



Lusaka Child Development Agency



ANNUAL REPORT FY25

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Message from the Federation Manager



It is with great pride and gratitude that I present the Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) Annual Report for the 2025 financial year (July 2024 – June 2025). This report highlights our milestones, impact, and the progress we have achieved in advancing the well-being of children, families, and communities despite the evolving global and local challenges.

The past year was marked by both opportunities and obstacles. Through the resilience and dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and the communities we serve, LKCD has continued to implement integrated programs in health, education, child protection, disaster risk reduction, and livelihoods. Our work reflects our enduring commitment to addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable children while laying a foundation for sustainable development.



In health, we enhanced access to essential services through training of healthcare workers and volunteers, enabling better service delivery at community level. We also implemented the Kangaroo Mother Care project, ensuring improved outcomes for mothers and newborns.

In addition, we expanded nutrition support to children facing moderate acute malnutrition, complemented by cooking demonstrations that empowered caregivers with knowledge on preparing nutritious, locally available meals. Our education interventions continued to nurture young learners in our two Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres, giving them a strong foundation for advancement. With support from ChildFund Zambia, we also provided school requisites to vulnerable children, removing barriers to access and helping them remain in school.

Alongside these efforts, social cash transfers were extended to families affected by drought, cushioning shocks and improving resilience. Child protection remained central to our mission. Through awareness campaigns, rights clubs, and interactive platforms, we worked with children and caregivers to prevent abuse and strengthen protection mechanisms. These achievements were made possible through close collaboration with line ministries of Health, Education, and Community Development, alongside the invaluable trust of our partner communities.

As we transition into FY26, we recognize the growing needs of young people and the shifting funding landscape. LKCD is therefore focusing its niche on youth livelihood programming, equipping young people with market-relevant skills, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, advocacy, and sexual and reproductive health education. While health and education will continue with targeted support, our priority is to build resilient youth who can thrive in today's economic and social environment.

We are also working to diversify our funding portfolio, strengthen visibility, and build strategic partnerships to ensure sustainability. We remain committed to transparency, accountability, and child centered development. I extend my deepest appreciation to our partners, supporters, and communities for walking this journey with us. With continued innovation, adaptability, and collaboration, I am confident that together, we will achieve even greater milestones for Zambia's children and youth.

Sincerely,

Ms. MWAKAMUI MALAMBO





Who We Are



Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) is a child and youth focused nonprofit working in partnership with ChildFund Zambia to uplift vulnerable communities in Lusaka's most densely populated areas.

Through three community associations, Ng'ombe, Tiyanjane, and Luumuno, LKCD reaches an estimated target population of 170,633, including children, adolescents, youth, and women. LKCD designs and delivers programs using a life-stage approach, ensuring that interventions are age-appropriate and responsive to the evolving needs of children and their communities.

From early childhood to young adulthood, the organization promotes holistic well-being through education, health, protection, and empowerment initiatives. Driven by a commitment to equity and inclusion, LKCD fosters environments where children and youth facing deprivation, exclusion, and vulnerability can thrive.

Its core mission is to empower communities to lead their own development efforts, creating sustainable change from within. By placing children at the heart of its work, LKCD continues to build brighter futures in the communities.



Vision Statement

LKCDCA envisions communities that create a positive and sustainable environment for the deprived, excluded and vulnerable children.

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to promote and facilitate the active engagement of communities, children and youth, and make them prime agents of their own growth and development.



Our Core Outcomes

Life Stage One

Healthy and Secure
Infants

Life Stage Two

Educated and Confident
Children

Life Stage Three

Skilled and Involved Youth



Annual Highlights

During the 2024–2025 financial year, Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) continued to deliver integrated programs in health, education, child protection, sponsor relations, and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Our work placed children and families at the centre of change, with tangible results in multiple sectors: Health and Nutrition: Partnering with the Ministry of Health and community facilities, we trained health workers and volunteers in neonatal care, breastfeeding, and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), reducing neonatal referrals by 50% within five months.

Over 400 mothers benefited from these efforts. Additionally, 18 facilities received High-Energy Protein Supplements (HEPS), reaching 363 children with moderate acute malnutrition, while 170 learners in our Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres also received HEPS to boost nutrition, attendance, and performance. Education: Through Reading and Writing Clubs in Ng'ombe, Tiyanjane, and Luumuno communities, 180 children enhanced their literacy skills and creativity.

With ChildFund Zambia's support, more than 900 vulnerable learners received school requisites such as books, bags, shoes, and fees, easing the burden on parents and ensuring continuity in learning. Child Protection: We strengthened awareness of the Children's Code Act of 2012 through training sessions, school rights clubs, and volunteer-led outreach in communities. Over 945 families and 13,000 learners were sensitized, while radio campaigns reached 464,316 community members with messages on abuse prevention, child marriage, and exploitation.

