

# ZIMBABWE VICTIMS' SUPPORT FUND

(Registered Charity Number 1145569)

## YEAR-END REPORT 2015

[www.zimbabwevictimssupportfund.org](http://www.zimbabwevictimssupportfund.org)



Zimbabwe faces severe drought  
(Photo :The Zimbabwean)



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*For this report we asked our partner team in Bulawayo to write from their own experience of the frustrations and challenges facing Zimbabweans daily and, in particular, about seeking to minister something of God's grace to a people struggling just to survive. **Di Charsley** has written this piece for the team:*

## **“Clean out the trash”**

In 2005 the Zimbabwean Government implemented Operation Murambatsvina. The word translates as “clean out the trash”. In the middle of winter 700,000 were made homeless.

This confirmed our fear that the ruling party considered the marginalized a threat. In 2002 a government minister had said, *“We would be better off with only six million people, with our own people who supported the liberation struggle. We don't want all these extra people.”* The population at the time was reckoned to be well over 12 million.

Last August, it happened again close to Bulawayo, albeit on a smaller scale and on the flimsy pretext of a legal claim to the land. Without warning the police appeared, with a bulldozer, to destroy homes. The newly displaced were dumped by the roadside many miles away. As news of what was happening reached us it was already late afternoon. It was very cold. Caring friends hastily gathered some loaves of bread to help the traumatized victims through the night.

Other villagers hastily removed roofing and doors off their structures to save them from destruction, but God intervened when a court order halted the process. Later we discovered the perpetrators did not actually own the land as they claimed. The matter still has to be arbitrated in court but we believe God is in control.

This eviction is not an isolated incident. Throughout the country the same thing is happening to others. In early 2015 the President's wife tried to have 200 families evicted from land they were allocated after a commercial farmer had been thrown off. At the time of writing a newspaper headline proclaims “183 families evicted”. Ten years ago it was clearly authorized and propelled by the government. Now it is insidiously instigated by those connected to the ruling party.



The lack of rain in Zimbabwe has caused widespread crop failure  
(Photo by Reuters on SABC website)

We expect 2016 to be harsh. Businesses are closing every month and many people have been laid off. This is in a country with a 96% unemployment rate. The normal seasonal rains have not arrived. To date no crops have been planted and each day is searingly hot. People are already missing meals and suffering from headaches. The national leaders are acting as if there is no problem. Even if they do take action now the logistics of importing food will not avert the crisis in time. There is no spare grain in Africa so it has to be imported from America which takes around three months. Once it arrives at the ports, the transport infrastructure cannot cope with the tonnage required to prevent a famine.

So our leaders would clearly like to sweep the poor into the dustbin, but our heavenly Father sees each one of them as precious beyond description, and we thank Him for people like Pastor Albert Chatindo who has such a heart for the poor. The money that has been sent from England has helped him, among others, to be effective in ministering to them in very practical ways. Though his phone rings from morning till late at night he never becomes frustrated or impatient.

Pray for our nation and our wonderful, resilient people for whom a jar of peanut butter is a gift from God. Despite their suffering there is always a smile and hands lifted to praise their Lord, on whom they depend.

### ***Fundraising news***

Recent fundraising events include:



Irene Watts, with her friend Anne White, created a set of beautiful liturgical banners for a church in Liverpool. The fee they received, representing many hours of work was donated to ZVSF and to Karibuni Trust (a street children's project in Kenya.)

Henry Olonga gave a concert in Rutland Methodist Church as part of Stamford and Rutland Circuit's programme of events supporting ZVSF in 2015/16. His mixture of beautiful song and powerful testimony was well received



And coming up on 30 April at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford, "Sax's Cool" - a concert of music in jazz and other styles.

Full details of all these on our web site.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Below are the draft accounts for 2015. Since the end of 2015 we have remitted our usual quarterly amount of just over £21,000.

Alas the warnings of poor harvests that we mentioned in our mid-year report are becoming reality. We will channel as much funding as we possibly can to our Bulawayo partners in the coming months to help alleviate the effect of the drought. We cannot express fully our thanks to you, our supporters, who enable us to provide such vital help.

| 2014   |  | 2015      |            |        |
|--------|--|-----------|------------|--------|
|        | RECEIPTS                               | Unrestr'd | Restricted | Total  |
| 63,433 | Donations and Fundraising              | 65,067    |            | 65,067 |
| 4      | Interest                               |           |            |        |
|        | Gift Aid refund                        | 10,347    | 1,556      | 11,903 |
| 63,437 |  | 75,414    | 1,556      | 76,970 |
|        | PAYMENTS                               |           |            |        |
| 50,025 | Distributions to Zimbabwe<br>- general | 65,777    |            | 65,777 |
| 3,750  | Distributions to Zimbabwe<br>- vehicle |           |            |        |
| 1,807  | Vehicle purchase and shipping          |           | 63         | 63     |
| 80     | Remittance Fees                        | 80        |            | 80     |
| 398    | Admin and Support UK                   | 1,175     |            | 1,175  |
| 56,060 |  | 67,032    | 63         | 67,095 |
| 7,377  | SURPLUS/DEFICIT                        | 8,382     | 1,493      | 9,875  |
| 12,624 | CASH FUNDS B/F                         | 24,518    | (4,517)    | 20,001 |
|        | TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS                 | (3,024)   | 3,024      |        |
| 20,001 | CASH FUNDS C/F                         | 29,876    |            | 29,876 |

Just one admin point - if you have transferred gifts direct to our account and not received acknowledgement it could be that we do not have your details or that there is insufficient information in the transfer description. Please do contact me if you think this might apply.

**Christine**

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