Annual Review

2025

zoe empowers



Winnie
Imani Empowerment Group, Tanzania



A LETTER FROM

Gaston Warner

When I visit Zoe's young participants in Africa and India, I am often asked some version of the same question about their partners:
"How is it possible that someone who did not even know me would change my life in this way?"

On their behalf, please allow me to say thank you. Your generosity stands behind these young people in ways that are truly transformative.

We are deeply grateful for how God has grown Zoe Empowers through the faithful support of people like you. Today, more than 80,000 young people are actively enrolled in Zoe's three-year empowerment program across 12 countries in Africa and India. As this ministry to orphaned children and extremely vulnerable youth continues to expand, I increasingly hear another question from supporters:
"Now that Zoe has grown, does my gift still matter?"

The answer is yes — profoundly.

While we celebrate Zoe's growth, we remain acutely aware that the need far exceeds our current capacity. Helping tens of thousands of young people move from abject poverty to sustainable self-sufficiency — across every area of life — while wrapped in layers of community and knowing they are not beyond the love of God is no small thing. Yet the global need remains in the tens of millions.

At community recruitment meetings in 2025, we often turned away as many qualified young people as we were able to accept because of funding limitations. Zoe Empowers' staff regularly share that this is the most difficult aspect of their work.

If you, your church, or your business are able to contribute $1 million dollars to Zoe, that is extraordinary. It will change many lives and, according to a recent study, generate a return on investment of over 1,000%.

If you, your church, or your business can contribute $10 a month, that is extraordinary. It will change lives and generate that same return on investment.

In 2025, the average cost per child in the program was $9.56 per month. A $1 million gift makes a big impact. But for the young person who is able to enter the program because of your $10 monthly gift, the impact for that young person is life-altering. And they too will wonder:
"How is it possible that someone who did not even know me would change my life in this way?"

May God bless you as you continue to be a blessing to others.



Gaston Warner
CEO, Zoe Empowers Global North

A LETTER FROM

Reegan Kaberia

As we reflect on 2025, we give thanks to God for the significant progress made in Zoe Empowers' programs, which continue to transform the lives of orphaned and other vulnerable children. Guided by God's wisdom, our teams have served with dedication, compassion, and innovation, ensuring that every initiative delivers meaningful support, care, and opportunity to the children and communities we serve.

One of the most notable blessings last year was the bumper harvests in Zimbabwe and Malawi, strengthening food security for the children and families in our programs. These provisions not only nourish their bodies but also give hope for a brighter future, reminding us of God's faithfulness and provision.

In our efforts to expand our reach and strengthen governance, we established the Global South Office, guided by a diverse and highly qualified Board of Directors. The board includes a legal expert, auditor, governance specialist, pastor, community development expert, a social scientist, and government administrator.

Their combined expertise ensures our strategic direction is both visionary and accountable, keeping the well-being of the children and God's calling at the center of every decision.

Complementing this, we have set up a fully operational office with key departments to strengthen organizational effectiveness:

Internal Audit: enhancing transparency, mitigating risks, and ensuring faithful stewardship of resources for the children, their families, and our partners.

Measurement, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL): ensuring that our programs are cost-effective, impactful, accountable, and continuously improving, so that every lesson learned benefits the children and glorifies God's work through our mission.

We are also blessed to welcome our new implementing Partner in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) under our strategic partnership with SWAPOL, extending Zoe Empowers' ability to support more vulnerable children there.

These structures and partnerships strengthen our commitment to faithful service, accountability, and sustainable impact. We trust that the foundations laid this year will accelerate our mission, allowing more children to thrive, grow in hope, and reach their God-given potential.

Thank you to our staff, partners, and communities for your dedication and prayers. Together, we continue to turn God's vision into life-changing opportunities for children and youth-led households.



Reegan Kaberia
CEO, Zoe Empowers Global South



We equip orphaned and vulnerable youth to overcome extreme poverty—for good.

Through a three-year, community-based program, participants become safe and healthy, equipped with skills for long-term success, and empowered to lead meaningful lives that strengthen their communities — knowing they are not beyond the love of God.



“I am now an empowered young lady. I can make informed decisions about my health and businesses.”

— Ruth, Zoe Empowers Zimbabwe

What is Extreme Poverty?

Youth living in extreme poverty is a global crisis affecting approximately 333 million young people worldwide.[1] Extreme poverty is commonly defined as living on less than $3.00 per day.[2] However, for the children and youth we serve, poverty encompasses more than a dollar amount. It is the lack of fundamental needs—food, shelter, education, healthcare, and security.

UNICEF refers to this as "multidimensional poverty," which encompasses not only financial hardship but also social and developmental disadvantages.

While income levels are a key indicator of poverty, they do not tell the whole story. The youth we serve face complex challenges that go beyond financial hardship, including: lack of access to education, healthcare, food, and clean water; exposure to violence and unsafe living conditions; limited opportunities for employment or skills development; social isolation and a lack of support systems.

These conditions hinder their physical and cognitive development, reducing opportunities and reinforcing cycles of poverty across generations. Without interventions, youth from the poorest households are twice as likely to die compared to their better-off peers.

[1] UNICEF, Global Trends in Child Monetary Poverty, July 2023.
[2] World Bank Group, June 2025 Update to Global Poverty Lines, June 2025.



Who We Serve

We are not an orphanage or a handout program—we are a movement equipping orphaned and vulnerable youth with the knowledge, resources, and community support needed to escape extreme poverty and thrive.

The Zoe Empowers program is designed for orphaned children and vulnerable youth living in extreme poverty, with youth-led households as the primary recipients.

The youth acting as the head of household for the family is usually between 14 and 20 years of age when entering the program and cares for younger siblings.

To ensure that the most vulnerable youth are enrolled in the program, the in-country staff use overlapping vetting procedures, including assistance from community leaders, interviews, home visits conducted by program facilitators, and mutual visitation by the empowerment group participants themselves.

Our Program Participants

While specific situations vary, the following criteria are used when selecting program participants:

Orphaned Youth and Children

Orphaned youth who have lost one or both parents and are now caring for their younger siblings without an adult present who is able to help.

Scan to read Emmanuel's path to rebuilding his life.

Elderly Caregiver

Youth and children living with an elderly caregiver who is unable to provide adequate food, shelter, education, and other needs.

Scan to read about Fiona's fight for family.

At-Risk Youth and Children

Non-orphans who face unsafe situations such as trafficking, child marriage, prostitution/ exploitation, or begging on the streets.

Scan to read Gladness's journey to mentoring others.



Chinsinsi with siblings Amon, Elisa and Judith (left to right)
Zoe Empowers Malawi



Deepika
Golden Way Empowerment Group, Chennai, India

Breaking the Cycle

Moving from survival to success with empowerment

Zoe Empowers helps vulnerable youth and their families develop self–sufficiency in the context of community, instead of solely relying upon third –party resources or services.

Participants take responsibility for their own journey out of poverty, building on the familiar proverb, "If you give someone a fish, you feed them for a day. If you teach someone to fish, you'll feed them for a lifetime."

