

PAF

Newsletter

ZAMBIA

7th Edition August 2024



Equity Development Justice



**VISIONARY FOUNDER
ECSTATIC ABOUT PAF'S
GROWTH AND SUCCESS**

*People's Action Forum founder, Mrs Jennifer Chiwela
at the 24th Annual General Meeting*

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*Ebenezer Private School
learners reciting a poem*

PAF UNDERSCORES GIRL-CHILD EDUCATION

In a speech to mark the Day of an African Child, People's Action Forum (PAF) Project Officer, Eneless Daka underscored that the education of girls is not just a matter of fairness but a fundamental necessity for societal progress.

Ms Daka emphasised the importance of girl child education and implored the girls to pursue high profile careers because they have the capacity and ability to achieve their ambitions.

“Educating the girl child is not just about individual empowerment but it is also about lifting entire communities out of poverty and fostering sustainable development.”

She further noted that girls who receive education are more likely to contribute positively to the economic, social and political fabric of their society because they become empowered women.

Ms Daka expressed her gratitude to Government for creating an enabling environment that allows PAF to operate effectively.

“The government’s commitment to creating a conducive environment for PAF and other Non-Governmental Organisations is commendable and essential for the success of our projects.



Ms Daka

People's Action Forum (PAF) former Board Director, Bishop Ignatius Mukwasa and his family donated sixty-two mattresses and assorted materials on Saturday, 3 September 2024 to the learners with special education needs at Nanga Special School in Mazabuka.

The rare gesture of generosity saw the family in a 24-member team from Lusaka travel to Mazabuka to make a donation aimed at improving the comfort and well-being of the needy learners who are differently abled.

Bishop Mukwasa said he was happy that the family's long time wish to give a gift that will put a smile on the face of vulnerable and underprivileged children has begun to be fulfilled.

“When I was serving as a PAF Board Member, I was touched when I learnt of the challenges the learners at Nanga Special School were facing. We made a commitment as family to help in a small way and make a tangible difference in the lives of these special children.

“Our coming here has given us an in-depth insight of the actual situation at the school and as a family; we feel there is

BISHOP MUKWASA, FAMILY DONATE 62 MATTRESSES



Top: Nanga Special School House Keeper, Ms Moonga thanking the family over the donation

Left: The team members taking the mattresses for storage



need for more support in the areas we have identified. This trip has served as a fact finding mission to understand what is obtaining on the ground,” Bishop Mukwasa said.

After a conducted tour of the school, the family noted with dismay that an institution dedicated to providing learning opportunities for personal development of disadvantaged children was struggling with inadequate facilities and resources.

And speaking at the same event, PAF Executive Director, Gina Chiwela thanked Bishop Mukwasa and his family for extending a giving hand to learners at Nanga.

“I am touched beyond words and it has always been a silent cry in my heart over

the years to see the body of Christ get involved in improving the learning environment of our children here. The Bible says 'he who gives to the poor lends to the Lord', and all the blessings that have been pronounced here are appropriate because the Lord owes you for having given to those in need.

“I am really delighted that Bishop Mukwasa and family's desire has come to pass,” Ms Chiwela said.

Ms Chiwela, was flanked by PAF Treasurer and incoming Trustee, Mr Mussa Mulupande who urged the family to continue the good works of making a positive change in the lives of the needy children and other members in the society.

School Senior Teacher, Mr Traceberry Buumba expressed gratitude for the donation which he described as a ‘miracle’. “We didn't expect this kind of a donation at this time when the economic situation is harsh. We thank God and pray that your family's businesses expand and flourish for ever. “These mattresses you have given to the school will have a lasting impact on the learners' education journey because they will enjoy a sound sleep which contributes to good class performance,” Mr Buumba said.

The donation included 15 bags of 25kg mealie meal, 4 containers of 5ltr cooking oil, 10 packs of 2kg sugar, 5 trays of eggs , 65 plates for the learners, 80 cups for the learners, 21 plates for staff, 11 cups for staff and 71 articles of warm clothing.

Nanga Special School has been a long term partner of PAF. Some of the works PAF has facilitated at the school through support from partners include a borehole, installation of a solar powered mechanised water system, and a drip lines irrigation system after training the learners in Climate Smart Agriculture.