Youth Development: 27 young people were trained as peer educators, reaching 1,364 adolescents with sexual and reproductive health messages. Youth also engaged in climate action during World Environment Day, promoting green jobs and resilience.

Disaster Response: In response to drought-induced vulnerabilities, over 400 households received social cash transfers and food support, cushioning families against economic shocks.

Health and Nutrition

Health, Nutrition, Baby Care Kits Distribution and Nurturing Care for Development

Health, nutrition, Baby Care Kits Distribution and nurturing care for development remains at the core of LKCD's programming during the year under review. Working in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and community health facilities, the Agency placed children, mothers, and caregivers at the centre of interventions designed to improve survival, growth, and development outcomes.

Nutrition Support

Emergency nutrition support remained a key pillar of LKCD's work. In collaboration with ChildFund Zambia and health facilities, 18 clinics in Lusaka were supplied with High-Energy Protein Supplements (HEPS) for children identified with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). A total of 363 children benefited from this intervention, helping them recover and regain strength.

To further strengthen nutrition outcomes, HEPS was also provided to 170 learners in the Agency's two Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres. This effort not only improved the nutrition status of the children but also enhanced learner attendance and performance.

Baby Care Kits Distribution

Zambia has made notable progress in maternal and child health, yet challenges such as malnutrition and inadequate nutrition persist. Therefore, during the year under review, LKCD distributed 825 Baby Health Kits, donated by ChildFund, to pregnant women and mothers with children under age two at Ng'ombe, Mandevu, and John Howard clinics. The agency also aired maternal and child health sensitization messages on TV, reinforcing its commitment to improving health outcomes for vulnerable mothers and children. (insert this information after the nurturing care for

Nurturing Care for Development

To promote early childhood development in line with the Nurturing Care Framework, LKCD trained 20 volunteers and 16 facility staff in the five pillars of nurturing care, good health, adequate nutrition, responsive caregiving, security and safety, and opportunities for early learning. These trainings equipped health workers and community volunteers with the skills and knowledge to engage parents and caregivers, ensuring that children under eight receive the best possible start in life.

Maternal and Newborn Health

For newborns, the Agency strengthened healthcare workers' skills in neonatal resuscitation, breastfeeding support, and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) at Ng'ombe clinic. These interventions had measurable impact: neonatal referrals reduced from 31 to 16 within five months. KMC, in particular, proved lifesaving during power outages, enabling mothers to keep their babies warm when incubator use was not possible. The project benefited over 400 mothers.

Cooking Demonstrations

Further strengthening this initiative, LKCDA partnered with the Ministry of Health at Ng'ombe, Mandevu, and Chawama clinics to conduct cooking demonstrations for mothers of malnourished children. These sessions promoted the use of locally available, nutrient-rich foods such as sweet potatoes to improve dietary practices.

Together, these interventions enhanced community capacity to address child malnutrition, encouraged sustainable healthy eating habits, and contributed to better growth, learning outcomes, and overall well-being for vulnerable children. Through these integrated initiatives, LKCDA demonstrated its continued commitment to improving child and maternal health, advancing early childhood development, and building resilient communities.

By combining nurturing care, maternal and newborn interventions, and nutrition support, the Agency strengthened local systems and ensured that children and families were better positioned to thrive despite prevailing challenges.



Education



Several factors continue to hinder the delivery of quality education in Zambia, requiring collective action from all stakeholders. In line with its mandate, Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) has continued to complement Government efforts aimed at improving both access to and the quality of education for children in underserved communities.

In FY25, the Agency placed strong emphasis on enhancing literacy skills and improving learner performance. To this end, LKCD supported three reading and writing clubs in Ng'ombe, Tiyanjane, and Luumuno communities. These clubs provided safe and interactive spaces for children to strengthen their reading and writing abilities while also boosting creativity and confidence through quarterly letter-writing competitions.

In total, 180 children actively participated, benefiting both enrolled and community children. In a similar vein and recognizing the financial barriers many families face, LKCD also supported enrolled children with essential school requisites, including books, bags, shoes, and payment of school fees for those in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions.

This intervention directly reached more than 900 children, ensuring continuity in learning and reducing the burden on parents and caregivers. Through these efforts, LKCD continues to invest in education as a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty and creating brighter futures for children.

Youth Development Programs

Youths in Zambia continue to face challenges such as unemployment, limited access to industrial and life skills, and gaps in positive health behaviors. Recognizing their potential to thrive and lead change in their families and communities, Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) invested in empowering young people as agents of change.

In FY25, the Agency trained 27 youths as peer educators to champion health awareness among their peers. Equipped with skills in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education, these peer educators reached 1,364 adolescents (634 males and 730 females) through community outreach activities.

