

Maamba

We continue to support the Sisters of Mercy in Maamba, Zambia in their project to train young people from the surrounding villages to give them a trade. Earlier this year we received a District Matching Grant of £1971 to supply seven Carpenter and seven Tailor boxes to be given to the top students when they finish their one year of training. Unfortunately this shipment has suffered various delays in getting the boxes to Maamba. We have an arrangement with the Rotary Club of Nkhwazi in Lusaka who collect the boxes from the Airport and arrange free transport to Maamba. This free transport relies on lorries going from Lusaka to a coal mine in the south west of Zambia and passing the centre on the way . For some time the mine has been on strike and no coal to transport. The latest we have heard, (today 03.11.11) is that the mine has re-opened and the boxes were delivered on 02.11.11. This is the first time that we have experienced any problems in our dealings with Maamba and hopefully will be the last.

Hope and Homes for Children

As part of Hope and Homes for Children Ubuntu project we are helping them in South Africa with a project in Witbank just north of Joburgh. See this report from Hope & Homes



Hope & Homes [for Children](#)

3rd November 2011.

Trade Aid Boxes:

The Witbank Project took delivery of the 36 Trade Aid boxes on the 15th September 2011. The intention is to implement a skills trade unit under the wing of our Youth Development Programme; this project will target out-of-school youth and interested grade 12 learners to acquire the necessary skills and support to create their own sustainable future and maximize their potential.

We have secured a venue at the Mabande High School in Phola Township to operate the skills unit; this school is centrally situated and accessible to youth from the neighbouring areas and fits in with our mandate of supporting marginalized youth within Phola, a highly dense rural area which is beset with a high unemployment rate and many social problems. Youth leaders from this area with whom we are presently working are very excited about the project. They recognize the opportunity of development and being engaged purposefully.

We will work closely with the Mabande School Governing Body and Management Committee, community representatives, and youth groups to identify and enlist 24 trainees to commence the

programme and to repeat the training with new trainees on a quarterly basis; we will engage with recognized course facilitators to train and run the programme which will be accredited. The National Youth Development Agency will thereafter provide a 10 day business skills training programme for each group. We will pursue other skills training opportunities to enhance the programme. We will embrace local businesses to provide apprenticeship and possible employment opportunities for the youth.

In order to provide opportunities for vulnerable females we have decided to use the tailoring boxes to commence sewing classes for them. We will source a qualified sewing mistress to teach and run the classes; we have had discussions with one of our project partners (REACTION) to assist us in facilitating this aspect of the programme.

This project will give them skills to empower and sustain themselves, and opportunities to rise above their poverty stricken lives.

The building offered to the Project will house the Early Childhood Development programme and skills unit. On the 11th December it will be “officially” given to us and we will then prepare it for use in January. In the interim the necessary discussions with stakeholders and preparations will be undertaken.

Hemlata Morar
Country Director
HHC South Africa

Sightsavers

As part of Birmingham City Council’s Vehicles for Vision project. A refurbished Land Rover was donated to Sightsavers for use by their healthcare workers, for patient visits, hospital transport and school visits in Liberia. This Land Rover had been refurbished by a group of young offenders from the Birmingham area under the supervision of Land Rover technicians. Trade Aid supplied a specific mechanics box to help with the servicing of the vehicle during its life in Liberia and also supplied a teacher box and two tailor boxes.

PENHA (Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa)

Through a connection with a local Rotary Club we were able to send 6 teacher boxes to PENHA for use in Sudan. These were much appreciated and we had an article in their newsletter. From reading that newsletter I noted a project they were starting in the north of Uganda. After making contact we agreed to send six tailor boxes for the women in Mbirizi who had formed a cooperative to make and sell clothing for the local market. The boxes have now arrived, without any hitches I am pleased to say, and we should have some feedback shortly.

Jaipur Limb

We have supplied four sets of four boxes of specialised tools for use by the Jaipur Limb teams in Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Nigeria to make and fashion the artificial limbs.

We also have a further set of boxes to go to Haiti where there are some 4000 or so amputees. These boxes will be leaving us on 12th December destined for Miami where they will join up with other equipment and placed in a container for shipping to Haiti under the supervision of Jaipur Limb staff and hopefully arrive without too much hassle.

Cambodia

Through a local Rotary Club we were given the name of Janet Gracey who worked with the VSO in Cambodia and taught in the local schools. During the floods of 2010 the school which was build of timber and corrugated iron was washed away. Jan arranged or persuaded a benefactor in this country to finance a new school which has now been build on higher ground but desperately needs equipment for the children. Trade Aid are supplying sufficient teacher boxes to cover the 500 children who will be attending and these will be sent next week.

Guatemala

Last year we supplied ten boxes to the Rotary Club of Ermita to help out after the volcanic eruption and hurricane which devastated part of the country. They have now approached us to see if we can help with their Safe Passage project which aims to take the children who scavenge the city dumpsters out of this environment and give them education and training. We agreed to send teacher boxes for 100 children and three carpenter boxes, these were dispatched on 7th December, the Rotary Club will oversee the distribution and use of the boxes.

Malawi

We received a request from the Paradox Institution of Technology in Chipita which is in the north of Malawi for help with equipment for training young builders. Earlier this year Travis Perkins/Wickes gave us a selection of mainly building tools which had been on display or been returned after being on loan and which they could no longer sell as the outer packaging had been destroyed or they were surplus to their needs. In all we received over 500 items and these will be sent in our boxes to Paradox, these will leave on Wednesday 14th December.

Mary Slessor Foundation www.maryslessor.org

A local Rotary Club gave our name to this organisation and in due course we will be sending them four Carpenter boxes. As their base is something like 600 km from Lagos transport is not so easy and we are waiting for that to be finalised before we can send the boxes.

Bethel Nursery School **Banjul, The Gambia**

We were asked by a Rotarian in Great Barr, Bromwich to supply a handyman box to this school as they have just employed a maintenance/ caretaker and he needed tools and equipment to start work. It was dispatched on 7th December and should arrive shortly.