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A graphic consisting of a green circle with a white outline, containing the text "Annual Report" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the circle is an orange rectangle containing the year "2023" in white, sans-serif font.

Annual  
Report

2023





At ChildFund, we connect people, institutions and resources to help children beat the toughest obstacles in their lives; Because they need us, and we need them. Because we need each other, every single one of us..

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## Our Vision

A world in which children realize their rights and achieve their potential.

## Our Mission

**HELP** deprived and vulnerable children have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

**PROMOTE** societies whose individuals and institutions participate in valuing, protecting and advancing the worth and rights of children.

**ENRICH** supporters' lives through their support of our cause.

# Abbreviations

<b>AOPB</b>	Annual Operating Plan and Budgets
<b>CO</b>	Country Office
<b>CP</b>	Child Protection
<b>CSP</b>	Country Strategic Plan
<b>DAC</b>	Day of the African Child
<b>FY21</b>	Fiscal year
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based violence
<b>LP</b>	Local Partner
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

## Country Director's Note



It is with great pleasure and a sense of profound gratitude that I present to you our 2023 Annual Report. As I reflect on the year gone by, I am reminded of the remarkable journey we have undertaken together, the challenges we have faced, and the numerous successes we have achieved.

The year 2023 was a transformative one for our organization. It marked a period of change, growth, and innovation as we commenced the implementation of the 2022-2026 strategy. The world around us continued to evolve at a rapid pace, presenting both unprecedented opportunities and unforeseen obstacles. In these dynamic times, our ability to adapt and thrive is a testament to the dedication, resilience, and collective brilliance of our team.

In the face of global uncertainties, we remained unwavering in our commitment to our core values and commitment to improving the welfare of the Zambian child. Our relentless pursuit of excellence, child-centered approach, and unwavering integrity guided us, enabling us to deliver outstanding results for the children we support and create positive and lasting change in the communities. We reached over 300,000 children and their families with programs in health, education, child protection and livelihood among others



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One of the key pillars of our success has been the embracing of technology in most our processes in child sponsorship. We embraced emerging technologies, leveraged data-driven insights, and cultivated a culture of continuous improvement. These efforts helped us to meet all our key sponsorship indicators and also positioned us as a leader for and with children in the country.

Our commitment to sustainability in the projects we implemented remained a top priority throughout the year. We took significant strides towards supporting our communities and fostering a culture of responsibility. As such all projects whose funding cycle came to and were carried on multi-sectoral teams at the district level and community members whose capacities have been strengthened by ChildFund.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our talented employees and staff from our six implementing partners who have demonstrated unwavering determination to promote the well-being of the Zambian child. Their passion, creativity, and unwavering commitment to our mission are the driving forces behind our continued success.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to our loyal donors and sponsors who have continued to invest in our vision, providing the necessary support to fuel our growth and expansion. Your trust in us is a powerful motivator, and we are determined to continue delivering on our promises.

As we look ahead to the future, we understand that the challenges and opportunities before us are vast and complex. The needs of children in communities are also increasing. However, I am confident that, with the same spirit of innovation, adaptability, and unity that has carried us through this year, we will continue to thrive and achieve new milestones.

This annual report encapsulates our journey, accomplishments, and vision for the future. It is a testament to our commitment to transparency and accountability. I invite you to explore the report and gain a deeper understanding of the incredible journey we've undertaken.

Once again, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for being an integral part of our journey. Your support, collaboration, and belief in our mission are the cornerstones of our success.

With warm regards,

**SIMBA MACHINGAIDZE**



## About ChildFund

ChildFund International is a child-focused development organization that works throughout Asia, Africa and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe wherever they are.

Delivered through over 150 local implementing partner organizations, our programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their potential. We place special emphasis on child protection throughout our approach because violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect can reverse developmental gains in an instant. During the year under review, ChildFund reached a total of 21.1 million children and family members in 23 countries.

ChildFund has been working in Zambia since 1983 reaching over 800,000 children, youth and care givers.

## What drives us

ChildFund's programs are inspired and driven by the potential that is inherent in all children; the potential not only to survive but thrive and become leaders who bring positive and lasting change for those around them.

## What we do



We work to protect children's rights and ensure that they enjoy a healthy environment free from any kind of violence, abuse, exploitation, negligence or discrimination.



We ensure that children we support have access to quality education and schools have adequate teaching and learning materials.



We want children to be able to express their ideas and opinions freely and influence the decisions that concern them.



We want children to be healthier thanks to prevention, treatments for illness and disease, improved nutrition, and their families' access to adequate food.

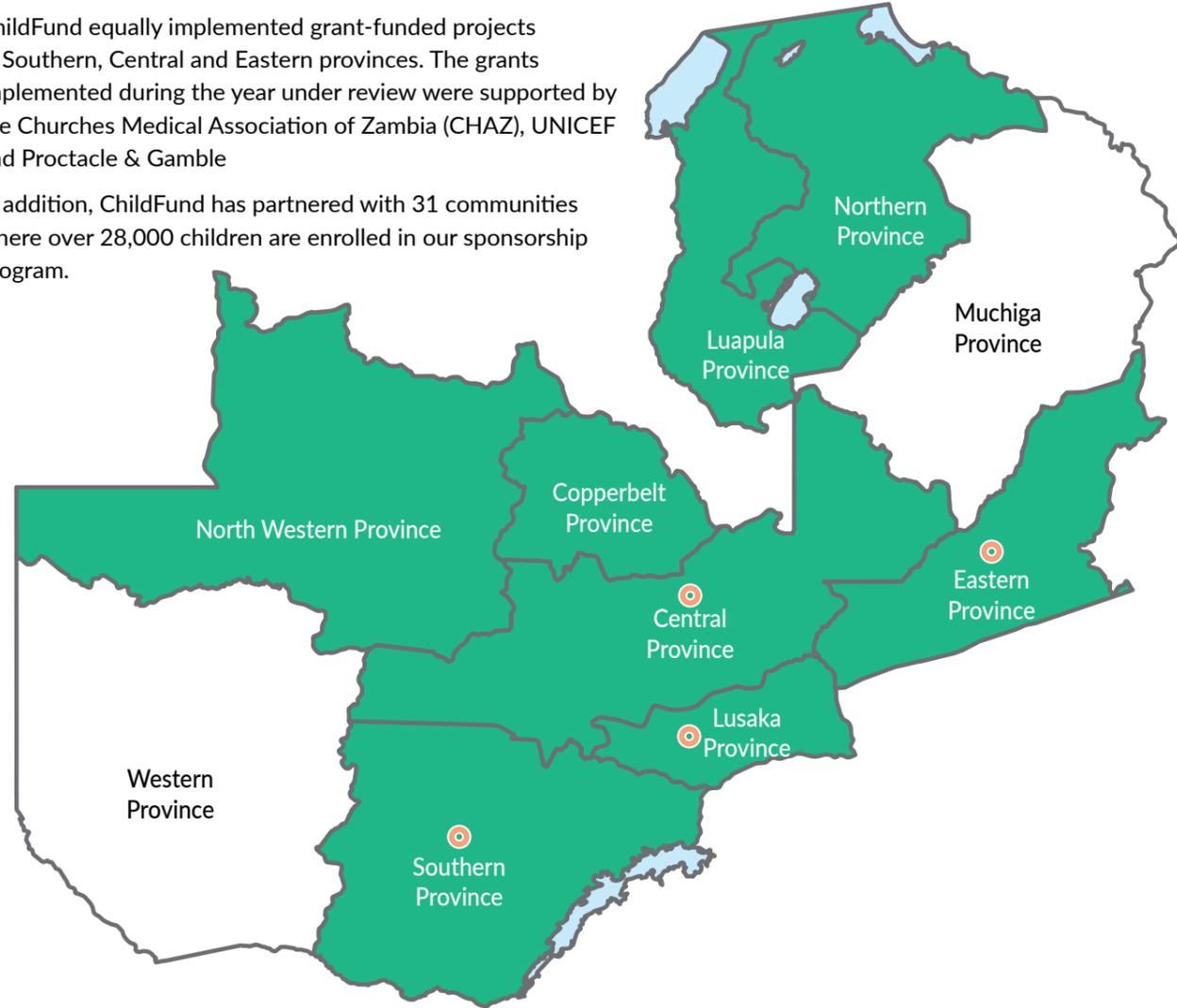
## Our Footprint

ChildFund Zambia implements impactful child-focused programs through a network of six dedicated local implementing organizations. These organizations serve as pillars of progress, working hand-in-hand with ChildFund Zambia to empower communities, uplift children, and foster sustainable development. These have over the years formed a dynamic force committed to breaking barriers and creating a brighter future for the children of Zambia.

