



ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency is a UK registered charity working to help the most destitute, vulnerable and impoverished people in Zimbabwe. You would be forgiven for thinking the situation in Zimbabwe has improved, that the emergency is over. Sadly, this is far from the case. An estimated five million people require urgent food aid. 90% of the population is unemployed, making it the second poorest country in the world. A United Nations report published last year reveals that Zimbabwe has the lowest life expectancy in the world. For a nation previously known as the bread basket of Africa, this is a shocking statistic.

ZANE is the largest supplier of financial aid to elderly people in Zimbabwe. It provides aid to around 2,600 destitute elderly people including over 600 ex-services personnel and their widows. These are people who worked hard all their lives, only to have their savings and pensions wiped out when the economy collapsed. They are now entirely dependent on ZANE to survive.

In addition, ZANE funds a clubfoot correction programme; successfully treating 2,110 children to date. ZANE also funds a number of education projects in the high density areas, providing pop-up classrooms and teaching mentors for children living in abject poverty. It also funds a number of projects encouraging self-sufficiency including teaching women and children to farm, creative therapy programmes teaching craft skills such as sewing, embroidery and beading.

ZANE is a relational charity – it does not provide bulk aid. Recipients are gently means-tested to ensure that aid goes to those who need it the most. ZANE forms the largest social services network in Zimbabwe, delivered by a team of committed community workers and volunteers operating in difficult and often dangerous circumstances.

For more information, please visit www.zane.uk.com

Supporting elderly people

ZANE is the largest supplier of financial aid to elderly people in Zimbabwe and currently supports over 2,600 destitute elderly people who have nowhere else to turn. Following the hyper-inflation of 2008, the savings and pensions that these elderly people had worked for all their lives became worthless. The situation in Zimbabwe robbed them of their homes, their rights, their dignity and their hope. There are of course, a very small number of pensioners who are well supported by their children or other family members. When ZANE representatives learn of someone in need, their primary aim is to track down relatives who may be unaware of their elderly relative's desperate situation. If no relative is found ZANE investigates what monies might be available to the person such as a services pension. To this end, ZANE works with RCEL to distribute an ex-service man's pension to over 600 people who otherwise would starve.



As well as financial aid, ZANE staff in Zimbabwe offer invaluable emotional support, medical advice and companionship for people like Catherine. Catherine worked hard all her life as an administrator and book keeper. She owned a house in Harare which she sold for \$18,000 but this money was soon reduced to nothing in Zimbabwe's economic collapse. Catherine suffers from chronic fibrosis of the lungs. She was diagnosed in 1980 and told she had two years to live. Since then she has survived many near death situations and been hospitalized numerous times. In 2000 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a double mastectomy. She requires a cocktail of medication to keep her alive. Catherine has no income, savings or family assistance. ZANE currently supports her with £361 a month towards her rent, basic living expenses and medicine. If Catherine does not receive this aid, she will not survive.

The Clubfoot Project

There are over 10,000 children with untreated clubfoot in Zimbabwe. Clubfoot is a congenital deformity where the foot is permanently twisted, making it painful and almost impossible to walk. ZANE, in partnership with Professor Lavy an orthopaedic surgeon, and his colleagues from Oxford, launched Zimbabwe's first clubfoot correction programme. We have now run training courses and taught Zimbabwean nurses to use the Ponseti method to cure clubfoot in newborn and young children. As well as a hospital facility in Harare with access to surgery for tenotomy where necessary, we have now established five clinics in rural areas, and to date cured over 450 children of this affliction. A further 450 are currently receiving treatment.

In Zimbabwe women giving birth to children with clubfoot are often accused of infidelity and beaten, while left untreated these children would become increasingly lame and disabled as adults, unlikely ever to work, and much more likely to be starved and sexually abused.

ZANE is working to ensure that all children born with clubfoot in Zimbabwe have the opportunity to live a life without disability where they can run, skip and play and eventually work to support themselves.



If recognised and treated in infancy, clubfoot can be cured using the Ponseti Method. This involves careful manipulation of the foot and plaster casting over a period of 4-8 weeks, followed by an achilles tenotomy (small incision to the heel tendon) and a further three weeks in plaster. Once full correction is achieved, the child needs to wear a brace for a short period while the foot adapts to the new position. ZANE has established a programme for treating clubfoot in Zimbabwe.

Through the provision of ongoing training funded by ZANE, medical staff use the Ponseti Method to treat and cure infants without expensive surgery. This is an ongoing project with thousands of children still requiring treatment. ZANE urgently needs to raise funds to maintain this programme and continue to help children like Elijah. Elijah was born with clubfoot affecting both feet. Following a period of manipulation, five weeks in plaster and six months using braces, Elijah's feet are straight and he is able to run with his friends.

Among the 450 or so children with clubfoot ZANE has cured we have pictures of 22 of them playing football where we have cured clubfoot in all of them, both teams – see below.



Supporting women in impoverished communities

ZANE runs projects to help women and their families who have been victims of political violence, abuse, and extreme poverty. These are women who are in desperate need of assistance in areas of nutrition, health and education. ZANE assists with funds to pay for daily basic living expenses like rent, school fees, food and clothing. It also assists with the provision of accessible education and health care.

In addition Zane runs regular craft workshops teaching skills such as embroidery and sewing, handmade paper card and jewellery making. These skills are transferred into small enterprises enabling women to sell handmade cushions, curtains and table mats, cards and beaded jewellery. ZANE supports education projects providing training in child and school counselling. These initiatives help to create a community - a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their potential. It provides creative therapy through skills training in arts and crafts.

ZANE also funds an Agriculture and Nutrition programme. Women are given training and provided with Pfumvudza packs (containing lime, fertilizer, maize seed and ammonium nitrate) to enable them to grow their own maize crops. On a small scale all work is manual and requires nothing more technical than a hoe. Yet this simple and incredibly effective project teaches families how to grow enough food to feed themselves for a year – all for just \$50.