The goal of Zoe's empowerment program goes beyond teaching vulnerable youth how to fish—it equips them to own the pond—creating lasting change that transforms their families for generations.

We empower vulnerable youth to solve the core issues of extreme poverty and eliminate the need for endless aid by creating opportunities for them to become safe and healthy, skilled, and connected community members.



Admire
Zoe Empowers Zimbabwe

Three years is all it takes.

Our three-year, community-based program provides vulnerable youth with tools and resources to become safe and healthy, skilled for long-term success, and supported socially and spiritually.

How It Works

YEAR 1: ENTRY INTO PROGRAM

It all starts with community.

We unite vulnerable youth into a peer group within their community. Group meetings and projects facilitate a sense of safety, connection and trust, while community members, staff, and financial supporters stand behind them.

We train holistically.

We facilitate group trainings and vocational mentorships, chosen by the participants themselves, to meet each young person's needs and goals.

Dignity is restored.

Youth find their voices and transform their lives while community members bear witness to their empowerment journey.

YEAR 3: GRADUATION

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Communities are transformed.

Group members continue supporting one another after graduation. Lives continue improving as generational change is realized. Entire communities are transformed.

Youth become safe and healthy.

Health and safety is a primary focus that includes food security, housing, health and hygiene, and child rights initiatives.

Secure Food & Housing

Youth are equipped to grow, buy, cook, and store food, and make necessary housing improvements.

Hygiene & Access to Healthcare

Youth learn basic hygiene, disease prevention, and how to access healthcare if needed.

Child Rights Initiatives

Youth are educated on rights, including gender equality, preventing future abuse and exploitation.

Youth are skilled for long-term success.

Sustainable, generational change is emphasized through education, vocational training, business development, and financial fluency.

Access to Education

Youth have resources to re-enroll/ begin formal education, with some attending college and beyond.

Vocational Training

Youth pursue greater income through individualized training funded by various resources such as grants or loans from their group.

Business Development & Financial Fluency

Youth receive micro grants and loans to fund business endeavors and are taught accounting and investing.

Youth are wrapped in layers of community.

Social and spiritual concerns are addressed including community reintegration, family reunification, and spiritual strength.

Community Reintegration

Youth embody a sense of belonging and confidence that transcends into broader society.

Family Reunification With Agency

Youth rejoin siblings and adult relatives knowing how to enforce their human rights.

Spiritual Strength

Though religiously non-restrictive, Zoe staff share that no one is beyond the love of God in ways which are never coercive but always inviting.

When Empowerment Pays It Forward

Empowered youth choose to adopt Yakimi's family

Standing outside of Yakimi's home in 2019, the air felt heavy with uncertainty.

The house leaned slightly, its mud bricks soft from years of rain without repairs. The thatch roof was so thin that light pierced through it — and when storms came, so did the water. Inside, the sparseness was overwhelming: a single blanket for three children and a small bag of flour set in the corner. No beds and no hedge between them and hunger.

Yakimi's father had died. His mother was too sick to provide for the family. And so Yakimi, still a boy himself, had quietly stepped into the role of provider for his sisters, Eliza and Teresa, and his mother.

They weren't dreaming about the future. They were trying to make it through each day. But nearby, something extraordinary was unfolding.

One year earlier, a group of vulnerable youth in the same Malawian community had joined Zoe Empowers. They named themselves the Praise Empowerment Group. Through training, small businesses, and savings, they were rebuilding their own lives and beginning to thrive.

When the group learned about Yakimi's family, they did not look away. They adopted them into their own group.

Using profits from their own businesses that were started from the training received from Zoe Empowers, they gave Yakimi a micro-grant and mentored him as he and Eliza started a tea room. As the business grew, Yakimi saw additional opportunities for irrigation farming. He used the profits from the tea room to sublease land where he planted vegetables and maize.

Today, the changes are unmistakable.

A sturdy home stands where the fragile hut once sagged — roofed with iron sheets and fitted with glass windows. The family eats three nutritious meals a day. Teresa is back in school and dreams of becoming a teacher. Yakimi now runs both farming and pig enterprises, and all of his businesses are thriving with Eliza's help.

It cost Zoe Empowers $0 to help Yakimi and his family. Because when young people are empowered, they don't just lift themselves — they multiply hope.



2019 Home



Newly Built Home



"Now we eat three meals every day.
My sister is back in school.
We have our own house."



Yakimi with his family in 2019, shortly before they were welcomed into the Praise Empowerment Group.

From Poverty to Prosperity

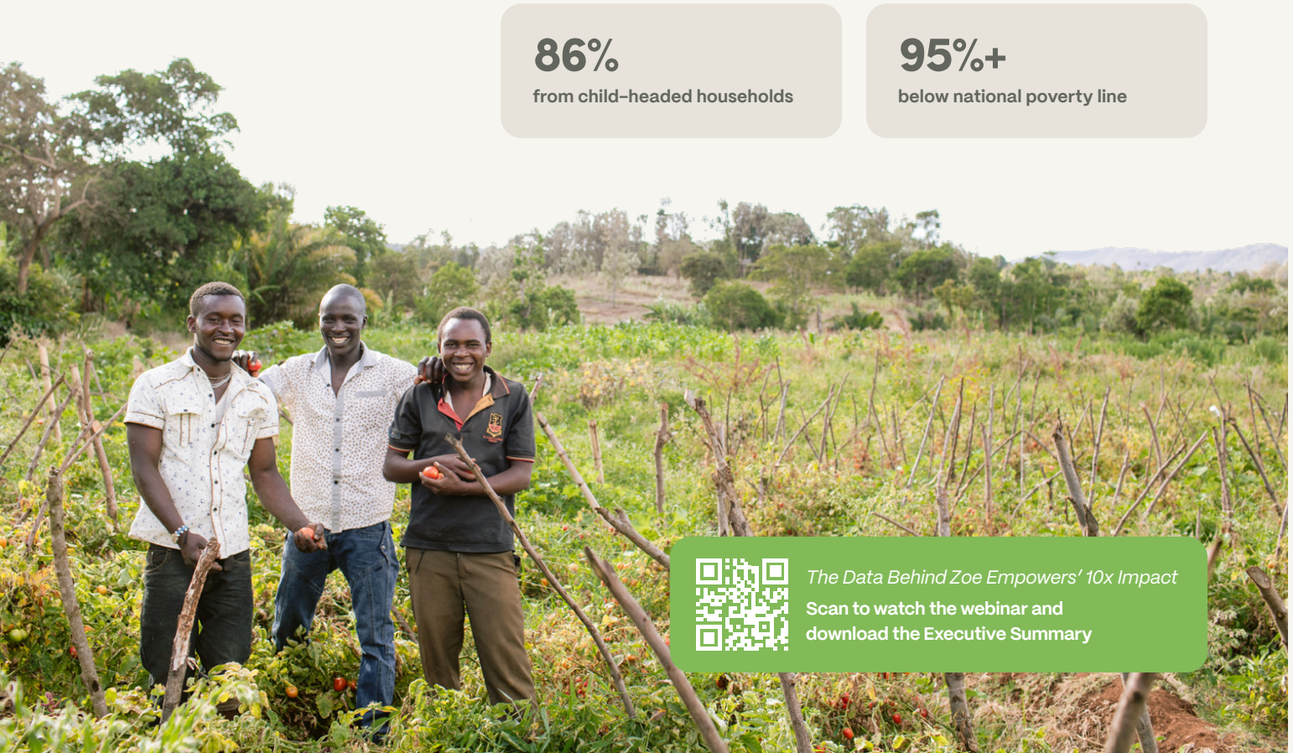
Zoe Empowers delivers a 10x return on investment and transforms vulnerable youth into thriving individuals.

