kapanda, Kashinka and Mutale Mukonge. Many children travel long distances to attend school in Lubushi, and are sometimes forced to rent or squat in unsafe conditions in the village to ensure that they can attend school.

Project achievement

While small-scale construction has been able to continue in Zambia, COVID-19 and the lockdown has undoubtedly slowed down the progress of the build. However, we are delighted to inform you that on 17th November 2020 the official opening of Lubushi Boarding House for Girls took place and that 64 vulnerable girls have now moved into the boarding house and are safely attending school.



¹ CAMFED
December 2020



The girls' boarding house has been named after Saint Agness, the patron saint of girls. It is located next to Lubushi School, which provides primary and secondary education, to allow very easy access for the girls to attend classes and receive the valuable education that will enable them to access more reliable employment and gain financial independence in the future.

The boarding house consists of 8 bedrooms with 4 high-quality steel bunk beds and mattresses in each, plus a locker so each girl is able to store her belongings securely, benefitting 64 vulnerable schoolgirls.

The age of the girls staying at the boarding house are secondary school age (11-19 years). Most of the girls are 14+ but they are accepted on a need's basis. Vulnerable students often have to miss out on education or start their education later so they are usually older than their peers.

The Lubushi Rural Orphan Resettlement Scheme (LRORS) has appointed a matron or 'housemother' and there will also be house prefects, who will be assigned once the girls have settled in. The housemother is in charge of all the boarders. The boarding house has been built very close to the schoolteachers' compound for easy monitoring of the girls. There are also two 24-hour security guards who have phones for communications, keeping the girls safe at all times.



The girls boarding house facilities

The boarding house contains 4 latrines, 4 showers and 6 sinks, a common room and a laundry room where the girls can wash their clothes. It also includes a kitchen with 8 cookers and sinks; gas and electric cookers have been provided to ensure that girls can still access power during electricity load shedding, which is common in Zambia when water levels are low as the country is reliant on hydro-power. Girls are able to prepare, cook and eat their meals on a rota basis and have been provided with pots, pans and some kitchen utensils for this purpose. The girls are expected to purchase their own food in Lubushi and they bring some staple foods from their village which they prepare and eat in a communal dining area with tables and chairs provided. The girls have access to their own lockers

so they can store food and other belongings securely. Lubushi School, which is under the control of the Ministry of General Education, has agreed to take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the boarding house, ensuring its sustainability for many years.

Here are pictures of the new bunk beds with mattress's and lockers on arrival at the boarding house (before use). The girls brought their own bedding.



Pictured here are the new ovens, sinks and kitchen tables on arrival at the boarding house and before use.



The opening ceremony

Once the boarding house was completed the opening ceremony was an opportunity for ZOA and its partners to promote the project and why girls' education is so important to a range of stakeholders. The event was very successful with the whole village attending and notable local including:

1. Honorable Kafwaya Mutotwe- Minister of Transport and Communication, MP Lunte.
2. Provincial Education Officers' representative
 - Mr Jimmy Chifunda - Senior Education Standard Officer Natural Science.
 - Mr Kuluza - Senior Provincial Building Officer
3. Acting District Education Board Secretary - Mr Lulambe Benmerry
 - District Education Standard Officer- Mr Nyondo Gracious.
 - Education Standard Officer (ESO) Special - Mrs. Bwalya
4. Archdiocese of Kasama's representative / Education secretary Fr Chimfwembe Elvis.
 - The Rector Lubushi Minor Seminary Fr Musele.
 - The Parish Priest Fr Chishimba Felix.
 - The Assistant Parish Priest Fr Kalumendo William
 - Area Councilor Mr Kambole Lazarus



One of the new boarders making a speech at the opening ceremony

Project challenges

Permission rights: there was a delay at the beginning of the project due to permission rights for using the land which is owned by the Church. It was agreed verbally but there were still delays. Our partner and ZOA-Zambia have learnt from this experience and going forward with future capital projects have amended the way we plan our projects. For example, we have since secured support from another funder for a boys' boarding house at the school and written permission for using the land was secured for this before the agreed project start date.

