



Many families need help.

Handfuls of Purpose

When Boaz instructed his servants to leave handfuls of purpose, the emphasis was on the purpose; there was more to it than providing food for the poor. God's hand was behind it, and there was a test for Ruth to prove she could glean for herself.

While the disparity between rich and poor seems to be an increasing challenge for global economists, it doesn't mean we as individuals should do nothing. There is much we can do and, although SHAREAfrica's contribution is only a small handful in a very small field, our experience has shown that lasting improvements can be made if we understand the purpose.

Incentives have always been at the heart of economic growth. When one person sees another person succeed, then if they are given the same opportunity, they too will be inspired to do the same.

We are always learning how to manage our resources for maximum effect. Relieving poverty is not simple. To achieve sustained growth requires careful management, hard work, and wise investments. This is the same for small-hold farmers, street-traders, and budding entrepreneurs and, even though Zambia throws up unique challenges,

these fundamentals remain the basis for success.

Pages 5 & 6 summarise the impact of the Farming and Outgrowers programmes. The number of people benefiting from these programmes is estimated to be above 2000. This too is in a relatively small area in the Eastern Province. There is much more could be done if we implemented the same model in the North West, Northern, and Luapula provinces,

For now we remain focused on the Eastern Province and plan, with the Lord's help, to expand by 20% in 2020. This of course depends on sustained support, a good harvest, profitable food production, and much hard work.

We also rely on the good health of our key people on the ground. For example, Mussa, our farm manager, travels by motorbike and is just recovering from a serious accident. We pray for their safety.



And Naomi said, "blessed be he that took knowledge of thee".

2019 Progress Summary

- The number of farmers has increased to over 200. many of whom are supported by revolving funds
- The number of sponsored children has increased to over 200
- Salaried workers have risen to 20
- Jobs have been created for over 50 casual workers
- 25 pair of oxen have been given to selected farmers (see special report)
- Support has been provided to 6 assemblies
- 35 acres of land has been cleared to grow more seed
- 2 new breakfast cereals have been developed at our food factory

New Field at Chamasongwe

Chief Mafuta, in recognition of the work being done by SAZ, allocated additional land close to a gravel road so we could expand our seed growing capability. In a New Year's message, the Chief said *"On behalf of the council I wish you and your workers a happy and a prosperous 2020. Please continue to empower our subjects through your various agricultural projects. May the Lord bless the works of your hands"*

The land is in a good location, but it was virgin bush which had to be cleared and ploughed before planting. Oxen were used to plough rather than the tractor because they can manoeuvre around tree stumps.

Many volunteers came to help, as seen in the front page picture. Some were paid in cash while others asked to be paid in food (maize meal).

A bore hole has been drilled and stand-pump installed. A caretakers house and small storage shed is being erected. Most pleasing, is that the crops have germinated so we look forward to a reasonable harvest.

The Chief has offered us more land, but we will wait until we have tested new varieties of seed. Later this year we hope to develop a new parent seed for maize. A breeder is giving us a small amount which we will begin to trial later in the year.



Seed and Grain Outgrowers



the Ministry of Agriculture. Only a small portion of their fields are being allocated for seed, the remainder will be used for their traditional crops.

The SAZ farm managers, as well as the lead farmers, are responsible for monitoring the progress of the seed crops. Regular inspection is also carried out by staff from the MoA Research Centre.

The farmers selected to grow seed will get a far better price for seed than for grain. This extra income makes a remarkable difference to their living standards. (The 2019 annual Impact Report gives more detail).

Other Outgrowers

The rains in the region have so far been good. The soy and groundnut crops are doing well, but in some parts the maize crops have been affected by Armyworms. This is a repeat of what happened two years

ago, but thankfully this time SAZ had sprayers and chemicals they were able to issue to the farmers and the problem is now under control. This is one of the benefits of being on the SAZ scheme.



Because we can't grow seed in the same field three years in succession, our main seed farm this year is being used to grow maize. We are pleased that the maize crop is looking particularly healthy.

