

SOS Children's Villages in
Zambia Newsletter

Quarter one



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**

Message from the National Director



As we conclude the first quarter of the year 2025, I am thrilled to share some of our significant achievements and express my optimism for the months ahead.

This period has been marked by remarkable progress and collaborative efforts, which have strengthened our mission and impact in our endearing services for the Children and young people.

Our journey so far has been inspiring, filled with dedication and hard work from each member of our team.

The launch of our inaugural Humanitarian Project in Chombela Community of Chibombo District stands out as a major milestone, reflecting our commitment to supporting vulnerable children and families impacted by climate-change influenced disasters.

This project is not just a testament to our capabilities but also a beacon of hope for the communities we serve as well as our inclusive community engagement approaches whereby our target communities are also trained in disaster risk responses and other related skills.

We have also made strides in community engagement, ensuring that our programs are inclusive and responsive to the needs of those we aim to help. Our capacity-building initiatives have empowered our staff, enhancing their skills and effectiveness in delivering our mission.

Looking ahead, I am filled with hope and confidence that we will continue to achieve great things. Our unwavering commitment to the well-being of children and families will guide us as we strive for even greater milestones of child-based activities in line with the Children's Code Act and other legal and regulatory framework.

Dr. Paul Kapotwe

National Director
SOS Children's Villages in Zambia

SOS Children's Villages Launches Humanitarian Project, 503 families benefit



Food distribution to vulnerable families in Chombela

Chibombo District, Zambia – In a significant stride towards alleviating the impact of the El Nino-induced drought, SOS Children's Villages in Zambia launched a humanitarian project in Chombela Community.

This initiative, which began in January 2025 and conclude in June 2025 aims to support vulnerable families and children affected by the severe drought conditions.

The project has already made a substantial impact, benefiting 503 families through the distribution of essential food aid and farming inputs. A kick-off meeting held in January brought together key stakeholders, including government representatives from the ministries of Health, Education, and Community Development, as well as officials from the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). The meeting, graced by the District Commissioner of Chibombo, fostered a collaborative approach to addressing the community's needs.

Despite the onset of the rainy season bringing some relief, the socio-economic situation in Chombela remains challenging. High food prices continue to strain the budgets of vulnerable families, making the support from SOS Children's Villages crucial. The project has provided farming inputs to 320 participants for the 2024/2025 season and distributed mealie meal to 500 families, helping to ensure that children have access to nutritious meals.

As the community looks forward to the harvest period in June 2025, there is hope for improved yields and better living conditions. SOS Children's Villages remains committed to supporting the well-being of children and families in Chombela, striving for a brighter and more resilient future.

Successful Launch of the 2025 to 2027 Standard Projects

Lusaka, Zambia – SOS Children's Villages in Zambia has successfully launched the 2025 to 2027 Standard Projects, marking a significant milestone in their mission to support vulnerable children and families.

The event brought together key staff and stakeholders to ensure a shared understanding of the project's goals, objectives, implementation plan and roles.

