



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

DELIVERING GROWTH AND INNOVATION



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



Reflecting on 2024, I feel both proud and humbled by how far we have come as an organisation. This year, much of our effort was focused inward on strengthening our team and building systems that will support our long-term growth. Whether through in-house training like Jolly Phoenix for our teachers or learning under the mentorship of larger organisations, we have grown in confidence, knowledge and purpose.

Of course, the year was not without its challenges. Our limited indoor space, especially during the rainy season, meant that we had to turn some children away, something that never sits well with us. We also experienced setbacks due to inconsistent electricity supply, which affected our daily record-keeping and slowed some of our operations. Most painfully, we lost a few valued team members because we simply couldn't afford to retain them, reminders of the importance of sustainable and flexible funding.

Yet, despite these hurdles, we also witnessed remarkable achievements. One of the year's greatest highlights was receiving a generous donation of land from a kind couple to build an education centre in Makeni. This new facility will feature a modern library, a special needs unit, and additional amenities, marking a transformative step forward in our vision to provide long-term educational solutions and much-needed space for learning and growth. It's like a dream beginning to take shape.

Through out the year we continued gathering meaningful data to better understand our impact. While library visits showed a slight decline of 13% due to temporary school closures caused by a brief cholera outbreak in some parts of the country, we saw a 7.59% increase in new members. We also reached even more children through four successful outreach events, ensuring our services extended beyond our walls.

So, while 2024 came with its fair share of tests, it also reminded me of what's possible when a community pulls together.

To our partners, supporters and community...thank you! Your belief in us fuels everything we do. Here's to an even stronger 2025.

Warm Regards,
Mainess N. Chilumbwa

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mainess'.

Co-founder/ Managing Director

OUR 2024 IMPACT

Learning through play Interactions

Girls: 2,335
Boys: 2,070

4,405

Number of library visits

8,725

Girls: 4,241
Boys: 4,484

Literacy Sessions

229

Registered members

978

Lit for Life Literacy project

“ Before Nelson joined the Lit for Life literacy project, he had no interest in school and couldn't even say the alphabet. It broke my heart to see him struggle. But everything changed after he started attending the literacy classes at the library. I have seen such a big improvement in his learning, now he enjoys school.

Nelson dreams of becoming a soldier one day. As a parent, all I want is for him to have a chance at a better future. I'm so grateful to the library for the support, and I truly hope they continue helping him so he can finish school and make his dream come true.” - **Mother to Nelson**





Access to Educational Resources

“The library has personally helped me in my education. It provides me with textbooks and sparked my interest in reading novels. Before joining the library three years ago, I only read books when I had to, but now I consistently visit the library, this has helped me expand my knowledge in different areas. When I grow up, I plan to study Agronomics, so until then, I will continue visiting the library and reading books about agriculture to better understand the subject. I would also advise the library to build a bigger space so that it can shelter more kids when it rains.” -Tapiwa

Impact Summary

Our programmes are essential as they are specifically designed to address the evolving needs of the young people we support. In communities lacking recreational and educational facilities, our library acts as a key community hub.

In 2024, there was a rise in parents interest in our programmes, with more testimonials noting improved academic performance among participating children. Children involved in our literacy training showed greater social and emotional confidence and were more enthusiastic about engaging in other library activities. A post-programme survey revealed that 85% of parents observed significant improvements in their children’s reading habits and academic outcomes.



About Our Programs

Over the past year, our library refined its focus into four thematic areas, guided by the evolving needs of our patrons. In addition to our Literacy and Education programme, we introduced Health & Wellness, Skills and Career Development and a Volunteer Programme.



Challenges and Accomplishments

Challenges encountered in 2024:

- Limited space for activities, especially during rainy season.
- Inadequate staff
- Insufficient funds to implement some of our programs.
- Electricity cuts affected library operations.

Accomplishments

What we were able to accomplish:

- We received a donation of Land to build another branch of the library.
- We introduced new programs.
- We held a mini children's Book Festival.
- Successfully held holiday reading camps.