The six implementing organisations are in Lusaka, Kafue, Chongwe, Rufunsa, Luangwa, Chibombo and Chilanga districts.

ChildFund equally implemented grant-funded projects in Southern, Central and Eastern provinces. The grants implemented during the year under review were supported by the Churches Medical Association of Zambia (CHAZ), UNICEF and Proctacle & Gamble

In addition, ChildFund has partnered with 31 communities where over 28,000 children are enrolled in our sponsorship program.



**302,497**  
Children reached, along with their families by programs in health and nutrition, education, child protection and livelihoods.



**Working in 31 Communities**



**302,497**  
Number of people reached



**Working through 6 implementing partners**



**40**  
Total number of staff

## Program Achievements

In FY 23, ChildFund extended its support to a combined total of 302,497 children (133,345 males and 169,143 females) as well as their families. The interventions spanned across Early Childhood Development, Education, Health, Child Protection, Climate Action, Livelihoods, and Food Security. The table below shows that 66% of the reached population reached were children and youth with the remaining 34% comprising adults

ChildFund Zambia's current strategic plan also leverages media and digital technology to extend the reach of its services to a broader audience. In the reporting period, a cumulative total of 1,657,798 individuals were engaged through mass media and social media channels (Mass media=1,120,624, social media=537,174). Various activities were carried out using these platforms, contributing to the organization's objectives.

Age Category	Female	Male	Total	% reach by age category
0-5	46702	38941	85643	28%
6-14	34023	29059	63082	21%
15-24	26825	22626	49451	16%
adults	61593	42728	104321	34%
Grand Totals	169143	133354	302497	100%

## Health and Nutrition

Healthcare interventions were a primary focus throughout the reviewed period, as we persistently endeavored to establish and support healthcare systems within communities. Our efforts were dedicated to preventive measures, early intervention, and the overall promotion of health. Collaborating with implementing partners, we guaranteed that our health programs played a pivotal role in enhancing access to inclusive, high-quality healthcare. Notably, a total of 85,643 infants and young children (46,702 females and 38,941 males) benefited from our health intervention services.



### Child and Maternal Health

To enhance child and maternal health, ChildFund, in collaboration with its Implementing Partners, sustained its efforts to support caregivers and children, aiming to decrease maternal and under-5 mortality rates. For instance, during the reporting period, ChildFund, in partnership with one of its Implementing Partners in Chibombo, constructed a mothers' shelter at Kanwanjiba Health post. This initiative addressed the challenges faced by expecting mothers who had to travel long distances to access maternity services. The absence of a mothers' shelter had compelled some expecting mothers to resort to risky home deliveries, contributing to an increase in maternal and infant mortality in the community.

In the context of improving children's health, ChildFund, through the Chibombo Child Development Agency, provided training to 120

Neighborhood Health Committee (NHC) members in Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI). The goal of the training was to enhance the identification, management, and referral services for child illnesses within the community. Health staff from nearby health centers conducted the training, fostering collaboration between the community and clinics in addressing child illnesses and referral systems.

To ensure the holistic growth and development of children ChildFund, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, supported monthly Growth Monitoring and Health Promotion across the six districts. During these sessions, a total of 3,890 children (1,823 males and 2,067 females) were reached. Activities included nutrition counseling for caregivers with underweight babies, regular weight recording, awareness campaigns on Child

Health and Nutrition, water and sanitation, and family planning.

As part of ongoing efforts to promote good health among infants and young children, ChildFund supported cooking demonstrations in all 36 community operational areas across the six districts, reaching 50,416 households.

Community members brought locally produced foods from their fields, and health cadres from local clinics demonstrated how to prepare nutritious meals for children. This included using ingredients such as maize grains, dried groundnuts, pumpkin seeds, dried pumpkin leaves, soya beans, okra, sweet potato leaves, and sugar cane. Trained health staff also demonstrated the preparation of nutritious diets, empowering caregivers to provide nourishing meals for their children using locally sourced foods.

## The Community-Based Integrated Early Childhood Development Project

The Country Office implemented the Community Based Integrated ECD program from 2016 to 2023. This was with support from UNICEF, and Conrad Hilton. The initial project was first implemented by ChildFund in Nyimba District with support from ChildFund Australia. Later this was adopted by UNICEF and piloted in Petauke and Katete.

The project was implemented in partnership with the multisectoral team at Zonal and District level. These were from the Ministries of Education, Health, Community Development and Agriculture.

The overall objective was to enhance the quality of early childhood development (ECD) services and support systems by improving caregiver capacity, engaging community members, and strengthening district-level delivery, thereby promoting nurturing care for young children. The Zambia government through the Ministry of Education has since adopted this model.



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**OBJECTIVE**  
Enhance the quality of ECD services and support systems by improving caregiver capacity, engaging community members, and strengthening district-level delivery, thereby promoting nurturing care for young children.

**REACH**

- 14,181 children (4 - 6 years old) enrolled in early learning programs.
- 24,119 caregivers (7,106 males, 17,013 females) participated in monthly parental counselling in nurturing care and positive parenting.

**FUNDING**  
Over USD 15 Million UNICEF (2016 - 2023)

**IMPACT**

- Over 24,000 caregivers are now equipped with skills in responsive parenting and are able to support the holistic development of their children.
- Over 14,000 children that were initially left out of early education have had an opportunity to learn in conducive environment.
- The project helped multi-sectoral teams in districts to acquire the necessary skills to carry on the activities even at the end of the funding cycle. This has promoted sustainability. The multi-sectoral team included representatives from the Ministries of education, Health, Agriculture, Community Development and the Zambia Police.

**LOCATION**  
Katete & Petauke districts, Eastern Province.

**INNOVATION & BEST PRACTICE**  
**USE OF NURTURING CARE FRAMEWORK**  
The Nurturing Care framework:

- provides a holistic approach to ECD, emphasizing the interplay of multiple factors that contribute to a child's well-being.
- promotes collaboration among various sectors and actors to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to ECD, while strengthening systems.
- recognizes the critical role caregivers play in providing nurturing environments for children thus emphasizing the importance of equipping them with knowledge, skills and resources to effectively provide responsive care for optimal child development.

## Accelerating Towards Epidemic Control (ATEC) Project

ChildFund in partnership with the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) and the Global Fund has been implementing the Accelerating Towards Epidemic Control (ATEC) project from January 2021 to December 2023 in Kafue, Mazabuka, Siavonga and Monze districts.

The main objective of the project has been to increase knowledge and awareness of HIV risks, sexual behaviour change including condom use, access to SRH, HIV and GBV prevention services, treatment for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) including People Living with Disabilities (PLWD).

