

# 'UBUNTU' GIVE TO LIVE

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020

# CECILY'S FUND

### **Mulishani! (Greetings!)**

### *Emergency Response to Covid-19 During Lockdown*

#### *A Lifeline to Child Headed Households*

A heartfelt **thank you** to all those who so generously donated to provide food parcels and hygiene packs to our most vulnerable children and their families. These provided a lifeline to child-headed households and other families during the national lockdown in Zambia when all trading had to be stopped and the poorest people were not able to work or buy food. Through your generosity we were able to respond quickly to protect our most vulnerable, distributing food parcels, soap and health information on Covid19 to keep them safe and secure during a period of immense stress and uncertainty.

As we approach the winter and the season of Christmas again, Zambia is heading into its rainy season, which can be one of the toughest times for the most vulnerable as the annual floods tend to wreck makeshift houses and commuting routes in several areas of Zambia.

Edward Mumba, a double orphan in grade 12, through your funding received an emergency parcel during lockdown. He lives alone in a one roomed rented house, and explained, "I rent my house at K350 per month - in instalments as I cannot afford to pay in full". For Edward the emergency pack has been a Godsend, arriving at a time when he had outstanding rent areas and no idea when or where his next meal would come from.



**Edward receiving a food and  
support pack**



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Now as we continue to navigate our way through uncertain times, as the Coronavirus continues to take hold across the world, we should not forget those who continue to suffer the economic, social and health impact.

'Ubuntu' in Africa has several translations, essentially narrowing down to the essence of humanity; *"a quality that includes the essential human virtues; compassion and humanity."* It is a universally understood term used by the African nations and in Zambia it is reflected even in the country's motto: *One Zambia, One Nation*. Culture dictates anyone, and everyone is family and should be treated rightfully so. Every family, community and village at large are a team – and we only are as strong as our weakest member.

This Christmas, please help us to continue the emergency care that we started in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic earlier this year. More than ever the poorest and most disadvantaged children and families need reassurance, protection, and stability in a world where everything continues to be uncertain. Our recent distribution of the emergency packs has been life saving - leaving some of our vulnerable families believing that, "Christmas has come early this year".

Anything you are able to give to the Ubuntu appeal, will help us continue with emergency measures to distribute food to those in need, train young people in container gardening and show them how to grow their own food, and share knowledge about how to stay safe, avoid Covid19 and stay healthy through our Peer Health Educators.



Paul with his 2 sisters outside their 2 roomed house receiving an emergency pack.



Paul (19) is the first born of five and spent most of his childhood selling traditional brooms made from grass. While doing this, he met a guidance and counselling teacher who encouraged him to start school from the little savings he had made; he was homeless at the time and slept in the market under shelters used to store goods.

"I do not raise enough money, as a result am the only one in school, my sisters are not yet in school because I cannot afford to pay for them, I rent my house at K200 per month, sometimes I skip school to allow me raise some money for food and rent. Recommending my name for school support has given me hope and lessened the burden". I don't think I would have managed to put myself in school if not for Cecily's Fund". Paul explained.



Florence receiving her emergency pack

Florence (19) is a single orphan and has access to education by way of the re-entry policy for girls who fall pregnant whilst in school. She is the 8th born out of 9 and is the only one to have gone to school. She journeys a long distance via poor conditioned route just to get to school, however she is very committed to her school work, saying she only misses school if her child is very sick, which is very rare.



Our Zambian local partners pictured in readiness to distribute the packs







School meal  
£5



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Charity number  
**1071660.**

School fees  
£50



School  
uniform  
£25

Start-Up  
Grant  
£250

About Cecily |  
Cecily's Fund is named in memory of  
Cecily Eastwood, who died in Zambia  
during her gap year in 1997. The  
charity was set up by her parents,  
Alison and Basil. Over the years, our  
work has helped over 20,000 children  
and we've spent over £6 million on  
projects in the country, building  
brighter futures in Zambia and helping  
to break the cycle of poverty.

