

Build IT
INTERNATIONAL
Building Brighter Futures



REVIEW

2010

WHO

Build IT International provides a practical response to the chronic need for basic infrastructure and jobs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our vision is a world in which schools, clinics, affordable housing and other essential facilities are available to all.

Front cover: the interlocking stabilised soil block that we use on all our projects.

Right: Pupil outside Mikumbila Community School, built by Build IT International, Zambia, 2010.

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It's only a brick...?

True. But the interlocking stabilised soil block embodies what Build IT International is all about: sustainability. It uses local earth, is made on-site by project trainees and produces low maintenance community buildings.

Back in 2008 we challenged our supporters to 'be the change' that would enable us to improve the lives and prospects of children, families and communities in Zambia.

Your response was fantastic and over the past two years our programme has doubled in size. We have completed eight major building projects benefiting around 7,000 people. Thank-you!

We have stuck faithfully to our 'developmental approach'. Over 100 men and women have been trained in basic building skills. Interest in the sustainable building materials we use is growing.

Most importantly, the communities we work with have grown and strengthened through these projects. In Mikumbila village,

where we built two new classrooms, the Government has upgraded the school and is providing more support. A group of former trainees have started their own business. The community is tremendously proud of their beautiful new school and is planning more initiatives. This is sustainable development.

As the evidence grows that our approach works, the news travels quickly that we deliver on our promises. We are regularly approached by communities and organisations asking us to help them.

This presents us with a new challenge. How can we 'be the change' in more creative and effective ways so that your financial support goes even further?

It's a challenge that we are willing and able to accept.

Andrew Jowett - Director

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Andrew Jowett with Chief Nkole at the opening of Mikumbila School, August 2010.

WHY

Because classrooms like
this are not acceptable.

Right: Over crowded classroom at St. Agness Community School, Zambia, 2008.

Far right: The difference a Build IT International classroom can make. St. Agness Community School, Zambia, 2010.

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Everybody needs a decent school to go to, a health clinic nearby and a solid house to live in.

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But in Zambia:

- **Over 16,000 more classrooms are needed**
Mr. Nthele, Head of Infrastructure, Ministry of Education
- **Only 46% of all births were attended by skilled health personnel. Zambia needs more health facilities** United Nations Development Programme Zambia 2007
- **In the capital, Lusaka, 60% of people live in sub-standard housing** UN Habitat 2007
- **64% of people, that's over 7 million people, live below the poverty line** Central Intelligence Agency 2006
- **Unemployment is at least 32% in urban areas and yet there is a massive skills shortage in the construction sector** Zambia Statistics Office 2006

These might just be statistics to you and me, but for these children and thousands like them, it's a harsh reality.



At Build IT International we provide a practical and sustainable response to poverty in Zambia.

HOW

Our approach is straightforward
and it works:



Our core activity is community building projects in Africa. It's HOW we do this that makes us different:

Training and Builder Support

Every year, we carefully select at least 40 unemployed local men and women from poor communities.

We train them in basic building skills such as setting-out, brick-laying, concrete work and health and safety.

Trainees spend up to 10 months working on a project. They then take a national trades test. To date our trainees have achieved a 100% pass rate.

Our 'Training into Work' initiative provides them with further advice and practical support.



Promoting sustainable building materials and design

Our projects specify local, affordable building materials and aim to minimise the environmental and energy costs.

We use compressed interlocking soil blocks and micro-concrete roof tiles and we continued to explore other materials and technologies.

We improve the design of buildings so that they are comfortable, durable, fit-for-purpose and low maintenance.



Community Engagement

We respond to requests for support from poor rural and urban communities or their partner organisations.

Workshops are held to ensure community engagement, understanding and agreement for their project and to help the architect design the new building. The community contributes labour and raw materials.

Community consultation continues throughout the project – this includes involving young people!



CASE STUDY: Mikumbila Community School

Stage One

February – March 2009

Community consultations and project assessment.

We are introduced to the school by Father Phiri. Meetings held with the community and teachers who also visit the recently completed school at nearby Butempa.

Ministry of Education confirms that 265 children are registered and accommodated in just two classrooms and a temporary shelter. They support the proposal.

Build IT International Board agrees project outline and fundraising starts.



Stage Two

April – May 2009

School Design, material collection and trainee selection.

Community meetings with local architect David Bwalye finalise 'Cool School' design with improvements from Butempa School.

Parents start to collect 128 tonnes of sand and 184 tonnes of soil. Transport problems force us to hire trucks.

Former trainees Shadrach, Agee & Peter set up tile and block making workshop. Philiman starts as building contractor.

15 trainees appointed (6 women) following interviews and practical tests.



Stage Three

July – August 2009

Site preparation and sub-structure works.

Initial classroom training given by Evans, which includes health and safety training. Protective clothing is issued.

Production of 5,500 soil blocks begins.

Site is laid out under supervision of Build IT International staff. Footings dug and foundations laid. Sub-structure brickwork completed and floor slab laid.



Construction Cost £26,000

Stage Four

September – November 2009

Construction of superstructure, trainee assessments.

5,500 soil blocks inspected and approved. Production of 2,844 roof tiles begins.

Reinforced columns laid and walls built with interlocking blocks. Windows and door frames inserted.

Form work built and ring beam cast. Government inspectors visit the site. They approve the work and complement the team.

Trainees take their TEVETA trades test in Kabwe. All pass.



Stage Five

December – January 2010

Construction of roof and finishings.

Production of 2,844 tiles completed.

Roofing contractor, Andrew Wiseman arrives to supervise construction of timber framework and tile laying. The best four trainees are hired by Andrew to work on the completion of the roof.

