

# Funding work in Zimbabwe - answering your questions



**How can TB Alert be sure funds are being used for the purposes they are intended?**

We receive regular and detailed reports on expenditure from the TB Alert trained staff, and when they visit our doctors are given full access to receipts and other records. In addition we frequently correspond with doctors from Friends of Murambinda Hospital (another UK charity which supports other aspects of Murambinda's work) who have spent considerable time at the project and still visit on a regular basis. While we can never say we have mitigated all risk, we are confident that the money we provide to Murambinda is as safe as any other grant we make to a developing country project.

**Would it not be more cost effective to spend the money in another country?**

TB Alert is a small charity with extremely limited budgets, and we could easily switch support elsewhere. Many charities have done this. However as long as we still can work at Murambinda, we feel we have a moral obligation to do so. TB is a public health issue. For every infectious patient we treat, we can prevent them from passing on TB to another 15-20 in a year. For every patient who completes their treatment we can prevent them developing drug resistance (and then passing that on to others). TB Alert's support has been reviewed each year in light of the worsening situation, and we are still clear that our help is both needed AND effective.

**Won't the money I give be worthless with current levels of inflation?**

Inflation in Zimbabwe is running at over 1 million percent. However US\$ are being exchanged in the country and our money is paid to a UK-based dollar account held by the hospital which keeps funds as 'real' money, and acts as a hedge to rising local inflation. TB Alert also keeps a contingency budget for the project in case problems arise.

**A final word from Dr Monica Glenshawe:**

"Zimbabwe continues to hit the news headlines because of political instability, violence and economic deterioration. It can be tempting to turn off, and write off the whole nation of Zimbabwe. It can be difficult to remember that, for better or worse, life here goes on. In Buhera district the agricultural cycle of ploughing, planting and waiting anxiously for the rains continues. The cycle of life continues, and with poor nutrition, the lives of people in Buhera become even more fragile. The needs of people continue, but against extreme economic problems they become more difficult to meet. With TB Alert's help we can keep our TB service running, and gradually improve it. This year we will treat over 1,000 people of TB and prevent them from spreading the disease to friends and family."