

Treasurer's Report

It has been another very challenging year for the people of Zimbabwe. But thanks to the amazing generosity of you, our supporters, and the tireless efforts of a fine team of volunteers in Bulawayo, we have been able to sustain the relief feeding programme to many hundreds of desperate families across Matabeleland. We give thanks for your faithful giving and the vision and dedication of our team who have not only responded to the immediate needs of those to whom they minister but are now engaged in the planning for the self-help community garden referred to in the report. Details are also given there of the quantities of relief food distributed by our team through the year.

While we wait for a Bank Account to be opened you can still make a donation.

The account name is GIVEALL2CHARITY.

Sort Code 20-84-61. Account number 33581209.

And please note it is important that you give the **Reference** "ZVSF – your surname"

If you are sending a cheque to me please make it payable to:

GIVEALL2CHARITY – ZVSF

Do please contact me if you would like any further information.

The accounts show a healthy balance at year-end, enabling us to provide funding for both the ongoing relief feeding programme and the other vital projects we are supporting.

Graham Matthews

Treasurer

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ZIMBABWE VICTIMS' SUPPORT FUND

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021 £		2022 £
RECEIPTS		
115,063	Donations & fundraising	88,233
13	Interest received	35
10,508	Gift Aid refund	16,692
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125,584		104,960
PAYMENTS		
125,956	Remittances to Zimbabwe	87,151
493	Finance costs	374
119	Administration and support in UK	125
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126,568		87,650
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- 984	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	17,310
37,117	FUNDS brought forward	36,133
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36,133	FUNDS carried forward	53,443



Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund

(Registered Charity Number 1145569)



Trustees and email contacts

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DEEPLY CHALLENGING ... WONDERFULLY REWARDING

Dear friends,

Chris Sworn has kindly provided a helpful update on the situation in Zimbabwe to accompany this report, so I need not comment on the pall of fear and desperation that hangs over a nation bracing for another election, or highlight the daunting challenges facing our team.

Through the year they distributed 226 tonnes of the staple food, mealie meal, along with soya chunks to those in greatest need. For children suffering malnutrition there was 996 kgs of e'pap, a nutritional supplement. At the same time five major deliveries of relief food were made to 6 primary schools in the impoverished Lupane area to sustain the programme of school lunches for very hungry children who walk many miles to attend school. The grateful staff say of our contribution *"the teachers provide lessons and you provide attendance and attention"*.

In November the team supervised the distribution of 6 tonnes of open-pollinated seed maize to those able to grow a small crop for their families. The seed was donated by the Mike Campbell Foundation. In the photo opposite you see Ma Sithole, one of the delighted recipients of a bag of seed, and in the photo above, Deacon Pauline standing alongside members of our team who are admiring her crop.

For some time now we have been exploring the option of setting up a self-help community garden, a new venture for ZVSF. During this time our team has been engaged in a conversation with our two partners in the project.

Admiring the crop grown by Deacon Pauline



Excited students (Shabula Primary School) know their school lunches are now assured



Ma Sithole joyfully receiving the seed maize

The first is the City Presbyterian Church in Bulawayo who own the land and have long held a vision of it being used to bless some of the displaced people living in the area. Our other partner is the Zimbabwe Democracy Development Trust (ZDDT) which has the technical skills and horticultural experience to supervise the venture through the crucial first six months (Phase 1) of the project.

Thereafter it is intended that the 125 families selected as the first participants will be self-supporting and self-governing under an agreed constitution. As I write (in mid-March 2023) I am delighted to say that this exciting new phase of our work is about to be launched. We are to provide the funding for Phase 1 - and be assured we will keep you informed of progress!

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of one of our founding members, John Stakesby Lewis who died in January 2023. John, a radiant Christian, and his widow Joan were there right at the beginning, in the turbulent years of 2001-2, hosting the first meeting of the group in their Bulawayo home. We are deeply indebted to them both for the huge contribution they have made to ZVSF.

I must also pay tribute to the committed and faithful team here in England, comprising my fellow Trustees and those working closely with us, who have faced a year of exceptional difficulty. We give thanks that the Lord has guided us through the year, and now blessed us with a new and most welcome member of the team, Chris Collier.

I suspect that all of us involved in this project – from the front-line team in Bulawayo to the team here, and to you our amazing supporters – would want to say that this work is deeply challenging and at the same time, wonderfully rewarding. The reward is in seeing the light of God's love breaking through the dark clouds of despair and bringing, even for a moment, that smile of joy and a ray of hope. Thank you all for being a part of this blessed ministry which is a blessing to so many.

Graham Shaw