



Reg. Charity No 1112949

# ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024/5

## Thank You

**Earlier this year, Zimbabwe introduced its latest official currency, the sixth in 15 years. Just four months after its launch, and despite being allegedly backed by gold, the ZiG (ZWG) lost 40% of its value. Once again, the beleaguered people of Zimbabwe witnessed their bank accounts, salaries and pensions devalue overnight.**

Had this happened in almost any other country, it would have made the global news. In Zimbabwe, however, it has become par for the course. The impact on both working and retired people is palpable. In a country already teetering on the edge of economic collapse – a country suffering from rocketing inflation, frequent power cuts, water shortages and mass hunger – this is a devastating blow.

Zimbabwe remains in the midst of one of the worst droughts for decades. Widespread crop failures compound food insecurity, leaving millions at risk of starvation. Livestock are dying in their thousands and dams are less than 30% full – and all this unfolds against a backdrop of draconian politics and continuing human rights abuses.

**The demand for ZANE aid is greater than ever before.**

However, ZANE is operating in a challenging market, and competition from other equally worthy causes – especially with the ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East – have made it difficult for ZANE to raise sufficient funds to meet the growing demand.

Yet, thanks to ZANE's loyal and generous supporters, we have been able to maintain aid at

existing levels. ZANE continues to provide food, medicine and shelter to thousands of impoverished pensioners in Zimbabwe. Additionally, ZANE remains committed to treating children born with clubfoot and to providing education and food aid to children from impoverished backgrounds.

Without the unstinting kindness of our supporters, the situation would be so much worse for those who rely on ZANE for survival. Your generosity enables ZANE to send a message of hope, warmth and tenderness to the people whose lives you are helping to enhance – and in many cases, to save.

Read on to find out how your support is making a difference. On behalf of the ZANE team and all those you help,

## Thank You



*ZANE enables donors to help forgotten people in Zimbabwe*

# How to Donate to ZANE

There are many ways to donate to ZANE – online, by cheque or by bank transfer. You can also set up a **direct debit** to provide a monthly, quarterly or annual donation. **Regular gifts** help us to plan ZANE's work because it means we can predict how much income we'll have in the future. It helps us to know, day in and day out, that we will have a steady income stream to rely on. It also allows you to plan your giving and provides you with the flexibility to change it at any time. If you already provide a regular gift, thank you. If you would like to set up a regular payment, please complete and return the direct debit form on the back page of this newsletter.

ZANE Australia has full Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status which means you can claim the tax back on your donation when you submit your income tax return after the June 30 tax year end. To facilitate this, ZANE Australia will email you with an annual tax receipt in July / August each year - please ensure that we have your email address when making a donation in order to take advantage of this.

A gift in your will to ZANE is an incredible way to celebrate your love for Zimbabwe and help pensioners in the evening of their lives. Gifts in wills are vital to all areas of our work, so any gift you give, whatever size, will make a big difference to our work.

By remembering ZANE in your will, you'll ensure that we can continue to be here for ZANE's destitute pensioners for as long as we're needed.

To add ZANE to your will, you simply need to contact your attorney or estate planner and provide them with the following details:

Charity Name:

ZANE: Zimbabwe A National Emergency

Registered Charity Number:

ABN 36251392094

It could not be easier. Thank you.

# Economic Woes



**Rita, 81, has a degree in Economics. For 42 years, she worked as a maths teacher in one of Zimbabwe's prestigious schools, eventually becoming Head of Maths. Fondly regarded by her**

**students for her engaging and interactive style of teaching, Rita achieved excellent pass rates. She has a folder of letters from former students praising her inspiring teaching, encouragement and great sense of fun.**

Rita's late husband, Stan, was a university lecturer – together, they had planned a retirement full of travel and adventure. Stan lost his pension at the height of Zimbabwe's hyperinflation in 2008/09. When Rita retired in 2014, her pension was worth \$300 per month. Today (and several official currencies later), it is worth just \$30 per month.

