

**FORDERVEREIN**

**AFRIKAPROJEKT- Dr. Schales e.V.**

**UBUNTU SCHALES TRUST PROJECT**  
**REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025**

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**1.0 PREAMBLE**

We present The Afrikaprojekt/Ubuntu Schales Trust Annual Report 2025, highlighting the achievements and challenges experienced in achieving set goals for the year under review.

Year 2025 was the 23rd of the work of Afrikaprojekt whose overall goal is to improve the living conditions and wellbeing of the people of Lupane, Zimbabwe through humanitarian support for St. Luke's Mission Hospital, poor rural schools and disadvantaged children to access education.

## **1.1 Introduction**

Project implementation in the year under review followed support to institutions approved for support being the St. Luke's mission Hospital, St. Luke's Mission Parish and the two Schools programmes availed to 21 schools namely Partnerschools and Sponsorship. Good progress was achieved considering visible physical development, the human progress of the beneficiaries and the budget uptake of 79% for the year under review.

Development and improvements continue to take place in the areas where the Project is providing various interventions. The Project team is concerned about the Project's impact, sustainability and optimum use of investments as well as consolidation of gains made over the years.

We present, in this Annual Report, highlights of the activities undertaken during year 2025 in line with the approved budget plan for that year.

## **1.2 A Tribute to the Late "Khulu" Hans**

Arrived on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2001 at St. Luke's Mission Hospital to take up a new role as Medical Superintendent of the old and run down 250 bedded Mission hospital. With his loved Peugeot Expert van and 'all' his property for this mission at the back of this van. To begin a great missionary service to span till his call to glory on the early morning of 23 October 2025. An exceptional service to the people of God in the tiny remote rural area of Lupane, Zimbabwe for a total 23 years, 3 months and 2 days.

Witnessing the despair of the poor and the condition of the hospital, under attack from the scourge of HIV/Aids, malaria, TB and high maternal mortality rates in this hospital, partly occasioned by the political, economic and social upheavals of the great nation of Zimbabwe. Khulu, as he was later to be affectionally known, brought hope when one day, routinely passing through the Hospital manager's office for a routine briefing, announced that he and his family and the good people of his region in Saarbrücken, Saarland, had decided to build a bridge between that community and the people of Lupane. This was the beginning of the great Partnership of the community of Lupane and the People of Germany through Förderverein Afrikaprojekt Dr. Schales. e.V.

For the next 23 years, each day for him, was a day of extreme compassion, service, inspiration of hope and yearning for a better community, better hospital and better Zimbabwe, hence his famous saying "Soon it will be better".

Undeterred by witnessing the daily suffering, an environment not so enabling and limited resources to do his work, he inspired Afrikaprojekt and his Zimbabwe local team through hope, innovative solutions, with support from his family and community back home to confront what he could head on!

Khulu shepherded the works such as are in this annual report and more for the next 23 years during and beyond his formal medical work retirement. The tropical diseases including HIV/Aids, TB, Malaria and later Covid19 did not take him away from the Zimbabwean people he loved. Anyone i.e. nurses, doctors, chronic and hopeless patients discharged for home care, because the health system could not help anymore, stranded parents and staff unable to pay school fees, the hungry, the elderly, children in need of a toy or a banana, you name it, could knock at his house anytime.

To his credit in early 2002 and at the peak of HIV/Aids mortality rates on affected staff, he boldly initiated a staff treatment program. At that time the Government of Zimbabwe had not yet begun antiretroviral therapy as treatment of AIDS. This work was later supported by the Medical Mission Institute in close collaboration with his colleagues the late Dr. Solleder, late Karl Heinz and Misereor.

The economic challenges of the mid 2000s that caused shortages of medicines, including basic infusions saw him initiate a first and only hospital based local production of infusions at St. Luke's hospital which is still running today and supplying regional health facilities during cholera outbreaks every now and then.

St. Luke's mission hospital infrastructure was transformed. From wards, staff accommodation, water, power, ambulances, laundry equipment, farm implements, to name a few, were built and acquired. Midwives trained and young doctors mentored.

The Project he founded maintains a huge foot print in Lupane district on his two broad areas of interest, namely Health and Education. Supporting St. Luke's hospital with infrastructure, medicines, staff, equipment and hospital budgets. And in Education, school fees and school materials for the poor and under privileged. Various buildings in 21 schools, teaching aids, water, power, nutrition gardens, feeding school children during recurrent droughts. All this evidenced in this report and others preceding this one since 2003.

His seeds live on!

A tribute to Afrikaprojekt Founder Dr. Josef Hans Schales "Khulu" in this Afrikaprojekt Ubuntu Schales Trust 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report after his passing.

## **2.0 HOSPITAL PROJECTS**

### **2.1 Hospital funding**

Afrikaprojekt funding for St. Luke's Mission Hospital remained a critical pillar to its survival. Below is a table showing the hospital's sources of funding for the year under review:

**Table 1: St. Luke’s Mission Hospital Sources of Funding for year 2025**

	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1	User Fees Collection: Health Services Fund	82 449.50	33	Many patients do not pay health fees e.g. under 5s, over 65s, chronic patients and the indigent
2	Mission Government Grant	94 010.00	37	Grants are not released regularly
3	Archdiocese of Bulawayo Responsible Authority	0	0	The Diocese owns land and buildings but does not give operational budgets
4	Ubuntu Schales Trust	75 053.32	30	US\$ 14464.32 being medicines purchases by AP Germany
5	Other	0	0	Some donors have pulled out
	<b>Total</b>	<b>251 512.82</b>	<b>100</b>	

The total funding does not indicate full financial requirements to provide reasonable quality of services for the hospital. More would be required for improved service delivery.

