



ACN 613 802 574

ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

More than
3,900 children have
received treatment
for clubfoot as a
result of your
generosity.

Tom and Jane
have walked over
2,695 miles across
the UK to raise
funds for
ZANE.

ZANE provides
food and medical
aid to over 1,800
destitute
pensioners.

ZIMBABWE



Winter 2020/21 Newsletter

Thank you

In an unprecedented year, when the world is gripped by a global pandemic, the deepening crisis in Zimbabwe is a mere postscript for the world's media. We have witnessed the Western world suffering the economic impact of Covid-19 and the resulting lockdowns. When strong and robust economies are struggling, what hope does a country like Zimbabwe have when its economy was already teetering on a cliff edge before the pandemic?

The impact of the Covid-related lockdown in Zimbabwe has been devastating. More than half of the population require urgent food aid while hospitals on the verge of collapse before the pandemic stand no chance of coping should the virus take a grip in Zimbabwe. We hear of pensioners cutting their tablets in half, even quarters, to save money, and we have seen an alarming increase in malnutrition among those who were previously coping but who now need ZANE's help.

Yet, without ZANE's generous and committed supporters, the

situation would be so much worse for those dependent on ZANE to survive. Your donations have enabled ZANE to maintain support to those who rely on us, and to provide aid to many more who have come to our attention throughout the year.

Read on to find out just how your gifts are helping: how they are making a difference to some of the most vulnerable people in Zimbabwe, young and old. On behalf of the ZANE team and all those we are able to help, thank you.

Tom Benyon OBE

Vanishing act

Rosemary*, a former librarian, is a widow in her mid-seventies. She sold her house when her husband died two years ago for US\$200,000 and invested the money in a savings account in the bank.

It should have been more than enough for her to live on for the rest of her life. However when the Zimbabwe government converted the country's bank accounts from US dollars into Zimbabwe dollars 18 months ago, Rosemary's savings devalued to Z\$200,000, which is now the equivalent of just US\$2,500 – enough to last her about three or four months if she's careful.



ZANE is in regular contact with Rosemary and is poised to take over the rent payments on her small retirement cottage when her savings run out. She has recently been diagnosed with hypertension and ZANE is covering the cost of her medication.

ZANE is a relational charity. We know every one of our beneficiaries, and the love, advice and time spent with each is as vital as the financial aid.

“I am so grateful and overwhelmed with your kindness. My savings vanished before my eyes. I don't know where I'd be without ZANE's help.”

Lockdown in



On 31 March 2020, Zimbabwe went into lockdown, 10 days after the first case of Covid-19 had been reported in the country.

Zimbabwe was woefully unprepared for a major health emergency. Doctors were on strike, “incapacitated” as they called it, and unable to afford to get to work or survive on their salaries, which were worth less than US\$40 a month. If they did go to work, the hospitals had no equipment, supplies or medicines - not even paracetamol. Patients have to bring or pay for their own bandages, injections, drips, equipment and medication.

The lockdown could not have come at a worse time for Zimbabwe. Around 7.5 million people (half the population) were already in need of food aid. An estimated 80 per cent of the working population are vendors, making their living selling goods on roadsides and pavements. For these people, the impact of the lockdown was immediate, and hunger and desperation set in within a fortnight.

As the lockdown in Zimbabwe continued, the crisis deepened.

In mid-May, the government announced that the lockdown would continue for an indefinite period with an easing of some restrictions, allowing some businesses to reopen. The wearing of face masks became mandatory and police and soldiers did not hesitate to apprehend and fine anyone not wearing a face covering. In those early days, people were seen wearing cut-off socks and hand-woven grass masks. In mid-July, a dusk-to-dawn curfew was enforced and remains in place.

Knowing that the risk from Covid is very high for older people, most retirement homes went into full lockdown; pensioners were not allowed out and no one was allowed in. Visits and outings were replaced with virtual calls and text messages. Arrangements were made with local supermarkets to box and deliver groceries to the gates of retirement homes, and pharmacies collected prescriptions and delivered medicines in the same way. In the first three weeks of lockdown, even farmers were banned from transporting fresh produce. When, after 21 days, ZANE was able to drop off boxes of fresh produce to

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

Zimbabwe

beneficiaries, there were many tears of gratitude and smiles of joy all round. Pensioners shared their bounty with neighbours and everyone got something, an apple or banana, a couple of onions or potatoes, a wedge of cabbage or a handful of green beans.

