



**20
25**

**Annual
Report**



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Abbreviations

ECCD:	Early Childhood Care and Development
ECCE:	Early Childhood Care and Education
AOPB:	Annual Operating Plan and Budget
CO:	Country Office
CP:	Child Protection
CSP:	Country Strategic Plan
CAMEL:	Comprehensive Approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
DAC:	Day of the African Child
FY 25:	Fiscal Year 2025
ICT:	Information Communication Technology
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisation
LP:	Local Partner
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
PQR:	Program Quality Reflection
TOR:	Terms of Reference
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
WASH:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
PEF:	Partnership Effectiveness Fund
NSP:	Non-Sponsorship Program
JFA:	Joining Forces Alliance
EPW:	Education for Protection and Wellbeing of Children
DFC:	Designated Funds for Children
KOICA:	Korea International Cooperation Agency



ChildFund is uniquely positioned to make a meaningful difference everywhere we work, with:

87+

Years of service

24.3

Million lives reached

200+

Local partner organizations

**USD
700 M**

Invested in championing locally led development over the past decade.

Our Global Footprint

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

Our programs address the underlying conditions that prevent any child or youth from achieving their full potential. We place a special emphasis on child protection throughout our approach because violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect can reverse developmental gains in an instant. In 2024, we reached 24.3 million children and family members in 23 countries.

From the Country Director

It is my pleasure to present ChildFund Zambia's Annual Report for the 2025 fiscal year; a year marked by transition, renewed energy, and steadfast commitment to improving the lives of children, youth, families, and communities across our country.

In April 2025, I had the honour of stepping into the role of Country Director, building upon the strong foundation laid by my predecessor, Mr. Simbà Machingaidze. With more than two decades of experience in international development, I take on this responsibility with deep humility and a clear determination to advance ChildFund's mission in Zambia; to help every child reach their full potential through care, protection, and opportunity.

The year was defined by collaboration, innovation, and steady progress. Together with our partners and dedicated teams, we expanded programmes that directly respond to the challenges facing children, from barriers to education and limited access to safe spaces, to economic hardships within households.

Through our collective efforts, we reached 273,952 children and their families across Zambia.

Among our notable milestones was the distribution of 2,382 solar lamps in Mumbwa and Luangwa districts, with support from the Eonic Earth Foundation and SeAH. This seemingly modest intervention is transforming lives; allowing learners, particularly those in examination classes, to study safely at night, boosting their confidence, and brightening homes where electricity remains out of reach.

We also launched the Women Empowerment Project, which is equipping women with practical skills and tools to enhance household income, improve child wellbeing, and strengthen community leadership. Our youth-focused initiatives continued to grow, creating pathways to vocational training, financial literacy, and life skills that are preparing young people for the future.

This year also saw important strides in partnerships and local ownership.

“With more than two decades of experience in international development, I take on this responsibility with deep humility and a clear determination to advance ChildFund's mission in Zambia; to help every child reach their full potential through care, protection, and opportunity.”



273,952

children and their families
reached across Zambia



We secured a follow-up grant from DuPont, signed an MoU with the Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) to jointly advance education and policy advocacy, and formalised partnerships with five local Child Development Agencies. These steps represent our deepening commitment to locally led development, ensuring that community voices drive lasting change.

At the regional level, our participation in the Africa Leadership Team meeting in Senegal strengthened our alignment with continental priorities around sustainability, resilience, and effective grant management. The lessons drawn from these engagements are already shaping our strategies and programming in Zambia.

All these achievements were made against a backdrop of economic uncertainty and environmental challenges that continue to affect the most vulnerable. Yet, through it all, our communities have remained resilient, our teams dedicated, and our vision unwavering: a Zambia where every child grows up healthy, educated, and protected.

As we look to the future, our priorities include:

- Expanding access to inclusive and quality education.
- Promoting youth agency and women's economic development.
- Deepening community engagement and ownership through local partnerships.
- Leveraging technology and data to enhance program quality and reach.
- Broadening our funding base to ensure sustainability and growth.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who make this work possible; our donors, government partners, community organisations, and most importantly, the children and families who inspire us every day. Your trust, collaboration, and commitment continue to power our journey toward lasting change.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

VICTOR KOYI

ChildFund Zambia

ChildFund has been working in Zambia since 1983 reaching thousands of children, youth and caregivers every year. Through our child sponsorship programming and external grant funding, we have long-standing relationships with partner Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and the government at the District and National level through units working directly in and around the well-being of children, youth and women.

With nearly 30 dedicated country office staff and working with 5 local partner organizations in 21 districts, we respond to major emergencies and deliver sustainable child-focused development programs to build a better future for and with children across Zambia. In addition, we implement nationwide advocacy campaigns to impact all children and youth in the country.



Our Footprint

We go where the need is greatest, working in 21 districts to help children grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe.

Currently, ChildFund implements impactful child-focused programs through a network of 5 dedicated local implementing organizations and one where the Country Office is doing direct implementation.



Our Local Partners

- Chongwe Child Development Agency
- Luangwa Child Development Agency
- Lusaka Child Development Agency
- Kafue Child Development Agency
- Mumbwa Child Development Agency



Number of districts we work to help children grow up healthy, educated, skilled and safe

Our Program Priorities

 Child Protection	 Early Childhood Development	 Education	 Health and Nutrition	 WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene)
 Food Security	 Livelihoods	 Environmental sustainability	 Emergency Response	 Advocacy

FY 25 Highlights

Financial Investment:

122,856,634

Kwacha

Working in

33

Communities

Working with

5

Local partners

Country office staff

46

People reached

273,952

Children enrolled in sponsorship program

28,288

Our Reach

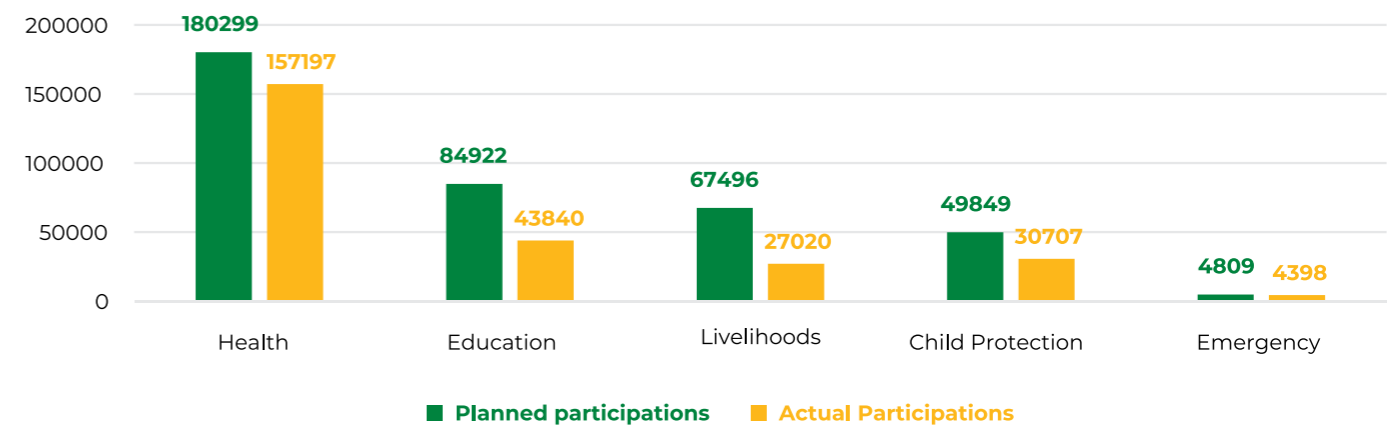
In FY25, ChildFund directly supported 273,952 children and their families across our program areas. The work focused on early childhood development, education, health, child protection, environmental sustainability, livelihoods, and food security.

