

Polokong Children's Village
South Africa
Parishes Update April 2022

Finances

South Africa in general, and Polokong in particular, are going through very hard times. In common with the rest of the world, high energy and food prices are seriously affecting the Children's Village. A further serious blow to them has been the SA Government's decision to withdraw promised funding for the extra houses which Polokong had been asked to take over a few years ago. The organisation had a £20k deficit in October 2021 which they managed to reduce to c. £5k by the end of the year. However, these latest setbacks resulted in the Deputy Director sending a painful email to Towcester SVP in April:

"I am truly sorry to trouble you with this e-mail, but I have to reach out wherever I can at this stage.

We are appealing to you for your assistance, as we have a very serious financial situation.

We have not received the subsidy due to us, for the Vanderbijlpark homes, for the last 3 months, and have had to fund them ourselves. At the end of March 2022 we were advised that the subsidy agreement was only up to December 2021 and we would not be paid. This has left us with a major shortfall.

We were unable to pay full salaries or our suppliers at the end of March. Although our suppliers have been generous, they won't be able to supply us further until our accounts have been paid in full. Our immediate need is food for the children, warm clothing, blankets and monetary donations."

The Trustees have written to the SA Department for Social Development asking for an urgent meeting to discuss their plight. Part of this letter says:

"We are very concerned that if we don't take action soon we will end up having to close Polokong Village down, leaving these children with no home, a further few hundred children in the community going without a daily meal supplied by us, and adding to further unemployment which our country can ill afford."

Response from SVP Towcester

In April we sent a further small tranche of £896 to Polokong. This was mainly from the regular donations coming from those who generously pay standing orders. However, it

clearly goes nowhere near fulfilling their commitments, even though they are most grateful for our support. The Deputy Director again:

“Yes the situation of Ukraine is very troubling and we are also affected, prices of food and fuel are increasing drastically. I truly appreciate the fact that you are still doing all possible to help us in our hour of need and do understand that there is so much other people that need your help and are relying on you.

Your response is highly appreciated and every cent helps, as soon as the money reflects in our account I will inform you.”

SVP are once again appealing to parishioners for their support at these difficult times.

Daily Activity

Meanwhile it is ‘carry on regardless’ for the children and staff, as far as they can. Staff and children are cheerful, and hoping and praying for better times in the future.