Inflation and economic collapse continue to blight Zimbabwe and the calls for help keep pouring in. In March 2020, when lockdown started, a box of tea bags was Z\$50 and a packet of eight sausages was Z\$8; by September, they were Z\$300 and \$400 respectively. A standard civil service pension is currently Z\$600 a month. It may sound like a lot but it is not quite enough to buy a month's supply of blood pressure pills. Medical needs are the biggest worry. Every day, the ZANE team is contacted for help with everything from blood tests and x-rays to scans, surgery and medication. Even pensioners who had previously been supported by their children have found themselves in need of help during lockdown – perhaps their children were laid off or put onto half pay or less, and haven't been able to help at all.

That ZANE was able to continue to provide aid, comfort and advice to all beneficiaries throughout lockdown is testament to the commitment and compassion of our dedicated

team in Zimbabwe.

In partnership with the Foreign Commonwealth Office, ZANE provided 40 care homes in Zimbabwe with a grant to minimise the impact of Covid on residents. Funds were spent on purchasing good-quality PPE, arrangements for staff to reduce the risk of carrying the infection into the homes (such as temporary on-site accommodation or additional transport), and accessing clean water supplies for additional hand-washing facilities.

It is difficult to get a clear picture of the impact of Covid in Zimbabwe. Testing is limited



and the statistics provided by the government are thought to be grossly underestimated. We have heard of many deaths that could well be Covid-related being recorded as TB, flu or other conditions. As in many other African countries, burials are quickly arranged and the true cause of death is rarely noted.

ZANE distributes around 5,000 bananas each year to care homes in Zimbabwe.



First steps

The lockdown in Zimbabwe forced the temporary closure of all 13 clubfoot clinics across Zimbabwe.

This was extremely disruptive for those children already in the early phase of the treatment process. For many, it means the process must be restarted: without continued treatment in the early stages, the deformity recurs within weeks. Similarly, a lot of anxiety and distress has been caused to parents whose children have been born with clubfoot during lockdown as they have not been able to begin treatment.

As lockdown restrictions have been gradually lifted, the clubfoot clinics have slowly reopened. Despite treatment numbers declining since February, the team are committed to getting the service back to full capacity so they can continue to transform the lives of children born with this condition; children like Precious, pictured below. We successfully treated her right foot last year and we recently began treatment on her left foot. By Christmas, Precious will be able to learn to walk on the soles of both her feet for the first time in her life.



Bread and butter

Sue*, 69, is a former seamstress. Twice widowed but always with a smile on her face, lockdown has been tough for her as she has missed seeing her friends.

Sue was so happy to see our case worker recently during a socially distanced visit, telling her, *"I've missed human contact so much."* It was during this visit that she told us, *"I haven't bought a loaf of bread for a year. It's a real luxury. Last time I bought bread, it was Z\$1.50 a loaf, now it's Z\$70. Butter is an even more distant memory!"*

On the rare occasions when she is able to get hold of yeast, Sue now bakes her own bread: *"A messy business with my shaky hands"*, she



says laughing. Sue has early-stage Parkinson's disease and is suffering with hand tremors. ZANE covers the cost of her monthly medication and contributes towards her rent.

"I would be so much worse off without ZANE's support. It warms my heart to know people care and want to help. Thank you for everything you do."

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

Direct debits – thank you

Regular donations play a huge part in enabling ZANE to plan for the future. Knowing we have the commitment of a regular gift allows us to plan ahead and budget efficiently. When you set up a direct debit to ZANE, you become part of that long-term commitment to keeping the most vulnerable people in Zimbabwe safe and alive. Thank you to all our regular donors.

Each year, **ZANE** distributes 150,000 eggs to destitute pensioners.



Bulawayo Orthopaedic Hospital

– mainly for children



Love to learn

ZANE runs seven pop-up classes in a township north of Harare. That means we are providing 84 children between the ages of six and 12 with a basic education.

These children are from destitute families and otherwise would not be attending school. Thanks to the generosity of funders, including the Barnabas Fund, we are able to provide these children with a hot meal; for most, it is their only meal of the day.

The classes were temporarily paused during the initial lockdown but resumed two months in, taking place at the homes of teaching mentors. The provision of food continued throughout lockdown – essential in preventing malnutrition. Now back at the original locations within the community, the children are thriving.