COVID-19: the project has been delayed by travel and movement restrictions imposed due to the global pandemic. Schools closed in March 2020 and were not able to fully reopen until September. Although small scale construction has been allowed, sourcing materials has been a challenge as the foreign exchange rate has changed considerably since pre-COVID. However, most gains made from this have since been counter-balanced by soaring inflation, which reached 16.6% in May - particularly affecting the costs of commodities that have to be imported. Despite the delays, we have managed to complete the project within budget.

Water supply: It has been noted by our partner that the new girls' boarding house together with the new boys' boarding house which is currently being constructed, will put additional pressure on the school's existing borehole. They have requested that we fundraise for a new borehole on the site, with storage tank and stand, so we are now seeking funds for this.

FINAL EXPENDITURE AGAINST BUDGET

Description	Budgeted cost £	Actual cost £**
Boarding house construction:		
Sub-structure, concrete work, walls, reinforcements	2,297	4,358
Roofing & ventilation	1,258	1,618
Carpentry & joinery	2,129	3,806
Finishes	1,876	1,875
Metal work	2,100	1,695
Plumbing & drainage, latrines, showers & sinks	1,179	1,679
Electrics	155	1,002
Painting & glazing	1,263	1,424
Labour (25% of material cost)	3,064	3,286
Transport (4% of material cost)	490	343
Base cost of kitchens incl. labour & transport	7,280	*
Sub-total	23,091	21,086
Furniture and fittings:		
Bunk beds & lockers	5,952	10,269
Kitchen equipment – pots and pans	500	264
Cookers x 8	2,857	1,186
Sinks x 8	800	181
Dining tables, benches, cupboard doors	500	264
Signage	0	98
Sub-total	10,609	12,262
Total boarding house construction, furniture & fittings	33,700	33,348
Project management in Zambia – 15%	5,055	5,002
Grand total	38,755	38,350
Grant received from Jephcott Trust	10,000	
Grant received from Eagle Foundation	28,754	
Variance (underspend) due to financial exchange gains		-404

*Actual cost of kitchen build incorporated into construction costs of boarding house

** Boarding house originally forecast at FX rate of £1=K11 from quotes obtained in Q4 2017. Revised to £1=K14 in 2019 and increased by 8.5% to allow for inflation.

CONCLUSION

We are requesting the small amount of underspend funds gained from foreign exchange (£404) be put towards a new borehole on the site. Three quotes are currently being secured and we anticipate that a new borehole, storage tank and stand will cost in the region of £5,000-£7,500 including transport and project management costs - a final budget can be shared when all 3 quotes have been verified.

Interviews with 4 girls attending Lubushi boarding house for girls

Estella Chama (14 years) pictured outside the girls boarding house.



"I am sharing my experience about how I have been feeling ever since I started living in the new Girls' dormitory at our school. In my life and my school life I have never experienced the life I am living now. I used to travel very long distances for me to reach school, I had no time to study because I was getting tired. Also, our parents were giving us a lot of work to do at home. But all those are things of the past. I am really enjoying being with friends here. When my parents died I was very lonely, but being with friends here I feel I have all the family around."

Royce Tembo (14 years) pictured outside the front entrance of the boarding house.



"I am in school all the time, I have no time to waste because am using every moment of my time to do my academic work and other schoolwork. In the past, I had no time to study at home because I could not manage due to long distances I used to travel when coming to school. I am enjoying being at school all the time, because I have enough time to share with friends and schoolwork."

Purity Chishimba (14 years) pictured in the dormitory.



"We are learning good behaviour here at the boarding house. We do activities with our teachers and I am very hopeful that this may help in the reduction of teen pregnancies. Where we used to stay we were very vulnerable, we could not have free time, the houses we used to rent were not conducive or favourable for us."

Rabecca Chibubi (14 years) pictured next to the secure lockers.

"As a female student I was the most vulnerable child, there was no time to study at home because most of the time I used to be given a lot of house chores and work to do at home from my parents, as they had taken an advantage of me not being in school for so long. I am now free to study in my own time. I can ask for help from my teachers because I am always with them. School is near to us so we cannot be late for lessons anymore! "

On behalf of all the girls at Lubushi boarding house thank you to Fondation Eagle for your funding for this project. With your support, 64 vulnerable girls can now safely attend school, giving them a chance of a better future.

