

Empowering Young People in Africa Through Vocational Training

Welcome to Workaid's winter newsletter. How quickly the year has passed, but it has been a year where we have strengthened our partnerships in Uganda and Zambia.

We continue to place our focus on establishing longer-term relationships with country partners and supporting specific vocational training projects. We are working with them to ensure that their workshops are fully equipped and able to supply starter kits to students who graduate from these training programmes. This gives them the opportunity to form small groups and establish a business.

We have continued to fund an intensive training program for tailoring instructors to learn how to service and repair the sewing machines they receive from Workaid. It's our plan to service at least 50% of the sewing machines we send to Africa locally in Zambia and Uganda, rather than the UK.

Our plan is to partner with these organisations for longer, supporting their efforts to provide the best quality training to young people.



Uganda

Over the past 18 months we have worked hard to build our partnerships with organisations including: **Albert Valley Institute of Vocational Studies** in Western Uganda, **Interservice** in Central Uganda and **Amigos (Kira Farm)** in Central Uganda, who have outreach programmes in Northern and Eastern Uganda. Our partnership with Amigos continues to develop, this year we provided them with funding for the refurbishment of their carpentry training workshop and supplied several items of machinery to ensure the workshop is fully up to scratch. In addition, we have recruited Benjamin Mwine as our Project Assessor and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. For more details see the next page.

Zambia

Our partnership with the Vwila Foundation in Zambia goes from strength to strength. The programme to develop vocational training in secondary schools in conjunction with the Ministry of Education in Mumbwa District has expanded. Work has been completed in schools renovating classrooms for tailoring and workshops for building-trades training. Additional schools have been identified in the district as part of the initiative to provide the right learning environment for students. They are currently taught outside, usually under trees! Workaid, with Vwila Foundation, aim to expand this initiative to schools in Mumbwa District through funds raised in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023 (see back page).

As the schools' programme has grown, we have helped build the Vwila management team to assist Emmanuel Zulu, Vwila's Director by recruiting a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and most recently a Project Assessment Officer. The latest position is based in the town of Mumbwa at the heart of Vwila's programme to provide vocational training in secondary schools. A key part of the role will be to identify future vocational training institutions in Mumbwa and neighbouring districts.

We're really pleased with how both country programmes are progressing. Over the coming year we look forward to bringing you stories of young people who have gained a trade skill, built a sustainable livelihood and how their lives and those of their families are changing for the better.

Adrian Hatch, CEO

News from Uganda

Welcome Benjamin Mwine

Amigos at Kira Farm have appointed Benjamin Mwine as our Project Assessor and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, we are delighted to welcome him to the team.

Officially employed by Amigos, Benjamin will work exclusively for Workaid and will be funded by us. His role is similar to that of Eryeza Kasiringi (Kas) in Western Uganda and Emmanuel Zulu in Zambia.

A dedicated person strengthens our strategy of identifying quality projects that we can build longer term partnerships with, to strengthen their vocational training programmes and their ability to help their graduates establish small-scale viable trade businesses. Benjamin will travel to Amigos satellite programmes in Gulu and Masindi Districts, reviewing several potential vocational training institutions for support and implementing a Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

Kira Farm Development Centre

A lot of hard work has taken place to create a new carpentry workshop at **Kira Farm Development Centre just outside Kampala**, the workshop will contain Workaid supplied specialist carpentry machinery, and will be used to train young people from the surrounding districts. To ensure the structure of the workshop was strong enough to accommodate the machinery in the workshop, a reinforced concrete floor was laid earlier this year, funded by Workaid.



Escovia's Story

Escovia graduated from **Albert Valley Institute of Vocational Studies (AVIVS)** where she completed a tailoring course. Before completing the course, she was a small-scale farmer on her family plot. She now rents a sewing machine and operates her tailoring business from a small shop that she rents with two other women.

Business has been slow to get going but she is still managing to earn an income to support her family. Escovia has two daughters, 3 and 5 years old, the eldest attends school.

She is looking forward to receiving a sewing machine from AVIVS (through Workaid) which she will share with two other recent graduates. The machine will enable her and the other graduates to produce and repair clothes more quickly, greatly reducing her overhead costs and increasing her income.



Zambia Schools Update

Student Success at National Competition

Congratulations to Bulungu Secondary School (Mumbwa District) students who participated in the Provincial Junior Engineers Technicians and Scientists (JETS) competition, earlier this year. Several of the students received prizes for bricklaying, tiling, landscaping, metal fabrication, carpentry and electrical skills, securing the top spots in bricklaying and tiling.