The special institution has a total enrolment of forty three learners of which twenty are girls.

A Rising Young Philanthropist

Eleven-Year-Old Kangwa Mukwasa has pledged to save money and contribute towards improving the conditions at Nanga Special School in Mazabuka.

During a conducted tour of the school, Kangwa witnessed the deplorable state of facilities at the school and was moved to start thinking of how she can help to improve the learning environment of her peers, "I am grateful to be here where I have seen the dormitories, classrooms and showers. I think I may start to save some money and help them."

Kangwa, the youngest daughter of Bishop and Mrs Mukwasa said she was happy to be part of the family which travelled to Mazabuka's Nanga Special School to give back to the community.

The Grade 6 learner, based in Lusaka emphasised the need for the haves to share with the have-nots.

“

I'm grateful to be here where I have seen the dormitories, classrooms and showers. I think I may start to save some money and help them

"I am happy to be here and give back to the community. There are some people who may not have the same things as us," Kangwa said.

Kangwa's compassion and willingness to make a difference marks a beginning of an incredible journey of a promising future donor.

The rising young donor was in the company of her parents, Bishop Ignatius and Mrs Kangwa Mukwasa, and her siblings Samuel and Chifungula, who led a 24- member church family to Mazabuka which donated sixty-two quality mattresses among other items to Nanga Special School.



Kangwa Mukwasa



Ms Msamalia Banda

PAF DISTRIBUTES 1200 METRIC TONNES OF RELIEF MAIZE IN MAMBWE DISTRICT

People's Action Forum (PAF) has distributed one thousand two hundred metric tonnes of relief maize in Mambwe in the last two quarters.

This came to light in a report by PAF to the District Development Coordinating Committee (DDCC) held this month. Six of the ten wards which include Jumbe, Mnkhanya, Nsefu, Chisengu, Malama and Mphomwa have all received their allocation.

As a Project Implementing Partner (PIP) for the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), PAF is the leading organisation in the distribution exercise which started last year.

PAF is working with government line ministries of Education, Agriculture, Social Welfare and other partner organisation in the relief white maize distribution exercise in the district.



Mambwe residents wait patiently to collect relief maize



A District Technical Working Committee meeting to discuss the future of adolescent groups

FIVE GIRLS SALVAGED FROM EARLY MARRIAGES

Five school girls have been retrieved from early marriages so far this year. In an interview, People's Action (PAF) Mambwe supervisor Msamalia Banda disclosed that two grade 7 learners and three grade 8 learners have been taken back to school.

"In collaboration with the District Child Protection Committee, we successfully retrieved the five girls from the unlawful marriages after tip-off from the community.

Ms Banda said the girls between 14 and 15 years, are back in school and being closely monitored by PAF and the committee.



Helping the women to transport the relief maize



Mambwe residents regardless of their status are benefiting

VISIONARY FOUNDER ECSTATIC ABOUT PAF'S GROWTH AND SUCCESS

People's Action Forum (PAF) founding Executive Director, Mrs Jennifer Chiwela is filled with pride and admiration for the on-going achievements of the organisation she established thirty years ago. Mrs Chiwela who has been a Trustee since 2015 expressed her reflective happiness that PAF has continued to thrive and expand its impact many years since she stepped down.

"It's heartening to see the organisation continue to operate and making an impact in transforming communities. I'm absolutely happy and incredibly proud of the output of activities in different communities. Several organisations which were initiated at the same time with PAF no longer exist," Mrs Chiwela noted.

The founder, who retired as Executive Director in 2011, was also glad that PAF is sustaining significant grants and forming strategic partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders.

And commenting on the Community-Led Village Development Project in Siyowi, Mazabuka, Mrs Chiwela urged the people in the area to raise the bar of development in their own community.

"I'm encouraged to see that the Siyowi people are receptive to the project and just urge them to take ownership through collective community participation."

Meanwhile, Mrs Chiwela described the PAF staff as a 'Miracle'. "They could have worked with other institutions or organisations which pay handsomely but they have chosen to offer their services at PAF. I commend them for their dedication and selfless interest to work for the underprivileged people."

She implored the staff to stay true to the organisation's mission and continue to put the needs of the community first.

