

Zimbabwe School Lunch Program

Western Zimbabwe, known as Matabeleland, is an area of erratic rainfall. In times of drought, when there has been serious crop failure, very few students attending the rural schools around Hwange National Park have any lunch and often only receive one meal a day at home. As a result, these children are often not up to the long walk to school, attendance drops drastically, and student grades suffer due to poor concentration.

To combat hunger in these increasingly frequent drought years, Wilderness Travel supports a locally organized school lunch program with our partners in Zimbabwe. The funds raised are used to buy maize meal (corn meal), red sugar beans and sunflower oil. These ingredients are then used to prepare the Zimbabwean staple food sadza (a stiff corn meal porridge like polenta) and beans, which provides these hungry students a hearty and filling lunchtime meal.

With your assistance, Wilderness Travel's Zimbabwe programs support school lunch programs at two rural schools bordering Hwange National Park:

- Ngamo Primary School has 300 students and is visited by guests of Bomani Tented Lodge and Camelthorn Lodge (featured on our *Wild Zimbabwe* and *Okavango, Victoria Falls, and Hwange Private Journey*).
- St Joseph's School has 200 students and is visited by guests staying at Jozibanini Camp (featured on *The Great Elephant Migration* itinerary).

Each school serves three to five nearby villages. The lunch program typically lasts around four months, across the hardest - and coldest – part of the year. Between the two schools, 500 school children will receive a hot lunch daily, for four months, a total of 40,000 meals! The cost per plate is roughly 10¢, meaning a donation of just \$50 will feed 500 students!

We encourage you to support this program with an optional \$50 per person donation, which will appear on your final invoice.

