



Build a teaching career inspired by service. Enrol now at DAPP Mkushi College of Education to be "another kind of teacher."

## Dear Reader,

As we reflect on the journey that we have traveled through the months and seasons behind us this year, we at DAPP Zambia are excited to share with you our second Newsletter of the year 2023.



In this Newsletter, we highlight some of the amazing stories, experiences and activities in our different projects across Zambia.

We continue in our unyielding resolve to join hands in working with the people of Zambia for long lasting development and finding local solutions to local challenges, through harnessing people's own power to take action and create positive change individually and collectively.

DAPP Zambia wishes you and yours, warm compliments of the season as we look forward to another year of working together in improving livelihoods and resilience, sustain lifelong learning, health and human rights for all.

Yours Sincerely,  
DAPP Zambia.

### DAPP THEMATIC AREAS

-  **Agriculture and Climate Change**
-  **Health and Fight against HIV/ TB**
-  **Education**
-  **Community Development**
-  **Human Rights**
-  **Fundraising Business**

## 'LOST SON' RETURNS HOME A SKILLED MAN!

*...as friendship forged in adversity turns into a family between two former street children.*



**PHOTO:** Aaron Lungu (l), his mother Elina Kumwenda and Justine Tembo (r) shortly after the duo graduated with Certificates in General Agriculture at DAPP Children's Town under the Youth Academy on 10th November, 2023.

**W**hen Aaron Lungu ran away from home to live in the streets of Kitwe on the Copperbelt, his mother searched everywhere – including mortuaries at various hospitals for unclaimed bodies in fear her teenage son had died in the dangerous, unforgiving streets.

"I called his sister in Ndola and his father's village in Petauke to find out whether he had gone there, but no! he was not there. I continued praying for Aaron wherever he was. I never lost hope I would reunite with my son one day," recalls Aaron's mother, Elina Kumwenda.

In 2017, after almost three years on the street – Aaron said he boarded a train from Kitwe to Lusaka with a friend without any money and continued his life on the streets of Zambia's capital.

"It was not too long after I moved to Lusaka that I met officers from Children's Town and Social Welfare encouraging

us to come and learn skills here. I reluctantly agreed at first, but after coming here, I now know agriculture and business, skills that I had no interest in back when I just abused drugs in the street," recalled Aaron.

At Children's Town, Aaron's paths would cross with Justine Tembo – another run away child who spent years on the streets of the Copperbelt and Lusaka.

"Both my parents are late," explains Justine while adding, "I have lived on the streets for many years. All I knew was fighting and abusing drugs. But my life is not the same. It has changed for the better after acquiring skills in General Agriculture here at Children's Town. I am thankful for this opportunity and the knowledge that I have acquired here. I cannot go back to the past with what I have learnt."

Efforts to trace Justine's family were unsuccessful, but Aaron's parents have since adopted him.

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**HAPPY TO BE CONTRIBUTING TO HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

"...my capital has increased from K200 to K2,000 within four months from reselling clothes from DAPP Shop."



PHOTO: Lizzy Mwangilwa (in red) sorting her clothes waiting to cashout at the Kafue DAPP Shop recently.

Lizzy Mwangilwa, 33 is a regular customer at the Kafue DAPP Shop. She is an unemployed, trained teacher waiting for deployment and needed to find a business to earn an income from.

Earlier this year, Lizzy started to buy clothes at cheaper prices from DAPP to resell for a profit in Chirundu.

"...before I started this business, I used to come and buy clothes and shoes for my children from DAPP Shop because the prices are affordable and the clothes are good. And when I needed a business to earn an income, I thought buying clothes from DAPP for resell was good. I started off with a K200, but now I buy clothes for K2,000 and make a profit of up to 95% or even more," she explained.

Lizzy targets the Happy Hour, a promotion time when DAPP Shops reduce prices of the clothes and shoes as an incentive to customers. She also takes advantage of the

price reduction on a daily basis throughout the two weeks pricing cycle.

"I come to this shop every day during happy hour, usually in the second week of the cycle and buy what I need for my business. Prices here are fair and their daily reduction makes it easier for me to get cheaper clothes for resale. I work with my sister who helps me sell the clothes in Chirundu. I send her clothes and she sends me the money," said Lizzy.

