



African Education Program

IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022



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“Empowering Youth Through Education”

Introduction

This Impact Report highlights the work undertaken by the African Education Program from April 2021 to March 2022.

The African Education Program (AEP)'s mission is to empower the youth of Zambia through education and leadership development, to break the cycle of poverty in their communities.

Through a comprehensive approach to youth empowerment, AEP seeks to make a long-lasting impact in the communities it serves by developing programs focused on quality education, leadership development, health and wellness.

In February 2022, we celebrated the reopening of our Learning & Leadership Center in Kafue, Zambia after nearly two years of closing its doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While programming for the youth continued during that closure through weekly health check-in calls and remote tutoring, we are happy to have all of our girls, boys, and young women and men with us again. The reopening of our center means that the youth can take advantage of the holistic programming including tutoring, nutritious meals, health and wellbeing activities, and art and creativity programs. As Covid-19 remains an ongoing health concern, the Covid-19 Emergency

Relief Family Fund we initiated is still being carried out, and health awareness and regular health check-in calls remain an important part of our mission.

In late 2021, the newly elected president, Hakainde Hichilema, announced that education will be free through grade 12 starting in January 2022. Thus, this past year was also the last year that AEP would pay high school fees for the girls and boys in the program.

The past year marked the start of two new initiatives—the opening of a Monitoring and Evaluation Department and the Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy Program for our youths' parents. In March 2022, the team also celebrated the third anniversary of our Read for Rose Special Education Program. We'll take a deeper look at all three of these initiatives in this report.

Throughout the years, AEP continues to thrive and innovate to meet even more needs in the community. The diversity of our programs ensures that no girl, boy, young woman or man is left behind in what they want to achieve.

Message from the Executive Director



In November 2021, I was finally able to travel back to Zambia after over a year and a half of being U.S.-bound. At that time, the Learning & Leadership Center in Kafue, Zambia was constantly pivoting between fully remote programming and hybrid small group in-person learning at low Covid-19 transition times.

Finally, being with the team again and seeing some of the girls and boys made it very clear that nothing beats being in person. The team had grown significantly during the pandemic and the new additions are alumni that I have known since they were kids. Being together in person, relearning each other as adults and teammates, was invaluable.

So you can imagine what relief we all felt when officially reopening the center in February of 2022.

AEP was very fortunate to continue growing its work, despite the challenges the pandemic threw our way. I cannot believe that we now have fifteen full-time teammates in Zambia, twelve of whom are alumni of the program.

On behalf of everyone with the African Education Program and our local programs in Zambia, I would like to say thank you for making our work possible.

Always grateful,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie-Anne S. Cosenza". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza
Co-founder & Executive Director



On behalf of everyone with the African Education Program and our local programs in Zambia, I would like to say thank you for making our work possible.”



Impact in Numbers

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

250

high school
scholarships awarded

32

college scholarships
awarded

27

high school graduates

12

college graduates

282

total scholarships
(high school and university)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

56

mothers graduated

32

mothers currently enrolled

NUTRITION PROGRAM

7,478

meals served in February and March 2022

Program Highlights

“I’ve always believed that a strong foundation is the basis on which fortified systems and structures stand. Data and information provides just that, a strong foundation. I’m really happy to be able to share AEP’s impact through the numbers,” says Teddy Sakala, right.

“I am happy that I studied Economics. I hope and wish to see younger students who prioritize education as the key to success and develop a great zeal to learning, especially those with disadvantaged backgrounds like me,” says Masmo Shiyala, left.



MONITORING & EVALUATION DEPARTMENT

Through the recent opening of a Monitoring and Evaluation Department in March 2021, AEP aims for more programmatic clarity and transparency as we strive to share our impact through numbers. Our Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinators, Teddy Sakala and Masmo Shiyala, first project was to create a database to store all the data for every youth and program. Since then, with the collection and analysis of data, they have been able to answer crucial questions for the team and donors: Are we on track to achieving our goals? Are we making a long-term impact? Do we need to make changes and adapt our programs?

The process of monitoring and evaluation is a vital one which not only helps the organization grow, but benefits the girls and boys as their needs are more clearly identified. Presently, every program is tracked and evaluated to ensure the smooth running of the activities.