An independent impact evaluation conducted by Radiant Global Insights compared recent Kenyan graduates of the three-year program with similar youth who had not yet participated, using rigorous statistical comparison methods to isolate Zoe Empowers' impact on income, business performance, and overall well-being. The youth in the study were among the most vulnerable youth in the country — 86% living in child-headed households and 94% serving as primary income earners for their families. The results were powerful: graduates earned dramatically higher net incomes (18x), built successful businesses, achieved financial independence, and experienced significant gains in overall well-being — with graduates earning more than ten dollars in income for every dollar invested over the program's three-year duration.

The Starting Point

86%
from child-headed households

95%+
below national poverty line



The Data Behind Zoe Empowers' 10x Impact
Scan to watch the webinar and download the Executive Summary

82%
Achieve Near Ideal Human Flourishing
A large increase over 2.2% in the comparison group

Using the Harvard Human Flourishing Index, researchers measured well-being across happiness, health, purpose, relationships, character, and financial stability.

Graduates report stronger relationships, greater life satisfaction, improved mental health, and a renewed sense of purpose.

99.5%
Own a Business
64% operate two or more

94%
Achieve Financial Wellbeing
Able to cover basic needs without outside support



"Overall, a powerful method for youth empowerment has been provided by Zoe Empowers. Opportunities for business ownership, increased earnings, and improved quality of life have been created. Its success suggests that a lasting and scalable impact has been made on individuals, families, and communities."

Kate Williams-Whitley
President & CEO, Radiant Global Insights

1,032%
Return on Investment

Net Annual Income

$262 USD
Without Zoe Empowers

$4,936 USD
After Zoe Empowers

18x
Increase in Net Annual Income

Program Data Highlights

About Our Data Collection

Zoe Empowers has collected program impact data through surveys given to randomly selected households since 2018. We launched a pilot program to switch from using paper surveys to electronic data collection in 2024, and by mid 2025, implemented it in all Zoe program countries. At the same time that we changed the way we collect data, we greatly increased the amount of data collected. Instead of randomly selecting about 20% of the households, we will now survey all households as they enter and graduate from the program.

What This Data Includes

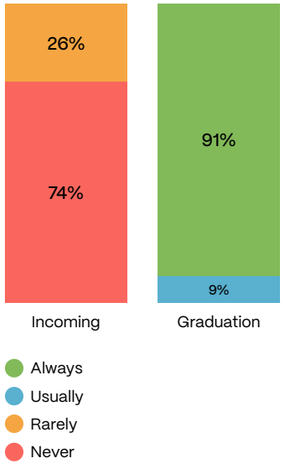
All the data on these pages is from households who started the program in 2022 and graduated in 2025. The charts showing the changes in eight areas of intervention are from countries with both intake and graduate data. All the intake data is from paper surveys, while the graduate data is from both paper and electronic surveys, depending on when the electronic surveys were launched in each country.

Scan to view the full survey details.

*Visit **zoeempowers.org/outcomes** to read our full methodology and country specific survey data.*

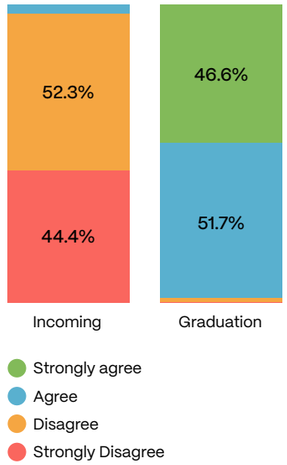
FOOD SECURITY — RWANDA

"My household eats enough food each day to be satisfied."



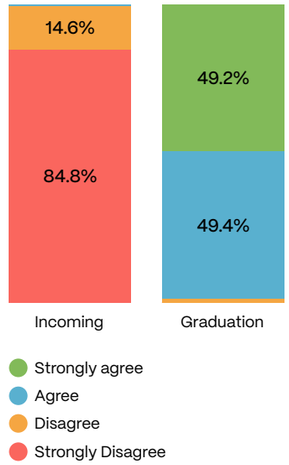
HOUSING — KENYA

"I live in an adequate/safe home."



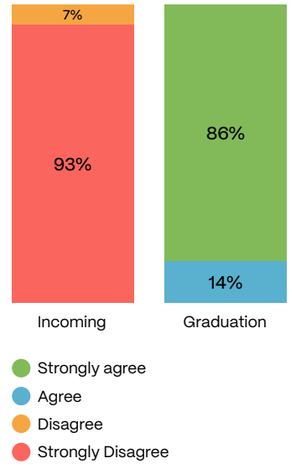
HEALTH & HYGIENE — KENYA

"I have access to medical care."



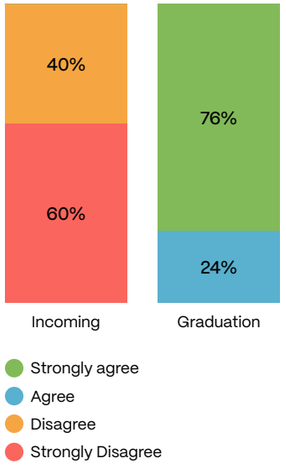
CHILD RIGHTS — CHENNAI, INDIA

"I know my rights and can enforce them."



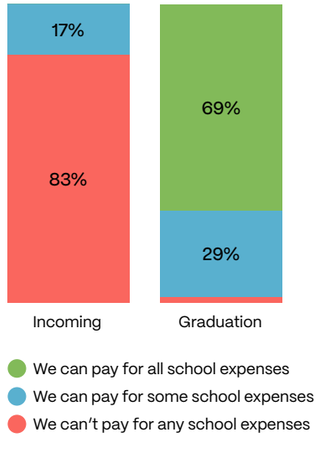
INCOME GENERATION — ZIMBABWE

"Through my work, I can provide sufficient food, clothing, and other necessities for my household."



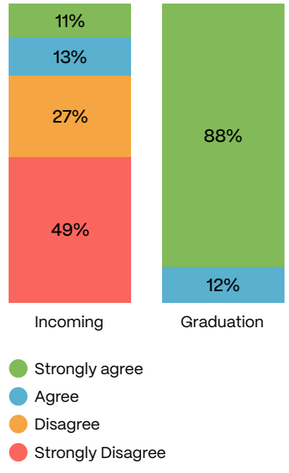
EDUCATION — MALAWI

"I can pay for the school expenses for all of the school-aged children in my household."