The table below highlights the number of children and families reached through these planned interventions.

Our livelihoods programs reached 40% of targeted participants, with drought driving a shift toward emergency food security. By integrating resilience-building into our response, we supported immediate needs while preparing households for sustainable recovery.

Sector	Planned Participants	Actual Participants	% Reach
Health	180,299	157,197	87%
Education	84,922	43,840	52%
Livelihoods	67,496	27,020	40%
Child Protection	49,849	30,707	62%
Emergency	4,809	4,398	91%

FY25 Reach



Health & Nutrition

A lifetime of good health begins in childhood, yet in Zambia, ensuring good health and nutrition for children remains a critical challenge. Of the 7 million children under five, 1.82 million (26%) suffer from chronic malnutrition (stunting), while nearly 4% experience acute malnutrition. These figures underscore an urgent need for comprehensive interventions that address the root causes of poor health and nutrition.

At ChildFund, we believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life. That's why we collaborate with families, communities, local leaders, and the Ministry of Health to create child-focused, community-led solutions that improve health outcomes at every stage of childhood.

Our programs equip families and caregivers with the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to safeguard children's well-being—focusing on improved access to safe water, nutritious food, maternal care, and early childhood health services.

Maternal Child Health Project (MCHEP)

In partnership with the Lusaka Child Development Agency and with support from the Ministry of Health, ChildFund implemented the Maternal Child Health Project (MCHEP) to strengthen maternal, newborn, and child health services in underserved communities.

The following activities were implemented through this project:

- Training of healthcare workers in neonatal resuscitation, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC),

maternal mental health, and infection prevention

- Outreach to 114 antenatal and postnatal mothers, providing health education, nutrition counselling, and infant care support to promote safe pregnancies, healthy deliveries, and improved child wellbeing.
- Provision of KMC services to over 400 newborns
- Establishment of a dedicated KMC unit and expansion of the Special Care Baby Unit at Ng'ombe Clinic

Through task-shifting, mentorship, and strengthened linkages between communities and health facilities, the project enhanced the quality and efficiency of maternal and newborn health services. As a result, neonatal referrals decreased, and frontline health workers were better equipped to provide timely care. The MCHEP project has proven to be a scalable and effective model for improving maternal and newborn health in urban, resource-limited settings.

Baby Care Kits

With support from Lutheran World Relief, we also distributed 7,350 Baby Care Kits, reaching a total of 10,300 caregivers and infants across targeted communities. The kits, which contained essential items such as baby clothing, blankets, soap, and hygiene supplies, helped improve the health and wellbeing of newborns. In addition, caregivers received sensitization sessions on proper infant care practices, including hygiene, nutrition, and early childhood development, to ensure sustained impact beyond the distribution.



Emmanuel's Journey of Recovery Through ChildFund's Emergency Nutrition Response

Shibuyunji District, Central Province, Zambia

When baby Emmanuel Maimbo was born in Shibuyunji District during the severe drought of the 2023/24 farming season, his life began under a cloud of hardship. Tragically, Emmanuel lost his mother when he was only a month old, leaving him without access to breast milk, his most vital

source of early nourishment.

By the time he was six months old, Emmanuel was severely malnourished and showing signs of stunting. At that age, a healthy baby typically weighs between 7 and 8 kilograms, but Emmanuel weighed just 4.2 kilograms, well below the

World Health Organization's threshold for severe acute malnutrition. His condition was identified using a Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement, which showed a dangerously low reading, along with visible signs such as wasting (extreme thinness) and delayed developmental milestones.

Unable to digest solid foods and lacking the energy to play or engage, Emmanuel was often fatigued, weak, and significantly underweight for his age. His tiny frame and frail health alarmed his extended family. Deeply concerned, his aunt, Jane Maimbo, stepped in to care for him, though she felt helpless in the face of his nutritional needs.

The big breakthrough came when Emmanuel was enrolled in the Emergency Nutrition Response Program (ENRP), launched by ChildFund with financial support from ChildFund Korea in response to the devastating drought that left thousands of children at risk of acute malnutrition. The goal of this project was to improve the nutritional status and wellbeing of vulnerable children under five in affected communities across Zambia.

Through the program, Emmanuel began receiving therapeutic foods including baby formula and fortified porridge specifically designed to meet the urgent nutritional needs of malnourished infants. The results were almost immediate.

"We trained 25 Local Partner staff, over 120 health workers, and 230 community volunteers to implement nurturing care interventions at community and facility levels."

“Within weeks, we began to see a transformation in Emmanuel,” says Nalundu Ndemena, ENRP Project Manager at ChildFund Zambia. “His weight improved, his energy returned, and he started hitting developmental milestones that had been delayed. He’s now an active and playful child.”

Today, Emmanuel is 10 months old, eating well and playing joyfully with his siblings. His caregivers have also received hands-on training and support from the program to help them understand and implement proper feeding practices using locally available foods.

“Our approach goes beyond food distribution. We are equipping families with knowledge and confidence,” explains Ndemena.

“When caregivers know how to feed their children appropriately, even in challenging

environments, they gain a powerful tool to break the cycle of malnutrition.”

Thanks to the Emergency Nutrition Response Program, Emmanuel’s story is no longer one of loss and fear, but of hope and resilience. His aunt Jane expresses gratitude for the intervention that not only saved her nephew’s life but also restored her sense of agency.

“I no longer feel helpless,” Jane shares. “Thanks to the support we received, Emmanuel has a real chance at life. We’re filled with hope again.”

ChildFund’s ENRP continues to reach vulnerable children across drought-affected districts, working hand-in-hand with communities and the Ministry of Health to ensure that no child is left behind in the fight against malnutrition.

The six months project targeted 15,117 individuals, including 11,289 children (6-59 months) and 3,828 pregnant and lactating women.



18,000+

Mothers and children reached by ChildFund Emergency Nutrition Response Project in five of the hardest-hit districts.



“I no longer feel helpless, thanks to the support we received, Emmanuel has a real chance at life. We’re filled with hope again.” - Jane

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In Zambia, poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions continue to threaten the health, safety, and development of children. Limited access to clean water and proper sanitation fuels the spread of diseases such as cholera and diarrhea—leading causes of child mortality, malnutrition, and stunted growth.

