



## UK IN ZIMBABWE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

This newsletter gives a snapshot of the UK's work in Zimbabwe during 2014, highlighting some of our most memorable achievements. We hope you enjoy it.

### Forward by Mission Heads

I have had a fascinating first three and a half months in Zimbabwe. The thing that has above all struck me has been the warm welcome I have received in the mission, with government colleagues and the wide range of people I have now met in business, in the arts and in civil society. Zimbabwe is a truly inspiring place and I feel very lucky to be in this role at this hugely important time in our UK/Zimbabwe relationship. I am really pleased with the progress we have made in building a stronger sense of one team through our integrated business planning process. This newsletter is another great example of how we are working together to showcase the great work we are doing. Building on this good start to create a united, motivated and happy team remains my top priority for next year. **Catriona Laing, British Ambassador to Zimbabwe**

When I told colleagues and friends I was coming to Zimbabwe, I received numerous emails of congratulations and envy with Zimbabwe being described as the best post in the network. Although I have only been here a few months, my now raised expectations, continue to be met. I have been constantly impressed by the professional and proactive approach of colleagues across the country and the range and impact of programmes we deliver. Zimbabwe has a dynamic and vibrant arts and cultural scene and in my short time here I have been privileged to experience this. I am excited about the opportunities that exist for us as a team and the range of partners we can work with to continue to grow the reach and impact of our work. **Sam Harvey, Director of the British Council Zimbabwe**

Since arriving in Zimbabwe in August I have been consistently impressed by the quality of the development programmes that DFID Zimbabwe is associated with. This is partly due to a committed and experienced DFID team. But it is very much due to our implementing partners. It has been a privilege to spend time with a number of them and to see what we are achieving together for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe. This newsletter is only a snapshot but an inspiring one. Enjoy it – and please tell us what you think. **Annabel Gerry, Head of DFID Zimbabwe**

## British Council Highlights

### Creative Zimbabwe Project

British Council, Alliance Francaise and the Goethe Institute under the banner of European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC) Zimbabwe Cluster – launched the Creative Zimbabwe Programme in November 2013.

The programme aims to contribute to the professionalization of the cultural sector in Zimbabwe, with a grant of \$670,000 from the European Union.

The Creative Zimbabwe Basket Case II Exhibition celebrates the best of Zimbabwean basket weaving through art pieces and designs from Binga Craft Centre (Binga), Bulawayo Home Industries (Bulawayo), Lupane Women’s Centre (Lupane), Step Trust (Honde Valley) and Zienzele Foundation (Masvingo). The exhibition brings together work by five prominent African and European artists -Ifeoma Anyaeji (Nigeria), Alexandra Bircken (Germany), Tapfuma Gutsa (Zimbabwe), Delaine Le Bas (United Kingdom) and Michel Paysant (France)- who were commissioned to create exciting new pieces which were on display at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe until recently. The other activities will be concluded in 2015.



*Images  
Courtesy of  
National  
Gallery of  
Zimbabwe*

### Royal Court Playwright Workshop



The Royal Court Theatre Company of London in partnership with the British Council Zimbabwe presented “Reading and Excerpts Performances” of scripts by nine Zimbabwean playwrights who participated in a two year writers’ workshop.



Participating playwrights were Elizabeth Muchemwa, Kevin Hansen, Nelson Mapako, Nonhlalo Dube, Musekiwa Samuriwo, Rudo Mutangadura, Mgcini Nyoni, Privillage Mutendera and Blessing Hungwe.



The Royal Court runs long-term play development projects in many countries, helping to stimulate new writing skills and to bring diverse plays from different writers to London.

The aim of the workshops was to support each individual participant in writing a new contemporary play. The workshops were designed for the needs of each writer and explored individual interests. A script reading event concluded the third phase of the programme. More work still needs to be done to polish and finish off the scripts in time for festivals in 2015.

## Management Express Forum

British Council monthly management forums offer the opportunity to network with peers and industry leaders, while joining in debates that are shaping the global economy today.