ChildFund, a sub recipient of the Global Fund, collaborates with line ministries such as the Ministry of Health (DHO, One Stop Centre and Facilities) and the Ministry of Education (DEBS office and schools) at district level to implement the ATEC project. Other government ministries, institutions and community structures that collaborate with ChildFund to implement the ATEC project

are: Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), Police Victim Support Unit, traditional leaders, community members (paralegals, peer educators and drama groups) and colleges.

Activities implemented through this project include the training of community members as para legals. These trainings are aimed at reducing gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination. The trained paralegals help to identify sexual and gender-based violence in communities with the objective of helping to prosecute perpetrators of the vice.

A total of 210 community members were trained and formally linked to the Ministry of Health and the Police Victim Support Unit. Additionally, the project has trained health workers in GBV care. This training enables the trained personnel to provide effective care to victims of gender-based violence.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices persist as primary contributors to waterborne diseases and the leading cause of death among children under five. During the year under review, ChildFund extended its reach to 148,725 children through WASH initiatives. These efforts encompassed various activities aimed at increasing access to safe and clean water, and instilling proper hygiene practices, such as delivering educational messages to schoolchildren on water treatment and preservation, handwashing etiquette, post-toilet use, and overall personal hygiene.

Additionally, female adolescents were taught how to make reusable and cost-effective sanitary pads. This

initiative is anticipated to enhance the understanding of menstruation among school children, ensuring they receive support from both teachers and peers in managing menstrual hygiene. Furthermore, the activities sought to ensure that schools have the necessary information to enable them offer comprehensive health education on menstruation and that students have access to water, sanitation, and hygienic resources.

Beyond schools, efforts were directed at raising awareness in communities on the importance of clean and safe water. This involved educating them about the roles and responsibilities in managing WASH facilities to ensure sustainability.



Our WASH programs focused on increasing access to safe and clean water for communities and promoting proper hygiene and water resource management practices.



## Procter and Gamble (P&G) Clean and Safe Drinking Water Promotion Project

ChildFund Zambia in partnership with Procter and Gamble (P&G) is implementing Phase III of the Clean and Safe Water Drinking Project in Nyimba, Shibuyunji and Mumbwa Districts of Zambia. The project uses four strategies including:

- capacity enhancement of households and community leaders through trainings in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices;
- strengthening household drinking water treatment,
- raising awareness at household and community levels on clean and safe drinking water, adequate and safely managed sanitation, and improved hygiene practices, and
- establishing household WASH models (Healthy Homes Initiative) for influencing WASH behaviors at household and community levels.

During the year under review, ChildFund received an additional 9,460 boxes of water treatment sachets. The distribution of these sachets is helping to ensure clean and safe drinking water consumption at household level which is resulting in the reduction of the occurrence of waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, and typhoid. Through the project, households have their capacity built to safely manage sanitation and demonstrate improved hygiene practices which is leading to enhanced quality of life.

Over 73,000 people can now access clean and safe water, thanks to this project.



# Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education plays a pivotal role in shaping the foundation of a child's future. The formative years, typically represent a critical period of rapid brain development and socio-emotional growth. The significance of early childhood education cannot be overstated, as it sets the stage for a child's cognitive, emotional, and social well-being. Research consistently underscores the profound impact that quality early learning experiences have on a child's academic achievements, social skills, and overall life outcomes.

It is for this reason that ChildFund invests resources in creating nurturing environments that foster a children's curiosity, creativity, and love for learning. This commitment to early childhood education not only benefits individual children but also lays the groundwork for building healthier, more prosperous communities and societies at large.

During the period under review, ChildFund continued focusing on ensuring that the youngest children developed their potential, enjoyed good physical and emotional health and lived in protective and supportive environments. Over 28,000 caregivers were supported through mentorship in parenting skills and at least 30,000 children accessed at least 3 ECD services such as birth registration, growth monitoring and promotion (GMP), early learning and stimulation, and access to nutritious food.

Additionally, 3 ECD centres were constructed in Kafue, Chibombo and Luangwa Districts. These have increased the number of ECD centers to over 150, with at least 30,000 receiving services provided at the centres.



**28,000**  
Caregivers supported through mentorship and responsive parenting skills.

**ABC**  
**30,000**  
Children accessed at least 3 ECD services, including birth registration, growth monitoring and promotion (GMP), early learning and stimulation, and nutritious food.

## The Nurturing Care Exit Project

In November 2021, ChildFund Zambia received funding from the Conrad Hilton Foundation to implement a two-year Sustainability Exit project to ensure gains achieved in Phase II of the Nurturing Care project were sustained. The project was implemented in partnership with Chibombo Child Development Agent (CCDA) and the Multisectoral team which consists of key government line departments with a mandate of implementing ECD/ECE activities.

It was aimed at fostering hope, nurturing dreams and empowering individuals and communities to rise above their challenges. A total of 14,611 children were reached with various services including early education. Additionally, 10,973 care givers were equipped with skills for positive parenting.

ChildFund has since handed over the Project to the Zambian Government.

**14,611**  
Children reached by various services, including early education.



# Education

Several factors have continued to affect the delivery of quality education in the country, these factors require concerted efforts from all stakeholders including ChildFund. It is for this reason that the organization has continued to supplement Government efforts that are focused on the improving both access and delivery of quality education.

In FY23, we focused on enhancing literacy skills and, subsequently, elevating pass rates among learners in selected schools. In Chongwe district, nine schools benefited from this initiative directly benefiting 140 children. Chongwe Child Development Agency also facilitated the establishment of literacy clubs, serving as an extension of traditional classroom instruction by operating beyond regular learning hours. The anticipation is that these clubs will equip children with proficiency in numeracy, reading, writing, speaking, and listening, thereby contributing to improved pass rates in the selected schools. Additionally, a total of 1,500 text books were distributed in the schools.

As part of ChildFund's commitment to expanding access to education, efforts were made in the construction of additional classroom blocks and school dormitories. Mumbwa Child Development Agency completed the construction of a 1x4 classroom and administration block at Mukulaikwa Secondary School in Shibuyunji District. The enrolment at the school surged from 184 in 2022 to 324 in 2023, representing a remarkable 76% increase, attributed to the government's free education policy and the newly constructed facilities.

Similarly, Kafue Child Development Agency concluded the construction of a 1x3 classroom block at Kalundu View Primary School in Kafue district, which has been handed over to the government. Currently, 677 pupils and six teachers are utilizing this new facility.

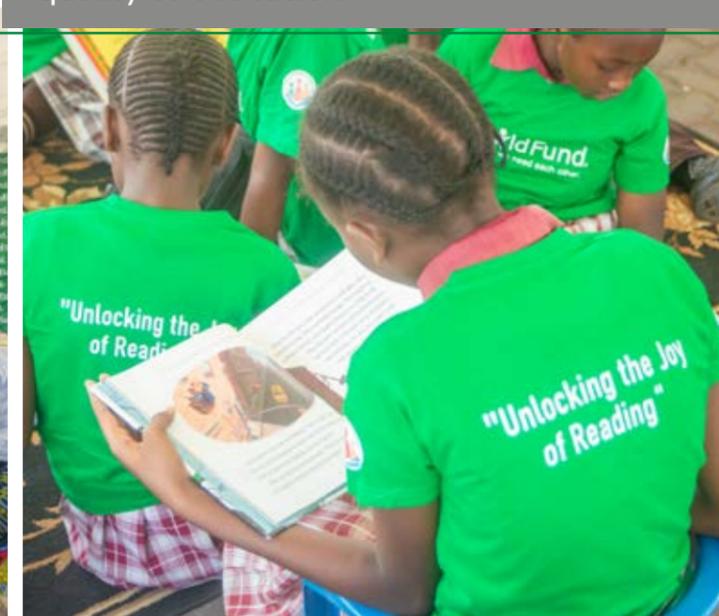
Another 1x3 classroom block at Shachinyama Primary School was completed by the Kafue Child Development Agency and the facility has since been handed over to the Government. A total of 253 pupils and 6 teachers are currently utilizing this structure.



