



Reg Charity No 1112949

# ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

More than  
4,600 children have  
been successfully  
treated for clubfoot  
thanks to your  
generosity.

ZANE  
provides food,  
medical aid, comfort  
and support to around  
2,090 pensioners  
each year.

ZANE  
distributes a  
nutritional supplement  
to over 1,680 people  
who do not have  
sufficient food.

ZIMBABWE



Winter 2022/23

# Newsletter

## Thank you

**ZANE supporters are familiar with the challenging and deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe and the impact it has on the people we support. This year, the complex and worsening financial situation facing the UK has been added to the mix.**

High inflation, rising energy bills and high interest rates all have a direct impact on fundraising income. ZANE is not unique in this – it is a situation

keenly felt by charities across the UK. Sadly, the current decline in donations to ZANE will translate into a decline in aid sent to Zimbabwe next year.

However, despite these challenging times, there is much to celebrate and be grateful for. Thanks to ZANE's loyal supporters, we continue to provide lifesaving aid to more than 2,000 destitute pensioners, including around 560 war veterans and their widows. ZANE's clubfoot correction programme is still transforming the lives of children born with this condition – more than

4,600 children have now been successfully treated. And, in the high-density suburb where we work, our education projects are reshaping the lives of children who otherwise would not receive any form of schooling.

So, whilst the situation in Zimbabwe remains desperate and the economic outlook in the UK is gloomy, life for those supported by ZANE would be so much worse without your support. Please understand it is never taken for granted – and please know it really does save lives. Thank you.

# Paltry Pension

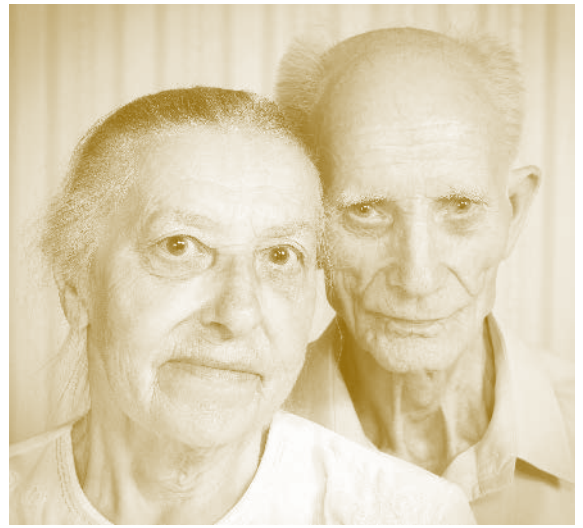
**Al, 76, and Violet, 73, live in Harare. They rent a tiny cottage in the garden of a homeowner, a situation that is increasingly common in Zimbabwe. As economic woes worsen, more and more people, who were just about getting by, are now finding themselves unable to manage. Those fortunate enough to own a property are renting out rooms and annexes, the extra income helping to keep their heads above water.**

Al had a long career as an engineer in the Rhodesian Army, and later specialised in bomb disposal. Unfortunately, he joined too late to benefit from a UK services grant. After leaving the army in 1988, he worked in landmine clearance, gaining an excellent reputation in his field. Al's small pension has devalued to such an extent in Zimbabwe's economic turbulence that it is

now worth just \$27 a month.

Still in good health, Al occasionally picks up odd jobs, but these are becoming increasingly hard to find. Violet suffers from lupus and requires regular medication, something the couple are struggling to afford. When her health permits, Violet makes and sells samosas and pickles to supplement their income. Al and Violet's daughter, a widow, is HIV-positive. Despite her own challenging circumstances, she is one of a minority in Zimbabwe fortunate enough to have a full-time job. This enables her to pay her parents' rent and contribute to her mother's medical costs.

ZANE does not currently have the funds to commit to a monthly contribution to Al and Violet. However, we



are providing a regular food parcel and ad hoc medical support whenever possible. The couple's situation is sadly commonplace – a lifetime of hard work rendered meaningless by circumstances beyond their control.