In schools, inadequate WASH facilities hinder learning and attendance, particularly for girls during menstruation, while under-resourced healthcare settings increase the risk of infection and death for mothers and newborns. These challenges are further intensified by environmental changes, including more frequent droughts and floods. Improving WASH is essential to securing a healthier and brighter future for Zambia’s children.

According to UNICEF, 64% of households lack access to basic water services, and 82% lack basic hygiene facilities. To address these challenges, ChildFund implements comprehensive interventions at both community and household levels, expanding access to safe water and sanitation facilities while educating children and families on healthy hygiene practices to reduce waterborne diseases.

Through school-based WASH initiatives, we enhance children’s learning outcomes and retention by ensuring clean, safe, and healthy learning environments. At the same time, we strengthen community health by training local authorities, service providers, and water and sanitation committees to effectively manage water sources.

During the year under review, our efforts focused on:

- **Training teachers** in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) to better support adolescent girls.
- **Supporting school WASH clubs** to lead peer learning on hygiene and promote sanitation behaviors.

- **Conducting school-based sessions** on menstrual hygiene and adolescent health, helping reduce stigma and normalize conversations on sensitive topics.

As a result, over 8,000 children adopted improved hygiene practices, contributing to better health outcomes and increased school attendance.



Early Childhood Development

The first years of life are crucial. For young children, nutrition, healthcare, safe spaces, and loving interactions lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning and growth. Yet across Zambia, many children still lack access to these essentials.

From birth to age three, everyday moments—smiles, stories, songs, and play—build the neural connections that shape a child’s ability to learn, adapt, and thrive. At ChildFund, we know that early learning extends far beyond classrooms. Children need nurturing care, quality health services, protection, and the freedom to explore.

This year, we renewed our focus on children aged 0–5 through an integrated approach combining health, learning, and child protection. Key achievements included:

- Training healthcare workers in responsive caregiving, early stimulation, and nutrition.

- Providing reflective supervision to improve service quality.
- Equipping community volunteers to support caregivers through home visits and group counseling.

The impact has been clear. Caregivers are more confident in their parenting, integrating play into daily routines. One mother shared: *“I’ve learned to make simple toys from household items—now my child is more active and responsive.”* Beatrice from Chibombo stated. Health workers report earlier detection of developmental delays, and volunteers have strengthened links between families and health facilities.

Over 30,000 caregivers participated in programs to enhance parenting skills. Today, ChildFund supports 150 Early Childhood Development centers across 10 provinces, giving Zambia’s youngest children the care, stimulation, and learning opportunities they deserve.



“Being part of the parenting skills sessions has changed how I raise my children,” said a Musonda a mother from Chongwe. “I have learned how to talk with them, help them learn, and create a safe, loving home. With the help of ChildFund and the Early Childhood Development center in our community, my 5 year daughter is now more confident and prepared for school.”

Education

Education is more than the transmission of knowledge, it is a transformative force that empowers individuals, strengthens communities, and builds nations. Yet, despite its undeniable importance, many children in Zambia continue to face barriers to accessing quality learning opportunities due to social and economic challenges.

At ChildFund, we take a holistic approach to education—one that nurtures both learning and well-being. We work hand in hand with teachers, parents, and communities to create safe, inclusive, and supportive environments where children can reach their full potential. Recognizing that academic achievement is deeply connected to emotional and physical well-being, our education initiatives focused on:

- Building teacher capacity through training in child-centered methodologies and alternatives to corporal punishment.
- Equipping parents and caregivers with positive parenting skills and practical tools to support children's learning at home.
- Leveraging technology to promote learning continuity and reach children during times of disruption or crisis.

During the year under review, ChildFund supported 184 schools—including 17 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres, 136 primary schools, and 29 secondary schools—reaching 169,263 learners (80,853 boys and 88,410 girls). Working closely with the Ministry of Education and community-based organizations, we strengthened school governance structures, promoted learner participation, and enhanced the safety and inclusiveness of learning environments.

To improve access to learning materials, we distributed over 15,000 Educational Kits, benefiting 20,210 learners, and provided 2,382 solar lamps to examination-class learners, ensuring they could study effectively even after dark.

In a major milestone, ChildFund signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) to foster collaboration in mobilizing joint funding, building institutional capacity, and advocating for policies that guarantee every child, regardless of background or circumstance has access to quality education.

 **169,263**
Learners reached

 **15,000**
Educational Kits distributed

 **2,382**
Solar lamps provided



Now I Can Focus on My Education. This dormitory has changed my Life” - Anna


For 19-year-old Anna, education has always been a priority, but the journey to school made it almost impossible to succeed. Living in Shikatende, a rural community in Zambia's Central Province, the grade 11 secondary school student had to walk nearly 10 kilometers each way to reach school. The daily trek was long, exhausting, and often demoralizing.

“I used to get to school very late. Sometimes it was even 08:00 and my friends were already learning,” Anna recalls. “They would start a new topic and I'd just be lost.” The physical toll was just as demanding. “My shoes would get dirty and wear out quickly,” she says. “By the time I got home after school, I was so tired I couldn't even study.”

Despite her best efforts, Anna's tardiness often led to punishment from teachers who didn't understand the daily challenges she faced. “Sometimes they would discipline me for being late, not realizing how far I had to come,” she shares.

For many girls in Zambia, long distances to school is a barrier to completing their education. Fatigue, poor academic performance, and increased vulnerability to attacks.

Everything changed when ChildFund, in partnership with the Mumbwa Child Development Agency (MCDA), constructed the first-ever girls' dormitory at her Secondary School in Shibuyunji District. Designed to accommodate 64 girls, the dormitory was created to provide

 *Despite her best efforts, Anna's tardiness often led to punishment from teachers who didn't understand the daily challenges she faced. “Sometimes they would discipline me for being late, not realizing how far I had to come,” she shares.*





at the dormitory,” she says. “She is more attentive, confident, and her academic performance has really picked up. This dormitory has given our girls the space they need to thrive.”

But while Anna and her peers now have a supportive place to learn, the dormitory is already at full capacity. Many other girls still face the same daily struggle Anna once did — long, tiring walks to school, poor academic performance, and increased vulnerability to early marriage and pregnancy.

The Need to Do More

“There are still girls walking long distances and it’s affecting their performance,” Anna says. “We need another dormitory so more girls can be accommodated. It would also help prevent teenage pregnancies because girls would be safer and more focused on school.”

Gracious Nkeete, Manager of MCDA, echoes this sentiment. “The dormitory has shown us just how much potential our girls have when given the right environment,” she says. “But one building is not enough. We must continue investing in girls’ education by scaling up efforts like this one across the district.”

To date, ChildFund has constructed girls’ dormitories with 64-bed capacity at Mwembeshi, Mwanvule, Myooye, and Mululi schools in Mumbwa, as well as a 66-bed dormitory in Luangwa District. These facilities are already making a significant impact, but the demand continues to grow.

