

# PROFILE

## 2026 ZAMBIA PROGRAMME



**ONE FAMILY AT A TIME**

*HOLISTICALLY  
EMPOWERING YOUTH  
& WOMEN THROUGH  
EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP*

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African  
Education  
Program



## 2026 PROGRAMME PROFILE

**Our Vision** | We envision thriving and prosperous communities across Kafue, Zambia, led by local youth and women.

**Our Mission** | We create quality and inclusive education, health, entrepreneurship and leadership development opportunities for vulnerable Zambian youth and women, so they can foster positive change in their communities.

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Certificate No: RNGO 101/0070/13

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- OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM -

African Education Program  
Board Chair Heather Neufeld

Amos Youth Centre  
Board Chair Paul Chisunka

Co-Founder & Executive Director  
Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza

Co-Founder & Programs Director  
Lumuno Mweemba

Special Education Director  
Febby Choombe  
*Alumni\**

Academics & Scholarships  
Director Ceasar Samwaka  
*Alumni\**

Development Director  
Pamela O'Brien

*\*We are proud that the majority of  
the full-time Zambian team are  
alumni of the program.*

# OUR FLAGSHIP

Since 2006, the African Education Program and Amos Youth Centre have developed, grown, and refined our flagship Learning & Leadership Center model.

This holistic model unlocks the potential of Zambian children and youth through an approach focused on leadership skills development, community service, and volunteerism combined with quality and inclusive learning, health and well-being, entrepreneurship and financial literacy, the arts, and more.

**The goal is for the children and youth to access all the knowledge, skills, resources, and opportunities they need to dream big, reach their full potential and become a changemaker that their community deserves.**

## 2025 CENTRE IN REVIEW

**Our flagship centre in Kafue, Zambia served 900+ children, youth and women.**

**413**  **YOUNG LEARNERS**

**262**  **8-12TH GRADE STUDENTS**

**62**  **COLLEGE PREP STUDENTS**

**65**  **COLLEGE & UNI STUDENTS**

**41**  **SPECIAL ED STUDENTS**

**95**  **MOTHERS & GUARDIANS**



# OUR IMPACT

Our Learning & Leadership Center in Kafue, Zambia is a thriving hub where children, youth, and women access holistic programming that creates life-changing results. We also provide outreach activities that impact our local community.

In 2025, we reached over 9,000 children, youth, and women through our Learning & Leadership Center and outreach programs across Kafue District including:



900+ children, youth, and women at the Learning & Leadership Center.



6,000+ youth through our Peer Education Program in our local community.



2,400+ youth through the Kids to Care initiative for HIV awareness.

More than numbers. These are human lives transformed.

91%

of students passed the 2025 12th Grade National Exam, compared to 70% nationally.

98%

of young women in our reproductive health programs do not become pregnant compared to 16% provincially, 28% nationally.

80%

average income increase for women who graduate from our custom-designed, 4-month Women's Business Training.

89%

of college and university graduates attribute their success to the Learning & Leadership Center.

300+

hot meals including a protein, vegetable, and starch are served Monday through Friday.

84.75%

is the average score achieved by children in the digital literacy pilot compared to 55% of students not enrolled.

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# OUR SUCCESS STORIES



"Through AYC, I found more than academic support —I found purpose, mentorship, and a platform to lead."

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**Chimango Nhdlovu**  
**University of Zambia Graduate**

Chimango arrived at AYC in 2015 as a struggling Grade 8 student, accessing the Nutrition Program and academic support. Through leadership opportunities such as the Life Skills & Leadership Camp, the Leadership Club, and the JETS Club, he developed confidence and leadership skills that helped him excel in school and become head prefect. In 2025, he graduated from University of Zambia with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and now mentors and tutors students at AYC while co-founding a startup focused on local infrastructure solutions, reflecting the long-term impact of AYC's holistic model of education, leadership development, mentorship, and family empowerment.



"My goal is to open a custom school where students with special needs can access the education they deserve."

