

ZAMBIA



Zambia – The Context

- Reputation for political stability
- Fast growing population – 2017 17.8 million
- Very dependent on copper exports
- Median age of population - 17 (www.worldometers.info)
- 44% urban, 56% rural population
 - 2/3 of Zambians live in poverty
- Life expectancy –
 - 59 for men, 64 for women
- Refuge for those fleeing violence in Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Zimbabwe and Rwanda
- Agriculture affected by climate change
- Education is key government priority

MISSION & SERVICE PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA

Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ)

Founded in 1945

Membership of 22 Protestant churches and 19 church related organization.

Works to be a prophetic voice for the transformation of church and society.



United Church of Zambia (UCZ)

UCZ Theological College

Partner since 1965

Committed to systemic justice

Responds to immediate needs

Supports congregations, church leadership and continues to run mission hospitals and schools



MISSION & SERVICE PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA

- **People's Action Forum (PAF)**

- Partner since 1998
- Indigenous, non denominational, (NGO).
- Key focus – sustainable rural development



- **Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF)**

- Pan African, ecumenical training institute
- Lay and ordained leadership for sustainable development



MISSION & SERVICE PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA

- **Women for Change (WFC)**
 - Partner since 1992
 - NGO focussing on social and economic changes that empower women and children.
 - “Never accept poverty. Unite and fight it.”



Women for Change – In action







Children Have a Right To

- Education
- Shelter
- Food
- Health

WOMEN'S POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD
GROUP 1

Children Have a Right To

Children Have a Right To
Education



Women for Change – United Church Women



WHAT ARE THE GOALS....

- stable and sustainable education for children, particularly girls
- widespread social acceptance of education not only as a right, but an essential component to addressing issues of poverty
- working to address the numbers of girls dropping out of school rural districts

What is the problem

Girls are dropping out of school – particularly in rural districts

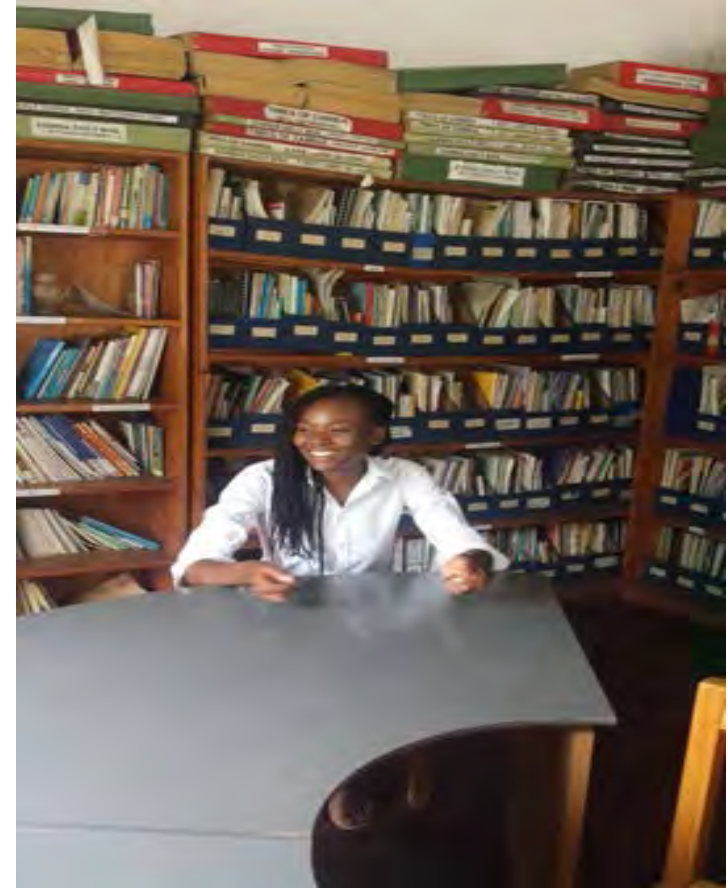
Why....

- Traditional attitudes towards women,
- Poverty,
- Early marriage,
- Gender based violence
- Teen pregnancy,
- Choice to use scarce resources to educate boys rather than girls
- Cultural norms that say education is not necessary to be a good wife and mother





- **Chiyedza Ndhlovu**, a 25 year-old girl in a family of ten children. Daughter to peasant farmers
- “I am the first child in my family to have made it to the University of Zambia and completed my studies in Natural Sciences and am happy that I will soon be graduating with a Bachelor’ degree”
- Chiyedza has just completed her tertiary education and looks forward to working for a research institution or a laboratory





- Women for Change's education sponsorship programme brings hope to **Bertha Mukonda**
- She dreams of becoming one of the top female leaders in Zambia
- Her parents supported her Grade 3 to 7 and she qualified to Grade 8.
- Parents divorced in grade 9 and father abandoned family making it hard for children to remain in school.
- "Though the spiral of fate seemed not to end, God's hand extend into our family and the sun's rays penetrated the dark cloud."
- Bertha is now in her fourth and final year studying for a degree in education at the University of Zambia.



Ruth Chinyong'ona is a Secretary for Ntasa Area Association, a WfC supported woman-led group. She is married with six children. She regrets that her two oldest daughters were married off after they failed Grade nine examinations.

"Had I joined Women for Change then, I would not have let the two girls get married after failing Grade nine. WfC's training in Gender has helped me realise the importance of giving girls an opportunity to complete their education."

"Now we are doing our best to ensure that the remaining four children get educated. Our last born, a girl, is in Grade 6 at Ntasa Primary School. I will make sure she completes school and goes to university. I don't want her to end on the way like what happened to her two sisters."

What can the UCW do:

Learn more about the barriers to education faced by women and girls in Zambia and in Canada.

Pray for Women for Change and others working to remove barriers to education for girls.

Support local community initiatives for homework clubs, school breakfast programs and after school programs that help children succeed in school

Advocate for effective international support for access to education.

Contribute funds to help Women for Change keep girls in school.