

## **Report to the Kate Farrer Foundation** ***Vital schoolbooks for orphaned and vulnerable children in Zambia***



In March 2017 the Kate Farrer Foundation kindly donated £1,000 for vital G9 schoolbooks for orphans and vulnerable children at Twavwane School in Lusaka. I am delighted to report that we have raised the funds to buy the necessary books and the students at Twavwane School are benefitting hugely from them. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Zambia and education**

Zambia has 14 million citizens, two thirds of whom live on less than \$1 a day; life is particularly tough for its 1.4 million orphans. Education can lift a child out of poverty but there is a desperate shortage of state schools and besides, compulsory fees and uniforms put them beyond the means of the poorest. Zambian children out of school, girl orphans in particular, remain trapped in poverty and are highly vulnerable to early marriage, child labour and prostitution. However, there are secure, salaried jobs for those able to gain qualifications. We are delighted that so far 25 'ZOA-UK' tertiary graduates have secured good jobs (teachers, nurses, civil servants) and are building family homes, supporting grandparents and funding siblings through school.

### **About Twavwane School**

The school was established in 2003 by a group of social workers in a slum area of Lusaka where there is no state primary. Average class sizes are 70 pupils and many malnourished HIV+ children attend as its volunteers are trained health carers and the school supplies free meals to its 530 pupils with the help of ZOA. Pupil households are means tested to ensure they cannot afford to send children to state schools which require compulsory uniform, requisites and 'user fees'. Out of school these kids would be at high risk of forced early marriage, abuse or child labour. ZOA also helps Twavwane to offer after school lower secondary classes (Grades 8 & 9) to children without funds or sponsorship for state secondary school, to prevent them dropping out of education at this critical stage, with the hope that funds can be secured to enable them to re-enter the official school system for Upper Secondary, Grades 10-12.

### **The problem**

In 2016 the Government introduced a new curriculum. This move made old textbooks redundant and the government would not fund new ones for community schools. There are over 3,000 community schools, set up by community groups and churches so children who cannot afford state school fees can get an education; they tend to have a high percentage of orphaned pupils. Community schools couldn't afford to buy these books and so ZOA needed to help create a school library so that children we support at Twavwane School could remain in school and receive an education.

### **The new school library**

A new school library has now been created to help as many children to be educated over the coming years. All the shelving and necessary books have been sourced and are being used by the students and teachers. The school has bought 40 copies of each title, plus teacher guides for text book grades lower primary grades and 7,8 & 9. Here are some photographs of the pupils using the new books. Thank you for your support!









