

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Sethule Orphans' Trust
January 2021
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Sethule Orphans' Trust works with orphans and vulnerable children in Zimbabwe. We take pride in bringing smiles to children and giving them hope for a better future.

Nkazi was out of school for two years because there was no money for school fees, but with our help she is back to school and has enough food. She is indeed able to smile!



MESSAGE FROM THABBETH

Through our holistic on-the-ground approach we work with families, schools and rural communities to ensure that we help as many vulnerable and needy children as possible.

When Covid-19 hit the world, Zimbabwe was not spared. The country went into a 5-week lockdown from 27 March 2020 and thereafter many restrictions followed. Sethule Trust did amazingly well with helping children and families during this Covid-19 pandemic. With generous giving from our friends and donors, we were able to support many children and families in distress. We were able to distribute food to over 103 families between March and December 2020.

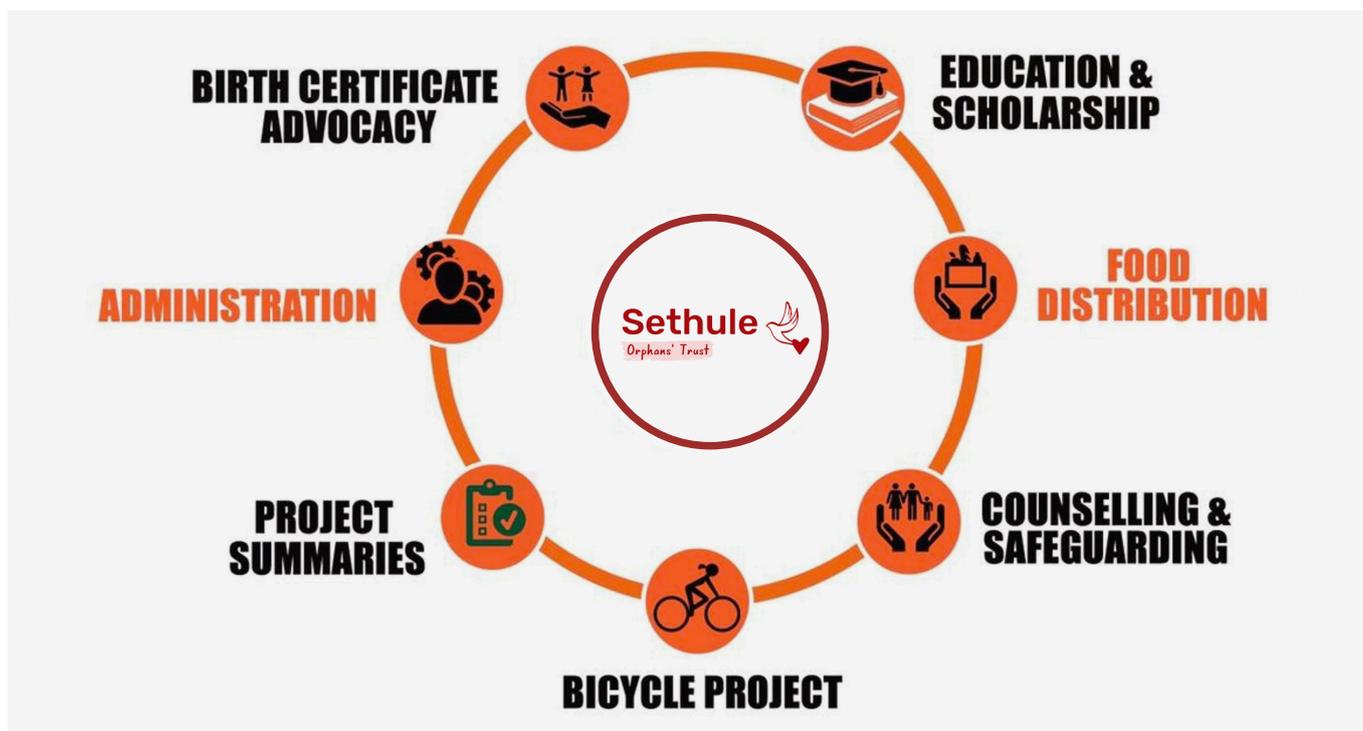
From 5 January 2021, Zimbabwe went into a second lockdown and once again, at Sethule, we were ready to give a hand to those families in dire need.