Much of the seed grown in 2020 will be done by 45 subcontracted farmers who have been trained and vetted by



Oxen Project

25 pair of oxen, with ploughs and ox carts, have been bought and are now working in the fields. According to the farm manager they are more reliable than the old tractor, and maintenance is less expensive. He said that two pair of oxen working together can plough at the same rate as a small tractor.

One of the farmers said he had increased his cultivated area from 15 to 45 acres. If a full crop can be harvested from this field then his additional income will be life-changing for his family; (however, the more prosperous

he is, the more his extended family will grow).

The feedback suggests the use of oxen is revolutionizing farming practice. The benefits are considerable and, apart from increasing their field size, there is uniformity in plant growth as a complete field can be planted within few days.

The risk of disease is probably why oxen haven't been used in the past. If an animal died then a farmer's income for the year could be lost in a stroke.

We have paid to have the animals checked and vaccinated, but the risk is always there.



Sponsoring College Students

Most children who pass their final school exams do not have the financial means to attend University or College. Finding a good job without a college qualification is well-nigh impossible therefore many children end up living off their parents; others doing menial work which is well below their capability, and others, sadly, fall into street life.

Through sponsorships, we have been able to help some who have since graduated and are in formal

employment. This year we are adding another four students bringing the total to five.

We continue to encourage young people to study science, agriculture, or business studies with a view to recruiting them into SAZ, but they chose teaching or nursing because there are more jobs. Sadly, teachers are poorly paid and new recruits can be posted to remote locations where conditions can be challenging.

This Year's Students

Kahalu Masaha: At University of Zambia studying Development Studies

Ethel Mutofwe: At Malcom Moffat College studying Teaching for The Blind

Reuben Musonda: At Malcom Moffat College studying for a Diploma in Primary Education

Ines Kabaghe: At Malcolm Moffat College studying for a Diploma in Primary Education

Regina Kabwe: At Chilubi Island school of nursing studying for a Diploma in Nursing

Assemblies in Rural Regions

All assembly believers in rural regions are poor by any standard. Most live in mud huts built from burnt bricks and thatched with traditional grass. Twice a day they draw water from the nearest borehole. They eat one meal a day cooked on fires fuelled by wood chopped from the surrounding bush.

The enthusiasm for the Gospel and for hymn singing creates an infectious energy. Most of the elders can read but many of the people are still illiterate. Gospel messages, as well as teaching on moral behaviour,

are often told in story form. Moral behaviour and family disciplines are often self-obvious since they are based on family values of love and wellbeing which is strong in rural culture; which is probably due to the size of the families. Normally we wouldn't teach in these assemblies since it can undermine the authority of the local elders. Instead we discuss certain matters with the elders and help to answer their questions from scripture. It is surprising how well informed some of the elders are, especially in defending their beliefs against SDA's, JW's, Pentecostal's,

RC's and other denominations, all of which tend to have buildings close by.

It is refreshing to see shoots of new life springing up by power of the Spirit. It is also humbling to see how they become one family, working together, caring together, and sharing together. While that is normal in village culture, which is very different from ours, it is interesting to observe a common faith creates such a bond of fellowship.

Helping these dear believers to improve their income is a great privilege. We trust God will be acknowledged for every blessing he provides.

Orphan Programme Report - Summary for 2019

The full report for 2019 is available on our web site

SHAREAfrica supports an orphan programme in Zambia operated by SHAREAfrica Zambia. Orphans are selected through local churches according to published criteria. Our definition of an orphan can include those who have lost one parent, in particular those who have lost a father, the mother being left desolate, as well as other vulnerable children. Well qualified students are also supported to follow further or higher education courses and we are pleased to report that this year three students graduated.

As well as paying fees as required, qualifying orphans are provided with additional benefits according to their needs. The Programme does not support private schools. The catchment area is Lusitu and Siavonga in Southern Province, Nampundwe, Sichoobo, Mumbwa and Serenje in Central Province and various neighbourhoods of Lusaka. All these areas suffer from high poverty levels.

All children are visited by SHAREAfrica Zambia staff at least once every term. These visits include school, home and local churches. Church leaders and members know the children that come to their church and monitor the children's church attendance and spiritual growth.