Finishing works: plastering, floor screed, glazing, doors, painting and site-tidy up.



Stage Six

January – March 2010

Commissioning.

Ministry of Education inspector approves the classrooms and confirms that the school is to be upgraded to a Level 3 Ministry School. This triggers increased teaching support and new desks. Classrooms open in February.

Abigail and seven other trainees launch the Mikumbila Co-operative. Contracts for 35,000 blocks received so far.

10 August 2010 – Formal handover of the school by Chief Nkole attended by 700 people.



WOW

"This building is a masterpiece!"
says Mr. Lengwe, Head Teacher at Fiwila Secondary School.

Since 2006 we have successfully completed 14 building projects
benefiting over 8,000 people.



In 2010 our work has helped build brighter futures for 3,400 people. People like:

Robina

Since completing her training with Build IT International in early 2010, Robina has been busy constructing new sheds for her bee-keeping enterprise and working for the new Mikumbila Co-operative developed by former trainees.

The co-operative has been contracted by a local farmer to build a latrine block and construct a floor slab for a workshop. Other orders for soil blocks now top 30,000.

The extra income is already making a big difference to her family.



Aaron

Since leaving school, 23 year old Aaron spent 5 years without employment and was desperate for a break. Life has changed dramatically for Aaron since he became a trainee on the Kawama Project, with Build IT International, in June 2009 and passed his trades tests with top marks.

We were so impressed with his skills and attitude that he was hired by the contractor at Chainda project and has been earning kw 25,000 per day (2.5 x the minimum daily wage) as a skilled labourer along with fellow Kawama trainee Chola.

He is well on the way to achieving his ambition of becoming a builder.



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Chileshe

Before the new school block was built at Mikumbila most of Chileshe's lessons were taught outside in a temporary classroom, where she balanced her books on her knees and struggled to hear her teacher. Now Chileshe finds learning a lot easier, sitting at her desk, in the new cooler, lighter classroom.

In 2011 she will take her grade seven exams and she will then have a chance to go to secondary school.



COST

“Build IT International’s ethos and practice is truly ethical. In the two years we have worked together I have found them to be excellent and effective partners. They are reliable, flexible and deliver in a way that makes a real and positive difference to the communities with whom we work.” Ric Law, Director, COINS Foundation.



In 2010, income increased by 65% and charitable expenditure increased to 83%.

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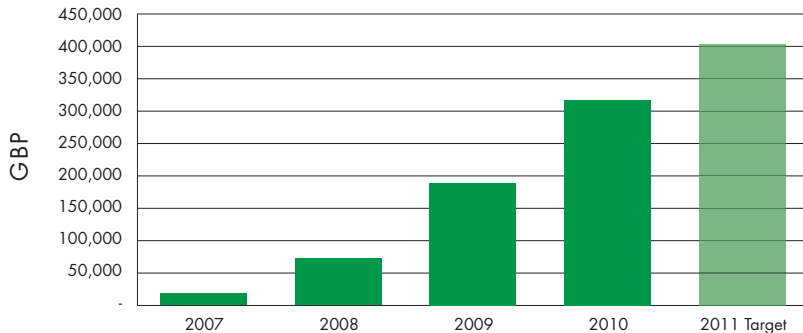
Income – £420,057 THANK-YOU!

- 27 grants from foundations and trusts
- Generous gifts from individual donors, including standing orders

Expenditure – £394,961

- Raising funds 14.1% (2009: 14.0%): newsletters, website and time spent preparing proposals with a return of £7 for every £1 spent
- Governance 2.9% (2009 4.0%): UK audit, trustee expenses and governance support costs
- Charitable expenditure 83.0% (2009 82.0%): building projects, skills training, project management and technical support

Charitable Expenditure



Income & Expenditure	2010	2009
Unrestricted grants and donations	157,771	83,267
Restricted grants & donations for projects	255,048	168,382
Investment and other income	438	2,673
Charitable activities	6,800	336
Total Income	420,057	254,658
Projects and support costs in Africa	328,024	190,247
Communications and fund-raising	55,545	32,471
Charity Governance	11,392	9,286
Total Expenditure	394,961	232,004
Net Income over expenditure	25,096	22,654

Balance Sheet at 30 June

Fixed assets	5,597	6,368
Net current assets	169,920	144,053
Net assets	175,517	150,421

Represented by

Restricted project funds	(8,440)	45,709
General unrestricted funds	183,957	104,712
Total	175,517	150,421

These figures summarise our latest published information. The information is taken from the full annual accounts, which have been audited and are available from the address on the back page.

NEXT

With your support our approach has helped make real changes to the lives of some of the poorest children, families and communities in Zambia...

but there is still so much to be done.



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With your support we will be able to continue our vital work.

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By 2012 we will:

Complete a further eight community projects, including our first health post. This will benefit at least 3,000 people directly and a further 6,000 indirectly. Through our buildings we will continue to promote the use of sustainable building design, methods and materials.

Train at least 120 more men and women in basic building skills and support them to turn their training into work through advice, equipment, loans and further experience.

Complete Version II of our Cool House and build our first affordable housing project.

Establish a second country programme in Africa.

Your support will enable us to help people like Ellen and Julia from Muyobe village in Ncuhte. They have to walk over 8 hours to see a doctor. But our construction of a new health post could mean the difference between life and death for people in this community.



We can't do it without you

We listen to our donors and work hard to ensure that they understand how we operate and that we take great care when spending their money.

Up to date information is given through newsletters, our website and face to face meetings. There are also opportunities to visit projects.

To find out more about how you can get involved in our work please contact us.

We look forward to hearing from you!



CALL

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For more information and a full account of our Staff,
Board Members and Trustees please see our website.

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