She added; "Business has improved. I am now able to buy mealie-meal and support my husband with household income. I know I will start working one day, but I will not stop doing this business."

DAPP is running 38 Clothes and Shoes Shops in 25 districts across Zambia to raise funds to support developmental projects countrywide.

The project has employed over 500 staff in the shops, in addition to thousands of traders, like Lizzy buying for resale from the shops to create employment and improve their living conditions.



DAPP Zambia is a member of the International Federation Humana People to People

**DAPP, CIDRZ PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN HIV PREVENTION IN DEFENSE FORCES**



PHOTO: DAPP Zambia Managing Director, Elise Soerensen (l) and Zambia Army Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, Major General Geoffrey Choongo Zyelee (r). Photo Credit: CIDRZ

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) has partnered with DAPP Zambia to carry out comprehensive HIV services to the Defense Force of Zambia (DFZ).

The four year cooperative agreement worth over 40-million US Dollars, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, (DoD) is titled 'Strengthening Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, (DHAPP).

DAPP will work in the communities surrounding the military facilities and support children living with HIV and their families, while CIDRZ will support the work in the health facilities, provide Health System Strengthening, support the Supply management and Laboratory Work.

DAPP Senior Partnership Director, Anne Dorte Hoejrup disclosed the development after paying a courtesy call on Zambia Army Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, Major General Geoffrey Choongo Zyelee on 9th October in the company of DAPP Managing Director, Elise Soerensen, members of the American Embassy and CIDRZ.

"DAPP is looking forward to working with the Defense Force of Zambia to support HIV epidemic control in and around the camps. We will use the Total Control of the Epidemic program (TCE) to mobilize people for HIV prevention and care activities, including HIV testing services, support those tested positive to start and sustain ART, support TB screening, testing and treatment. Other activities will include family planning, Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), mobilize those in need to start on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) HIV prevention drugs, and screening for cervical cancer," stated Anne Dorte.

She added; "DAPP will also support children and adolescents living with HIV to improve health and livelihood and will further provide economic strengthening of their families through the OVC program."

**"I AM TAKING TOTAL CONTROL OF HIV, A DAY AT A TIME.."**



After completing her secondary school education in 2019, Mwansa Chileshe of Lusaka's Kanyama Compound succumbed to peer pressure and started frequenting bars and nightclubs.

"I was only 19 and used to live with my grandfather. Everytime he was away at work, I sneaked out with friends to drink alcohol. We also engaged in unprotected sex with different partners, both young and old, for money," Mwansa recalls.

In 2023, Mwansa started experiencing frequent stomach pains, headaches, loss of weight and distressing rashes all over her body. In August 2023, she became very sick and tested positive for HIV.

At first, Mwansa was afraid, but she found comfort after the Field Officer under the DAPP Total Control of the Epidemics, TCE counselled her and helped her to form a three person treatment adherence support group called Trio.

"My grandfather and my cousin are members of my Trio and they support me to take my treatment on time. I am free to discuss my health with them and this makes it easy for me to adhere to treatment," she added.

Mwansa works closely with the DAPP TCE Field Officers in her community to encourage the friends that she used to go out with and other peers to test for HIV.

"One of my friends also tested positive, while the others tested negative. My friend, like me, has started taking

treatment. I encourage my other friends to use HIV prevention methods such as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Nowadays, I spend most of my time in adolescent support groups, making doormats, mattress covers and supporting each other to remain on treatment and live healthy. This keeps me busy and away from vices," she explains.

**TCE KEY RESULTS**

(OCT. 2022 - SEPT. 2023)

**206,291**  
HIV Tests Conducted

**25,157**  
People tested HIV+

**25,058**  
People Linked to treatment

**82,999**  
People returned on ART

**75,133**  
People Linked to PrEP

**21,664**  
Treatment Adherence Groups (Trios) formed

**ANOTHER KIND OF A TEACHER!**



"Working at a rural school for me has never been a challenge because the three years' training at DAPP Mkushi College of Education prepared me well in advance about the challenges of a rural setting. I did my teaching experience in a rural school and learnt how to adapt. My teaching methods are learner centred. They are involved in the learning process and we improvise with teaching aid when unavailable. We use resources available in our natural environment so that pupils can connect with the lessons, beyond the classroom," says Mercy Sikota - Milele Primary School Teacher in Mkushi District (Former student at DAPP Mkushi College).

