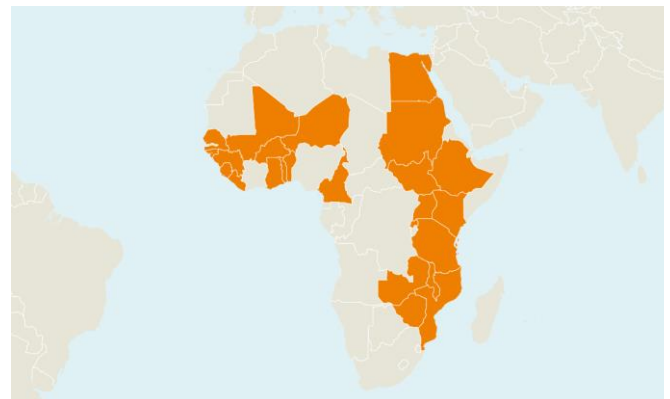


ANNUAL UPDATE

ZAMBIA

LUAPULA



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Luapula. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

Welcome to Luapula, Zambia! This region is full of scenic rivers, lakes, wildlife and a rich cultural heritage. Since 2022, our projects in Luapula have focused on ending child marriages, increasing access to sanitary latrines and building entrepreneurship. This year, 2,345 people discussed children’s rights, gender norms and built financial skills. We worked with local government, churches, organisations, parents and children in a holistic approach to address the root causes and drivers of child marriage.



913

entrepreneurs building financial literacy



4,879

community members trained in children’s rights



30

cooperatives received livestock and farming supplies

“INSTEAD OF GETTING MARRIED, I’M NOW GOING BACK TO SCHOOL. I WANT TO BE A NURSE.”

Mercy, 17 years old, Sponsored Child





NAME: FLORENCE

AGE: 12

**DREAMS TO BE: AN
ENTREPRENEUR**

“I USED TO FEEL LEFT OUT, BUT NOW I PLAY WITH FRIENDS EVERY DAY. BEING IN A SAVINGS GROUP HAS MADE ME SELF-RELIANT.”

Meet Florence

Like the child you sponsor, Florence is learning that she can do whatever she sets her mind to.

In Florence’s community, people with disabilities are often excluded. Becoming a member of a Village Savings and Loans group has opened the door to a new world.

No One Left Behind

A serious case of malaria at a young age left Florence with permanent hearing and speaking impairments. Teachers at her local school did not have the training to meet Florence’s needs from as early as pre-primary school, meaning that the young girl did not have access to education. More challenging still, disabilities in Central Zambia can be painfully misunderstood, and Florence was often excluded from social activities.

This year, children with disabilities in Central Zambia – including Florence – were selected as participants in our income generating programmes.

Learning Together

Though Florence was initially unsure what to do with her brand-new goats, our regular trainings warmly included Florence and other children with special needs into lessons about using these animals to both make and save money. Today, Florence is not only taking care of her goats, but practising her new financial skills as a member of a Village Savings and Loans group, where she talks about saving, budgeting and setting financial goals. Having a community and a new set of skills has greatly empowered this young businesswoman: today, Florence says she plans to generate seed funding to start a small business.



Florence describes herself feeling happier playing with her friends.

OUR PROJECTS IN LUAPULA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Since 2022, 3,759 community members in Luapula have discussed the dangers of child marriage and the importance of gender equality.

TOWARDS BETTER HEALTH



772 families in Luapula now have sanitary, private latrines.

Plan International's "Scaling Up WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) In Schools" project focuses on reducing rates of water- and sanitation-based illnesses in communities like Luapula around the world. These new latrines also serve another purpose: many girls in Zambia stay home from school during their periods, often because they simply don't have menstrual hygiene supplies. This can lead to girls falling behind in their studies, and even dropping out. In addition to working with local families to build nearly 800 latrines, we collaborated with 8 local schools to discuss the importance of thorough handwashing to 80 students. 30 village committees were formed to maintain the hygiene and sanitation of the new latrines.

I KNOW I CAN



Many families in Luapula live in poverty and lack economic safety to provide for their children.

From incomplete education to a lack of resources, there are many factors that keep the cycle of poverty spinning, and – with high rates of child marriage and early pregnancies – girls are especially vulnerable. This year, we clustered households into 202 cooperatives, where members collectively practised starting small businesses and learned how to write grant proposals for the Zambian government's new funding programme. 58 of these cooperatives, made up of 413 households, built financial literacy, discussing topics from savings and loans to insurance and investments. 109 cooperatives received materials to begin small businesses, like chicken breeding, beekeeping and vegetable growing.

"My family now has a garden, goats, chickens and sheep. Selling these products has helped us support our children up to the university level."

- Rogers (57) from Luapula



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come—and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Luapula.

- More than 81% of people in Luapula live in poverty. We will continue to provide vocational training, build business skills and support cooperatives.
- Over 31% of young job-seeking people in Luapula are unemployed. Next year, we will focus on how this affects girls and women by offering female leadership and entrepreneurship projects.
- Many young people are dependent on fishing and agriculture for their incomes. In 2024, we will strengthen the connection between the market and the Luapula community to boost incomes.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Thank you for your unwavering support to our program area. The resources you’ve provided to us have helped us reach more children and parents in the Luapula community.”

Dennis Machila
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment becomes long-term change—providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan’s Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



JANUARY



27

cooperatives trained to write grant applications

MARCH



772

sanitary, accessible household latrines built

SEPTEMBER



706

community members learned new farming skills

OCTOBER



3.000

baby chicks donated to local cooperatives