

# ForgingLinks



## A tale of two projects in Zambia

### Kabushi Vocational Training Centre

This is Moses Sinkala (23), a trainee carpenter at the Kabushi Vocational Training Centre in Zambia in 2010. The skills that Moses and scores of others like him are learning will enable them to get into paid employment for the first time in their lives. Tools for Self Reliance will be running another project like this one in 2011.



### Village Water

Tools for Self Reliance is supporting a water and sanitation project in western Zambia. The tools we have provided are being used for hand digging wells and installing pumps.

The community constructs wells using local materials and the charity Village Water installs the hand-pumps to ensure a supply of clean drinking water. There is also a very important hygiene education and training element to the project.

Two people from each community have been given the role of pump minders. They will be trained in pump maintenance in addition to getting a pump maintenance tool kit which we are also providing.

“The quality of the dies and wrenches is very good. The tools sent to us are of very high quality, much better than the ones we get locally,” said Village Water’s field director Elisha Ng’onomo.



During an evaluation visit later in the year we will be meeting with Kabushi and Village Water to see how we can continue our support to both projects.

## Have your say

We look forward with great excitement to 2012 and beyond as we begin work in earnest on our next five-year strategic plan.

Following last year’s regional network days around the UK and discussions with our partners in Africa, the next stage is to prepare a document outlining our plans at the AGM in May.

We would like to get your views via our questionnaire entitled *Our Future Direction*. It should only take a few minutes of your time.

Please return your completed questionnaire to Sarah Ingleby at Netley Marsh by **Monday 28 March**. Thank you very much for your help.

## Training project enters next phase

The lives of young people in deprived rural farming communities in northern Ghana continue to improve thanks to a training project between Tools for Self Reliance and TRAX. But funds are still desperately needed.

In the latest phase of the project 22 artisans including 3 blacksmiths from the Upper East Region are learning practical and business skills. They receive an additional helping hand in the form of a kit of high-quality tools and assistance with finding and setting up their own workshop. Each trainee also gets an apprentice, who he or she will train up, thus helping to ensure another generation of artisans and the long-term future of the business. The help doesn't stop there. The trainees are encouraged to join an umbrella organisation through which they can share ideas and access affordable credit.

The TRAX project is proving so successful in energising the local economy that we are doing it all again this year. The training element is



yet to be fully funded but the toolkits are on their way – 36 more kits left the UK in December.

Meanwhile Kennington Overseas Aid has made Tools for Self Reliance its Charity of the Year for 2011 and will be raising money to support the TRAX project by holding events throughout the year.

## Ghana partners take charge

Our Ghana partners are now meeting regularly to discuss how they can work more effectively. They met for the fifth time in November, the second time they have done so under their own auspices without direct involvement from Tools for Self Reliance. The feedback we are getting is very good. We have already seen how partner networks can transform the way our partners work. This includes anything from sharing resources to improved communication, and more efficient monitoring and evaluation.



Here is a selection of events coming up:

28 February to 13 March	Fairtrade Fortnight
26 March	Sewing Machine Refurbishing Day, Wakefield
21 May	Annual Gathering and AGM, Castle Cary
25 June	Open Day, Netley Marsh

Dates  
for your  
diary



Isatu Samura, one of the BWU trainees to have benefited

## Women's project in Sierra Leone

The civil war in Sierra Leone has left an unwelcome legacy. Marginalised women, often with large families, are reduced to subsistence living unable to pay bills for basic health care or schooling for their children.

Step in the Baptist Women's Union (BWU) and Tools for Self Reliance who worked together on a successful pilot project last year. That number is going to be increased this year. Business skills will be taught at two training centres where up to 100 women will learn how to cost and price their work, keep proper accounts and look after their customers.

Experience has shown that new tailoring start-ups are more likely to succeed if talent is pooled and this is one of the things BWU will be encouraging. Each start-up group will receive a small sewing kit and their progress will be carefully tracked.

We hope to visit the project later in the year.

### Energy firm funds projects

We would like to say thank you to Michael Combes of energy firm SorbusAria Consulting Limited for his recent donation of £10,000 in support of our projects in Sierra Leone and Uganda.

## Artisans benefit from skills transfer project in Tanzania

The Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) has been collaborating with Tools for Self Reliance in supporting artisans to acquire knowledge, develop their skills and improve their livelihoods. For some years the cooperation and collaboration has been active though provision of working tools was given emphasis. The capacity building approach has been changed to encompass business management and entrepreneurship training based on the need uncovered in the training need assessment undertaken prior to the training.