The forum is held regularly at a hotel in the Harare Central Business District. It offers a useful way to improve



management and leadership skills, professional capacity and business practice. Some of the presentations have been facilitated by prominent professional industry leaders and think tanks including Professor Tony Hawkins, Nyaradzo

Mavindidze, George Mutendadzamera and Ian Rheeder from South Africa.

## DFID Highlights

### Agro Initiative Zimbabwe

DFID has supported Agro-Initiative Zimbabwe (AIZ) since 2012, as a part of DFID's Pro-Poor Growth Programme. This programme aims to provide access to finance to Zimbabwean agri-businesses that have a direct link to small holder farmers. DFID has committed \$3.9m to this programme up until December 2016.

## B' Ayoba

Through this programme DFID supports the medium sized enterprise, B' Ayoba (Pvt) Ltd to establish a baobab processing centre. Baobab is an indigenous tree species that naturally occurs in many of the drier regions of Zimbabwe. Currently its fruit is consumed as a drought food in rural areas and marketed on a small but significant level through informal market channels in urban areas. Despite the expanding scale and scope of the market for baobab products, there has only been limited packaging, marketing or diversification of the product so far, something that B' Ayoba is looking to change.

The B' Ayoba business model involves farmers harvesting the whole baobab fruit. Farmers are organised into groups and undergo training on harvesting, quality control, hygiene and semi processing. Sales distribution channels have been developed both locally and globally. The export market has been made possible by the granting of approval from the European Food Standards Agency, to market baobab in the EU as a Novel Food. This directly benefits the farmers as they obtain a better price from their baobab collections from the export market premiums. Currently the business is buying baobab fruit from several districts, namely Chipinge, Chimanimani, Buhera, Mutoko and Binga.



Farai\* is a 43 year old married woman, with 5 children, from Jinga village in Chimanimani. She is part of a group of 12 women who have organised themselves to sell baobab to B' Ayoba. Josephine started working with B' Ayoba in 2012 and has since, consistently and actively, participated in collecting fruit for sale. In 2013 she collected and cracked nearly 2 tonnes of pulp and seed so generating more than \$300 in revenue to buy food and send her children to school. Josephine's baobab collection and processing is just one of over 100,000 economic opportunities that DFID's Pro-Poor Growth Programme has created for poor Zimbabweans.

## Child Protection Fund Empowers Families

The DFID Zimbabwe-funded Child Protection Fund benefits over 55,000 households with cash transfers and over 25,000 children per year with essential child protection services. These are the stories of two of the programme's beneficiaries.



## **Feeding a family of 10 in Goromonzi**

Alice\* is a 37 year old woman caring for 10 children: four of her own, two orphans of her deceased brother, two of her sister's children, and two from her father's household. She engages in casual labour, such as seasonal farm work to earn income, spent mostly on food and paying school fees. Through the Child Protection Fund, Alice receives a cash transfer of USD 50 bi-monthly, and support from the local Child Protection Committee (CPC) who during frequent household visits offer guidance regarding use of the cash transfer and moral support.

Before receiving cash transfers, Alice was barely coping, and forced to sell assets such as her chickens. She says her meagre income is still hardly sufficient to make ends meet, but that the cash transfer has improved the wellbeing of the household, notably by providing more diverse foods to eat. She is also now able to send the children to school, and can purchase soap and clothing more frequently. Going to the nearby market in proper clothes gives her dignity and more confidence, she explains, and now people come to visit her more often than before.

The cash transfer has given her a sense of relief, she says. She now feels less desperate, knowing that the cash transfer will come: 'now I sleep better' – 'ikozvino ndava kurara zvakanaka.'

## **Charity's improved parenting through family clubs**

Charity\* lives with two of her children and two of her grandchildren. Since being widowed, she has struggled to support her family. Charity was forced to take on additional work to support the family and the additional financial pressures and limited personal time meant that Charity struggled to communicate effectively with her family and felt frustrated. She beat the children when they misbehaved, who in turn became frightened and stopped talking to Charity about their concerns. Charity found this painful, but did not have the strength or resources to communicate with her family or ask for help.

