



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



[www.natubelenge.org](http://www.natubelenge.org)

To fight illiteracy, end the cycle of poverty and better the poor reading culture in communities by ensuring that all children have access to books, teachers, learning activities and technology.

# A NOTE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



Natubelenge Children's Library celebrated its seven-year anniversary in December of 2022. Located in Chilenje South, Lusaka, Zambia, our library this year became an umbrella of three main projects:

- 1.The literacy project
- 2.The access project (technology & libraries) and
- 3.The learning through play project.

Our mission still remains to fight illiteracy, end the cycle of poverty and better the poor reading culture in communities by ensuring that all children have access to books, teachers, learning activities and technology.

We are happy to announce that we partnered with Global Fund for Children on their Partnership to Educate All Kids (PEAK) this year. PEAK is an initiative that supports children who have faced persistent barriers to developmental and educational success.

COVID-19 continued to have a negative effect on our library at the beginning of this year. The ability to gather support from institutional donors and lack of sufficient staff were some of the challenges we faced. In spite of these effects, our library managed to reach over 7000 children in Chilenje and surrounding areas. Since the introduction of afternoon activities that allow children to learn through play, our library has experienced the most increase in members; a clear indication that play-based learning is their preferred mode of learning. Our ability to attract children and extend their daily learning activities helps to keep children off the streets and engage them in positive educational programming.

Through the support that our library provides, a total of over 2,000 children have this year consistently participated in a variety of learning activities. Our goal is to double that number to 4000 in the next 2 years through a permanent location project. Natubelenge Children's Library Permanent location Project Plan 2023 wishes to develop permanent first-rate Innovative Children's Libraries that will provide alternative learning spaces to meet the learning needs of children, combat illiteracy, end the cycle of poverty and better the poor reading culture in communities. The project outcome will be the construction of new structures, or a renovation of existing ones in order to build permanent children's libraries in Zambia.

Mainess N. Chilumbwa  
Co-founder/ Managing Director

# OUR 2022 IMPACT

Books Recieved

406

Number of Visits

7396

Registered Members

679

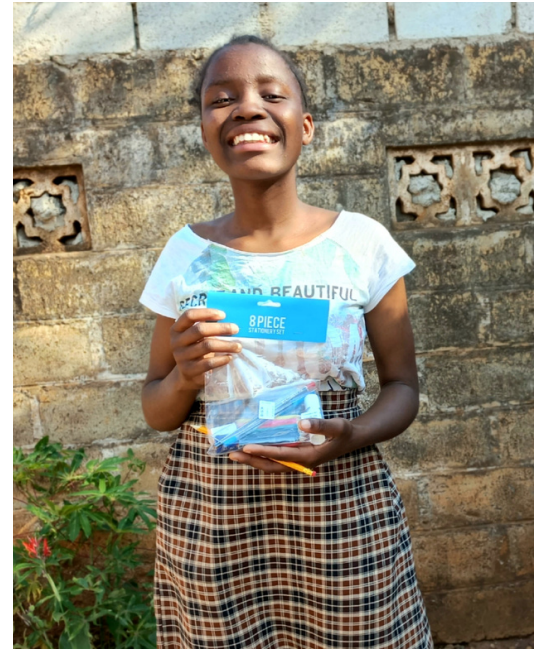
## Literacy Program Impact On the Children

6-year-old Lifasi has been a member of our library for 2 years now. When she joined us, Lifasi wasn't going to school. She was, however, very eager to start school. Through our literacy program she was adequately prepared for her school entry test in which she performed very well and was accepted into school. She has continued with our literacy program. Her performance at school is outstanding.



## Bringing Libraries to Communities

Inuntu was using our library to prepare for her Grade 9 final examinations. She was our August 2022 library star (a well-behaved and consistent library user picked monthly). Before she learned about our library, it was very difficult for her to find the study materials she needed to prepare for her exams. "At Natubelenge Children's Library, I am able to access textbooks that I cannot find at school or at home." Inuntu passed to Grade 10 with flying colors. She made her grandmother proud, who in return thanked the library for its presence in the community at the time when her granddaughters needed it.



