



## OVERVIEW OF Zambia

### Overview of Zambia



YEAR OF  
**1964**  
INDEPENDENCE

POPULATION  
**13,046,508**  
MILLION

**64%**  
Population  
**BELOW**  
poverty line

### Languages

Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga, Lozi, Chewa, Nsenga, Tumbuka, Lunda, Kaonde, Lala, Luvale

**Under-five Mortality Rate:** 111 per 1,000 live births. Zambia ranks 21 in the world.

**Human Development Index (HDI)** for 2011: 0.430 (ranked 164 out of 187, indicating low human development).

### ChildFund in Zambia

**ChildFund came to Zambia: 1983**  
**Number of enrolled children (FY12): 28,657**

**Number of provinces: 9**  
**Number of beneficiaries (FY12): 346,907**

### COUNTRY PROFILE

Zambia is a landlocked country in Southern Africa with a population of 13,046,508 (CSO report, January 2011). The Zambian population experienced an average annual growth rate of 2.8 percent between 2000 and 2010. The country continues to have a young popu-

lation with 66% of its population aged 0-24 years. There are 73 ethnic groups among the country's indigenous population. English is the official language, although there are seven other local languages widely used, namely: Bemba, Nyanja, Lozi, Tonga, Kaonde, Luanda and Luvale. Sign language is set to become the eighth.

The country gained its independence in October 1964 from the United Kingdom (UK) and has remained a multi-party state from the time it reverted to plural politics in the 1990s. The President is both head of state and government.

The outlook for the Zambian economy remains favorable in the medium term, underpinned by robust growth and a single digit inflation rate. The economy is projected to grow from 6.9% in 2012 to about 7.3% in 2013. The steady growth in the economy is largely a result of increased copper production coupled with high copper prices on the World Market. Other sectors that have contributed to this sustained growth include increased national agricultural production, a vibrant construction industry, telecommunications, tourism and banking. Being part of sub-regional bodies such as SADC (Southern African Development Community), COMESA (Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa), NEPAD (The New Partnership for Africa's Development) and the Great Lakes Region has also helped the country benefit from regional trade protocols and development initiatives.

Despite these economic achievements, the majority of the Zambian people have remained poor with poverty levels at 64% (Central Statistics, Living Conditions Report: 2006). In rural areas, more than 80% of rural Zambians live below the poverty line, relying on subsistence agriculture on small plots of land to support their families. The high poverty levels have overstretched the extended family system leading to children and youth living in abject poverty with most of their basic needs being unmet. The high poverty levels predispose the young people to risky behavior such as prostitution, drug abuse and multiple concurrent sexual partners as a coping mechanism. This puts them at risk of contracting HIV and AIDS. The current national prevalence rate is estimated at 14.3%. The ripple effects are early marriages, child labor, school drop-out, and teen pregnancy, among others.

## **EDUCATION**

Zambia has made moderate strides towards Universal Primary Education (Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Two). Net enrollment of children in primary education increased from 8% in 1990 (Millennium Development Goals Report—MDGR) to 101.4% in 2009 (Annual Percentage Change—APR), supported by the increased construction of schools, the removal of school fees in 2002, Free Basic Education and Re-entry Policies. Such policies also favored an increase of 29 percentage points in primary school completion rates, from 64% in 1990 (MDGR) to 93.2% in 2009 (APR). The primary education target is thus attainable, as the objective is 100%.

The main challenge at present is adult literacy, which declined from 79% in 1990 to 70% in

2004 (MDGR), and the 17.4% completion rate of girls in secondary school in 2009 (MOESB). Emphasis needs to be placed on making education compulsory from grades 1 to 7, achieving higher completion rates for girls in secondary education, and improving the quality of education, through enforceable incentives and performance measures for teachers and school administration.

Another challenge is the fact that there are few vocational skills training centers especially in rural areas resulting in high unemployment levels among youth. Of the 4,918,788 total labor force, 1,174,057 are youth ages 15 to 24 and 29% of youth in this age group are unemployed (Labor Force Survey Report 2005).

## **HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

Access to health services is generally low especially in the rural areas. Some of the contributing factors to this include: long distance to the nearest health center, inadequate financial resources for transport and treatment, shortage of drugs and inadequate staff at health centers.

The National Malaria Control Centre estimates that malaria is responsible for nearly 4.3 million clinical cases and an estimated 8,000 deaths per year. Malaria also contributes to about 20% of maternal mortality and 40% of infant and under five-child mortality (National Malaria Communications Strategy, p.1).

Malnutrition levels in Zambia remain quite high, accounting for 52% of under five deaths. The stunting rate of under five children stands at 45% while 5% are acutely malnourished and 19% are underweight. The lack of knowledge on proper feeding practices further worsens the underlying chronic nutritional problems among children below the age of five (World Bank indicators).

Access to safe water supplies is tilted towards urban areas at a ratio of 86% to 37% of the population accessing safe water supplies, respectively. With regard to sanitation, the estimated coverage is 33% for urban areas and 4% for rural areas. Thus, there is still an underserved population, particularly in rural areas and low-income urban areas.

