



Annual Report 2023

October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023





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A NOTE FROM OUR Board Chair



Jetty Lungu

Project Concern Zambia (PCZ) is a local NGO with demonstrated capacity to prime a major donor award of over \$20million and reaching over 100,000 participants in 19 districts and three provinces. It was the first NGO to develop and scale up an electronic case management system which the government has adapted and will be using to enhance social protection information management.

We would like to pay a big tribute to the staff of PCZ with which this work would not have been possible. The team have worked tirelessly through this FY23, they have outdone themselves and I would like to say hats off to the team. A special thank you to all the donors and funders for their support as this work would not have been possible without them.

PCZ is a strong locally owned and led NGO that provides quality services in the health sector in a professional manner guided by strong corporate governance principles. Our goal is to reach global standards and this has been evidenced by attaining high ratings from the institutional capacity assessment done by IntraHealth under the USAID LOCAL Project.

We continue to demonstrate high level impact in the communities that we are working in with our family centred approach in Central, Southern and Western Province, with additional funding from the Helmsley Trust Fund. The total funds stood at US\$5,374,292.00 for ECAP II, ECAP Plus and Chimwemwe Teens. This enabled us to support over 100,000 beneficiaries in health and social economic services.

As part of our business development and private sector engagement strategy, PCZ partnered with the PEPSICO and First National Bank Zambia Foundations to further compliment the work we are undertaking in the communities. These collaborations are what give us strength to carry on doing even greater things. We are eternally grateful to the donors, funders and all the stakeholders to which this work would not have been possible.

JL

Sincerely
Jetty Lungu
Board Chairman



A NOTE FROM OUR Chief Executive Officer



Yvonne Mulenga

Fiscal Year 2023 was a good year for Project Concern Zambia! The pivotal moment was when we successfully put to test one of our business models, blended finance. We began the year with only one multi-year grant from the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and one small grant from the Neeley Foundation, through Global Communities. We knew we needed to sustain our programs that were already showing a lot of impact.

If we were to succeed, we needed a business model that would allow us to use our current funding as catalytic funding to mobilize additional resources. In June 2023, we did just that! We successfully signed an agreement with the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Trust Foundation to scale up the successful ECAP model to four districts in Western Province that were underserved, but evidence was showing they had one of the highest disease burdens in Zambia. The new three-year grant also enabled us to scale up to emerging community hotspots in five USAID ECAP II districts that evidence was showing had rising incidence of HIV and sexual violence among children and adolescents. The co-investment from USAID and the Helmsley foundation enabled us to pool resources from the two grants and aligned strategies and operations to efficiently maximize impact, reaching over 100,000 vulnerable children and adolescents and their caregivers in over 300 communities in eight districts in three provinces in Zambia.

For us to reach over 100,000 vulnerable children, adolescents, and their caregivers comprehensively across their health and socio-economic needs, it took a village! Our village engagement approach was manifested in our public and private sector engagement strategy. We continued to leverage social protection public resources such as constituency development funds and the social cash transfer programs and private sector resources. This enabled us to improve the scale and efficiency of delivering comprehensive case management services for vulnerable children, adolescents, and their caregivers across their health and socioeconomic needs, and we were able to increase vulnerable women entrepreneurship skills and financial inclusion.

A big thank you and gratitude to team PCZ deployed to the national office in Lusaka, regional offices in Choma, Kabwe and Mongu and the 19 project districts. We remain grateful to all our donors in 2023. My gratitude will not be complete if I do not give a big THANK YOU to our foot soldiers, the 664 Case Workers we worked with in 2023, deployed to over 300 communities in all the 19 project districts, and who enabled us to successfully reach the last mile with community-led and prioritized interventions.

Thank you!

YM

Yvonne Mulenga
Chief Executive Officer

PCZ PROJECT
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ZAMBIA

About us:

Advancing Locally led Development in Zambia...