Mrs Chiwela reiterated that PAF will remain an indigenous organisation addressing local challenges. "When you wear tight shoes, you are the one who feels the pain. So, you are better placed to relieve the pain than someone else who is not feeling what you're going through."

Mrs Chiwela's leadership and dedication, from PAF's founding in 1994, were instrumental in shaping the organization's early years, establishing a reputation for effective, community-driven initiatives.

She has served as trustee from the inaugural Trustee Board of 2015, after having worked as PAF's first Executive Director up to her retirement in 2011.

Mrs. Chiwela's extensive experience in the education sector before this spanned over 30 years up to her appointment in 1988 to the country's Teaching Service Commission where she served as its first female Chairperson.

During her time as PAF Executive Director Mrs. Chiwela chaired the Zambia National Education Network (ZANEC), and Africa Network Campaign for Education for All (ANCEFA), and was later Vice-President of Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

She is currently working on a book on education in Zambia.



NEW BOARD SIGNALS A PROMISING ERA FOR PAF



Mr Bula



Ms Mtonga



Mr Nsofu



Ms Fundafunda

People's Action Forum (PAF) instated five new directors onto its voluntary governing board during the 24th Annual General Meeting held at Child Fund Boardroom in Lusaka on 20 July 2024.

The newly appointed board members bring a wealth of experience and a shared vision, signalling a promising first term of their three years. Speaking in separate interviews, each board member expressed enthusiasm for their new roles and the future of the PAF.

Mr Mwai Bula, with an impressive background in social development consultancy, expressed strong commitment to amplifying PAF's efforts in addressing the hardships faced by rural communities due to the impacts of climate change.

"Climate change has inflicted devastating effects on the rural communities. It's therefore, increasingly important that we initiate activities which will alleviate the climate-induced challenges confronting rural areas."

"These communities are often the most vulnerable, and it is imperative that we take concrete steps to support them in adapting to and mitigating these impacts.

"As a team player, I'm committed to innovative strategies and collaborative efforts to drive meaningful change for the betterment of the rural communities," Mr Bula said.

And Ms Malibase Mtonga, from the legal fraternity emphasized the potential for innovation and collaboration. "I am deeply humbled to be given an opportunity to serve as a board member for an organisation which is working tirelessly to transform the lives of the underprivileged rural communities."

Ms Mtonga emphasised on building strong relationships and ensuring that the programs of the organisation are guided by the voices of the communities which are directly impacted.

She pledged to build on the solid foundation laid by their predecessors in fostering the organisation's mission.

Meanwhile, Mr Godwin Nsofu said it was a privilege to be on the board and contribute to the efforts PAF is making in transforming rural people's lives. He identified the need to increase the organisation's financial portfolio as a priority.

"PAF is already on a strong footing, but we need to work harder as a board to make the financial base much stronger so that more rural communities are supported," Mr Nsofu said.

Another member, Ms Sekayi Fundafunda with a background in economics, finance and innovation management said her potential to contribute to the legacy created by the founder inspired her to join the board.

"I really want to contribute to the impact that can be created by a local organisation in education for areas where it is needed the most. This is against a backdrop of my experience in supporting businesses and creating new services and businesses.

"As a team, we look forward to introducing new perspectives, approaches, partnerships and new ways of thinking on how we create impact in today's world.

"We have a great team of devoted and dedicated people with credible expertise who have been working in this industry for years, therefore, stakeholders and partners should have confidence in the board and support the works of PAF," Ms Fundafunda said.

Ms Frances Namwinga Gwaba, with a distinguished financial background is the fifth board member and brings a wealth of experience to the board.

The new Board members join outgoing directors; Chairperson Mr Milimo Chona, Vice Chairperson Mr Kaseke Chinyemba and Treasurer, Mr Mussa Malupande; who will exit the Board at the close of the year 2024.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



From left: Ms Maureen Banda, Mr Mussa Malupande, Mrs Jennifer Chiwela, Mr Geoff Chipota and Dr Irene Banda.

Following the stepping down of Chairperson Professor Dickson Mwansa in 2023, and the demise of Mr. Michael Mundashi SC early in 2024, the Board sought and incorporated new trustees.

