New Partnership with Oak Foundation

The Time + Tide Foundation is pleased to announce a new three-year grant from Oak Foundation, a grant-making organization that commits its resources to address issues of global, social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged. Specifically, with support from Oak, we will strengthen our inclusion of parents and guardians in our educational programmes, reinforce our conservation work in Madagascar and facilitate economic and educational opportunities for women in our communities who dropped out of school.
Nosy Ankao:
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

This year, the second wave of the pandemic hit several regions in Madagascar, resulting in the suspension of school activities for over a month. However, despite this unfortunate situation, we were able to provide individual and outdoor learning sessions for our Girls’ Club members.

We offered 27 extra lessons in French, mathematics and science, reaching 53 girls across the 4 communities in which we work. We are confident that the extra academic support we gave the girls will assist them to perform well during their school-based assessments scheduled for the end of July. When schools reopened in mid-May, we resumed the group meetings while observing all necessary social distancing and health measures. The girls also had an opportunity to participate in environmental activities by commemorating the World Biodiversity and Environment Days. Over these two days, they accompanied the Time + Tide Foundation Conservation team on their monitoring activities, learning about endangered sea turtles and the breeding ecology of terns.
Over the last quarter, we financially supported 19 children to St. Francis Hospital in the Eastern Province of Zambia to receive these specialized medical interventions.

Mervis is one of the children who travelled to St. Francis Hospital for a medical evaluation of her visual impairment. She is short-sighted and, until recently, this presented an array of challenges for her, especially in reading and her overall school performance. Mervis received a pair of reading glasses after her evaluation, which we anticipate will positively contribute to her school performance over the third academic term.

“Mervis’s sight has greatly improved and she is now able to play chiyato [a local Zambian game that fosters the development of cognitive and gross motor skills] with her friends, something she wasn’t able to do previously. Before she received her glasses, she struggled to see obstacles in her way and would often bump into walls or trees, but now she sees clearly and this has helped her avoid injuries.”

- Lawrence Chulu, Mervis’s Grandfather.
South Luangwa:
FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

A study conducted by Chinyama et al (2019) showed that about 44% of girls are reported to drop out of school in rural areas of Zambia before completing their secondary education. These dropouts have been linked to ineffective menstrual management and stigmas that still surround menstruation (Molovwe & Lockwood, 2019).

On the 28th of May, the girls on our Female Empowerment Programme joined the rest of the world in celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day. This year’s theme was: “Ending Menstrual Poverty”.

Many girls are forced to miss or dropout of school due to poor menstrual hygiene, which is often attributed to little or no formal education for girls on the topic, limited access to menstrual hygiene products and cultural taboos.

The girls shared performances to an audience of over 60 people with messages to help abolish myths about periods. One of the poems presented depicted the shame that is faced by menstruating girls and how menstruation is locally perceived as unclean. At the end of the day, 27 reusable sanitary towels were distributed to the girls. Moreover, we have recently partnered with Diva Cup in the United States to pilot the use of menstrual cups as a lower maintenance menstrual management alternative for girls on the programme as well as their female teachers and relatives.
Lower Zambezi:  
STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

In Lower Zambezi, we currently have a total of 9 students on our Sponsorship Programme: 5 boys and 4 girls. Fifteen-year-old Mervis is one of the students we sponsor at Mugurameno Basic School.

She is currently in Grade 8 and placed first in her class with an overall average score of 74% which is equivalent to a B+ in the Zambian scoring system. Mervis is the only girl in her family and, because of this, the responsibility of house chores is left to her alone, making it exceptionally difficult for her to study at home.

“Although I do not have ample time to study at home because I do all the house chores without my brothers’ help, I am still determined to excel at school, so I study at night using a torch. Being on sponsorship has motivated me more because now I am assured that I will complete my studies.”

-Mervis, grade 8, Mugurameno Basic School.
This donation came after Emma visited our projects in October 2020 and saw the need to establish mini libraries at both primary schools. In May, we procured over 200 assorted story books in English and siLozi, 16 alphabet charts, 20 English dictionaries, and 30 primary atlases for the schools.

In a 2010 study conducted by the South African Consortium for Monitoring Education Quality (SACMEQ III), only 27.4% of grade 6 learners were found to be able to read at a basic competency level in Zambian primary schools (Nyimbili & Mwanza, 2021). Other studies conducted in Zambia over the years have revealed that causes of these low literacy levels include poor infrastructure, insufficient reading tools, inadequate teaching, and sub-standard learning materials (Kombe & Mwanza, 2019). Ultimately, the addition of reading libraries to the schools will strengthen the English literacy skills for students and encourage a reading culture, which has proved a notorious challenge in the Zambian public education system (Wachinga, 2017).