## **Brief Program Overview**

ChildFund Zambia seeks to provide a positive and sustainable environment for -deprived, excluded and vulnerable children, to help them 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. ChildFund has been working in Zambia since 1983 and provides support to over 340,000 people. The agency implements programs and projects through partnership with fully registered community based Local Partners called Child Development Agencies. Currently, ChildFund has established partnerships through

memoranda of understanding with six such child development agencies in Chibombo, Kafue, Lusaka, Luangwa, Mumbwa and Chongwe. ChildFund's key strength lies in mobilizing communities and empowering them to play an active role in their own development efforts through community based interventions, capacity building and ensuring sustainable practices in the community.

The agency's vision remains to provide a positive and sustainable environment for the deprived, excluded and vulnerable children. For the current strategic period (2012-2016), ChildFund Zambia intends to expand its reach and depth to benefit more children.

## 2012 Program Achievements

During FY12, ChildFund Zambia implemented programs in the areas of health, HIV and AIDS, education, food security and economic empowerment. The organization's interventions targeted the three life stages, namely infants and young children, children and youth.

An estimated 346,907 children, youth and their caregivers were reached through livelihood, education and health interventions that were implemented by the agency.

The goals of the program interventions are based on the strategic objectives as outlined in the Country Strategic Plan. These are to:

- Integrate core programs and approaches to create cohesive and focused programs that are aligned to the life stages of children and youth ages 0 to 5, 6 to 14 and 15 to 24.
- Expand ChildFund Zambia's revenue base by at least 118% by 2016 to support programs targeted at children's growth and youth leadership and development.
- Build capacity of ChildFund Zambia Local Partners for strengthening community resilience in responding to and managing disasters by 2016.
- Strengthen organizational and programmatic systems and structures for ChildFund Zambia and affiliates by 2016.

Outlined below are some of the major successes that were scored by ChildFund during FY12.

ChildFund successfully launched and disseminated the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) to staff and Local Partners. The plan was launched by the Minister of Community Development, Mother and Child Health.

In the area of resource mobilization, the organization developed two high level proposals on food security and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (ZERS and ZOVSS) amounting to

USD \$24,300,000 that was submitted to USAID. A response is still being awaited on the award. Additionally, ChildFund sourced USD \$175,048 from USAID-Family Health International-Progress for implantation of the scale up of the Injectable DEPO Provera project in Luangwa, Nyimba and Mumbwa. A proposal on women's empowerment (promoting gender equality) amounting to USD \$1,560,000 was also developed and submitted to European Union. This however did not go through. A total of six other proposals were developed and submitted to ChildFund Alliance members. Of these, four were approved for funding to the tune of USD \$1,127,602: (1) the Chongwe Youth and Caregiver Development Project (USD \$156,521); (2) Chibombo Integrated HIV and AIDS Project II (USD \$449,474); (3) the School Infrastructure Development Project (USD \$405,109); and (4) the Luangwa Preschool Development Project (USD \$116,498).

The Monitoring and Evaluation Manager built the capacity of National Office staff and Local Partners in monitoring and evaluation that resulted in improved reporting on core program areas. The office also started the process of facilitating the recruitment of M&E Officers for the Local Partners. This was in an effort to enhance quality in programming.

ChildFund actively participated on strategic national level technical working groups that resulted in the organization being selected to participate in piloting the OVC service standards, development of the draft guidelines for the implementation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) minimum standards of care for children and youth and coaching the implementers of the OVC standards at the national level. The organization equally participated in development and review of national education, health and HIV strategies. ChildFund Zambia was also elected to chair the Education Sector Projects Coordinating Committee. The committee brings on board all key players in the education sector including donors.

ChildFund actively participated on national level advocacy networks and supported youth to identify and engage key policy and decision makers on matters affecting them. One such network is the Global Movement for Children whose activities resulted in the ban of manufacture, importation and sale of alcoholic sachets that were being abused by children and youth. (Engaged the then Minister of Local Government and Housing and PS from the Ministry of Education.)

The organization actively supported the implementation of education, livelihood and health programs according to the life stage approach. This resulted in improved learning conditions for children, increased access to education, improved health for infants and mothers, increased knowledge, skills and income among caregivers and youth. For example, the beneficiaries of the Youth Empowerment Project in Luangwa and Chongwe raised a total of ZMK18,901,000 (about USD \$3,818) from their banana plantation IGA (Income Generating Activity).

ChildFund completed the construction of a school for children with special education

