

## The ZAP education programme: increasing social accountability in the education sector



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### Key messages



- *Vulnerable children and young people need access to education. It is the responsibility of local and national communities to make education accessible, through bursaries and other mechanisms.*
- *Increased social accountability, through access to relevant education information, such as policies and budgets, is required for the effective resolution of service delivery issues in the education sector.*



*We had interventions that targeted the girls, their parents as well as traditional leaders and district authorities. Because of this approach we found it easier to tackle the challenges that the girls were facing.*



Chanda Nkoma, **Head of operations, Restless Development**



ZAP is funded with UK aid from the UK government  
and implemented by the British Council

## The context



In Zambia an estimated 500,000 children are out of school. This is attributed to various obstacles such as a lack of school fees, long distances to schools, early pregnancy and other cultural dynamics at play. The programme was designed to support vulnerable children to access education.

## The response



The Zambia Accountability Programme worked with four NGOs to implement an education access, school retention and domestic accountability programme. The aim was to increase community and national accountability in the distribution of public services and goods, ultimately resulting in increased access to education opportunities and retention of vulnerable children in schools. The ZAP Education Programme partner organisations were the Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS), Campaign for Female Education (Camfed), Restless Development, and the Zambia National Education Coalition (ZANEC).



Ipusukilo School in Mufulira, one of the NBI beneficiaries

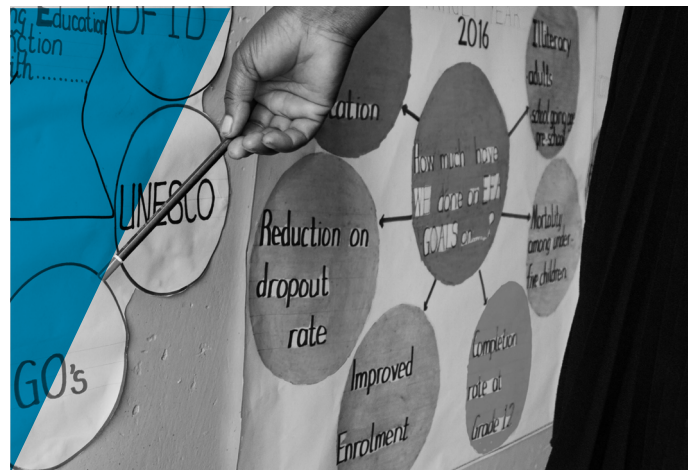


Illustration of the Notice Board Initiative (NBI)

### The school bursary programme

Managed by ZOCS and Camfed, this programme aimed to deliver financial, material, and psychosocial support to a targeted number of vulnerable children, with an emphasis on females. The purpose was to assist the children to complete their secondary school education by ensuring fees to the school were taken care of, school requisites were provided for and support at a community level was provided to enable the girl child to focus on completing her education without interruptions.

### The Girl Power Initiative

In the Western Province there is a high rate of pregnancies and early marriages. The Girl Power Initiative was created to support and provide mentorship to 12,000 girls between the ages of 14-19 years. The programme managed a pilot project to provide sexual reproductive health rights and knowledge. The project also targeted community structures including leaders, health institutions, parents and the schools.

### The Notice Board Initiative

The Notice Board Initiative is an accountability tool managed by the Zambia National Education Coalition (ZANEC), that is aimed at increasing transparency in schools, by providing access to information for parents, students, teachers and civil society. Notice boards were provided to the schools, where necessary information could be exchanged and accessed for purposes of engagement on matters related to resource allocation and utilisation.

## The challenges

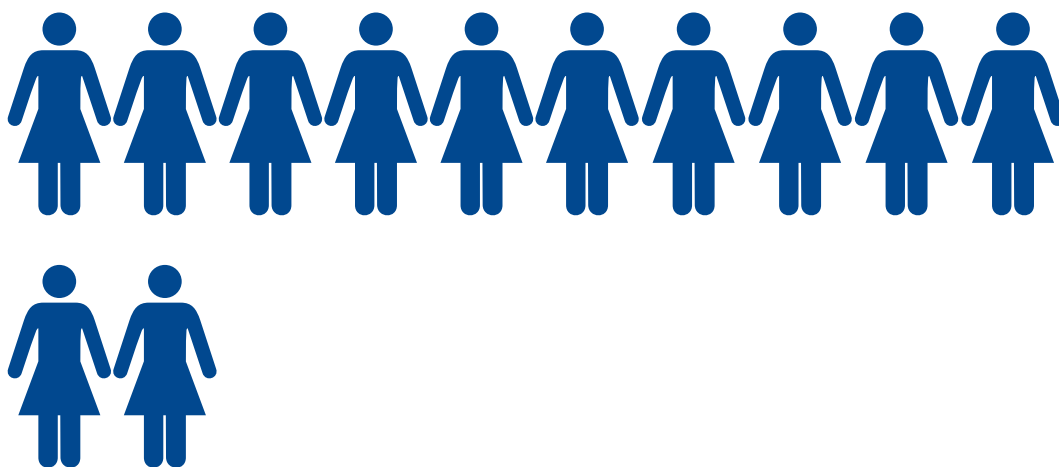


### Limited knowledge base and retrogressive cultural norms of local communities

In most communities around the country, particularly in rural areas, education is not prioritised for children. It is believed that the girl child may not complete their tertiary education because of early marriages or teenage pregnancies.

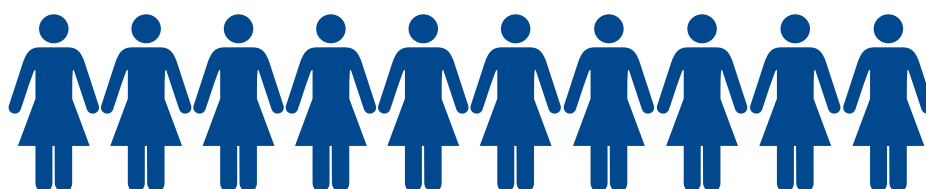
## The results

### Girl Power Initiative results



female students were mentored and given support in sexual reproductive health rights

### Bursary support programme 2016 - CAMFED



girls secondary education



21

women further education



**535** girls    **500** boys

**1035**

### Influenced national educational policy and budget

Through the advocacy of ZOCS, the programme managed to influence government through the Ministry of Education, to include specific funding for community schools nationwide. As a result up to three million kwacha (ZMK 3,000,000) was allocated in the upcoming 2017 National Budget. This will positively affect the quality and access of education services that the marginalised children receive at community schools. The push to have a permanent budget line for Community Schools continues.

### More informed communities

The Notice Board Initiative provided communities with information to track resource use and monitor the impact of the initiatives.

### Lessons learned



#### Adaptive programming

In 2016, the school bursary programme was adapted from the initial project intervention to match ZAP's aims to have education service delivery as an expanded area for social accountability. This required a change in activities to focus more on project structures, retention and performance of the beneficiaries. This improvement process was called "recasting".

#### Improved sexual reproductive health education

In addition to the bursaries, there is a need for strengthened support structures for girls who have children to attend school without being interrupted. A multi-focus approach enabled the intervention to be more effective.