



## ANNUAL REPORT

2017



*Youth Can project 2017 graduates*

**SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ZAMBIA**

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## 1. Social Economic background:

The Republic of Zambia is a landlocked country in south central Africa, bordered by eight countries: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, formerly Zaire), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Its geographic area is 752,614 sq. km. Zambia's capital and largest city is Lusaka.

The population of Zambia has grown in the past decade and half; from 7,818,447 as at 1990 census to 14,365,719 as at the 2012 Labour Force Survey, giving an overall population density of 14 persons per sq. km. Like many other African countries, ethnic diversity is a striking feature in Zambia. The relatively small population comprises of 73 different languages spread across 103 districts.

Zambia is said to have a young and dependent population. Of the 14,365,719 citizens, 45% are young people aged 21 years and below and of these 50% are children aged 15 years and below. This makes delivery of social services a challenge especially in the rural areas that are under developed and where poverty levels are high. Zambia's population is largely poor, at 60% and according to the UNICEF report of 2016, women and children hardly have access to basic essential services.

The country is at number 51 on the Transparency International's corruption index, which affects decision making for the benefit of vulnerable groups (Transparency International Zambia: 2017). Youth unemployment is very high at 80%. The formal employment sector takes in 210,334 young people annually; this is against the 194,818 formal jobs that are available each year.

Zambia has historically had a copper mining driven economy. In 1969 it was the largest copper producer in the developing world and the world's third largest producer of copper, producing 12.2 percent of world copper output (Bostock and Harvey, 1972). Since its independence in 1964 up to 1980 Zambia had trade surpluses. The main export copper accounted for over 90 percent of total export earnings. However, towards the 1970's the world experienced an oil crisis which caused world commodity prices to collapse. Since 1974 there has been a sharp and prolonged fall in the world prices of copper. The increase in oil prices and other affected commodities combined with the plunging copper prices caused major problems for Zambia's oil imports and export earnings from copper. The problem continued getting worse as world copper prices continued to decline. In 2015, the global economy faced many challenges which resulted in reduced growth. Global economic growth declined to 3.1% in 2015 from 3.4% in 2014. Low commodity prices, weakening trade, declining capital flows and volatility in the financial markets contributed to the slowdown in economic growth. In the case of Zambia, real

GDP growth slowed down to 3.2% in 2015 from 5% in 2014. The growth outturn was significantly lower than the 7% target for the year. Growth was mainly constrained by the electricity supply deficit, weak international copper prices, and high production costs associated with the increase in fuel prices and the sharp depreciation of the Kwacha. Almost all commodity prices trended downwards in 2015. Despite the 5% annual economic growth, the impact on the 45% extremely poor population has been minimal.

## 2. GOVERNANCE- SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ZAMBIA

During the period under review the organisation received the able guidance of the Board. The organisation benefited from the Trustees' diverse skills ranging in programming, legal, financial and human resource. The Board operates four key focus areas of: programme and fundraising, finance human resource and nominations committee.

Meeting were held each quarter, the Board was kept abreast with activities that were being implemented in line with the strategic direction of SOS Children's Villages.

Zambia and the national and international developments around child care services.

In order to keep abreast with the key issues affecting the organisation, board members also visited the programme locations.

<b>Role in the Board</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Title Held</b>
<b>Members</b>	<b>Ms Charity C Lumpa</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
	<b>Mr Morecome Mumba</b>	<b>Vice Chairperson</b>
	<b>Mr John Zulu</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
	<b>Mr Walubita Luwabelwa</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
	<b>Mr Elias Mpondela</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
	<b>Mr Eustace Bobo</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
	<b>Ms Patricia Lumbi</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
	<b>Ms Monica Chisela</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
	<b>Fr Bwalya Chilufya</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
	<b>Mr Zenaye Solomon</b>	<b>CVI Representative</b>
	<b>Mr Joseph S Munsanje</b>	<b>National Director (Ex-officio)</b>
	<b>Mr Cetty Misale</b>	<b>Financial Controller (Ex-officio)</b>

### 3. OVERVIEW-SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ZAMBIA

It is against the foregoing backdrop that SOS Children's Villages Zambia implemented child and youth care and protection programmes in 2017. Despite the government creating an enabling environment for child care through a legal and policy framework, the lack of implementation of the policies has paused critical challenges in the child care business. For instance, the legal framework to do with children is still scattered in various pieces of legislature and to date the country does not have a unified definition of who a child is. Another example is that despite having laws and guidelines on foster care, the government has not committed budget the foster care grants in the past decade.