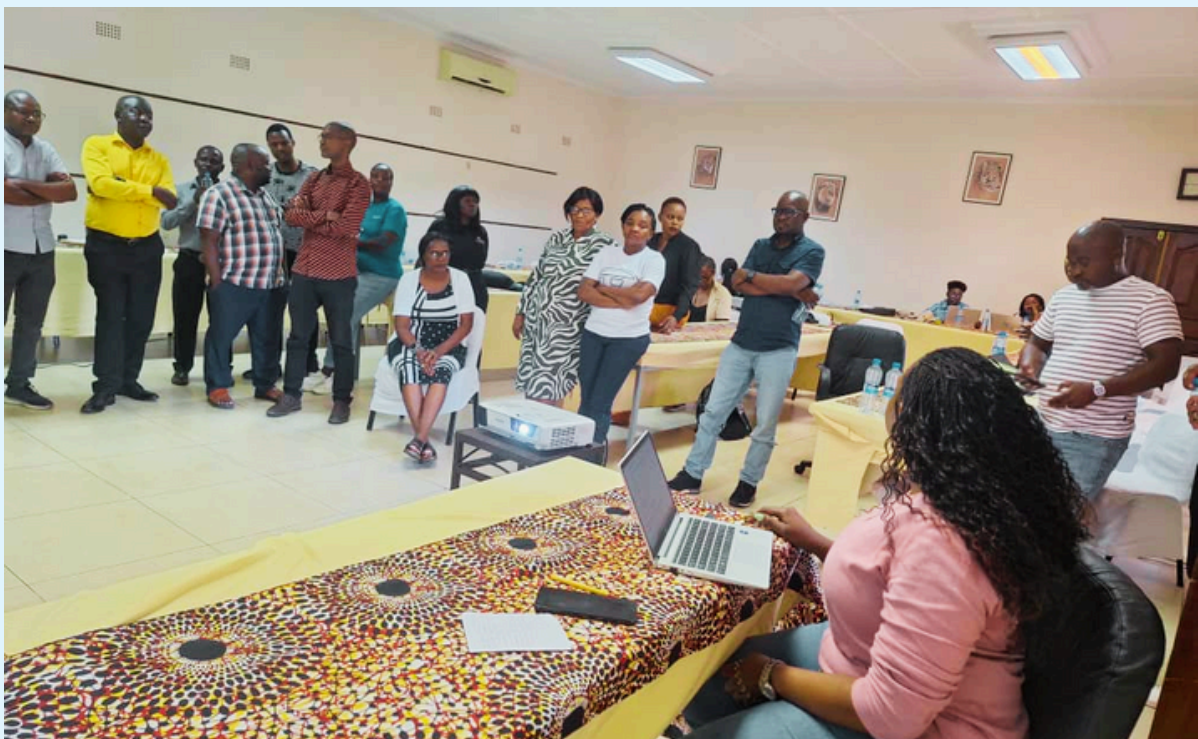
Participants gained a thorough understanding of the project goals, objectives, and implementation strategies, setting a strong foundation for the project's success.

A common understanding of the Results Framework (RF) was established, ensuring alignment and clarity in measuring project outcomes. A detailed action plan for the initial six months of project implementation was developed, outlining specific activities, timelines, and resource allocation.

The event fostered collaboration, communication, and networking among all stakeholders, enhancing teamwork and coordination. Participants thoroughly reviewed and understood the SOS Children's Villages standards related to Family Strengthening and Alternative Care services, ensuring consistent and high-quality program delivery.

A clear understanding of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and financial reporting requirements was established, ensuring accountability and transparency.

The launch event was a resounding success, with attendees expressing their commitment to the project's goals and their enthusiasm for the positive impact it will have on the community. The collaborative efforts and shared vision among the staff and stakeholders promise a bright future for the 2025 to 2027 Standard Projects.



2025 International Women's Day: For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment

SOS Children's Villages in Zambia proudly joined the nation in celebrating International Women's Day under the theme: "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment." The event in Lusaka was graced by Her Honour the Vice President of the Republic of Zambia, Mrs. W.K. Mutale Nalumango.

During her address at the Showgrounds Main Arena, the Vice President reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting gender equality, empowering women, and creating a brighter future for all.

She emphasized that the theme serves as a call to action, reminding everyone that the journey towards gender equality is ongoing.

Mrs. Nalumango highlighted key government initiatives, including the revised National Gender Policy, which integrates gender equality across various facets of Zambian society.

This policy aims at tackling gender disparities and promoting equal opportunities. "The policy reflects the complexity of gender issues and the necessity for a coordinated response, with a specific focus on addressing the needs of women and girls," she stated.

The Vice President also noted significant progress in closing the gender gap in education, combating early pregnancies, encouraging girls' education, and halting child marriage.

