



# **Project Zambia**

## **2024-2025 Annual Report**

**Presented at 13<sup>th</sup> AGM**

Thursday 29th April 2026

On Google Meet

## Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name – *Project Zambia*

Registered with Charity Commission of Northern Ireland – *NIC100057*

Charity registered with the Inland Revenue – *XR87823*

Charity Address – *c/o Westcourt Centre,  
8-30 Barrack Street,  
Belfast,  
BT12 4AJ*

Governing document *Constitution*

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## Management Committee Members

- Aidan Donaldson
- Dominique Groves – retired 21/12/2025
- Sian Higgins
- Eadaoin Kelly
- Sean Mc Corry
- Fionnuala McGeough
- Michael Murphy
- Caoimhe Nic Dhonnail
- Stephanie Ramer-Corr
- Leah Smyth - Chairperson
- Rachael Smyth

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## **Governance and Public Benefit Reporting**

Project Zambia is a registered charity with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland (NIC100057). It is managed by its management committee; who are all volunteers and elected at Annual General Meeting. All elected committee members for 2024-2025 served the whole year, except for Dominique Groves. She retired in December 2025 and the whole of the committee are thankful for her support and hard work over the last year. There were no co-opted members. In Project Zambia's governing structure, the management committee are the trustees.

During the 2024 -2025 year, Project Zambia continued to work in partnership with identified communities in Zambia; in furtherance of our joint goals and projects. All projects during this year were in keeping with the aims in our charity's constitution and were solely for charitable purposes. There were no private beneficiaries and no harm identified during this year.

Project Zambia's purposes/ aims are detailed in its constitution as follows:

1. The provision of funds for food for the poorest people living in Zambia
2. The provision of funds for the building of schools in communities in Zambia; where access to school is limited due to cost/distance
3. To support schools with provision of funds for teacher's allowances, educational resources and maintenance of school building
4. The provision of funds for basic first aid care for people living in Zambia who cannot afford medical treatment
5. The provision of funds for the installation of the means for clean water access and proper sanitation facilities; for some of the poorest people living in Zambia
6. To support the set-up and maintenance of income generating projects in Zambia; for the relief of those in need
7. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities which Project Zambia supports; in such a way that they are better able to identify and meet their needs to participate more fully in society

## **Main Achievements in the 2024-2025 year**

Project Zambia was established to work towards alleviating poverty and enhance communities through educational, health and income-generating projects in Zambia.

During the this year, Project Zambia had a group of travelling volunteers in Zambia in July time and also supported Edmund Rice College to travel to Zambia with pupils for the first time. The charity continues to promote our work and host fundraisers.

During this year, Project Zambia worked with the following communities on projects that are in furtherance of the charity's objectives were:

1. Kabwata Orphanage and Transit Centre
2. Vision of Hope
3. Mongu
4. Mapepe

### **1. Kabwata Orphanage**

Kabwata Orphanage and Transit Centre is home to approx. 75 children and young people, who have been orphaned, whose family cannot support them or have been removed from their family by social services. Kabwata Orphanage is one of the organisations, which is governed by Angels in Development. It serves children normally up to the age of 18 years old and in some cases, older than this – depending on their individual needs. This partnership is one of the oldest, continual and longest-established relationships.

- *Total donated in 2024–2025 year: £15,890*

Projects included:

Once again, throughout this year, funding was provided for a feeding programme and allowances for Aunties.

- This project is in keeping with 'Aim 1'.

Volunteers spent time in Kabwata Orphanage and Transit Centre with the children and assisting with tasks. Funds were provided to further expand the orphanage and complete renovations. This work was supported by Newington Credit Union.

- This project is keeping with 'Aim 2'.

## **2. Vision of Hope**

The Vision of Hope is a project that supports female homeless youths, based in Lusaka. It is comprised of residential aspect and a skill-building aspect. This partnership has been in place for approximately 6 years and has grown from strength to strength in this time.

