The difference Workaid makes

We have been trialling ways of measuring our impact (how we change lives) and not solely our output (how many containers we ship). A questionnaire is sent to vocational training projects a year after we send consignments. So far we have received responses mainly from Tanzania (14) & Zambia (12), and a small number from Kenya (3). By combining both quantitative and qualitative responses we can see a picture emerging of what the provision of these tools and equipment means to communities and projects of different sizes and styles. This information will help us to decide how to allocate resources to get the maximum benefit.

From the feedback so far it appears that support from Workaid enables individual projects to more than double the number of people that can access new skills. Even more pleasing is the impact this has on the daily lives of beneficiaries AND their families and communities.

This was particularly evident in the results from Tanzania where they recorded:
• Increases in the number of children able to continue in school due to a more stable family income.
• Improved health and living conditions.
• Evidence of trainees sharing their skills with others in their community.
• Increases in self-esteem that come with learning new skills – this will help to ensure that these positive outcomes continue.

Access to more equipment by the training centres also means that the trainers can develop their own skills and in turn “train the trainer”. Almost all projects reported that they are better able to plan for the future as a result of our support.

Quotes from projects and students:

Ludewa Tinsmith project (Tanzania)
“Many students are orphans and street children. We took them to our group and they are now self-employed and earn their own income. Their model for the future is to establish self help groups in their areas so that other orphans from the streets can join them”.

Dodoma Secretarial College (Tanzania)
“Some girls were regarded as useless, but by training they regained the respect from their families and became reliable people”.

Beautiful Gate (Zambia)
“Following the death of his parents from HIV/AIDS Kendrick had to drop out of school to look after his siblings. He was one of our first students and is now a qualified electrician and can use his skills to support his siblings”.

The small print bit! It’s early days for us in measuring impact, and as a small charity we don’t have the resources that much bigger charities can devote to it. Also, measuring impact is not always easy. In Workaid’s case there are several factors that make it a complicated exercise such as the:

• Delay between shipping the goods from the UK and them being received
• Time required for the beneficiaries to learn the new skills
• Subjective nature of the assessment of some benefits

As such, please see this as a work in progress and we will provide more confident updates on impact as the amount of feedback we receive builds up.
The results of our work give us, and more importantly the people who support us, confidence that their generosity in both time and money is well worth it. The continual flood of requests for help that we receive is evidence that there is still a huge need for support from Workaid in these communities.

There are several ways you can donate much needed funds to help cover the cost of refurbishing and shipping equipment to change peoples lives for the better.

**Midday Tues 27th November to Midday Tues 4th December**

The Big Give’s Christmas Challenge is great way of making a donation which is then matched – every £1 donate turns into £2 for our cause!

Once again we are raising funds to support vocational training projects in prisons in Zambia. In 2013 we started supporting Zambia NGOs with tools for vocational training projects for prisoners. We want to focus most of the next two containers we send there on projects concentrating on current and ex-offenders, having seen the difference it makes. So far nearly 1,000 prisoners have been enrolled on training supported by us, of whom over 700 have passed their training so are better able to make a life after they are released. 200 of these have already benefited from last year’s funding from the Big Give and we can do so much more! Any donations up to £10,000 which are received online through the Big Give website from midday on 27th November until midday on 4th December will be doubled.

You’ll need to go to the BIG Give Christmas Challenge website and search for Workaid, or follow the link: www.secure.thebiggive.org.uk/projects/view/27305 and press the DONATE button.

The Big Give rules are important – donations made outside of this period or not through the Big Give website will not be doubled so make a diary note now!

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**Medium State Prison Skills Training Project** (Zambia)

“Smart Chanda is an ex offender who was privileged to be trained using the tools & equipment supplied by Workaid. On his release he was able to set up a carpentry workshop. Today he generates an income to pay for himself and his family.”

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**PRACTICAL GIFTS**

Workaid gifts are the perfect gift solution for those people that are a bit tricky to buy for... With options from £10 to £40 now available through our website you can purchase vouchers ranging from simple haberdashery kits to sewing or knitting machines, right through to bicycles and mechanics kits. For more information please go to: www.workaid.org/gift-shop

You can be sure your gift will MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE to someone’s life.

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**GIVE WHILE YOU SHOP**

Just in case you don’t find what you are looking for in our Practical Gift collection you can still help support our work without costing you an additional penny. By shopping through the easyfundraising.org.uk site you can access a wide variety of leading shops and brands such as John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and many more. The stores then give a percentage of your spend to Workaid.

Alternatively, if you log in to Amazon via smile.amazon.co.uk then you can select Workaid as your nominated charity and the same thing happens! 0.5% of everything you spend via Amazon will come to Workaid at no additional cost to you.

We hope that you will support us and help us to build on our success.

Thank you
The Workaid Team