

LUMWANA WEST EDUCATION PROJECT

ZAMBIA

Children in the remote village of Lumwana West in Northwest Zambia have dreams for their future, but the vast majority of them have little hope of actually achieving those dreams due to the lack of education opportunities in their community. The Lumwana West Education Project seeks to build a preschool and a secondary school to help these young people realize their hopes for a better future.

BACKGROUND

In Zambia, about half of all children complete primary school. Only two in five manage to go on to secondary school. In the rural village of Lumwana West, the nearest secondary school is 54 miles away in the district capital of Mwinilunga. Boarding, tuition, and supplies cost about \$407 each year—more than a year's income for many families.

For the more than 5,000 children in primary school within a 25-mile radius of Lumwana West, their only hope for further education—and a chance to break the cycle of poverty—is the construction of a local secondary school.

Early childhood education is also limited, as the number of preschool children far exceed the one available classroom. This leaves the youngest children unprepared for primary school and at risk for dropping out.

THE LUMWANA WEST EDUCATION PROJECT

World Vision and the Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund (EBZEF) know that education is essential for children living in poverty. If all women in sub-Saharan Africa completed primary school, maternal mortality would fall by 70 percent. If all girls achieve their secondary education, child marriage can be cut by two-thirds.

Therefore, EBZEF, the Lumwana West community, and World Vision are working together to build a preschool and a secondary school in Lumwana West. The preschool will provide vital early education opportunities for the village's youngest children, preparing them to succeed in primary school. The secondary school will enable children to continue attending after grade 8, providing the advanced education necessary to obtain better jobs or to attend college. The project will also construct homes for teachers, which are necessary to attract trained teachers to the school.

The project will be completed in three phases as funding is raised in support of the desperately needed schools.

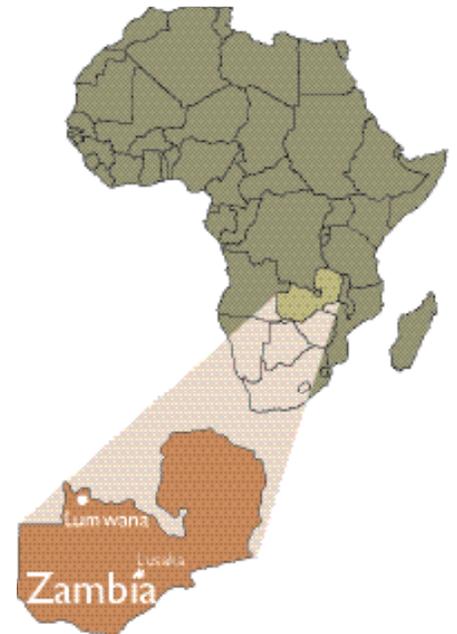


Photo courtesy of EBZEF

The Lumwana West Education Project is a partnership between the Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund (EBZEF), the Lumwana West community, and World Vision. The relationship between EBZEF and Lumwana West was born out of the tragic loss of Elizabeth "Beth" Bowers, who shared her compassionate spirit with the people of Lumwana West as a Peace Corps volunteer. Beth died in a bicycle accident in 2002 during her service.

Her family and the supporters of EBZEF transformed this tragedy into a scholarship opportunity for deserving young women of Lumwana West to strive for better lives for themselves and their families.

PROJECT UPDATE



Secondary school classroom block



Houses for teachers



Ablution block (lavatory) for boys

During the first phase of this project, World Vision aims to construct a secondary school (six classrooms in two blocks), two preschool classrooms, and two houses for teachers.

By the end of fiscal year 2016, all of the phase one buildings except the preschool were 70 percent complete.

Two classroom buildings have been constructed and roofed, and the interior has been plastered.

Two homes for teachers were constructed, plumbed, and wired.

An ablution block (lavatory) for boys, which was originally planned for phase two, was constructed, roofed, and plastered.

Construction of the preschool classrooms has been delayed due to issues with the contractor. A new contractor was selected in December 2016. The work should be completed by April 2017.

Looking Ahead

In the second phase of the project, a water well will be drilled and two three-classroom blocks for the secondary school will be constructed, in addition to seven teachers' houses, a school office, and an ablution block for girls.

In the third phase, a fifth three-classroom block will be constructed for the secondary school, as well as a school hall and a computer lab, which will be equipped with computers and solar-powered Internet access.

Once construction of the facilities has been completed, all future maintenance and support costs will be assumed by the Ministry of Education.

Thank you for partnering with World Vision to equip the children of Lumwana West with high-quality education opportunities. Through your support, boys and girls can pursue knowledge and skills that will help them escape the grip of extreme poverty. With your help, they can realize their dreams for a better future.