- *Total donated in 2024–2025 year: £4,419*

Projects included:

The volunteers spent time in Vision of Hope. There continues to be substantial difficulties with reliable electricity from the mains supply and load-sharing continues to impact on this area of Lusaka. This was highlighted by the Vision of Hope as having a huge impact on the girls and the young womens' day-to-day life and running of the project and their home. Funding was provided for installation and purchase of solar panels, which will alleviate the issue. This was funded with the support of Newington Credit Union.

- This project is in keeping with 'Aim 6'.

## **3. Mongu**

Mongu is located in the Western province in Zambia and Project Zambia have partnered with this community for almost 15 years thanks to connections with the Christian Brothers who are located there. Due to distance, there was no visit to Mongu.

- *Total donated in 2024 – 2025 year: £7,500*

Project Zambia continued to support the feeding programme throughout the year for 80 vulnerable families. The uplifted money for the feeding programme was sustained for another year and better meets the needs of the recipients of this feeding programme.

This project is in keeping with 'Aim 1'.

#### **4. Mapepe**

Mapepe is a rural community based on the outskirts of Lusaka. This year, Project Zambia has continued rebuilding a positive, working relationship with Mapepe community and working on governance and stronger partnership. This has been a lengthy but valuable process. Mapepe village is associated with several projects and these include home-based care team, Mapepe Blessed Hope School and community projects.

- *Total donated in 2024 – 2025 year: £13,417*

Projects included:

Mapepe received a large portion of funding this year to build a security wall around the perimeter of the school and surrounding buildings. There was also funding provided for maintenance of the water tower and repair of sewage tank and drainage, which serves the wider community. Funding was to Blessed Hope School for resources; including ID for exams, printer for exams and desks. Funds were provided for teachers/ local community representatives to International Women's Day, Teacher's Day and other events.

These projects are all in keeping with 'Aim 2 & 3'.

#### **Public Benefit Statement**

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. All activities were to further its purpose for the public benefit.

## **Objectives set for the 2025-2026 year**

*Our objectives for the year ahead:*

- Continue to support and work in collaboration with our Zambian partners, including
  - Kabwata Orphanage,
  - Mapepe,
  - Mongu,
  - St Lawrence School
  - Vision of Hope
- Support the feeding programmes in both Kabwata Orphanage and Mongu at the same cost as 2025-2026 year
- Organise a group of volunteers to travel to Zambia during 2025-2026 year
- Continue to review and update the recruitment of volunteers to allow for a longer fund-raising year
- Review and update our financial procedures to incorporate 'cash-less' methods of payment

## A Review of Financial Position

	2024-2025	2023-2024
<b>Income (fundraisers, standing orders, donations etc,)</b>	£53,733 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling group</li> <li>• Restricted donations (NCU etc)</li> </ul>	£57,250
<b>Costs directly allocated to Communities</b>	£40,956 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kabwata Orphanage - £13,147</li> <li>• Vision of Hope - £4,419</li> <li>• Mongu - £7,500</li> <li>• Mapepe - £15,890</li> </ul>	
<b>Support Costs</b>	£24,225 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel - £18,303</li> <li>• Insurance - £3,621</li> <li>• Bank Charges - £825</li> <li>• General - £278</li> <li>• Computer/ software - £631</li> <li>• Accountancy - £456</li> <li>• Depreciation - £111</li> </ul>	£21,186

Project Zambia's income for 2024-2025 year has increased from the previous year. This is primarily due to efforts of the fundraising volunteers and is even more impressive as Project Zambia did not receive funding from the Worley Foundation for the first time in many years. There has been a marked improvement in claiming Giftaid and this has been assisted with partnering with Enthuse and incorporating Quikbooks, which has eased administrative load and allowed for more time to be used claiming Giftaid.

Project Zambia committee is pleased the year's fundraising.

Project Zambia 2024-2025 accounts were independently examined by Richard Whan from Richard Whan & Co Chartered. On completion of examination, there have been no concerns raised, in regards to the management of finances and no issues to raise with CCNI. It is also noted within the report that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate

resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There was no note made about the surplus of finances at year-end.