It is the vision of Sethule to reach out to as many destitute children as possible and there is no help that comes our way that is too big or too small.

The help that we get from all donors and friends of Sethule definitely changes how those who have been provided with help view this world.

Thank you to you all!

OUR PROGRAMMES



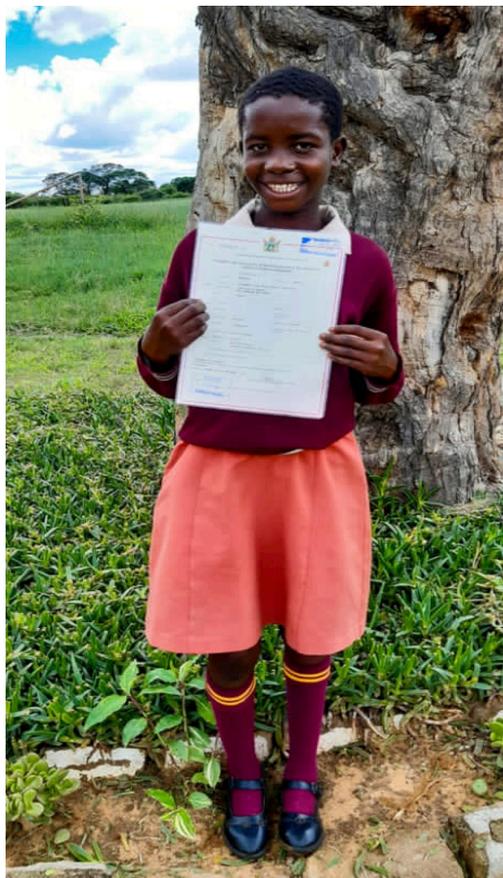
BIRTH CERTIFICATE ADVOCACY

- > Birth registration in Zimbabwe is a very long process but almost impossible if the child does not have the correct documents.
- > Lack of documentation is a major stumbling block and this is much more difficult if a child has lost both parents.
- > There are complex requirements for obtaining birth certificates and this is more difficult for the illiterate and underprivileged.
- > Part of our task is to raise awareness among villagers of the importance of birth certificates and alert them about the required documentation.
- > Each case is different and needs unique and individual handling.
- > We prioritise the children with no effective parental support.

Here are a few examples of problems faced:

- Born at home with no medical personnel to record or witness to the birth.
- Birth Record cards lost, defaced or accidentally destroyed.
- Parents unknown.
- Child born in South Africa to a Zimbabwean parent and then brought to Zimbabwe without birth documentation.

- As many as half of all rural children do not take national exams because they lack proper documentation.
- Foster parents and parents often do not understand the bureaucratic processes; thus children lose access to education and related opportunities like sporting activities.
- Social exclusion engendered by lack of national identity documents continues to disadvantage children in many ways in later life.



We are very grateful to all the donors who gave generously towards our birth certificate programme. Our birth certificate team had major difficulties owing to the Covid-19 restrictions. Closing of schools severely limited their access to vulnerable children, and registration offices were closed or opened for only a few hours. Queues were inordinately long. Transport was extremely difficult to organise owing to fuel shortages. Special permission needed to be obtained for every visit to rural villages.

Chipo is smiling after receiving her birth certificate.

Despite the disturbance caused by the Covid-19 restrictions, our plans are already set up for a 'blitz' start when restrictions are lifted. We hope to obtain birth certificates for all the orphans in our care and thereafter invite all other vulnerable children on our list.

| DATE | RESTRICTION | HOW SETHULE WAS AFFECTED |
|---|--|---|
| 24 March-2020 | Schools closed two weeks before due date | Could not reach the children through schools. |
| 24 March-2 May | Country Lockdown a. Birth Certificate Registry Office closed b. Travel ban c. Public transport ban and curfew, 6am – 6pm | a. Could not register b. The Sethule team could not consult with those needing birth certificates. c. Those needing birth certificates could not travel to the Registry. |
| 28 September; 6 October; 3 November | Schools opened in three different phases. | Few children in school in September. Full capacity of school only for a month. <i>During this short window period the Sethule team managed to obtain 18 birth certificates.</i> |
| 18 December | Schools closed | Programme put on hold |
| 3 January 2021 | Country Lockdown a. Birth Certificate Registry Office closed b. Travel ban c. Public transport ban and curfew, 6am – 6pm; those needing birth certificates could not travel | a. Could not register b. The Sethule team could not consult with those needing birth certificates. c. Those needing birth certificates could not travel to the Registry. |

SCHOLARSHIP & EDUCATION

The Sethule Scholarship Fund gives hope to children by providing support to access Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education.

