DAPP

Development Aid from People to People in Zambia

"Working shoulder to shoulder with the people"

SCAN QR Code to learn more about DAPP Zambia

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DAPP's 40 years working shoulder to shoulder with the people...

Forty years ago, DAPP Zambia began a journey with a simple but powerful belief: *sustainable development is created together with people.*

Since 1986, this belief has guided our work across Zambia. Through changing times and emerging challenges, our commitment has remained the same — to work alongside people, strengthen their capacity and support communities to create lasting solutions.

Throughout our history, our work spans health, education, agriculture and climate change, community development and the sustainable reuse of clothes and shoes, reaching millions of people.



Our greatest achievement, however, is seen in people: the farmer building resilience, the young person gaining a skill, the teacher transforming a classroom, the volunteer connecting communities to health services and communities taking action for their future. ***As we celebrate 40 years, we thank the government of Zambia, funding partners, communities, staff, volunteers and supporters.***

The story of DAPP is the story of people — and the next chapter, we build together.

Elise Soerensen
DAPP Managing Director

They refused to take my money because I had HIV

When Juliet Sakala found out she had HIV in 2003, the stigma and myths around HIV were intense.

"I was on a trip and I wanted to buy scones some time after I publicly revealed I had HIV. The shopkeepers refused to take money saying I had HIV," she explains.

Juliet found out she had HIV while pregnant with her second child. She had just lost her husband and fear had taken over.

"My greatest fear was how do I leave my children? Who is going to take care of my children?"

"I almost took my life. I remember staring at a cup with the poison inside. But someone knocked on the door and interrupted me before I could take the drug. I believe it was God's intervention," she added.

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Back in 1996—at a time when access to ARVs was limited and myths about HIV were widespread—DAPP Hope Stations became an important platform where people living with HIV found support, hope and knowledge about the pandemic.

Through the Positive Living Advocates Course, participants gained practical knowledge about HIV treatment, prevention and positive living, while building the confidence to support others and challenge stigma and discrimination in their communities.

Pictured above is one of the DAPP Hope Stations that operated countrywide.

Some highlights of DAPP Zambia



1986

DAPP Zambia established.

Started **Frontline Youth Centres** in Mumena (Kalumbila) and later expanded across 9 provinces in Zambia focusing on Youth Empowerment.

Started **Second-hand Clothes and Shoes** sale

Started running the **Tree Planting** project.



1990

Child Aid Programme starts and recruits first families in Solwezi and Mkushi 1990.

Children's Town starts with first 2 children sleeping in tents in Chibombo 1990. Project has been running since then.

Established our DAPP Headqurters in Ndola, Copperbelt in 1994



1996

Two projects start in 1996**: Hope Zambia** project (focusing on positive living, anti-stigma and discrimination awareness) and **DAPP Vocational School** in Malambanyama focusing on youth empowerment.

Projects: Children's Town, Tree Planting and HOPE consolidated to reach thousands families and children.



2006

Total Control of the Epidemics (TCE) flagship model is implemented in Southern province, and would later expand to all 10 provinces of Zambia covering 1,423 health facilities.

DAPP has used TCE approaches in most HIV and health projects ever since

Nurturing Learning from the Beginning

DAPP has alwasys valued education as a foundation for lifelong learning, opportunity and human development. Our approach recognises that meaningful education should develop the whole person, combining knowledge with practical skills, creativity, participation and confidence.

This belief has extended beyond the classroom.

Education activities in the last 40 years of existence have included early childhood development through the establishment and running of hundreds of preschools together with the communities, strengthening education in community and government schools through WASH and short courses for over 9,000 untrained teachers.

At DAPP Mkushi College of Education, teachers are prepared with learner-centred approaches that combine theory, practical experience and a commitment to ensuring every child has a chance to learn and succeed.

For vulnerable children in street situations, DAPP has supported opportunities for education, vocational skills, rehabilitation and reintegration into families.

In the picture below, captured around 1998, children at Children's Town engage in a creative activity using readily available materials.



DAPP Zambia is a member of the International Federation Humana People to People (HPP), a network of 29 members from Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

We are united by the shared values to support community efforts to address some of the most pressing issues with a focus on health, education, sustainable agriculture and environmental practices, community development, and the sustainable reuse and circularity of textiles.