Rita says: *"More than 40 years of work, and I'm supposed to survive on a dollar a day. My daughter also has a degree in Economics and works as a civil servant in Harare. Her salary, paid in the new ZiG currency, is worth the equivalent of \$217 per month. How is she meant to survive on that?"*

ZANE pays the rent for Rita's retirement cottage, funds her hypertension medication and provides her with a regular food parcel. After a recent visit, she told us: *"Without ZANE, I'd be dead."*

**\$84**

**pays for a pensioner's hypertension medication for a year.**



**“** I have known ZANE for many years. ZANE does great work in Zimbabwe looking after pensioners, veterans and the vulnerable. Please give ZANE your full support.

**Andy Flower OBE**

Former captain of the Zimbabwe national cricket team and coach of the England cricket team **”**

# Thank You

**"NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, IS EVER WASTED."**

(Aesop)

ZANE supporters continue to act with an abundance of kindness. In turn, our team in Zimbabwe ensure your donations reach those who need them most.

They are spent on enhancing and saving the lives of some of the most destitute people in Zimbabwe. Thank you.

This is how some of your donations have helped over the past year:

- **Three meals a day** provided to more than 800 elderly residents living in 25 care homes.
- **215 monthly food parcels** delivered to destitute pensioners living in their own homes.
- **9,200 hot meals** provided at our pop-up classes for impoverished children and teaching mentors.
- **The distribution of 21,000 kg of e'Pap** nutritional porridge. This has reached more than 1,600 people, including school children and orphans living in extreme poverty.
- **Hypertension medication** for 155 pensioners, including veterans and widows.
- **Arthritis medication** for 66 pensioners.
- **Diabetes medication** for 52 pensioners.
- **Life-saving heart treatment** for 22 pensioners.
- **Life-changing clubfoot correction treatment** for 600 children.
- **Help towards the care home fees** of 214 pensioners.
- **Rent assistance** for 221 pensioners living in their own homes.
- **More than 3,300 home visits** to vulnerable pensioners by ZANE field workers.

Just as crucial, your donations provide hope, compassion and a clear message to all those assisted by ZANE that they have not been forgotten. Thank you.



Pop-up classes for impoverished children

Dear donors,  
I want to say a very Big Thank You, from the bottom of my heart, for all you do for ZANE. Know that what you do makes a real difference, enabling ZANE to support me, and others like me, in need.  
Your help makes the difference between my ability to cope, and despair.

**\$25**

**pays for monthly diabetes medication for one pensioner.**

# ZANE's Unsung Heroes

**ZANE is fortunate to benefit from the help of 27 volunteers who deliver regular food parcels to destitute pensioners. These food boxes contain sugar, cooking oil, oats, powdered milk, tinned fish, soup, marmalade, juice, rice, tea bags, biscuits, tinned fruit and vegetables, chocolate and toilet roll. They are supplemented with fresh fruit and vegetables donated by a local farm.**



After helping to assemble the food boxes, the volunteers drive them to pensioners' homes, navigating challenging roads, potholes, traffic and temperamental traffic lights.

Faith, who has been volunteering for three years, delivers food parcels to four recipients. However, her role is so much more than simply delivering the food – she spends considerable time with each person, frequently running additional errands for them and often bringing along a home-cooked meal. Faith tells us:

*“Although born in Zimbabwe, I moved away for more than 20 years. When I returned three years ago, I was shocked to see the levels of poverty among Zimbabwe’s elderly community – and was fortunate to be able to help. Volunteering helped me to settle back in Harare and made me realise just how blessed my husband and I are.”*

One of Faith's regular recipients is 91-year-old Hattie, who looks after her two adult grandsons. They were orphaned as young children and both have learning disabilities. Hattie worked in a local government hospital as a matron and later as a theatre assistant for more than 35 years. She receives a pension of just \$20 a month. Hattie's

home has been without water for four months and the nearest borehole is 2 km away. She is lucky to have electricity once a week, and cooks on a single gas burner in her tiny kitchen.