Information is collected from school teachers, church leaders, guardians and the children themselves. As well as their academic performance and general conduct, each child's general welfare is monitored and appropriate support provided. Visit reports and official school academic reports are published on the SHAREAfrica website to be viewed by each child's UK sponsor.

Testimonials

Fridah



Fridah has lost both her parents and her auntie, who is blind, is now her guardian. Fridah has another auntie who is also blind and when she is not in school she acts as a guide for both of them. When Fridah received the news that she had been sponsored, she was very happy and even though a bit shy she couldn't hide her smile. The two aunties were openly happy. They sang and danced in appreciation. Fridah's guardian said,



"I love Fridah a lot. She helps me a lot; as you can see I am blind. I want the best for her but I am blind and cannot provide much for her. This makes me worry a lot about her future. Now that you have come in to help her, I can only say God has answered my prayers. Knowing that she has a chance to be educated is a big relief to me. I will continue to pray that she really becomes educated so that in future she can help me in a better way. May God continue to bless the sponsors of this programme".

Grace



When Grace, aged seven, and her mother were told that Grace had been sponsored they were both very happy. Grace's mother said, "Grace is young and I am a widow. I worry a lot about educating her because I don't have a job. Even though I do pieces of jobs here and there, life is a struggle. I am so happy. I will play my role to ensure that my daughter is educated".



	Pre-school	Primary	Secondary	2019 Total	2018 Total
Total Children	2	121	74	197	189
Number passed grade 12				8	
Dropouts				7	
New Children				20	
Number of Sponsors (net change)				138	132

These are the numbers at December 2019. Since then they have increased slightly. At the time of printing the number of sponsored children has risen to 202. We thank everyone who has committed to sponsoring children. Providing such opportunities can be life-changing.

2019 Outgrowers Summary Report (see web site for full report)

The Farmers

The 2019 season included 115 farmers on the full sponsorship scheme, 60 females and 55 males.

36 seed growers were sub-contracted by SAZ farm to grow Groundnuts and Soybean seed..

All 115 farmers on SAZ full sponsorship scheme are assembly believers and are experienced in growing groundnuts and soybean.

9 lead farmers were selected to administer the programme and coordinate activities between SAZ and the farmers.

Each farmer received:

- 65kg of groundnut seed
- 25kg of Soybean seed
- Training in aflatoxin prevention
- Post-harvest training
- Loans to hire labour for weeding
- Grain bags and twine
- A fair buy back price for the produce

Lead Farmers

The SAZ Out-grower program is driven by the Lead Farmers. The two SAZ programme managers provide oversight to the Lead Farmers who then support the other farmers by: Collecting data from the farmers under their care, managing the transportation, collection, storage and shelling of nuts, buying back nuts from the farmers on behalf of SAZ

They also undertake periodic field inspections of farmers that are on the SAZ full sponsorship program as well as those signed up on SAZ supplementary Scheme.

The lead farmers were given:

- Bicycles
- Digital platform scales
- Pod-Strippers and Shellers
- Calculators, pens and notebooks

The 2019 Season

The season was outstanding; the programme met our expectations with all the farmers reporting higher yields and improved income.

At the end of the season, 70% of weeding loans were recovered.

A total of 67.5 tonne of shelled nuts was produced. This compared to 60 tonne in

the previous season from the same volume of inputs.

An additional 40 tonne of soybeans grain was produced by out-grower farmers meeting SAZ objective of increasing income at household level.

The learning experience has been valuable in improving planting, weeding practices, post harvesting storage, aflatoxins prevention and methods of shelling.

Survey

To confirm results, a random survey was conducted from the 9 groups. The discussions were both informative and encouraging. The numbers being supported in each household averaged around 10, therefore it is estimated that 2,310 people overall may have benefited.

Asked what key areas SAZ should focus on, most farmers responded that SAZ should enhance the following:

1. Oxen, Ploughs and Ox-carts
2. Fertilisers and herbicides
3. Certified seed
4. Guaranteed market

The farmers also shared some of the benefits derived from last year's income. One had bought oxen, others improved their houses, others sent their children to school, others bought more farming inputs for the next season. This was tangible proof that the scheme is meeting its objective

Challenges

The arduous task of controlling weeds in the legume fields has in the past deterred rural farmers from growing groundnuts and soybeans. The SAZ intervention of training lead farmers to become agents in their respective communities, and to train in the use of herbicides, has lessened the tedious work previously done by hand-hoe.