Budgets provided exclude capital costs such as staff salaries and capital development, except for Ubuntu Schales Trust.

Government grant support remained inconsistent and fraught with bureaucratic huddles while operational budget support from the Responsible Authority, the Archdiocese of Bulawayo was absent. Out of pocket user fees which the hospital retains for use averaging US\$ 300 per day remained limited to cover needs required to provide standard services for the hospital. There was no hospital estimate of financial requirements to provide a reasonable service for this hospital.

For the year under review, the hospital had a budget indication from the Project of US\$ 123 124.00 to support hospital running, ongoing infrastructural capital projects, remaining staff top ups and support to the infusion department. From the budget, US\$ 61 811 or 50% was spent during the year. The reduced uptake in expenditure was a result of the heavy Sponsorship budget which crowded out available financial resources for other activities. Further, a consignment of medicines and surgical sundries was purchased directly by Afrikaprojekt through Action Medeor to cover gaps of essential medicines and surgical sundries.

Some projects that could not be implemented include the proposed waste water ponds, proposed pharmacy building trussing and limited uptake on continuing New OPD landscaping works which intend to create a new entrance, parking and sitting area for the hospital. Below is summary of the activities undertaken by the hospital during the year.

## **2.2 INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**2.2.1 New Waiting Mothers’ Shelter:** The project entered year 5 of the phased construction approach. Proposed works for 2025 had been set out as to; complete remaining finishing works on two additional dormitory blocks, installation of clean and waste water systems and building of a kitchen shade. However, these works were altered to; completion of the ablution block commenced in 2024 ending at door level. The ablution block was completed and works during the year included building to gable level, roofing and internal plastering.

The kitchen shade was commenced during the year and built to roof level. The new cooking shade was designed to accommodate sizeable numbers of expecting mothers; whose numbers swell seasonally to as much as 300 during the last quarter of the year.

Outstanding works at yearend included internal plastering, aprons and building up of cooking stations inside the cooking shade. These were projected to be completed during the first quarter of 2026. The total expenditure for the waiting Mothers for the year was \$24 873 from a budget indication of \$50 000 for the year. Various competing Project needs, especially priority payment of school fees, limited what could have been, otherwise, achieved.

The Project has generated so much interest from both the Government and the community since its commencement. Below is the year on year cumulative expenditure since commencement:

**Table 2: Waiting Mothers Shelter Summary Expenditure to December 31, 2025**

YEAR	AMOUNT (US\$)	PROJECT WORKS
2021	19 626.00	Preliminary works, site clearing and Part materials
2022	87 487.00	Construction of 2 blocks with 2 dormitories each
2023	81 074.00	Construction of 2 more blocks with 2 dormitories each
2024	23 679.00	Block 3 and 4, Ablution block built to above door level
2025	24 873.00	Completion of ablution block, building of kitchen shade to roof level.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236 739.00</b>	

The Waiting Mothers Shelter has generated national interest as a flagship project for expecting mothers in the health sector. It is set as high in the development priorities of Matabeleland North Province. This project was an initiative of the late Project leader, Dr. Hans Schales. It is projected that 2026 could see the project infrastructure completed before working on furniture and equipment, comprising dormitory beds and side boards. All things remaining equal, Mothers could relocate to the new facility by mid-2027.

**2.2.2 Hospital Staff Accommodation AMR Convent:** The staff accommodation project was paused end of 2023, with outstanding works being tiling and fitting of sliding doors. Work resumed in 2025 utilising material bought in year 2023, to complete these outstanding works.

Tiling of the kitchen, dining and the prayer room was done during the year under review. Outstanding at year end was glazing of screened sliding doors to the dining, prayer room main entrance and electrical rewiring. The project should be handed over for beneficiary use in 2026. An expenditure of US\$ 4 716 was spent on this project during the year.

### 2.2.3 New OPD Landscaping: Allocated funds were hardly utilised.

In summary, a total expenditure of US\$ 30 169. was spent on Hospital infrastructure projects from a budgeted US\$ 66 000.00 for the year, representing 46%. Liquidity challenges and reprioritisation of competing needs affected uptake.

Whereas a number of capital projects have been completed and handed over to the hospital over the years, maintenance issues are creeping in. A deliberate interaction by the Project with the hospital has been initiated for increased maintenance and upkeep of donated assets.

## 2.3 RECURRENT HOSPITAL BUDGET SUPPORT

Capacity utilisation of the allocated recurrent budget for the hospital was also low during the year, amounting to US\$ 6 970 from a budget provision of US\$ 30 300 representing a mere 23%. The low expenditure was covered by the direct support from Afrikaprojekt of a medicine consignment processed through Action Medeor during the year amounting to Euro 12 868 during the year.

A concerted effort by the hospital to improve utilisation of donor support through budget prioritisation and utilisation meetings was initiated by the Project for year 2026.

From a total annual expenditure of US\$ 61 789 on the hospital, US\$ 31 621 was spent on hospital budget support covering expenses on hospital medicines, food provisions, the infusion unit and staff top ups as follows:

**2.3.1 Staff Top Ups:** The Project carried 8 hospital staff on this budget line in 2025, the 1st of the 4 years drawdown period of Project support on staff top ups. Staffing positions that benefitted from top up were; the hospital administrator, Infusion operator, 4 Red cross nurses, and 1 guest house maid. A total expenditure of US\$ 23 472.00 (including infusion wages) was spent in 2025, a significant decrease from US\$ 76 183 for year 2022 when staff top ups were fully implemented.