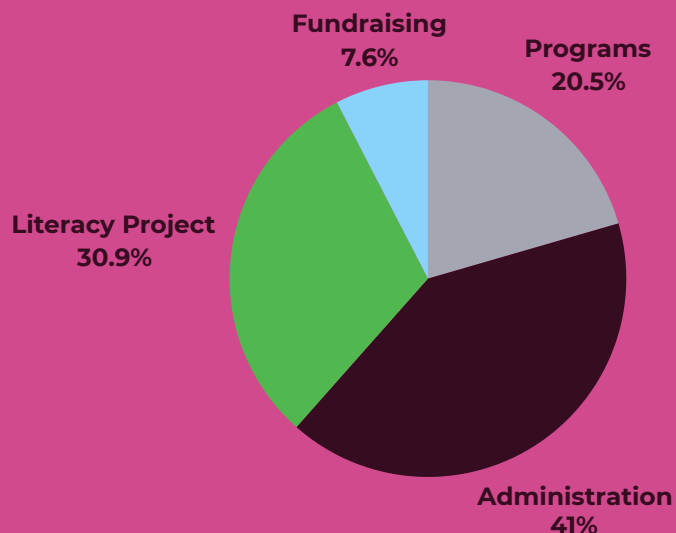
2024 IN NUMBERS

Income

We received a total of \$21,870.84 in the last year, most of which came from institutional donors.

- Global Fund for Children- \$ 16,591.82
- Chinese Embassy in Zambia- \$5,267.78
- Library fees-\$ 11.24

Expenses



PERMANENT SOLUTIONS: BUILDING MAKENI BRANCH

Looking ahead to 2025, we envision building a bigger and better self-sustaining Makeni branch to impact more children. This is part of our ongoing effort to create permanent educational solutions for children and young people. The Makeni project will address key educational challenges in underserved communities, including high illiteracy rates, poor education quality, limited access to resources, and outdated teaching methods. These issues continue to hinder children's educational and employment opportunities while contributing to inadequate learning environments caused by resource shortages and ineffective teaching practices.

In addition to the Makeni building project, we plan to implement at least one initiative in each of our new key focus areas: Health and Wellness, Skills and Career Development, and the Volunteer Programme, these are an addition to our ongoing Literacy and Education program. These efforts will help us better respond to the growing needs of our community.

Our 2025 outreach will focus on fostering partnerships with schools, educators, and various stakeholders. We believe these synergies will enable the library to reach more children and expand its impact. The goal of this outreach is to increase the visibility of our work, boost participation, and nurture strong partnerships within the communities we serve.

BE PART OF THE CHANGE

In order to achieve our 2025 vision we need your support. Together we can provide educational resources and capacity building opportunities to children and young people in underserved communities.

Natubelenge Children's Library is ready to collaborate with like-minded donor organisations, businesses, embassies, governments and individuals who believe in the power of education to bring about social change.

Join us in making lasting impact where it matters most!

THANK YOU!

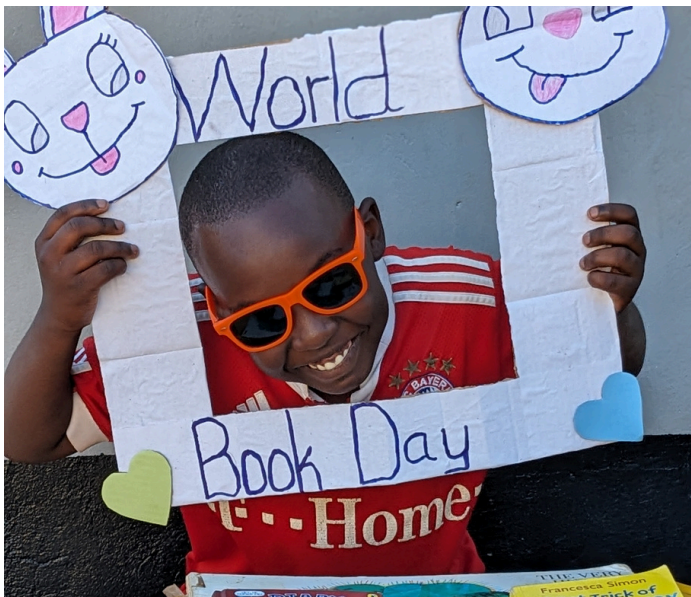
Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and support of our partners. Together, we will build dynamic and inclusive centres of knowledge and recreation.

Your support made this past year a success!

Special thanks to our official partners



Chinese Embassy
in Zambia



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info@natubelenglibrary.org