In the year under review, SOS Zambia implemented programmes in line with 5 strategic initiatives.

In implementing Innovative Alternative Care, a number of capacity building programmes were conducted to align core care co-workers with the new developments in child care. SOS Zambia worked closely with government through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, which was launched the Reintegration and Alternative Care Guidelines. The organisation, through the Family Based Care also took part in the Nation Wide Assessment of Child Care Facilities. Out of the 178 facilities that were assessment, SOS Zambia was ranked at the top seven and was included on the consortium that contributed to the designing of Case Management tools that will be implemented in all child care facilities. One of the major findings of the assessment was that of the 6,413 children in child care facilities, 49.35% have families they can live with. In line with this, SOS Zambia aligned itself to the national drive for reintegration of children with their families. Additionally, SOS Zambia internal assessment of programmes, through gatekeeping and RAP revealed that 217 children have families that can take care of them. These key developments, together with alternative care, will guide child and youth care programmes from 2018 onward.

In implementing the second strategic initiative of empowering families, the organisation prepared 300 out of 1,735 families for exit. In line with the RAP recommendations, the Family Strengthening has made impact in the current 23 communities. Therefore, organisation also invested in preparing communities for exit in Kitwe and Livingstone. A number of mentorship and entrepreneurship programmes were introduced for youth empowerment and employability. The year under review saw the second graduation of youth from the Youth

Career Initiative Programme. Working together with an implementing partner, Radisson Blu Hotel, 12 youth who underwent a 6 months' internship with the hotel graduated, bringing the total participants to 24 since 2016. Of these 6 are permanently employed by Radisson Blu, while 4 are now employed by the Hilton Lusaka. Working with the other key partners, Drug Enforcement Commission and Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, a number of trainings for youth were conducted on Reproductive Health Education and Drug and Alcohol abuse. The fourth Strategic Initiative on Advocacy was implemented through a number of lobbying activities with government on the need to implement the Foster Care guidelines. Additionally, there were several sensitisations on foster care through press statements and public media discussions.

In relation to funding growth, SOS Zambia signed partnership agreements with the European Union (EU), Churches and Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) and ABT Associates. Working with other partners, SOS is working to strengthen health systems in Kitwe and Livingstone and promoting the rights of children with disabilities in Chipata and Chadiza. Overall the organisation also focused on implementing RAP results in view of End of SOS Involvement in the Health and Education Facilities. Efforts were channelled towards seeking alternative funding sources such as the government. Preparations were also made to implement significant change in the Children's Villages. This meant conducting assessments for implementing community integrated SOS Families and other forms of alternative care.

#### 4. FACILITY REPORTS: (See the program Reports from each Location )

##### 4.1. General Description of services:

**Reintegration of children with Biological Families:** In the period under review, the Family based care program conducted a number of preparatory activities for reintegration of children and youths with families of origin. Working in partnership with government in child and youth departments, SOS staff and community partners were trained in responsible reintegration of children and youths with their families. Case Management committees were formed to spearhead the processes. There were 217 children that the RAP and gatekeeping identified as having at least one surviving biological parent. The plan was to reintegrate them over the period 2018 to 2020.

**Alternative care:** Following the recommendations made in the rapid assessment exercise, all youth facilities will have closed and also some SOS families will be integrated in the community. Each location commenced the assessment to determine suitability for physical and social integration requirements of the SOS Families. In addition, 78 children and youth were reintegrated with their families and into the communities.