ChildFund remains deeply committed to advancing girls’ education, knowing that when girls get an education, their families and entire communities benefit. Through local partnerships and ongoing support, we are working toward a future where every girl, no matter where they live, can go to school, stay in school, and succeed.

a safe, supportive, and stable environment for students facing challenges similar to Anna’s.

“When the dormitory was finished, my teachers helped make sure I was accommodated,” Anna says. “It was the best thing that’s ever happened to my education.”

Now, living just steps away from her classroom, Anna has time and energy to study, and it’s showing in her grades. “I like living in the dormitory because the rooms are nice, meals are prepared, and I can study anytime I want,” she beams. “Now I’m able to catch up on lessons, and I’m doing well in class.”

Anna’s transformation hasn’t gone unnoticed. Her teacher, Melody Simwansa, has witnessed the change first-hand. “Anna has shown remarkable improvement since she started living

To date, ChildFund has constructed girls’ dormitories with 64-bed capacity at Mwembeshi, Mwanvule, Myooye, and Mululi schools in Mumbwa, as well as a 66-bed dormitory in Luangwa District.

Child Protection

For every child to reach their full potential, they must first be safe. Yet across Zambia, too many children continue to face abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence—threats that rob them of their dignity and derail their development.

Violence against children is entirely preventable. At ChildFund, we are driven by the vision

of a nation where every child grows up free from fear and harm—where safety, care, and respect define childhood. Through our child protection and safeguarding initiatives, we work to ensure that every child we reach, support, or serve is protected from abuse, and that our programs and staff uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability.



Local Partner staff received comprehensive training on child protection standards and procedures.



Teachers trained by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services as Child Protection Mentors.



Children reached by mentors with life-changing messages on safety and protection.

In FY25, we continued to strengthen Zambia's child protection ecosystem by investing in people, systems, and communities.

To deepen institutional safeguarding, 61 Local Partner staff received comprehensive training on child protection standards and procedures. This investment reinforces our joint accountability and ensures that safeguarding is embedded across all levels of our work.

Recognizing schools as vital spaces for prevention and early intervention, we empowered teachers as frontline defenders of children's rights. 100 teachers were trained by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services as Child Protection Mentors, equipped with skills in abuse identification, prevention, and response, guided by the Child Code Act. These mentors reached 8,358 children (3,760 boys and 4,598 girls) with life-changing messages on safety and protection.

A child without a legal identity remains invisible to systems meant to protect them. In Chibombo District, ChildFund facilitated the registration and issuance of birth certificates to 6,400 children, giving them legal recognition and access to essential services such as education and healthcare.

With our Local Partners, we expanded community awareness campaigns on child abuse prevention and reporting—empowering children, youth, and adults to recognize signs of abuse and report them through the right channels. In FY25, 43,234 people were reached through these initiatives, reinforcing collective responsibility to keep every child safe.

“Before the sessions, I used to panic a lot whenever exams were near. Now I've learned how to calm myself and focus better. I even help my friends when they feel stressed too.”

Misozi (aged 16 from Luangwa Primary School)

Protecting Children in the Digital Age

As children spend more time online, digital spaces bring new risks. To respond, ChildFund implemented a Short-Term Exceptional Project (STEP) on *Online Child Safety* in Mumbwa, Lusaka, and Kafue Districts. The project delivered:

- Public announcements and community drama performances highlighting online dangers and safety tips.
- Caregiver and stakeholder trainings to strengthen digital literacy and vigilance.
- A six-part radio series on ZNBC Radio 4, produced with World Vision and Kafue Child Development Agency.
- A national TV discussion on ZNBC TV1, where ChildFund's Country Director advocated for child and youth online protection.

The project also led to the development of district-level work plans to sustain online safety efforts beyond the project's lifespan.

Promoting Mental Health as a Pillar of Protection

Recognizing the deep connection between mental well-being and child protection, ChildFund reached **2,864 learners** (1,662 boys and 1,202 girls) with mental health and psychosocial support sessions. These sessions helped children learn to manage exam-related stress, protect their emotional health, and seek help when needed.

“The mental health lessons taught me that it's okay to talk about my feelings and ask for help. I feel more confident and happier both at school and at home.”

Misheck (aged 14 from Chimutengo school)

Youth Development

Youth aged 18 to 35 make up over one-third of Zambia's population, yet many continue to face major socio-economic challenges — from unemployment and limited education to poverty, lack of financial support, and social instability. These barriers hinder their potential and limit their ability to contribute to the country's development.

At ChildFund, we believe that when young people are supported, communities thrive. Our youth programs are designed to equip them with the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed. Through partnerships with local organizations, the private sector, and government agencies, we deliver vocational training, mentorship, financial literacy, and access to startup capital, with a strong focus on rural and underserved areas. These initiatives are helping youth build sustainable livelihoods and become agents of positive change in their communities.

ChildFund strengthened its commitment to children, youth, and families through holistic programs advancing education, livelihoods, youth development, and environmental resilience. Through strategic partnerships and community engagement, our work reached thousands of children and families, restoring hope, dignity, and opportunity.

To improve household resilience and food security, ChildFund implemented livestock-based livelihood programs in Chibombo, Kafue, and Lusaka. Families received livestock and training in animal husbandry and entrepreneurship, empowering them to generate income and sustain their livelihoods.

Partnerships with district agriculture and veterinary offices ensured long-term impact — promoting economic resilience, self-reliance, and dignity for vulnerable households.

In pursuit of greater impact, ChildFund initiated the development of a Youth Livelihood Model (YLM) — a strategic framework aimed at equipping young people with the skills, knowledge, and resources to thrive in employment and entrepreneurship. Guided by a participatory approach and best practices, the model will be pilot-tested to inform future youth programs.



CHIBOMBO
270
Goats



KAFUE
123
Goats



LUSAKA
150
Chickens

Promoting Environmental Stewardship

With environmental changes increasingly threatening children's well-being and community stability, ChildFund expanded its environmental sustainability programming by engaging over 40 young people as environmental ambassadors.

Together, they planted more than 2,000 trees in schools and selected communities and reached over 1,000 community members with messages on environmental protection through radio programs and awareness campaigns.

“ChildFund expanded its environmental sustainability programming by engaging over 40 young people as environmental ambassadors.”

New training initiative prepares youth for green jobs

In today's rapidly changing world, the green economy is emerging as one of the most promising areas for job creation, and young people are at the center of this transformation.

In Zambia, ChildFund, in collaboration with the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA) and partners in the private sector, recently launched a program to equip youth with future-ready skills in solid waste management and sustainable entrepreneurship.



Mwiinga is one of the young people that have been trained and appreciates the knowledge received.

Over 50 young people from the Lusaka Child Development Agency completed an intensive training program on solid waste management and green jobs. The initiative combined theory, mentorship, and hands-on learning experiences

designed to open up new livelihood opportunities in recycling, waste collection, and environmental conservation.