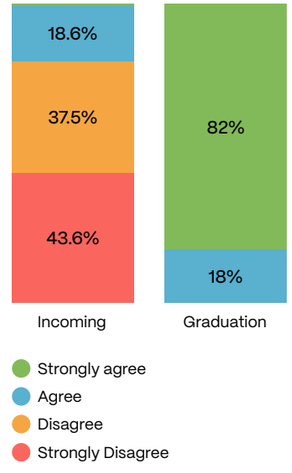
COMMUNITY — VIZAG, INDIA

"I feel that I am a valuable member of my community."



SPIRITUAL STRENGTH — RWANDA

"I feel that God loves me."





Letiya oversees her construction site as the boss, employing the men in her community.

Brick by Brick Letiya Rises

How a Malawi program graduate built her own inheritance.

Letiya still remembers the day the maize stood tall and golden in her father's field, heavy with harvest and rich with promise, before death swept through her family and altered the course of her life. Her father died without warning, and with him went the security that field represented.

In rural Malawi, land is never just soil. It is livelihood and protection, inheritance and belonging. It determines who will eat and who will go hungry. In many communities, it also travels through male hands. Sons step forward to claim and protect what their fathers leave behind.

Letiya was the eldest child, and her only brother was far too young to take on the farming responsibilities. Without an eldest son to assume responsibility for the fields, her father's relatives claimed their land and the income from the coming harvest. Shortly after, they also took her family home and possessions. Letiya lost more than a parent. She lost her only means to protect and provide for her family.

A Childhood Interrupted

The family, who once worked side by side, separated in order to survive. Her mother took the youngest child to distant relatives. Letiya and her younger brother moved to her uncle's home, where they were given a small grass hut and very little to eat. Yet what she remembers most vividly is not the ache in her stomach, but the ache of shame. She no longer had proper clothes or shoes and felt too embarrassed to attend church. She grew quiet, shrinking until she felt nearly invisible.

In many Malawian communities, sons are chosen first for opportunity, while daughters are expected to marry. For Letiya, it seemed her only option was to simply survive and hope a husband might one day give her what she could not provide herself. Marriage felt like the only way out of hunger, even if it meant a life shaped by dependence and giving up her chance to earn a living.

A New Opportunity

Then word spread throughout the community that Zoe Empowers would be hosting an information meeting. At first, they sounded like other organizations that had visited before, offering hopeful speeches that faded once they left.

But Letiya recalls that this felt different.



Zoe Empowers did not promise quick relief. They offered training, resources, mentorship, and a path to self-sufficiency. At the end of 2025, Zoe Empowers has helped more than 245,000 young people by equipping them with the tools and training for long-term success. It was not just about receiving help, but about becoming self-sufficient. Something inside Letiya began to stir.

She and her brother asked to join the group. When Zoe Empowers accepted them, she felt a happiness she had nearly forgotten could exist. For the first time in years, hope did not feel fragile. It felt real.

Investing in a Future

In 2022, Letiya joined Zoe Empowers Malawi. She was welcomed into the We Are Happy Empowerment Group and started her first business shortly after group formation. She used her first business loan to purchase colorful chitenje fabrics to sell. Women in the community came for cloth to sew dresses, uniforms, and wedding garments. The bright colors carried more than dye; they carried possibility.

With her early profits, she bought two pigs, and as her livestock multiplied, so did her confidence. Before long, she owned six pigs, five piglets, and three goats. The income allowed her brother to return to school, and she began supporting her younger cousin, who dreamed of becoming a teacher and had become like a sister to her. For the first time, Letiya could imagine a future that stretched beyond mere survival. She began planning to add a shoe business to complement her fabric sales. The girl who once had no shoes now envisioned selling them.

Becoming the Boss

Then, against all expectations for a young woman in rural Malawi, she started building a home to reunite her family.

Brick by brick, she directed the men she employed to construct the house. In a community where women rarely hire male labor, Letiya became the boss. The house rising from the red soil was more than a shelter. It was visible proof that a young woman, once silenced by shame, could now lead.

By the time the house walls were standing, Letiya had completed Zoe's three-year empowerment program and graduated alongside her We Are Happy groupmates. Graduation did not mark the end of the improvements in her life; it marked a milestone. She left equipped with business skills, financial literacy, agricultural training, and the confidence to sustain her family without outside aid. Like more than 95% of Zoe graduates, she was moving toward lasting self-sufficiency.

A Cruel Warning

Her success did not go unnoticed. Jealousy grew among her father's relatives, and they began to threaten her. Then something unthinkable happened: someone poisoned her pigs, and by morning, they were all dead. She knew it was not an accident. It was meant as a warning. Fear crept in again.

If someone could kill her animals, she worried that she or her siblings might be next.

In the marketplace, men continued to question her authority, dismissing her not because she lacked skill, but because she was a woman who dared to succeed.

"Being a female business owner is a big challenge on its own,"



Letiya explains. “A lot of people, especially men, make negative statements about me. But knowing my vision, I closed my ears to all those comments and focused on what’s important.”

Choosing Courage

Ultimately, she chose courage over attachment to what she had already built. For her and her family’s safety, she moved to her mother’s home village. The house she had worked so hard to finish became a rental property. The dream she carried did not disappear. It simply found new ground.

And so she began again.

She rebuilt her piggery project and added poultry farming. She purchased land for maize farming and chose to plant again, this time equipped with the agricultural training she had gained through Zoe Empowers. She also bought another plot in her mother’s village to build a new home. Alongside these investments, she continues to grow her fabric business and still plans to add shoes in the future. Each decision shows careful planning and determination as a young woman focused on securing her future.

Lifting Others as She Rose

Letiya’s confidence grew as she watched other young women succeed in Zoe Empowers. She saw them build businesses, purchase land, and earn respect. Their success was visible. If they could rise, she believed she could rise as well.

Today, people seek Letiya’s advice, invite her to meetings, and ask her to mentor younger women. Though she now lives in a different village, Letiya remains active in her empowerment group, traveling back when she can and staying connected from a distance. She mentors newer participants, helping build a cycle of support that has continued after graduation.

A Harvest That Multiplies

There was a time when the ending to her story seemed beyond her control.

Letiya shared, “Zoe Empowers found me when I was lacking basic needs in life, to the extent that I was thinking of getting married to deal with such problems. So, without Zoe, I could have gotten married early, thereby losing the golden opportunity to build my life.”

Before Zoe Empowers, Letiya’s future was determined by loss. Her life is now dominated by hope. Today, she is a business owner, employer, farmer, mentor, and leader.

Brick by brick, she has learned not only to construct a home and a farm but to claim space in an environment that did not expect her to lead. She has created a new story in which the eldest daughter is not overlooked, and inheritance is something she builds herself.

As Letiya builds her new home, her businesses are growing, and her harvest is increasing. She no longer stands on ground defined by what was taken from her. She stands in the center of something she built, and this time, the harvest will not be taken.

It will multiply.