The initiative provided young people with accurate SRH information, enabling them to make informed choices and reduce vulnerabilities to early pregnancies, STIs, and HIV/AIDS.

Beyond SRH, LKCD also supported youth participation in the World Environment Day commemoration at Nkoloma Stadium. This engagement exposed them to opportunities in green jobs and climate action, preparing them for broader initiatives such as the ChildFund supported Climate Change STEP project called Green Jobs And Climate-Smart Entrepreneurship for Youths.

These efforts reflect LKCD's commitment to building resilient, skilled, and involved youth who can contribute meaningfully to their communities.





Safeguarding our Children in Communities

Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) remains committed to creating safe and nurturing environments where children grow up with dignity, respect, and protection from all forms of harm. In FY25, our child protection efforts centered on strengthening community awareness and enforcement of the Children's Code Act of 2012.

Staff, volunteers, parents, school management, and pupils were trained on the provisions of the Act, including the rights and responsibilities of children, reporting mechanisms, and community roles in preventing abuse. These initiatives ensured families and schools were equipped with knowledge to identify, report, and respond effectively to child protection concerns.

Through cascading efforts by trained volunteers, 945 enrolled families and more than 13,363 learners were reached with critical protection messages. To deepen children's participation and voice, the Agency facilitated the formation of Child Protection Clubs in schools.

These clubs empowered learners to engage in governance issues, promote peer learning, and influence school management decisions that affect their well-being. The clubs are emerging as safe platforms for children to champion their rights while holding stakeholders accountable.

Additionally, the Agency leveraged mass media through radio awareness campaigns conducted with child protection committees. These campaigns reached an estimated 464,316 community members, addressing sensitive but pressing issues such as child abuse, neglect, child marriage, and exploitation while highlighting poverty as a root cause among others.

By integrating capacity building, peer engagement, and mass outreach, LKCD has reinforced community structures that protect children while fostering environments where they can thrive safely and confidently.



Child sponsorship, as espoused in the ChildFund Sponsorship Operations procedure and core outcomes, stands as a glimmer of hope and bridge from poverty to success for the majority of our population, including those who we interface with on a daily basis.

A story of hope is what defines this assertion and brings it home for Chisomo Mwale, a handsome and hardworking boy who hails from Chaiza, one of the catchment areas where Lusaka Child Development Agency operates. His is a definition of success, an example of transformation or gathering clouds for what would futuristically be termed thunder in the making.

Stories of Change

A Story of Hope: Chisomo Mwale's Journey

***"I am so thankful to my sponsor. They've supported me through school and life, and that has inspired me to work hard and aim higher."* – Chisomo Mwale.**

At just nine years old, Chisomo Mwale from Chaiza joined the Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) sponsorship program under Luumuno Community Association.

His family, struggling with food insecurity and frequent relocations due to high rental costs, had little hope for stability. With his father working as a security guard and his mother as a housemaid, meeting basic needs was a constant challenge. Through sponsorship, Chisomo's life began to change.

His sponsor provided school supplies, clothing, and food ensuring he could stay in school consistently. Later, responding to the family's dream of owning a permanent home, the sponsor went further by supporting the purchase of land and construction of a two-bedroom house, now at window level. "The change that has taken place in my family is real," Chisomo shares emotionally. "At times I shed tears imagining what would have happened had I not been enrolled in the program."

Today, Chisomo is in Grade 10 at Chaiza Secondary School and determined to finish his education. His story stands as a beacon of transformation showing how sponsorship is not only about meeting immediate needs but also about shaping brighter futures.



The Story of Pearson and His Family's Journey Through Sponsorship

One of the major aims of the sponsorship program is to bring lasting improvement to the lives of deprived, excluded, and vulnerable children.

The inspiring story of eleven-year-old Pearson Tembo is a true testament to this vision. His journey, alongside that of his family, reflects a remarkable transformation from vulnerability to hope for a brighter future made possible through enrolment in the Child Sponsorship Program.

Pearson is an enrolled and sponsored child under Luumuno Community Association, one of the three community associations affiliated with LKCD. He lives with his sibling, their father, and grandmother, who serves as the family's main caregiver. Pearson currently attends Grade 4 at Emmasdale Primary School.

Before sponsorship, life for Pearson and his family was a daily struggle. With no reliable source of income, his grandmother tried to sustain the household by selling small quantities of vegetables at the local market. The limited earnings could hardly cover the family's basic needs, let alone educational supplies for Pearson and his sibling.



Often accompanying his grandmother, Pearson was exposed to street life, where many children survived by collecting and trading bottles for small amounts of money. Without intervention, this reality posed a real risk of school dropout for Pearson, as education seemed out of reach due to the lack of essentials such as books, a school bag, and writing materials.