Overall, Project Zambia is in a very healthy financial position and hope to continue in this position moving forward.

## Our Mission Statement

*Do what is just, show constant love and live in humble fellowship with all you meet. And remember: you cannot change the whole world, but together we can change our world.*

*(Peter Tembo, St Catherine's Centre)*

Project Zambia is a social justice organisation. It is a member of the Edmund Rice Developing World Immersion Programme and takes its ethos from that organisation.

Project Zambia works alongside and in partnership with some of the poorest and most marginalised communities in the world in Zambia (mostly around Lusaka Province). Its work includes HIV/AIDS, education, sanitation, income-generation, orphans, street-children, education and empowerment of disabled children, Home Based Care, health care, microfinance and other projects that community leaders advise.

Project Zambia seeks to:

- Provide volunteers from all communities and faith backgrounds (and none) with opportunities to engage, share and reflect with our host communities in Zambia.
- Provide opportunities for volunteers to commit themselves in the areas of support and advocacy on behalf of people – both locally and globally - who are at risk because of poverty, discrimination, lack of access to education, and war.
- Seeks to work in partnership with our host communities to tackle the effects and causes of extreme poverty in those communities through education, health and sanitation and income-generation.

Project Zambia welcomes volunteers and support from all sections of our community and from all faiths, genders, social backgrounds and races.



## Short History of Project Zambia and why we work in Zambia?

Project Zambia is a registered charity. In 2004, a group of local people from North Belfast were inspired by the charitable work which St Mary's CBGS carried out during the few years prior. Project Zambia was founded to continue this charitable work on a bigger scale. In the early days, Project Zambia held meetings in Cassidy's Bar and was predominantly based in North Belfast.

Since then, Project Zambia has grown considerably and gained much local support. Today, PZ continues to fulfil the aims of the original group but now operates on a larger scale. Our main base moved to Westcourt Centre in Belfast this year. PZ has held meetings in Queen's Student Union, Cultarlann, Devenish and other community hubs. During 2020, Project Zambia now has 'Zoom' meetings as well!

The Christian Brothers, whose founder is Edmund Rice, have had an established presence in Zambia for many decades. They were kind enough to allow us to make use of their local knowledge and organised initial introductions; particularly Br Mc Court and Br Kearney. They highlighted areas which were in great need of support and introduced Project Zambia to trusted associates who we continue to work with to this day. The Christian Brothers and the wider Edmund Rice Network (ERN) continue to be a great support to Project Zambia.

Zambia is a sub-Saharan country which is extremely poor. Poverty affects every aspect of life. The average life expectancy is only **48 years old**. Many people live in sub-standard accommodation; effectively slum conditions. School can be too expensive for families and diets can be very poor. The country has high rate of HIV/ AIDS and as a result, a high proportion of the child population is orphaned. Therefore grand-parent led households and child-led households are common.

Project Zambia currently supporting five communities in Zambia. There have been many great achievements and challenges during this year. It is a testament to our volunteer network that after all this time and especially this year; PZ is still successfully supporting the communities who we are committed to. This is especially remarkable as PZ is operating during a global pandemic, which has had a negative effect on global travel and also on public gathering – which is what most of our fundraising is based upon.

Every summer since 2004, an adult group of volunteers has fund-raised and travelled to Zambia with the aim of affecting positive change and building relationships with host communities. Due to the impact of Covid-19, 2020 was the first year that Project Zambia volunteers could not travel to Zambia. However, our network of volunteers continued to support our Zambian partners throughout this challenging year.

Despite the particularly difficult circumstances, Project Zambia has affected positive progress with impoverished communities. This is only possible with the support of the communities and trusted associates who represent them.

**A word from the leadership team:**

We would like to thank all those who have continued to support and believe in the cause of social justice about which we are so passionate. This year and the one previous have presented many challenges to our charity and our partners in Zambia. We promise to continue working hard to overcome the challenges presented by the pandemic and to provide sustainable solutions for improving the lives of our partnered communities in Zambia.

Zikomo,

Project Zambia management committee.