The overall impact of reduced support in the staff top up programme on the hospital has not been significant for doctors, nurses and nurse aides. This is because the government of Zimbabwe has allocated staff posts for Lupane in anticipation of the upcoming Lupane Provincial hospital, which posts have largely benefitted St. Luke's Mission Hospital. Below is the staffing situation for these staff posts for years 2022 through 2025, inclusive of Government posts benefitting St. Luke's Mission Hospital.

**Table 3: Comparative staffing situation for doctors, nurses and nurse aides during 4 years to 2025**

Staff Category	In post: Gov.& Mission Year 2022	In post: Gov.& Mission Year 2023	In post: Gov.& Mission Year 2024	In post: Gov.& Mission Year 2025
Doctors	6	6	9	12
Nurses	57	65	72	75
Nurse Aides	33	33	34	35

For doctors, these were largely junior doctors after finishing horsemanship with no senior and experienced doctors in post. Patient referrals out to Mpilo Central Hospital for higher care by senior doctors continued.

The staff increase for doctors, nurses and other ancillary staff has brought in more challenges and strain to the hospital, including accommodation. The 12 Doctors, were sharing accommodation up to 3 per 3 bedroomed house.

### 2.3.2 Hospital workload statistics

**Table 4: St. Luke’s Hospital workload statistics from January to December 2025**

Item	Parameter	Number	Remark
1	Outpatient attendances: New cases	9 116	
	Repeat Cases	1 428	
2	HIV Opportunistic Infection Clinic attendances	7 761	HIV/Aids is still a major workload factor
3	Inpatient admissions	4 433	Average hospital bed occupancy per day being 85
4	Theatre procedures: Minor	971	The majority of cases were caesarean sections
	Major	353	
5	Family and Child Health services: New	1681	
	Repeat	67	
6	Dental: Consultations	538	A number of procedures are not conducted due to shortage of material
	Procedures	138	

The hospital workload is relatively low given the number of beds and staff endowment of the hospital. It should concern the hospital and the community health department to establish factors that may be affecting low hospital utilisation for management decisions.

**2.3.3 Medicines and Surgicals:** In February 2025, the Project received an emergency call for support with critical medicines that were in short supply, thereby affecting patient care. The Project initiated a medicines supply process to gap fill the shortage through a direct purchase and delivery of medicines through Action Medeor. The consignment was received end of July 2025. The support of medicines to the tune of Euro 12 688 improved availability of medicines through the year. Local budget support for drugs and sundries amounted to a further US\$ 4 090 during the year.

**2.3.4 Hospital Food Provisions:** US\$ 2 880 was spent on food provisions for the patients’ and doctors’ kitchens from a budgeted US\$ 3 600 for the year. On the other hand, local production of vegetables and beef supplies from the hospital’s cattle project supplemented meat requirements. Below is the output from the Hospital garden, sustained for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The garden’s intention is to supplement vegetables for patients and staff.

**Table 5: Comparative Garden Produce Report for Jan –Dec: Years 2024/2025**

YEAR	Cabbage (KG)	Chomolia (KG)	Spinach (KG)	Lettuce (KG)	Green paper (KG)	Total Kgs
2024	167	1 355	871	57	218	2 668
2025	180	1800	920	75	200	3 175

A total of 3.175 tonnes worth of vegetables were produced during the year, up from 1.668 last year with a market value of US\$ 2 350. The produce benefitted the patients' and doctor's kitchen. The increased production for year 2025 is attributed to the improved management and a second planting cycle for Chomolia.

The garden played a significant part in contributing to patients' nutrition.

**2.3.5 The Hospital cattle herd:** After the unfortunate depletion of the cattle heard in year 2024 due to drought from 41 to 23, the cattle stock rose steadily to 31 by year end 2025. The cattle project, like the garden project, continues to play a role in supplementing patients' food and reducing the overall hospital running budget.

**2.4 INFUSION UNIT:** A total of 4 114 bottles of 500ml infusion bottles, down from 5 611 in year 2024 were produced. These being 500ml bottles of normal saline and dextrose 5%. Ringers lactate was not produced for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year due to challenges in procuring sodium lactate 60% reagent required for production. The absence of sodium lactate has contributed to low production.

At the time of this report, the hospital and Project were in touch with a South African Company which indicated possibility to supply the missing reagent. Reagent paperwork including certificates of analysis were awaited for onward submission and review by the Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe.

Below is the summary Infusion Unit's production summary for year 2025.

**Table 6: Infusion production summary January to December 2025**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>0.9% N/Saline (500 ml)</b>	<b>5% Dextrose (500 l)</b>	<b>50% Dextrose (500 ml)</b>	<b>Ringer Lactate (500 l)</b>	<b>1/2 Strength Darrow's</b>	<b>Water Injections (100 ml)</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>January</b>	344	-	-	-	-	-		<b>344</b>
<b>February</b>	462	-	-	-	-	-		<b>462</b>
<b>March</b>	715	-	-	-	-	-		<b>715</b>
<b>April</b>	238	-	-	-	-	-		<b>238</b>
<b>May</b>	361	-	-	-	-	-		<b>361</b>
<b>June</b>	110	300	-	-	-	-		<b>410</b>
<b>July</b>	214	-	-	-	-	-		<b>214</b>
<b>August</b>	200	405	-	-	-	-		<b>605</b>
<b>September</b>	405	-	-	-	-	-		<b>405</b>
<b>October</b>	360	-	-	-	-	-		<b>360</b>
<b>November</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
<b>December</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3409</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4114</b>

During the month of January, two batches were discarded as a result of power outages. The persistent power outages continued to negatively affect operations in April, November, and December. In October, three batches were produced; however, they failed to meet quality assurance standards, primarily due to inadequate water supply resulting from electricity power interruptions.

