

A STRATEGIC REVIEW

Over the past few months we have been reviewing how we operate in Africa; the strategic aims set 2 years ago have largely been met and we are now looking to the longer term. We want to ensure we are doing our best to support young people in Africa to gain a valuable vocational skill and to ascertain gainful employment or establish their own businesses.

On my visit to Zambia and Uganda 2 years ago I had the pleasure of seeing many of the projects that we have supported and the benefit they have brought to their local communities. However, in a few cases despite rigorous vetting processes, some tools were not properly used or maintained.

Going forward, we are changing the evaluation process from the recipient project self-evaluating to independent evaluations carried out by our main partner organisations locally. Aside from Zambia, our in-country assessors are dealing with increasing personal demands reducing their ability to carry out thorough evaluations. This is why Workaid UK staff visits are vital to build strong foundations for the projects we assist and ensure they make the most efficient use of your generous donations. Despite our best efforts it is difficult to visit all the projects that we support and therefore, some may go a long stretch without a visit only exacerbated by the pandemic.

Our strategic aims have required adjustments as we navigated the unpredictability and challenges of the pandemic. Instead of being discouraged by this, we have used it as a catalyst to adapt and form dynamic solutions. We have been exploring exciting potential partnerships with other UK based international development charities, hoping to learn from one another and share resources to maximise the support that we can offer for young people in Africa. The next couple of years will therefore be a period of development and change. We are enthusiastic to share some of these plans with you...

FOCUS ON TANZANIA: TOOLS FOR SOLIDARITY



Sewing machines ready for shipping

Established in 1984 in Belfast, Tools for Solidarity (TfS) has helped thousands of artisans in African countries by providing refurbished sewing machines and tools. This act of kindness improves the lives of many people and supports those in need.

"We believe that we should all live simply so that others can simply live!"

For the past several years they have supported projects in Tanzania. Jointly we have linked up with The Mwanza Sewing and Tailoring Centre (MSTC), who, for a reasonable fee, provide a serviced sewing machine and seven days of intensive tailoring training to local people. Experience shows that the fee not only ensures greater care and personal value are attributed to the machines rather than receiving them for free, but also results in a self-sustaining model as the income generates funds for maintenance and the upkeep of the centre. The project also donates a percentage of machines to people with disabilities free of charge and includes additional training tailored to their needs. Over the next 18 months we will contribute over 500 sewing machines, and are optimistic that we can replicate this model in the other countries we work in.

FOCUS ON UGANDA: AMIGOS

As part of our collaboration over the past few years they have supplied us with un-refurbished tools. A project we are currently supporting is the Kira Farm Development Centre.

This 12-month training course welcomes 50 trainees annually to develop life-changing practical and personal skills. This project also acts as a place of healing and growth for young people, many of whom have already overcome great hardships. Their newly acquired vocational skills offer long-term employment security and an invaluable contribution to the growth of Kira Farm as a sustainable community.

On our most recent container to Uganda there are numerous carpentry and masonry kits, sewing machines and plenty of haberdashery.



Beatrice Adong

Amigos Worldwide is a Devon-based charity supporting people to work their way out of poverty with dignity by providing them with the tools that they need to flourish.

“Together with our local partners, we create lasting solutions to poverty and hunger in Uganda.”

FOCUS ON SIERRA LEONE: HOME LEONE

Our partnership with Home Leone has strengthened greatly this year. We have already sent a large quantity of tools and equipment but are very excited to pack and fill an entire container for them. The items range from refurbished and un-refurbished tools and equipment, haberdashery and large woodworking and metalwork machines.

In the years to come, we hope to expand our support to other suitable organisations and projects.



Home Leone construction trainees

Home Leone is building “Destiny Village” near Newtown, Sierra Leone. This is an innovative community project aiming to relocate over 2,500 people from across Freetown’s 72 slums. This life-changing community development will provide low-cost housing, education, jobs, training and business venture opportunities.

This project also utilises eco-friendly solutions in their community design and layout; installing solar panels, long-term clean water supply, recycling management and a waste friendly incinerator.

Their community-led relocation provides a great chance for residents to change their lives and shows inspiring potential as a scalable pilot programme.

FOCUS ON SIERRA LEONE: HOME LEONE APPRENTICES

AN INTERVIEW WITH ABUBAKKAR

Despite Abubakkar's successes at school and previous entry into vocational training his pursuits were held back due to mounting education expenses and pressure from the family he lived with and worked for. Balancing the demands of work and school was difficult and his employer would not provide his food as punishment for not meeting their impossible expectations. Despite these pressures, Abubakkar worked diligently, often the first up in the morning and the last to go to sleep at night as he secured the house grounds. Working long hours on minimal sleep and at times on an empty stomach; it is fair to say this is not an ideal situation to survive in, let alone learn the skills he needs.