**LOST SON RETURNS HOME A SKILLED MAN**

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PHOTO: Justine Tembo (L) and Aaron Lungu (R) with their supervisor during their Attachments at Sunshine Seedling Service in Chisamba in July 2023.

"...the boys are relating and working very well together. I am happy to have Justine in my home. The Social Welfare Office is assisting us to formalize Justine to be a member of our family. I have a big farm with water and space. If they are willing, Justine and Aaron can use their skills and knowledge there as they work together to better themselves. They are my sons now," explained Elina.

Aaron and Justine are among 56 students, including 14 former street children who graduated from DAPP Children's Town School in Chibombo district after undergoing a 2 years vocational, entrepreneurial and life skills training programme.

During the Graduation Ceremony on 10th November, 2023 - DAPP Managing Director, Elise Soerensen encouraged the graduates to stick together.

"...the next step on your journey to a bright future is in front of you. It is not going to be easy one. But you have learnt here in Children's Town that moving alone might break you, but moving together will make you strong. Never forget this," - stick together with your fellow graduates, with your families and or members of the communities," stated Elise during her remarks at the ceremony.



**LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TB**

TB treatment in correctional facilities is often met with many challenges due to the living conditions of inmates. Overcrowding and poor nutrition are among the most prevalent challenges - leaving inmates vulnerable to the airborne disease.

Paisan Banda, 28 of Vulamukoko village tested positive for TB after he was sentenced to 30 months at Katete Correctional Facility in August 2023.

"When I tested positive, I was afraid I would lose weight due to poor diet and suffer stigma from my peers. I noticed how other inmates were stigmatised. As a result, I was reluctant to start treatment," he explained.

DAPP is working with the Zambia Correctional Services with funding from Stop TB Partnership to improve access to quality TB services for inmates in prevention, treatment and care at Katete and



Photo: Challenge Facility Project Leader giving inmate nutrition supplements.

Chipata Central Correctional Facilities in Eastern Province.

"I was fortunate that I was screened and tested for TB after my admission at the facility. The DAPP officer at the facility counselled me and told me the importance of starting my treatment on time. The officer gave me nutritional supplements. I weighed 69 kilogrammes at the beginning of treatment and now I weigh 74 kilogrammes," added Paisan.

Paisan added that he is receiving support from fellow inmates through the Small Treatment Adherence Groups called Trios that have been formed in the facility.

**"I AM HOOKED ON GOOD QUALITY CLOTHES FROM DAPP..."**



PHOTO: Melvin Mweemba checking for some stylish Jeans during a recent shopping spree at our Chachacha DAPP Shop in Lusaka.

"Durable, affordable, good quality and knowing that the money I spend here goes to support developmental projects. These are some of the reasons why I keep coming back to DAPP to buy my clothes and shoes," explains Melvin Mweemba of Chilanga District.

Mweemba has been buying from DAPP Shops for more than 7 years now, motivated also by what he describes as supportive and friendly staff.

He adds: "the two weeks' sells cycle where prices are reduced daily is good. Anyone can walk in and buy during the time of the cycle when it is convenient for them financially."

**COMMUNITY AT THE CENTRE OF MALARIA ELIMINATION**



"It is us who lose out when we spend money nursing our children in hospitals when they get Malaria. It is our duty to protect ourselves from the disease by sleeping under a treated Insecticide Mosquito Net, clean our surroundings and complete our treatment when we are given medication," Melody Kangenisha, Subchief Shitonyi's Representative told community members gathered during mosquito net mounting demonstration and cleaning exercise



in Muyashi area in Kalumbila district of Northwestern Province.

Muyashi village of Kalumbila district in Northwestern Province is one of the areas where communities are in the forefront of the fight to eliminate Malaria through various prevention activities.

DAPP Zambia, with support the Churches Health Association of Zambia, (CHAZ) is

working with over 100 Malaria Action Groups to carry out malaria prevention activities in Mwinilunga, Ikelenge and Kalumbila districts of Northwestern Province.

Community Health Workers are key in reaching communities with Malaria Prevention services and information. They conduct door-to-door Malaria Rapid Diagnostic testing, treatment of positive cases and referring severe cases to health facilities.