

2025 Annual Review



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We are **Able Child**

We work towards a world in which no child with a disability is left behind.

We do this by supporting a network of organisations to **protect**, **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities.

Together, we work across Africa, breaking down barriers to inclusion so that children and young people with disabilities are able to thrive.

> We are **experts** in what we do and are **passionate** about the approach we take.

We are bold and agile, with the courage to innovate.

And, most importantly, we are accountable to the children we work with.



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Welcome from our Chair



Mitul Shah
Chair

Over the past year we have seen a seismic shift in funding going to the international development and aid sectors, which has had a profound impact on some of the poorest people in the world.

To many, it has been and continues to be one of the most difficult periods for international charities in memory. Widespread cuts to aid in the UK, US and across Europe has decimated the already limited funding available. And we are already seeing the impact on organisations we work with and the children with disabilities we support.

Like many organisations, we have seen a drop off in project-based funding, which has reduced our impact in terms of numbers, but there have still been some notable successes this year. From our projects in northern Uganda supporting children

living in refugee camps, to our work in Zambia supporting early childhood education. From our work facilitating entrepreneurship and vocational skills for young people with disabilities in Kenya, to training teachers in disability inclusive practices in Malawi - we have worked alongside some amazing organisations over the last year to deliver lasting change for children with disabilities.

And our reach has multiplied in other ways as we have continued our work to support for the creation of the new Able Child Africa Network.

Following the launch of our new **2030 Strategy: Safe, Thriving, and Heard** last year, the Network continues to make significant progress. From presenting at the Global Disability Summit, to launching our ground-breaking report 'Amplifying the voices of children with disabilities', with the insights from over 1,000 children with disabilities in East and Southern Africa - the Network is now receiving global recognition and building a greater influence across international arena.

This only reinforces the foundation of our strategy - a commitment to locally led development, as we believe organisations founded and registered in Africa, with their understanding of the unique challenges faced by children with disabilities, are best equipped to drive change.

This work and these successes through such unstable times is down to the work and support of some amazing people, who make this organisation what it is. From our fantastic staff team to our dedicated Board of Trustees. From our Patrons and Ambassadors to the unwavering support from our broad range of donors. I want to thank each and every one of you for the commitment and support you have shown over the last year.

But it doesn't stop there.

While the future landscape holds no assurances, we remain resilient and steadfast to our cause.

But we need your help to do it. In such unstable times, your support is more important than it has ever been. And with that support behind us, we will continue to drive the change to ensure no child with a disability is left behind.

Best wishes,
Mitul Shah

Why we exist

Nearly 29 million children in East and Southern Africa are living with a disability.

A significant proportion of these children live in poverty without access to basic services including education and health care. They are disproportionately vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse, and many children continue to spend much or all of their lives in institutions, away from their families.

Children with disabilities are:

1 Twice as likely to **never attend school.**



2 Four times more likely to experience **physical violence.**

3 Three times more likely to be **sexually assaulted.**



4 17 times more likely to be **institutionalised.**



For girls with disabilities, the situation is even worse. They are 10 times more likely to experience gender-based violence than those

without disabilities, and an estimated 70% of girls with intellectual disabilities will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. **They are being forgotten, hidden and left behind.**

Despite the decades of work since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention of the Right of Persons with Disabilities, many of the 29 million children living with disabilities in East and Southern Africa continue to be excluded, discounted and discriminated against.





This continued exclusion is increasingly problematic in the face of the intensifying climate crisis.

Children with disabilities in Africa face severe climate risks, including reduced mobility, worsening poverty, and heightened health vulnerabilities. Despite being disproportionately at risk of climate change, they are often excluded from climate action, leaving their unique challenges unaddressed.

Organisations working for children with disabilities in Africa often lack the resources and visibility needed to influence change. These organisations are not always considered as 'representative' organisations and as such are excluded from key decision-making spaces, leading to the systematic exclusion of the voices of children with disabilities.

African organisations working for children with disabilities also struggle to compete for funding in the already under-funded disability sector, especially compared to adult-focused Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), meaning they lack the resources, networks, and partnerships needed to ensure their expertise is recognised and no child with a disability is left behind.



What we do

For **40 years** we have been working with African-registered organisations to improve the lives of children and young people with disabilities.

Our mission is to support a network of organisations in Africa to **protect**, **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.

We work across **six key thematic areas** of support:



Protecting

children with disabilities so they are safe.

1

Building inclusive child protection systems.

2

Demanding inclusive sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls and young women.



Educating

children with disabilities so they can thrive.

3

Strengthening inclusive Early Childhood Development.

4

Advancing inclusive education.



Amplifying

the voices of children and young people with disabilities so they are heard.

5

Promoting inclusive mental health and wellbeing.

6

Raising the voices of children and young people with disabilities.

Safe.



We stand up for the rights of children and young people with disabilities to ensure they are **protected and included in their communities.**

In the places we work, child protection systems often fail children with disabilities. Child protection and safeguarding services and workforces are poorly equipped and lack the expertise to deal with the specific risks that children with disabilities face, and these children are also less likely to seek justice for the abuse.

We work with our network members to improve safeguarding practices and ensure the protection of children in the areas where we work. By helping to break down stigma and discrimination around disability, we ensure the safety and inclusion of children with disabilities within their communities.

We have been working to do this in Rwanda...