**Febby Choombe**  
**University of Zambia Graduate**

Through our programmes, Febby completed secondary school and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education from the University of Zambia. In 2017, she joined the African Education Program and Amos Youth Centre team as a special education teacher and today is the Director of Special Education.

In 2019, Febby launched the satellite Read for Rose Special Education Program. Girls and boys now have access to sign language, braille, academic tutoring, ICT training via tablets, mobility skills, life skills (including gardening and doormat knitting), and financial literacy. Parents have sign language classes, too.

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# OUR PROGRAMMES



## LEARNING & LEADERSHIP CENTER

The Learning & Leadership Center in Kafue provides holistic programming. By moving beyond the curriculum taught in schools, the programmes empower the children and youth to be critically thinking leaders eager to eliminate poverty in their communities and nation. Our programmatic areas are:



**Inclusive Learning & Education Access**



**Health & Wellbeing**



**Women & Girls' Agency**



**Leadership & Community Development**



**Art & Creativity**

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# INCLUSIVE LEARNING & EDUCATION ACCESS

We create quality and inclusive learning opportunities through academic support and scholarships.

## Young Learners Programme



Young learners (ages 5 to 15) have access to daily lessons. Play-based learning and native games are incorporated as much as possible.

## High School Tutoring



Daily tutoring sessions in all major subjects for 7th to 12th graders. Trained teachers and high school graduate volunteers work together to tutor.

## College Prep Programme



High school graduates have prep classes on career guidance, study habits, and other needed life-skills to prepare for college. They also give back at the center.

## Special Education Programme



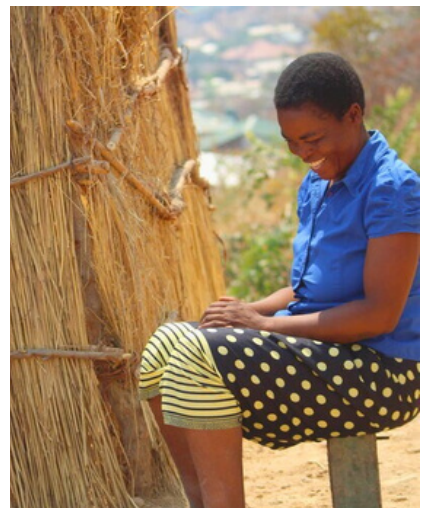
Children with a diverse range of disabilities have individualized learning plans that include communication, academic, and occupational skills.

## College Scholarship Fund



We award college scholarships so that committed high school graduates can further their education in Zambia or abroad.

## Rural Outreach Programme



We provide the most marginalized girls and boys from the fishing village of Chanyanya and Chikupi access to secondary school and the center.

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## HEALTH & WELLBEING

Our programmes promote healthy lives and changemaker mentalities.

### Reproductive Health Access Initiative (RHAi)



Girls and young women access information about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights including family planning, modern contraception, and HIV Awareness / STD prevention.

### Menstrual Health Programme



To end Period Poverty, we distribute reusable menstrual cups and pads, as well as menstrual underwear, to our young women and mothers. We also provide training and a safe space for consultation.

### Mental Health & Counseling Programme



We facilitate mental health sessions, providing a space for the girls, boys, young women and young men to learn techniques and coping for mental health issues.

### Nutrition & Food Security Programme



Over 300+ girls, boys, young women and men are provided a meal each day of the school week. Meals are hot and include a starch, vegetable, and protein.

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## WOMEN & GIRLS' AGENCY

One of our key goals has always been to build the leadership of female members of the team, our girls and young women by empowering them to be strong and vocal.



We have always had a great concern for promoting opportunities for Zambian women and girls and ensuring that they are equal participants in the planning, operation, and benefits of our programmes ultimately leading to enhanced agency and equality.

Weekly "One Up for Girl Power" and "Boys Talks" Clubs focus on gender equity and empowerment through a custom curriculum developed over many years of working with our young women and men.

Topics include:

- Discussing gender issues, stereotypes, biases, and how to improve inclusivity and equal partnership.
- Combating gender-based violence, early marriage, and discrimination.
- Building self-esteem and self-awareness while creating a culture of dreaming.
- Working with local communities to challenge harmful cultural practices and traditions that perpetuate gender inequality.