As a result of the school's success at the provincial level, two students advanced to the 53rd National JETS competition. The event took place at the National Science Centre in Kabulonga, Lusaka at the end of August, attracting pupils from all 10 regions in the country. The theme of the JETS competition was to promote innovation, engineering & entrepreneurship, with the aim to provide young people with the necessary tools and environment in which they can create sustainable solutions to some of the economic challenges in the country.

Mulenga Fields, from Bulungu Secondary School, was one of the students who had success at the regional level and went to the National JETS fair. He has six brothers and three sisters and his family are all farmers, generating a small income. He was keen to change his family situation and enrolled at Bulungu Secondary School, where he studies design and technology. He says "in design and technology, we learn a lot of things; bricklaying, electrical, carpentry, mechanical and civil engineering. These are skills that we can use to change the way we are living."

Mulenga along with one other student attended the National JETS fair which consisted of two parts, the initial competition followed by a 2-week boot camp where the students developed their knowledge and skills. "We learned a lot of things, trying to improve and develop our projects. I learned to say - "in life, you just keep on trying."

Congratulations to Mulenga who came second in 'Wall and Floor Tiling' at the National competition. Mulenga hopes to become a mechanical engineer in the future and use the skill that he has learnt to build a sustainable livelihood and support his family.



"This was the most amazing thing for me that has ever happened in my life."

- Mulenga, student

"The receiving of tools from Workaid has led to an increase in the number of students taking the vocational pathway of design and technology at Bulungu Secondary School. We have the majority of learners in that subject because of the help that we received, the teaching has been made easier and we really appreciate the donations."

- Annie Njovu, Head Teacher, Bulungu Secondary School



Volunteer News

Tools on the move

To continue the development of projects in Zambia such as the Schools project, two of our most recent container shipments headed to Zambia. One in June (Keith II) and the other in October (Chif) left our workshop each with over 700 boxes containing a variety of kits, tools and equipment. Volunteers are offered the chance to name a container, as a small way to acknowledge their length of service and dedication to our work.

Keith II

Keith has been aware of Workaid and its vision for over 25 years. During a visit to Africa with Sylvia Parrott (Workaid Patron) in 1999 he visited a number of vocational projects. Keith said, "I have been fortunate enough to visit Africa in the past and see first-hand the benefits of supplying tools to young people. It is therefore a privilege to have my name on the container."

"I am so happy to still volunteer and contribute to Workaid's wonderful work."

- Keith, volunteer

The container arrived safely in September and items have been collected by 18 projects, including several of the schools in the Zambian Rural Schools project where workshops are being renovated or built to provide a safe and better environment for the students to learn trade skills.



If you wish to support our Zambian Rural Schools project please donate during the Big Give Christmas Challenge week
workaid.org/biggive



Chif's Story

Known as Chif, Chi Fung Tang has been volunteering at Workaid since he was 22 and continues to do so twenty years later. In his words, he feels good about helping Workaid, because they help people. Despite his learning challenges, Chif has always worked hard and loves to help out. As a thank you for all his hard work, Chif has been recognised with a container named after him. He said he was "very proud and great honour."



Chif joined The Hub in 2004, where he enjoyed the social aspect while doing important tasks, which gave him self-worth as it means he 'goes' to work. The Hub gave Chif a sense of independence in a safe environment, he learnt to be responsible for organising himself and keeping to a schedule. He is a valued volunteer and now helps out around the workshop site, ensuring that it is clean and tidy and goes out to help with collections.

He lives at home with his wonderful foster parents Liz and Chris. His achievements are endless - from climbing Ben Nevis, walking a Marathon raising £25k for a local charity, receiving his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and he achieved his Presidents badge in the Boys Brigade. Along with volunteering for Workaid he's an ambassador for the charity Ategi, part of the Eco Team at the local church where he also acts as Server, and is a staunch supporter of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

By the time you read this a shipment to Uganda (container Maggie) will either be on route or shortly leaving our workshop. Check out our website for the full story.

Bringing Tools Back to Life

Ever wondered what happens to tools once they are donated? The 'Goods In' volunteers sort and organise all donations. From adjustable spanners to wheelnut spanners every tool finds its temporary home in a box on our 'alphabetically labelled shelving', before our 'Tools Refurb' volunteers take the tools to be transformed and repaired.

