



NSOBE DEVELOPMENT TRUST Nsope Schools for our Community



Building Capacity. Deepening Impact. Expanding Hope.
August 2025 Newsletter:

Dear Friends and Partners,

We are about to start our third and final term of the Zambian academic year, we are grateful for all that has been accomplished so far in 2025—thanks to your steadfast support. What began with 16 children learning in a garden in 2009 has now blossomed into a thriving network of education with over 600 children enrolled at Nsope Schools, Safe housing for at-risk girls, Daily Feeding scheme, Health support, Skills training and Community development that is transforming lives in rural Masaiti, Zambia. This achievement is a testament to the power of partnership and your ongoing investment in the future of Nsope's children.



Fresh Leadership, Clear Vision, Brighter Futures: We welcomed a new Secondary leadership team at the start of the year: Mrs. Catherine Mulutula (Secondary Headteacher), Dr. Louis Mwandu (Sec Deputy Headteacher), and Mr. Marriott Daka (Pastoral Head) — who have now fully settled into their roles, leading with confidence, faith, and a clear vision for the future. Our teaching staff are committed to Nsope's mission of Christ-centred, holistic education, bringing energy and dedication into the classroom.

Pupils and parents have been introduced to Zambia's new Competence-Based Curriculum, now being rolled out nationally, starting with Grade 8 which has transitioned into Form One. All secondary grades will be replaced by Forms, paving the way for the future introduction of A Levels at Nsope. Parent-Teacher Committee (PTC) meetings showed strong engagement affirming their commitment to both student support and the school's vision.

Building Futures, Bridging Cultures, Connecting Communities: Our second term was busy with Irish volunteers who brought joy, friendship, and lasting impact — turning partnership into progress through incredible infrastructure development in 2025.

At the end of May, St Benildus College TYs funded and built a new Primary classroom block, enabling double streaming which will give educational access to more of our community's children. This visit was filled with solid hard work by the St Benildus Boys and an outpouring of fun, song, dance, and laughter, with children sharing play, school and culture that has left a treasure of memories and joy.

In June Cuala GAA TYs of 2025 funded and built 2 Secondary Science Labs, which will enable Nsope to offer A-level sciences. The Cuala GAA TY and Nsope Buddies Cultural Exchange created a vibrant space for peer interaction and mutual learning. Students from Zambia and Ireland gained valuable exposure to each other's cultures and perspectives, celebrating their heritage while embracing diversity. Through shared experiences, they built networks across borders, and strengthened their understanding of global citizenship, discovering that while cultures may differ, our shared humanity unites us all.



The Adult Cuala Group visited at the end of July bringing old and new friends, camaraderie and hands-on partnership in building projects, community interaction and support, funding and building a new teacher house, ensuring we can attract and retain quality educators in our rural community.

Support has also been extended to community housing upgrades and clean water and ablution provision, and to our closest neighbouring school, Mpendeni Community School, where classroom construction has begun to relieve severe overcrowding, –formerly this school only had 2 make-shift classrooms for over 400 pupils.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Terry Sheehan and EirEng Consulting Engineers Ltd (Ireland) for their exceptional pro bono support in building design, BOQs, and supervision. With the help of their funding partners and friends, Nsobe's infrastructure is now built to last — strengthening education for generations to come.

Protecting and Empowering Young Women: Nsobe's Safe Houses continue to be a lifeline for vulnerable young women, shielding them from early marriage, abuse, and exploitation while opening the door to education, dignity, and hope. In March 2025 we proudly opened our Second Safe House, expanding our reach to care for 34 at-risk students. Our girls receive not only shelter, nutrition, and care, but also mentorship, guidance, and the encouragement they need to thrive academically and personally. Here, futures are being rewritten as these students grow into resilient, confident leaders ready to transform their families and communities.



Nurturing Boys into men of integrity: The boys of our community face many challenges growing up without present father figures, role models, structured guidance, or positive outlets for their energy. At Nsobe, we recognise the critical need to invest in our boys, providing them with opportunities to grow in strength, character, and faith. We wish to raise boys into future fathers, husbands, and community leaders who will care for their families and contribute positively to society. In August, Seeds of Hope, hosted their annual Gents Camp at Nsobe, and included a number of our staff and boys providing a wonderful camp full of physical challenges, teamwork, discipleship, food and fun. We look forward to our third term and the roll out of our own Boys and Girls camps.

Student Leadership: The induction of school prefects both at Primary and Secondary, and the launch of our Student Council are helping cultivate the next generation of leaders while tutor groups, guidance and counselling sessions and home visits offer student support.



Through the Foroige Leadership for Life Programme (Modules 1&2), our upper secondary students are learning to actively participate in community development and stand up to lead and make a difference. Through project-based learning, the programme builds confidence, critical thinking, leadership skills, teamwork, and civic engagement — empowering young people to make positive life choices, be the change their communities need and become leaders of integrity. Five of our Grade 12 students were sponsored to complete Module 3 and will graduate from the University of Galway with international accreditation.

Great results, limited opportunities: Our participation in the JETS Olympiad, interschool events and inter-house competitions such as Spelling Bees, Quizzes, and Debates has expanded our learners' worldview and aspirations. Now, as we start our final exam term of 2025, we look forward to building on the excellent results of previous years, results that open doors and set our students on pathways to brighter futures. Yet, it is deeply frustrating that so few of our alumni are awarded Government tertiary bursaries — despite meeting every qualification in both academic excellence and vulnerability. This gap leaves many young people without the support they deserve and builds apathy towards secondary schooling. We are most grateful for the Teacher Aid Bursary Scheme and other private sponsors who are standing in the gap for many of our students, making higher education achievable, enabling them to proceed to universities and vocational colleges...but many more are still waiting for that chance.

Thank you for supporting and partnering with us to educate, feed, protect, and empower children and the community of Nsobe.

With gratitude

Fiona,

On behalf of the children, teachers, and families of Nsobe

