

A path to education



Pamodzi Girls Students Nakona Mwanza,
Natasha Namugala and Ketty Zelesi



I have seen Sharon Hamziya , a grade 12 library prefect become happier, she is stable and able to go on very well with her school routine. Even her levels of confidence have gone up as a result of being sponsored.



Mr Abel Kanukwe is the Head Teacher of Njase Girls Secondary School in Choma, Southern Province, at which several students are recipients of the bursaries, sponsored by the Zambia Accountability Programme (ZAP).

A chance for education

There are about 500,000 children out of school in Zambia. This is due to having to walk long distances to their schools and poor families with lack of funds. Some of the challenges keeping young girls out of school include early pregnancies and marriages. Those that decide to return to school often face such obstacles as a shortage of funds and a lack of self-confidence. Girls are also affected by inadequate sanitation facilities in schools and this contributes to some of them staying away.



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The Zambia Accountability Programme (ZAP) worked with partners, such as CAMFED (Campaign for Female Education), Restless Development, ZOCS (Zambia Open Community School) and ZANEC (Zambia National Education Coalition) to implement various initiatives: bursary programmes, the Girl Power Initiative and the Notice Board Initiative. These initiatives have provided a window of hope for students to get back into school.

In 2016, ZOCS sponsored 1,035 children with 70/30% skewed toward girls. The focus was on retention, performance and progression. The Choma Day School has six grade 12 and three grade 11 students on the programme. One of their grade 11 students was selected as a monitor on academic merit and two grade 12s were selected as prefects.

Girl power

The bursary programme included mentorship sessions with female students.

“As girls, we feel grateful to be mentored in our careers. More efforts like this need to be spread to other girls because we face a lot of challenges,” said Namaata Munalula, a grade nine beneficiary.

Before Munalula participated in the mentorship programme, she was not confident about her future and how her life would turn out. Now she feels more encouraged to pursue her education and plan her future.

Restless Development spearheaded the Girl Power Initiative (GPI), which provided girls with the opportunity to freely express themselves, gain life skills, get information on sexual reproductive health and be trained in decision making skills. The Western province, which had alarming rates of girls in early marriages, was chosen as the focal area. The whole community, from district officers, parents and traditional chiefs, was involved.

Operations manager, Chanda Chisenga Nkhoma, said by using this approach, Restless Development was **“meeting the girls at household, school, district and national level.”**



With the NBI, we are able to know how our school is performing.



Ketty Zelessi, Pamodzi Girls student

Improved service delivery

The Notice Board Initiative (NBI) was aimed at enhancing accountability in schools by increasing access to information for parents, students, teachers and civil society.

In 2014, ZAP entered into partnership with ZANEC to implement the NBI in Copperbelt, Luapula and Western Provinces in two districts each. The initiative has helped curb absenteeism by students and teachers at schools, such as Mano and Mufulira Primary Schools.

“With the NBI, we are able to know how our school is performing,” says Pamodzi Girls students: Ketty Zelessi, Natasha Namugala and Nakaona Mwanza. Pamodzi Girls School was also a beneficiary of the Notice Board Initiative.

The girls have the ability to now monitor how effective the school resources impact the education they receive.

As illustrated, these initiatives by CAMFED, ZOCS, ZANEC and Restless Development have had a great impact on the girls, students, parents and their communities and resulted in the better delivery of education services.