**1,500**  
Text books distributed to schools in Chongwe district through the Chongwe Child Development Agency.



Education is the cornerstone of personal and societal development, and its significance is particularly profound during the crucial formative years of children aged 6 to 14. ChildFund implements programs that focus on improving both access to and quality of education.



# Child Protection

Child protection remains a fundamental aspect of ChildFund's mission to foster the well-being of infants, children, and youth by ensuring their safety, education, and empowerment. Upholding the rights of children is essential for their survival and overall health. ChildFund is committed to safeguarding children from any adverse effects stemming from its initiatives, programs, and personnel.

Key interventions in FY23 included:



**Training in Child Protection:** ChildFund organized a comprehensive child protection training for all the six implementing partners.



**Establishment of Child Protection Referral Systems:** Chongwe Child Development Agency implemented two referral systems in two out of its seven communities, enhancing the responsiveness to child protection issues.



**Training in Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms:** Twelve youth (6 male and 6 female) under Chongwe Child Development Agency received training in community-based child protection mechanisms. This equipped them to support and strengthen child protection initiatives within their community.



**Child Abuse Identification and Reporting:** Children and youth in Chongwe, Kafue, and Chibombo underwent training in child abuse identification and reporting. The aim was to empower these to empower young people with skills to recognize and report cases of child abuse.



**School-Based Violence Prevention Training:** Twelve teachers, caregivers, and learners received training in school-based violence prevention. This included teachers, caregivers, and learners, enhancing their ability to address and prevent violence within the school environment.



**Advocacy and Child Safeguarding Training:** Children and youth from various local partners underwent advocacy and child safeguarding training.

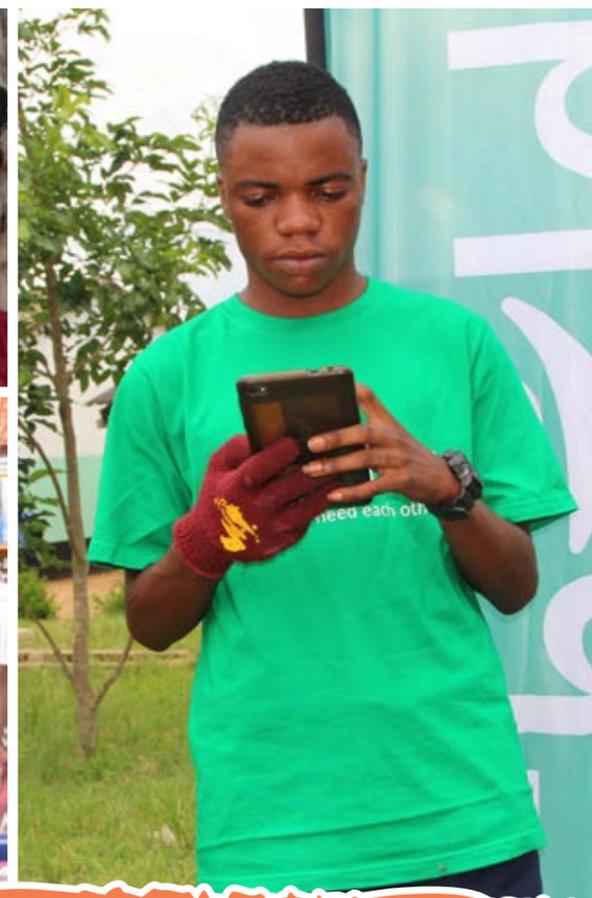


## Working with Traditional and Civic Leaders to end Child Marriage

During the year under review, ChildFund held advocacy meetings with over 500 traditional leaders within our areas of operation. The objective of these gatherings was to address the imperative of ending child marriages within the community. Local leaders, in response, committed to supporting efforts to eradicate child marriages and other forms of violence against children.

In districts like Luanguwa, talks with traditional leaders also focused on addressing issues of drug and alcohol abuse. Child rights clubs in schools were also targeted with messages on ending child marriage.

Collaborating with traditional leadership is anticipated to provide sustained efforts in combating vices affecting children and young people in communities.



# Youth Development

Zambian youth, much like their counterparts in developing nations, confront various challenges, including inadequate employment opportunities, inadequate skills training opportunities limited participation in civic affairs, and limited access to finance for investment. Moreover, the discord between education, skills, and labor market requirements contributes to issues such as exploitation, a lack of experience, nepotism, and corruption in the job market. Insufficient training in skills and entrepreneurship, coupled with a deficiency in mentorship, poses obstacles to the adaptability and smooth transition of adolescents and young individuals into adulthood.

Recognizing these challenges, one of ChildFund's objectives is to envision a youth population that is skilled, engaged, and secure, leading a healthy lifestyle by enhancing their skills and involvement in productive work. The aim is to impact 350,000 youths positively and promote access to and utilization of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services.

During the year under review, ChildFund successfully reached 49,451 youths aged between 15 and 24. The outreach efforts focused on providing life skills and SRHR services to empower the youth in addressing their challenges.

## Payment of Tuition Fees

ChildFund, in collaboration with its Implementing Partners, Kafue and Luangwa Child Development, continued supporting the young people who are in secondary schools as well as those in higher institutions of learning

These youth are pursuing diploma and degree programs in health sciences, engineering, education, and development management. 38 students were supported directly by ChildFund whilst 65 others were linked to Government support through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Our Programs for young people are designed to promote improved economic, physical and social wellbeing, laying the foundation for youth to become the catalysts for change in their family, community and the country.



## Linkages to market, finance, inputs and business opportunities

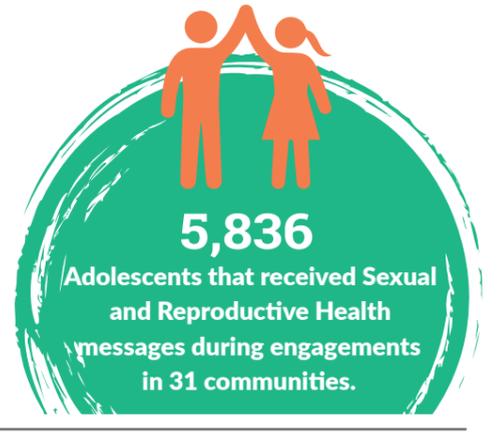
ChildFund worked with one of its implementing partners, the Chongwe Child Development Agency, to connect 32 youth to opportunities in the market, finance, inputs, and business. The youth were also supported in crafting project proposals, which were subsequently submitted to ward development committees, enabling them to access constituency

development funds. Additionally, market linkages were established for young people involved in activities such as gardening, poultry rearing, meat processing, and tailoring within ChildFund operational areas. The youth groups further received support in registering for the Farmer Input Support Program, aiming to ensure the long-term sustainability of their livelihoods.

## Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

ChildFund engaged with 5,836 adolescents across 31 communities, delivering Sexual and Reproductive Health messages at both community and health levels. This accomplishment was made possible through the

collaboration of trained peer educators and Adolescent Health Focal Point individuals dedicated to promoting SRH and HIV interventions in youth-friendly corners.



## Luangwa Integrated Agriculture Project: Turning dreams into reality for young farmers



After dropping out of school, I was given a small piece of land where I started growing maize for my own consumption.

