

NEWS

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. It is now just over a year since Workaid first closed its doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then we have re-opened and closed a further two times. We have now just re-opened for a third time and I am cautiously optimistic that we can remain open this time!

We are still being very careful and our number one priority is to keep volunteers and staff safe. We have learnt a great deal and, with the successful implementation of an on-line rota system, we have been able to get back up and running very quickly.

What are our plans for 2021 and beyond?

Send much needed tools and equipment to Africa

First and foremost we want to start sending containers to Africa again. Not unsurprisingly we were only able to send two containers between March and December last year. Our target is to send seven containers between April 2021 and March 2022, three to Zambia, two to Tanzania, one to Uganda and one to Sierra Leone.

This is quite ambitious and is dependent on there being no further lockdowns, but the improved rota system to ensure optimum volunteers on site means we are in a good position to achieve our goal. Going forward we hope to be able to increase the number further.

Partnerships in Africa and the UK

In Zambia we will be working with our partner organisation, the Vwila Foundation, to support the training of technical staff to service and repair sewing machines in 10 Youth Resource Centres. We will also support the Vwila Foundation to hold workshops to share best practice for training managers at correctional facilities, youth resource centres and smaller training charities. Across the board, we will be strengthening our systems for monitoring and evaluation of projects.

We are exploring an exciting new opportunity to partner with a small UK charity to support three local voluntary organisations in Tanzania to service and repair sewing machines. The other UK charity has been supporting this work for several years with considerable success but partnering with Workaid will enable them to achieve more. We will of course continue to support our other local partners in Tanzania.

In Sierra Leone we have been talking to our old friends, Home Leone. We hope to be able to send a container that will support their important work and that of several other worthy organisations in the country.

We will also continue to support projects in Uganda with greater emphasis on the West of the country. Being one of the remotest parts of Uganda there are fewer organisations such as Workaid supporting projects and yet there is great need. We will therefore build the capacity of our partners to improve the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of projects, with the aim of ensuring the work we support is of the highest quality.

While Workaid volunteers in the UK will continue to play a vital role in servicing and repairing various tools and equipment, we are starting to place greater emphasis on providing young people in Africa with the skills to repair and service equipment. Initially this will be sewing machines but could be extended to other tools over time.

Finally, I have been in regular contact with Emmanuel Zulu and Maureen Mtika of the Vwila Foundation in Zambia by Zoom. While I have missed being able to travel to see the amazing work they are doing, it has certainly lifted my spirits to be able to talk and plan for the future with them.

Emmanuel has written an article for this newsletter to explain what he is doing this year and to highlight a couple of the young people who have benefited from vocational training and established their own businesses. Emmanuel's enthusiasm is infectious so I hope you will enjoy reading his report later in the newsletter.

I know that 2020 was the most difficult year imaginable and the beginning of 2021 has been equally tough. However, I am excited by the prospect of Workaid being able to get back to doing what we do best in 2021, enabling young people to learn vocational skills and providing them with the tools to escape poverty.

Adrian Hatch, CEO

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your donations have helped provide training and equipment for people like Rainford and Dainess, featured in this newsletter, who have gained the skills to run their own business to teach others. To continue our work we need your help. A donation of £25 would provide a sewing machine allowing someone to set up a business. £30 would provide a full carpentry kit. To see other ways you can donate or help, visit our website at workaid.org and click the Get Involved menu or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

FOCUS ON THE VWILA FOUNDATION IN ZAMBIA

I am Emmanuel Zulu, the Director of the Vwila Foundation in Lusaka, Zambia. I thought you might like to know a little bit about the organisation, how we work in partnership with Workaid in the UK and our plans for this year.



Emmanuel Zulu and Maureen Mtika of the Vwila Foundation

Our partnership with Workaid

The organisation was established in 2017 to work exclusively with Workaid and we are mandated to issue and receive applications from local organisations on Workaid's behalf.

Upon receipt of applications, we carry out a desk appraisal to ascertain the suitability of the prospective project.

Projects that meet the criteria are then scheduled for us to carry out a field appraisal to confirm the information provided in the proposal. In 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development for the provision of tools and equipment to Youth Resource Centres and their graduating students to establish businesses.