His situation changed when Communications Agents engaged with the family and facilitated Pearson's enrollment in the Child Sponsorship Program. Through the support of ChildFund and LKCD, Pearson received the critical supplies he needed to pursue his education.



Gifts in kind, such as school kits containing bags, notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, and coloring pencils, eliminated barriers to his school attendance. Additionally, he was supported with shoes provided through sponsor gifts. Beyond material support, Pearson was also enrolled in Reading and Writing Intervention Activities, designed to improve literacy and comprehension among enrolled children.

This initiative aims to strengthen his ability to read, write, and actively participate in both school and community life. For Pearson, this opportunity is not only a gateway to better learning but also a chance to build confidence and a sense of belonging.

Today, Pearson and his family are filled with renewed optimism. They recognize the life-changing role that LKCD and ChildFund have played in ensuring access to comprehensive education. Pearson's grandmother is especially grateful for the support, noting that the program has not only reduced the family's burden but also provided the children with hope for a better tomorrow.

Pearson himself expressed his gratitude with heartfelt words: "I am humbled to have been part of the children that have received educational kits. I would have stopped going to school for lacking a bag, books, and other writing utensils, but now I am motivated because of LKCD and ChildFund. May God bless them all, including my sponsor. I would like to emulate what she is doing for me now when I complete my education and start working."

With determination and consistent support, Pearson aspires to complete his education, become a breadwinner for his family, and extend support to other vulnerable children in his community. His story reflects the power of sponsorship in leapfrogging children from vulnerability to opportunity, creating pathways for brighter futures.



Strengthening Community Ownership and Engagement Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD) continues to place communities at the center of change, ensuring that children and families actively participate in shaping their own development journey.

In FY25, the organization trained 15 community volunteers drawn from three Community Associations in sponsorship management, equipping them with the skills to process correspondences and manage sponsorship-related functions effectively. This investment in local capacity strengthens sustainability while ensuring timely and accurate communication between children, families, and sponsors.

LKCD partnered with Kish N Ash Restaurant to facilitate the participation of sponsored children during the Annual Sponsorship Day. This collaboration ensured inclusivity, allowing more sponsored children to participate in sponsorship activities. Creating Spaces for Learning and Fun The Annual Sponsorship Day was characterized by a variety of age-appropriate activities designed to promote holistic child development. Children engaged in face painting, literacy activities, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) sessions, and life-stage-based learning circles.

Additionally, the “Sponsorship Fun Day” provided a platform for children to celebrate their achievements while reinforcing the importance of child rights and participation. In total, these initiatives reached 303 sponsored children, both enrolled and non-enrolled, underscoring LKCD’s commitment to inclusivity, child participation, and fostering community-driven change.

Disaster Response

Responding to Drought Vulnerability: Social Cash Transfer and Food Relief Packs Disbursement



Social Cash Transfer

During the 2024/2025 financial year, Lusaka Child Development Agency (LKCD), with support from ChildFund Zambia, implemented a Social Cash Transfer (SCT) as well as food items distribution initiatives to cushion vulnerable households severely affected by the drought.

The program sought to reduce food insecurity and economic hardship among enrolled families in LKCD's catchment areas. Through a participatory process, LKCD staff and community volunteers conducted household vulnerability assessments guided by ChildFund Zambia's criteria, ensuring fairness and transparency.

A total of 400 households were identified and enrolled for support. Beneficiaries submitted their Airtel Money details, enabling efficient electronic fund transfers. LKCD partnered with a local commercial bank to channel payments through Airtel Money, after which beneficiaries received funds directly into their mobile wallets.

This intervention not only provided immediate relief but also promoted dignity, accountability, and financial inclusion. Each beneficiary confirmed receipt by signing the LKCD register, ensuring transparent documentation and reporting

Food packs disbursement

In addition to the Social Cash Transfers provided to the affected families, the organization also distributed food packs items to 314 enrolled children and their families in all three community associations.



The food packs items included 25kg Mealie Meal, 3kg Soya Chunks, 750ml–1L Cooking Oil, 1kg Sugar and 1kg Salt which were selected for their nutritional value and contribution to immediate household dietary requirements.



Financial Overview

2025

Activity	Annual Budget	Funds Received	Expenditure YTD
Life Stage One	787,417.52	708,837.76	733,360.13
Life Stage Two	495,808	469,054.91	464,997.75
Life Stage Three	172,152	286,874.26	161,730.75
Child Protection	300,966.77	297,765.66	208,861
Capacity Building	1,259,597.61	1,130,849.35	1,060,351.91
Disaster Risk Reduction	501,907.85	501,907.85	501,907.85
Total	3,517,849.75	3,395,289.8	3,130,412.39





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partnership with ChildFund Zambia**