Project Concern Zambia (PCZ), is a local Zambian independent organization, established in 2019. Governed by an independent local board, PCZ in 2023 was prime recipient of funding from USAID with support from PEPFAR and from the Helmsley Trust Foundation. As a prime recipient of donor funds, PCZ together with local partners are at the center stage of development in Zambia through the delivery of locally led interventions derived from local solutions

Strengthening Public Health and Social Protection Systems...

PCZ work focuses on strengthening community public health and social protection systems to sustainably support inclusive development, HIV epidemic control, increase access to quality integrated health care and social protection among vulnerable communities, and foster climate resilience. PCZ leverages the existing community ecosystem and collaborates with community-led organizations, the government, and the private sector to serve targeted vulnerable communities and populations.

Maximizing Sustainable Impact through Blended Finance....

In 2023, PCZ reached over 100,000 vulnerable children, adolescents, and their caregivers in over 300 communities in Central, Southern, and Western Provinces of Zambia. PCZ leveraged the USAID-funded Empowered Children and Adolescents Program II (USAID ECAP II), to bring on board an additional donor, the Helmsley Trust Foundation. Through the combined and pulled resources from the two donors, PCZ was able to scale up the successful ECAP model to four underserved districts in Western Province as prioritized by local and traditional authorities.



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Our Vision

PCZ's mission is to empower communities in Zambia to enhance health, protect and nurture girls, end hunger and overcome hardship.

Our Mission

PCZ envisions a Zambia in which the most vulnerable people will have the power to lift themselves out of poverty and to create vital, healthy lives for their families and communities now and for the future.





Our Core Values

1

Respect and Humility:

We serve and interact with our project participants, donors, partners, and local government with deep respect and humility. We value and deeply respect the unique and diverse backgrounds of everyone. Respect and humility shape who we are.

2

Integrity:

We maintain the highest standards of professional and ethical behavior, and value transparency and honesty in our communications, relationships, and actions.

3

Accountability:

We hold ourselves accountable and ensure effective use of donor resources for impactful and sustainable results of our work and for the commitments we make to our participants, partners, donors, and each other.

4

Equity:

Equity is at the core of our work. We ensure there is equity and fairness in the way we reach and serve our participants, the way we implement all our interventions and distribute donor resources, and the way we operate as an organization.

5

Innovation:

We go beyond traditional ideas and approaches, so new possibilities and innovation can flourish to ensure real and lasting positive change.

What we do:

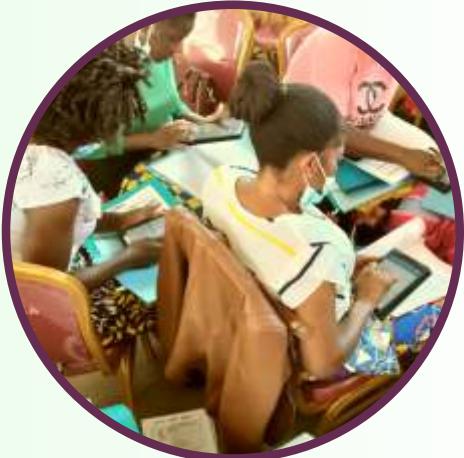


Health

PCZ is on the frontlines working with families, communities and government primary health and social protection systems to improve child, adolescent, and maternal health; address social determinants of health; support epidemic control of deadly threats such as HIV, COVID-19, tuberculosis, and malaria; prevent and manage acute and chronic malnutrition; and timely prevent and treat cervical cancer.

Adolescent Girls and Young Women

PCZ understands that gender equality is key to ending health inequities. We are committed to improving the lives of Adolescent Girls and Young Women through increased access to non-discriminatory HIV prevention and sexual reproductive health services; increased access to secondary school and tertiary education; increased access to age-appropriate economic strengthening interventions; prevention of gender-based violence and increased linkage to post violence health care and legal services.