Hattie and Faith have struck up a strong friendship. Hattie says: *“Faith’s visits and friendship mean so much to me. She helps in so many ways, recently arranging through ZANE for me to have hearing aids. My bones ache and I struggle to sleep, and Faith arranged for some medication to help. Without the food parcel, my grandsons and I would not survive. I am so blessed to have Faith and ZANE in my life.”*

Faith also delivers a regular food box to a family of three siblings. The youngest, 66-year-old Rose, works full time as a civil servant. Her salary, paid in local currency, is worth just \$310 a month. Her two siblings, Jacob and Anne, both have health problems and depend on Rose and ZANE to survive. Their home is in a terrible state of disrepair, which is detrimental to their health and wellbeing. Despite these challenges, they greet Faith with such joy and are always so excited and thankful to receive a food parcel.



On a recent visit, Faith noticed that Anne's legs were very swollen and red. ZANE organised for Anne to see a doctor and she was admitted to hospital with cellulitis, an intervention that saved her life. Rose told us: *"If it wasn't for Faith and ZANE, Anne would not have survived. Her*

*quick action meant Anne received intravenous antibiotics. I'm so grateful – Faith saved my sister's life."* ZANE was able to pay for Anne to recuperate in a care home, an experience she tells us was *"like being on holiday in a hotel with someone to bathe my legs and bring me three meals a day."*

Each of the 27 volunteers assisting with the food programme provides so much more than a food delivery service. They provide companionship, assistance, comfort and, in many cases, life-saving intervention. ZANE is indebted to this remarkable team of unsung heroes. In turn, Faith reports: *"I would like to thank ZANE supporters. You enable miracles to happen in these people's lives, and my fellow volunteers and I are so grateful for your support. Thank you – or Tatenda (as they say in Shona). God bless you all as you give dignity to these pensioners so very far away from your own shores."*

**\$40**

**will provide a food parcel for a destitute pensioner.**

## Reasons to support ZANE

1. We provide aid, comfort and support to 2,100 impoverished pensioners with nowhere else to turn. Only those genuinely in need of assistance receive it.
2. We invite you to choose which area of ZANE's work you wish to support.
3. We were the Telegraph Group Overseas Charity of the year.
4. We look after around 465 aged and frail veterans and their widows. These people fought for the Crown in WW2, Malaya, Korea and Aden. Without ZANE, they would be living with insufficient food and no healthcare.
5. We organise education programmes in a high-density area, assisting women and children living in extreme poverty.
6. We set up the first clubfoot correction programme in Zimbabwe. Fifteen treatment centres have been established and more than 5,900 children have received treatment to date.
7. We run a unique medical programme, providing basic medication to pensioners (including war veterans and their widows) for the treatment of conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and prostate issues.
8. We ensure your donations are subject to rigorous audit and ZANE is proud that since its foundation it has never lost money to collapsed banks, middlemen or corruption.
9. We asked an independent consultancy to review ZANE and the report stated:  
*"The charity thrives on its responsiveness, flexibility and lack of bureaucracy. Operationally, ZANE is frugal, focused and effective in delivering aid to the needy."*

**A picture tells a thousand words. Please visit [www.zane.uk.com](http://www.zane.uk.com) and view our three-minute film.** It tells the story of the work you are kindly funding and what a terrific difference it is making.

# Transforming Lives

**Clubfoot is a universal condition affecting children all over the world. In Zimbabwe, however, a lack of awareness that clubfoot is a treatable condition and not a lifelong disability has fuelled myths and misconceptions about it being associated with witchcraft or infidelity. This is still the reality today.**

Two-year-old Strive lives with his parents and an older sibling. Born with bilateral clubfoot, his condition was impossible to hide from visitors who came to celebrate his birth. Their warm congratulations soon turned to unsettling remarks, disapproving gazes and, within no time, torment. Just three weeks after the birth, the family was forced to move from their home due to the growing stigma. Fortunately for this family, Strive's paternal grandmother was familiar with clubfoot and has been supportive of the treatment process.

Strive began treatment when he was six weeks old. The casting phase, which required thigh-high plasters on both legs, was challenging. Strangers assumed Strive had broken

bones and would often accuse his parents of being careless for dropping him. The casting was followed by a tenotomy (a small incision to the tendon) and the fitting of braces. Strive responded well to the treatment and is today an active and adventurous boy, only wearing leg braces at night.

