

## **Title: Disability Advocacy Training in Zambia**

### **Summary:**

Special Hope Network (SHN) currently has 3 Community Care Centers (CCC) that work with children with intellectual disabilities and their caregivers in specific compounds (high density neighborhoods) around Lusaka, Zambia. In 2021, our Community Outreach Team began partnering with schools, churches, clinics and other local community members in those compounds that have a CCC, to host Disability Advocacy Trainings.

### **Problem:**

Caregivers in Lusaka do not feel confident and equipped to speak on behalf of their child and incorporate them into regular cultural events such as church, clinic, weddings, funerals, on the bus and in the markets. What if their community were welcoming to them and they are able to feel included with hope and acceptance?

### **Solution:**

Our Community Outreach Team works to educate individuals to create a community that cares, accepts and includes children with intellectual disabilities and their families. These trainings educate and empower Disability Advocates as they work to create a world where children with intellectual disabilities are welcomed and valued. Since starting this program in 2021, we have trained over 900 Disability Advocates!

### **Long-term Impact:**

As Special Hope Network looks to establish more Community Care Centers and train more Disability Advocates with our Community Outreach Team we are changing the culture in compounds that will accept families whose kids have intellectual disabilities.