**“The food parcels have been a lifesaver. We are so thankful.”**



## Case Study Pop-up Classes

**ZANE recently met a very inspiring grandmother. Edith, 71, looks after eight grandchildren – the death of three of her children left them without anyone to look after them. She has one surviving son who lives with her and does some part-time work to help support the family.**

It is a dire situation – they live in poverty, but thankfully have access to some running water. Edith works hard to be able to feed her grandchildren.

Edith recently arrived at one of our pop-up classes with a young boy call Nigel. She said

that he wasn't even a relation of hers – she had found him living on a rubbish dump and taken him into her home, but had no way of paying for him to go to school. Nigel was dirty, malnourished and traumatised. Edith mentioned he had fallen the day before and she was concerned about his arm, which she had bandaged. On examination, it was clear the arm was broken. Edith had tears in her eyes as she told us she had no way of paying for him to have an X-ray and cast. We were able to step in to assist. After three hospital visits and eight weeks in a cast, Nigel was on the road to recovery.

Nigel has joined one of our pop-up classes where he receives a healthy meal each day and is making friends. Edith is volunteering one day a week at the pop-up classes, helping to prepare the meals. We are supporting the family with a regular food pack and are closely monitoring Nigel's progress. It is a privilege to be able to help this selfless lady and innocent boy.

*\*Names and images in this newsletter have been changed for security reasons*

# Parachute Packers

You may be familiar with the story of Charles Plumb – perhaps you read about him in Tom’s recent walk blog? Plumb was a US navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. He ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. Captured, he spent six years in a community Vietnamese prison. Plumb survived and went on to share his story with audiences.

It goes like this:

One day, Plumb and his wife were approached by a man in a restaurant who exclaimed, “You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam and were shot down.”

“How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb.

“I packed your parachute,” the man replied.

After that encounter, Plumb spent a great deal of time pondering the role this man had played in his life – a man who had spent hours in the bowels of the ship carefully packing the parachutes of fighter pilots, each time holding the fate of

someone he didn’t even know in his hands. Plumb asked his audience, “**Who’s packing your parachute?**”

The answer at ZANE is quite simple. It is you, ZANE’s kind supporters, who pack our parachute. You pack it with generosity and loyalty, thereby enabling our team of workers to deliver aid to the most needy and impoverished people in Zimbabwe. Thank you for being ZANE’s parachute packers.

*“To all the kind donors who, in spite of your own hardships, give money to the elderly in Zimbabwe: Life is not easy in Zimbabwe, but we count our blessings for where we are and who you are. Thank you. May the rain fall on your crops in abundance.”*

*“A heartfelt thank you to all who have helped me over the years. Without your help, I would not be able to afford the medication that keeps me alive.”*

*“I cannot find sufficient words to express my gratitude for all you have so generously done for the poor people of Zimbabwe. Without your help, so many of us would be destitute. Thank you for visiting us, always with a smile, and for caring. You are all angels of mercy.”*

***“Words are not enough to convey what your help means. You’re the reason we continue to smile and thank God for what we have. You are the lighthouse in the storm of life.”***



“ ZANE does fantastic work looking after vulnerable people in Zimbabwe and showing servicemen and women that they are not forgotten. They are professional, passionate and scrupulous about how the money is spent.

**HMA Melanie Robinson CMC**

UK Ambassador to Zimbabwe  
Former Executive Director of the World Bank



“ I have seen a little bit of ZANE’s work on the ground and from what I have seen, it is very, very impressive . . . ZANE is one of those lovely organisations that make a little bit of money go a long, long way. ZANE is a good cause and the money is properly and well spent.

**John Simpson CBE**

World Affairs Editor of the BBC





# Encouraging Sustainability



**When ZANE expanded its food programme to include a further care home in Marondera, the home was enabled to take a much-needed step towards greater sustainability.**

The food ZANE provided – meat, eggs, and fresh fruit and vegetables – vastly improved the diets of residents, both in quality and quantity. However, a wonderful side effect was that the home was able to begin growing its own food. Once the pressure of finding food for its residents each day

had been removed, attention could be turned to cultivating the abandoned garden. Things started modestly, with cabbages, onions and beetroot. Then came chickens for eggs and meat. Two years on, the garden has fruit trees bearing guavas, lemons and mangoes.

