



CARE Zambia

**Strengthening Community Partnerships
for the Empowerment of Orphans and
Vulnerable Children (SCOPE)**





Currently it's estimated that about 1.1 million children are orphans as a result of HIV/AIDS. Many of these children are abandoned due to stigma or a simple lack of resources; others run away because they've been mistreated or abused by foster families.

For more information please contact us at info@carezam.org





CARE's SCOPE-OVC project, Strengthening Community Partnerships for the Empowerment of Orphans and Vulnerable Children, was designed to help lessen the impact of HIV/AIDS on orphans and vulnerable children throughout Zambia. The three-year project which began in January 2008 is a \$350,000 initiative implemented by CARE Zambia in partnership with community groups across the country.

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SCOPE aims to mobilize, scale up and strengthen community-led responses and programs; essentially building the overall communities' capacity to identify and respond to the needs of these children.

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In Chazanga Compound near Lusaka, the SCOPE project looked first to the school. At the time all the teachers were volunteers. Commendable, but they had no training in teaching. CARE stepped in to train the teachers, of which there are now eight.

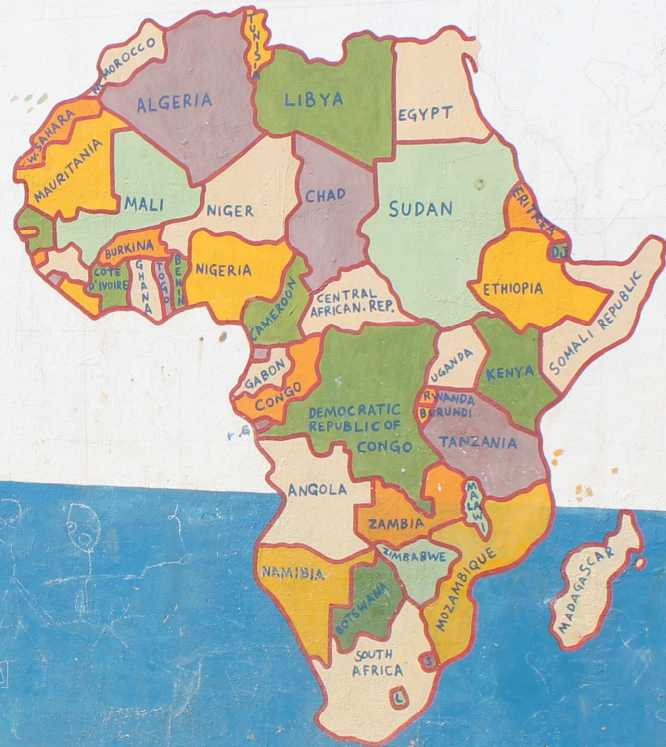
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DAVID LIVINGSTONE

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SUCCESS THROUGH PERSISTENCE & HARDWORK

R1





CARE also helped build classroom blocks for the school. Prior to that, the 700 or so children were taught either outside or in ramshackle structures. CARE then provided the school with furniture, textbooks and running water.

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The project then focused on training local caregivers. The community selected the candidates to become caregivers based on their willingness to care for the sick. CARE trained the volunteers in many areas including psycho-social counseling and basic medical care.

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They now have the skills to identify and support the children, many of whom have serious psychological problems as a result of HIV/AIDS touching their family and themselves. With support from the caregivers, most of these children are faring much better and doing well in school.

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Paulina is 9-years-old. She's a shy little girl with a certain sadness in her eyes. Both of Paulina's parents died of AIDS in 2004. She had four siblings, but two also passed away from AIDS. She thinks the other two are alive but she doesn't know where they are. Paulina now lives with her grandfather. When she first came to Chazanga in 2007, she was traumatized and was doing poorly in school. Volunteer caregivers, trained by CARE, noticed she was having problems and took her under their wing. They eventually saw that she got counseling and treatment. Paulina is HIV positive.

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CARE played an instrumental role in creating the support group of teachers and caregivers that now nurture Paulina and the other members of her village. And they helped form critical link between these caregivers and the nearest clinic where Paulina now gets treatment.

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The caregivers also clean houses when someone is too weak, run errands or take patients to the clinic when their symptoms are beyond their training. CARE helped develop a relationship with the nearest clinic, so the caregivers can make referrals. Doctors from the clinic also make periodic visits to Chazanga to check on the children and their families.

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CARE is also training these same caregivers and other members of the community on some basic business development skills, to help them produce and sell goods in the local market.

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They've since developed a revolving fund whereby the profits from these small businesses go back to the households that need extra help.

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Since the project began, CARE has trained 350 community caregivers and 150 teachers to the benefit of 80,000 children and 20,000 parents in 16 communities throughout Zambia.

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