



Established 1994

HANDS AROUND
THE WORLD



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Executive Officer Update

Between the rising cost of living, Covid-19 pandemic, climate crisis, and devastation of war in Ukraine amongst other crises, it can be overwhelming to have to think about other world problems such as inequality, poverty and hunger in Africa and Asia. Yet all these crises demand our attention and, if possible, require us to take positive action. We know that many of you are doing just that, either through the work of Hands Around The World and our partner organisations or through other actions in your own lives and communities, and we'd like to thank you for all the positive energy, hope and kindness that you bring to the world. As Persis Musonda, Director of the Kaliyangile Vocational Training Centre in Zambia, says:

"Together with your generous support and our efforts, we help change and shape the lives of children and youths in the community."

The children who attend our partner projects in Benin, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia and India face many difficulties in their day-to-day lives and face many obstacles in the path to realising their ambitions, yet it is amazing what they can achieve with a little help.

We believe in the talent and potential of all children, and we believe in the vision of our partners. We know that together we can make a difference. To achieve the change we want to see, we need our partnerships in Benin, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia and India, and we also need our volunteers and supporters in the UK, Jersey and elsewhere. Thank you all for being part of this very special global team.

We hope you enjoy reading about the difference we are making together.



Bridget Higginson
Executive Officer



About Us

Mission Statement

To help children and young people disadvantaged through poverty or disability, or otherwise vulnerable, in partnership with locally managed centres in Benin, Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia and India. We also support well-prepared volunteers to offer practical help, skill sharing, and friendship.

Vision

To enhance educational and vocational opportunities to assist children to reach their full potential.

How we work

We work in partnership with in-country managers to realise their vision of supporting vulnerable children and alleviating poverty within their communities. This means ownership remains within the local community and we are committed to supporting our partner projects move towards self-sustainability.

Reports from our partners

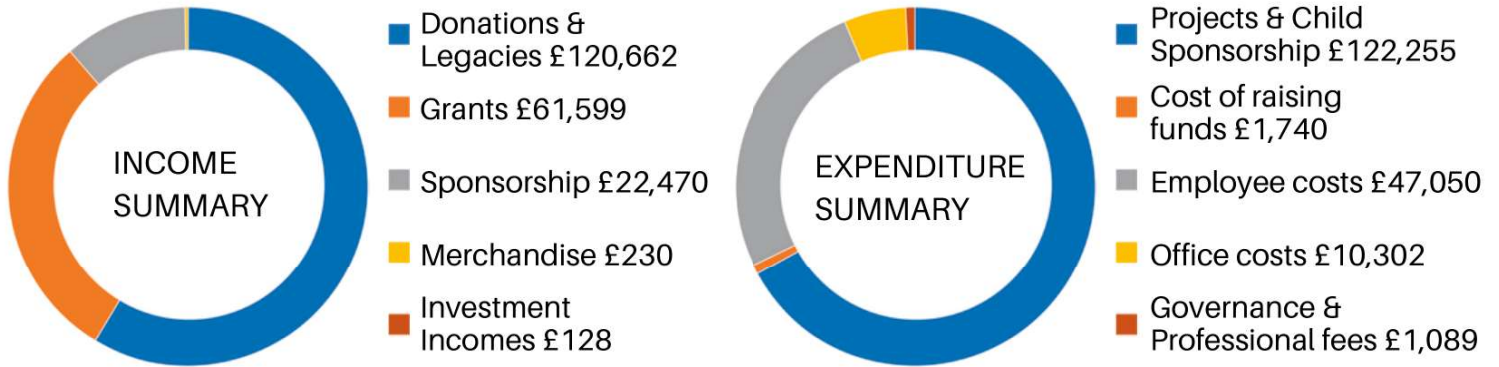
There were interruptions to activities throughout 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. However, there is still much to report as our partners worked hard to overcome these difficulties and do the best for the children in their care. Please read on to find out more about what was achieved in 2021 at each partner centre.



children at their home, Zambia

Finances 2021

Our income and expenditure have continued to be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic but the generosity of organisations and individuals through donations, grants and sponsorships has allowed us to maintain the planned levels of support to our partners in Zambia, Benin, Rwanda, Kenya and India and to provide additional support to help them meet the challenges faced during the pandemic.



With income of £205,109 and expenditure of £182,436 we have been able to maintain healthy reserves and are pleased to have been able to transfer, from our unrestricted general reserves, £10,000 to a Project Contingency Fund and £5,000 to an Environment Fund. Both are significant funds. The Project Contingency Fund allows us to cover unforeseen project costs.

