

Apart from the Community Schools, Science Support and Dormitory project (see separate projects listed under the Zambia link, for details) Loreto provides a lot of educational support to both teachers and students in Lukulu in various ways, as described below.

LINKING TEACHERS TO AVAILABLE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

Some of the teachers in the community schools need encouragement to use the Ministry of Education Teachers' Resource Centre in Lukulu

- Some materials are available for the asking ó either for borrowing or for keeps.
- Loreto provides transport for the teacher resource persons to travel out to these rural schools to assess the teaching practice, to provide encouragement and make suggestions for improvement.

In-service Workshops for Community School teachers

- Informing community school teachers of annual three day workshop sponsored by government in Lukulu.
- Loreto funded a workshop in 2011 focussing on child protection and teaching basic literacy using local facilitators and wonderful literacy resources provided by the provincial resource centre. In the term following the workshop teachers collected information with regard to child abuse of children attending the community schools. The cases of child abuse are now being followed up.

Community Schools accessing government support/ funds/teachers

- Loreto also provides transport to education standards officers and District Education Board Secretaries (DEBS) to go out to the schools to assess these schools, with the very long term objective that they may ultimately become government funded. Since Loreto has been involved in these schools the government has appointed 3 paid trained teachers to these schools.
- Loreto encourages PTA members to lobby the DEBS about various issues including making themselves visible, pushing for government resources, reporting misconduct of teachers etc.



Visiting the new Kalambwe Community School:- From the left Mr. Walubita (the DEBS), Sister Elizabeth, Mr. Mwitumwa (Head teacher) as well as other teachers and members of PTA

TEACHER TRAINING

Many of the teachers who started their respective community schools do not have the prerequisites to do a certificate or diploma of teaching. But there are recent graduates of secondary schools, who, through a combination of a number of factors including wanting to contribute to their communities, not having the resources to study further and staving off boredom, teach in community schools. Thanks to generous donors there is now a program in place for training these community school teachers at Mongu College of Education. The sponsorship is not just for the individual but is for the benefit of the communities from which they come. Therefore these teachers on graduation are bonded to teach voluntarily in a community school in the Lukulu District until they are employed by the Ministry of Education, which can take anything up to four years. They are also required to teach a minimum of three years in paid employment in the Lukulu District.

One bursary holder finishes teacher training at the end of 2011 and will be teaching voluntarily in 2012 in a very isolated setting on the flood plain. The school literally becomes an island surrounded by water in the rainy season which lasts 6 months of the year.

Three other bursary holders are completing the first year of a two year teaching certificate at the end of 2011. As of now, two are commencing a three year diploma in 2012, but a second stream has just been announced so more may qualify. To date all bursary holders are male, reflecting the predominance of males completing Grade 12 but there is a likelihood of two or three females in the 2013 intake. Preference will be given to female community school teachers who are accepted into the teacher training course.



Pictured above is a voluntary community school teacher with his 2011 class at Kalambwe Community School. Thanks to a bursary, he will be able to commence a three year diploma in teaching at Mongu College of Education in 2012

SUPPORTING SCHOOL STUDENTS.

- Loreto pays full or part fees for very needy school students as well as examination fees for needy students rewriting their Grade 12 as external students.
- Loreto sponsors needy students in the school lunch program
- Loreto has a small lending library of Grades 10, 11 and 12 text books. Students doing Grade 12 at school or those rewriting Grade 12 as external students may borrow the books as individuals or as groups for a year. The return rate of the books is excellent.
- Loreto provides piece work for students who are struggling to make ends meet, often living in very poor rented accommodation and finding it difficult to cover food costs.