She cited improvements in well-being due to investments in reproductive health and healthcare services.

At the event, SOS Children's Villages showcased their empowerment initiatives under the family strengthening services.

This caught the attention of the Vice President, who encouraged the SOS team to continue their excellent work in ensuring that women in communities are empowered, self-reliant, and food secure.



Youthful Voices Shine on International Children's Day of Broadcasting

The airwaves buzzed with youthful energy as children took center stage during the International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICBD) on March 2, 2025. This special day, dedicated to amplifying children's voices and showcasing their perspectives, saw enthusiastic participation from SOS Children's Village Zambia.

In a heartwarming collaboration, the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC), ZNBC Radio 1, Camnet TV, and Radio Maria provided a platform for talented young minds from SOS to display their creativity and intellect.



Representing their peers with confidence and enthusiasm, participants embraced the theme "Our Children, Our Future" through dances, poetry, insightful interpretations, and climate-smart initiatives.

A total of 21 children from SOS Children's Villages participated in the event.



Young Woman Triumphs Over Adversity to Achieve Nursing Dream

“My dream has finally come to pass, I can’t hold back my tears, I never imagined that this day would finally come, Christine exclaimed with joy beaming on her face”.

Christine had always dreamed of becoming a nurse. Growing up in SOS Children’s Village Kitwe, she was inspired by the compassionate care her mother, provided to them. She was determined to follow achieve her dreams, but her journey was far from easy.

Christine’s parents passed away when she was just 3, leaving her and her sister with no one to truly care for them. Fortunate for them, they found themselves a loving family at SOS Children’s Villages.

After completing her secondary education, Christine enrolled at the Luashya Nursing school where she successful completed a three-year diploma in nursing.

“College was a new challenge. I faced rigorous coursework, long hours of clinical rotations, and the pressure of ensuring that I pass all my courses. But the biggest hurdle came during my internship year, but I’m so happy that despite everything I still managed to graduate,” she said.

Christine graduated with Honors, receiving her nursing diploma. She is currently working at a local hospital where she has quickly become known for her exceptional care and empathy.



She often shares her story with her friends and fellow nurses, reminding them that with determination, resilience, and support, any obstacle could be overcome.

Christine’s journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and love. She beat all odds to achieve her dream. She has since been resettled from SOS Children’s Villages.

“I will never forget my stay in the Village, I usually visit from time to time because that has been my home for a very long time,” she added.

UNBREAKABLE BOND



Mother Grace and Mary

Meet Mother Grace, a dedicated retired mother who decided to continue fostering a child even after her retirement. This story highlights the commitment and love involved in fostering, demonstrating that the bond between a mother and child can transcend professional obligations.

After 18 years of dedicated and committed services as a care giver at SOS Children's Village Kitwe, Grace retired last year but couldn't bear to part with Mary, who had been in her care from age 4.

After her official retirement, she applied to become Mary's foster parent, ensuring she continues to have a stable and loving home.

Grace has cared for over 30 children throughout her career, often providing a nurturing environment for those with complex needs. Her dedication to fostering even after retirement underscores her deep commitment to the well-being of children in need. Mary has special needs, I have cared for her since she was four years old, she is now 19 years, with no siblings and with some health challenges, I could not stand leaving her behind because I think I understand her condition better," she said

Mary has no traceable relatives, her only brother whom she was brought to SOS with passed on years back, leaving her alone.

"I was so devastated when my mother decided to retire, I could not stand seeing leave. When she decided to foster me, I was overjoyed because it meant that I could still stay with her and I was very glad that management at SOS Children's Villages and local authorities made it possible for us to be together, said Mary.

THE JOY OF REINTEGRATION AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Phillip and Astrida, siblings who once lived at SOS Children's Village in Kitwe, were reintegrated with their mother in Solwezi in 2023, along with over forty other children.

They are happy to be home, enjoying school and new activities. Phillip has joined the football team and made new friends, while Astrida loves her drama club and Creative and Technology Science class.