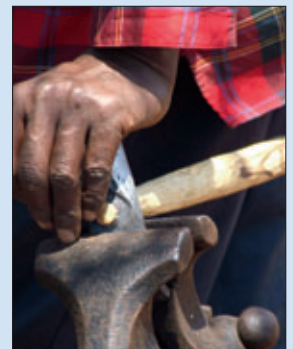
To complement that, start up or additional working tool kits from UK are provided to support different trades such as blacksmith, carpentry, tinsmith, tailoring, cobblers and metal works. SIDO runs the artisan collaborative support programme through which this project is being implemented. Artisans are being assisted to improve the quality of their products and facilitated to create and innovate new products through training in technical and business management skills, complemented with provision of working tools.

The experience and benefits of the programme activities can be exhibited by beneficiaries as individuals or in groups.

One such case is Mr Mohamed Mkeni a participant in quality improvement and new product development training that was conducted at Ikwiriri Village in Rufiji District, Pwani Region.

"Though it was quite easy to make local axes [without a hole], which we were able to sell in local markets, other customers could not buy them because of the fact that they could not fix them when the handle comes out or is broken and therefore have to bring them back to my workshop to be fixed or repaired. Now with this skill upgrading training I am able to make axes and hammers with precision. I used to buy hammers for my workshop while it is now possible for me to make them for myself and sell to others too."

*This is an abridged version of an article that appeared in the October 2010 edition of Habari, the newsletter of our partner the Small Industries Development Organisation.*





## Can you help us make a difference?

### Yes, I would like to make a regular gift

I would like to make a regular gift to Tools for Self Reliance of £..... monthly / quarterly / annually until further notice and debit my account.

My account No.

Bank sort code

Starting on ..... /..... /..... Please allow at least one month between our receiving this form and the date of the first payment.

To: Bank manager (my bank name and branch address):

.....  
.....  
.....

Bank manager: Please pay to HSBC, 45 Commercial Road, Totton SO40 3AH, sort code 40-44-25, for the credit of Tools for Self Reliance a/c 01120808.

### Yes, I would like to make a gift today

I would like to make a donation of £ .....

I enclose a:  cheque  postal order  charity gift voucher. Please make cheques payable to **Tools for Self Reliance**.

Please charge my debit/credit card. Card type: Mastercard / Visa / Delta / Switch / Maestro / CAF Charity Card (delete as appropriate).

Or call us on 023 8086 9697 to make a debit or credit card donation. You can also donate online at [www.tfsr.org](http://www.tfsr.org)

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3 digit security code ..... Issue No. (Switch/Maestro) .....

(We will not keep this information)

Valid from ..... /..... /..... Expiry date ..... /..... /.....

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Surname.....

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Please tick here if you **do not** wish to receive further information about our work.

I am a UK taxpayer. Please claim Gift Aid\* on my donations.

Signature ..... Date ..... /..... /.....

Return to: Tools for Self Reliance, FREEPOST SCE6012, Southampton SO40 7BF.

\*For every £1 donated with Gift Aid, Tools for Self Reliance receives 28p extra from the taxman – tax you have already paid. If you have paid income or capital gains tax equal to your gift, please tick the Gift Aid box to make your donation go even further.



## Men in Sheds a 'good excuse to get dirty'

By Ian Limbrick, group support officer

The humble garden shed can be many things to many people: a refuge, a meeting place or a place to practise skills. Research has shown that the average man will retreat to his garden outbuilding for 3 hours and 20



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minutes every week – or more than 7 full days per year. In Australia the Men in Sheds movement was started as a way of engaging men in constructive sociable activity to help them overcome depression and social isolation.

The idea has now spread to the UK where it has been adopted by the charity Age UK. Following a pilot project in Gloucestershire, Age UK Exeter contacted Tools for Self Reliance in 2009 to see if we would be interested in working with them on a shed project. The result is Exeter Men in Sheds which has been up and running for the last year. Run mostly by volunteers the 'Shed' was initially open one day per week and has become so popular that they are already extending their hours.

When I visited recently I saw a workshop packed with keen tool refurbishers eager to show the first excellent toolkits they have produced for Tools for Self Reliance. Jessica Cohen is project officer for Age UK Exeter.

"I think what the men particularly value is the opportunity to engage in a meaningful activity that benefits others as well as being enjoyable in itself. The men clearly have a strong sense of ownership of the project shown by the way they use the workshop and enjoy all the aspects of the Shed, including the tea and biscuits time where the world is put to rights!"

Since the start of the Exeter project Age UK has received lottery funding to develop further sheds in Cheshire. With such a successful formula we are hoping to work in partnership with Age UK on more projects in the future, particularly in areas where we are short of Tools for Self Reliance refurbishing groups.

### ForgingLinks

#### The newsletter of Tools for Self Reliance

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