Joining Mrs Chiwela on the Trustees board were four new members; Dr Irene Banda, Mr Geoffrey Chipota, Ms Maureen Banda and Mr. Mussa Malupande.

Dr Irene Banda: She is a scholar, an entrepreneur, a strategist and a financial services expert with a passion for transformative solutions, and a bias toward wealth creation and poverty reduction solutions. With her extensive experience, she has been at the helm of institutions in corporate finance, banking and development sectors both at national and global levels, and has authored several microfinance publications. Dr Banda comes to PAF with vast experience from several Boards she has sat on and chaired since 2006.

Mr. Geoffrey Chipota: A retired Chartered Accountant and Fellow of the ACCA and ZICA. Mr. Chipota has extensive financial and management accounting experience having worked for well over 30 years in industry, commerce, and

the social sector to the level of financial controller.

From 1997, Mr Chipota served on the PAF Board of Director as its Treasurer and Vice-Chairperson, ending his service as Chairperson in 2019.

Ms. Maureen Banda: A seasoned lawyer for 18 years. She holds experience in corporate, commercial, competition and consumer protection law in leading organizations in Zambia. In her professional capacity she also sits on several committees at a national and continental level. Ms Banda served on the PAF Board of Directors as Legal Advisor from 2008-2016.

Mr. Mussa Malupande: With a background in Business Finance and Project Management, Mr Malupande has over 30 years corporate experience in the finance and banking sectors. He has served as Director on the PAF Board from 2013, and as Treasurer from 2016 into the Interim Board from which he is transitioning to the trusteeship in 2024.

Meanwhile, Dr Banda was elected Chairperson for the Board of Trustees during a caucus meeting held after the AGM.



Left: Out-going Board chairperson Mr Milimo Chona (l) and Executive Director Gina Chiwela during the AGM

Below: AGM attendees pose for a group photo

PAF HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 24th Annual General Meeting for People's Action Forum (PAF) was successfully held on 20 July 2024 with the ushering in of newly appointed members of its board of trustees and board of directors marking the climax of the event.

The AGM which was held at PAF Head Office in Lusaka and attended by board members, trustees, PAF management and supporting staff, marked a significant milestone in the journey of the organisation set to celebrate its 30th anniversary this year.

In his annual report, out-going Chairperson, Mr Milimo Chona highlighted key successes including partnerships with United Church of Canada, Shanta Foundation, Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit in Mambwe District and Childfund Zambia.

Among key successes, Mr Chona underlined the 6-Year Community-Led Village Development Project being implemented in Siyowi area in Mazabuka with support from PAF's newest partner, SHANTA Foundation of the United States of America.

Mr Chona noted the baseline survey, project launches in three villages-Nachili, Siyowi and Kabanje, selection of Village Development Teams (VDTs), and the introduction of the Community Bank project as some of the accomplishments in the project.

He paid glowing tribute to the out-going board for working relentlessly in spite facing challenges.

Mr Chona congratulated the trustees as they joined Trustee Chiwela, and new board members. He wished them success in their new roles and responsibilities.





From left: Chipso Mubambe (Monitoring & Evaluation Manager), Janet Nyoni (Programme Manager), Dr Khaing Zar Oo (Shanta Foundation co-founder and Programme Manager), Eneless Daka (Project Officer), Lastone Milambo (Project Officer), Stella Potemkin (Shanta Foundation Intern), Wezi Mhoni (Accounts & Administration Officer), Sofia Zulu (Project Officer) and Chileshe Kazembe (Accounts and Logistics Officer)

CONTINUOUS STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS EXCITE PAF

People's Action Forum (PAF) Programme Manager, Janet Nyoni applauded Shanta Foundation for conducting continuous development training workshops aimed at improving field staff's skills and knowledge to effectively implement the Six-Year Community-Led Village Development Project in Mazabuka's Siyowi area.

Speaking during the closure of an intensive two-week training workshop held at Royal Laricio Lodge in Mazabuka recently, Ms Nyoni said PAF appreciates the efforts Shanta Foundation was making to upscale the capabilities of the field staff.

"As an organisation that embraces the culture of continuous learning and development, we appreciate the efforts Shanta Foundation is making to build capacity of our field team to effectively implement the project in Siyowi."