Upon managing to break away from this oppressive environment Abubakkar was granted an apprenticeship with Home Leone. A year on, he has almost completed his carpentry training, learning a wide set of skills and gaining great practical knowledge. Driven by his passion for learning Abubakkar doesn't want his training to end and plans to study electrics as well. He enjoys using his analytical skills to work with accuracy and precision which are required in both fields. Equipped with a toolbox of Workaid donated tools and the support of Home Leone, Abubakkar will be well on his way to self-sufficiency as he has the means to find gainful employment. With a varied background of experience, and his newfound confidence and skills, he will be well placed to take on an extensive range of jobs.



Abubakkar

AN INTERVIEW WITH JALLOH



Jalloh

Jalloh, a 25 year old apprentice with Home Leone previously made and sold food to cover his education expenses. However, when this was no longer possible Jalloh was forced to drop out of school and faced the intimidating prospect of trying to find work. With the help of Workaid donated tools, paired with Home Leone's training guidance, Jalloh has the opportunity to expand his skill set and broaden the variety and volume of work that

he can confidently undertake. Jalloh's self-confidence has grown significantly since getting his toolbox, saying he now has "the mind to do the work" as he feels empowered by his abilities.

Now living independently, his skills training has ensured that he is self-sufficient and benefitting from employment options. In the long-term, once completing his apprenticeship, Jalloh would like to continue working with Home Leone. His valuable skill set will support sustainable housing solutions lifting families out of poverty. Jalloh is a wonderful role model to other young people through his exemplary dedication to his training and commitment to his work.



Hard-working apprentices Abubakkar and Jalloh



COME AND VOLUNTEER



Browse the profiles on our website for an idea of the various roles that you could get involved in. Any necessary training is provided, all we require is enthusiasm and a readiness to get stuck in! You can find all you need at workaid.org/volunteer



ZAMBIA: THE BIG GIVE

One donation, twice the impact!

Once again, Workaid is participating in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge**. This year we are focusing on improving the quality of what we do in Zambia.

“I am so delighted that I have been privileged to acquire a new skill in repairing and servicing sewing machines. I know that my personal life will now change because I will earn an extra income through fixing other peoples’ machines.”

— Ziangani Phiri - teacher at Lusaka Youth Resource Centre



Last year with our exclusive partners, the Vwila Foundation ran a pioneering pilot programme at the Lusaka Youth Resource Centre (LYRC). There, tailoring tutors were trained by a qualified local teacher to gain an accredited skill in sewing machine repair and maintenance. This pilot was a great success enabling the teachers to pass on their new skills to 20 tailoring trainees. Almost all of these have since found gainful employment or set up businesses.

We want to roll the programme out to those teaching tailoring at a further 10 vocational training centres. In turn, this means a further 100 trainees will learn these vital skills each year.

Though the manual Singer machines we send to vocational training centre are durable, a proportion become unusable due to general wear and tear of constant use so need maintenance and repairs from time to time. Since Workaid’s foundation, we’ve sent almost 24,000 sewing machines to Africa, but feedback tells us that a percentage fall into disuse each year, many with eminently fixable problems like over-oiling.

For the ultimate beneficiaries, this is a real problem. Replacement machines cost an average of £100 locally; many are not as durable as the Singers we send and financially out of reach for a young person. By enabling them to learn skills in repair and maintenance we will improve the likelihood that their training will have an enduring impact in helping them help themselves out of poverty.

Your support through the **Big Give** will mean that we can send un-refurbished machines as training aids and to give to graduates. This funding will enable us to cover all the costs of running the training including tuition, travel expenses and the venue hire. An additional benefit is that it increases connections between the training centres, building their ability to support and learn from one another.

HOW YOU CAN DONATE

The campaign opens on the **30th of November at midday** and runs **until 7th December**.

To donate visit workaid.org/biggive and follow the instructions. The first £5,000 of donations made during the campaign will be matched - your donations really will have twice the impact!

THE WORKAID SHOP



Deep breath . . . the holiday season is upon us.

At the Workaid Shop, there’s something for everyone! There’s still time to buy Christmas crafting and haberdashery goodies for personal handmade presents, as well as our usual stock of sewing machines, beautiful fabrics, wools, arts and crafts supplies.

Plenty of gifts to be found amongst our amazing range of both vintage and new tools, electrical items, horticultural equipment, hardware, and let’s not forget the many weirdly wonderful and occasionally hard to identify objects.

Celebrate the holidays with us. We’d like to thank the community as we have been humbled by the continued support and enthusiasm of our customers.

Our opening hours – Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 10am to 4pm.

Virtual Gifts

Buy a **VIRTUAL GIFT** online to give a gift that will change a life this Christmas.

Choose from our ‘virtual’ gift options that range from a **£10 haberdashery kit** to a **£100 pillar drill**. Fill in the details, pay securely online and gift cards will be sent to you for giving to your family or friends as requested.

Your gift will have a direct impact in helping to break the cycle of poverty in Africa, as it will enable someone to learn a new skill.

Give a gift and change a life!

Find out more here at workaid.org/gift-shop



KICKSTART

In line with our goal to empower young people in Africa to improve their skills and opportunities, we have hired three local young people through the government’s Kickstart grant offering a 6-month position.

The scheme was set up to help 16 to 24-year-olds find employment and benefit from meaningful workplace experience and focused training.