### Impact Summary

While our library is a place to find books and a variety of learning activities, children in our community are also using it as a place to socialize with their peers and make new friends. This, we believe, is empowering our members to succeed both socially and academically.

Our staff have this year witnessed children transition from being illiterate to being able to take part in weekly spelling competitions.

Children's libraries are scarce in Zambia, and for this reason our library has become a necessity in our community because it takes children off the streets and provides a safe alternative place for fun and educative programming. You may ask, why invest in children now? If we don't invest in children now, we will have to invest in law enforcement and social services to manage dysfunctional adults later.



### About Our Programs:

Natubelenge Children's Library project breaks the cycle of illiteracy and poverty with on-the-ground programs that build up opportunities for children, families and communities. Every year Natubelenge promises to address illiteracy in children through early-stage impact programs, such as our storytime sessions, our Building Reading Culture outreach program, cultural extended learning through play sessions, and our literacy classes, etc.



## Challenges and Opportunities

This year we encountered some challenges:

- Lack of adequate staff
- Insufficient funding
- Limited room for library activities

## Accomplishments

What we were able to accomplish:

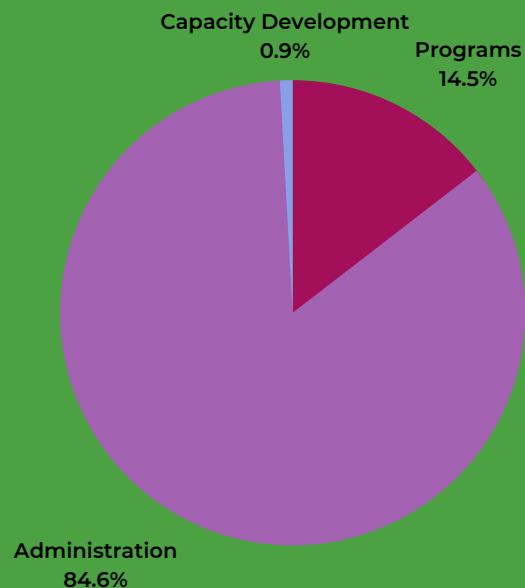
- We partnered with Global Fund for Children
- We partnered with the Joyce Mumba Initiative
- We reached over 7000 children, way passed our target

# 2022 IN NUMBERS

## Income

90% of most of our income this year came from institutional donors and 10% from a few local fundraising efforts. This was mainly because our library was recovering from the effects of COVID-19. We plan to hold more and bigger local fundraising events post COVID-19 in the effort to become more self-sustaining.

## Expenses



# RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE: OUR VISION FOR 2023

Over the last few years, Natubelenge Children's Library has developed into a trusted community institution. Last year we collectively evaluated our situation and prospects as we developed our first comprehensive 3-year strategic plan. We plan to deliver on our year-one commitments to continue to confront escalating illiteracy with our programs and activities.

We are excited to roll out our first Reading Camp program post COVID-19 as well as turn our library into a long-term permanent solution in communities.

As we look ahead to 2023, the opportunities are twofold. First, we will continue to grow our registration of participants and increase our programming to match the technological and reading needs of the community. Second, we are implementing our funding plan to ensure Natubelenge Children's Library is a permanent solution in the community. This includes getting funding for a permanent location as well as creating programs that bring in revenue to offset our costs. We remain committed to providing free services to "at risk" children and youths. However, financial sustainability is a priority.

In 2023 we are rising to the challenge with our official partners, the Chinese Government in Zambia and the Global Fund for Children.

## HOW WE CAN REACH THIS VISION TOGETHER

We are asking you to be part of the solution. In order to achieve our vision, we need your help!

To kick start our permanent solutions/location project, Natubelenge Children's Library needs \$ 50,000 in donations and revenue in the coming year (2023) from well-meaning donor organizations, businesses, embassies and individuals, etc. Your support will enable us to end the cycle of poverty in communities and create permanent alternative learning spaces for children; a move intended to create equal opportunities and provide quality education for all.

# THANK YOU.

We can only achieve our goals of fighting illiteracy, ending the cycle of poverty and bettering the poor reading culture in communities, with the support of people like you. You made this past year possible!

To donate please email us at:  
[info@natubelenge.org](mailto:info@natubelenge.org)



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