**PRESS RELEASE**

April 2024

**Statement About African Revival – Investing in Education’s Zambian Operations**

**Our work in Zambia:**

African Revival has been working in Zambia since 2005, principally in two areas of Southern Province - Kalomo and Zimba. Most of the 47 schools we have supported are located in Kalomo District, where our in-country office is based.

Much has recently changed for the better in the educational environment in Zambia. Zambia’s President, Hakainde Hichilema, is prioritising the government’s investment in education. From January 2022, all fees for primary and secondary schools have been abolished and there are also ambitious plans to ensure free tertiary education for all. Universal access to primary and secondary education, in suitably furnished and equipped classroom accommodation, forms the core of the investment programme. We heartily welcome the fact that government support for education in Zambia is now broad and far-reaching, meaning that much better access to good quality education is now a real prospect throughout the country.

African Revival’s strategy is to work in areas where the positive impact we can realistically expect to have will be significant. We participate in sustainable projects with local communities, who are helped and encouraged to become self-reliant. We seek to ensure communities are committed in the long term to an overall school project and that, once established, the schools themselves have appropriate staff, infrastructure, equipment, and materials. Our objective is to improve the quality of education and empower teachers, school management committees and other local community leaders.

African Revival’s interventions are therefore designed to improve educational attainment and nurture the commitment of each community to that end. We seek to wind down our support once the community is itself able to sustain access to quality education for all local children.

Given African Revival’s very successful work in Kalomo District in Zambia over such an extensive period, and the recent introduction of the Zambian government’s own educational investment policies, it has become increasingly difficult for African Revival to find further suitable projects which it can justify supporting in and around Kalomo. Whilst there remains a need for philanthropic support for educational projects alongside the government’s own investment programme in neighbouring areas, working further afield adds significant cost in terms of travelling time and wear and tear on vehicles. Without significant reorganisation of our staff and infrastructure in Zambia, we do not believe that we can continue to deliver good value for money to our donors in managing further project work there.

African Revival is committed to three further construction projects in Zambia - building latrines and rainwater harvesting tanks at Chalinga and Siampondo Primary Schools and a classroom block at Nachoncho Primary School. In the coming months, we will also continue to deliver donated books through our partnership with Book Aid International and our innovative Read Together Libraries. We will combine this initiative with workshops for teachers on how to encourage reading and how to set up a lending library.

Once we are satisfied that these various projects have been completed successfully or placed on a sustainable footing, we shall wind down our operations in Zambia (estimated end March 2025). We believe that the need for our support in Uganda and South Sudan is now far greater than that of the communities we have been working with in Zambia, but we are confident that we will leave a lasting positive impact as our legacy.

**Our legacy in Zambia:**

As we begin this transition, we are proud of all that has been achieved and of the sustainable nature of the legacy we leave in Zambia:

* **47 Schools** - supported, with over 24,578 pupils enrolled at the time of our interventions.
* **Latrines** - 385 stances built, with 59 washrooms and 21 urinals incorporated.
* **Classrooms** - 111 classrooms constructed, with 54 school offices.
* **Permanent handwashing Stands** - 89 built.
* **Teacher Housing** for 31 teachers constructed.
* **Boreholes** - 16 dug or renovated, and 7 rainwater harvesting tanks installed.
* **Classroom Furniture** - 11 schools furnished with desk benches and teacher tables and chairs.
* **Scholastic Materials** - 32 schools provided with books.
* **School Demonstration Farms** 6 SDFs established – all receiving solar-powered drip irrigation.
* **Girls & Sanitation** -3-year project to keep girls in education - 52,404 reusable pads distributed, with MHM training at 32 schools.
* **Emergency Covid support** – 792 pupils and teachers at 3 schools provided with soap, portable handwashing stands and PPE during the pandemic in 2020.
* **Teacher training** -20 community schoolteachers funded in a 3-year Diploma in Education and 68 teachers received training in new skills and methodologies.
* **Playground** – 1 constructed and sports equipment distributed to 10 schools.
* **Books** – distribution of 5,124 donated books with more than 2,000 more on the way will be supported by our Read Together Programme – with at least 20 schools receiving a wheelable library, reading workshops and teacher training to set up lending libraries, throughout 2024 and into early 2025 as we complete our exit strategy.

**Our appreciation:**

We are immensely grateful to the Zambian district education officials, building inspectors, headteachers, and other in-country stakeholders, along with all the donors and supporters who have so generously given their time, their money, and their efforts in the cause of helping, through education, to improve the life chances of Zambian children in the communities we have served. It has been a great pleasure and a tremendous privilege for us to work with those communities. Finally, it would not have been possible to achieve these outcomes without the hard work and dedicated commitment of our staff in Zambia. In recent years, much of our success in Zambia is attributable to the efforts of Godwin Kamangala, Country Manager, and Dave Sangweni, Construction Officer, who have worked so effectively together. We are very appreciative of all that they have done.

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