

The goal of this project is to feed orphans and vulnerable children attending the local school. This will improve the students' concentration and academic performance, reduce nutrition-related disease and help prevent early pregnancy.

# Lunch Feeding Program

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

St Columba's Secondary School has 450 pupils, the majority of whom come from impoverished communities in Lukulu township and rural villages in the most remote and least developed parts of Zambia. Many of the children are vulnerable orphans from districts scattered across a vast area with little infrastructure.

A lunch feeding program will ensure students can concentrate and remain at school until the end of the school day at 5pm. This may be the only meal for the day for those from impoverished homes. Some pupils camp in shacks in Lukulu township and try to find work after school and on the weekend to pay for rent and buy food. When work cannot be found, hunger is evident during lessons. Some students opt to miss school in order to pursue odd jobs to survive. Providing students with a meal at lunchtime will reduce truancy, improve academic performance, and prevent nutritional related illness.

## CHALLENGES AND SOLUTION

Some girls from impoverished homes engage in sex work to obtain food/money. Early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections occur. The feeding program will help reduce the exposure of female students to such dangers. Female adults from the community have volunteered to mentor pupils at risk, providing guidance and counselling.

## IMPACT

The direct beneficiaries will be students aged between 12-18 years of age, and those who are orphaned or from child-headed households as their parents have passed away, and younger siblings require care. Other beneficiaries will be pupils living with grandparents and those living far from school and unable to return home for lunch.

Indirect beneficiaries will be the students' families, two male cooks, and the local Ministry of General Education which is attempting to provide education with very inadequate resources.



## ACTIVITIES

- The program will be implemented by a team of three teachers and a Loreto Sister
- The academic progress of the beneficiaries will be monitored
- Ongoing dialogue between the teachers and the school administration will ensure the most needy and vulnerable students will be fed
- Pupils who can afford a monthly fee to enrol in the feeding program will be encouraged to contribute to help supplement the budget