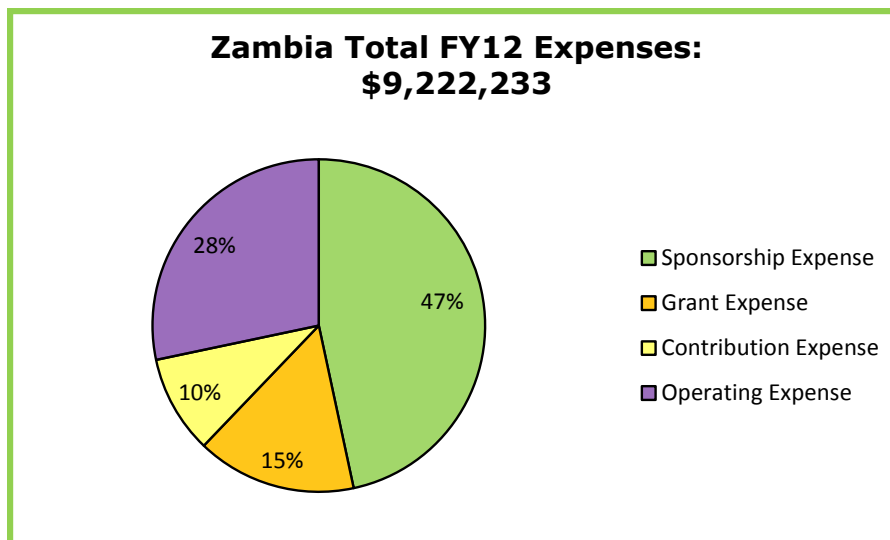
needs, the only one of its kind in the Luangwa district. Once it opens, it will accommodate up to 60 children with different special education needs.

ChildFund also provided books to 12 schools in the Mumbwa districts for teachers and learners in grades 1 to 9. This was in an effort to improve the teaching and learning under the Active Teaching and Learning Approaches in Schools (ATLAS). A total of 53 teachers, including officials from the Ministry of Education were trained in three modules over a one year period. The training was conducted in collaboration with the International Reading Association (IRA).

In water and sanitation, ChildFund in partnership with ChildFund New Zealand implemented a project aimed at improving access to clean water for 600 households. The project involved drilling boreholes and installing solar powered water pumps and overhead water tanks to some of these.

In malaria prevention and control, ChildFund distributed over 10,000 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) to 2,400 households. This was in an effort to reduce the incidents of malaria among under five children, pregnant women and the aged.

## Financial Report



<b>Zambia FY12</b>		
Sponsorship Expense	4,300,660	47%
Grant Expense	1,431,192	16%
Contribution Expense	879,412	10%
Operating Expense	2,610,969	28%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>9,222,233</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Challenges

In addition to the challenges discussed in the previous sections, a major challenge is limited resources, which hinders ChildFund Zambia's geographical growth. The National Office continues to invest its efforts in attracting large grants.

## Why Sponsorship is Important

### “Living my dream”

ChildFund Zambia has continued to improve the lives of vulnerable children. Through sponsorship, the agency has made real and sustainable differences in the lives of the needy children and their families.

Eighteen (18) year old Hope Mbaimbi is one of the children whose life has been impacted positively by the sponsorship program.

Hope came from a very poor family background and her parents had no reliable source of income. None of their seven children went to school as they could not afford to pay for requirements like uniforms, shoes and books.



*Hope with her mother and siblings*

“We lived in a house without electricity or running water and my older siblings could not go to school due to financial difficulties. I knew that immediately when I was a bit older, I would join the rest of the family in tilling the land so that we could have food in the house,” Hope explains.

Help was on the way for Hope, as her mother heard about the sponsorship program after her third birthday. She was enrolled and immediately assigned a sponsor. Her mother who really wanted Hope to get an education knew that her prayers had been answered and she was really excited. The sponsor however cancelled before Hope could start her primary education.

“it was sad when I was told that my sponsor had decided to stop sponsoring me as she had no money. The staff at the project assured my mother that there was still a chance to be assigned to another sponsor,” says Hope, adding truth to the staff's explanation. She was assigned another sponsor in 2006 and this was the beginning of the road to success for Hope and her family members. The quality of her life was immediately enhanced.

“My sponsor was very nice. She encouraged my parents to put me into school and all the school requirements were bought from the monetary gifts she consistently sent. She also sent clothing and other necessities each time it was my birthday. She became like a second mother that really wanted me to have the finer things of life,” Hope explains.

## Why Sponsorship is Important (continued)

Since Hope's family was involved in farming, her sponsor sent money in the form of a DFC (monetary gift—Designated Fund Gifts to Children) for the family to purchase an oxcart. She encouraged them to use the oxcart to take their surplus produce into town for sale so that the family could have income for other necessities.

"We bought the oxcart from the monetary gifts and our status has changed. We are the only ones with a means of transport in this community and this really makes me proud and that is why I made sure that I worked hard at school so that I don't disappoint my sponsor," she adds.

Another major highlight of her sponsorship is that the family has been able to build a bigger and better house through the monetary gifts from the sponsor.

"We have moved into a house built from the sponsorship funds and all my siblings have benefited. We also own goats now and we will remain grateful to ChildFund and my sponsor for the support we have continued to receive," says Hope adding that the family is now self sufficient and able to cope on their own.

At school, Hope has been a diligent student and has managed to sail through primary school. She is now completing the eleventh grade. She wants to study nursing after completing school in 2013. All this is thanks to her relationship with her sponsor.

Hope now serves as a youth leader in her community, encouraging other sponsored children to communicate with their sponsors regularly and helping those who are not able to read and write on their own.

Hope's story has been an encouragement to all and for ChildFund. It simply shows that poverty does not define the potential of a child. Even children from very poor families can become symbols of bright futures through sponsorship. Simply put, they can live their dreams.