- > In 2020, 64 children received partial scholarships. Partial scholarships include a one-off payment of either fees, school materials, uniforms or food hampers.
- > A further 41 high-achiever students were awarded a full scholarship that covered all their educational needs such as school fees, school uniforms, stationary and food. Of these 41 students, 4 are now at university.

During lockdown and closure of schools, the Sethule team worked continuously to reach out to the students. We managed to stay in touch with all of them by electronic media. Throughout the restrictions, we continued to assess and assist them with all their school-related needs. This was no easy task as many of the students live in rural villages where accessibility is difficult (including network) anyway and was thus made worse by Covid-19 restrictions. We managed to supply books and reading and writing materials to most of our students. We devised a system where schoolwork could be collected and marked by our education team, in lieu of teachers' absence.



Some of the full scholarship students



Day school pupils funded by Sethule

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

When Zimbabwe announced the country lockdown on 24 March, Sethule immediately appealed for funds to supply food packs for many known marginalised families. Only approved organisations selected by the Ministry of Social Welfare were permitted to distribute food and Sethule was among the privileged few. This demonstrates our excellent standing in the community. Between March and December 2020, we were able to give food aid to 103 families.



Our efforts were recognised by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and Sethule was awarded a certificate of appreciation. Sethule gardeners, pleased with their produce

Our Sethule Gardens made great contributions towards the food distribution. Our irrigation system and boreholes ensured a reliable water supply and a bumper harvest. We were able to provide fresh vegetables to many families in need, who would not have been able to get nutritious food.



Here are some photos of our food distribution

BEREAVEMENT COUNSELLING & SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

In line with our holistic approach, all students eligible for scholarship aid receive emotional and psychosocial support through our bereavement counselling sessions. Most of our children have suffered loss due to death, divorce, disappearance of parents and poverty. In the lockdown, we were able to obtain permission to hold workshops for our students and this took place at the Sethule hostels that normally have a capacity of 60 people and thus could easily hold an acceptable Covid-19 restricted number. Our workshops covered mainly bereavement counselling, safeguarding and skills awareness for day-to-day living.



Our students were kept busy and focused during lockdown and when schools finally reopened in September, they had not lost as much as they had gained thanks to new and adequate stimulation during lockdown, through electronic media.

RIDE FOR EDUCATION: THE BICYCLE PROJECT

One of the challenges that faces most rural learners is the long distance to and from school. A recent survey we carried out in a typical district revealed that:

- > Over 25% of pupils and students arrive late at school due to long-distance travel.
- > On arrival, they are exhausted, dehydrated and hungry and exhibit poor concentration in class.
- > Overall, counting all pupils, on average they walk 17.6 kilometres to and from school.
- > Secondary school students walk up to 20 kilometres to and from school.



New bicycles delivered to junior school children

As a measure to support these children, our Ride For Education project loans bicycles to students in different schools. These bicycles are supplied to particular children who are responsible for the care and maintenance of their bicycles. Checks and repairs, where necessary, are regularly made by our new Transport Officer. Despite schools being closed for more than six months, we were able to distribute 33 bicycles during 2020. Our aim is to deliver 500 bicycles in 2021.

WEBSITE

Our website has had a complete facelift, and has been extensively updated, and made more user friendly. We now have opportunities for donors to contribute directly and have a regular system of putting new information online.

The website link is: www.sethuletrust.org

SCHOOL PROJECT & SKILLS CENTRE

Our plans to create a new Primary school in the Natisa area proceeded well initially, with pegging of the new site. However, the absence of secure intentions from involved parties and the lockdown experienced in the country forced us to shelve this project.

In its place, we have resolved to develop a Skills Centre to enable high-achieving students, coming from rural areas, who gain places at boarding schools and university. Here the students will learn how to cope with modern city life in all its aspects, as well as learning computer skills. To this end, a new headquarters and office will be set up in Burnside, in Bulawayo.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS AFFECTED BY COVID RESTRICTIONS

REACT

Is part of our safeguarding awareness programme that equips children with knowledge on child sexual abuse and educates them on how to say, 'No!'