Strive's grandmother has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the community and has helped several other families start treatment.

Children with untreated clubfoot in Zimbabwe

face poor life chances, pain, stigma and, in many cases, abuse and neglect. If treated early and correctly, clubfoot does not need to result in disability.

ZANE supporters have enabled the successful treatment of more than 5,900 children born with clubfoot. It has transformed their lives and prospects while helping to break the chain of stigma and fear. Each child has been given the

chance to walk their own path unburdened by prejudice. **Thank you.**



*Another happy outcome, Rosemary and her son Duncan*

**\$305**

**successfully treats a child with clubfoot.**



“ There are many people in Zimbabwe who today remain in desperate need of help, through no fault of their own. ZANE is a dedicated charity devoted to providing a lifeline to these people. The ZANE team is hard-working and focused, bringing impressive results for the poorest and least advantaged, and is most worthy of our support.

**Jonathan Sheppard**

Former Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe  
Board member, ZANE Australia

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# Self-sufficiency

**Harold, 71, was born in South Africa and moved to Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) in 1975. He worked on the railways for many years. The collapse of Zimbabwe's railway system had a significant impact on the nation, affecting small-hold farmers, pensioners and railway workers alike. Harold not only lost his job, but – like so many others – also saw his pension and savings obliterated by hyperinflation.**

After finding work in a local supermarket, Harold's hard work and tenacity saw him promoted to managerial level. However, he was laid off when he turned 65 – despite still being fit to work – and he struggled to find another job. Even though Harold lived frugally, his small savings soon ran out and he found himself homeless.

ZANE intervened and arranged for Harold to move to a local care home. It quickly became apparent to the staff that Harold was fit and capable, and he was offered work in the kitchen – a job he loves. His earnings now cover most of his



care home fees, with ZANE only supplementing a small amount and covering the cost of his prostate medication. A keen reader, Harold has also rejuvenated the home's library, much to the delight of the other residents.

*"Thanks to ZANE, I not only gained somewhere to live but also a job and a whole new community of friends. I'm almost self-sufficient – but not quite. The additional help I get from ZANE means so much. Thank you to those who make it possible, I'm so grateful."*

## 3 ways to give:

- **Donate online** – <http://zaneaustralia.org.au/donate/>
- **Call us:** +61 (0) 421 600 040
- **Or return this form to:**  
ZANE Australia, Unit 4, 50-52 Cypress Crescent,  
Leopold VIC 3224

Preferred use of gift:

- ☐ Trustees' Discretion   ☐ Veterans' Work  
☐ Impoverished Communities   ☐ Clubfoot

## I would like to donate:

- ☐ A single gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ A monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_



ACN 613 802 574



ABN 36251392094

## My details:

Title	Initials	Surname
Address		
		Postcode
Tel		Mobile:
Email		

Please complete form overleaf.



“ ZANE does invaluable, literally lifesaving work in Zimbabwe in providing essential support for those who can no longer help themselves - especially amongst our senior citizens. As ZANE extends its fundraising activities to Australia, I am pleased to endorse the importance of its work and guarantee that the money raised goes where it is needed most. I encourage fellow Australians to support ZANE generously.

**Matthew E K Neuhaus**  
Former Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe



## You can save a life today

Please donate below, or donate online at [www.zaneaustralia.org.au/donate](http://www.zaneaustralia.org.au/donate)

ZANE Australia, Unit 4, 50-52 Cypress Crescent, Leopold VIC 3224

ZANE will not pass on your details to third parties. If a specified project is fully funded, donations will be used where most needed.

How did you first hear about ZANE Australia? \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to donate by:

☐ Cheque

☐ Credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Expiry   /

Cardholder's name \_\_\_\_\_

Card number:

3-digit Verification number:

☐ Online Direct Deposit to:

ZANE Australia Limited, BSB: 032023, Account: 305217

Payment Reference:

your name \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support.