End Hunger

PCZ works with government livelihood programs and the private sector to address the root cause of hunger by empowering communities with tools they need and mobilizing and training them to form and self-manage market-linked Saving Groups to improve agriculture yields and household economic security.



Overcome Hardship

PCZ supports Zambia's most vulnerable communities to be more resilient to a range of shocks and stresses - from food and economic insecurity to floods, droughts, and emerging pandemics such as COVID-19. When disaster strikes, we provide support for people to rebuild their lives.

Digitalized Community Health Systems

PCZ has automated all its data collection, analysis and reporting system through a software solution, the electronic Case Management System (eCMS). The eCMS has shifted data management and evidence-based decision-making power to the community. Community case workers are able to collect point of care data through tablets and transmit the data in real-time to the central server, where actionable data is timely collated, analyzed and through an integrated feedback loop, actionable data is timely pushed back to communities to guide evidence-based decision making.

Our Team in action in 2023:



We went to remote and hard to reach areas



We effectively collaborated with the Government and other stakeholders at community and district level



We visited the last mile of service delivery with our partners. And when our program participants spoke, we listened.



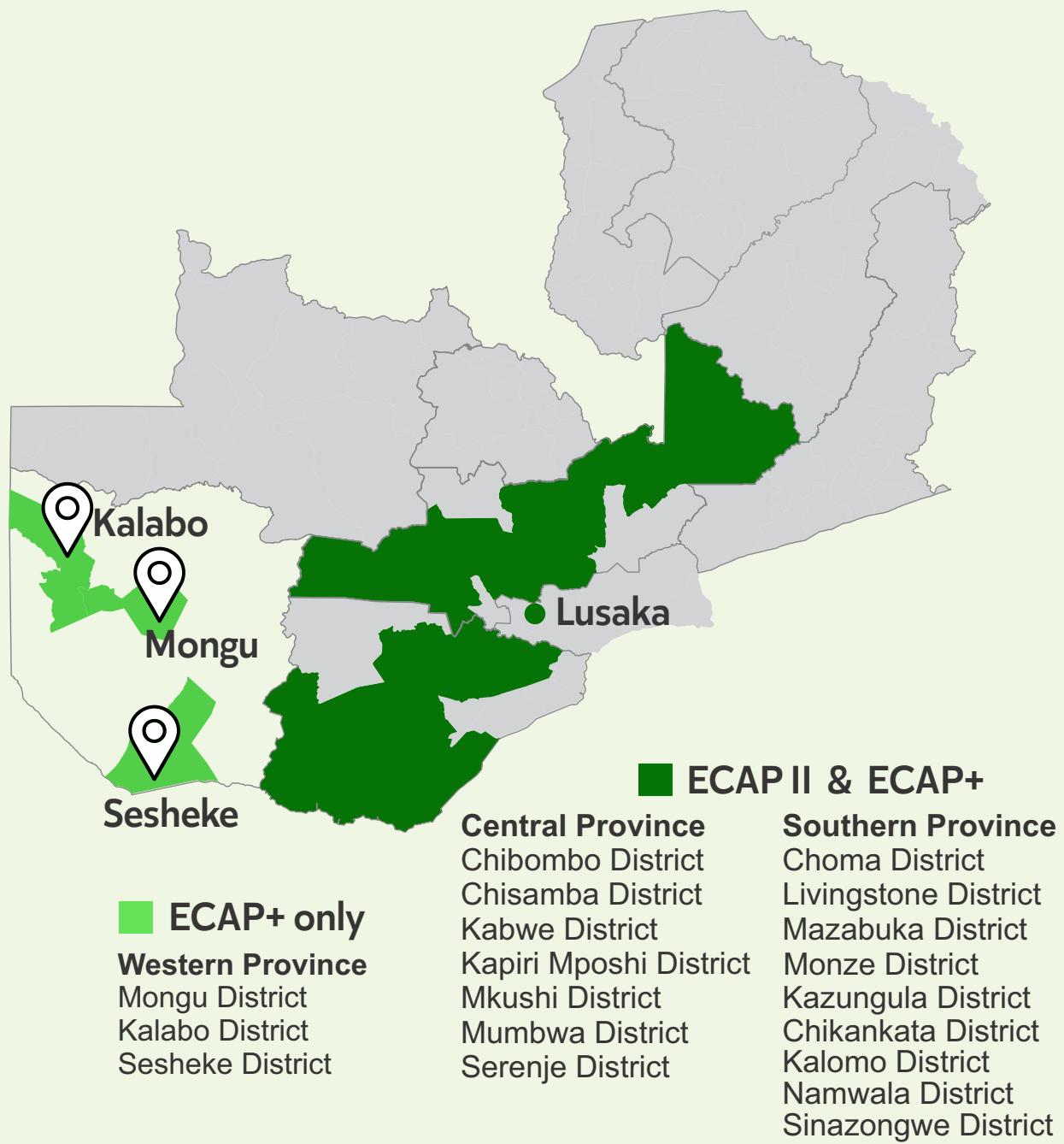
We delivered case management services tailored to the needs of our program participants at household and community level