Gender-equity and empowerment cuts across all our programme areas.

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# LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We empower leaders that our communities deserve to systemically create positive change.

## Leadership Development Programme



Leadership development is woven into all programming. In addition, there is weekly Leadership & Community Service Club, the annual Lifeskill & Leadership Camp, and the Duke of Edinburgh International Award.

## Entrepreneurship & Financial Literacy Programme



We're empowering youth and women with the right resources for economic mobility and community-led change. We facilitate a four-month Women's Business Training and a Youth Entrepreneurship Programme.

## Peer-to-Peer Education & Mentoring



Trained peer educators disseminate information on reproductive health, gender equity, drug abuse prevention, and leadership development.

## Threads of Hope



As an income generating activity, this tailoring atelier's aim is to build the sustainability of our projects and enable employees to support themselves.

## Grassroots Climate Solutions



The Urban Farming & Permaculture Learning Space allows youth and women to gain practical, hands-on training in sustainable agriculture.

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## ART & CREATIVITY

Performing Arts Club (Dance, Music, Drama, and Poetry) and the Creative Writing Club and Storytelling Club take place weekly at the center. These clubs promote new artistic opportunities for personal growth, self-expression, and self-esteem building. These activities unleash the creative potential of Zambia's youth.

After-school art activities supplement Art and Design offered in schools and provide our youth with access to art who otherwise would have no such prospect.





# OUR GROWTH NEEDS

To date, 98% of the Amos Youth Centre's funding is received in the form of grants from the African Education Program, a US-based 501(c)3 charity, and Action Education Progrès, a France-based non-profit, as well as other international grantors.

In an effort to build long-term growth and sustainability, we seek to diversify funding sources and gain more local funding support for our work.

The Amos Youth Centre seeks to become 100% financially self-sufficient.

It plans to raise local funds through private and corporate giving channels, creating a social impact enterprise to generate revenue, and re-open its volunteer programme which also generates income.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?



**Financial donations** are key to our self-sustainability. In order to run our operations, the organization needs USD \$25,000 per month. This includes our rentals, utilities, staff, materials for programmes, Rural Outreach Programme allowances, and more.

We also seek long-term financial commitments to create locally funded scholarship and fellowship opportunities for our students.



**In-kind donations** are equally important and can help us offset monthly costs. All food-stuffs including mealie meal, rice, potatoes, cooking oil, meats, vegetables, eggs, fruits, and spices are needed on a weekly basis. Soap, chalk, and other educational materials are needed monthly.



**Volunteers** make our work possible and do a range of work from tutoring students in Math or Science, mentoring students one-on-one and giving motivational speeches to larger groups. We also need support with fundraising, advocacy, communications, and board development.

# Our Future for Sustainability

**Beyond the Walls is our capital project to create a new and one of its kind, Learning & Leadership Center for children, youth, and women in Kafue. Construction began in November 2024, with foundations and service works now 100% complete and the project moving into Phase 2: Gray Shell Construction.**

**The center will include learning spaces, innovation and health hubs, libraries, and community facilities powered by solar energy. Additional funding is still needed to complete and equip the center so it can begin serving the community.**