As part of the training, participants toured several waste management and recycling plants in Lusaka. These visits, made possible through partnerships with private recycling companies and municipal waste facilities, offered participants first-hand exposure to the entire waste value chain, from collection and sorting to processing and product innovation.

"We learned how waste can actually be turned into income," shared Mwiinga, one of the participants. "What people throw away every day can become the foundation for a clean environment and a sustainable business."

With ChildFund's support, the trained youth have submitted proposals to two private firms interested in supporting youth-led businesses.

In addition, the Government of Zambia has pledged to link them to Constituency Development Fund (CDF) opportunities to help scale their enterprises.

The participants plan to form small waste management and recycling businesses,

working alongside local councils, community groups, and private collectors. Through these efforts, they aim to collect, sort, and resell recyclable materials while promoting proper waste disposal and community awareness.

This initiative is part of ChildFund's broader strategy to prepare youth for emerging industries such as green technology, environmental management, and sustainable agriculture; sectors expected to drive Zambia's future employment and economic resilience.

"Our goal is to equip young people with practical, market-relevant skills that align with Zambia's Green Growth Strategy and the global shift toward sustainability," said Nicholas Mushimba, Technical Manager for Youth and Livelihood at ChildFund Zambia. "Through partnerships with government agencies like ZEMA and private recyclers, we're helping youth not only find jobs but create them."



Trained young people collecting waste for recycling

Emergency Response

In recent years, Zambia has faced a growing number of environmental related crises, with devastating consequences for children. The country has witnessed an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, particularly droughts and floods, further weakening already vulnerable communities. The 2023/2024 agricultural season saw one of the worst droughts in decades, attributed to the El Niño weather phenomenon, which affected over 1.6 million farming households, leaving many families on the brink of starvation.

Although the Zambian government has made commendable strides by implementing free primary education, the impact of environmental shocks continues to create significant barriers to learning. Approximately 1.2 million people in Zambia are currently facing crisis-level or worse food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), directly affecting children's well-being and their ability to attend and perform in school

(IPC, 2024). As food prices soar and livelihoods deteriorate, many children are forced to leave school to help support their families or are unable to access basic educational materials.

Emergency Nutrition Response Project

In response to the severe drought that affected Zambia during the 2023/2024 farming season, ChildFund launched an Emergency Nutrition Response Project, reaching over 18,000 mothers and children in five of the hardest-hit districts: Chongwe, Kafue, Chilanga, Rufunsa, and Shibuyunji.

The project aimed to improve the nutritional status and wellbeing of vulnerable children under five in affected communities. Key interventions included the provision of iron-rich food supplements and support for therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs to reduce cases of moderate and acute malnutrition in children.

"The 2023/2024 agricultural season saw one of the worst droughts in decades, attributed to the El Niño weather phenomenon, which affected over 1.6 million farming households, leaving many families on the brink of starvation."

 **1.2 M**

People faced crisis levels during the period of the drought.

 **18,000**

Mothers and children reached by ChildFund Emergency Nutrition Response Project in five of the hardest-hit districts.



Child Sponsorship

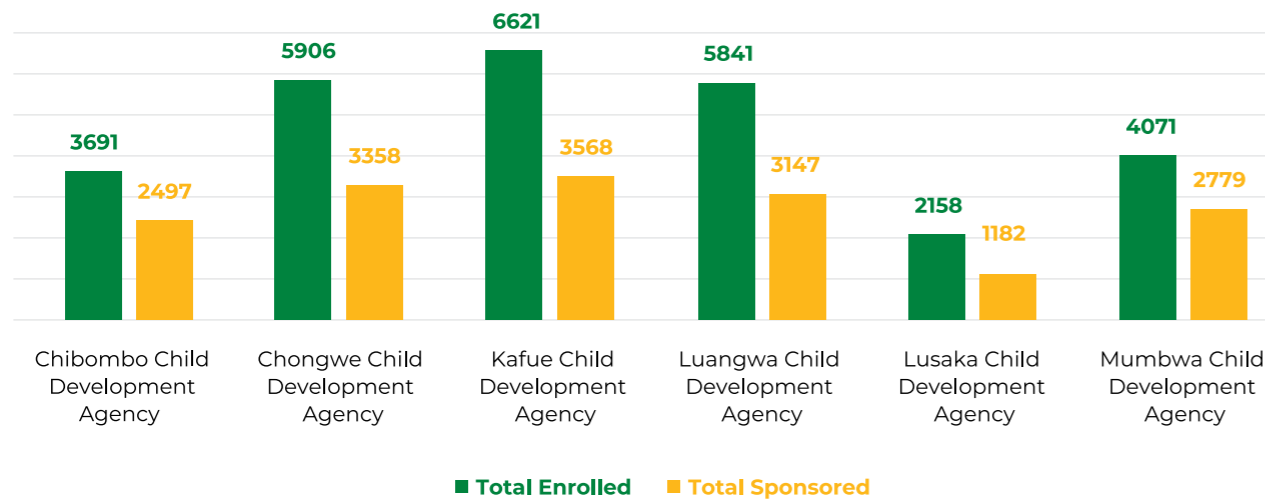
Enrolment and Sponsorship

During the fiscal year 2025, ChildFund Zambia expanded its sponsorship operations to one more community—Chiawa, under the Kafue Child Development Agency local partner—

bringing the total number of supported communities to 33 across 21 districts in Zambia.

As of the end of the fiscal year, the sponsorship program had **28,288 enrolled children**, with a gender distribution of 49% male and 51% female.

Sponsored Children vs Total Enrolment by Local Partners



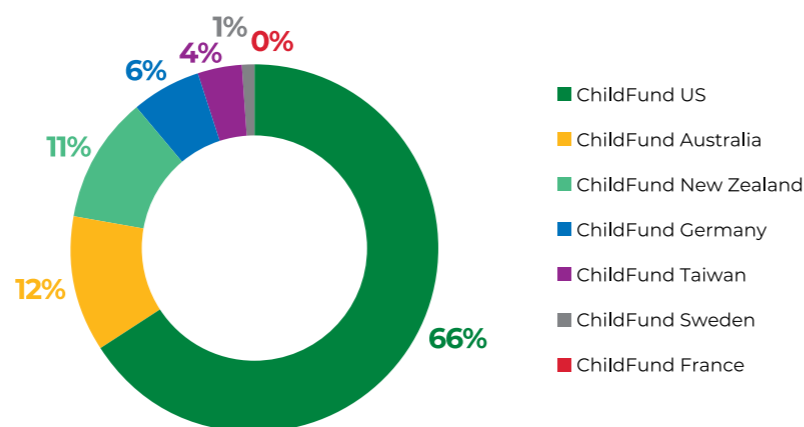
Out of the total enrolled children, **58.44% (16,531)** were linked to individual sponsors. This represents a 6.88% decrease in sponsorship linkage compared to the same period in FY24. The decline was largely attributed to a shift in sponsorship priorities by alliance

partners in Australia, Denmark, and Ireland.

