



As part of the purpose of "Vision Through Sound", which is to empower blind people to become independent, we are proud to support this project in Zambia.

ZAMBIA

Chicken Project

March 2022
The First Newsletter

The Kongonga Economic Development Association of the Disabled (KEDAD) was formed by a group of blind adults from the village. It is common in Zambia for blind people to beg on the streets, but they have bucked this trend by creating their own business selling handcraft items they have made. If anybody knows where we can source cork fibre to make brushes please let me know, as the group will be able to make and sell these.

They have begun a poultry farm, having raised several batches of baby chicks from a day old, selling them for food to the local hospital. They are now raising 88 Chicks for laying eggs, both fertilised and unfertilised.



As part of the purpose of "Vision Through Sound," which is to empower blind people to become independent, we have used the donation from Pat Maufe", and sent another £500.00 to enable the KEDAD group to buy food for themselves, feed the chickens, and cover petrol costs so that Anthony and Esther can travel the 60 Kilometre round trip to supervise the project. Esther has been sponsored in the past, by the Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund, and trained to organise sustainable projects.

The chickens are now on the point of laying eggs. Previously they had sold chickens to the local hospital, but now the hospital is breeding their own. The hospital is the competitor to the KEDAD group as they are also selling their chickens within the same community. So Esther took all but five of the Cockerels and 20 chickens to sell back in Kitwe. The KEDAD group is planning another scheme when they receive the money from the sold chickens.

The chicken group remained with 5 cockerels which will be servicing the 23 hens which are at a point of lay for egg fertilization.

At the moment, the chickens are housed in a hut, and they need more Chicken feed as they have run out. However, they are growing and need to live in a large area where they can run free and find food. The land they are on at the moment is rented, so Pat's donation to purchase land is ideal. The Zambian government are also keen to support self-help groups, and having their own land makes them more viable.

So they found a piece of land with crops that is 50X50 metres. The land will be used for a chicken house where chickens can be kept safely and run around to find food.

This particular piece of land has more advantages, such as having a stream next to it, to give irrigation. It is possible to plant crops and trees here and make another business line as KEDAD has farming experience. Also, there is a road on one side of the land for easy transportation. Fencing is necessary for the chickens.

KEDED group has submitted a proposal for purchasing the land. This can happen after the harvest is completed. Once the chickens begin laying eggs, the fertilised ones can be sold, and the unfertilised ones can be eaten or sold.

While Esther and Anthony were there, one of the group phoned the minister for the disabled to ask for an answer about buying





the land. They have asked for an answer by next Thursday. This would be the best option, but their plan B is to ask a local counsellor if there is a plot of land to which they can be allocated.

Although they are still waiting for the Ministry of Land's response, they have put up another option this week. Since they would like to meet the councillor of the same area, they will have another option; it will mean a land that is farther away from the center. In case things don't work out on what they are waiting for, they have another alternative, so they have two options; however, they continue to pray for a good response from the ministry of lands.

This can be a good business opportunity for them and prevent them from having to beg, as well as increasing the village culture because any time a business is started, the economy grows and the KEDAD group are keen to earn money to pay

their children's school fees. Vision Through Sound is proud to support this project and relies on donations to help blind villagers make a better life for themselves.