ZANE's gift has become one that keeps on giving fresh produce, day after day. Beaming with pride, the administrator said: *"We could never have improved so much without you; all of this is thanks to you"*.

A key part of the teaching at the ZANE-funded pop-up classrooms is farming. **Community gardens** have been created at three sites in the high-density suburb where the project is based, with the teaching mentors and children taking ownership of each garden. The children are taught to farm using the Foundations for Farming method. Families of the children attending the schools are encouraged to join in. Despite the challenging access to water in the dry season, the community has produced a strong crop of spinach, tomatoes, cabbages, beetroot, green peppers, leeks and onions. The produce is used to supplement the children's lunches during school time and to provide much-needed food for the families.

We encourage the farming methods taught to be replicated in the local communities where suitable land for growing is available. There has been much success with this, particularly in the growing of maize.



**“** I am deeply impressed with the work of ZANE; one of those charities that make a little money go a long way.

**Baroness Royall of Blaisdon**

Principal of Somerville College, Oxford  
Former Labour leader  
of the House of Lords



***"We could never have improved so much without you; all of this is thanks to you"***

# Currency Crisis

**Zimbabwe has always been a country highly dependent on foreign currency.** Over the years, the government has adopted many measures to conserve or ration foreign currency, but few of these measures have been successful in containing inflation due to gross mismanagement. **The annual rate of inflation is currently 260%.**

Zimbabwe has its own currency called the Zimbabwe dollar (ZWL). In a measure aimed at controlling inflation, the government has restricted the availability of ZWL cash, commonly referred to as the bond note. Most transactions are therefore conducted electronically through RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement).

This has led to a flourishing black market rate. A year ago, the black-market rate was ZWL185=US\$1. One year on, the black-market rate is ZWL750=US\$1, a devaluation of 75%.

ZANE raises its money in GBP but spends it in USD. A year ago, the exchange rate was £1=US\$1.37. Today (at the time of writing), the rate is £1=US\$1.14. In one year alone, the value of sterling has fallen by 14%. **This means that just to maintain aid at current levels, ZANE needs to raise 14% more. In the current economic climate, this is proving extremely challenging – hence, the tough decision to make reductions in aid next year.**

Because of the scarcity of foreign currency (USD) in Zimbabwe, retailers have to buy foreign currency on the black market in order to purchase their stock. The goods are then priced accordingly at an inflated price. Prices are rising daily in line with the black market rate. Pharmacies, especially, must purchase many drugs using foreign currency and are therefore obliged to charge pensioners in USD.

The effect of this inflationary spiral is devastating for the already destitute people of Zimbabwe – and the result is increased demand on ZANE at a time of declining income.

## Case Study

### A Friend in Need

**Christine, 79, worked as a primary school teacher. It was a career she dedicated 53 years of her life to and one that she loved. Unable to have children, Christine found huge joy in teaching and she took on many extra-curricular activities, including running the school choir and coaching the netball team. Sadly, Christine's husband died of cancer in his forties and she never remarried.**

When she retired, Christine took advice and invested her teacher's pension to supplement her small government pension. For a couple of years, she enjoyed her retirement, fulfilling a lifelong dream of travelling to

America. She planned many more adventures, but sadly – in an all-too-familiar tale – her investments and savings vanished in 2008, leaving her destitute. The sale of her flat and most of her possessions kept her just about afloat until three years ago, when she simply had no money left.

Too proud to ask for help, Christine was suffering with terrible anxiety and was badly anaemic. A neighbour alerted ZANE to her plight and we were able to step in to help. After gently means-testing Christine, a member of the ZANE team contacted some of her surviving friends, with her permission. Shocked to hear of Christine's plight, one of them kindly offered



her spare room, and ZANE helped Christine to move in. This friend had recently been bereaved and was very happy to have the company – a perfect arrangement. ZANE assists Christine with her food and medical bills.