The Environment Fund allows us to support initiatives which help mitigate the impact of climate change and those which help people adapt to the inevitable consequences of environmental change.





Pi33 school, Monze

Impact 2021

With all the challenges of a pandemic to deal with, we are delighted to share some positive achievements from across the projects, thanks to the work of our partners overseas and the financial support of everyone who wants to make a positive difference to the lives of young people. Hands Around the World has been involved in enhancing and developing school buildings in several of the projects, enabling many more children to access education.

Key successes of 2021:

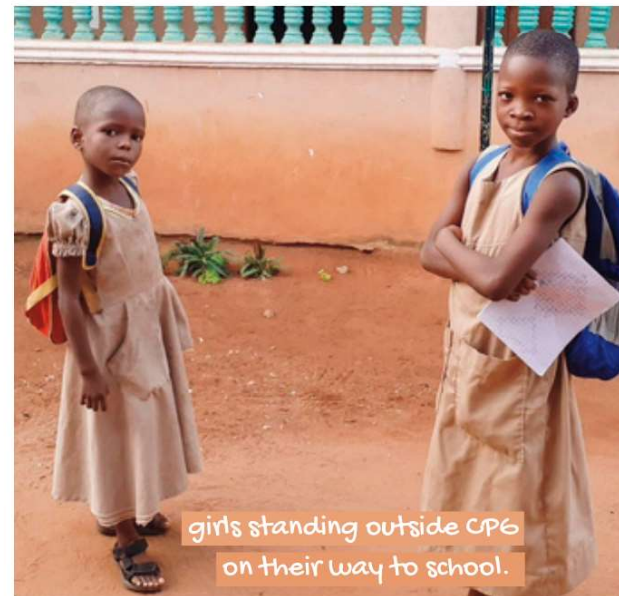
- 823 children supported through primary school
- 198 children supported through secondary school
- 22 young people supported through further education at university
- 37 girls/young women completed a tailoring course
- 6 students completed a one-year diploma in nursing
- 30 families (approximately 180 people) benefitted from monthly bags of maize
- 84 families supported with regular food parcels
- 600 children received a hot lunch at school daily
- 9 young people supported on apprenticeship courses
- 3 classrooms and a toilet block constructed
- 1 vocational training building constructed
- 1 borehole funded
- 151 trees planted
- 15 homes repaired after cyclone devastation

Chez Papa Geoff (CPG), Affame, Benin

Benin seems to have largely managed to avoid being impacted by Covid and has been able to continue with day-to-day life without any government shutdowns of schools. Restrictions to inbound flights, mandatory masks and hand washing were introduced.

In 2021, there were 22 children living at CPG and benefitting from the fruits of the farm as well as learning about farming and gardening. The children are looked after, cared for and well fed and CPG staff make sure that they are supported with their schooling.

Hands Around the World provided funds for a well at the farm, which has enabled the establishment of a vegetable garden. This will improve the children's diet and provide surplus for sale.



girls standing outside CPG
on their way to school.

Hands Around the World's 25-year commemorative tree planting initiative was welcomed in Benin, where they planted 76 fruit trees. They have also dedicated two trees to the memory of people who have contributed so much to this project: Geoff Burnett who was the inspiration for and driving force behind the CPG project, and Jill Yates who volunteered and gave so much to support the children at CPG.

In addition to those living at CPG, many more children and young people in the community are supported through Hands Around the World's education support programme in Benin, which sponsors children from the start of secondary school right through to the completion of their education or training, including apprenticeships and university.



children eating lunch at CPG

New Life Centre (NLC), Sarberia, India

The school was closed from March 2020 right through 2021, apart from a few short periods when restrictions were temporarily lifted and older pupils were able to attend. During this time, NLC staff offered online teaching, but around 50-60% of pupils did not have adequate IT devices – a problem which affected millions across rural India. To address this difficulty, NLC staff organised for pupils to come to school at allocated times to collect and return hard copies of work for marking. Staff worked hard to keep in touch with families to ensure children would return to school when it became possible.

Tailoring classes at the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) were able to run throughout the lockdown period, adhering to Covid protocols. The hard work, positivity and encouragement of tutor Champa Mahato enabled 37 girls to develop their skills and opened up the option of self-employment.