Their biological mother, grateful for the support from SOS Children's Village, now feels confident in raising her children. This reintegration has given the family a second chance, showing the importance of family support and proper assistance in overcoming obstacles.



Phillip and Astrida going to school

A New Beginning

Festal and Brian lived in the SOS Children's village-Lusaka, for several years. Their caregiver in the SOS Children's Village - Lusaka has cared for them as if they were her own and has formed a close bond with them. But time came for them to be reunited to go live with their mother, who live in Makochi Village in Kapiri-mposhi.

Their Caregiver was a little sad to let them go but also happy for the children, as she feels that it is the best thing for them. Brian, the eldest says, "Returning to my family has given me a new sense of belonging. I'm happy with the help we got to make sure that we settled back home well."

I always felt cared for, but it's really good to be home!' Festal said with a big smile. Mary, their mother was very happy to welcome her children back home, she is looking forward to creating new memories with her children after they have lived apart for so many years.

"For the past 7 Years, I have been looking forward to the day when I would get to live with my children once again, I am happy that despite them being home with me, SOS children's Villages will continue to offer educational support for them.

When my husband died, I was incapable of taking care of five children. Without the support of SOS Children's Villages, my children would not have been able to go school.

Festal is currently in primary school and hopes to become a doctor once he completes his education, while Festal is pursuing his secondary education at Nkumbi boarding School in Kapiri-mposhi.



Festal with his mother and siblings



"For the past 7 Years, I have been looking forward to the when I would get to live with my children once again, I am happy that despite them being home with me, SOS children's Villages will continue to offer educational support for them".



“Empowering Dreams: Teenage Mothers Transform Their Community”



In a small community in Lusaka Province in Zambia, a group of teenage mothers faced daily struggles. Each of them had dreams and aspirations, but their circumstances often seemed to overshadow their hopes. That was not until SOS Children’s Villages stepped in with a transformative program designed to empower these young women.

With the support from the Bewya foundation, a German charity through SOS Childrens Villages in Zambia, the program began with skills training. The teenage mothers were taught various trades such as tailoring, baking, and catering.

With the completion of their training, SOS Children’s Villages provided them with the necessary machinery and tools. Some received a sewing machines, others got stoves, baking supplies, and catering equipment. The excitement was palpable as they realized they now had the means to turn their skills into livelihoods.

But the support did not stop there. SOS Children’s Villages also provided them with startup capital to kickstart their businesses. Mary opened a small tailoring shop in the community, where she designed and sewed beautiful garments. Chipo started a bakery, filling the air with the delightful aroma of freshly baked goods. Thandiwe set up a hair salon, where she styled hair and brought smiles to her clients’ faces.

The impact of this empowerment was profound. Not only did these young mothers gain financial independence, but they also became role models in their community. They inspired other teenage mothers to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams. The community saw a positive change as these businesses flourished, creating a ripple effect of hope and empowerment.

WAYS TO HELP



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Be a FRIEND of SOS Children's Villages in Zambia

SOS Children's Villages Zambia relies on the generous support of charitable individuals and organizations to run its programmes.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. Direct Deposit

Make cash deposit, Through Direct bank transfer cash transfer into the SOS Children's Villages bank account below:

Account name: SOS – Fundraising

Bank name: Absa Bank Zambia Plc

Branch name: Lusaka Business Centre

Account number: 1624586

Sort code: 020016

Swift code: BARCZMLX

Currency: ZMW

DONATION IN-KIND

food parcels, school materials, hygiene kits, clothing

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https://www.instagram.com/sos_cv_zambia



www.sos-zambia.org



260 211 281 704 / 281 707



@SOS CV Zambia



CONTACT DETAILS

SOS Children's Villages in Zambia

National office
Justo Mwale Road
Plot # 23217/35
Tel: +260 -211 281707
National.office@sos-zambia.org