Ms Nyoni also expressed satisfaction with her seven-member field team's active participation during the training workshop and implored it to put to use the knowledge gained during the training.

"I am proud of the dedication and energy each one of you brought to this workshop. Your active participation and willingness to engage in every aspect of the training demonstrate your commitment to our mission and the communities we serve," Ms Nyoni said.

The workshop, facilitated by Shanta Foundation co-founder and Programme Manager, Dr Khaing Zar Oo covered key areas such as CBO strengthening & Project Management for VDT, Proposal Writing Training for VDT, Infrastructure Project Management, Project strategy and design for Girl's Action Forum and Women Discussion Groups, and Household Data Collection survey.

"We appreciate the efforts Shanta Foundation is making to build capacity of our field team to effectively implement the project in Siyowi"

CB RAISES HOPE FOR POVERTY REDUCTION IN MPASU VILLAGE

Following a successful set up of a Community Bank, a wave of excitement has swept through Mpasu Village as the community celebrates a new opportunity to reducing poverty and improving their overall well-being.

The Community Bank has already provided financial services through loan empowerment to the community in a bid to enable them invest in and grow their enterprises which include fish trading, vegetable gardening and goat rearing.

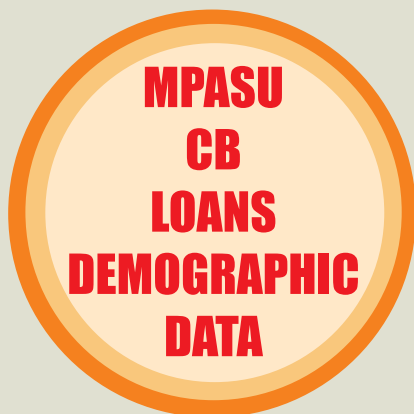
Francina Haamainza, a fish trader is one of the beneficiaries who is profoundly delighted to have accessed a loan which has for a long time eluded her due to collateral conditions and high interest rates demanded by micro-financial institutions.

The ambitious Ms Haamainza plans to invest the K2000 in her fish trading enterprise, "With this loan, I would like to expand my business and improve my family's living standards. For years, I have been struggling with a small working capital of K300 raising a small profit, insufficient to meet my family's daily needs."

Ms Haamainza has promised to work harder so that she makes enough money to enable her improve the household income and be able to pay back the loan.

And another beneficiary, Cuthbert Mungaila, a physically challenged father, is equally happy with the Community Bank because of its inclusivity.

"People with disabilities often times are excluded from such community programmes because society under-rates our capacity and ability to perform. As a result, we have been forced to be perpetual beggars, and yet, disability is not inability."



MPASU VILLAGE

Number of Households

↓
54

Female Headed Households

↓
10

Youth

↓
10 male

16 female

Less Privileged

↓
2 female

3 male



A delighted Francina Haamainza displays the cash loan

Mr Mungaila said the K1300 loan is a big boost as he plans to invest it into his vegetable gardening business by buying quality inputs which will increase his productivity.

"I will use the loan to invest in high-quality seeds and irrigation equipment. I have for a long time harvested low yields due to poor quality of seeds and inconsistent water supply. With this loan, my garden will thrive and be able to sell more vegetables at the market." Meanwhile, 54-Year-Old Winnie Hamasaka said the CB will address severe financial hardships faced by many widows in the village. "Since the death of my husband eight years ago, I have worked with a lot of difficulties to raise my seven children. However, the introduction of the community bank loans, facilitated by PAF, gives me hope, offering a pathway out of poverty and towards self-sufficiency.

Ms Hamasaka wants to use her loan to revitalize her fish trading which had gone down owing to financial challenges.

"Now, my business will flourish as I have enough capital to purchase good amount of fish for the Lusaka market where prices are far much better than the local market," said a hopeful Ms Hamasaka.

Ms Hamaska is optimistic that her boosted business will now flourish and earn her enough to support her family and service the loan.



Mr Moonga

Mpasu Village Development Team (VDT) Chairperson, Bruce Moonga is filled with joy and optimism over the formation of a committee tasked to spearhead developmental programmes in the village.

