

# ZAMBIA WEEK 3

The Copperbelt | Kabwe | Kitwe | HIV & Aids | LGBTQ

<http://nelsongrans2grans.weebly.com/2021-national-stride-across-zambia.html>

Support Nelson Grans Team Challenge here:

<https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/stridetoturnthetide2021/t/NelsonGrans>



Discovered in 1921, the Kabwe skull belonged to a hominid who lived some 300,000 years ago. British Museum/Wikimedia Commons

Kabwe was previously known as Broken Hill. In 1921 the Kabwe cranium, known as "Broken Hill Man", or "Rhodesia Man" now known as "heidelbergensis", the first early human fossil discovered in Africa. There is a monument to it on the grounds of the Civic Centre in Kabwe, but the skull itself is currently in London, England. Efforts are being made to repatriate it.

[To learn more click here.](#)



## Copperbelt - Kabwe - Kitwe

Five hundred million years ago two pieces of Continental crust collided, forming the mineral-rich area of the Copperbelt. Plentiful in natural resources; copper, cobalt, zinc, lead, coal, emeralds, gold, silver, uranium, and hydropower.

In the 1920s the British government, at that time governing Zambia (which was called Northern Rhodesia) started to develop copper mines. Copper sustained the country through its transition from British rule to self-government in 1964. However, the bottom fell out of the market in 1973 when world-wide copper prices fell.

North of Lusaka lies Kabwe, a city of approximately 203,000, that used to be the hub of the Copperbelt. The mine closed in 1994, leaving Kabwe with a legacy of lead contamination. This particularly affects the poorer areas of Kabwe, and has caused brain and organ damage to generations of children. Kabwe has been called "the world's most toxic town". The United Nations



Life full of hope.



City Girl Educated

Educating girls is so very important.

A culture with an educated female population is more stable and economically better off. Not to mention that the girls are less likely to be exploited and have options for life that does not force them into constant pregnancy. So many Zambian young girls die of births brought on when they are too young to bear them. The operations and child deaths too are so prevalent. That is why those sanitary pads are so important.

has offered help, but so far there has been no action.

In the mid-1970s, the price of copper, Zambia's principal export, suffered a severe decline worldwide. In Zambia's situation, the cost of transporting the copper great distances to the market was an additional strain. Zambia turned to foreign and international lenders for relief, but, as copper prices remained depressed, it became increasingly difficult to service its growing debt. By the mid-1990s, despite limited debt relief, Zambia's per capita foreign debt remained among the highest in the world.

The largest mine is Nkana, in Kitwe. Large foreign direct investment (FDI) is now bringing shareholders profits, but the people of Zambia are not benefitting as they should. Companies who are involved are mostly from Europe, but also include Canada and China. Video: [Zambia: Under Chinese Influence - French Public Broadcast](#)

### *HIV/Aids Statistics*

2010 ... 60,000 cases | 2019 ... 51,000+ cases

Mostly in Lusaka and the Copperbelt

78% adults in Zambia are on Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs)

79% children on ARVs

75% of those treated are now virtually HIV/Aids suppressed.

This means that their count is so low that it is virtually undetectable. Their immune systems are now functioning and they will not transmit HIV to their sexual partners. There can be "blips" but these are rare. They must always take their ARVs for the rest of their lives, but otherwise can live normal lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic causes real problems with ARVs as, with social distancing necessary, the people who hand out the drugs have to make sure that they get enough to their charges for them to be covered for a length of time, and who knows how long that is? A lot of the work is conducted by "peer counselling". Groups are formed and a leader will dispense the ARVs. In remote and scattered areas this sometimes means long distance travel. By car, by bicycle, through the bush, by foot - however they can.

Although this area is concentrated mainly on the industrial interests of the copper mines efforts are being made to attract tourism.

## Angelino Tembo Girl's School

A Stephen Lewis Foundation partner aims to lift students out of poverty through education. This school is in Kabwe, 100km north of Lusaka, in the heart of what is known as the Copperbelt. Zambia Orphan Aid assists the school with income-generating activities -- poultry, piggery and vegetable-growing, as well as a new maize-growing venture, which together have not only helped the school raise funds for school supplies, but have also provided protein and vitamin-rich foods for the orphans.

The school aims to break the cycle of poverty and improve social mobility in Zambia.

They seek to equip disadvantaged students with vocational skills to help them access good jobs in professions like teaching or in healthcare, enabling them to earn an income that could lift their entire family out of poverty. To do this, they pay the college or university fees, provide refurbished laptops, and pay for transportation or accommodation costs for any students who pass their Grade 12 exams with good results to continue their education.



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**This is the largest chimpanzee sanctuary in the world.**

**[To see more click here.](#)**

## *LGTBQ in Zambia*

Prohibition has been in the Zambian Constitution since 1911, when the country was under the British Government. It is proscribed by Zambia's penal code, the penalty for men being 15 years to life imprisonment, and for women up to 14 years imprisonment. There are no public or private programs to provide HIV-related counselling and the Government does not permit advocacy. It has been described as "against human nature." LGTBQ people are discriminated against educationally, in employment, in housing and in access to services (UNHRC), in spite of United Nations and citizens' efforts to change policy. The situation has led to law cases and distress.

## *Kitwe - CINDI*

While its work with the Stephen Lewis Foundation has a core focus on children, in order to ensure holistic support, caregivers and grandparents who take care of them are also engaged.

CINDI has been in partnership with the Stephen Lewis Foundation since 2005. CINDI has seen significant signs of emotional and psychological change, resilience, and capacity building in grandmothers through support groups, trainings, income-generating activities and community saving groups.

Training and skills development have led to grandmothers engaging in 'climate-smart' agriculture practices, including subsistence or conservation farming and using specific crop management and diversification during the growing seasons. Grandmothers have access to seeds and fertilizer and CINDI encourages cultivation of drought-resistant crops, such as cassava, sweet potatoes and beans. Grandmothers are also supported with business management training and small grants to build small businesses.