2020 Seasons Projections

Introducing additional seed packs has helped increase income at house-hold level. This initiative has however, increased the capital needed to buy back the produce from farmer. For instance, SAZ is projecting to buy back 60 tonnes of groundnut grain, 150 tonnes of soybean grain, 30 tonnes of groundnut seed and 145 tonnes of soybean seed.

The money recovered from the previous year's sales is reserved to buy back the expected increase in produce.

Testimonials

Mabvutu and Rebecca Phiri

Mabvutu and Rebecca have two children Mable and Stella as well as three



dependent children, namely Humphrey, Boyd and Joshua.

Mabvutu came into fellowship in Chapata in 2015 after being convicted following hearing the gospel at a funeral. Subsequently he and his brother Chisala have pioneered the outreach work at Kamlaza where there is now an established group of about 30 believers.

In 2018 Share Africa Zambia introduced an out-grower scheme at Kamlaza in its quest to try and support the mission work there. Mabvutu was chosen as the lead farmer to coordinate the activities of Share Africa in the area. Asked how the SAZ scheme has benefited him. Mabvutu said:

"The farmer training provided by SAZ enable us to change our farming methods which has resulted in much better yields. Before SAZ introduced the scheme, our harvest didn't last until the next season and we usually run out of the staple food before the next harvest. However, since SAZ introduced the out-grower scheme at Kamlaza the income generated from last season's harvest, has provided us with sufficient food, and also enabled us to buy farming inputs for 2020 season. We have also bought roofing sheets for a new house that we plan to build this year."

It was also pleasing to learn that Mabvuto's father in law has given him 10 acres of land to enable him to extend his field size. The field still has to be cleared which he intends to do this year in preparation for the next farming season.

Being a lead farmer, Mabvuto is also entitled to commissions for marketing SAZ farming inputs such as seeds, herbicides and pesticides. The revenue realized from his crops as well as his commissions for being a lead farmer, has enable him to support his nephews after the death of their parents. Humphrey and Boyd are now at school.

Felicia Banda



In November 2018, following a serious accident involving the SAZ Farm manager Mussa, Felicia was employed as a temporary farm manager. Within eight months she proved herself to be hard working, skilful and trustworthy.

After Mussa was fully recovered from his accident, Felesia continued working with SAZ and was assigned responsibility as a lead farmer for 30 groundnut seed growers. She also signed up as groundnut seed grower after her field was inspected by the seed inspector from the certification institute (SCCI).

Felesia recorded a very good harvest. With the money she made, Felesia was able to buy land within Chipata town where she plans to build her house. She has also managed to buy seed, fertilizer and herbicides for 2019/20 season.

From the same income she has also been able to support her children through school, paying for their school fees, buying school necessities such as books and uniforms. In the 2019/20 season she is projecting a total revenue of K35,000. Felesia is a real inspiration to most young girls within the Mgawa assembly and the community at large.

Against all odds Felesia has managed to extricate herself from extreme poverty and is now able to support her children as well as other siblings. She expresses her gratitude to SAZ and to God for changing her life.

New Food Products

The small factory continues to experiment with new food products. The most recent is a bran-flake breakfast cereal which seems to appeal to supermarket buyers. It is easier to make than cornflakes and there is less competition on price. Production will start as soon as we get approval from the Zambian food standards board. The cornflakes product has been held back due to problems with one machine which fails to consistently handle the texture of the gluten free mixture. The recipe and production process is fine, but the flaking machine is causing some flakes to stick together. We are hoping to replace the machine with one of a better quality.



Because of the high volume to weight ratio our small van is overworked and unsuitable for lightweight products. We are looking for a larger van.

If you would like to support the work of SHAREAfrica by making a donation you can do this in a number of ways.

- 1. BY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD** using our website www.shareafrica.com and selecting 'Donations' from the main menu bar.
- 2. BY ELECTRONIC BANK TRANSFER** using either on-line banking or by instructing your local bank branch to make an electronic transfer. The SHAREAfrica banking details are as follows

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