After the field appraisal has been conducted, a report is submitted to Workaid together with the original application. The final approval is done by a projects team in the UK. When a project is approved, it is notified through the Vwila Foundation. Upon receipt of documentation regarding a particular container we begin the process of engaging the Ministry of Finance and Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA). When an approval for a tax rebate is given by the Ministry of Finance, we submit the same to ZRA and hand over a copy to a Clearing Agent.

Prior to the container arriving in Lusaka, we communicate and allocate a date and time for the recipient project to come and collect their consignment.

The container is opened on a set date and consignments clustered per project for easy distribution. The clients then come to collect their consignment beginning with the nearest on the first day and the furthest on the last day.

Upcoming activities for 2021

2021 will be a particularly busy year for the Vwila Foundation. We have a number of projects and activities planned to increase the impact of the work we support and to empower young people to make a better future for themselves and their families.

We hope to receive three containers of tools and equipment from Workaid to support projects in Youth Resource Centres, Correctional Facilities and smaller charitable organisations that train young people in various vocational skills. Over and above these projects, we plan to carry out the following:

Servicing and Repairing Sewing Machines

In neighbouring Zimbabwe there are many people who have been trained to service and repair sewing machines. There is even a nationally recognised vocational qualification that people can study for.

In 2021 the Vwila Foundation will work in partnership with 10 Youth Resource Centres to train technical staff who can then train young people on tailoring courses. A trainer has already been identified and Workaid is providing a large number of sewing machines, spares and tools to support the project.

Going forward we hope to introduce the course at Technical Education Vocational Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) certification level. This is a nationally recognised formal qualification.

Workshop with the Organisations we Support

We will be holding two workshops to promote and exchange best practice and ideas. The first will be for representatives from Government Youth Resource Centres and smaller independent training charities. The second workshop will be for the technical staff of Government Correctional Facilities (Prisons). This will enhance collaboration in service delivery to benefit the inmates.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Projects we Support

We are recruiting a dedicated person who will work with the projects we support to monitor and evaluate the success and impact of these projects. We will hold a workshop once this person is recruited and involve all Vwila Foundation staff and also Adrian Hatch from Workaid. The plan will be to review the system we currently use and to identify measurements of success.

Conclusion

The Vwila Foundation is forever grateful and appreciative for the continued resources received from Workaid UK and their supporters. Even during the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic we were operational and continued to provide services, albeit on a limited scale. We are much more optimistic for 2021 and beyond. Together with my colleagues we would like to thank you for your support which has really inspired us.

Stay safe and we look forward to reporting back to you with our news over the course of 2021.

RAINFORD LEWILA



Rainford Lewila receiving a sewing machine donated by Workaid. It was presented to him by Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, Hon. Joe Kapembwa

Rainford Lewila is 25 and attended primary and secondary school in Solwezi District of North Western Province of Zambia. He completed secondary school in 2012.

He later travelled to Lusaka where he got a job as a waiter at the Mulungushi Conference Centre. Out of savings from his salary, he bought his first sewing machine. He decided to stop working at the Conference Centre and take a tailoring course at Lusaka Youth Resource Centre (LYRC).

Before graduating from LYRC, Rainford formed a company called Emmetropia Fashion Design Ltd together with three other students. Instead of looking for employment elsewhere, they immediately opened a tailoring shop. In 2018, they received sewing machines from Workaid. This boosted their production. During the first wave of COVID-19, the shop was closed and they started operating from home. However, the business is now stabilizing. They were able to rent another shop where they are now operating from.



Interns from Lusaka Youth Resource Centre at the shop

Rainford is not yet married but is taking care of a young brother who is at secondary school. By selling garments produced using the original machines given by Workaid he has been able to buy extra sewing machines. LYRC has trusted Rainford such that they attach students to his shop for work experience.

What is his plan for the future?

Rainford has a flair for fashion design and intends to establish a formal design and tailoring school which will endeavour to develop his students' creativity.