Letiya in front of the construction of her new home



Nanis, Neema Empowerment Group

Kenya

17,483
youth enrolled

194
empowerment groups

$1,594,431
invested in programs, services and grants

65,999
youth impacted since 2007

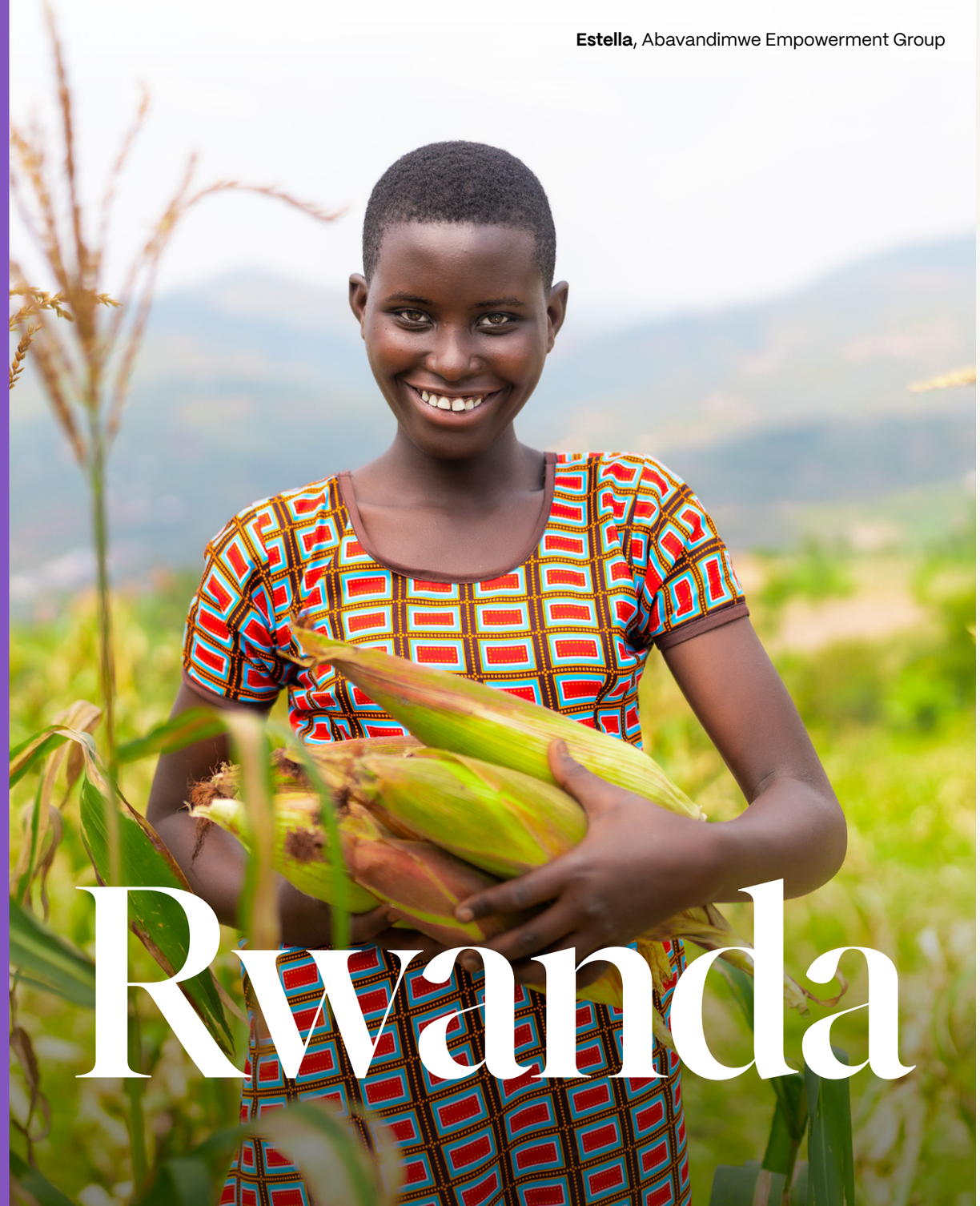
About this program



James Mwiti
Kenya Country Manager

Zoe Empowers Kenya
Implementing Partner

24
Program Staff



Estella, Abavandimwe Empowerment Group

Rwanda

16,402
youth enrolled

184
empowerment groups

$1,492,715
invested in programs, services and grants

62,101
youth impacted since 2007

About this program



Epiphanie Mujawimana
Empowerment Program Founder & Rwanda Country Manager

Zoe Rwanda Terimbere
Implementing Partner

20
Program Staff



Phillip, Abundance Empowerment Group

Zimbabwe

9,138

youth enrolled

101

empowerment groups

$849,636

invested in programs, services and grants

32,562

youth impacted since 2009

About this program



Barbara Matsanga

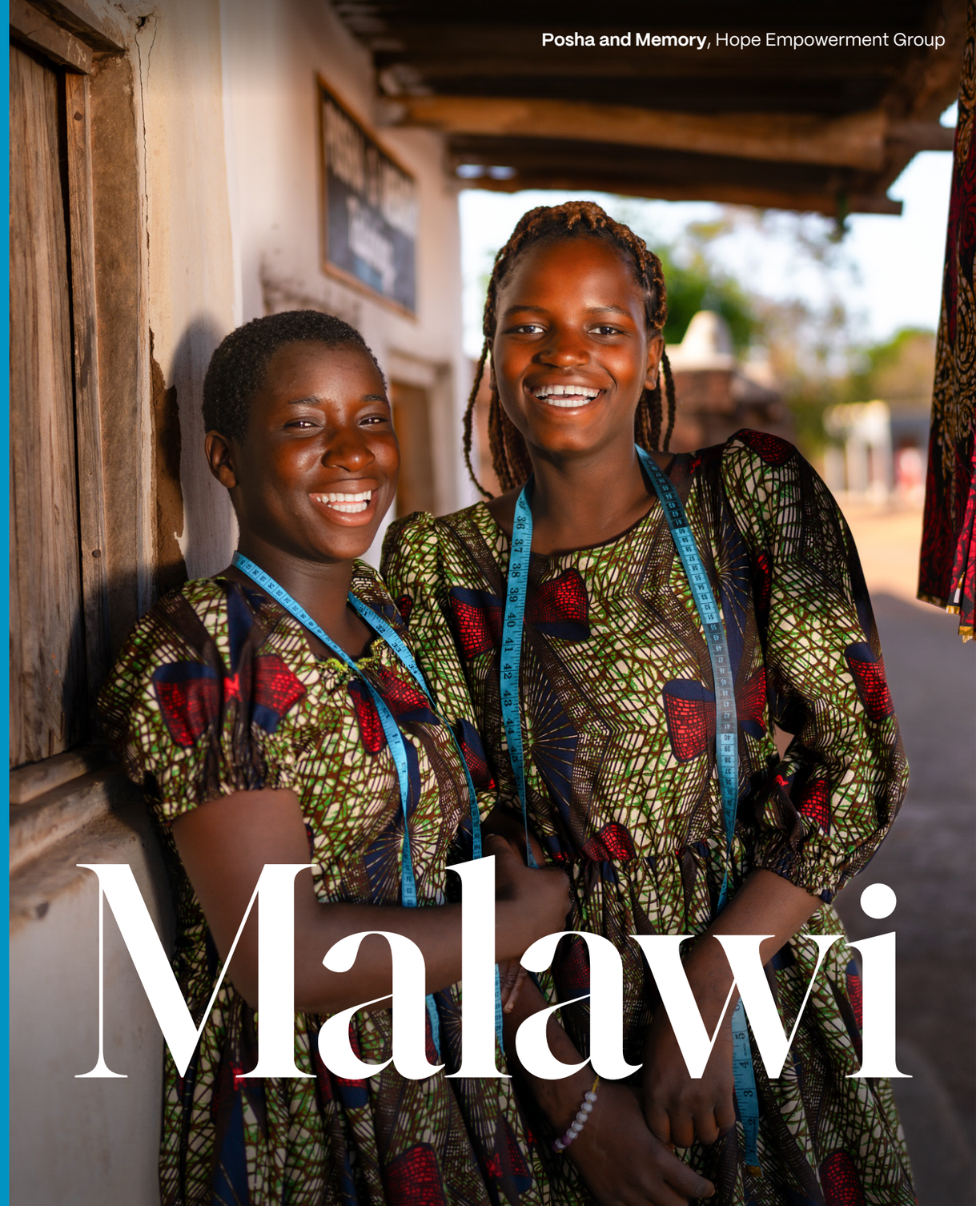
Zimbabwe Country Manager

Zoe Empowers Zimbabwe

Implementing Partner

11

Program Staff



Posha and Memory, Hope Empowerment Group

Malawi

8,484

youth enrolled

96

empowerment groups

$788,085

invested in programs, services and grants

26,133

youth impacted since 2013

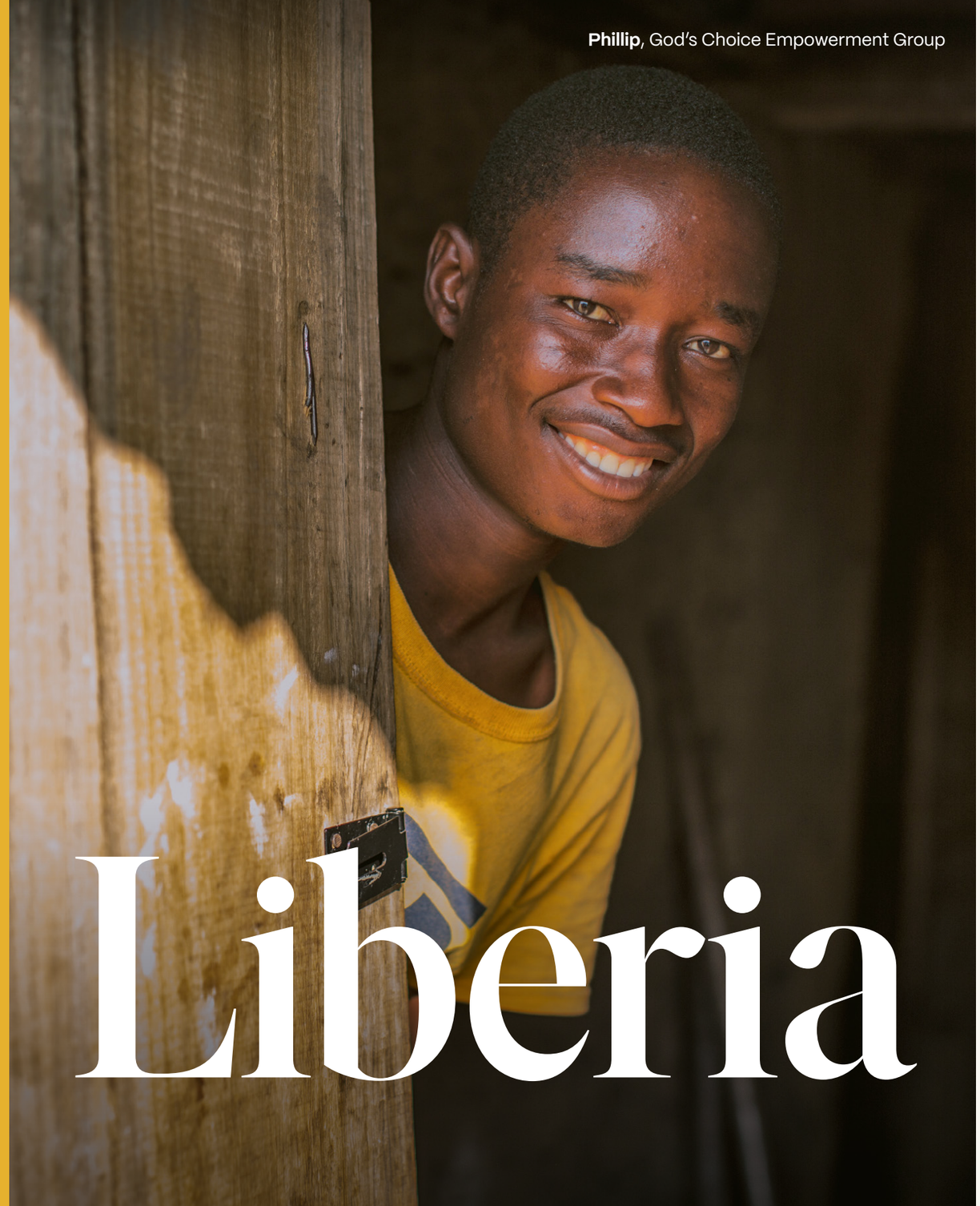
About this program



Maclein Harawa
Malawi Country Manager

Zoe Ministry Malawi
Implementing Partner

13
Program Staff



Liberia

4,781
youth enrolled

56
empowerment groups

$457,572
invested in programs, services and grants

15,511
youth impacted since 2014

About this program



Aaron Yankee
Liberia Country Manager

Zoe Empowers Liberia
Implementing Partner

8
Program Staff



Shamini, Winning Stars Empowerment Group

Chennai, India

5,608
youth enrolled

74
empowerment groups

$649,752
invested in programs, services and grants

13,612
youth impacted since 2014

About this program



Jabez Williams
Chennai Program Manager

Local Indian Organizations
Implementing Partner

9
Program Staff



Bhavani, Golden Eagles Empowerment Group

Vizag, India

6,106
youth enrolled

83
empowerment groups

$659,698
invested in programs, services and grants

8,638
youth impacted since 2019

