

Mechanics for Chibobo



The Tyranny of Distance -- No local repair

The community of Chibobo, the Orphanage and the nearby small town of Serenje are over 430 km northeast of Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. The district has no trained mechanics or structured vehicle repair facility and it's a long and expensive drive to get the Orphanage vehicles serviced in Lusaka or Ndola, and an impossible distance to regularly service the farm tractor, generators, water pump or maize mill, or to repair breakdowns.

Shaky Wheels and Wobbly Cranks----No basic culture in vehicle care

As there has been no formal vehicle maintenance & equipment repair program, or training for the local people, even the bicycles aren't in great shape. The rough dirt roads and the dry and dusty conditions play havoc with engines, wheel bearings, linkages, the longevity of vehicles and equipment as a whole. This means short life for all mechanical items

How do we break the vicious cycle of supporter's giving money to buy vehicles, plant & equipment that then deteriorate faster than they can be replaced? These valuable assets end up in the ever mounting scrap heap of tired and broken equipment littering the area and the Orphanage has to do without.



What to do?



Structured Training of local young men

A full time two-year vehicle mechanics course is available at [Mechanics for Africa](#) in Ndola, central Zambia, about 320 Kms from Chibobo. This course with external examinations and accreditation is available for men over 21.

If we raise funds to support two young men to attend this full time training, including accommodation and travel, we can break the cycle and lengthen the life of equipment and create long term employment for the Orphans.

What will all this cost?

The initial budget for two years training (yet to be confirmed over the coming weeks) is about A\$2,750.00 per trainee including schooling, accommodation and travel to and from Ndola. This will give lifetime skills for local men and in two years the Orphanage will have the ability to service their equipment locally. This will lengthen the 4-5 years we are presently getting out of the vehicles and the mill, generator and the tractor will also last longer. This will allow future donations and funding from Overnewton College and St Mary's communities to be put to other Orphan care, Pastoral, Medical and outreach in the district.



The next step -- The provision of a vehicle workshop for Serenje

There is no adequate workshop in the district, so the next step will be to set up a vehicle workshop in the nearby town of Serenje. This long-term goal will take at about two years to plan and build and will give true self-sufficiency for the Orphanage. The workshop with the trained mechanics will provide the stable base to maintain equipment, help with local funds for the Orphanage and provide employment in the coming years as the young men reach working age.

Do you want to help make Chibobo more self-sufficient?

[See attached fund raising form](#)