In 2021, NLC staff also offered advice and assistance to many people who needed to access recognised health care centres when seeking emergency health care.



tailoring students with Champa Mahato

Hands Around the World supported the NLC to provide financial help to 15 families to enable them to repair their houses which had been destroyed due to cyclone and flood devastation. Repairs were also carried out on the school buildings and boundary fencing that had suffered storm damage.



children in the New Life Centre



two fathers enrolling their children

Pizz School and Support centre, Monze, Zambia

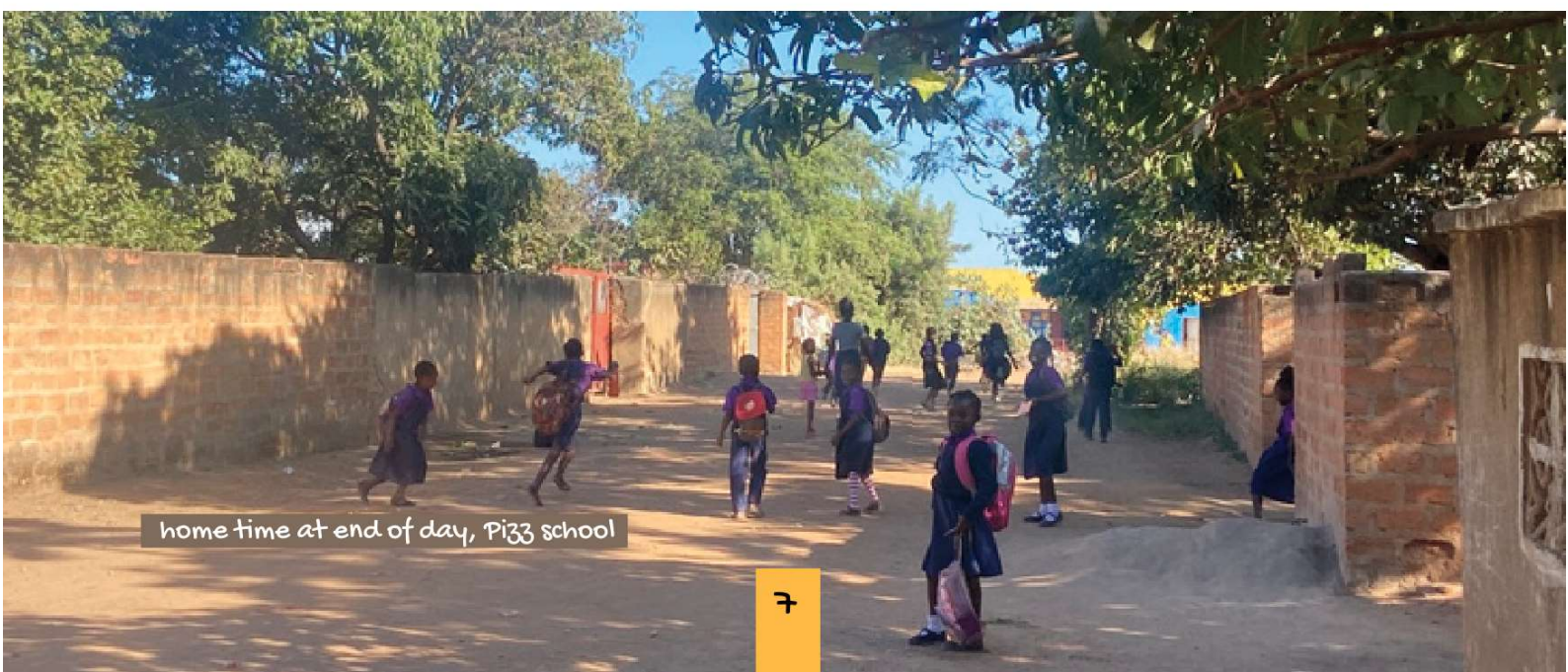
Zambian schools have experienced government shutdowns during 2021: one for just two weeks and the other for over two months. Trying to ensure that everyone is back in Pizz school and that children continue to progress academically for exams has been a challenge for the local team.

Pizz stands apart from other schools because of the extra support on offer: for example, social and emotional support, advice, food and clothing. This is important for the children attending as they come from disadvantaged backgrounds and many are orphaned. The extra support available is the reason that they keep coming back to school despite the challenges at home, such as the pressure to earn money and find food.

In addition to supporting the core activities of Pizz school, Hands Around the World also helped with the following in 2021:

- ☀️ 100 solar lamps for pupils without electricity at home (with at least six people per household, the reach of this was far wider than 100 pupils)
- ☀️ Extra food for 30 families with children who are on antiretroviral medication for HIV
- ☀️ Items for Covid prevention such as facemasks, soap, sanitiser, handwashing buckets
- ☀️ Additional textbooks for school to assist with social distancing measures
- ☀️ Extra books to create a lending library for secondary pupils during school closures
- ☀️ Furniture and 10 desktops for the computer room

As it was not possible to visit in 2021, a visit by friends living in Zambia was arranged – Catriona Waddell and Enrico Carretta. They both have experience of working with and running NGOs in Zambia and were able to offer advice and could share ideas with the local team.