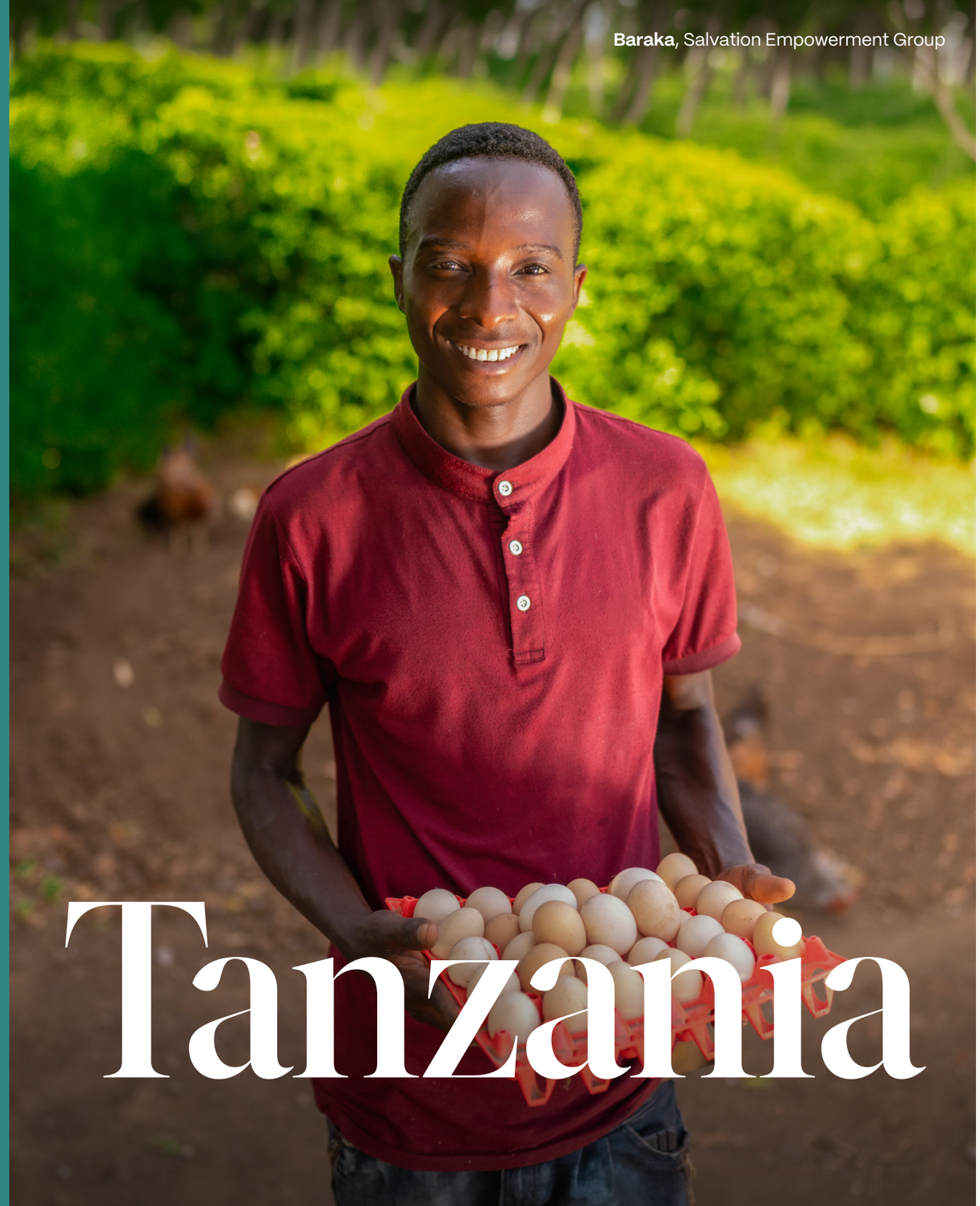
About this program



Nani Chintala
Vizag Program Manager

Local Indian Organizations
Implementing Partner

10
Program Staff



Tanzania

5,867
youth enrolled

69
empowerment groups

$560,677
invested in programs, services and grants

9,695
youth impacted since 2019

About this program



Trice Shumbusho
Tanzania Country Manager

Zoe Africa Tanzania
Implementing Partner

9
Program Staff



Bento, Pamberi Empowerment Group

Mozambique

3,974
youth enrolled

48
empowerment groups

$411,214
invested in programs, services and grants

4,721
youth impacted since 2022

About this program



Alzira Isaac
Mozambique Country Manager

The United Methodist Church of Mozambique
Implementing Partner

Foundation 4 Orphans
Co-Funding Partner

8
Program Staff



Neemah, Ebenezer Empowerment Group

South Sudan

2,022

youth enrolled

27

empowerment groups

$215,011

invested in programs, services and grants

2,022

youth impacted since 2023

About this program



Lilija Noel

South Sudan Country Manager

The Baptist Convention of Southern Sudan

Implementing Partner

Harvesters Reaching the Nations

Co-Funding Partner

5

Program Staff



Uganda

2,085
youth enrolled

21
empowerment groups

$169,884
invested in programs, services and grants

2,085
youth impacted since 2024

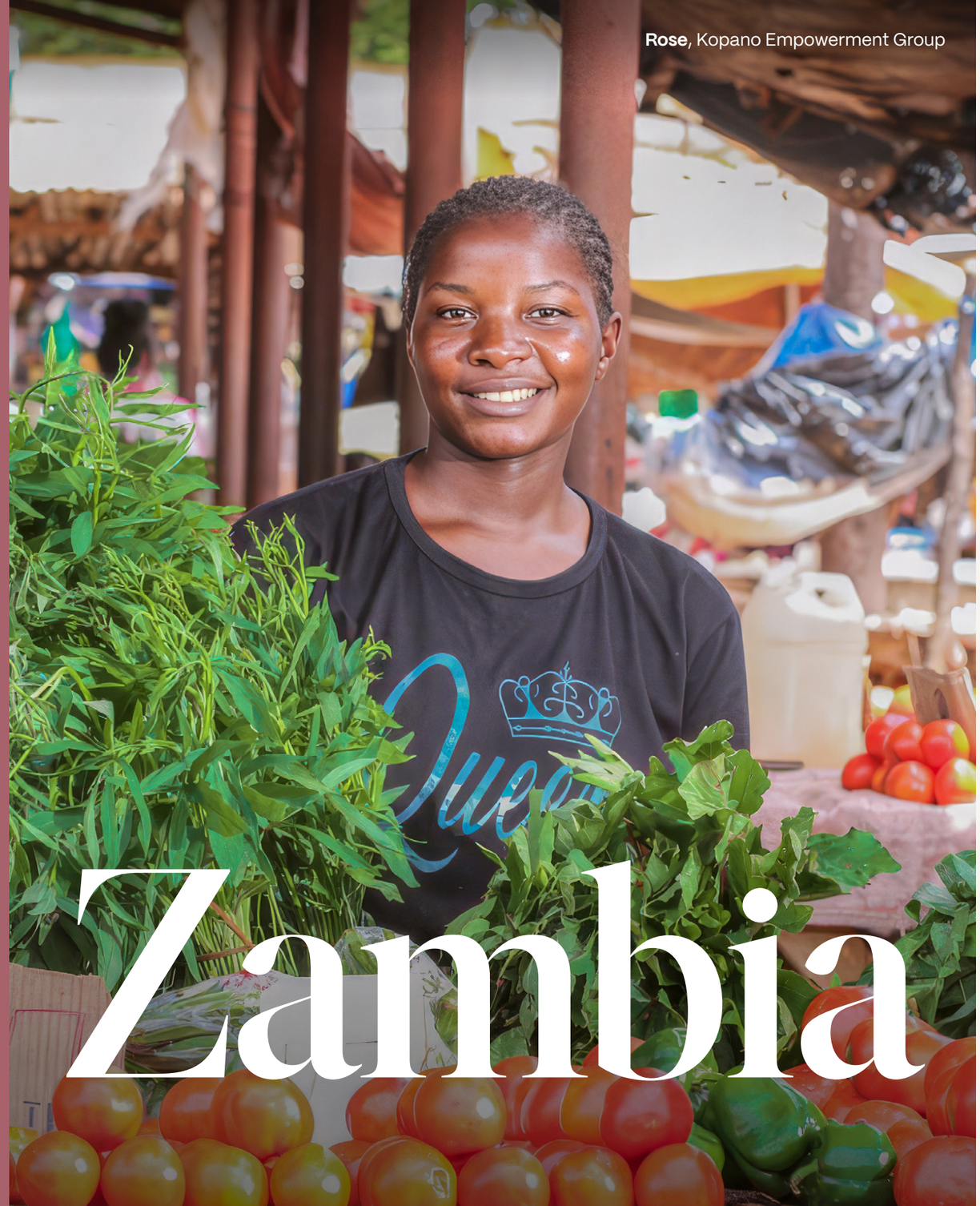
About this program



Brenda Nakirya
Uganda Country Manager

Zoe Empowers Uganda
Implementing Partner

5
Program Staff



Zambia

1,176
youth enrolled

12
empowerment groups

$97,499
invested in programs, services and grants

1,176
youth impacted since 2024

About this program



Auldridge Chibbwalu
Zambia Country Manager

Zoe Empowers Zambia
Implementing Partner

4
Program Staff



Eswatini

782

youth enrolled

8

empowerment groups

$75,673

invested in programs, services and grants

782

youth impacted since 2025

About this program



Siphiwe Hlophe

Eswatini Country Manager

Swaziland Positive Living (SWAPOL)

Implementing Partner

3

Program Staff

2025 Financials & Program Impact

$9.56
Monthly cost per youth*

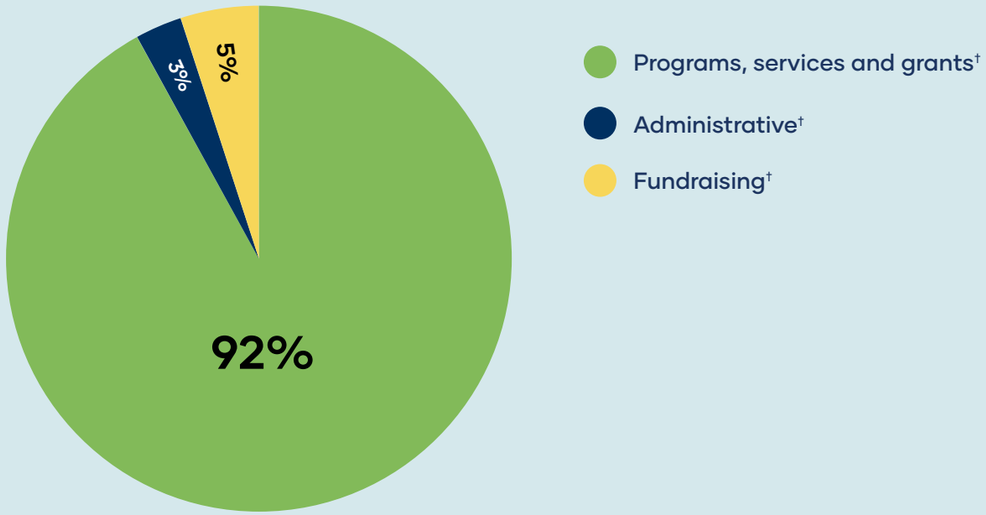
$115
Annual cost per youth*

$344
3-year cost per youth*

83,908
