



Forging Links Newsletter Autumn 2022



**TOOLS FOR
SELF RELIANCE**
Practical help for practical people since 1980



The Mtukula Project



In the outer reaches of the Malawian capital, Lilongwe, our partner FESODEV is providing bespoke training for tradesmen and women already working in carpentry, tailoring, welding and, for the first time, solar repair and installation. This is an exciting venture in which training is carefully scheduled around existing work commitments and enables the 160 trainees, chosen from 80 local businesses to build technical skills and develop business and life skills over a period of 6 months. FESODEV will continue to provide ongoing business skills support, troubleshooting and mentoring

through visits on site as the trainees return full time back to their workshops.

Trainees will also use their vocational skills to help the wider community and improve neighbouring facilities, with local schools benefiting from repaired desks, solar lamps, security and door protectors and the girl pupils will receive reusable menstruation pads. Once trainees successfully complete their training, they will receive top-up tool kits to take back to their businesses, where the newly acquired skills and tools can be shared out to all business members.

Promoting Economic Independence

Women and Youth in Northern Ghana



Our partner NORSAAC has completed the first year of an exciting project helping women to develop regular savings habits by establishing Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) schemes. Across two communities, in Karaga and Mamprugu Moaduri Districts, 20 self-managed VSLA groups have been set up, helping 582 women access credit to establish business ventures, support farming activities and meet household needs. This gives women a much greater opportunity to succeed.

Working with women in predominantly agricultural communities, NORSAAC has also delivered training in best agronomic practices, including soil preparation, recommended crop spacing, fertilizing, harvesting and agricultural value chains. We're delighted that there has been an increase in yields for many of the beneficiaries of the project.

“The start of this VSLA has been a lifesaver to me and my colleagues’ in this group, saving money is very difficult for me and this has always resulted in my inability to undertake farming in a large scale but this year, with the support of my savings, I have expanded the acres of land I farm on from 2 acres to 5 acres of land resulting in my ability to harvest 12 bags of maize.”

Mariama Yussif

Mobility Sierra Leone

Our partner Mobility Sierra Leone (MSL) is delivering vocational training to young people in the city of Bo and engaging the wider community in disability awareness.

MSL is helping to make it easier for wheelchair users to access education in communities around Bo city. By distributing crutches, building bespoke wheelchairs, and researching what facilities are most in need of accessibility adaptations they are breaking down physical barriers to learning. MSL trainees have installed ramps at local schools in the community, meaning that students living with physical disabilities can have better access to the buildings.

Social barriers are being addressed too. MSL engage the local community through live performances called “trigger dramas”. They enact some of the challenges faced by people living with disabilities and challenge negative stereotypes.

Using this approach MSL is delivering high quality training to trainees, changing community perceptions, and engaging trainees to devote some of their time to increase access to education in their communities.



MSL are training participants to make and repair mobility aids. In a country with rough roads and little disability access provision these devices make a huge difference.



Keepers Zambia Foundation

In a pilot project, our partner Keepers Zambia Foundation (KZF) is working with local trainees in Lusaka to deliver carpentry, tailoring and business development skills, with a particular focus on female participation.

Lusaka has seen a great deal of investment and increased infrastructure since we started

working in Zambia, however with increased urbanisation comes more marketplace competition and difficulties accessing markets for marginalised groups. Working with KZF, we are ensuring that new graduates have the best chance of success by delivering high quality vocational training and providing real life business skills relevant to their chosen trade.



CEO Sarah Ingleby and Africa Programme Manager Ash Phillips with Keepers tailoring trainees

Fundraising update

It's been another fantastic summer for fundraising.

Workshop Manager Stuart Bailey raised over £8,100 smashing his £5,650 target!

Thanks to the combined effort of your donations, many 'Queen's Jubilee' tea parties, tool sales and the Dalglish trust match-funding, the Tea for Tools Campaign raised over £11,000. Thank you to everyone who has supported us. If you've been inspired and would like to take on your own challenge, or tea party, to support us, then we'd love to hear from you!



Welcome Thomas

We are delighted to be joined in the workshop by Thomas Muhiwa Bwambale who is volunteering with us from Uganda.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Winchester, Thomas is undertaking a three month placement to learn all about our tool repairs and kit packing - ensuring our tools can make their way to our projects. He has already learned how to refurbish hammers, chisels, planes and saws and is hoping to refurbish a sewing machine before he heads back home.



Have your say

Our Supporter Survey is your chance to tell us what you think about our communications. Please complete and return the enclosed form no later than **31st October**. We'll be collating all the feedback over the winter, ready to roll out improvements in the new year.



Major milestone for Chief Executive

Sarah Ingleby has recently celebrated her 10th anniversary as our Chief Executive Officer. Sarah's passion for international development began back in 1997 when she left her teaching role and began volunteering in Zambia, and she has been seeking to improve the lives of people living in poverty ever since. Under Sarah's leadership we have helped over 19,000 people accessing vocational and life skills training to build a sustainable livelihood, and we have sent over 222,000 tools with an equivalent new value of over £3 million. We're looking forward to making even more of an impact in the future.



Chief Executive Sarah Ingleby

Can you become a regular giver?

Regular giving is a vital method of support for us, allowing us to fund tool shipments, deliver our vocational training and plan projects for the future. Please visit the Donate page on our website at www.tfsr.org/donate to set up a monthly or an annual gift by Direct Debit. We are so grateful for any donation you can give, however big or small.



Tools in transit

Our latest tool shipment left our head office on 15th July destined for Malawi. 6,911 tools - making up 274 kits - are on their way to our project partners and will be given out to trainees as they graduate and begin working in their chosen trades.



🖱 www.tfsr.org ✉ info@tfsr.org 📱 [/toolsforselfreliance](https://www.facebook.com/toolsforselfreliance) 🐦 [@tfsr](https://twitter.com/tfsr) 📺 [/toolsforselfreliance](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Tools for Self Reliance, Ringwood Road, Netley Marsh, SO40 7GY | Tel: 023 8086 9697