The Infusion Unit continues to operate far below capacity. Perennial water and electricity problems being major contributors, while unavailability of Sodium lactate 60% added to the problem.

To support the department's staffing needs, a financial injection of \$8 336 was spent on the Infusion operator's salary.

**2.5 Hospital Support Expenditure Summary:** The overall hospital expenditure covering recurrent budget support, capital projects, staff top ups and infusion amounted to US\$ 60 594.36. As a fraction of total project expenditure for year 2025, it amounted to 15%, excluding expenses met by Afrikaprojekt towards procurement and freight of the consignment of medicines. Financing and payment of school fees throughout the year affected, not just hospital support but other project expenditure lines.

Structural changes to the Sponsorship programme has been initiated and is on course to allow other key activities room for implementation going forward.

### **3.0 ST. LUKE'S MISSION PARISH SUPPORT**

The Parish is manned by a Parish Priest and 2 brothers. It services 10 outstations

**3.1 Fuel Support:** Support with fuel in the amount of 2000 litres for the year to St Luke's Mission at a cost of US\$ 3 385.10 enabled pastoral services to go on during the year. Pastoral services around St Luke's, coverage of 10 outstations and administrative trips were conducted on a monthly basis during the year.

An average of 2 trips every month to Bulawayo for meetings and updates with the Bishop were undertaken. Visits for meetings with other parishes for other programs were conducted. An estimated 850 kilometres was covered per month towards the above activities.

For the year 2025 the donation of fuel enabled the Mission Parish to operate and fulfil the mandate of spiritual support and evangelism to the needy. For the above support, the Priest, Parish Executive, Full Pastoral Council and the entire congregation remain grateful for the support received.

**3.2 St. Luke's 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebrations:** On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2025, the Archdiocese of Bulawayo and St. Luke's Mission held Celebrations of the founding of St. Luke's Mission. The event was hosted by the Archbishop, His Grace, the Rt. Rev. Alex Thomas. The guest of honour, the Vice President of Zimbabwe, Retired General C.G.D.N Chiwenga paid tribute to the late Dr. Joanna Davis and the late Dr Hans Schales during this occasion.

The Vice President remarked that the two doctors were “true Catholic Missionaries who took up the gospel of service.” And in Conveying his condolence message on the passing on of Dr Schales, the Zimbabwean Vice President described Dr. Schales as “a man of compassion, dedicated to his medical work and a man who assisted countless families”

The Vice President pointed out that “Though Hans was not a Zimbabwean, he became one of us by his deeds” urging the community to be of service, like Dr. Schales.

The Vice President officially opened the new Outpatient Department, the new operating theatre, the recently rehabilitated Maternity department and the school of Nursing classroom block and ablutions which were constructed by the Afrikaprojekt.

#### **4.0 PARTNERSCHOOLS PROJECTS**

The number of schools in the Partnerschools programme increased to 21, with the admission of Ndwane Secondary and Bafana Primary schools.

The 2 new schools were all identified and recommended for urgent support by the District officials. For Ndwane Secondary, learners in that community had no nearby secondary school. Learners in that area were travelling about 14 km to the nearest Jibajiba secondary school. Bafana Primary was opened as an annex of Daluka Primary school to cater for children travelling long distances of up to 10km from the eastern villages of Daluka. Temporary structures had been erected. The request to support Bafana was thus an effort to develop the annex school into a standard school. The catchment villages were viable for siting of a new school.

The status of Regina Mundi Secondary in the family of Partnerschools has not been fully established. Support, to date, has been dependant on availability of specific donors Afrikaprojekt could identify. In the previous year, Kindermissionswerk supported the construction of a new advanced level classroom block.

Effectively, Afrikaprojekt supported 21 schools, 16 being Primary and 5, Secondary schools.

In summary, during the year under review, 3 Primary schools completed their projects being Daluka, Gandangula teachers’ cottages and Sipopoma; a classroom block.

Another 8 schools progressed with previously commenced projects with 2 of 6 proposed new projects taking off. 10 schools could not implement projects as a result of limited financial room and late implementation of Partnerschools projects which has become traditional.

The budget for the Partnerschools Project increased from US\$ 146 000 in 2024 to US\$ 163 000 in year 2025. Incurring an expenditure of US\$ 85 463,51 being 52% of the Partnerschools budget.

Partnerschools took up 20.7% of the overall Project budget for the year.

Below, is a summary of the projects implemented in the various schools during the year under review;

- 4.1 **Daluka Primary School staff cottage:** The 8 roomed cottage, commenced in year 2023 and designed to occupy 4 teachers, was completed and handed over in the year.

Work left after cottage roofing in 2024, progressed with beam filling, plastering internal and external, ceiling fixing, hanging of doors, electrical wiring and fittings, painting both walls and ceiling and connection of power from the main line. These works were done at a cost of US\$ 10 986,83, bringing the cumulative cost of the entire project to US\$ 32 894.83.

Commissioning and hand over were conducted by public works department and school authorities. Selection of staff to occupy was by vote, based on teacher performance and orderly, smart and conscientious.

The accommodation situation for teachers is greatly improved for Daluka Primary school. The school stands as a beacon of possibilities of a rural school with meaningful support and partnership.