Those who just six months ago had no literacy skills whatsoever are now able to read and write simple sentences. Many are ready to progress to mainstream school, but with many schools still closed, this is taking longer than we hoped. Opposite, one of our students, Tinashe, describes his life.

There is currently no dedicated service in Zimbabwe for thousands of children born with musculoskeletal deformities - conditions that prevent them from walking properly, attending school and living a reasonable life.

That is, until now.

ZANE is proud to be partnering with the Bulawayo Orthopaedic



Hospital, opening early in 2021. Founded by Professor Chris Lavy OBE, who partnered ZANE in setting up the clubfoot correction programme several years ago, the purpose-built hospital will provide quality treatment, surgery and orthopaedic training, particularly for children.

The hospital will comprise a self-contained children's ward, brand new operating theatres and a private unit. Profits from this

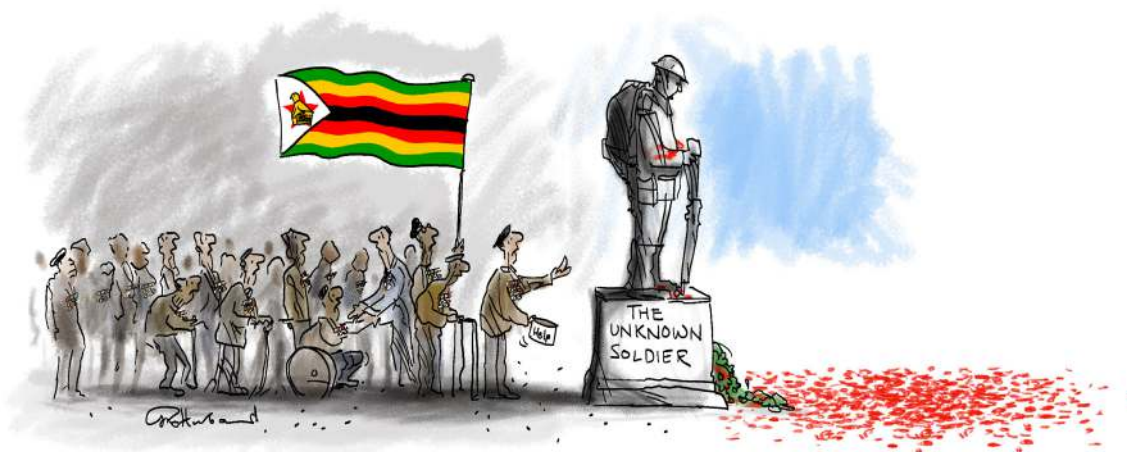
unit will be given to supporting the children's unit, providing treatment for children whose families would otherwise be unable to pay for it. The private unit will provide elective orthopaedic surgical services and some elective general surgical services.

In time, the hospital will offer heavily discounted treatment plans for destitute pensioners supported by ZANE.

The new hospital will become a centre of excellence in promoting research and understanding of disabling conditions in children, and in providing quality private orthopedic surgical services to those, young and old, whose conditions would otherwise remain untreated.

We are sure that this wonderful new initiative will transform the lives of many of the poorest of the poor.

Lest we forget



The lockdown measures have had an enormous impact on the veterans and widows supported by ZANE through its partnership with the UK services charities.

The banning of inter-city travel and commuter transport, the most common and affordable means of transport for the bulk of the Zimbabwean population, left many veterans totally stranded with no means of getting to clinics, shops and pharmacies. The knock-on effect resulted in not only the shops and clinics running out of essential food and medical supplies, but also created a huge logistical problem for veterans needing to buy food supplies and essential medication.

The closure of schools, the informal sector and companies deemed non-essential resulted in job and income losses, and caused extended families to flock to the rural areas to be cared for by the elderly. A second drought has

created even more pressure for these veterans. As water supplies diminished, the responsibility of caring for their unemployed relatives fell on their shoulders. Of course, normally it would be the other way round.

Loneliness and the feeling of abandonment for those living alone has been a huge concern. Many have felt very cut off from the outside world and wondered if they would ever see their family or a return to normal life again.