ChildFund Zambia closed FY25 with seven alliance partners actively supporting sponsor acquisition. The table below summarizes the number of sponsors by international affiliate:

International Affiliate	Number of Sponsors
ChildFund US	10,952
ChildFund Australia	2,024
ChildFund New Zealand	1,702
ChildFund Germany	1,032
ChildFund Taiwan	689
ChildFund Sweden	131
ChildFund France	1
Total	16,531

Sponsorship Distribution by Alliance Partner



"My sponsor became part of my life story" - Nurse Kabwe

Kabwe grew up in Kafue with her parents, twin sister and three other siblings. Life was not always easy for Kabwe. Her family often struggled to make ends meet, and there were times when even the basics like school supplies, uniforms, and meals were hard to come by. Her big breakthrough came when she was enrolled in ChildFund's sponsorship program within Kafue District.

"When ChildFund came into my life, everything changed," Kabwe recalls. "My sponsor, Carol Formica, supported my education, and became part of my life story. Her letters, her encouragement — they gave me strength to believe that I could become someone who helps others."

As a child, Kabwe was known for her energy and compassion. She joined the Children's committee under ChildFund, where she helped raise

awareness among her peers about abuse and children's rights. Later, she became a peer educator, speaking to other young people about safety, health, and self-confidence.

"Being part of the Children's committee opened my eyes," she says. "I met children who had gone through so much pain. Listening to their stories made me realize I wanted to be there for people in their hardest moments. That's when I knew I wanted to become a nurse."

With support from ChildFund and encouragement from her sponsor, Kabwe worked hard to achieve her dream. The road was not easy, balancing schoolwork, helping her family, and staying hopeful through financial struggles, but she never gave up.

Today, Kabwe is a registered nurse at Kafue Health Center, where she provides care, comfort, and kindness to those

who need it most. Yet her spirit of service goes beyond the hospital walls. She continues to speak to youth groups as a peer educator, encouraging others to believe in themselves and use every opportunity to change their lives.

Alongside her work in health, Kabwe also discovered her entrepreneurial side through ChildFund's life skills and youth programs. She now runs a small baking and event décor business that employs other young people, helping them learn skills and earn an income.

Her journey shows what is possible when children are supported to dream, grow, and lead.

"In addition to financial support, child sponsorship is a bridge of love, hope, and opportunity as it connects children and sponsors," says Clay Chambisha, ChildFund Zambia's Sponsorship Manager.

"Every sponsored child carries within them the potential to transform not only their own life but also the lives of others in their community.

Today, more than 28,000 children are enrolled in ChildFund Zambia's sponsorship program, with over 18,000 already linked to individual sponsors around the world. Each sponsorship helps children access education, healthcare, and skills that prepare them for a brighter future, just like Kabwe, whose journey continues to inspire hope in others.



Women and Micro Small Enterprises Support Project (WEMSES)

In FY25, ChildFund, through the Women and Micro Small Enterprises Support Project (WEMSES), focused on strengthening the skills, knowledge, and opportunities of women and youth in Lusaka district to improve their livelihoods and participation in local economic activities. The project was officially launched on 26th February 2025.

A key activity involved training volunteers to serve as study circle organizers in four low-income townships—Chawama, Garden, John Howard, and Ngwerere. Forty-seven (47) participants, both women and men, received instruction on study circle methodology, equipping them to initiate, guide, and monitor community-based study circles.

Unlike traditional teaching, study circles encourage participants to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and engage in discussion. This approach promotes learning, social awareness, confidence, and active participation in community life.

The training focused on:

- Understanding study circles: purpose, principles, and how they differ from traditional education.
- Planning and organizing: group size, goal setting, recruiting participants, and defining learning outcomes.
- Creating an inclusive environment: building trust, managing diverse opinions, and fostering respectful dialogue.
- Content and resource management: selecting materials, guiding discussions, and encouraging shared responsibility for learning.

Following the training, organizers conducted community outreach through door-to-door visits, community meetings, and announcements to raise awareness and generate interest. By June 2025, 160 study circle groups had been formed, with group sizes ranging from 7 to 16 participants.

The study circles have delivered multiple benefits, including:

- Peer learning and academic support.
- Leadership skills development for women and youth.
- Increased community involvement and ownership of local initiatives.



160

Study circle groups formed by June 2025, with group sizes ranging from 7 to 16 participants.



47

Participants, both women and men who received instruction on study circle methodology.



“Unlike traditional teaching, study circles encourage participants to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and engage in discussion.”

WattsOn is lighting the path to learning and safety



In response to the growing triple planetary crisis of environmental change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, ChildFund joined hands with the Eonic Earth Foundation to bring clean, renewable energy solutions to vulnerable children living in remote Game Management Areas (GMAs) of Zambia. These regions face severe environmental challenges that continue to affect children’s access to education, health, and safety.

During the 2023–2024 rainy season, Zambia experienced a devastating drought that depleted major water sources, disrupted ecosystems, and heightened human-wildlife conflict. As wildlife encroached on community spaces in search of water, children’s safety and freedom of movement were compromised, further threatening access to schools and basic services.

To help address these challenges, ChildFund introduced the WattsOn Initiative —an innovative, renewable energy solution that ensures learning continues after sunset.



21%

of children relied on dangerous lighting sources before they received the solar lights.



10%

of children reported experiencing fire related accidents due to candle use.



2,382

Learners in two districts received personal solar lamps.

Through the initiative, solar-powered lamps were distributed to learners in examination classes across 16 off-grid schools, providing a safe and sustainable alternative to hazardous lighting sources. Originally piloted in Kenya, the initiative is now being expanded across Africa, with ongoing implementation in Uganda, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

The impact in Zambia has been immediate and meaningful. A total of 2,329 learners in two districts received personal solar lamps. Before this intervention, 21% of children relied on dangerous lighting sources such as candles, kerosene, or firewood, contributing to indoor air pollution and posing serious fire risks. 10%

of children reported experiencing fire-related accidents due to candle use. With access to clean solar light, children can now study safely and effectively, even after dark. The solar lamps have also improved household safety by deterring wild animals at night, providing families with an added sense of protection.

The results translate into improved academic performance, reduced dropout rates, and safety for children in some of Zambia's most marginalized communities. For many, this simple yet powerful tool has turned evenings once defined by darkness into hours of learning, creativity, and connection.

“2,329 learners in two districts received personal solar lamps. Before this intervention, 21% of children relied on dangerous lighting sources such as candles, kerosene, or firewood, contributing to indoor air pollution and posing serious fire risks. 10% of children reported experiencing fire-related accidents due to candle use.”



Luangwa District Commissioner, Mr Luke Chikani, receiving the solar lights for onward distribution to children.