100+

parents participated in the first callout to gauge interest in the Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy Program

93

percent of the attendees were women

82

percent of business owners saw an increase in their business income after attending the program



ENTREPRENEURSHIP & FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Covid-19 along with the lockdown worsened the already existing financial strain on the families in our community. AEP identified an urgent need to support these families, especially during these difficult times. Two of our program graduates, Benard Milanzi and Violet Mukumbwa, after receiving training from the Street Business School (SBS) in Uganda and becoming Certified Lead Coaches, launched the Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy Program at AEP and we officially became a Global Catalyst Partner of SBS. Over **100** parents participated in the first call out to gauge interest in the training program and **93%** of the attendees were women. Amongst the attendees, **70%** owned a business, but none had ever received any kind of training

in business management. Only **21%** of them had completed secondary school. In light of the apparent need for such a program, Benard and Violet began the training in May, essentially teaching capital sourcing, money management and business management. Of the business owners, **82%** of them saw an increase in their business income after attending the program. A pilot project with Join the Journey and Spark Zambia provided microloans and intensive coaching to **10** women graduates of the program. We are happy to report **100%** of the women repaid the initial loan.

AEP added a new module to the training provided by SBS. The Creativity module was created in collaboration with Human Intelligence, a professional training and coaching organization in the United States. This module, which emphasizes creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, has left a unique impact on the women entrepreneurs in the program, with **78.6%** of business owners sharing that the module helped them grow their business. In addition, we have found that **50%** of them started a business after graduating and **98.2%** said they found the curriculum valuable.

The next step is to expand the program on financial literacy to students at all levels.

83

percent of the students who participated in the Read for Rose Special Education Program can autonomously switch between applications on the tablets

59

percent of the students are able to use the keyboard with no assistance and can identify different applications

18

students attended the Read for Rose Special Education Program in 2021 to 2022



READ FOR ROSE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Read for Rose Special Education Program opened its doors in 2019 to provide access to quality education and occupational life skill training for children with disabilities and special needs.

During the pandemic, we found our most marginalized and “differently-abled” students showing up at our special education teacher’s front door. When schools closed down, these students did not know why. Most of our special education students are hearing impaired and have learned sign language thanks to their amazing teachers at Read for Rose. However, their parents do not know this skill which leaves many of them at

a loss when communicating with their own children.

In late 2020, AEP received a grant from Action Africa to purchase tablets and internet bundles for the Read for Rose students. Thanks to the tablets and the specialized software available on them, the children were able to stay educationally engaged in learning while being exposed to ICT skills throughout 2021. It also allowed the teachers to stay in touch with the parents and to advise on new ways to communicate with their children, especially if the child needed to stay at home.

The Read for Rose Special Education Program developed a Student Tracking Database in 2021, a coordinated effort with the Monitoring and Evaluation Department, to track each student’s needs and impairments as well as their progress in activities. Thanks to this tracker, we were able to know that **83%** of the students can autonomously switch between applications on the tablet, **59%** of them are able to use the keyboard with no assistance and can identify different applications.

In the future, Febby Choombe, the Director of Special Education, and her assistant Annie, would like to introduce a class for the parents and teach them basic sign language as parents have expressed the desire to be able to communicate more with their children.

Impact Stories

“Thank you for the support, AEP, and for believing in my dreams and in me. You have produced a graduate and a leader!”

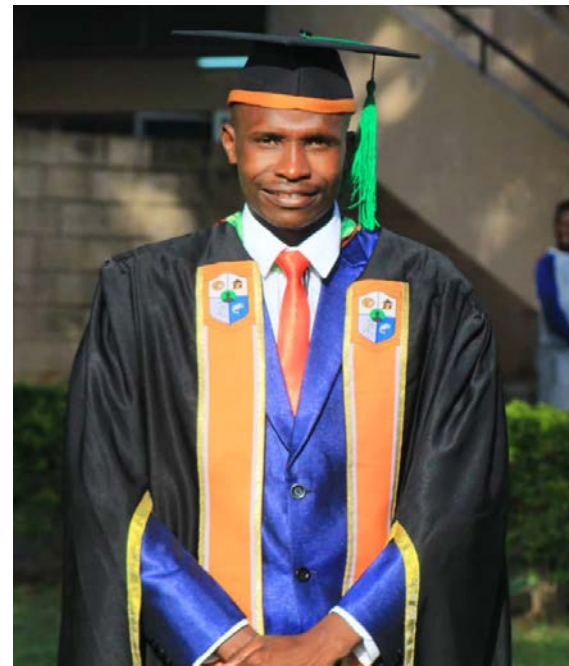
MOSES, Alumni and College Graduate

Moses joined AEP in 2012 and entered the Scholarship Program in 2013, relieving the financial burden of secondary school fees for Moses and his family. He attended AEP’s Learning & Leadership Center each day and received a nutritious meal while attending a variety of the holistic after-school programs and clubs offered. Moses didn’t have electricity at home, which posed an obstacle in the pursuit of his education. Thus, he was able to stay at the boarding house offered by AEP for three years and come back to the center to teach Chemistry, Physics and Math after he graduated from high school.