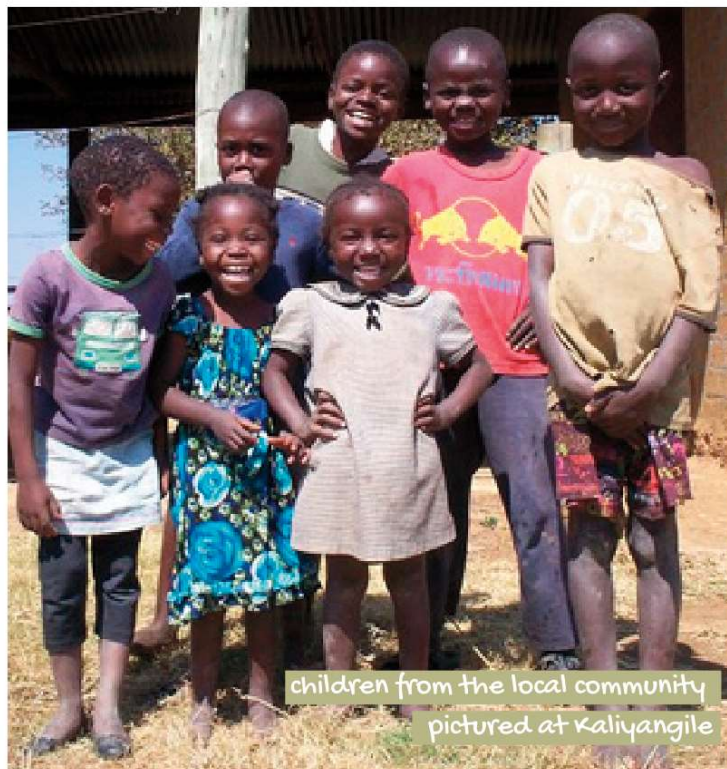


home time at end of day, Pizz school

Kaliyangile Vocational Training Centre, Chisamba, Zambia

Persis Musonda, Director of Kaliyangile writes:

"2021 was a challenging year for Kali and we looked forward to a fresh start in 2022. The country was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and Chisamba was not spared. The pandemic spread like wildfire and by April 2021, most of the staff at Kali were affected. On 4th June 2021, we lost Patrick Changufu, Chairman of the Board, to Covid-19. This left a huge gap for the Centre and impacted negatively on the morale of the staff. However, Hands Around the World relentlessly supported the project and together with Patrick's family, Hands Around the World provided the needed assurance to see the Kali project through amidst mixed feelings and despair.



Despite the challenging circumstances and the long shut down in training, the centre proved to be a hub of comfort to members of the community who benefitted from the feeding programme, as well as some farm workers who depend on the different agricultural activities for their livelihoods."

Kaliyangile's outreach work helped many in the local community who were experiencing huge spikes in food prices and basic commodities, combined with a lack of available work. Work on the farm has been a lifeline to local families, especially those with children.

With the Covid pandemic at its peak, many lost out on employment, including Michael (picture below, right). Michael subsequently joined Kali as a piggery attendant and is happy now to be able to provide for his family under these difficult conditions.



Disability Community Centre (DCC), Maua, Kenya



In 2021, the DCC supported 870 children with disabilities in the semi-arid areas of Meru County in Kenya. Support included home and centre-based therapy, play groups, corrective surgical operations, referral for specialised treatment, education assessment and school enrolment, as well as child rights awareness raising.

A further 1,634 people - those involved in the care and wellbeing of children with disabilities were reached. This included parents, guardians, and caregivers, members of support groups, teachers, school administrators and community leaders.

In 2021, HATW supported the work of the DCC in the following ways:

- ☀ Provision of new chairs, sanitation items and extra food for Irindiro Special School
- ☀ Food distribution for vulnerable children during Covid-related school closures
- ☀ Construction of a borehole to provide a safe and regular water supply for Athi Special School
- ☀ Provision of three laptops for the DCC office to improve efficiency and remote working options
- ☀ Provision of PPE for an event to celebrate UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities



Hands Around the World Jersey (HATWJ), Rwanda



Mike Haden shares:

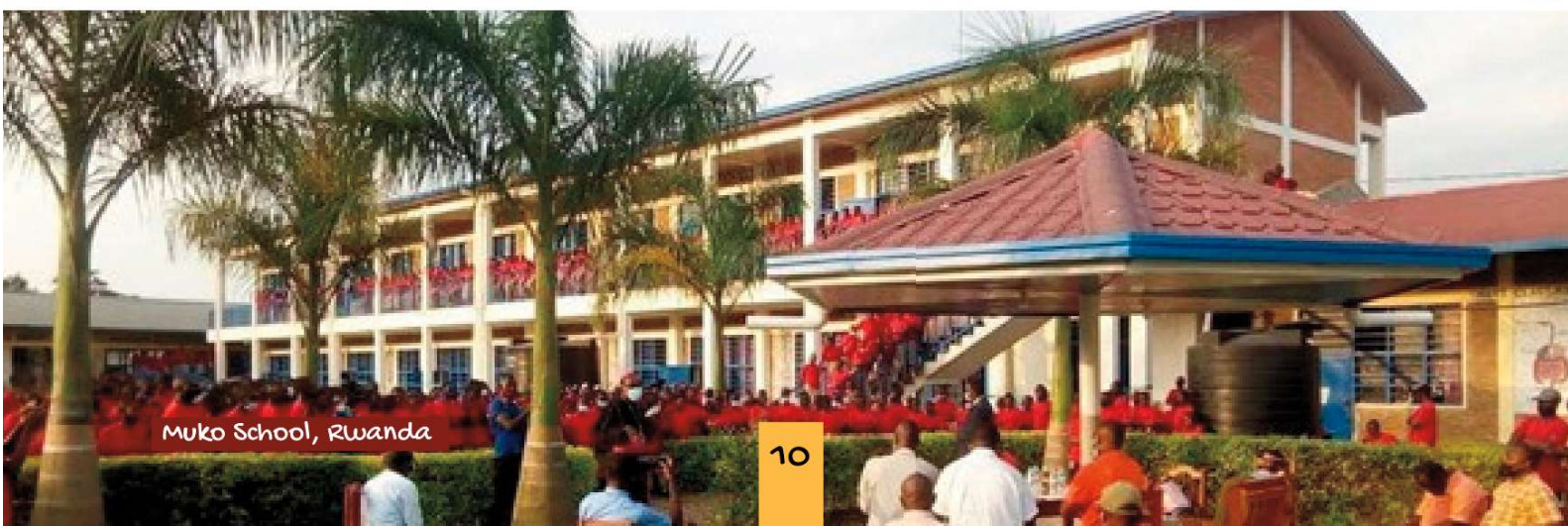
"We are immensely proud of these students and their achievements this year. Moses has now graduated as a vet and Esther as a midwife. Polyphile, a teacher at Muko, now has a degree in education and Giselle has completed a vocational training course in tailoring.

HATWJ sponsored 16 students in 2021 (university students, secondary students, vocational trainees & teachers undertaking further training). HATWJ, with help from Jersey Overseas Aid, have supported the development of various schools in the region, transforming the learning environment and outcomes for many thousands of pupils.

This is Muko School (below), where we started our partnership with schools in Bugarama and Rusizi in 2010. It continues to astound us by its ongoing transformation into a beautiful site with good teaching and learning conditions. It teaches 3,500 students from nursery to university entrance.

Our main project for 2021 was the construction of three classrooms and a toilet block at Nyakagoma Primary School. This is just phase 1 and we continue with phase 2 in 2022 - building a further three classrooms on top of these, enabling the school to provide three new secondary classes.

We also helped Mihabura complete their security wall around the school. Thanks again to Djuma, our Project Manager, who continues to plan and oversee our projects."



Success Stories

With all news/media being dominated by Covid-19 and stories of sadness and hardship, we wanted to share some positive outcomes for children/youngsters who we strive to support at our partner projects.

Edina is one of the many children who has been helped by the DCC, Kenya.

Edina was enrolled at the DCC on 4th of June 2019 after she was referred by the rehabilitation team during the registration of persons with disabilities at Nkamathi Special School.

She was unable to walk due to a weakness on the left side of her body. She began physiotherapy sessions along with weekly home visits. She also attended the DCC outreach clinics where her progress was assessed.

Edina is now able to walk using one elbow crutch and she is now due an education assessment and school placement.



Edina after her physiotherapy sessions



Mawiini

Mawiini graduated as a Veterinary surgeon. She has been through all the Grades at Pizz school, Zambia. She completed secondary school and then was sponsored through University. At HATW, we are proud to have played a part in her journey.