- 4.2 **Elihlo Primary School Classroom block:** The 1 x 2 classroom block commenced in 2024 and left after foundation excavations, progressed to window base level. Work during the year consisted of brick moulding, panning of concrete stones, construction of foundations up to window base, back filling of foundations, procurement of materials; doorframes, brick force and window frames. Work is projected to continue through to roof level in the coming period. Works for the year cost US\$4 686 bringing the cumulative cost in year 2 to US\$ 12 283.

- 4.3 **Gandangula Primary School staff cottage:** The staff cottage that commenced in 2023 and left at roof level in 2024, progressed to electrical wiring and fittings, ceiling fixing, hanging of doors and painting of internal and external walls at a further cost of US\$ 6 112 bringing the cumulative cost to US\$ 23 419 on completion.

The school was engaged with the Rural Electrification Agency to have the overhead connection of electricity to the school before beneficiary use. The cottage will ameliorate teacher accommodation pressure and attract teachers to the school.

- 4.4 **Mafa Primary School: Administration and Computer laboratory block:** The school continued with the construction of the administration/ ICT laboratory block beyond window level to ring beam level in 2025 at a further cost of US\$ 2 700.00. That brought the cumulative cost to US\$ 17 17. Window frames, ring beam steel, and additional brick moulding to reach gable and beam filling were mobilised. Roofing, plastering and other finishing are projected in the subsequent budgets.

- 4.5 **Masungamala Primary School Staff cottage:** Upon completion of the fencing project in year 2024, a staff cottage was proposed for year 2025. However, the new project could not commence during the year. It was deferred for commencement to year 2026.
- 4.6 **Mlonyeni Primary School Staff cottage:** The project commenced and left in 2024 with material gathered, pegging and excavation of the foundation completed, made no progress in year 2025 due to limited financial space and time for progression. No expenditure was incurred beyond the US\$4 726 spent in year 2024.
- 4.7 **Malumba Primary School staff cottage:** The school, in 2025, did not progress beyond the 2024 attained stage of mobilisation of material, site clearing and setting out. Progress was projected in the next project period.
- 4.8 **Mathambo Primary School ICT Classroom block:** The School's new ICT classroom block which was previously roofed and plastered internally, progressed in the year under review. External plastering, movement of concrete stones, transportation of river-sand, brick moulding for beam filling, procurement of materials such as cement, welded mesh, window panes, doors and paints was undertaken at a cost of US\$ 5 383 during the year. With all material to complete on site, the builder who was engaged on another project was expected to complete this project in year 2026.
- 4.9 **Regina Mundi Secondary School:** Following the completion of the Kindermissionswerk donation of a new 1 x 2 Advanced Level Classroom block in 2024, no new project was granted to the school for the year 2025. The school has not been fully integrated into the Partnerschools project.

However, the school from other sources, commenced the construction of a big Advanced level science laboratory funded through a special school levy and funding from the Archdiocese of Bulawayo. By year end, the Science block's foundation and roofed steel frame had been erected. Parameter brick work enclosures and internal partitions were in progress. The Schools' quest to be granted Advanced level status is on course and the highly motivated school head is set to achieve this target.

- 4.10 **Regina Primary School Kitchen and Dining Hall:** The new Kitchen and dining hall being constructed to service the new boarding school commenced earnestly in year 2023. It was built to slab level at a cost of US\$ 13 432 during that year. Year 2024 witnessed further construction to window level at a cost of US\$ 4 240. Year 2025 witnessed limited progress to gable level at a cost of US\$ 2 000. This expense was largely on owing labour for the previous year and movement of river sand for subsequent stages. There was limited progress on account of competing needs project

wide. Procurement of roofing material, steel trussing and possible roofing is projected for year 2026.

- 4.11 **Somgolo Primary School Water system ablution:** The new project for the school which is to pioneer the construction of a water based ablution system away from squat multi compartment pit latrines procured further material late 2025. Material include bricks, cement and concrete stones. The local authority together with the Environmental Health Technicians were yet to confirm the site for pegging and onward progress in the year 2026.
- 4.12 **Sibangani Primary School Fencing, staff cottage:** Community involvement issues continued to delay progress for a second year running. Efforts to engage the responsible authority to address the school challenges militating against the school's development were being pursued. No uptake of proposed projects was taken during the year.
- 4.13 **Sipopoma Primary School Classroom block:** The school continued from beam filling to completion in year 2025. Work in the year moved to plastering, glazing, hanging of doors, moving river-sand, panning and transporting quarry stones and painting. This was at a cost of US\$ 8 105 bringing the total cost of the project to US\$ 27 167. The relatively high cost of constructing this classroom block was because community brick moulding was not employed, but rather, bricks were purchased from Bulawayo and steel trussing was opted for due to the nature of loose sandy soils and susceptibility of previous old structures to termites.

The block was handed over and being the 1<sup>st</sup> standard and usable block, has been put to use accommodating grade 6 and 7 classes. Doubling up as the class housing special aides such as computers.

- 4.14 **Siziphile Primary School Administration and ICT block:** The construction of the new administration and ICT block commenced in 2022 and was left at gable in 2024. Progress for the year under reporting, was restricted to procurement of material to fabricate steel trussing for the roofing stage. The material bought included steel irons, roofing iron sheets and consumables such as grinding disks, welding rods, bolts and nuts. The fabrication of trusses was done at the contractor's workshop with finishing of other elements of roofing to be done on site in 2026. This was achieved at a cost of US\$ 11 321
- 4.15 **Tshayamathole Primary School Supply of Classroom furniture:** The project could not be implemented for a second year running. It was projected for implementation in year 2026.