The weekly picker's list guides the Tools Refurb volunteers to select the urgently required tools and start the process of bringing them back to life. Metal tools with no loose parts head for a spin in the Vibro machine better known as the Rumbler Tumbler. The Rumbler Tumbler (installed in 2022, thanks to a grant) has significantly increased the number of tools that we can refurbish. "It saves a lot of elbow grease. It can clean up to 100 tools at a time - in just 45 minutes! Using a combination of ceramic chips, a litre of water and eco-friendly detergent, the rust is gently removed," says Tony.

Tony has volunteered with the charity for nearly nine years. After retiring from his job as an accountant, he wanted to learn something new and volunteer, so after being shown around the workshop, he never looked back. As a volunteer in the workshop, he fixes, cleans and oils (with a new plant based eco-friendly solution) tools for Africa. He also volunteers in The Workaid Shop, where his knowledge of tools is invaluable.

From accountants, engineers to nuclear scientists, there is a wealth of experience and knowledge amongst the team.

Richard our plane expert, computer engineer by background turned carpenter, volunteers one morning a week. "I have learnt so much about different tools coming here and we all teach each other."

Hammers, planes or any wooden tools not suitable for the Vibro machine head to the volunteer workbenches to be refurbished and given new life. With the additional help of a room filled with an array of machines including sanders, grinding stones and polishing machines, surface rust can be removed easily. Tools can be buffed to make them almost as good as new in no time at all.



Once the tools are refurbished and ready to go, they are taken to 'Picking & Packing' from there they are checked off the project list and packed into the container ready to begin a new life in Africa.

The journey begins with someone choosing to give tools and equipment a second life and save them from landfill. In turn, this generosity allows us to empower young people in Africa and help them build sustainable livelihoods.

"I really enjoy getting things to work again. It can sometimes be a real challenge. It's good fun and keeps your mind active." - Tony, volunteer

Volunteering

Interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities and finding something that you are passionate about?

Join our wonderful team of volunteers refurbishing and preparing items for youth vocational training projects in Africa.

All you require is enthusiasm!

We have volunteer openings across the board in a variety of roles so why not get in touch.

Explore in more detail on workaid.org/volunteer or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME



Fundraising

Forecourt & Fabric Sales

From fabric to forecourt it has been another busy time of sales at Workaid. This year we have been extremely fortunate with the weather and have not had to deal with the elements.

Individuals, local community groups, and businesses donate generously to enable us to hold sales, and we are always blown away by their generosity. Earlier this year we were contacted by a London based high-end furniture maker, Circus 25, who wanted to donate high-quality French and Italian upholstery fabrics. The company were keen to prevent waste by recycling the fabrics and saving them from potentially going to landfill, so we held an amazing Fabric and Upholstery Flash Sale in June.

Thanks to everyone who came along and stocked up at our Autumn Forecourt Sale in September. A huge shout out to all our volunteers, without whom these sales wouldn't be possible. These events help raise valuable funds to support costs associated with refurbishing and transporting tools and equipment to help young people.

Spring Forecourt Sale, March 2024, date tbc



Donate & Repurpose

One-off anonymous donations of boxes of wool enable us to provide knitting kits to train young people like Esther, who recently completed a knitting course, at Kyakahinda Community Development Project in Uganda. Continued contributions from community groups such as Weybridge Men's Shed who has delivered six vans loads of tools so far this year. Their donations along with hundreds more have not only enabled us to supply tools and equipment to African projects in the last few months, but we have also been able to donate items to some local community projects and charities. For example, we were delighted to be able to help out a local community garden club replace stolen items and to provide a sewing machine to an asylum seekers charity enabling the young people to sew and create again.

Donating your unwanted tools, equipment and items can change lives as well as having a positive impact on the environment.

Every year Workaid saves nearly 80 tonnes of tools from landfill



Help us empower young people by donating your tools and equipment

For more details check out our website workaid.org/donatetools

Christmas Shop

The holiday season is nearly on us! Our wonderful volunteers have been sorting through the generous donations creating festive packs and Christmas items ready for the shop. Special thanks to all our wonderful crafters who have been busily knitting away creating knitted Robins, Christmas Trees and Puddings filled with chocolate surprises, a perfect gift for friends and family.

The Workaid Shop has something for everyone! From Christmas crafting and haberdashery goodies to create personal handmade presents, to our usual stock of sewing machines, beautiful fabrics, wool, arts and craft supplies.

Plenty of gifts are to be found amongst our amazing range of both vintage and new tools, electrical items, horticultural equipment, hardware. Let's not forget the many weirdly wonderful, occasionally hard to identify objects and if you are really not sure what gift to buy, you can always purchase The Workaid Shop Gift Vouchers available instore only £5 / £10 units.