Our community workforce made it happen!

When disaster struck, we rushed to the aid of our beneficiaries

Where we worked in 2023



Our Programs in 2023

Leveraging the ECAP model to comprehensively serve our program participants

PCZ utilized the ECAP model that uses a community case management pathway to improve the resilience and health outcomes among vulnerable children and adolescents (VCA) and their caregivers. The ECAP model is anchored in the belief that while there are VCA living with HIV—diagnosed and undiagnosed—who need to be linked to treatment and care—there are also many VCA who are at risk of contracting HIV, and they are living in environments that increase their vulnerability to HIV. Through this model, PCZ networked the community health and social workforce and partnered with Government, and the private sector to unleash the potential of communities and families to build a unified, comprehensive, and sustainable service delivery network

USAID ECAP II

PCZ is implementing the five-year (October 2020-September 2025) USAID ECAP II program funded by USAID with support from PEPFAR. PCZ, as the prime partner, led the implementation of the USAID ECAP II project in 16 districts in Central and Southern Provinces of Zambia and reached over 100,000 VCA and their caregivers. The goal of the program is to improve the resilience and health outcomes among VCA via a sustained, locally led VCA comprehensive case management service delivery system to ensure VCA are healthy, safe, schooled, and stable...and ultimately ensure epidemic control and sustenance.



USAID ECAP II

Empowered Children and Adolescents Program II



ECAP+
Empowered Children and Adolescents Program Plus

ECAP Plus (ECAP+)

Funded by the Helmsley Charitable Trust, PCZ is implementing the three-year - June 2023 to May 2026 - ECAP+ as a complementary program to the USAID ECAP II program. Through ECAP+, PCZ expanded the ECAP model to hotspots with high HIV incidence in 6 USAID ECAP II districts. PCZ also scaled up the successful model to four underserved high HIV burden districts in Western Province and reached over 9,000 VCA. PCZ is fostering the partnership between the two ECAP programs to ensure resources are pulled and strategies, programs, and operations are aligned to efficiently maximize impact and ensure VCA and their families are reached with holistic services cutting across their health and socioeconomic needs.

Chimwemwe Teens! Meaningful Youth Engagement

In 2023, PCZ with support from the Neeley Foundation and Global Communities finalized and validated a Proof of Concept (POC) to demonstrate the feasibility of engaging adolescents in HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) programming. Adolescents Agents of Change - Chimwemwe Teens! - behind the POC led the meaningful and active engagement of Adolescent Girls & Young Women and their networks that PCZ is reaching in the ECAP programs, in shaping and implementing HIV and SRH programs meant for them. With support from the Helmsley Trust, PCZ initiated the scaling up of the validated POC in 3 communities in Kapiri Mposhi district in Central Province.