CLICK

Learning how to support each other in love was the main focus for the CLICK social club for 11-12-year-old children.

D2BD & H4TOMORROW

...equips young people with timely information to help them make informed choices on leaving school that enable them to tackle life's modern challenges wisely and positively.



KIP

An environment awareness programme on the best possible ways in which villagers could use available resources while taking care of our environment.

ATTIC & WAGES

Because of school closures and lockdown, these essential and very popular activities were sadly interrupted for the first time in 15 years.



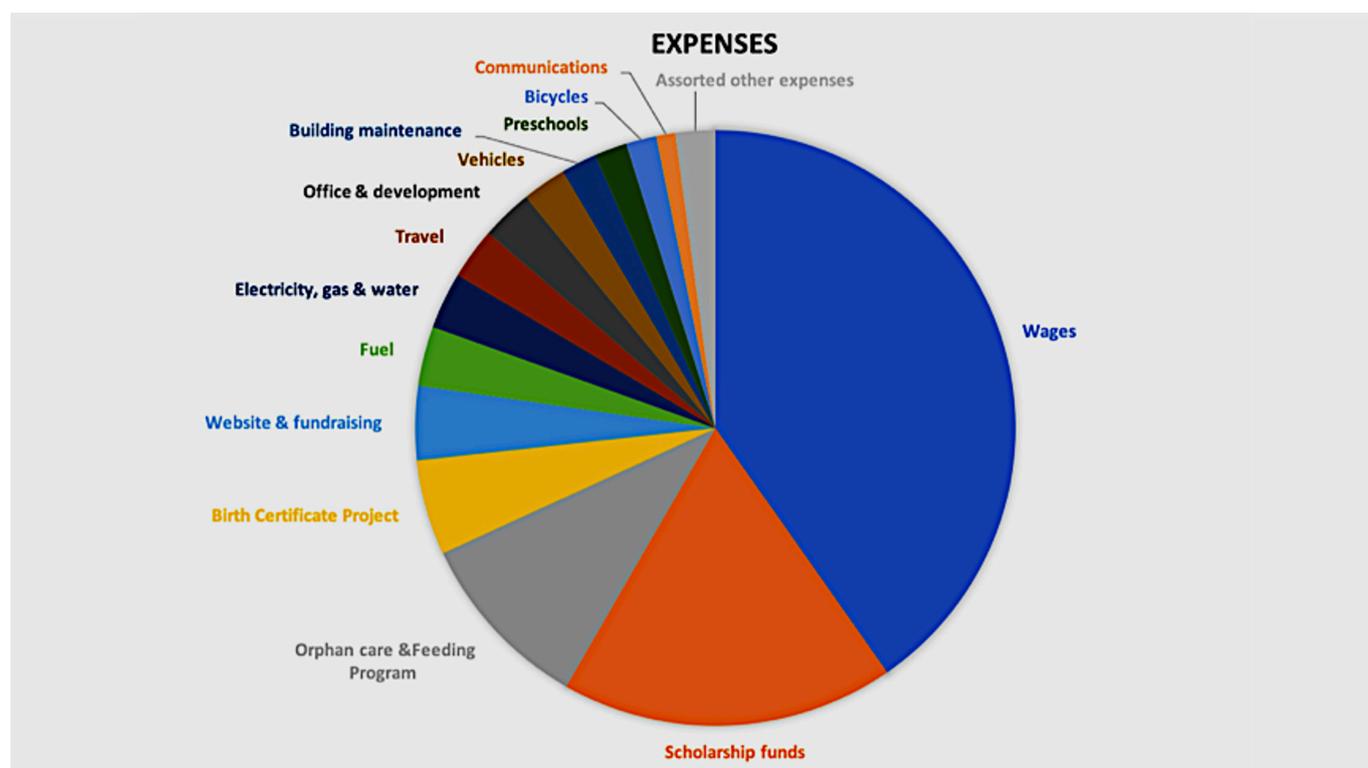
SETHULE QUEENS CLUB & POSITIVE PARENTING

Despite lockdown the drive and enthusiasm of the elderly ladies was maintained. They contributed to food distribution.

ADMINISTRATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

The pie chart shows amounts expended in 2020. By far the greatest expenditure has been on educational support. Administrative costs remain far lower than those of most European-based NGOs. Our strict auditing precludes any laxity with funds. Our accounts are readily available for inspection on the UK Charities Commission website. The substantial increase in income is attributed to the sterling work of the new association of Swiss Friends of Sethule.