Twenty-seven-year-old Nathan is amongst the 1,500 young farmers that ChildFund has supported through the ChildFund New Zealand-funded, Luangwa Integrated Agriculture Project (LIAP). Having started off as a subsistence young farmer now owns a big banana plantation.

“After dropping out of school, I was given a small piece of land where I started growing maize for my own consumption. But as you know Luangwa is a drought-prone area, my yields were so low, sometimes, I would wake up and find all my crops destroyed by wild elephants, Nathan explained

He added that he always had a passion to diversify and begin to grow bananas, sugar cane and other crops that easily bring in money. However, the rainfall patterns and the human/animal conflict made this quite difficult for him.

His dream came true when ChildFund embarked on the LIAP Project with activities that focussed on ensuring participants had access to irrigation systems, dams were put up and Nathan and his family received fruit trees as seed.

“I was one of the young farmers that were given fruit trees and trained by ChildFund on how to grow drought-resistant fruits, we were also given tips on how to market our products, I’m very happy that today, I grow bananas on a large scale. Business people drive to my farm to buy the fruit for sale.

Nathan also grows other fruits like papaya on a smaller scale, he has access to water from the dam that was constructed by ChildFund through the LIAP Project.

Most families in Luangwa are now food secure through the project, they own goats and chickens that were distributed during the project cycle that has now come to an end.

ChildFund New Zealand has been supporting Luangwa through a ten-year strategy that ends in 2026. Nathan and other farmers have been part of this plan

## Disaster Risk Reduction

Through its current strategic plan, ChildFund is actively working on strengthening communities against the impact of disasters and climate change. The organization aims to enhance resilience through the promotion of climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land use management, diversification of livelihood options (including forest-based livelihoods), afforestation, adoption of water-conserving technology, and promotion of irrigated farming.

ChildFund also emphasizes promotes hygiene practices and encourages early medical-seeking behaviours among the public to effectively address epidemics such as cholera. With support from the Forestry Department, ChildFund through its implementing partners continued to plant trees in selected districts and schools.

### Conservation Farming to Mitigate Effects of Climate Change

At 46 years old, Ivy stands out as a prominent figure among the subsistence farmers of Zambia’s Chibombo District. Despite the effects of climate change that have affected most farmers, Ivy’s farm yields bountiful crops of vegetables and maize.

“Before I got knowledge about climate change and the importance of conservation farming, it was difficult to harvest enough for my family, additionally the soil seemed to be getting infertile each year,” Ivy stated.

The changing weather patterns have posed significant challenges for many farmers, resulting in substantial crop losses. It against this backdrop that ChildFund in partnership with the the District Agricultural extension officers organised trainings in conservation farming.

During an interview, Ivy expressed gratitude to ChildFund and the trainers stating that the new

farming techniques have led to improved yields. “We learned about new farming methods such as crop rotation and water conservation, we also learned about the importance of reducing on the use of chemical fertilizers. These methods have really helped to make our soil more fertile, leading to improved yields,” she added.

Driven by a sense of duty as a community leader, Ivy extends her knowledge to fellow farmers, emphasizing the importance of preserving natural resources as they embrace new farming methods.

“I am one of the community leaders, So after the training, a group of us took it upon ourselves to train other farmers, though some will stick to traditional methods, we have seen a lot of farmers change to conservation farming, our soil is now more fertile, we have enough food and we do not spend our resources on buying expensive chemical fertilizers.” Ivy added.



## Advocacy

### Supporting efforts to promote children's rights online

Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children, commonly referred to as OSEAC, is becoming a major issue of concern for most countries, Zambia inclusive.

According to the International Telecommunication Union (2022), the population using the internet in Africa has grown from 2.1% in 2005 to 40% in 2022 with 55% of those users being youth aged between 15 and 24 years.

Data from the recently released "Disrupting Harm Reports," indicate that children engage in risky behaviours like having in-person meetings with strangers they first met online with a significant number of the surveyed children sharing either their naked images or videos with other internet users

Of concern is that legal frameworks addressing OCSEA among most African Union (AU) Member States are weak. For instance, the latest data from the African Union (April 2023) indicate that only 18 countries have signed and 14 have ratified/ acceded the African Union Convention

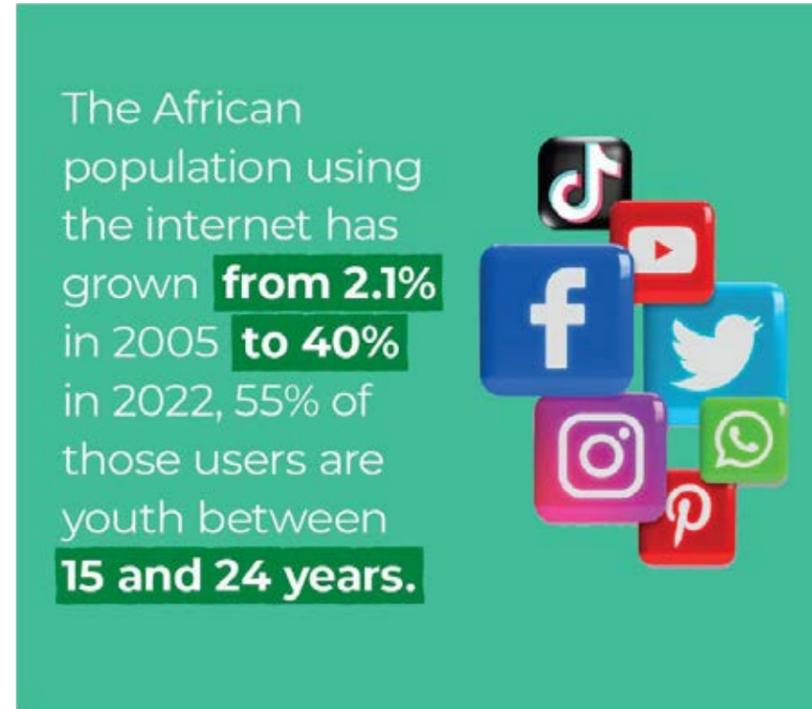
on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection commonly referred to as the Malabo Convention.

It is also believed that there is low awareness of OCSEA among children, parents, and communities at large. Furthermore, technology and internet service providers are yet to fully put in place adequate measures to ensure that children accessing their platforms are protected from online harm.

To respond to these challenges, ChildFund working with the Joining Forces partnered with Government to support programs that focus on making the digital environment safe for every child.

Our Country Director gave a keynote address requesting all stakeholders to participate and ensure cases of online abuse are identified, reported and addressed. He further stressed the capacity building on OSEAC of the policy makers, law enforcers and the judiciary.

ChildFund and the Joining Forces Alliances also developed and launched a policy on promoting the rights of children in the digital environment.



To respond to these challenges, working with the Joining Forces partnered with ChildFund to support programs that focus on making the digital environment safe for every child.

### Child-friendly version of the 2022 Children's Code Act

Following the enactment of the 2022 Children's Code Act, ChildFund and other members of the Joining Forces Alliance, developed a child-friendly version. This version was developed to ensure that children get to know and understand their legal rights and responsibilities. This also helps to promote a culture of respect for the law amongst young people.

With the child-friendly version in place, ChildFund is set to support Government in ensuring that this is socialized across the country.



### Parliamentary meeting on the Free Education Policy

During the year under review, ChildFund presented recommendations to the Parliamentary Committee on Education regarding the introduction of the Free Education Policy in Zambia.

The ChildFund team emphasized the need for adequate legal and policy framework in the Education Act to support the pronouncement of the policy.