**1**

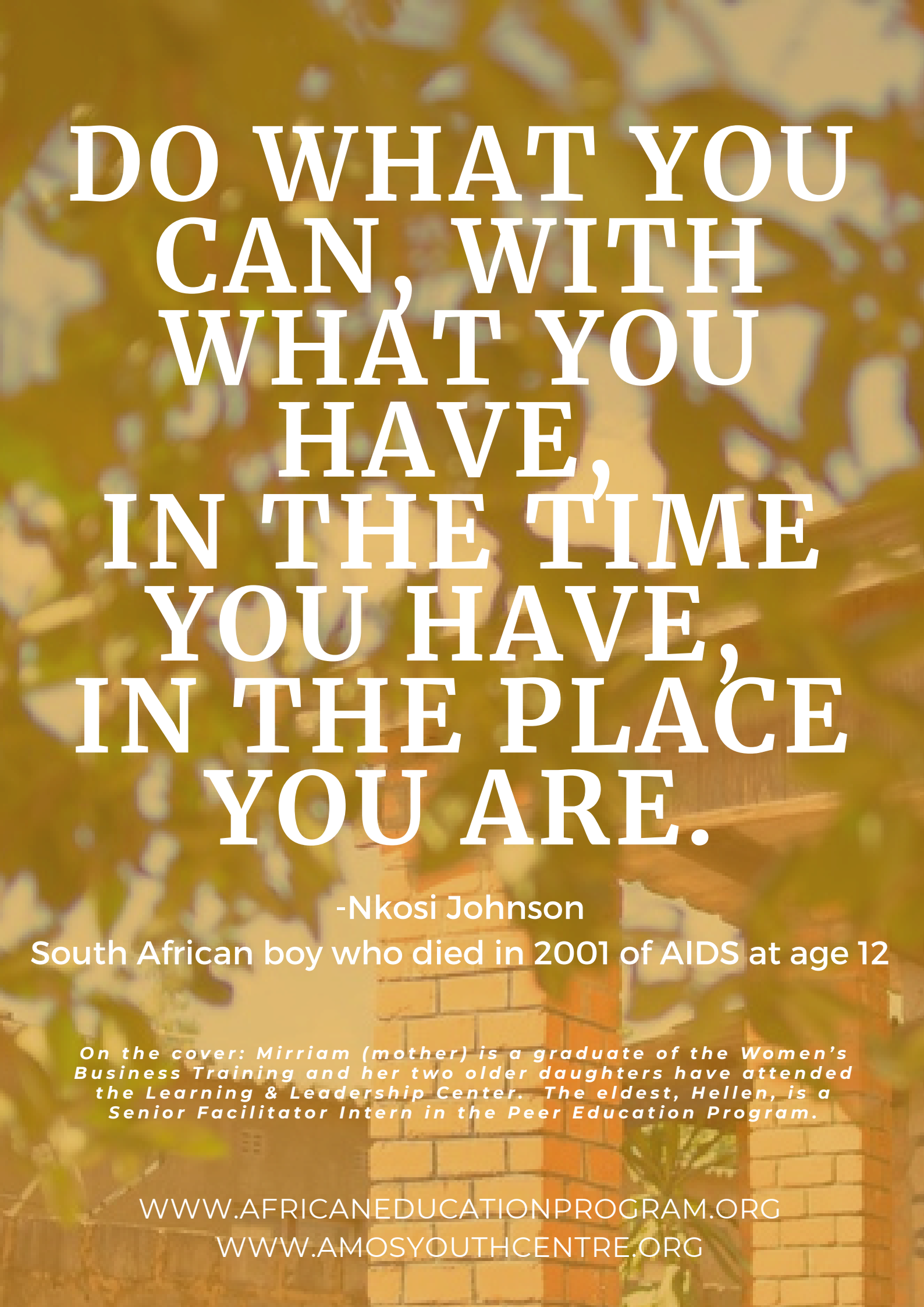
**Create change in Kafue and Zambia at large through each individual student by inspiring them to be change agents themselves. Our Alumni Program provides opportunities for graduates to give back to the organization, younger members, and society.**

**2**

**Package our holistic programmes for replicability for use in local schools or adoption by other NGOs in a “plug and play” model.**

**3**

**Take a role in the reform of the Zambian education system and policy structures in an effort to shift toward more progressive and higher impact approaches and standards that we practice ourselves.**



DO WHAT YOU  
CAN, WITH  
WHAT YOU  
HAVE,  
IN THE TIME  
YOU HAVE,  
IN THE PLACE  
YOU ARE.

-Nkosi Johnson

South African boy who died in 2001 of AIDS at age 12

*On the cover: Mirriam (mother) is a graduate of the Women's Business Training and her two older daughters have attended the Learning & Leadership Center. The eldest, Hellen, is a Senior Facilitator Intern in the Peer Education Program.*

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