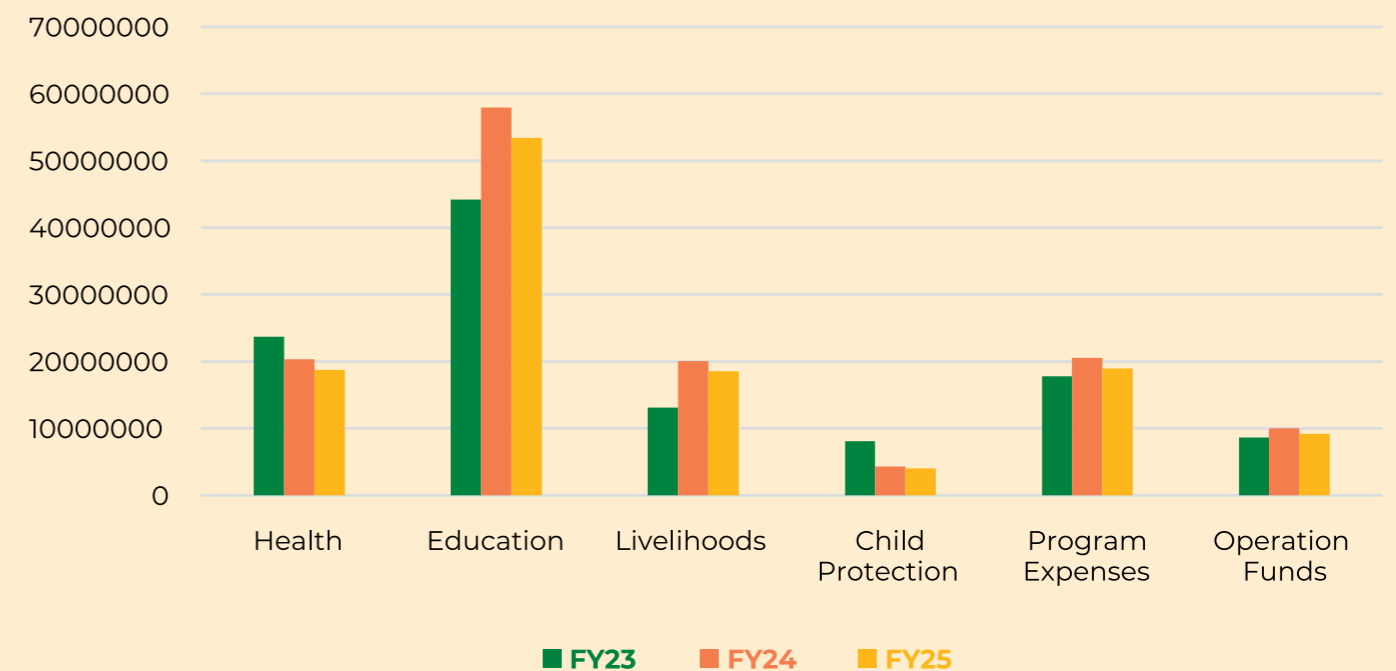
Financials

Total Income

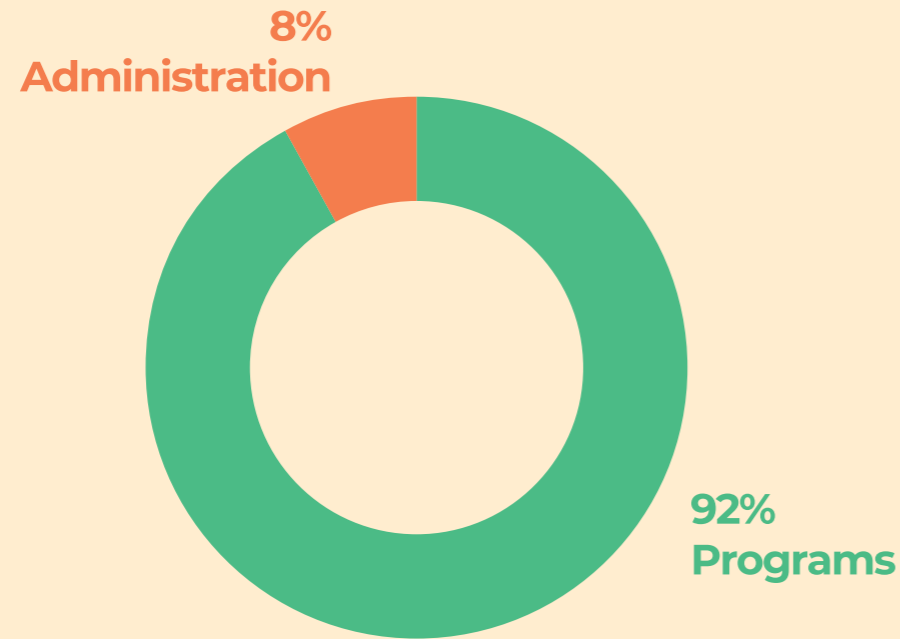
SOURCES OF FUNDS	USD
Children's Gifts	438,568
Goods In Kind	1,379,070
Grant Funding	664,668
Non Sponsorhip Funds	351,418
Partner Effectiveness Fund	563,194
Sponsorship Funds	2,672,354
Working Fund	541,478
TOTAL	6,610,752

SOURCES OF FUNDS	ZMW
Children's Gifts	34,291,359
Goods In Kind	6,045,554
Grant Funding	10,239,226
Non Sponsorhip Funds	55,207,093
Partner Effectiveness Fund	6,123,563
Sponsorship Funds	12,482,675
Working Fund	8,834,196
TOTAL	133,223,665.42

Investment by Sector



Programs Versus Administration Costs



Total Income Trend Over the Past 3 Years

SOURCES OF FUNDS	FY23	FY24	FY25	% Change	FY23	FY24	FY25	% Change
	ZMW	ZMW	ZMW		USD	USD	USD	
Children's Gifts	7,645,533	34,291,359	11,089,175	-68%	438,568	433,924	402,053	-7%
Goods In Kind	23,839,983	6,045,554	6,782,613	12%	1,379,070	1,801,366	259,413	-86%
Grant Funding	12,299,631	10,239,226	12,410,810	21%	664,668	288,020	452,444	57%
Non Sponsorship Funds	6,045,384	6,123,563	9,141,580	49%	351,418	260,970	335,676	29%
Partner Effectiveness Fund	9,912,424	12,482,675	12,772,487	2%	563,194	523,171	465,623	-11%
Sponsorship Funds	47,131,305	55,207,093	60,108,402	9%	2,672,354	2,393,437	2,205,498	-8%
Working Fund	8,676,196	8,834,196	10,551,567	19%	541,478	378,089	386,324	2%
TOTAL	115,550,455	133,223,665	122,856,634	13%	6,610,752	6,078,977	4,507,031	-26%

Our Development Partners

A special thank you to all our donors and partners!

With heartfelt appreciation, we thank our donors, sponsors, and partners around the world. Your steady support has improved the lives of many children, families, and communities across Zambia. On behalf of all the children, youth, families and communities that we work with, we thank you for your compassion, commitment, and continued partnership in this work.