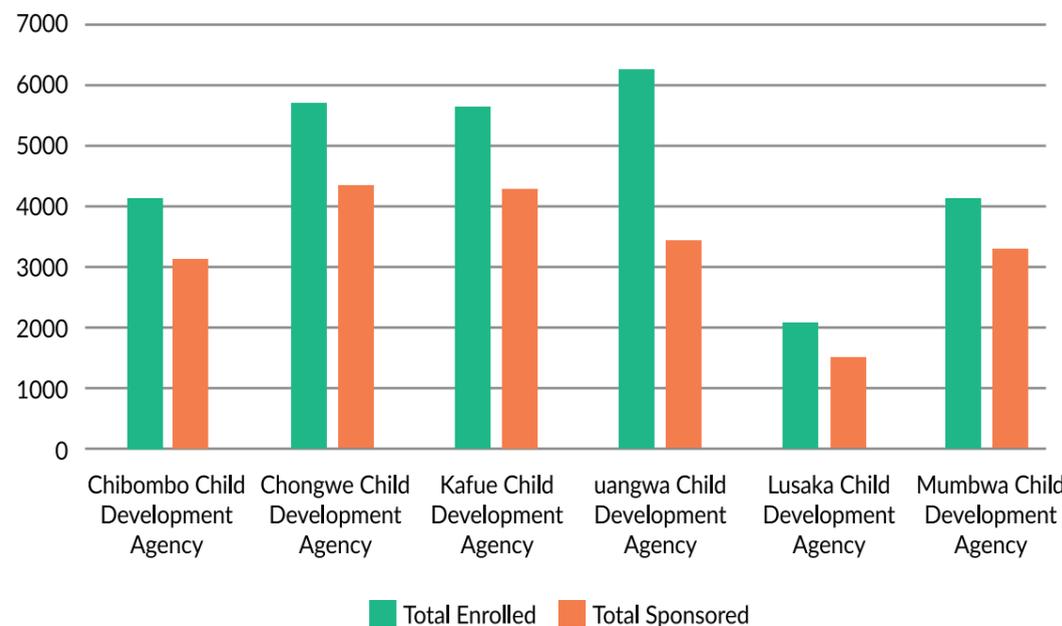
It was noted that though the implementation of the Free Education Policy has addressed the need for access to education, several challenges such as inadequate classroom space have come up and need to be addressed urgently.



# Child Sponsorship

Throughout FY 2023, ChildFund Zambia sustained its sponsorship activities in 31 communities through six Implementing Partners (IPs). The total enrolment of children was 27,830, with 49% being male and 51% female.

## Total number of children enrolled in sponsorship program



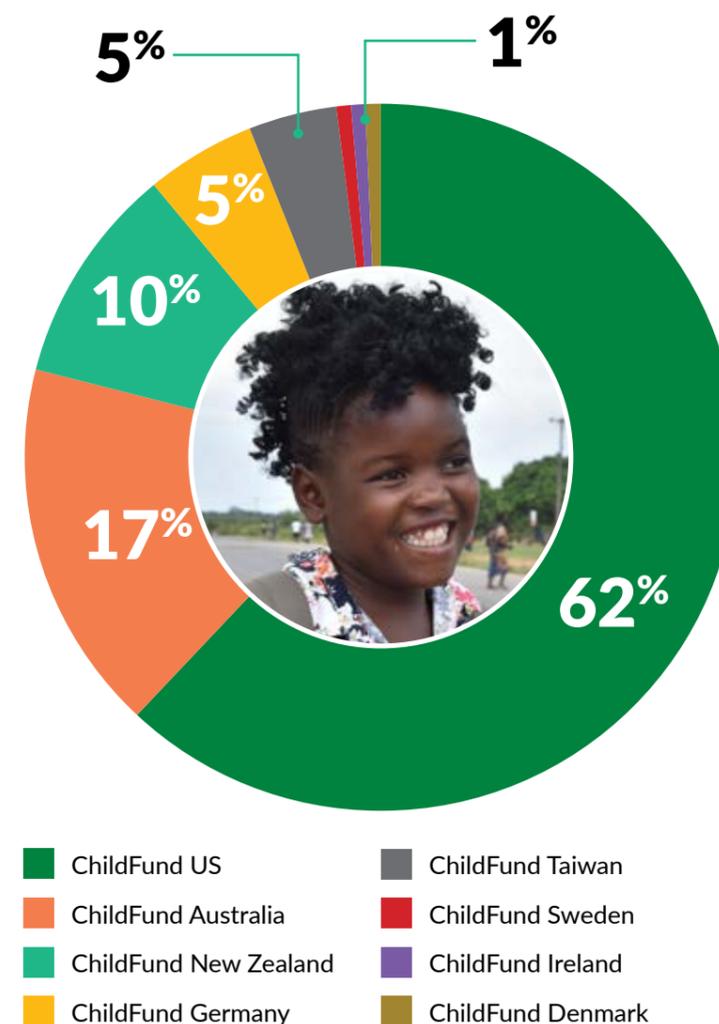
Out of 27,830 enrolled children, 71.57% (19,918) were linked to individual sponsors indicating a sponsorship net loss of about 475 sponsors compared to the same period in FY22. Our generous individual donors originate from eight international affiliates segregated as follows:

International Affiliate	# of sponsors
ChildFund Unites States of America	12,389
ChildFund Australia	3,313
ChildFund New Zealand	1,913
ChildFund Germany	1,070
ChildFund Taiwan	769
ChildFund Sweden	197
ChildFund Ireland	213
ChildFund Denmark	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,918</b>

## Improved efficiency and effectiveness of sponsorship processes

ChildFund continued with the utilization of digital platforms to expedite and streamline the transmission of child correspondences to sponsors. By the end of FY23, 46%—equivalent to 813 out of 1,782 child letters—were electronically dispatched, signifying a noteworthy surge in the adoption of electronic channels for sending child correspondence. Additionally, the office implemented cloud storage for 6,428 children’s files, aiming to further promote data privacy for children and their sponsors.

## Sponsorship by International Affiliates



Hear form some of our former sponsored children

### Dr. Mweene Nseluke



**“My journey with ChildFund has been so empowering, I’m truly grateful for the help I have received.”**

Meet Dr. Mweene Nseluke, a shining example of the transformative power of education and compassion.

As a child, Dr. Nseluke faced numerous challenges in his community, but through the support of ChildFund he was able to break the chains of poverty and soar to unimaginable heights.

With unwavering determination and the opportunities provided by his sponsors, Dr. Nseluke pursued his dream of becoming a medical doctor. Today, he stands as a beacon of

hope and inspiration, not only for his community but for the world.

He is not just a medical doctor but Director of Health in charge of a number of health centers within the district. Dr. Nsuluke is serving lives in the district he grew up and is a testament to the boundless potential that lies within every child, waiting to be unleashed with the right support.

His journey from a sponsored child to a compassionate and skilled medical professional reminds us that investing in the education and well-being of children is an investment in a brighter, healthier future for us all.

“I’m what I’m today because of ChildFund, actually words fail me on how to say thank you. I was supported by a very young age in primary school till I completed my studies at the University of Zambia. Thankyou ChildFund,” Dr. Nsuluka said.

### Daniel: Proud Public Health Nurse

I always encourage other children growing up in my village that their background does not define who they should become in future. As long as there is support every child can achieve their potential if they work hard.



At 24 years old, Daniel's journey from humble beginnings to becoming a public health nurse is a testament to the transformative power of support and determination. From the tender age of 2, Daniel was assigned a sponsor in ChildFund.

Born into a family that had no reliable source of income, Daniel's prospects seemed bleak. Yet, ChildFund emerged as a lifeline, shouldering the responsibility of his education and well-being until he completed his tertiary studies in 2022.

Their unwavering support not only lifted

Daniel out of adversity but also paved the path for his remarkable journey of success.