Mawiini writes:

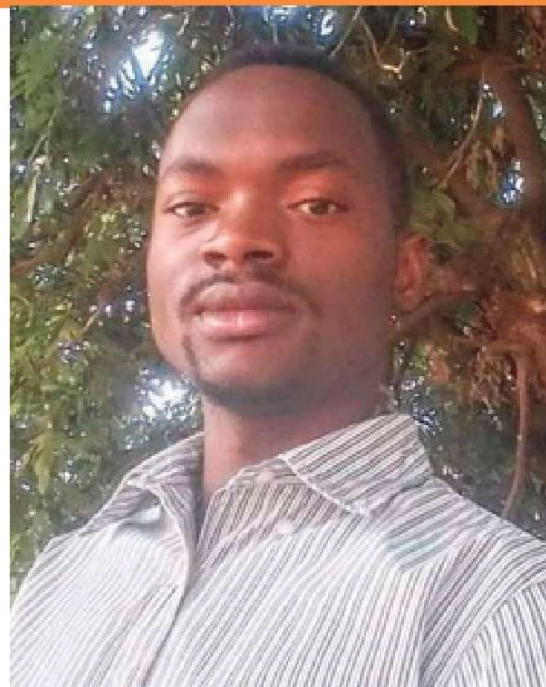
“Apart from a career woman I hope to be an inspiration to a girl child faced with lots of challenges, to be a figure whose story about life and the possibility in overcoming challenges not faced by hard choices will uplift the soul. To every little child out there: there is always hope in the future provided we choose what we want and work hard towards achieving it whilst remaining focused.”

Mawiini also ran a virtual London marathon for HATW, raising over £500 and running 30.41km in the hottest month of the year. She had to stop due to it getting dark and unsafe, but we applaud her efforts. What an inspiration!

Success Stories

Maxwell graduated from university with a Bachelor of Science with Education this year. Due to the pandemic his placement was delayed, but he will be doing his teaching experience in January 2022.

He writes "I really appreciate the support that I received since childhood up to the present time, may you continue supporting me. I have been at school because of your helping hands, I will forever be thankful to you my donors and I wish you more life and more blessings."



Maxwell



Earnest, Pizz school, Zambia

Earnest is a sponsored student at Pizz school and comes from a vulnerable family. Earlier in 2021 he scored 761/900 in his Grade 7 exams. This was the best score for this exam at Pizz school and an incredible achievement. Well done!

Aaron has been enrolled at Pizz since Grade 1 and is now 17 years old. At the end of 2021 he sat his Grade 9 and passed. His favourite subject is mathematics and he hopes to become a teacher in the future. His single mother has brought him up as he lost his father at a young age. Aaron, however, has had to be very independent. A few years ago his mother moved in with his new stepfather and left Aaron to fend for himself in the old house. Aaron has managed the last few years on his own and is grateful for Pizz support and sponsorship for both his schooling and all the materials and uniform he needs.



Aaron, Pizz school, Zambia



Peter, Kaliyangile, Zambia

Peter, pictured left working at Kaliyangile, tells us:

“It is difficult to find a decent job with just a grade 12 certificate. My dream is to become a pig farmer after my dad who is a peasant farmer with a few animals at the village. I am grateful to this wonderful project where I am learning various skills in livestock farming and able to provide food for my family. It is a great opportunity to work with the Kali Project.”

Afsana completed her 2nd year BSc Nursing in November 2021. She comes from a poor family, is very positive minded and doing well. Her family were struggling to pay her college fees, so HATW stepped in to help, thanks to assistance from our supporters. Afsana attended the New Life Centre school from the age of four. The NLC is HATW's partner project in West Bengal, India (a school dedicated to supporting the poorest children in this rural community).

Afsana's family are very supportive of her studies and she is the first girl in her family ever to complete school and go on to further education, so they are extremely proud of her.

Mr Naskar (Founder Director of the NLC) writes that he hopes to provide a better life for girls as they will be “...the future social reformers for this community in the long run. I have observed that girls have more potential here, but they are being treated with the least priority.”



Afsana, Sarberia

Lunchbox fund



older boys benefitting from lunch, Pi33, Zambia

We have had to develop our support for lunches in the African countries where we operate, notably Zambia and Kenya. Inflation and rising costs of all basic staple foods such as maize, sugar, oil and ground nuts have made it a real struggle for many families to feed themselves.

In Zambia, 581 children receive a hot lunch on every day that they are at school. We quickly established the challenges of educating children if they have empty tummies. Concentration levels wane and attendance in school is poor. With the added incentive of lunch, attendance has greatly increased and academic performance has improved. Interestingly, students who have been at Pizz school and go on to local secondary schools are returning to ask for food as they do not get this provided in their new schools.