The Workaid Shop opening hours:
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10am – 4pm



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

Choose from gift options that range from £10 for a haberdashery kit to a £100 pillar drill. Order online today and a gift card will be sent to you to give to your friends and family, the gift will have a direct impact in helping to break the cycle of poverty in Africa, as it will enable someone to pick up a new skill. This will help individuals to become self-supporting so that they can earn a living, buy food and send their children to school.

Your Virtual Gift represents a donation to our life-changing work
workaid.org/virtualgifts

Targeting Our **Biggest Ever** 'Big Give' This Christmas - **£28,000!**

Workaid will be participating in the annual Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023, from 12pm on 28 November to 12pm on 5 December. For one week only every donation you make online via workaid.org/biggive will be doubled.

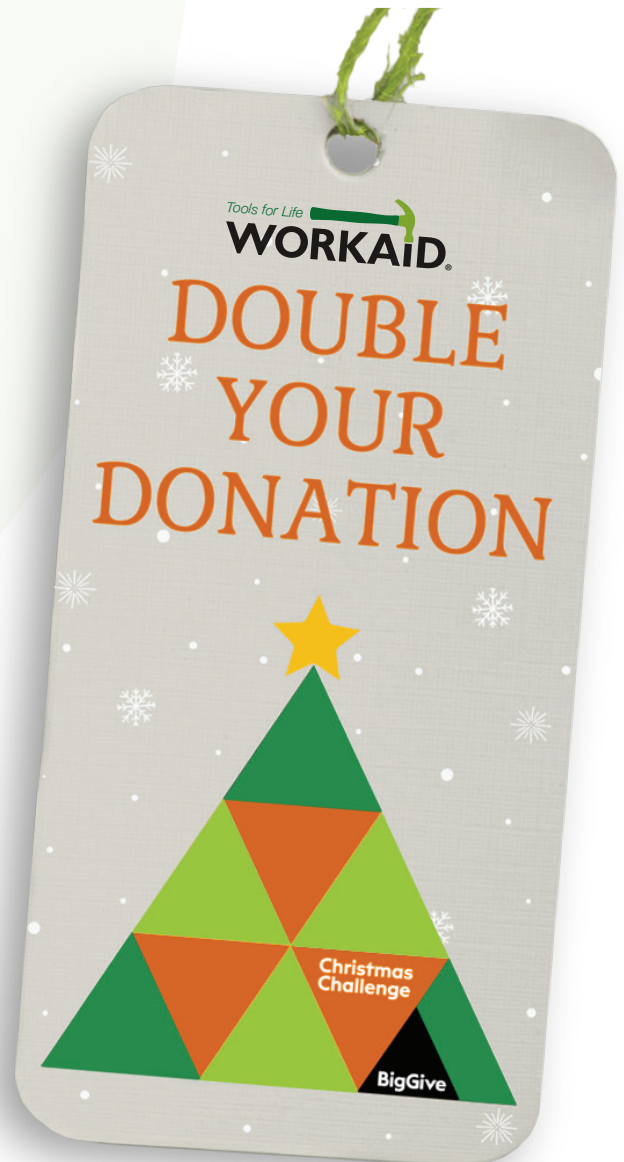
Our fundraising focus this year will be to build infrastructure and equip secondary schools in rural Zambia with, workshops, tools and equipment. This enables schools to deliver vocational training to a high enough standard that prepares young school leavers with the skills to find gainful employment.

Zambia has both high youth unemployment and a shortage of suitably skilled school graduates, the latter due to under resourced schools with poorly equipped workshops. Out of 10 million young people who leave school in Africa, each year only 3 million find employment. The lack of vocational skills contributes to high youth unemployment especially in rural areas.



"Workaid have provided sewing machines and renovated our tailoring classroom. I'm so excited to be learning to design and make clothes."

- Patrica, student



With our Zambian partner organisation, Vwila Foundation, we have successfully facilitated the development of vocational training infrastructure in six schools and provided each with a comprehensive package of refurbished tools. This will enable them to deliver vocational training in tailoring, building, metal working and carpentry to over **2,500** students this year. Through the Big Give this Christmas, we aim to raise **£28,000** to develop and equip four more schools, enabling them to transform thousands of young lives.

For one week only, 28 Nov – 5 Dec, every £1 you donate online will be doubled. One donation, twice the impact*

workaid.org/biggive

*up to a maximum of £14,000 of support donations

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