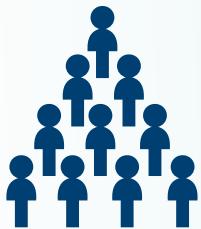

**Chimwemwe
TEENS!**

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Our Program Impact

Health

Supporting HIV epidemic control & integrated maternal, child and adolescent health



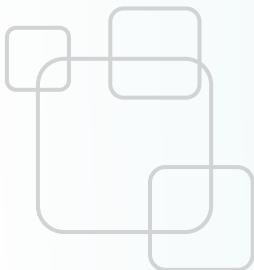
664

case workers
recruited, trained & deployed
to over 300 communities



122,927

Vulnerable Children, Adolescents &
their caregivers reached with comprehensive
HIV, health & socioeconomic services



**STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY HEALTH
& SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

U=U! Undetectable HIV virus means Untransmittable

Biological HIV-positive mothers of **2,814 HIV Exposed Infants** were supported with ongoing treatment adherence and viral load testing. The exposed infants were linked to ongoing prophylactic services. The mothers remained undetectable during the breastfeeding period and their infants remained HIV free!



7,356 Children and Adolescents Living with HIV were reached with community-and home-based treatment adherence and care services as part of case management and they had undetectable HIV viral load at the end of the fiscal year!

The first 95:

Supported the identification of new HIV cases at community level



104

Community testers trained,
certified & deployed

5,042

Children, Adolescents &
Caregivers tested for HIV



New HIV
cases identified

20

HIV positive Children, Adolescents &
Caregivers linked to treatment and care

70%
of identified
HIV cases
were females

70%
of identified
HIV cases
were
adolescents

Testing for Prevention

5,799 Adolescent Girls and Young Women who were HIV-negative but at elevated risk of HIV acquisition were reached with ongoing and age-appropriate biomedical prevention interventions such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and SRH services.



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Our Program Impact

Adolescent Girls & Young Women

Schooled Adolescent Girls and Young Women!



461

Supported with
school progression
and retention

Supported school progression and retention for 461 high-performing Adolescent Girls and Young Women at elevated risk of HIV acquisition

Linked 212 out of school Young Women at elevated risk of HIV acquisition to accredited skills training programs and market-researched apprenticeship programs

Reducing period poverty

Reduced school absenteeism brought about by period poverty for 590 Adolescent Girls and Young Women through the distribution of sanitary products



212

Linked to accredited
skills training
programs

Reducing period poverty

Reduced school absenteeism brought about by period poverty for 590 Adolescent Girls and Young Women through the distribution of sanitary products



590

Reached with
sanitary products
to reduce school
absenteeism



1920

Adolescent Girls
and Young Women
completed a life
skills curriculum

Overcome Hardship

In partnership with Global Communities, supported caregivers of vulnerable children and adolescents to form and successfully manage 561 market-linked Women Empowered (WE) Savings Groups built upon a WE methodology that promotes gender equality and focuses on household economic strengthening and women caregivers inclusiveness in household decision making, through financial inclusion

561

Market-linked
Women Empowered (WE)
Savings Groups
mobilized & trained

ZMW 14,315,458

(\$714,000
estimated dollar
equivalent in 2023)
in savings

31

groups linked
to seed grants

The savings groups had a combined sum of ZMW 14,315,458 in savings. PCZ linked 31 groups to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development where they accessed seed grants, as part of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) initiative, to launch their income generating activities



Partnered with FNB Zambia and trained 91 WE Savings Groups comprising 1,315 members in financial literacy

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Our Program Impact

End Hunger

Strengthened collaboration with Public Social Protection Programs as a pathway to alleviating poverty for households with vulnerable children and adolescents

829 VCA and their caregivers were enrolled on the Government-supported Social Cash Transfer program and they received a monthly income to increase their protection against hunger and shocks

496 viable but vulnerable households engaged in subsistence farming were linked to the Ministry of Agriculture Farmers Input Support Program (FISP) and they accessed farming input packs including fertilizer, maize, and bean seeds