Today, Daniel proudly serves as a public health nurse at one of the health centers supported by ChildFund in Luangwa District. His story echoes far and wide, inspiring others who face similar hardships. With a steadfast resolve, he reminds them that a child's background does not dictate their destiny. Every child, regardless of their circumstances, possesses the potential to thrive with the right assistance.

"I always encourage other children growing up in my village that their background does not define who they should become in future. As long as there is support every child can achieve their potential if they work hard," he said.

As he extends his hand to uplift others, Daniel's journey embodies the essence of hope and resilience. His words echo as a beacon of encouragement to children in

disadvantaged households, urging them to strive for greatness despite the odds stacked against them.

"My dream is to see more children supported like I was, that will help transform our community and Luangwa district as a whole, Daniel added

In Daniel's story, we find the unwavering belief that with compassion and opportunity, every child can carve their own path to success. He is a testament to the boundless potential that lies within every young soul, waiting to be nurtured and unleashed.



### Gaudensia - A Trailblazer in the Male Dominated World

Gaudensia is another former sponsored child who is a trailblazer in the male-dominated world of plumbing.

"I'm the sixth child in a family of ten children, and one that has been supported so much by ChildFund despite suffering a number of setbacks, I want to say a million thanks to my sponsor and ChildFund staff here in Luanguwa for the support," she said.



Gaudensia became a teen mom and dropped out of school in the ninth grade, being still very young, ChildFund moved to ensure that the girl returned to school when the baby was old enough.

"After a lot of counselling from ChildFund staff, I realized that I would need to either go back and finish school or do a skill that would enable me earn an income to look after the child, so I opted to go into skills training, she added.

Gaudensia's new chapter opened when she was offered a place at Thorn Park Sills Training Center where she was enrolled as a student in plumbing.

"I wanted to do something more challenging and different, that is I opted to join the plumbing class, it was and still is a very good experience for me and I love what I'm doing now," she added.

Gaudensia graduated with a certificate, defying barriers and defying norms in the male-dominated domain of plumbing.

Currently, Gaudensia's journey comes full circle as she lends her expertise within her community. She is now engaged in plumbing works at the skills training center under construction by ChildFund in Luangwa district.

"I'm honored to have been hired by ChildFund to do plumbing works at the first ever skills training center being constructed by ChildFund in my district, my ambition is to come and lecture here once it is completed," Gaudensia said.

Indeed ChildFund has helped to rewrite the narratives of countless children, guiding them towards a future brimming with promise and possibility.

## Transforming education: The Ackerman's legacy in Zambia

ChildFund with support from the Transearch Foundation of Germany, run by the Ackerman family, commissioned a one-by-two classroom block at Katete Primary School in Chibombo District. The Ackermans have supported education programs in Zambia, through ChildFund, since 2010 when they adopted Namunuga school - one of the oldest schools in Chibombo district, founded in 1966.

When the Namunuga School Improvement Project started, the school had only one classroom block whilst the other building that served as a classroom block had no windows and the floor was completely eroded. This meant that it could not be used during the rainy season and learners either stayed home or shared the one available classroom block. Apart from the dilapidated state of the school, there were only 10 teachers against a pupil population of 769. The result was overcrowding in classes and poor academic performance.

To date, the Ackermans working with ChildFund have constructed and equipped 5 new classroom blocks, 10 teachers' houses, and an Early Childhood Development centre, complete with solar power. To ensure all the children and teachers have access to clean drinking water, a water reticulation system was installed to serve the school and the surrounding villages.

In 2019, a health post was constructed to provide health services for over 1,000 learners and over 5,400 people living in neighboring communities in Namunuga. This was later followed by the construction of two semi-detached flats for health workers at the health center in 2021.

With Namunuga now standing as a beacon of excellence, the Ackermans have now moved to start supporting Katete school within the same district. In 2022, they put up a water reticulation system and a three-classroom block. These were commissioned early last year. This helped to increase enrolments at the school from 700 to 1,021. In January 2024, the Ackermans commissioned another one-by-two classroom block as they continue supporting the school.

"We believe that every child deserves the chance to dream, to learn," Ulrich Ackerman said while commissioning the classroom. "And it is our privilege and honor to play a small part in making those dreams a reality."



## Donor Amy Bell Charities visits ChildFund-supported projects in Zambia

Donor Amy Bell Charities visits ChildFund-supported projects in Zambia

ChildFund Zambia hosted sponsors, Larry and Ellen Bell who were in the country to check on their projects supported through the Amy Bell Charities. They also took time to visit their sponsored child Emmanuel in Chongwe District. The Bells have been part of the ChildFund legacy for about 40 years now. They started sponsoring Emmanuel following the death of their daughter, Amy, who stated in her will that the child and his community must be supported until

he completes his education. Emmanuel was only 4 years old at the time and his community had no school. During their visit, the Bells pledged to continue supporting Emmanuel's community for years to come in honor of the late Amy.

Today, Emmanuel is 19 and doing his final year in secondary school. The Bells have since built two classroom blocks and three teachers' flats in his community and also put up a water reticulation system. Overall, at least 5,790 children in Chongwe District receive educational

support from ChildFund. "Out of the 5,790 enrolled children, 4,194 have individual sponsors who provide funding for the implementation of projects in health care, education and youth livelihood among others." ChildFund's local partner Chongwe Child Development Agency Manager, Green Makamo disclosed.

The Bells were accompanied to Zambia by ChildFund International staff - Philanthropy Advisor Jennifer DeWall and Strategic Specialist Erin Seely.



## Young people in Zambia call for urgent climate action as ChildFund calls for increased investment in youth

The Youth Day of Service was a memorable event for most young people in Mumbwa District as they had an opportunity to commemorate the day with popular Zambian musician Daliso Phiri. Daliso and his dancing troupe joined over 100 youths, ChildFund and its local partner Mumbwa Child Development Agency staff who marched and performed various songs to educate people on the importance of tree planting to mitigate the effects of climate change.

During the commemoration which was graced by the office of the District Commissioner through Dr. Simasiku Nawa, the young people planted 100 trees at Kasalu School while another 100 youth cleaned Nangoma Mission Hospital.

“For the past few years, Mumbwa has received either inadequate or excess rainfall resulting in drought or flooding, all these are a result of climate change. We need more stakeholders like ChildFund to supplement Government efforts in ensuring that we plant more trees,” Dr. Nawa noted. In collaboration with the Forestry Department, ChildFund also held campaigns to educate community members on the need to replant trees that have been cut for charcoal burning.

ChildFund Youth and Livelihood Manager Nicholas Mushimba further issued a media statement calling on the Government to implement laws and policies that prioritize youth’s needs and create enabling environments for them to thrive.