#### 4.2. Family strengthening statistics and services:

The family strengthening commences the year with 10,602 beneficiaries comprising of 7,817 children who are the primary beneficiaries, 1,625 care-givers and 1,160 other beneficiaries within the household. During the period, 500 families had been exited after reaching self-reliance. By the end of the year, there were 1,790 families representing 8,474 children after additional numbers were recruited into the programme. Among the activities the program provided education support to 4,490 children in kindergarten, primary and secondary schools. A further 88 youths were supported to undergo skills training. Meanwhile, the programme continued supporting community based organizations on empowerment activities in order to improve their capacity and their ability to sustain service delivery to children of our target group.

#### 4.3. Advocacy:

The organization continued to sustain advocacy activities by working with other likeminded organizations in the country. SOS Zambia was part of the following national advocacy campaigns:

- The National Alternative Care technical working group under the Ministry of Community Development and Social Service and financed by Save the Children. SOS Zambia took part in raising awareness on foster care and other forms of alternative care. SOS Zambia further wrote a position paper and presented it to government on the need for government to include the foster care grant on the national budget.
- The National Child Rights Forum; SOS Zambia took part in the shadow report on the implementation of Universal Periodic Review. The report was later



presented to the African Committee of Experts of Family Environment of the African Union. SOS Zambia further did a press release on the peer review of Zambia's implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.

- While working with the Church mother bodies, the organization took the lead in sensitization of communities on foster care and other forms of alternative care in Lusaka and Kitwe
- SOS Zambia joined other civil society organisation led by Law Development Commission, to push for the enactment of the Children's Code Bill, a law that seeks to bring together all the laws to do with children in one place. Through this activity the organisation also took part in the campaign to end child marriages. SOS Zambia further wrote a position paper to the Ministry of Justice and the Director of Human Rights Commission on the need to push parliament to pass the Children's Code Bill.
- SOS Zambia further conducted campaigns to raise awareness on foster care by publishing an article in the Zambia Daily Mail entitled, " demystifying foster care in Zambia".
- Working with the National Child Rights Forum, SOS Zambia took part in the child budget network. SOS Zambia further wrote letters for the attention of the Minister of Community Development and Social Services on foster care grants.

In the period under review, the organization was able to raise awareness in the catchment areas on foster care and other forms of alternative care. Significant impact was made with government on the need to implement the foster care grant. Additionally, SOS Zambia was rated in the top 7 of the 178 child care facilities that were assessed by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services for compliance to Minimum Standards of Care for Child Care Facilities.

#### **5.4.Grieg and Gender mainstreaming:**

The focus for the year under Grieg was to empower 100 caregivers in order for them to provide quality care to children in the target group. Additionally, the programme also planned to address negative attitudes and practices among caregivers that lead to girls dropping out

of school. In the effort of ensuring continuous attendance of girls in school, seven schools were targeted to improve sanitation.

In response to the above issues, 149 against the targeted caregivers received economic empowerment through the provision of Income Generating Activities. This represented 360 children in the target group. Of the 149 caregivers, 17 were male and 132 were female an indication that children in the target group are mostly cared for by female caregivers.

At Community Based Organisation level, members were oriented in the various educational policies that promote safety in the school environment for girls.

The campaign to address attitudes and practices that lead to girls dropping out of school was held with traditional leaders as it was identified that most of the traditional practices stand as obstacles to the advancement of girls' education. The issue of child marriages was addressed with seven traditional leaders and working with other key partners a National Action Plan was launched on ending early marriages under the Ministry of Gender and Child Development. This was followed by a general convention, 'Celebrate girls remaining pregnancy free for the whole year', for 6, 134 boys (2,140) and girls (3,609) in public schools. The issue of teenage pregnancy was addressed. The convention included celebrating girls who re-entered school after being pregnant.

In the period under review 7,922 boys (1,708) and girls (6,214) benefitted from the construction of female friendly ablutions, incinerators and the distribution of sanitary towels and hand washing equipment. This activity promoted hygiene in the targeted schools.

In order to address gender mainstreaming, the conditions of service and code of conduct of SOS Children's Villages Zambia were reviewed to address key gender issues. It was realized that both documents are mainstreamed in terms of gender friendly language.

In Livingstone, the campaign, 'Support the Education of your Girl Child each day of the Month' was launched. This was done as an additional activity to raise awareness among caregivers in Livingstone to support girls and promote hygiene during menstrual period. The campaign was launched on live phone-in radio programme, which reached 15,000 listeners in the catchment areas as far as Zimba and Kazungula districts.