152 VCA caregivers were trained by the Ministry of Agriculture in Small Plot Horticulture, vegetable production and marketing

532 vulnerable but viable households were linked to the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, and they accessed food security packs

44 vulnerable children and adolescents with disabilities were supported to access disability cards for easy access of services





Primary prevention of HIV & sexual violence

Implemented HIV and sexual violence prevention programs in 118 targeted hotspot communities. A total of 7,559 teens (2,957 boys and 4,602 girls) 10-14 years of age and their 7,559 caregivers successfully graduated from the 14 module Chimwemwe Parenting Program.

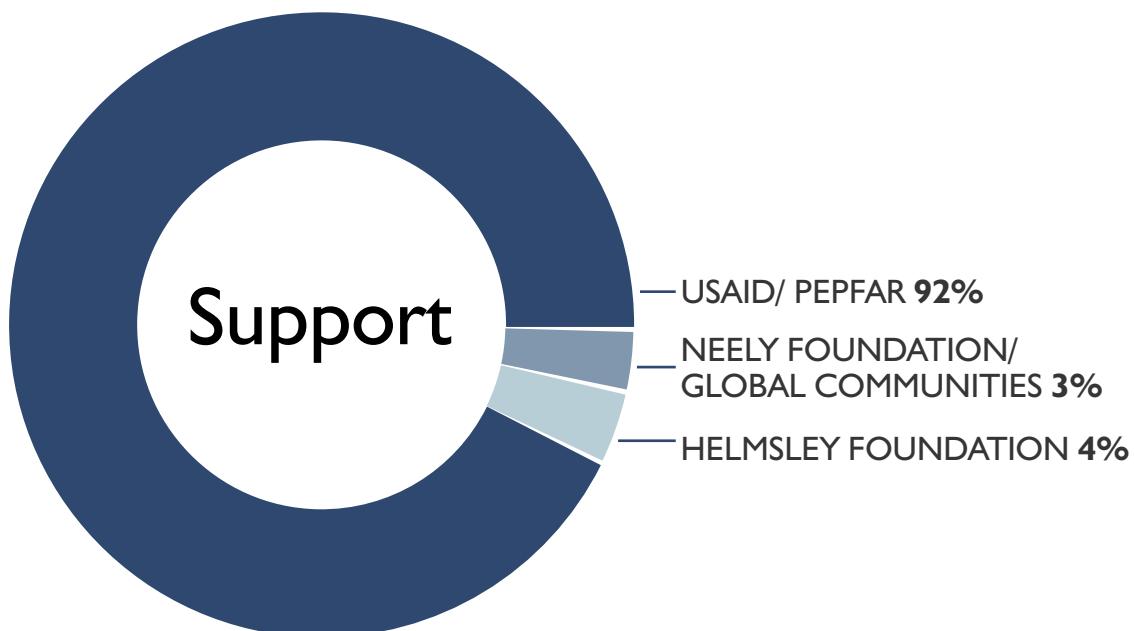
Digitalized Community Health Systems

We worked in partnership with BlueCode, our Information Technology partner and fully migrated Case Workers from the paper-based Case Management System to the electronic Case Management System (eCMS). This facilitated the ability of case workers to electronically document case management services at point of care and in real time into the eCMS, through handheld tablets. The eCMS also facilitated the ability of program personnel, and managers to timely analyze and use program data for decision making and reporting.