**In collaboration with the Forestry Department, ChildFund also held campaigns to educate community members on the need to replant trees that have been cut for charcoal burning.**

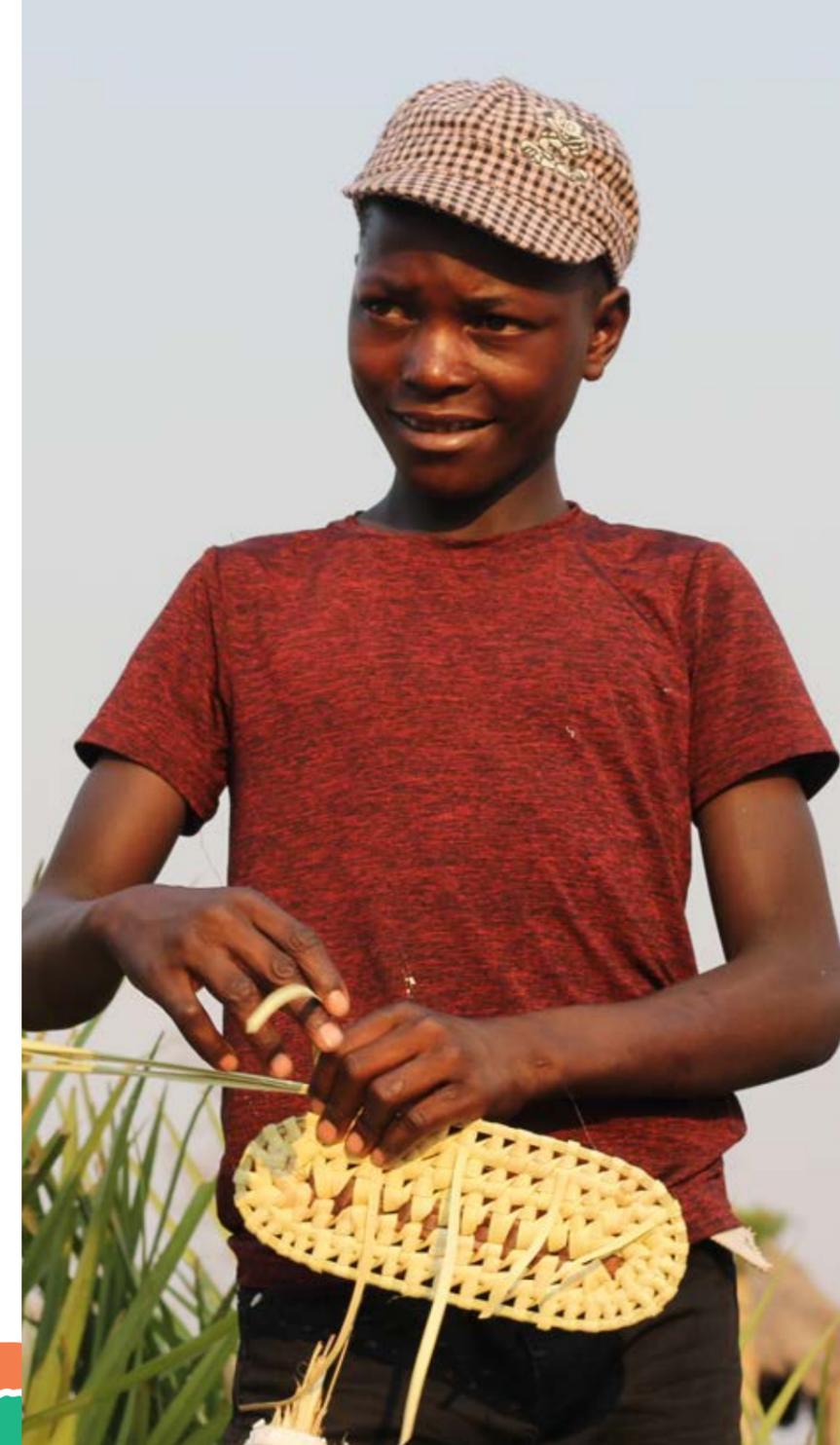


## Financial Statement

SOURCES OF FUNDS EXPENSES	LC			USD		
	FY22	FY23	% Change	FY22	FY23	% Change
	ZMW	ZMW		USD	USD	
Goods In Kind	13,403,844	23,839,983	44%	599,519	1,379,070	57%
Grant Funding	24,311,091	12,299,631	-98%	1,392,470	664,668	-109%
Non Sponsorship Funds	8,300,334	6,045,384	-37%	454,895	351,418	-29%
Partner Effectiveness Fund	9,127,385	9,912,424	8%	515,319	563,194	9%
Sponsorship Funds	45,716,892	47,131,305	3%	2,507,113	2,672,354	6%
Working Fund	9,127,385	8,676,196	-5%	473,754	541,478	13%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118,397,263</b>	<b>115,550,455</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>6,415,181</b>	<b>6,610,752</b>	<b>3%</b>

### Expense by sector

	FY22	FY23	%
Health	24,311,091	23,726,542	21%
Education	45,254,608	44,166,482	38%
Livelihoods	13,403,844	13,081,555	11%
Child Protection	8,300,334	8,100,757	7%
Program Expenses	18,000,000	17,798,924	15%
Operation Funds	9,127,385	8,676,196	8%
	118,397,263	115,550,456	100%



## Our Team

Over the years, our greatest asset remains the talented and dedicated workforce. As such the Human Resource and Administration department at ChildFund continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing and optimizing this invaluable resource. During the period under review, several initiatives were implemented to promote a culture of innovation and creativity.

We also focused on providing trainings to ensure technical skill enhancement, our employees had access to a wide array of opportunities aimed at fostering their professional development and keeping them at the forefront of industry trends.

The risk assessment and security training was conducted by Nuru Zuhudi, ChildFund International Advisor Safety and Security for East and Southern Africa. After the training, Zambia was set to update its security management plan,

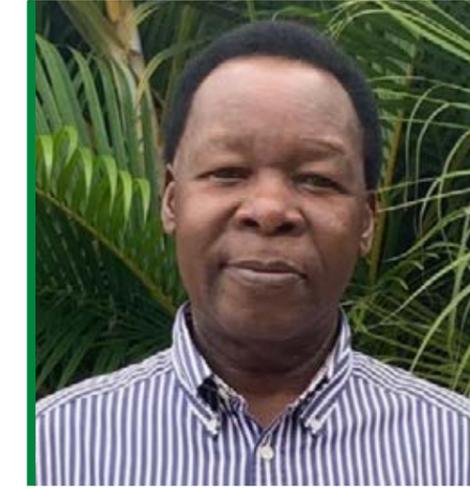
Our staff complement stood at 46.



## Our Leadership Team

Our Senior Leadership Team stands as the guiding force, exemplifying a collective commitment to excellence, innovation, and unwavering dedication. Comprised of seasoned professionals, each member brings a unique set of skills, experiences, and perspectives, creating a harmonious blend that propels our organization forward.

At the helm is the Country Director who is supported by the Director in charge of Programs and Sponsorship, the Business Development Manager, Finance Manager as well as the Human Resource Manager. Their visionary leadership of the senior management team has not only navigated us through challenges but has also inspired a culture of resilience and forward-thinking.



**Simba Machingaidze**  
Country Director



**Siprosa Maroka**  
Director, Finance (Ethiopia, Zambia, Mozambique)



**George Sichone**  
Business Development Manager



**Abraham Banda**  
Finance Manager



**Masuzyo Phiri**  
Human Resource Manager

## Board Members

- Professor Tuckson Lambart** Board Chairperson
- Mr. Henry Msango** Vice Board Chairperson
- Simba Machingaidze** Board Secretary
- Professor John Mudenda** Board Member
- Professor Sophie Kasonde** Board member
- Mr. Urban Mutati** Board member
- Mr. Joseph Salasini** Board member

## Grants Donors

A special thank you to our donors and partners.

With a deep sense of appreciation, we would like to extend our sincerest thanks to cherished donors, sponsors and partners across the world.

Your generosity has not only fuelled our projects but has also touched the lives of countless individuals who benefit from the programs and initiatives that your contributions make possible.

Your belief in our mission has empowered us to reach new heights and accomplish huge milestones that have impacted positively on the children of Zambia.

On behalf of the children, families and communities we work with, we say thank you for your compassion and dedication to the work we do.

Thank you!



Education is the key that unlocks the boundless potential within every child, lighting the path to a future where knowledge transforms dreams into reality and empowers them to create a world of limitless possibilities. Promoting access to education has remained ChildFund Zambia's key program approach.



# ChildFund

Zambia

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