There are several children and families who are on antiretroviral (ARV) drugs for HIV who also benefit from the monthly support programme that Hands Around the World offers. For their medication to work effectively, they need to have eaten something and not take it on an empty stomach. Thirty families affected by HIV are supported each month with a bag of mealie meal.

During the pandemic with people losing jobs, work not being as readily available and the adverse effects of government lockdowns, food parcels, food support and lunches have been a vital way of supporting children and families through some very difficult times. Hands Around the World is proud to have been able to ensure that vulnerable children and families still had food when schools were closed.



girls eating lunch provided by Pi33, Zambia



food distributed to family local to Kaliyangile, Zambia

Fundraising

We always need enthusiastic people to help us raise funds to continue supporting the children at the projects.

Some people ask for donations to HATW instead of birthday gifts/wedding gifts or use HATW as the nominated charity in lieu of flowers at funerals. Some people pledge a legacy amount to HATW in their Will. Others opt to complete sponsored events, hold cake/book sales or many other fun ways of getting people/friends together whilst also raising money.

In 2021 we had a phenomenal success with runners in the London marathon raising over £12,000!

We had 2 people running the actual London marathon along with several others competing 'virtually' either running or walking in Wales, England, Rwanda and Zambia!



HATW has a dedicated team of UK volunteers who run coffee mornings in Monmouth. Craft items from Zambia, India, Benin, Rwanda and Kenya are often on sale at the events as well as homemade cake and hot drinks.

If you have any ideas or would like to help us raise money for HATW, please get in touch. We are always keen to hear new ideas and to have new people join us on the team.

GET IN TOUCH

info@hatw.org.uk

07536 172 817



Volunteering with HATW

Volunteering is an integral part of the success of Hands Around the World. We are fortunate to benefit from this additional help, without which it would be impossible for the charity to reach and support so many children/young people.

In June 2020 we were formally recognised for the outstanding work of our volunteers with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. We are delighted to let you know that in late 2021, it was confirmed that two volunteers would be invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party to celebrate this in June 2022.

In 2021, we welcomed many new volunteers (as well as our regulars) who have helped us implement Salesforce, update the website, assist with admin in the office, run coffee mornings, give talks about Hands Around the World to other volunteer groups, design reports, bake Christmas cakes to raffle and more! There are so many opportunities to get involved with Hands Around the World. With the improvements in technology, we are now also able to benefit from volunteers offering support remotely!



homemade cakes made by
volunteers for a HATW event



HATW volunteers running
a stand at a coffee morning



Claire, HATW volunteer

Claire (above, right) volunteered with us to implement Salesforce in the office. She writes "Volunteering at HATW was an amazing experience. The team were so friendly, welcoming and I loved giving my time to help them on the start of their journey in adopting a new CRM system. Through the experience I gained at HATW, I have just landed my dream job as a Salesforce Admin/Consultant. I cannot thank HATW enough for the opportunity they gave me."

Sadly, volunteering overseas has not been possible in 2021, but we are hopeful that this can restart as and when we can safely send volunteers. We will keep our communication channels updated with any changes.

If volunteering is something you are considering, please do not hesitate to get in touch, we would welcome your input.

How can I support Hands Around the world?

Sponsor a child/project

HATW runs a sponsorship programme, starting from just £15 per month. This ensures children can attend school or a vocational centre. We send six-monthly updates letting you know changes and challenges that are being faced locally. Money goes to the centre meaning that many more children benefit too, making a lasting difference.

Wendy, who is sponsored at Pizz school writes:

“If you were not the one helping me, I wouldn’t know how to read and write and I wouldn’t be where I am.

I thank you for giving me food, clothes, uniforms, shoes.

I am very grateful for this wonderful help , and I promise

you when I finish school, I will become a doctor to make sick people well. When Covid-19 came we were not able to go to school but sitting at home waiting and praying for Covid-19 to finish. My mum is very proud of me and I really love this school very much.”



Leave a Legacy

A legacy does not have to be a large sum of money - every donation that comes in to HATW does make a difference to the lives of these children.

To leave HATW a legacy you need to make a bequest in your Will to us. If you would like more information, please get in touch: info@hatw.org.uk

Lunchbox Fund

As detailed earlier, this fund is used to ensure children/young adults have a meal each day. We encourage contributions from £5 per month, which could feed three Zambian children for a whole month!

250 Lottery

HATW has a lottery costing £5 per month for a ticket. You are entered into a quarterly cash prize draw with three cash prizes! All monies raised support the work of HATW.



Looking ahead to 2022

HATW trustees have developed a new strategy for 2022-2027, which we look forward to implementing next year.

