

Education Action for Marginalised Children in Zambia



PARTNER (FUNDER): HEI VERDEN FROM NORWAY

ABOUT PROJECT

Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) with support from Hei Verden has been implementing a project called Education Action for Marginalized Children in Zambia to support vulnerable children access quality education in a safe and healthy environment in twenty (20) project schools in Sesheke district.

AIM OF THE PROJECT:

The aim of the project has been to improve enrolment and progression, inclusive quality education, government improved support, access to WASH and other health preventive and control mechanisms, enhanced Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) capacity to influence education policy and monitor service delivery in community schools and the DEB officials' more understanding in the implementation of the community schools' operational guidelines.

PROJECT SCHOOLS

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| 1.Hope community school | 11.Lubuwa community school |
| 2.Muyabalo community school | 12.Kamumani community school |
| 3.Likanda community school | 13.Mbowe community school |
| 4.Kande community school | 14.Mandila community school |
| 5.Nkusu community school | 15.Kasu community school |
| 6.Sansa community school | 16.Malomwe community school |
| 7.Lucwe community school | 17.Simatapa community school |
| 8.Katonto community school | 18.Kangombe community schools |
| 9.Litoya community school | 19.Katete community schools |
| 10.Lukaka community school | 20.Sabelo community school |

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

TRAINING OF VOLUNTEER TEACHERS UP TO DIPLOMA LEVEL.

The project has supported seven (7) volunteer teachers (6 male, 1 female) from Sesheke district to diploma level at Malcom Moffat College of Education. These completed their course in December 2023 and 6 of them graduated in October 2024. One was referred in one subject and had his residential sessions in December 2024.



The contractual obligation between ZOCS/MOE and the graduants was that once these teachers are put on government pay roll, they are retained in the same community schools for 5 years. The Ministry was committed to put these teachers on Government pay roll so that they could continue to serve their brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, etc.

- The project's target for diploma level was 100 covering the four districts, but only 50 were supported because they were the ones that met the entry qualifications to college. And from the fifty (50) only eight (8) were initially enrolled from Sesheke district.
- Unfortunately, one female student from Hope community school passed on before she could complete her course.

CONDUCT TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEER TEACHERS IN PEDAGOGICAL SKILLS AND THE USE OF ICT

While the ministry of education has deployed trained teachers in most schools, there are still a number of community schools which are being handled by untrained volunteer teachers without formal training in colleges of education, hence the need for continued capacity building in instructional skills.

Results

- Anticipated improved teacher output through better planning in different learning areas with improved learner outcomes.
- Envisaged improved learner results.
- Expected continued peer to peer interaction and exchange of ideas and experiences by the participants.
- Teachers equipped with knowledge on the use of ICT in teaching

CONDUCT ENROLMENT CAMPAIGNS TO BRING BACK THE OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (OOSC) TO SCHOOL WITH SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS (CAGS) WHICH WERE FORMED IN ALL THE 20 PROJECT SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT

During this activity CAG members get into the communities and follow up on the households that have children who are not in school (either stopped or has never been enrolled before). The parents or guardians are counselled and the children of school going age enrolled to start school.

- The CAG members continue to follow up on the learners that had been brought back to school just to ensure that they do not drop out of school again especially the girls.

Results

- Increased enrolment.
- Increased knowledge on issues concerning child safe guarding and child protection coupled with dangers of child marriages and child pregnancies.
- It was anticipated that there will be reduced child marriages and maternal complications and an increase in reporting of child abuse cases.

CONDUCT TRAINING FOR PARENTS COMMUNITY SCHOOL COMMITTEES (PCSC) IN SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



The main objective of these trainings is to equip members of the PCSC with knowledge and skills that will enable them to fully participate in the governance and development of their community schools and generate funds to supplement the government grant.

Expected Results

- Expected improved support to the untrained community volunteer teachers.
- Participants equipped with knowledge on their roles and responsibilities.

CONDUCT PCSC TRAINING IN ADVOCACY AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The main objective of these trainings is to equip the Parents Community School Committees (PCSCs) with knowledge and skills that will enable them to fully participate in the governance and development of their communities by taking part in the monitoring of government performance, demanding and enhancing transparency.

SENSITIZE COMMUNITIES ON EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Results

- With increased knowledge on emerging public health emergencies there is an anticipation that communities will be healthy together with the learners in healthy environments.

SUPPORT VULNERABLE CHILDREN WITH SCHOOL BURSARIES



The project aims to help orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) by providing them with school requisites because most of them come from poor households which fail to adequately provide educational needs for their children. This bursary support is therefore significant because it helps the beneficiaries to stay in school and learn. The school supplies given to the learners are school uniforms, school shoes, school bags, 10 hard cover note books per learner per year, mathematical sets, electronic calculators, socks, neck ties, jersey and disposable sanitary pads for girls. The project also pays for boarding fees and for learners in boarding schools and working around supplementing weekly boarders with food packs. Since the project comes to a close at the end of 2025, it only has grade 12 learners on the bursary and these are 36 (20 boys, 16 girls)

PROJECT SCHOOLS ARE PROVIDED WITH ICT EQUIPMENT AND SOLAR CHARGING STATIONS

Three computers were procured in the fourth quarter of 2023 for three community schools namely Likanda, Katete and Mandila with the view that the schools will have permanent structures by the beginning of 2024. One computer was installed at Likanda being the only school that had completed construction works by the beginning of 2024.



PROJECT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS HAVE ACCESS TO WASH AND OTHER HEALTH PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MECHANISMS.

- All the project schools received hand washing facilities

2 BOREHOLES CONSTRUCTED IN PROJECT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

Three schools so far had boreholes constructed (Katete, Kande, Muyabalo). Hope was another target school for borehole construction in the 2023 budget, unfortunately, four dry bore holes were hit.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS/OUTCOMES

1. Increased enrolment of learners in project community schools from 65% to 74.1%.
2. Reduced dropout rate from 1.5% to less than 1% - improved retention rate.
3. Improved completion rate at primary school level and transition rate to secondary schools. completion rate is at 91% from 52.7% while transition rate to secondary schools is around 75% from 66.2%.
4. Increased enrolment and retention rates of learners with disabilities.
5. Reduced child pregnancies and child marriages with improved retention rate of girls in project community schools.
6. Improved teacher output and learning outcomes and grade 12 results.
7. Teachers' and learners' enhanced knowledge of ICT.
8. Improved community support to volunteer teachers.
9. Increased government support to project community schools in terms of provision of school grants – Sesheke is at 100% while the overall project percentage is at 80% from 40%.
10. Provision of clean and safe drinking water with resultant reduced water borne diseases.
11. Improved child protection and child safeguarding in communities with reduced child marriages and child pregnancies.
12. Enhanced knowledge on emerging health emergencies and community response in project communities .