#### 4.4. Education:

The existing facilities continued operating below the projected capacity dropping to a record low of 64% capacity utilisation. This scenario brought about by the uncertainty caused by lack of response from the Ministry of Education on the Grant aided applications submitted by the NA. Nevertheless, all the facilities, kindergartens, one

primary school, two basic schools, one secondary school and one vocational training centre still continued to operate and managed to produce good results in the national examinations.

There was slight improvement of performance by children mostly in alternative care although a lot still needs to be done to improve education in various location. For instance, In Livingstone grade 9 students' performance dropped by 10% in 2017 from the previous year with the lowest marks being scored in mathematics and sciences. In Livingstone, despite the extra lessons and individual support given to the pupils, 3 pupils who had been categorized as special need pupils, obtained statements in their examinations. In Lusaka 17 children sat for the examination, 11 obtained statements, 5 passed and one failed and in Kitwe the 6 students in the family based care obtained statements only.

In the family Strengthening programme, 4,016 children and young people were provided with a number of education services in the period under review. Of these, 22 drop out, 24 got pregnant and 4 re-entries.

The program also supported youth for vocational Skills development: Foschini and Baywar Foundation donated K100, 000 to the secondary school in Lusaka and a further contribution toward the purchase of workshop equipment and learning materials for Design and Technology. The donation also targeted preparations for the soon to open Cosmetology class. The company provided scholarships for 10 young people, a majority being teenage mothers for skills development and job preparation interventions.

The implementation of end of SOS involvement for SOS schools project progressed with support from IOR. Several concept notes for the various facilities were submitted and these contained proposals future management of the facilities. Among these SOS Zambia submitted an application seeking to be given grant aided status for the schools and to run the vocational training centre as social business unit.

## **Performance in National Examination for the HG schools**

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	Lusaka	Kitwe	Livingstone	Overall %
<b>Grade 7</b>				
Sat	72	52	29	
Passed	67	52	24	
Failed	5	0	5	
Pass %	<b>93 (98)</b>	<b>100 (65)</b>	<b>83 (91)</b>	<b>92 (84)</b>
<b>Grade 9</b>				
Sat	77	43	15	
Passed	64	35	12	
Statements	11	8	3	
Failed	1	0	0	
Pass %	<b>83 (77)</b>	<b>81 (89)</b>	<b>80 (97)</b>	<b>81 (87)</b>

#### 4.5. Child Safeguarding:

Ten (10) child safeguarding (CS) concerns and incidents were reported in 2017. Seven of these have since been managed and are closed while three are still open. The occurrence of child safeguarding incidents raise is of concern to management. The programme teams have been tasked to increase contact with programme participants to mitigate these occurrences. On a positive side though, is the increase capacity to handle reported cases and the ability for the association to support affected children and young people. There has been improvement in implementing the reporting and responding procedures of CS cases by programme CS teams as all the cases were reported within the stipulated 24 hours. Worth noting is that three reports around management decisions and child safeguarding were reported anonymously. This shows the comfort that staff have in this reporting system.

Activities conducted in 2017 included dissemination of the MA Reporting and Responding Procedure, capacity building of child safeguarding designated staff where 19 were trained in CS and co-workers skills development in which 96% of the core care co-workers were trained in Problematic Sexual Behaviours and Abusive Sexual Practices.

In child participation, Child and Youths councils in the FBC and education facilities were established in the four locations and leaders' trained on their roles and are working well including attending the Programme management meetings for Lusaka CV. Lusaka has reported that children and young people are able to present their

concerns through their council leadership. This report was equally the same for the Secondary school in Lusaka. There is however need for more engagement with the council leadership to build confidence for them to be able to be the voice of others in their respective areas.

The public schools have not been left out in this as through the FS child councils have been established at 2 schools on the Copperbelt while Lusaka has trained staff from 12 public schools who in turn shall support the children's councils in their schools.