Our full strategy can be found on our website www.hatw.org.uk

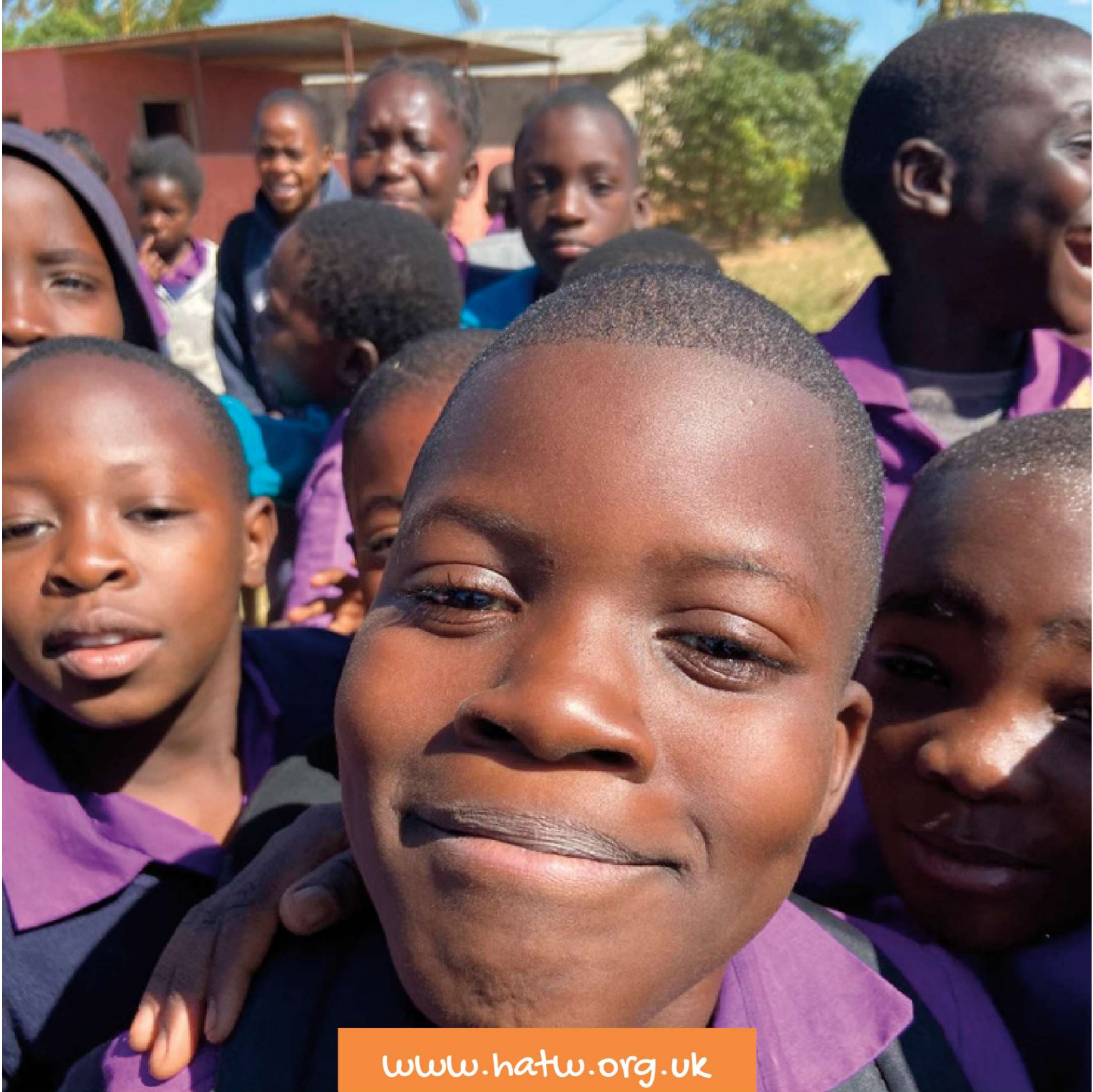
To achieve our aims, the new strategy will focus our work on four main areas:

- 1 Education** - to promote access to quality educational opportunities for children and young people at our partner projects.
- 2 Health** - to improve access to health care as well as promotion of good health, hygiene and nutrition.
- 3 Volunteering and relationships** - we will continue to promote volunteering opportunities and long-term quality relationships with our partner projects.
- 4 Independence and sustainability** - we seek to encourage long term sustainability at individual projects, including income generation initiatives.

We hope to count on your continued support over the coming years to help implement this and do the best possible for the communities we serve.



school children Pi33, Zambia



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HANDS AROUND
THE WORLD

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