In 2017, Moses received a university scholarship to pursue his education and was accepted at Zambia’s second highest learning institution, the Copperbelt University, where he pursued a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Fisheries and Aquaculture, a career choice that was highly influenced and inspired by AEP’s Nutrition Program and the country’s lack of food security. His dream is to strengthen Zambia’s food security across the nation. He graduated from university in 2022 and is currently completing an internship at the center under the Entrepreneurship Department. Moses says the various programs at AEP such as tutoring, the Nutrition Program

and the Art Club have contributed to the consistent progress in his academic performance.

Moses sees AEP’s Learning & Leadership Center as a place of hope, but most importantly, as a parent to the youth in the community, that is why it is so crucial for him to give back to the center and ensure that other young people are given the chance to improve their lives just like he was.



**“
AEP has lifted the
weight and worry of
me succeeding in
my future. They
have helped me
believe in myself.
Thank you AEP.”**

LOVENESS, Alumni and High School Graduate

Loveness joined AEP in 2016 after her sister introduced her to the program. When she joined, Loveness says she was struggling with spelling, Math and Science. She has made consistent progress thanks to the Spelling Bee Club and has gotten better at Math and Science thanks to the tutors at the Learning & Leadership Center. Furthermore, Loveness has enjoyed lunch at AEP and club activities. At the moment, she is in AEP’s College Prep Program and in her gap year between high school and college and is giving back to the center as a Math tutor and a facilitator in the Music Club.

Loveness is very passionate about counselling and psychology. While she is still determining her career path, she knows she would like to help people with their mental health management. She has used music to deal with many of her own challenges as music has been her happy place to release emotions. She also enjoys helping students at the center express their emotions and be creative through music and writing.



“
**AEP has continued
 to turn my dreams
 into a reality.
 I am becoming
 the young leader I
 always envisioned.
 AEP is my
 everything!”**

SPENCER, Alumni and High School Graduate

Spencer is the first AEP graduate to join the African Leadership Academy (ALA), a prestigious South African Academy with a 5% acceptance rate. During the two year program, Spencer will be preparing for a pre-college diploma and attending short-term global programs that shape future leaders of the world.

Spencer received his first scholarship from AEP in 8th grade and has since benefited from the after-school Learning & Leadership Center, as well as from the intensive academic tutoring he received. At an academy where critical thinking and experimental learning are crucial, Spencer feels ready to take on the challenge and attributes his success to AEP’s extracurricular activities such as the Chess Club and the Spelling Bee Club.

Spencer says his admission into ALA is a dream he never thought would come true. His household has often struggled to pay for his school fees and when he was in grade 7, he says it became difficult to imagine that he could complete secondary school. This scholarship thus represents an incredible opportunity for him to become the leader he was born to be. Spencer says attending AEP’s programs has also helped him



understand better who he was and what he truly wanted in life. Passionate about science, he plans on pursuing his education in Biomedical Engineering after graduating from ALA.

“
I am grateful to AEP
for believing in me
when I did not and
for not treating me
different because
of my impairment.
AEP and Read for
Rose are my home.”

WINNIFRIDA,

Read for Rose Special Education Program Student

Winnifrida, or Winnie as she is affectionately known, is 17-years-old and living with a visual impairment. Winnie was not born blind. She suffers from glaucoma, an eye disease that affects the optic nerve and eventually leads to loss of sight and blindness. She is the 5th born in the family of 6 and not the only one with visual impairment in her family, her father and immediate older brother are also visually impaired.

Just like many young people with special needs in Zambia, learning basic literacy was a challenge for Winnie as there are few teachers qualified to teach students with visual impairments. Winnie has been attending AEP's Read for Rose Special Education Program since its inception. When she started Parent Training, she did not know the basic alphabet and how to read in braille. However, under the guidance of Febby Choombe, AEP's Director of Special Education, she learned basic reading and writing skills in braille. In 2019, she received a scholarship under our program to go to one of the special schools for the blind in Zambia, Munali Girls Special Boarding School.