Mr Moonga said forming the VDT marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Mpasu as community members take up the

responsibility to manage their developmental activities which will transform the village.

"Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for our village. The formation of this committee is an achievement and a reflection of the community's commitment to driving progress and development in Mpasu," Mr Moonga said.

Speaking after the Community Bank Transparency Training, Mr Moonga thanked People's Action Forum (PAF), who are implementing a Community-led Village 6-year Development Model in Siyowi with support from SHANTA Foundation, for including Mpasu Village in the project.

"We are grateful to PAF and SHANTA Foundation for considering Mpasu in the project. This gives us motivation and push to work harder and aspire to transform our community," Mr Moonga said.

He further thanked PAF and SHANTA for training the VDT leadership adding that 'the Training' helped them understand how to manage the development process in an inclusive and transparent manner.

"After the training we understood that development cannot be achieved in isolation. We need the active participation and support of every community member to identify our needs, set priorities, and work towards achieving our goals," Mr Moonga said.

Despite being newly formed, the VDT has already made significant strides which include the establishment of a Community Bank. The team with support from the 65 households in the village, successfully raised a K15 000 matching fund to add on to the K50 000 seed fund from PAF.

"The achievement is a clear indication of what we can accomplish if we worked together as a team in Mpasu village," The VDT chairperson pointed out.

While expressing his optimism, Mr Moonga also acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead. "We are aware that our journey will not be without obstacles," he admitted. However, with determination, hard work, and the support of our community, we can overcome these challenges."

He called on everyone to remain engaged and proactive in the development process. "I urge each Mpasu community member to stay involved, share ideas, and contribute in any way they can," he appealed.

The formation of the VDT has ignited a sense of hope and anticipation among the Mpasu community. With a dedicated team at the helm, the village has been set on a transformative pathway towards sustainable development and improved quality of life for all its community members.

VDT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF DEVELOPMENT IN MPASU

“We Now Understand How to Manage the Development Process in an Inclusive and Transparent Manner

cimmyt

Engages PAF staffer in Good Agronomic Practices in Monze



Ms Hakooma making a presentation

People's Action Forum (PAF) community volunteer, Ms Matilda Hakooma has been identified by CIMMYT as one of the community facilitators to help in disseminating information on good agricultural practices in Monze.

Ms Hakooma was among thirty people drawn from different organisations who were recently trained at Family Safari Lodge.

Speaking in an interview, Ms Hakooma said the skills and knowledge gained during the training will help her to effectively relay information to farmers so that they grow more nutritious, resilient, and productive crops, using methods that nourish the environment and combat climate change.

Ms Hakooma added that the training also included lessons on the role of a digital champion in promoting agricultural advice via the 667hotline and the Geo farmer app.

CIMMYT collaborates with hundreds of partners and is part of the global network of CGIAR Research Centers, delivering science for a food-secure future.

PAF has gathered recognition in areas where it is operating and has further cemented its reputation as a leader in community led programs.



PHOTO FOCUS



Mrs Kangwa Mukwasa speaking during the handover of the donated items to Nanga Special School



Mpasu Community Bank committee giving out loans to the applicants



Mrs Kangwa Mukwasa (second from right) poses with ED, Ms Chiwela (third from right) and other members of the team



One of the team members offloading mattresses from the truck



PAF founder, Mrs Chiwela poses with Msamalia Banda during the PAF AGM



Village Aid Project (VAP) team at one of the taps after connecting water to Siyowi Village



A wheelchair beneficiary in Siyowi appreciates the gesture by Shanta Foundation Director Wade Griffith and family



Community participation during the digging of trenches for the water pipes in Siyowi

PHOTO FOCUS



Mazabuka District Commissioner, Mr Oliver Mulomba taking part in the digging of trenches for water pipes in Siyowi



Mazabuka Town Clerk, Ms Judith Mukwita (red T-shirt) chatting with American Engineer Mathews Klema in Siyowi



PAF team happily ending a staff project review



Mambwe residents collecting relief maize from the shed for distribution to beneficiaries



PAF field staff celebrate the end of a 2-week intensive training workshop



PAF field staff during a training workshop conducted by Shanta Foundation at Royal Laricio in Mazabuka



A VDT member from Mpasu Village demonstrating how to conduct a transparency meeting