- 4.16 **Ulutho Primary School Staff cottage:** This project commenced in year 2024 and left after excavation of foundations, did not progress in year 2025 due to limited resources. Work was to be prioritised in the subsequent year.
- 4.17 **Hilltop Secondary School Classroom block:** Work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> classroom block for this school left at roofing level in 2024 did not realise much progress beyond that level during the year. Effort was restricted to Procurement of materials such as cement, doors, window panes and paints. Progress was projected into the following year. The total expenditure on procured material was US\$ 4 003 for the year
- 4.18 **Mathambo Secondary School Classroom block:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Classroom block for this school by the Project built to window level in 2024 did not progress in 2025. Instead, due to limited release of funds, work was limited to mobilisation of river sand, concrete stones and back filler at a cost of US\$ 650 for the year.
- 4.19 **Amandlethu AMR Sisters High School:** The phased fitting of laboratory equipment continued to the Chemistry lab in 2024 with procurement of materials that got fitted during the early part of 2025 at a cost of US\$ 10 155. Work is next to move to the physics laboratory in 2026 before tiling and other final finishes.

As Amandlethu has reasonable fees and tuition incomes from the Project, we intend to engage the school to pick up what they can do of what remains to quicken completion of project for beneficial use.

- 4.20 **Zwangendaba High School Home Economics block:** The Home Economics classroom block which commenced in 2022 and left after plastering, flooring and glazing in 2024, progressed to electrical wiring and fittings. Payment of outstanding labour for work done in 2024 was done, at a cost of US\$ 2 238
- 4.21 **Ndwane Secondary School Classroom block:** The classroom block was the first project for this new school admitted into the programme in 2025. Work during the year covered procurement of materials; cement, doorframes, river-sand, brick-force and bricks which were delivered at school. Siting and pegging and further works got restricted by rains due to inaccessibility. Further works were differed to year 2026. A total of US\$ 6 303 was spent on initial material mobilisation.
- 4.22 **Bafana Primary School Classroom block:** Bafana Primary is a new school admitted into the programme in 2025. This school, an annex of Daluka to the east of St. Luke's hospital chose to build their 1<sup>st</sup> descent classroom block after make shift improvised structures for classrooms and learning under trees.  
Work commenced mid-year with procurement of materials such as bricks, cement, river-sand, brick-force, welded mesh and doorframes. Materials were delivered. Being a new school, siting and pegging was done by the local authority. Communities were

actively involved in the process by excavating the foundations and moving materials during the construction. By year end, the structure developed to box level at a cost of US\$ 6 798. Elements for a constructive collaboration between the school, community and the Project were all present.

**4.23 Educational Tours:** This activity was not available for the year 2025.

**4.24 Schools Bicycle Project:** 103 out of 104 bicycles distributed to 17 schools in year 2023 were still available in the schools. Three years on, the number of breakdowns needing repairs had increased. Well run schools were still able to keep the bikes on the road while a few schools needed time to mobilise funds for repairs. The 103 bikes were too few in schools compared to need as many more students still travelled long distances to schools.

Five Schools were not benefitting yet as they joined Partnerschools after distribution. Also, the need gap that already existed in each school from the initial distribution, is cause for expansion demand in schools. Resultantly, a proposal for an addition 125 more bikes has been put up for the next budget at a minimum.

The successful pilot bicycle running system with adaptation from other schools' best practices as per individual school's choice will be employed.

**4.25 Schools' nutritional gardens:** Following the significant investment in solar powered borehole water systems in 17 schools, fencing of entire schools and resourcing towards the creation of school gardens, each school in making efforts to maintain gardens and orchards. This is consistent with the children's heritage based school system curriculum recently adopted which promotes innovation and production. Ideas to employ technologies such as drip irrigation are being explored with schools.

**4.26 Pilot installation of internet services for rural schools:** The pilot internet project in four schools namely Somgolo, Malumba, Mafa and Sibangani primary schools in 2023 continued to be monitored during the year.

The four schools are migrating from the service providers earlier selected for Starlink, despite its limited coverage in the schools. These pilot schools have joined the bandwagon of other schools preferring Starlink and are managing, off their revenues to purchase equipment and maintain premiums.

The Project may thus step away from this initiative leaving schools and other partners to assist.

From a budgeted US\$ 163 000, US\$ 85 463 was spent, representing 52%. The Partnerschools expenditure took up 20.7% of total Project expenditure for the year.

The Project team in Zimbabwe continue to be persuaded by the District Development Committee of Lupane to prioritise needy schools within the Project's square mile of support over schools that have benefitted immensely over the years. Other less costly programs could alternatively be considered in such schools to maintain presence and keep an eye over Project investments in those schools.

Schools under the Partnerschools programme have continued to distinguish themselves District and region wide both in terms of infrastructure development and quality of results.

## **5.0 SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME**

The Sponsorship programme remained the highest cost centre, for the Project in year 2025 with an expenditure of US\$ 174 271. The expenditure was comparatively lower than US\$ 194 700 in 2024 and US\$ 346 909 in year 2023. The Sponsorship programme accounted for 42.3% of the total AP/UST expenditure for the year.

The decline in expenditure in real terms, is attributed to deliberate policy revisions to scale down the Sponsorship budget to create space for other areas of support for the Project. These being;

- Sustained freeze on recruitment of beneficiaries over the last few years.
- A reset on a new caseload target from 700 down to 500 beneficiaries
- Reduction of co-payments over the years and in particular, from 2<sup>nd</sup> term 2025 for boarding students in both primary and secondary schools from US\$ 350 to US\$ 200 per term, and lastly
- A pause by the Project in supporting Advanced level students proceeding for tertiary level.