Youth served in 2025

973
Empowerment groups served in 2025

$9,630,300
Total funds deployed in 2025*†



*Total cost, inclusive of overhead
†Total funds deployed including $203,400 given directly to programs by partner organizations

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Wells Fargo Bank

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Founder of Top Tier Training Camps

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Caterpillar

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Internal Auditor

Ann Karanja
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CEO, Zoe Empowers Global North

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Jordyn Bloemeke
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Donor Spotlight



Richard and Olivia Griffin

A Gift Motivating Others to Give

Richard and Olivia Griffin always had a heart for international missions. In fact their relationship began when Richard invited Olivia on a medical mission trip to Bolivia, something they were both well suited for as an ophthalmologist and nurse. Two years later they were married.

Their connection to Zoe Empowers began on another medical mission trip to Maua, Kenya. Friends of theirs were working with children who had been orphaned due to the AIDS crisis and they began to understand the terrible impact this was having on communities.

When they returned home their pastor, Rev. Wil Posey, introduced the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Hickory to Zoe Empowers and the empowerment model.

Over time the Griffin family became increasingly involved with Zoe, eventually partnering with an empowerment group in Kenya. In 2019 they took their children to Kenya on a Zoe trip. Olivia was concerned that all they would see were impoverished children and was even a bit hesitant to go. However, both she and Richard were deeply moved when they met Zoe graduates who were successful and confident. They saw firsthand how the empowerment model works and were more committed to Zoe than ever before.

Richard says that as they got older they reassessed their giving and it was clear that Zoe Empowers had become a top priority in their lives. So when they were asked to make a significant donation to be used as a matching fund, they agreed.