Rainford is a great example of the entrepreneurial spirit that exists within the young people of Zambia. We have been proud to support so many like Rainford. Their dreams and aspirations are an inspiration to all those who meet them. The Vwila Foundation and Workaid intend to help many more over the coming years.



Rainford designs attractive dresses and shirts

DAINESS KABASO



Dainess Kabaso is a 36 year old wife and mother of four children. Her interest in tailoring developed when she was at secondary school. In 2013, she enrolled at Lusaka Youth Resource Centre (LYRC) to do Design Cutting and Design. She did her industrial attachment at Zambia National Service.

After she left LYRC, Dainess and two other graduates formed a company called Daimor Fashion and Design. They applied for support from Workaid and eventually received a consignment in January 2020 from the container Sr Mary Fallon. Dainess is very thankful to Workaid for the sewing machines and materials.

The business was adversely affected during the COVID-19 pandemic as their main focus is sewing dresses for wedding and kitchen party functions. However, during this period Dainess has started to enrol students who come to learn tailoring. They pay a fee of Zambian Kwacha 250 per month (£8.33) for a six-month course. Currently there are three students enrolled.

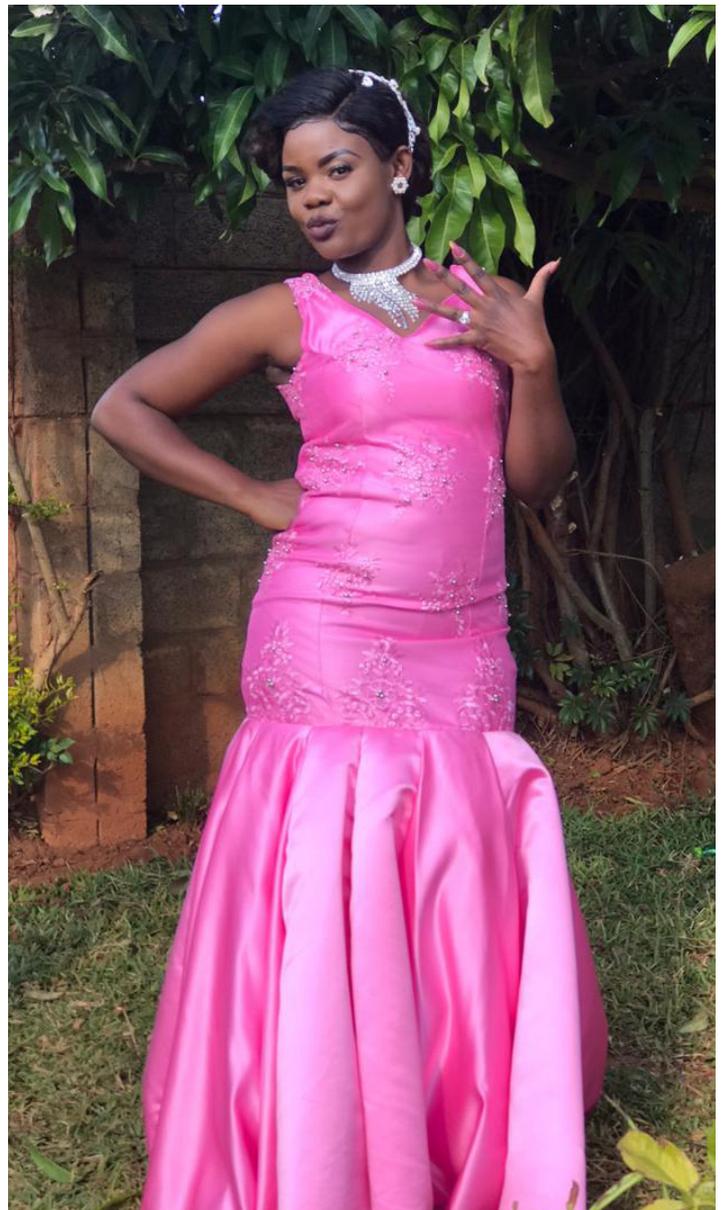
In the future, Dainess would like to establish a formal tailoring school.



Dainess's workshop



Example of casual wear



Sample of wedding wear