The beneficiary caseload has been declining as well; from 700 in 2023, 681 for year 2024 and 634 at the beginning and 605 at the end of 2025.

The sponsorship programme has remained a key programme of support which Afrikaprojekt is rendering to develop the community of Lupane in Zimbabwe. It has bestowed many individuals and families of this rural community with unlimited opportunities. Below is a summary report of the Sponsorship programme during the year under review;

**5.1 Case Load:** For year 2025, the Project started off with 634 beneficiaries ending up in December with 605 beneficiaries. The drop in the number of beneficiaries was a result of 5 drop outs and 24 Ordinary and Advanced level students who went to colleges and universities outside the support of the Project in terms of the new Sponsorship policy. Below is a table depicting the spread of beneficiaries at the start of 2025;

**Table 7: Sponsorship beneficiaries, by level and gender year 2025**

School Level	Boys	Girls	Boarders	Total (boarders accounted for in Total)
Primary	108	164	12	272
Primary diverse	1	4	0	5
Secondary/High	83	223	68	306
Secondary diverse	3	8	0	11
Colleges	5	8	0	13
University	8	19	0	27
<b>Total</b>	208	426	78	634

Sponsorship beneficiaries were spread in 14 Primary schools, 10 secondary and High schools, and a diverse file. And for tertiary, they were in 4 universities and 2 colleges across the country.

## 5.2 Tuition fees and Levies:

**5.2.1 Primary Schools:** The Project's cap limit of fees was US\$ 20 per child with school invoice difference paid by parent or guardian. The range of full fees per child was anything from US\$ 20 to US\$ 50 for day scholars and cap US\$ 350 for first term reduced to US\$ 200 from second term for primary boarding. Full boarding fees for primary schools averaged \$450 per child. It is important to remark that 10 students in primary boarding school were entirely from the Regina Mundi community who travelled long distances to school. They were afforded the chance to enroll in the Project built Regina Mundi boarding school.

**5.2.2 Secondary/High schools:** Fees and levies in day secondary and high schools were paid per child to a maximum of US\$ 60 by the Project with invoice difference met by parent or guardian during the year. However, for Secondary boarders, the Project paid to a cap US\$ 350 for first term and reduced amount to US\$ 200 for second and third terms.

The reduced copayments from term two were introduced to balance out the finances to accommodate implementation of other project activities

The range of total invoice for the various school for day were between \$80 and \$200 whereas for Secondary boarders, they ranged between \$460 and \$700. While the copayment was higher for parents/guardians, isolated cases struggled to meet the difference.

Total school fees for primary and secondary amounted to US\$ 130 873 in 2025 down from US\$ 153 008 in year 2024.

**5.2.3 Tertiary Fees:** Fees for tertiary students in Colleges and universities were paid up to a maximum of US\$ 350.00 for the first semester and reduced to US\$ 300 for the second semester during the year. Full college and University invoices ranged between \$450 to 500 for colleges and \$700 to \$1400 for universities depending on university and type of student's course. Total expenditure for tertiary and colleges amounted to US\$ 17 055 for the year.

**5.3 Examination fees:** The Project sustained for a second year, zero contribution on national examination fees for grade 7s, form 4s and form 6s which previously was on a copayment of 50%. Parents or guardians have assumed this cost.

**5.4 Fees for Special Sponsored beneficiaries:** The Project had 4 students at Fatima and Mabhikwa, namely Makhosi Mpala, Life Dube and Glory Ngwenya were paid in full and in some cases, with support for stationery, a holiday grocery and transport.

**5.5 School Uniform package:** Uniforms based on the standard package was provided to all beneficiaries whose expenditure amounted to US\$ 21 462 from the budgeted US\$ 16 038. Parents and guardians continued to provide extra uniform requirements outside the standard project package which excluded shoes, socks, ties, hats, blazers and jerseys

**5.6 Examination Results:** Primary, secondary, High and tertiary pass rate for Sponsorship school students who took up final national examinations remained high in 2025 as follows:

**Table 8: Comparative National Examination Results for Sponsorship beneficiaries for years 2023 to 2025**

Level	Candidate	2023 %	2024 %	2025 %
Grade 7	National exams	25	33	98
Form 4	Ordinary Level	67	87.8	80
Form 6	Advanced Level	71	96	98
Colleges	Various levels	98	100	98
Universities	Undergraduate	100	100	100

A total number of 39 grade 7s, 33 form 4s, 9 form 6s, 5 Colleges, and 6 universities wrote national final examinations in 2025.

**5.7 Programme Drop Outs:** A total number of 5 girls dropped out of school due to pregnancies.

**5.8 Deaths:** No deaths occurred in the Schools beneficiary list during the year.

**5.9 Special Sponsorship Support:** Special sponsoring had a total of 16 beneficiaries in 2024 after the passing on of 3 as reported in 2024. Out of the remaining 13, 5 beneficiaries namely Nkosienhle Tshuma, Bongani Ncube, Sandra Nkomazana and Gcinimuzi Khumalo have either not sought further assistance or cannot be located. We therefore report on the remaining 8 beneficiaries for year 2025 as follows;

**5.9.1 Makhosi Mpala:** He was assisted with full fees and home groceries. He is further being followed up and supported through his HIV treatment through the Government Antiretroviral programme.