With the support of the Zambia Information Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA), the NA piloted cyber security and child protection programmes for the Lusaka CV. Sensitization meetings were held for children in the Primary school. In 2018, this activity will be rolled out to the remaining facilities in Lusaka and all facilities in Kitwe Location. The programme will target all children and co-workers. SOS Zambia hosted the ESAF Level 2 investigators training for 32 co-workers, from 13 to 17 November 2018. The training was based on the art and techniques of Child Safeguarding investigation. It was aimed at ensuring support, professionalism and upholding international best practices in CS investigations. Two participants from the African Union also joined the training. SOS Zambia trained one investigator.

#### 4.6. Health Service

The medical centres continued to provide primary health care services in the period under review. There were 6,483 attendances against a quarterly target of 12,000 representing slightly above 50% of the target. The highest cases were recorded in Respiratory diseases and malaria. The main drop is as a result of the mobile clinic that did not implement outreach activities. Additionally, the Lusaka medical centre was closed to the public due to the break out of cholera.

The Lusaka Medical Centre conducted an HIV awareness campaign in Lilanda Village and 73 clients received HIV counselling and testing service.

In Chipata of the 61 female staff who were attended to, 48 were caregivers. There were 107 children in residential care who attended the medical centre. This indicates that in the quarter under review, there is an increase in the disease burden due to

increased number of malaria cases. To mitigate the situation, Indoor Residual spraying was conducted and Insecticide Treated Nets were provided to each household. The overall picture is that the disease burden is more on the female participants than it is on the male. The former being the main caregivers. Mobile health services were not conducted in the period under review because the mobile trucks needed repairs.

In Kitwe, there were 912 attendances by December compared to 668 attendances in November. The Kitwe medical centre also joined the national Child Health Week, 20 to 25 November, and was able to provide immunization to 193 children. Through ART continuum of care, 1,255 clients received drugs and routine monitoring of CD4 and viral load. It has been recorded that there is a significant reduction of viral loads due to consistency in treatment. Through under five health services, 193 children were seen in December compared to 31 children in November. The increase was due to the Child Health Week activities, which exceeded the monthly target of 50 children.

### Summary statistics :

ACTIVITIES	Awar enes s	Screening	VIA+	VIA-	?Ca Cx	Uncerta in	Ref	HIV+	Cumulative Total
<b>LUSAKA</b>									
<b>Static</b>	112	159	10	149	05	09	10	00	
<b>Reviews</b>	17	17	00	17	00	00	00	00	
<b>Outreach</b>	44	44	00	44	00	00	00	00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	173	220	10	210	05	09	10	00	1,441
<b>KITWE</b>									
<b>Static</b>	15	04	00	03	01	01	00	00	
<b>Reviews</b>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
<b>Outreach</b>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	15	04	00	03	01	01	00	00	24

### Systems for Better Health

The Medical Centre started implementing the USAID project, 'Systems for Better Health' on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017. The project aims at improving ART retention by 80%; improve safe motherhood by increasing the number of deliveries supervised by trained personnel at Health Facilities; increase the uptake of family planning; and reduce infant mortality. SOS Kitwe is to implement the project at four clinics. Capacity building was conducted in Leadership Skills and

Governance for 60 Health Centre Committee members at Zambia National Service, Chavuma, Luangwa, and Mulenga clinics.

## 5. Fund Development

In 2017, the overall objective for Fund Development was to champion SOS Zambia as a professional social development and humanitarian actor which is trusted, respected and supported by institutional and corporate partners. Over all the organisational objectives were to increase and diversify local institutional partnerships to raise ZMW 2,100,000 and also raise ZMW 950,000 from Corporates, donations in kind and individuals.

The highlights for 2017 fund development included holding the first ever dinner dance which was graced by the First Lady of the Republic of Zambia. Other highlights were the approvals of institutional donors: USAID SBH in Kitwe and Livingstone; European Union and ADA also approved a project grants amounting 416,218 Euros for a period of 36 months. Fundraising activities targeting individual givers was a big challenge during the period. New and innovative ways have been proposed for 2018. One such method will be the use of bulk messages on MTN mobile sscribers.