All the tell-tale signs of utter despair were very evident when the veterans were recently able to collect their grants. However, they left with a weight having been lifted from their shoulders, gratefully clasping the money that will be their lifeline for the coming months. The sheer relief was palpable. The fact that ZANE is able to provide each veteran with a small medical fund in addition to their food grant is a source of great comfort and pride to our team.

These veterans came to the aid of the UK when we needed them; it is a huge honour to be able to support them in the evening of their lives when they need us.

"You saved my life and continue to keep me alive. Thank you for remembering us."



ZANE is a brilliant charity working in the failed state of Zimbabwe, caring for the old and lonely, providing medical treatment and supporting communities. You can choose where your money goes.

Prue Leith CBE DL

Cookery writer and restaurateur



There are many people in Zimbabwe who today remain in desperate need of help, through no fault of their own. ZANE is a dedicated charity devoted to providing a lifeline to these people. The ZANE team is hard-working and focused, bringing impressive results for the poorest and least advantaged, and is most worthy of our support.

Jonathan Sheppard

Former Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe
Board member, ZANE Australia

Old Legs return

The Old Legs group comprises a growing number of extremely committed cyclists undertaking extreme challenges to raise funds for ZANE.

In addition to raising funds through their cycling endeavours, the group also takes the time to visit lonely pensioners in their homes, delivering food, blankets and a wonderful dose of



compassion and good humour. It will take more than a nationwide lockdown to deter the Old Legs team of cyclists. Despite restrictions forcing them to abandon their plan to cycle to Namibia's Skeleton Coast, in true Zimbabwe style, the team "made a plan" and undertook an even more gruelling challenge. In April, they left Harare and headed to Mt Nyangani, Zimbabwe's highest point, travelling through some of the country's best-known national parks, including Mana Pools, Victoria Falls, Matopos and Gonarezhou.

Many thanks to the Old Legs team for their continued fundraising efforts for ZANE.



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

UK Ambassador to Zimbabwe,
Former Executive Director
of the World Bank

A gift for the future

Leaving a gift in your will, however small, is one of the best ways to help safeguard the future of ZANE. It's easy to remember us in your will, you simply need to inform your solicitor of your intentions. To request a free copy of our wills guide or for any questions you have about remembering ZANE in your will, please email zaneaustralialimited@gmail.com.

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

3 ways to give:

- **Donate online** – <http://zaneaustralia.org.au/donate/>
- **Call us:** +61 (0) 473 113 483
- **Or return this form to:**

ZANE Australia, Unit 4, 50-52 Cypress Crescent, Leopold, VIC 3224

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

I would like to donate:

- ☐ A single gift of \$ _____
- ☐ A monthly gift of \$ _____

My details:

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____ Mobile: _____

Email _____

How did you first hear about ZANE Australia? _____

I would like to donate by:

- ☐ Cheque
- ☐ Credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
- Card Expiry / Cardholder's name _____
- Card number: 3-digit Verification number:
- ☐ Online Direct Deposit to:
- ZANE Australia Limited, BSB: 032023, Account: 305217 Payment Reference: your name _____

CHRISTMAS2020



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Thank you for your support.

Reasons to support ZANE



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

1. **ZANE** provides aid, comfort and support to 1,800 impoverished pensioners with nowhere else to turn. Only those genuinely in need of assistance receive it.
2. Donors can choose which area of **ZANE**'s work they wish to support.
3. **ZANE** was the Telegraph Group Overseas Charity of the year.
4. **ZANE** is looking after around 600 aged and frail veterans and their widows. These people fought for the Crown in the Second World War, Malaya, Korea and Aden. Without ZANE, they would be living with insufficient food and no healthcare.
5. **ZANE** runs education programmes in a high-density suburb assisting women and children living in extreme poverty.
6. **ZANE** funded the first clubfoot correction programme in Zimbabwe. Thirteen treatment centres have been established and over 3,900 children have received treatment to date.
7. **ZANE** funds the provision of prosthetic limbs for victims of landmine explosions and treatment for people with hearing loss.
8. **ZANE**'s funds are subject to rigorous audits and **ZANE** is proud that since its foundation it has never lost money to collapsed banks, middlemen or corruption.
9. An independent consultancy reviewed **ZANE** and the report stated:
"The charity thrives on its responsiveness, flexibility and lack of bureaucracy. Operationally, ZANE is frugal, focused and effective in delivering aid to the needy."



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www.zaneaustralia.org.au



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ZANE will not pass on your details to third parties.

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