**5.9.2 Twins –Precious and Previous Ncube their baby girls:** The twins and their babies continued to receive support through Dr. Gerd Reichenbach. The twins who are to turn 21 in year 2026 delayed enrollment into the Red cross first aid training during the year. At time of this report, Precious had begun her 3 months training while

Previous had given birth to a baby girl. She was to delay her first aid course to breast feed while looking after the two babies. The plan to assist them find first aid training for possible voluntary work in the hospital to create an opportunity for long term employment was still on. Support with food packages for the growing family was on going as did payment of training costs.

**5.9.3 Life Dube:** The double knee amputee student in Secondary school at Mabhikwa got support on through full school fees payment. There was no need during the year for prosthesis adjustment last done in 2024. He remained confident among his peers and was advised to work hard at school.

**5.9.4 Concilia Khumalo:** She continued her medical reviews through St. Luke's doctors and has not appealed for additional support.

**5.9.5 Nkosilathi Gumbo:** The young man who was supported through a specific donor and living in a home for the disabled was charged and convicted of aggravated indecent assault to a minor and blind inmate. He is serving 15 years for that crime.

**5.9.6 Glory Ngwenya:** The Project continues support for Glory who lives with an auto-immune liver condition. She fulfilled her review appointments in South Africa for the year. She was assisted with costs for travel and medical fees for her foreign follow up treatment 4 times in the year. She wrote her form four national exams. Her results were not good. This is partly because of her long periods of absence from school while on treatment. She was to be assisted in exploring her future plans for a meaningful life consistent with her medical condition.

**5.9.7 Absalom Dube:** Now 22 years old and living with lymphatic filariasis. He did not get a review in 2025. He is scheduled for one during year 2026.

Total expenditure on all special cases above amounted to US\$ 4 880 during the year. The decline was because no major procedures were conducted on beneficiaries and, of course, the decline in the number of cases during the year under review.

A total of US\$ 174 270 down from US\$ 194 700 the previous year. Sponsorship programme expenditure remained the biggest taking up 42.3 of total Project expenditure during the year.

Concerted efforts to manage the Sponsorship budget for overall balancing of Project activities were to continue.

## **6.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT, ASSETS AND FINANCES**

**6.1 Project Budget and Finances:** A total budget plan of US\$ 520 555 down from US\$ 581 213 in year 2024 was approved.

A total disbursement of US\$ 464 010 was received from Germany and local revenue off project assets of;

a) US\$ 2 120 from vehicle hire and

b) US\$ 4 500 from Isuzu vehicle disposal giving a total of US\$ 470 630. US\$ 4 409 was carried over being bank balance as at the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2025.

The cumulative total funds available to the Project therefore amounted to US\$ 475 039.

Out of the US\$ 475 039 available, US\$ 412 583.65 was spent with US\$ 62 455,35 carried forward to financial year 2026.

**6.2 Project Assets:** Significant non cash assets consisting of Property and equipment held for use by the Project during the year included; 3 vehicles, buildings and fixtures being the Guest house, Stonehouse and moveable assets, being 5 laptops, 5 Samsung tablets and 2 printers. The UST office printer was not replaced

The Stonehouse was kept intact and open for approved guests. Mavis was retained as Stonehouse maid under the direction of Nqobile Ngulube.

The second hand Toyota land cruiser purchased for project use, particularly for the school projects was maintained during the year. Gear box issues picked after purchase were sorted during the year.

An assets depreciation of US\$ 16 325 was provided for the year.

**6.3 Project Staff:** The staff complement of 5 was responsible for Project implementation.

The Project Founder and leader, Dr. Hans Schales took a limited role back in Germany. He passed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2025, may his soul rest in perpetual peace.

The spirit of Ubuntu shown in his dedication to service, the love for the people of Lupane, especially the poor and needy, the transformation of St. Luke's mission hospital and his work in the schools and the community will forever be remembered.

The team of Gordon Hlatywayo, Thadeos Ndlovu, Vusimuzi Mlilo, Mthulisi Ncube and Nqobile Ngulube implemented and coordinated the work of Ubuntu Schales Trust.

Support with medical expenses for the Project manager were sustained during the year at a cost of US\$ 983 during the year. Medical expenses covered reviews and locally purchased medicines.

Project salaries, the staff top ups and allowances amounted to US\$ 56 606.63 being 133.7% of total expenditure for the year.

Other Trust overheads covering fuels, Starlink internet kits and monthly fees, vehicle insurances and licensing, vehicle maintenance, replacement of tyres, bank charges etc. took up US\$ 31 619.63 being 7.7% of total expenditure for the year. Bank charges took up the biggest chunk of overheads in the amount of US\$ 10 365.70. It was hoped that the policy to review charges and various fees by the Government of Zimbabwe with a view to achieve ease of doing business will lower these charges.

**6.5 Memorandum of Agreement:** Renewal for the operations of Ubuntu Schales Trust in the jurisdiction of Kusile District Council in Lupane, as required, was approved by Council, awaiting signing.

**6.6 Audit of Accounts:** At the time this report was being made, books of accounts and financial statements had been submitted on the 9th of March 2025 to independent Auditors Ralph Bomment, Greenacre & Reynolds.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

The year 2025 was very sad for the Project with the loss of the Project Founder and leader. The gap he left will have no one to fill. The Project holds on to the many memories and values of love, compassion, solidarity and hard work not only for the hospital, but the community of Lupane.

We submit deep appreciation to the many members of Afrikaprojekt who have stood up for the Project and the work of Dr. Hans Schales in the Lupane community. And all this work would not be achieved without the leadership and guidance of the Afrikaprojekt Chairman and vice. The AP members and board and all the partners behind the work of Afrikaprojekt.

The Ubuntu Schales staff on the ground are as well, commended for their dedication and day to day work on project implementation.

Humbly submitted