### Sponsorship:

International Sponsorships are the flagship product of our organization in 2017, 40% of the gross income for NA Zambia was realized through sponsor contributions. National Sponsorship services are committed to delivering high quality sponsorship services to 9100 active child sponsorships. 2017 was focused on building capacity of the NA to scale out new content types. In the first phase, the focus was on acquiring knowledge, resources and supporting technology, to capture and deliver digital content for the scale out of the Digital Asset Management System. The first ever Joint National Sponsorship Workshop was held to train key staff at Children's Village level on new content requirements. 20 participants from MA Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi were trained.

## 6. Human Resources

During the year 2017, the Human Resource department focused on maintaining a unified, robust and motivated team of employees anchored on trust, commitment and transparency with specific targets which included:

- Ensuring that the revised terms and condition of service, Disciplinary Code and Grievance Procedures, new Staff Training and Development and the Whistle Blower policies were approved by Labour office and the Board of Trustees.
- Ensuring the completion of the salary survey and revised performance management policy and system.
- Ensure 100% of staff performance appraisals and the 100% implementation of the staff capacity building plan.
- The organization remained stable by ensuring that all key positions were filled timely for continuity. The productivity and industrial relations climate also remained positive regardless of the anxieties created by the transition process in the Medical and Educational sectors.
- The organization had no staff case relating to child safeguarding but handled and disposed of 10 disciplinary matters while no grievance case was recorded by end of year.

Some of the notable achievements in the year 2017 include:

- Effectively participated in the International NGO's salary survey
- Approval of the revised Terms and Conditions of service, grievance and disciplinary procedure, Training and Development Policy and Whistle Blower Policy by the Labour Office and the Board.
- Achieved 100% end of year staff performance appraisals 77.94% staff capacity building programme implementation.
- Effectively managed the separation process of the Lusaka and Chipata Medical Centre Staff.

The NA experienced challenges due to the uncompetitive compensation system and limitation in the Human Resource Management Information System to manage the human resource management function.

## 7. SUCCESS STORIES:

### 7.1. Gift Nyambe

Gift Nyambe was placed into the SOS Children's Villages - Lusaka in 2000. He did his primary and secondary education at SOS Herman Gmeiner schools. After completion, he proceeded to the SOS VTC where he pursued a Trade Test Level I course in Power Electrical. He later on proceeded to upgrade to an Advanced Certificate at Livingstone Institute of Business and

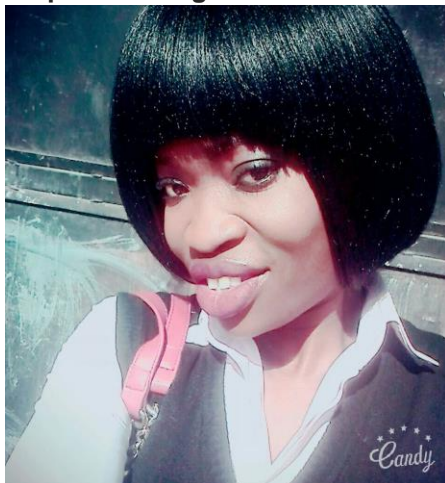
Engineering Studies. During his studies, Gift had been consistent in his pursuit for excellence. This led to him successfully completing the course. It was after this course that Gift joined the Youth Career Initiative being implemented by Radisson Blu Hotels, on a 6 months' mentorship programme. While on the programme Gift saved some money from the stipend he got from the hotel and took himself to a driving school and obtained a driver's license. This gave him an opportunity to work in the hotel's transportation department, in addition to the other departments where he is being mentored. He is happy for the opportunity that he was given and promised to work hard so that he could possibly be offered long term work at the hotel. " Gift is very committed and hardworking, he always reports on time and makes sure he finishes assignments given to him on time", said his supervisor.