PAF 24th AGM in session at Head Office in Lusaka

Celebrating 30th Anniversary

PEOPLE'S ACTION FORUM



Peoples Action Forum, PAF, is an indigenous organization that has supported rural communities and schools in Zambia since 1994 through community learning centres established in seven rural districts of Eastern (Chadiza, Chipata, Mambwe), Southern (Mazabuka, Monze), and Central (Mumbwa, Namayani) Provinces. PAF has provided direct project support to schools in 14 other districts of Chipangali, Isoka, Kafue, Kalomo, Kapiri Mposhi, Kasama, Kasenengwa, Kawambwa, Mbala, Mpulungu, Mungwi, Namwala, Solwezi, Vubwi.

Our Vision: A peaceful society where people are empowered and have attained equity.

Our Mission: To promote empowerment through advocacy, education and other innovative approaches for sustainable development

PAF aspires to be a self-sustaining organisation that empowers rural communities to initiate and manage their own development.

Our work in Zambia aims at achieving a people-centred, community-led development in which people will be aware of their rights, be able to put demands on their claims so that duty bearers at various levels will be able to uphold and support the rights of the targeted poor and marginalized groups in rural communities in Zambia for a fair, equal and sustainable development through both formal and non-formal education.

As a membership organisation in its first 21 years, PAF facilitated the establishment of 80 adult learning circles run by over 120 community-based facilitators, and 42 community-initiated schools. All of our adult learning and child-centred interventions are located in the rural areas to support rural development and decentralized structures through the nine CABLACs (Capacity Building Learning and Activity Centres). With new skills and confidence gained communities have become proactive to work with other local partners including the duty bearers.

General Summary of PAF Activities and Programmes

In its programme development PAF grounded its activities through five Programme Pillars.

- Education:
 - Provision of basic education to girls and boys through community schools
 - Girls' retention & re-enrolment mentorship programme
 - Promotion and provision of adult education
- Food Security:
 - Promotion of organic/conservation farming
- Health :
 - Provision of safe, clean water to communities and schools
 - Awareness on HIV&AIDS Prevention and mitigation, facilitation of ART (anti-retroviral therapy)
 - Youth sexual and reproductive health matters
- Economic Empowerment:
 - Skills training
 - Income generation projects
- Advocacy:
 - Collaborating with local, national and international Civil Society partners for policy influence and engagement on
 - Adult literacy and learning
 - Equal access to quality education
 - Social & economic opportunity especially for rural women & girls
 - Access to quality health care and information

In the strategic period 2023-2025 PAF has continued to focus programme activities in the following Key Result Areas:

- i. Education
- ii. Health, Water and Sanitation
- iii. Socio-economic empowerment
- iv. Environment, Climate Change & Food Security
- v. PAF Institutional Development

HIV/AIDS, Gender and Disability as well as Capacity Building remain crosscutting.

The Approach

PAF founded its community engagement on the use of participatory approaches, among them *Reflect*, a participatory methodology for critical analysis of issues and for social change. This has given PAF an approach to social change which provides opportunity to learn basic literacy skills and to raise the adult's capacity, and confidence, to engage effectively in their own development. The participatory methodologies use problem solving tools which promote critical thinking and analysis, and foster innovativeness and creativity. We have used this philosophical foundation in our community communication and mobilization to bring about a change of mindset concerning whose responsibility it is to address all aspects of household and community life.

PAF and Community Schools

It is through the processes in *Reflect* Circles that target groups identified and expressed the need to address their critical concerns, including their children's education. Those expressions have over the years given birth to the 42 PAF core schools and extended their support to over 145 others across the seven districts, reaching well over 30,000 learners with direct project support from 2017 to 2019 only.

Support to schools has included:

- Construction/rehabilitation/provision of schools, school furniture, teaching/learning materials
- Improvement of water and sanitation through building toilets, providing boreholes, and CLTS/SLTS (Community and School Led Total Sanitation) WASHE projects
- Training of communities in advocacy approaches/tools such as participatory school governance, and the community scorecard
- Girls' Action Forums –a mentorship programme that builds learning and social skills
- Training community school teachers in basic pedagogy, child friendly & Children with Special Learning Needs methodologies
- Climate Change projects/activities- sustainable landscape management through climate change awareness, conducting youth debates on natural resource conservation in the local schools of Mazabuka, garden and fruit tree planting.