's 40 years in Zambia



2009

Farmers' Clubs flagship model is implemented through Community Management Improvement project under Africa Water Facility.

DAPP has used this approach in multiple agricultural projects ever since, reaching hundres of thousands of farmers across Zambia

2012

DAPP Mkushi College of Education starts to train teachers who combine academic knowledge with practical skills, creativity and a commitment to ensuring every child, particularly in rural areas, has an opportunity to learn, succeed and reach their full potential.

2026

DAPP Zambia turns 40 years of implementing community-driven progames in agriculture and climate change, health, education, community development and the sustainable resale of clothes and shoes

When my business collapsed, I turned to reselling clothes from DAPP

Jaquelin Kaonde, a mother of three based at Nakambala Market in Mazabuka, started business in 2012, reselling second-hand clothing from bales. Each bale cost her K6,000.

"My finances became strained and my business collapsed. The bales were very expensive and often took long to finish. My profit was very small and I could not sustain the business," she added.

Jaquelin decided to shift her business approach.

"I had to rethink my strategy, I started buying second-hand clothes from DAPP with just K300. This became a turning point, as I could buy according to my budget, and the better-quality clothes sold faster. Today, I am able to invest K5,000 and make a profit of over K5,000," she explained.



Jacqueline Kaonde at her stand in Mazabuka

Through reselling clothes, she now support her children's education, including one in college.

"I have also built a house, furnished it, and plan to buy land for a shop. I now also sell Chitenge, baby clothes, and run a salon," she added.

Jaquelin says access to the DAPP shop has been life-changing for her.

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A turning point came through DAPP's Hope project in Kalomo, where Juliet joined positive living classes and met Jabez Kanyanda (Hope Project Leader/ Counsellor), whom she describes as a father figure.

"He [Jabez] really supported and taught me how to live positively. Being in a Hope group and learning about positive living also encouraged me to embrace my status and gave me a new purpose. I became a Facilitator and Peer Educatorunder the Hope project to help others to learn more about HIV.

After the project ended, she continued her work through NZP+, where she now serves as Kalomo District Coordinator.

In 2005, Juliet found love again and continued raising awareness about HIV.

"Nowadays, I am happy when I see some of the friends that I counselled still alive and healthy. It has been a worthwhile journey," she added.

DAPP's TWO-WEEK sales cycle gives customers greater flexibility to shop within their budgets. Prices are reduced each day for 14 days, allowing customers to choose from a wide range of quality, affordable clothes and shoes at a time and price that suits them.



Abram abandons Charcoal for greener income sources

Abram Kayongo of Kyangozhi Area in Kalumbila District has made a decisive break from charcoal burning, choosing farming as a more reliable livelihood while helping protect his community's forests.

A K1,000 share from the collective sale of sweet corn and butternuts through his Farmers' Club became his turning point. He also borrowed K1,500 through his savings group, giving him K2,500 to invest in tomato farming.



Abram Kayongo's butternut harvest



Kayongo's wife with their tomato harvest

"I decided to stop cutting trees for charcoal. I wanted to earn in a way that supports my family and protects the land," says Abram.

Through DAPP's Alternative to Charcoal (A2C) Farmers' Clubs project, he learned sustainable farming practices, including the use of organic manure. Six months later, his tomato harvest earned him about K24,000.

"Farming has shown me it is possible to earn sustainably. It starts with one step—use what you have wisely."

Ndola youths turn environmental waste into economic opportunity

In Kawama, Mapalo and Nkwazi in Ndola District, young people are turning environmental challenges into opportunities for action, skills and livelihoods.



Youths recycling plastic waste

Through DAPP Zambia's Youth in Action project, more than 2,400 young people are engaged in environmental protection and livelihood activities, including recycling, tree planting and climate-smart practices.

"The project helps young people see that they are not only beneficiaries of development, but key drivers of change," says Project Leader Mwansa Machachali.

Beyond protecting their communities, young people are gaining practical skills, building confidence and exploring opportunities for income generation.

"My district has really benefitted from the teachers that DAPP Mkushi College of Education sends to the district. These teachers are learner-centred and driven by the mission to provide education regardless of the circumstances. Their ability to improvise with limited resources and dedication to keeping children engaged truly stand out. As you have seen, most of our children here live very far away from school, and having a teacher who is committed to see them succeed matters a lot.



Victor Simufwi - Mkushi DEBS