*"Obtaining a driver's license has opened doors for me because am able to do various things for other clients apart from what I do at the hotel" says Gift. Gift hopes to save more money with the hope of purchasing a second hand vehicle and operate it as a taxi. He said he will be able to make extra income as he will be the one driving the car. It is always gratifying to see young people aim higher in life, more so when they become independent as this is the core business of SOS Children's Villages Zambia.*

Gift working from the KKI airport

## 7.2. Espina Kasongo



Espina Kasongo was one of the first children to open the Lusaka Children's Village in 1999. She did her primary and secondary education at SOS HG Schools. She proceeded to the SOS VTC soon after secondary school and pursued a one year course in Catering and Food Production. After that, she did a 2 years course in Early Childhood teaching and Development at another renowned college. Espina's job hunting efforts paid off as she is now working as a teacher at one of the private schools in Lusaka. She was so happy when she was called that she had been offered the job especially considering that was a period when she was about to be reintegrated into the community. *"I was ecstatic when I was called, it was gratifying to know that I will be getting my own salary and become independent as jobs are not easy to find nowadays".*

"I have been working here for two y said Espina with a smiling face, during the recently conducted post reintegration monitoring. She hopes to have saved enough money by January 2018 so that she can

upgrade her studies through distance learning, she wants to obtain a degree in Early Childhood Education. She also hopes to be employed in a government school, as this will be more stable. She reiterates that the journey from childhood to adulthood has not been easy but through the support and care provided by SOS Children's Villages, she has managed to reach this far in life. Right now, Espina is staying on her own in Matero township within Lusaka and is able to take care of herself.

### 7.3. David Mwape

David was born on 22 December, 1995 in Kawambwa District, the child of Mr. Titus Ilunga Mwape and Mrs. Abigail Chola Mwape. His father passed on when he was 2 years old, in 1997. His mother who was a housewife moved from Kawambwa to Kitwe, Mulenga Compound to stay with her parents. David's grandparents have taken care of the family since then.

In 2004 David started his primary education at Bupe Primary School. Two years later, SOS Children's Villages Zambia, through Family Strengthening Programme Kitwe Office started assisting the family. Immediately, David was transferred to the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School which was closer to his home. When he was in grade 4, 2007 his mother passed away. David completed his primary education in 2010 and started his junior secondary education at the same school (SOS Hermann Gmeiner School). He wrote his Junior Secondary School Examination in 2012 and was selected to Malela Secondary School where he did his senior secondary education and completed Grade Twelve in 2015. While at Malela, David showed exemplary conduct that he was even chosen as prefect, he became president of the Debate Club, Captain of the Volley Ball team and the Class Representative. During the gap year, David started his own metal smith business. He made and sold agricultural equipment and tools and household utensils. With the income he contributed toward the family income. He is still waiting to proceed to college to study accountancy.



David Mwape at his workshop in Mulenga community

David Mwape says that, *“when I completed my secondary school, I thought about how I could acquire knowledge and skills to start a small metal fabrication business. It fitted well into my environment and there was a ready market for the products”*. Because of his determination, David was recently chosen from Kitwe to represent his fellow youths in Ethiopia at a Youth

Conference which had a theme “Youth Empowerment for Employability and Entrepreneurship” which was held from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2017. When he returned, he together with his colleague Melody from Livingstone, were part of the SOS national annual planning meeting to which he contributed ideas on how the organization could respond to the needs of youth empowerment and employability.

#### 7.4. Jasper Chisenga

Jesper has been a beneficiary of the Family Strengthening interventions in Kitwe. He was born in 1993. His mother Catherine Chisenga Mwape, a widow was admitted onto the programme in 2008. She is a roadside vendor and largely depends on seasonal farming. This did not do much to sustain her family, let alone send her children to school. She was therefore put on food security packages and her children were enrolled for education support. This allowed Jesper to complete his secondary education at Luanshya boys in 2012 and from there proceeded to Kitwe College of Education in 2014. Three years later, Jesper successfully graduated with a Primary Teachers’ Diploma, with a Merit. In his own words, Jesper expresses gratitude for the support he received from the organisation, *“SOS has really helped me, because without them sponsoring my education, I wouldn’t have achieved what I have now. If SOS had not intervened in my education, I wouldn’t have come this far because things wouldn’t have worked out as it was really challenging, I am really grateful to SOS.”* Jesper Chisenga is currently working as a volunteer teacher at Baluba Primary School teaching grade six pupils as he still looking for a permanent job.



Jasper, in the middle on the day of his graduation

## CONCLUSION

