Schools Reopen in Southern Africa

After almost 5 months of staying at home, students in Zambia finally returned to school in September, with Madagascar students set to begin the new academic year at the end of October.

The reopening of schools coincided with both governments rolling back travel restrictions, which means the tourism industry can now begin the road to recovery. In many of our communities that are dependent on the sector, the Time + Tide Foundation has been a critical source of sustained support over the past seven months. Not only did we maintain all of our primary programmes, but we also distributed food hampers to vulnerable families and provided consistent academic lessons to students at their homes. Our continued work has been made possible thanks to the institutional support from Time + Tide and our incredibly generous donor base. Thank you for showing your care and compassion to the residents of Time + Tide communities from afar.
In Madagascar, we saw tremendous success in our school support programme with an average of 90% of primary school students qualifying to secondary school in 2020, compared to only 55% who qualified in 2019.

At the beginning of each academic year, we evaluate the French literacy levels of all students and then re-evaluate them at the end of the year. Over the course of the FY19-FY20 academic year, we recorded 33% of students across the three schools we support on the mainland advancing at least one level in their literacy assessments. French literacy is critical for students to be able to compete for the few higher education and university scholarship opportunities that exist in the country. Given the history of poor educational progression in this part of Madagascar, these results not only motivate the children in younger grades, but they also prove to teachers and parents that sustained French literacy lessons are effective.
South Luangwa:
HOME-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

In July 2020, the Foundation commenced critical refurbishment of Hanada Orphanage, the only child-care facility in the Mambwe District.

The orphanage is a respite centre where four of the children in our Home-based Education Programme now reside for short and long stints. When these children spend time at the orphanage, they are provided with reliable meals and daily developmental support, while their parents gain valuable hours to focus exclusively on income generating activities.

The refurbishments were managed and undertaken by staff from Time + Tide in the South Luangwa. The major works included replacing all electrical wiring, installing new doors and window frames, plastering internal and external walls, and building a garden for the orphanage to become self-sustaining. The ability to grow their own vegetables provides important on-site nutrition for the children and enables the orphanage to earn income by selling the excess produce.
Lower Zambezi:  
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

This quarter, our donor and partner Global Sojourn Giving Circle sponsored a Creative Competition for the girls’ clubs they support across Southern Africa.

Global Sojourn Giving Circle received hundreds of entries in 5 categories, which were: performing arts, drawing & painting, essay, poetry & spoken word, and crafts. We are extremely proud to announce the winner of the crafts category was Precious, a member of our Female Empowerment programme in the Lower Zambezi, who won with her entry of two clay bowls. Precious designed one of her bowls with intricate overlays that she molded herself. In pre-colonial Southern Africa, pottery making was a spiritual process for women that gave them great power in their households and communities. In recognition of her creativity, Precious won $50 as contribution towards purchasing school supplies for the second academic term. The winner’s certificate was handed to her by the Foundation’s programme officer, Thokozile, with Precious’s grandmother standing proudly beside her.
In September, Inonge, our Body Stress Release (BSR) Practitioner, arrived in Mugurameno Village to hold the first ever BSR sessions for children with special needs in the Lower Zambezi.

BSR is an alternative therapy that has proved effective in stimulating physical development and motor skills among children with special needs. While in Lower Zambezi, Inonge conducted 48 sessions of BSR with 16 children, visiting each child three times to complete the first cycle of therapy.

Ozem, a four-year-old with gross motor skill complications, has shown immense progress. Because of his condition, Ozem struggled to hold his neck upright, was unable to lift objects and often stumbled when walking. After his first BSR session, his mother reported that his neck muscles had strengthened, and he had greater balance when walking. She also reported that Ozem can now confidently lift a 2.5 litre container of water, a task he was not able to complete prior to the intervention.
In August, parents of girls enrolled in our Female Empowerment programme participated in the Time + Tide Foundation’s Parents’ Day. Our agenda was to discuss with parents their views on child marriage, teenage pregnancies, absenteeism, and school dropouts.

We actively involve parents in our programme so that they can reinforce our classroom-based lessons by being supportive of their children’s educational priorities at home.

Throughout the workshop, we encouraged parents to take a more hands-on approach in helping their daughters achieve their future academic and professional goals. In total, 25 parents attended the Parents’ Day in Sibemi Village.

During the workshop, girls read poems in English and then translated the lines into Lozi for their parents to understand. Due to low literacy and education levels in Liuwa Plain, the ability to communicate in English is a skill held by only a few individuals. Without solid command of the English language, education and employment opportunities are severely limited for residents. Upon hearing their girls read so confidently, parents expressed pride and shared their hope that the cycle of poor education was in the process of being broken by their daughters.

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