Winnie has faced many challenges and hardships in her young life and she never thought that she would

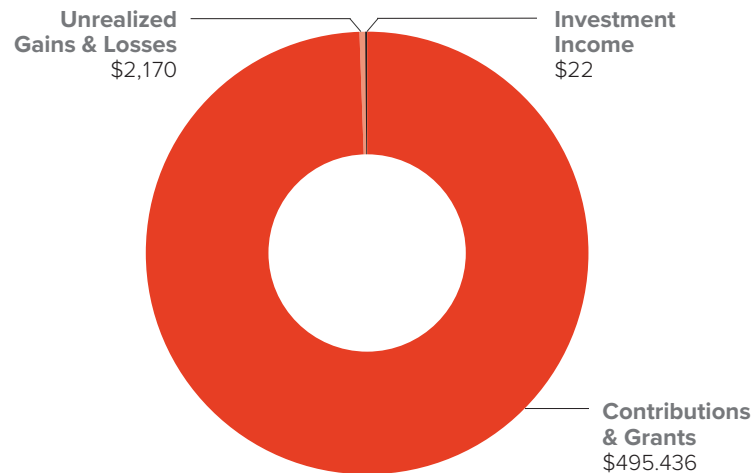
be in school. Her drive and perseverance in the face of these challenges inspires us. When schools close due to holidays, Winnie can be found teaching her father and older brother how to read and write in braille. Meanwhile, Winnie's mother feels privileged to be attending AEP's Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy Program and will be graduating in July. As the main provider for the family, she believes that the new skills she has learned will help her entire family. Winnie believes that all the holistic programs offered by AEP are a huge blessing to her and her entire family.



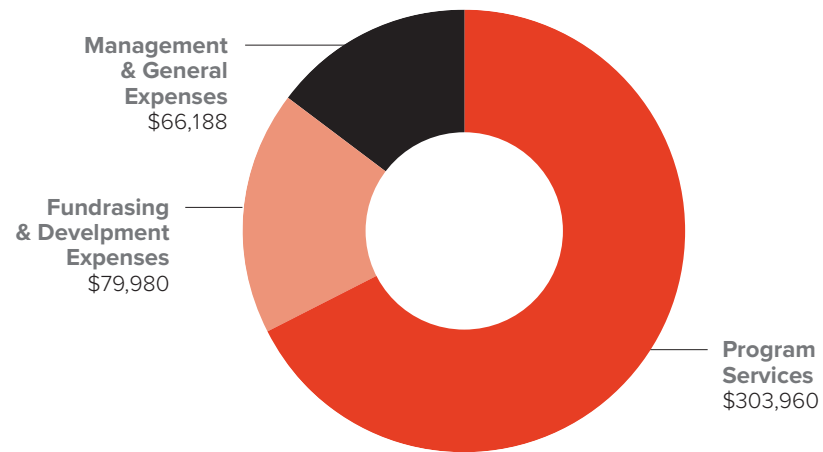
2021-2022 Financials

During the April 2021 through March 2022 fiscal year, AEP raised \$495,436 compared to \$446,575 in the previous fiscal year. Fundraising for general operations and programs in Zambia decreased as \$172,500 of the total raised was donated for the Capital Campaign. Expenses totaled \$450,128 compared to \$308,217 during the previous fiscal year. AEP's grants to AEP's local Zambian programs, the Learning & Leadership Center and Scholarship Program increase largely. Management & General Expenses, as well as Fundraising & Development Expenses, increased accordingly.

INCOME \$497,628



EXPENSES \$450,128



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



*Local Zambian Programs includes funding from Action Education Progrès in France; Executive Director's time is estimated at 50% Administration & Fundraising and 50% Local Zambian Programs. Development Director's time is estimated at 80% Administration & Fundraising and 20% Local Zambian Programs.

African Education Program Family



Lucy Chilesa*
Entrepreneurship
Coordinator



Lumuno Chongo*
Director of
Programs



Feby Choombe**
Director of
Special Education



Julie-Anne Savarit Cosenza
Co-founder &
Executive Director



Benard Milanzi*
Entrepreneurship
Manager



Violet Mukumbwa*
Entrepreneurship
Assistant



Christine Mulenga*
Extracurricular Programs
Coordinator



Annabel Mumba*
Donor Relations
Coordinator



Nebat Mwaanga
Info & Comms Technology
Teacher



Clement Mwanza*
Entrepreneurship
Coordinator



Joy Mweemba*
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Annie Nyambe*
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Teddy Sakala*
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Andrew Samutumwa*
Alumni
Coordinator



Ceasar Samwaka**
Director of Academics &
Scholarships



Masmu Shiyala*
Monitoring & Evaluation
Coordinator

* Team members who are alumni of AEP

** Co-Directors of AEP's Zambian operations

Donors

MANY THANKS TO...



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