

Painting skills and African sun —  
key ingredients in our Tribal Textiles  
range from Zambia.



Photo: Tribal Textiles

## Every piece unique

Benjamin Zulu mixes the paints used by artists at Tribal Textiles that transform plain cotton into the vibrant textiles sold by Traidcraft.

Each piece, which is signed by the artist, is individually crafted using a flour and water solution to draw the designs on the fabric, which is dried in the African sun. “Cooking” the completed artwork in a special oven makes it colourfast and fully washable.

More than 100 artisans benefit from sales of the textiles, which provide valuable employment in a remote part of Eastern Zambia where jobs are scarce.



# Malimba Community School

Every time you buy a Tribal Textiles product from Traidcraft you are also helping them to support local projects, like the school in Malimba village, just a few kilometres from Tribal Textiles.

Before the first mud and thatch classroom was built by the community in 2001, children had to walk up to 6km a day to attend classes. Untrained volunteers taught nearly 100 children who had no desks, chairs, pens or paper. They sat on bricks and took turns writing on a homemade blackboard.

With help from Tribal Textiles, Malimba Community School Fund was created. Classrooms and teachers' homes have been built and fresh water provided. Today, some 160 pupils — almost 40% of them orphans — are being educated.



Photos: Tribal Textiles

## Teaching under a tree

Living in the heart of the African bush has its problems. Grade 5 pupils now have lessons under a nearby tree after a mini tornado ripped the roof off their classroom.

However, it turned out to be a blessing! With the roof gone, it was discovered termites had destroyed the beams holding everything in place, making the structure unsafe.

With support from Tribal Textiles, the school hopes to have a new classroom built very soon.



Photo: Tribal Textiles

## Fighting poverty through trade

Traidcraft's aim is to increase the value of its purchases from Africa, given the challenging levels of poverty in that continent, and each product bought from Tribal Textiles contributes towards this.

Through our development charity, Traidcraft Exchange, we are also delivering benefits to small-scale producers and marginalised communities in East Africa.



Photo: Tribal Textiles