*“Your help means the difference between my ability to cope and utter despair. Please know that your help does matter – a lot. It gives me hope for the future. Thank you.”*





## Crocodiles and Skeletons



**The Zimbabwe-based Old Legs team continues with its phenomenal fundraising endeavours for ZANE.**

This year, the team undertook two epic challenges. The first, in May, was a 380km journey by kayak from Milibizi to the Kariba Dam Wall, navigating hippos and crocodiles along the way. In July, a second Old Legs team set off on a 3,000km cycle ride from Harare to Namibia's Skeleton Coast. ZANE pays tribute to the Old Legs teams for their continued efforts to raise funds and awareness, and for the difference they are making to the lives of so many pensioners. Thank you. You can follow the team at [www.oldlegstour.com](http://www.oldlegstour.com)



## 100-Mile Mission

Earlier this year, ZANE team member Julia Baker took on the extraordinary challenge of running 100 miles across three races. First, she ran the gruelling Comrades Marathon, a 90km road race in Durban. She then ran the London Marathon in October, and recently completed the challenge with a 28km run in the high-density suburb where ZANE runs its education project. Julia is part of the team running pop-up classes in Zimbabwe, and her energy and enthusiasm in helping children to reach their potential is inspiring. Thank you to Julia for your amazing effort in raising over £3,000 for ZANE. The funds raised will help more children such as Nigel (see page 2).

## A Lasting Legacy

Did you know that if you leave a gift to a charity in your will, that gift is not subject to inheritance tax, so could reduce the taxable value of your estate? In addition, if you leave more than 10% of the total of your estate to charity, your inheritance tax rate will be reduced from 40% to 36%, which is a significant saving. If you are considering leaving us a gift in your will, thank you. It will be remembered for generations to come.

To add ZANE to your will, you simply need to contact your solicitor and provide them with the following details:

Charity Name: ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

Registered Charity Number: 1112949

It could not be easier. Thank you.



“ I much admire ZANE's valuable work amongst the poorest of the poor in Zimbabwe, particularly amongst pensioners and for its clubfoot programme.

**Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP**

Minister of State for the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office

Secretary of State for Overseas Development 2010–2012 ”

# ZANE Regular Giving – We Need You More Than Ever

Many thanks to those supporters who have set up a regular direct debit to donate to ZANE. A regular gift helps us to plan our work – donating to ZANE in this way lets us know how much income we'll have in the future. It helps us to know, day in and day out, that we will have a steady income stream that we can rely upon. It also allows you to plan your giving with the flexibility to change it at any time.

If you're able to donate to ZANE via a regular gift, every time you hear about our work, you'll know you've played a part in it. The gift you give to us today will help people, wherever the need is greatest.

A monthly direct debit of

**£5** will provide a modest food parcel twice a year for a destitute person.

A monthly direct debit of

**£13** will pay for monthly hypertension medication for an impoverished pensioner.

A monthly direct debit of

**£25** will pay for three pensioner cataract operations over the course of a year.

A monthly direct debit of

**£40** will pay for clubfoot treatment for two children over the course of a year.

Please help the people of Zimbabwe continue to get vital aid and support



**Zimbabwe A National Emergency** Registered Charity No 1112949

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You can make a donation by phone **020 7060 6643** or online **www.zane.uk.com**

Title                      Initials                      Surname

Address

Postcode

Tel    Email

Please tick if you are happy for ZANE to send you updates by email



**Please complete this form and send it to: ZANE, PO Box 451, Witney OX28 9FY**

Preferred use of gift: Trustees' Discretion , Pensioner Work , Impoverished Communities

If a specified project is fully funded, donations will be used where most needed.

*giftaid it*

Please tick the box below and make this gift and any donations made in the future, or made in the past 4 years, worth 25% more with Gift Aid. Gift Aid is reclaimed by ZANE from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Date  Signature

Please notify ZANE if you

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Please consider leaving a gift to ZANE in your will. Tick here for further information

**Completed name and postal address required above for a Direct Debit      SEE OVERLEAF TO DONATE BY DIRECT DEBIT**

Please detach form and post in an envelope to:  
ZANE, PO Box 451, Witney OX28 9FY England