Last year churches and families throughout Western North Carolina were motivated to start twenty new partnerships thanks to the Griffins. Both Richard and Olivia were humbled to learn of the impact of their gift.



Help empower vulnerable youth.

By investing in the empowerment of vulnerable youth, we can ignite a generation skilled to leave extreme poverty behind forever.

Partner With a Full Group

Pledge to give $9,500/year ($792/month) for 3 years to empower 70+ vulnerable youth out of extreme poverty.

Scan to partner or visit: zoeempowers.org/partner

Partner With a Half Group

Pledge to give $4,750/year ($396/month) for 3 years to empower 35+ vulnerable youth out of extreme poverty.

Scan to partner or visit: zoeempowers.org/partner

Give Monthly

Join The Collective and change the life of a vulnerable youth for just $10 a month.

Scan to give monthly or visit: zoeempowers.org/monthly

Gift Planning

You can support Zoe Empowers with gifts from your IRA, DAF, insurance policies, and estate plans.

Scan to learn more or visit our new Legacy Giving site: zoeempowers.org/legacy

For more information about how to partner with Zoe Empowers, please contact Gaston Warner at (919) 414–4167 or gaston.warner@zoeempowers.org.

zoe empowers
PO Box 28839
Raleigh, NC 27611



Winnie, Cover Feature

Abandoned as a child, Winnie became the caregiver to her three younger siblings.

After joining Zoe Empowers and training as an auto mechanic, Winnie has established a successful mechanics career and created a new life for her family.

Read how she did it.
zoeempowers.org/winnie

Ranked #1 by Impactful Ninja for charities that help orphaned children

Platinum Transparency 2025 Candid.

Excellence in Giving CERTIFIED TRANSPARENT

CHARITY NAVIGATOR 100 OUT OF 100 GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

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info@zoeempowers.org
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"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope."
— Jeremiah 29:11

Zoe Empowers is a 501(c)(3) organization.
All donations are tax-deductible.