Let Communities See Themselves in the Work

Geoffrey Lungu, Sponsor Relations Officer - on How Lasting Change Begins with Local Ownership



Geoffrey is one of ChildFund Zambia's longest serving employees. Since 1987, he has walked hand in hand with communities, children, and colleagues to implement various development and humanitarian programs.

Geoffrey's journey with ChildFund began in a modest community office in Rufunsa District in 1987. At the time, the organization was known as Christian Children's Fund, and Geoffrey was appointed as a community-based administrator. It was a humble beginning, his desk was a gathering space for caregivers, local leaders, and children. But for Geoffrey, it was more

than a job; it was an entry point into a life devoted to meaningful change. "I was the link between the community, Federation and the country office," he recalls. "My role was to support sponsorship processes and make sure every child's story reached their sponsor truthfully." As Geoffrey immersed himself in this work, something deeper unfolded. He began

“Working at the grassroots level taught me that development doesn't work when it's top-down,” he explains. “It must be bottom-up, planned with communities, not for them. That's how you build ownership. That's how a project lasts.”

to understand that lasting impact doesn't come from delivering solutions, it comes from listening, involving, and walking with the community every step of the way.

Through the years, Geoffrey moved into more senior roles—from coordinating programs across multiple districts to mentoring younger staff as a Sponsor Relations Officer, firstly at the Federation office in Chongwe and later at Country Office. But the essence of his work remained grounded in one principle: community participation.

He shares with quiet pride how his team once introduced Children's Committees in Rufunsa. It was a new concept at the time, giving children a structured way to share their thoughts and shape the programs meant to support them. "That changed everything," he says. "We saw children becoming active participants, not just passive

receptants. That model grew beyond Rufunsa, it was scaled across other areas. And it all started because we trusted the voices of those we usually overlook.

He recounts story after story of children he met in the early years, some facing incredible hardship, who are now leaders, parents, and professionals. One that stands out is Oliver, a boy who once sold homemade braziers to make ends meet. With support from the sponsorship program, Oliver went back to school, eventually completed college, and now leads a department in the civil service. "That's the power of working with people, not on them," Geoffrey says. "It's the community that carried Oliver forward, ChildFund just walked alongside."

Reflecting on his years across different levels of the organization, Geoffrey sees each stage as a classroom. "At the community level, we were like family. At the federation level, collaboration mattered most. At the national level, we align with vision. But in all of it, the principle stays the same: participation is not optional. It is the foundation."

He credits his own growth to the people around him, including his colleagues, mentors, and community members who challenged and encouraged him. One of his early inspirations was Priscilla Chama, the current Communications Specialist at ChildFund. "She visited us during sponsorship awareness events, and the way she engaged, genuinely,

passionately left a mark on me." Today, Geoffrey's goal is to see local partners fully empowered to manage sponsorship services on their own. "That's the future, strong local ownership. My role is to prepare them, support them, and then step back when they're ready."

Even after decades of service, Geoffrey remains warm and unassuming. "It's hard to get me upset," he says with a grin. "I may feel down sometimes, but I try to stay hopeful."

And if he had to sum up everything he's learned?

"Lead. Follow. Leave," he says thoughtfully. "In this work, you must be ready to lead. If not, be willing to follow. And if you can't do either, step aside. Let someone else move the mission forward."



Geoffrey believes that participation isn't just about holding meetings or ticking boxes. It's about respect. "You have to believe the community has something valuable to offer. When they see their ideas reflected in a project, they commit to it. They protect it. And they teach others."

Our Team

At ChildFund, we recognize that our staff are our greatest asset in delivering lasting change for children and communities. In 2025, our workforce comprised 46 dedicated professionals (23 women and 23 men) reflecting our commitment to gender balance and inclusivity.

Throughout the year, we continued to prioritize the development of a motivated, skilled, and high-performing team. Key investments were made in talent development, staff well-being, and the promotion of a collaborative, accountable work culture.

As part of our efforts to enhance organizational effectiveness and responsiveness to staff needs, we initiated a comprehensive revision of the

Human Resource Manual. The updated manual—aligned with national labour laws—focuses on improving staff conditions of service and strengthening HR policies and procedures.

In addition, targeted training, strengthened performance management systems, and staff wellness initiatives contributed to a more supportive work environment. These measures are designed to help our staff thrive both professionally and personally.

We remain committed to attracting, developing, and retaining top talent to advance ChildFund Zambia's mission: ensuring that every child can grow up safe, healthy, educated, and able to realize their full potential.



Our Team



Victor Koyi,
Country Director



Mercy Chabu Ngoma,
Programs and Sponsorship Director



Siprosa Maroko, Finance Director, Ethiopia, Zambia & Mozambique



Abraham Banda,
Finance Manager



George Sichone, Business Development Manager



Mwaka Namwiinga, Snr Human Resources Manager, Zambia & Mozambique

Board Members

Jennifer Nyoni,
Chairperson

Professor Kawwanga Yambayamba (PhD), Member

Khadija Mvula,
Member

Dr. Matthews Hara,
Member

Gloria Mubita,
Member

Angela Lungu

Senior Partnership
Portfolio Specialist

Nalundu Ndemena

Technical Manager, Health

Nicholas Mushimba

Technical Manager Youth,
Livelihood & GIK (Gifts-In-Kind)

Rosemary Chibbonta

Project Manager

Clay Chambisha

Sponsorship Manager

Shambulo Kabangu

M&E/KML Manager

Tashar Simasiku

Sr. Education Specialist

Michelo Mbozi

Admin and HR Specialist

Chisanga Chanda

Procurement Officer

Chimuka Hamusunse

Child Protection Specialist

Bright Chalwe

Business Development
Specialist

Priscilla Chama-Mpengula

Communications Specialist

Chingwerema Nyirongo

IT Analyst Zambia &
Mozambique

Milika Kakuwa

Project Officer

Astess Soko

Executive Assistant

Memory Daka

Assistant Sponsorship officer

Wiles Mbale

Officer- Sponsorship

Geoffrey Lungu

Sponsorship Officer

Nebor Matongo

Sponsorship Officer

Tamara Nyirenda

Accountant

Muchindu Hakola-Ndhlovu

Accountant Senior,
GSS (Zambia, Ethiopia
& Mozambique)

Martin Lutangu

Program Officer - Health

Mavis Banda

Project Manager

Mwape Mukando

Senior Provincial Coordinator

Selina Lukendo

Senior Provincial Coordinate

Moses Nsamba

Coordinator, Chibombo District

Tionge Tembo

M & E officer

Maggie Mutambula

Assistant, Administrative & HR

Victor Ngandwe

Programs & Sponsorship
Assistant - Intern

Biggie Sibalwa

Driver

Copper Soko

Driver

Emmanuel Mubanga

Driver

Atotwe Mususu

Driver

Leonard Banda

Office Assistant

SuwilANJI Simwanza

Office Assistant

Charity Miyoba

Office Assistant

“With nearly 30 dedicated country office staff and working with 5 local partner organizations in 21 districts, we respond to major emergencies and deliver sustainable child-focused development programs to build a better future for and with children across Zambia.”