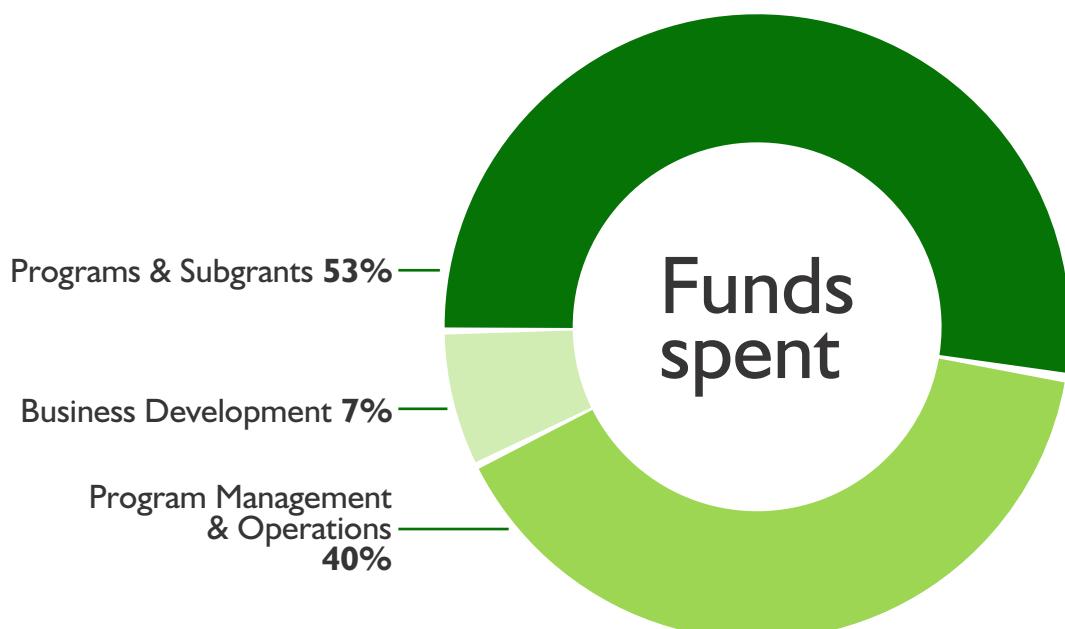


2023 Financial Snapshot

Where our support came from



How we spent our funds



FINANCIAL SUMMARY FY23 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	ECAP II US\$	HELMSLEY US\$	NEELY US\$	TOTAL US\$
OPENING BALANCE	6,096	-	15,273	9,177
GRANTS RECEIVED	4,171,871	300,000	163,772	4,635,643
INTEREST PAID TO USAID	6,812	-	-	-
INTEREST RECEIVED	4,189	-	-	4,189
	<u>4,175,344</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>148,499</u>	<u>4,630,655</u>
PERSONNEL	922,324	49,007	26,761	998,093
FRINGE BENEFITS	391,781	11,695	11,528	415,005
TRAVEL	374,578	12,961	6,481	394,019
SUPPLIES	144,940	60,188	320	205,449
CONTRACTUAL	1,674,063	22,747	98,466	1,795,276
OTHER DIRECT COST (ODC)	330,960	24,932	2,222	358,114
	<u>3,838,647</u>	<u>181,531</u>	<u>145,778</u>	<u>4,165,956</u>
INDIRECT CHARGES	289,480	18,153	2,721	310,354
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,128,127	199,684	148,499	4,476,310
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	47,217	100,316	0	154,345

Our Donors in 2023

We are thankful!



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



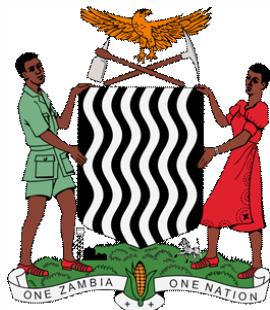
NEELY
FOUNDATION



**Global
Communities**

THE LEONA M. AND HARRY B.
HELMSLEY
CHARITABLE TRUST

Who we partnered with at grassroot level



**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**
POWERED BY YOUNG PEOPLE





Support PCZ to sustain HIV epidemic control among children, adolescents and women and help to curb intergenerational poverty in Zambia



Contact

Chief Executive Officer
37/1P St. Eugene Office Park, Lake Rd, Kabulonga
P.O. Box 32320, Lusaka 10101 Zambia
Ph: +260 211356648 M: +260 966321406

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