In 2013, Family Clubs were introduced in Charity's area. After learning about the programme, Charity was excited and became a member, participating in group discussions on topics such as children's rights and responsibilities, communicating with children and non-violent ways of disciplining children. Since taking part in the programme, the family's relationships have improved. Charity has learned to speak calmly to her children, without anger and without physical violence, and the environment for the whole family has improved. She has also joined together with other Family Club members to start a savings account which is used at the end of each month



to purchase groceries for each family. This has improved the family's health, as they now receive a better allocation of food.

Charity now feels that her children and grandchildren's future is brighter as they are aware of their rights, and that they will be able to share the knowledge they have learned from Charity with their own grandchildren.

\*Not their real names

## Foreign and Commonwealth Office Highlights

### UK Trade Mission to Zimbabwe Launches Report

The British Embassy with support from UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) facilitated a UK Trade Delegation to Zimbabwe on a scoping mission on 28-31 October. The delegation met with Zimbabwean government officials, heads of parastatals, development partners and captains of industry among other key stakeholders to find out more about the realities of doing business in Zimbabwe.

The British Expertise director, Alex Lambeth, who led the trade mission expressed his optimism about the future of trade and investment relations between the UK and Zimbabwe saying, "this visit has been a success and we certainly welcomed Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa's reassurances to commit to clarifying indigenization and implement reforms that will encourage the ease of doing business in Zimbabwe."

Ambassador Catriona Laing was delighted by the warm reception the trade mission received from Zimbabwean Government authorities saying "this is a clear message of willingness on their part to work together with UK companies to promote legitimate trade and investment that Zimbabwe needs for an economic turnaround."

Meanwhile, British Expertise launched the Zimbabwe Scoping Report (which can be read [here](#)) at an event in London on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2014 and in South Africa on 8 December targeting British companies based in Southern Africa.

### Zimbabwe Chevening Applications Top SADC region



Zimbabwean Chevening Scholarship aspirants for the 2015/16 study period trebled to 385 eligible applicants, the highest number in the SADC region.

This overwhelming response followed Ambassador Catriona Laing's recent



announcement that the British Government trebled the number of Chevening Scholarship awards for Zimbabwe.

Ambassador Laing said “The Chevening Scholarship Programme is a demonstration of UK’s commitment to Zimbabwe’s people and to its future by ensuring that beneficiaries have the skills and knowledge to make a meaningful contribution to Zimbabwe’s development.”

To date, there are over 200 Chevening Alumni in Zimbabwe. Those who have gone on to reach positions of influence in a range of sectors include Chipo Mtasa, George Guvamatanga, Irene Petras, as well as Ambassadors, leaders in government, the private sector, the arts, civil society and the legal profession.

Chevening is the United Kingdom’s global scholarship programme awarded to outstanding scholars with leadership potential from around the world to study postgraduate courses at UK universities. For more information about our work, please visit universities in the UK.

### **For more information about our work, please visit;**

#### **British Embassy**

**Website:** <http://www.gov.uk/government/world/zimbabwe>

**Twitter:** @UKinZimbabwe

**Address:** British Embassy, 3 Norfolk Road, Mount Pleasant, PO Box 4490, Harare

**Email:** General Enquiries: [UKinfo.harare@fco.gov.uk](mailto:UKinfo.harare@fco.gov.uk)

#### **British Council**

**Website:** <http://www.britishcouncil.org/home-diversity.htm>

**Twitter:** @Britishzw

**Address:** British Council, 16 Cork Road, Belgravia,

**Email:** [General.enquiries@britishcouncil.org.zw](mailto:General.enquiries@britishcouncil.org.zw)

#### **DFID**

**Website:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/zimbabwe>

**Twitter:** @UKinZimbabwe,

**Address:** British Embassy, 3 Norfolk Road, Mount Pleasant, P O Box 4490

**Email:** General Enquiries: [enquiry@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@dfid.gov.uk)