The total expenditure for 2020 came to £104,784, included

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Wages | £42 228 |
| Scholarship Funds | £ 18 843 |
| Orphan Care and Feeding Programme | £ 10 281 |
| Birth Certificate Advocacy Project | £ 5 419 |
| Website & fundraising | £ 4 217 |
| Fuel | £ 3 378 |
| Electricity, gas & water | £ 3 215 |
| Travel | £ 2 924 |
| Office & Development | £ 2 909 |
| Vehicles | £ 2 489 |
| Building Maintenance | £ 2 013 |
| Preschools | £ 1 833 |
| Bicycles | £ 1 721 |
| Communications | £ 1 076 |
| Assorted Other Expenses | £ 2 238 |

Income from donations was £210,635, and from Gift Aid £4256. Substantial reserves will be utilised to finish the Skills Centre and Headquarters, and greatly expand the Birth Certificate Project.

ORGANISATIONAL EVALUATION

During the first month of the last quarter, we engaged an external evaluator to assess the relevance and effectiveness of the activities of the Sethule projects. Advice was given regarding improvements in defining the relationship between the UK Trust, and the Swiss Friends, and the Zimbabwe Board. Improvements with the accounting system were recommended (and have since been adopted). Financial liability has been clarified.

OUR 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE

- › Award from the Zimbabwe Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to Sethule for outstanding contribution towards the meeting of sustainable development goals in Zimbabwe.
- › Food distribution to 103 families between March and December.
- › Sethule partnered with the Zimbabwe Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in hosting a Covid-19 workshop for the villagers in Matobo district. A total of 1017 schoolteachers were trained.
- › Staff Development. During the lockdown, all staff members, including volunteers, underwent child safeguarding and protection training by an expert from the National Association of Social Workers from the United States of America.
- › Obtaining 29 birth certificates for orphans, even with lockdown restrictions.
- › Doubling the number of bicycles for our Ride for Education programme.
- › Increased the number of full scholarships for high achievers.
- › 28.6% increase in enrolment at our Emarika School.
- › Renovation and painting of one of our classrooms, three pre-school toilets and the teachers' house.
- › We were able to keep our students engaged in education, counselling and safeguarding awareness during Covid-19 restrictions.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Sethule Skills Centre: We intend to establish a Skills Centre, which could be compared to a 'Finishing School', not for training ladies in the manners of high society, but to acquaint achievers with modern ways of life, practical skills and social norms. The ultimate aim of the Sethule Skills Centre would be to improve the confidence of our orphans by giving them opportunities equal to those of their counterparts in the city.



OUR PARTNERS

- > All Saints Church, Vevey, CH
- > Calsto Care, Bulawayo, ZW
- > Christa Foundation, Zürich, CH
- > Däster-Schild Stiftung, Grenchen, CH
- > EE Brian Smith, Dorton, UK
- > Emarika Foundation, Geneva, CH
- > Emotional Logic, Tavistock, UK
- > First Church, Wenham, USA
- > Friends of Sethule Worldwide
- > Greendale Foundation, Geneva, CH
- > Leysin American School, CH
- > Living Well Church, Rotorua, NZ
- > Lowes Wong Junior School, Southwell, UK
- > McCabe Charity, London, UK
- > Mudgeway Community, Plymouth, UK
- > Muri-Gümligen Church, CH
- > Riverside Church, Southwell, UK
- > Rotary Club, Aigle, CH
- > Rotary Club Chablais, Bex, CH
- > Salientes Stiftung, Zürich, CH
- > Schellenberg Foundation, Frauenfeld, CH
- > Swiss Friends of Sethule Orphans' Trust
- > Three Kings Church, Zürich, CH
- > Ueli Schlageter Stiftung, Zürich, CH
- > Westlake Church, St Sulpice, CH
- > Whitelands Ladies, Roehampton, UK

OUR TRUSTEES

Zimbabwe Trustees

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
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| Secretary: | Mrs Thembi Ndiweni, MBL |
| Community Advisor: | Rev Clopas Ncube, BA |
| Education Advisor: | Mrs Gladys Njaya, M Ed |
| Legal Advisor: | Bheki Nhliziyo, LLB, LLM |
| Director: | Mrs Thabbeth Cotton, BA |

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