PAF and the GAF

The Girls' Action Forum is a tool that responds to the challenges faced by girls in rural communities. Girls' Action Forum (GAF) is a platform to build positive relationships, embrace diversity-positive messages and to develop life skills. The GAF builds a community for girls to thrive and succeed by celebrating individuality while providing safe spaces to connect and share their voices and common experiences. It's a place to learn, to play and to grow, a safe place to be and to become.

In the GAF girls are given the right skills, space and encouragement to empower them to develop their voices in their communities, navigate their own paths and thrive! We believe that no girl should be left behind! PAF partnered with the Roger Federer Foundation (RFF) from 2011, and from 2014 piloted GAF in 76 community schools in Mumbwa District in Central and Eastern Provinces of Zambia. GAF was expanded to an additional 80 schools in Chadiza, Mambwe and Chipata between 2017 and 2019. The model was replicated with support from Porticus and other partners in 40 community schools in Southern and Central Provinces between 2014 and 2021.



PAF's "School That Grows".

In 2023 PAF acquired land in Shimabala Kafue, supported by our long-term partners the United Church of Canada to begin the journey to achieving a long-standing dream to build a boarding school that will provide quality education for girls. Through this project we envision increased self-sustainability as the organisation continues to support women and girls' empowerment.

PAF and Climate Change

As one of the expanded areas of its strategic focus PAF has forged new partnerships to tackle climate change and its attendant consequences.

In 2018 PAF partnered with Solidaridad to advocate for the conservation of natural resources in the Lower Kafue Sub Basin. The follow-on project, the Clean & Green School, targeting areas experiencing the effects of drought, deforestation and land degradation, engages learners to impart knowledge and skills in sustainable landscape management (SLM).

PAF was engaged between 2019 and 2021 to partner in water resource management interventions with WWF. This included conducting community mobilization and engagement meetings to disseminate information on the Lower Kafue River Basin Health Report Card. By December 2019 community engagements meetings had taken place in the 10 chiefdoms along the Lower Kafue Basin. Engagements also focused on how community members can take ownership to reduce the negative human practices so as to improve the basin's health.

PAF and the Village Partnership Model - VPM

From January 2023 PAF has partnered with SHANTA Foundation in its Village Partnership Model (VPM); a sustainable, holistic, community-led development model implemented in Myanmar; adapting the model to the Zambian context while incorporating PAF's mentorship approach, the Girls' Action Forum (GAF) in the Women and Girls' Empowerment project. The model takes advantage of our unique knowledge and experience in community development and mobilization. The project is being implemented in four villages in Siyowi, Chief Mwanachingwala in Mazabuka.

PAF in Partnership

PAF believes in networking with other stakeholders in education and other development issues in order to maximize impact in communities. Key among these stakeholders are the civic and traditional leaders with whom PAF maintains close collaboration on its community interventions. A critical partner is the Government as the custodian of the people's rights through the Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture and Community Development.

We, at PAF, from our in-depth experience of working with rural communities know the importance of participation and ownership if any intervention is to be rooted in the way of life and therefore be sustained. We thus bring our community mobilization to our partnerships, linking the community beneficiaries to our partners and other stakeholders to widen their scope of learning and benefit.

PAF's Funding Partners

Current

- United Church of Canada (UCC) (2000 -)
- Shanta Foundation (2023 -)

2000-2021

- WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)
- Porticus
- Life Giving Water Fund/KBFUS
- Roger Federer Foundation
- Solidaridad
- UNICEF
- HEI (Human Education International)
- European Union -Zambia Delegation
- OSISA (Open Society Foundation-SA)
- Lichtenstein Development Agency (LED)
- Korean National Commission for UNESCO
- Zambian Governance Foundation
- ILO



GINA CHIWELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT HAS TAKEN PART IN BRINGING ABOUT
THE MANY GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND HELPED TO TOUCH AND CHANGE LIVES
ESPECIALLY IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS.**

PAF – TRANSFORMING AND TOUCHING LIVES SINCE 1994