Making Hydraform Blocks and Repairing the Perimeter Wall

Digging out the laterite, making and maturing the blocks and repairing the perimeter wall. All work here tends to be very labour intensive.
Re-construction of over 100 metres of the perimeter Hydraform Wall, repairs to gate pillars and erection of a replacement sliding gate.

22nd May 2016 - after the delay of fabrication of both gate and mechanism, it is eventually complete and erected.
Many large sections of wall down, electric security fence destroyed. Wide open to parish and school playing fields which are open to all.

We raised the wall by two or three blocks to compensate for the electric security fence.
Repairing the Hostels
Replacing the hostel roof and ceiling boards and repairing the vast amount of internal damage. There were 3 heavy downpours of rain after the initial storm.

11th Dec 2015—repairs to the roof have started but another stormy night removed the plastic sheeting used to protect the inside of the hostel and the interior was flooded—now for a third time. The wall behind the hostel was destroyed.

31st Dec 2015, Some of the new ceiling boards

31st Dec 2015, New supports and coving for the new ceiling boards

Work continues on the re-roofing as yet another rainstorm gathers

Much of both ZESCO and Solar power wiring had to be replaced.

3rd January 2016
Repairing the Hostels

The work was almost equivalent to building a new hostel, there was so much of it! After interior painting, floor tiles were replaced and all outside painted.
Bedrooms ready once again after all furniture had been well dried out and varnished, 15 new mattresses were donated by the Ministry of Education, broken tiles were replaced and whole floor well waxed.
Conversion to wheel-chair accessible ‘wet-room’

As the floor tiles in this bathroom were so badly damaged and we had already planned to convert it as best we could into a ‘wet-room’ for the children in wheel-chairs, we combined the repairs with the conversion. Previously there was hardly space to WALK between the shower area and the bath-tub. It’s not perfect, as we needed to utilise the old plumbing, but it is now accessible in a shower wheel-chair and children like Lilian, below, are absolutely delighted with it.

It is impossible to get a shower wheel-chair in Zambia— but Stanbic Bank came to our rescue, searched in South Africa, and eventually found one which they transported to us, along with grab rails also impossible to find here.
Repairing the Hammer Mill (maize grinding mill)

16th February 2016

Materials arrive for roofing the mill

Assembling the materials for the repairs.

9th March 2016

The new iron support poles and iron beams are in place, ready for red oxide then the new roof.

Iron girders are joined to iron pipe supports, which have been sunk into the ground.

Assembling the materials for the repairs.
Iron roofing sheets are attached to the iron girders using strong metal hooks. All gaps are filled in.

We changed the design of the roof to strengthen it and hopefully prevent any further disasters.
Damage and Repairs to Electrical Parts re: the Mill

16 March 2016

A new MCB (Circuit Breaker) box was set up to cope with the extended power cuts often followed by power surges. Also there was need for more breakers to cope with the increased load.

Part of the ‘armoured’ electric supply cable had been ripped apart and burned out.

A small rem-
19th April 2016 — Almost there! The building is nearly completed. Now to re-commission the machines, still protected by the polythene sheeting ripped off the greenhouse tunnels during the storm. It was during the re-commissioning process that we discovered the damage to the power cables mentioned on the previous page.

Abraham teaches Matthews and John how to use the machines so that he can continue repair work elsewhere.

Back in Business! Clients have already left grain for grinding—to be collected later.

John checks the de-hulled grain.

Young clients
22nd November 2015 — Damage caused to the greenhouse tunnels by a tornado type storm. Much of the support structure was completely twisted or very bent and the covering badly ripped.

19th May 2016 — a cheque for K43,950.54 was gratefully received from the German Embassy by BSNP management to cover costs of replacing the greenhouse tunnels.

The team from Lima Agro Consult was on site by 07.00 hours on 31st May and by 2nd June 2016 the reconstruction of the tunnels was well underway. Twisted, broken and bent poles were salvaged and taken away for recycling — which helped reduce costs.

Repairing the Green House Tunnels
3rd June 2016 — the time had arrived to put on the cover, one huge thick polythene sheet for each tunnel. It was a matter of all hands on deck. Everyone downed tools and came to help pull and hold the polythene sheets in place as they were unrolled and stretched over the frames, waiting for the guy ropes to hold them firmly in place.

It took the strength and patience of all involved to gradually unroll each sheet, pull, stretch, and then hold it very firmly in place until the ropes and fixing clips had been positioned in the right places and everything was secured.
6th June 2016 — The completed greenhouse tunnels. In order to utilise the land between the time of harvesting the tomatoes and other crops that had been growing before the storm and the erection of the new tunnels, we grew late maize.

These tunnels enable us to grow out-of-season crops, for feeding the children and to raise funds for the children’s education.
It has been a very challenging period, but with your help we have pulled through and for this we are eternally grateful. May God reward you for your generosity and prayerful support. We definitely could not have achieved all that we have without you.

We appreciate so very much the help that was given to us by so many people, from the ‘Widow’s mite’ from an old lady in the compound to the substantial amounts given by our partners, both formal and informal.

Thank you!