Improving child safeguarding in Rwanda:

We are working with **Uwezo Youth Empowerment (UWEZO)** to create more inclusive child protection and safeguarding systems in Rwanda. As part of our project funded by Euromoney Institutional Investors, we have worked closely with existing child protection services in Kigali to identify and address areas for improvement, to make them more disability inclusive.

Young people with disabilities have led this work as child protection champions and mentors. They provide mentoring to children with disabilities to inform them of their right to be kept safe. They have been delivering 'positive parenting' workshops to parents of children with disabilities to reduce the risk of abuse occurring and equipping them with the knowledge of how to report concerns when they do. This project has drawn on UWEZO's expertise to enable more disability-sensitive responses to child protection cases.

Thriving.

We ensure that children and young people with disabilities have **access to an education and the services they need to succeed.**

In low-income countries, over 90% of children with disabilities do not attend formal education. Early detection of children with disabilities' is low, and children face significant barriers in accessing the services they need. Children with disabilities' systematic exclusion in education hinders their participation and ability to transition to further education and into employment.

We work with our network members to improve the early identification of children with disabilities, upskill service providers, support children with disabilities to transition to further education and equip young people with disabilities with the tools they need to enter employment.

We have been working in Zambia to improve children with disabilities' access to education through play...

Supporting children with disabilities' access to education through an inclusive play programme:

Alongside **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)**, we adapted an inclusive play programme that we initially developed with Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY) for rollout in Kenya. The project brought together teachers and education officials to develop the play programme and guide, aligning it with the **Zambian Early Childhood Education (ECE)** curriculum.

The government's District Education Board have been instrumental in both the development and delivery of teacher trainings. This has fostered maximum government support in championing the power of inclusive play. To date, almost 300 children with disabilities have benefited from the inclusive play programme. The children's teachers continue to monitor its impact, but it is clear that play has had a transformative effect, where all children play and learn in a fun and interactive way side-by-side.



Heard.

We work with children and young people with disabilities to be confident and resilient, **amplifying their voice to demand their own inclusion.**

For too long, children with disabilities have been forgotten, hidden and systematically excluded. One of the key reasons for this is that children and their parents have been unaware of their rights and are therefore disempowered. By championing mental health resilience, inspiring children with disabilities to become powerful self-advocates and equipping children and young people with disabilities with knowledge of their rights, they are able to break down the barriers to their inclusion for themselves and their peers.

We have been working in Uganda to amplify the voices of young people with disabilities...



Amplifying the voices of young people with disabilities in Uganda refugee settlements:

Together with **Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)**, we finalised the implementation of a project designed to support both children and young people with disabilities living in refugee settlements in northern Uganda. The young people with disabilities reached through this project, funded by Educational Opportunity Foundation, were provided with mentorship training which has supported them to become inclusive education champions for children with disabilities in the settlements.

The mentors have helped establish Child Rights Clubs, bringing children with and without disabilities together to understand their rights and find their voices. With so little support available for children and young people with disabilities in refugee settlements, the project's activities have given them the information and confidence to demand more support, standing together to advocate for change.

Blessing — a 5-year-old
with **Big Dreams**



Blessing's story

At just five years old,
Blessing is the youngest
of four siblings.

➤ He was diagnosed with left hemiparalysis and hydrocephalus — conditions that limit his movement and make everyday activities like walking, eating, and dressing a daily struggle. Added to this, Blessing also experiences low blood sugar, making regular and nutritious meals essential for his wellbeing.

Caring for Blessing was overwhelming for his mother, who didn't know where to turn to for help. Like many parents in similar situations, she was unaware of the rights her son was entitled to — or of the opportunities that could support his development.

**That all changed when
Able Child, together with
ZAPCD, stepped in.**

Through our Inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) project, Blessing's parents discovered not just a programme — but a lifeline. **They learned how IECE could help Blessing develop critical life skills through play, connection, and support.** The project didn't just help Blessing — **it also supported his family.** With new income-generating opportunities, they could afford the essentials Blessing needs for proper care.

And the difference has been remarkable.

Blessing is now attending school, making friends, and thriving in an environment designed to support his needs. Thanks to transport reimbursements and other forms of assistance, his family is feeling the support they once thought was out of reach.

"So far, so good!" his mother shares.

This is the power of inclusive education — and the strength of a community that cares.

"The project has contributed to the wellbeing of the family, and it has imparted great knowledge on us. Many things that we used to not know, such as the rights of children with disabilities has now changed. We want Blessing to achieve his education and as parents we will now advocate for his rights and the rights of other children with disabilities."

- Blessing's parents

The Able Child Africa Network

Working together to support **children with disabilities** across Africa.

The Able Child Africa Network is a coalition of African-founded and African-registered organisations dedicated to improving the lives of children with disabilities across the continent. Established in 2023, the network operates under the shared vision of creating a world where no child with a disability is left behind. It brings together nine organisations of persons with disability across seven countries in East and Southern Africa, to collaborate, share expertise, and advocate collectively for the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities.

The Network members

The Network member organisations are fully founded and run by local leaders. This grassroots structure ensures that interventions are deeply rooted in and responsive to the specific cultural, social, and economic contexts of their communities. These organisations possess an intimate understanding of the nuances of disability within their societies, enabling them to tailor solutions that are both relevant and effective. This localization also fosters sustainability and empowers local communities to drive change from within.

The nine member organisations are:

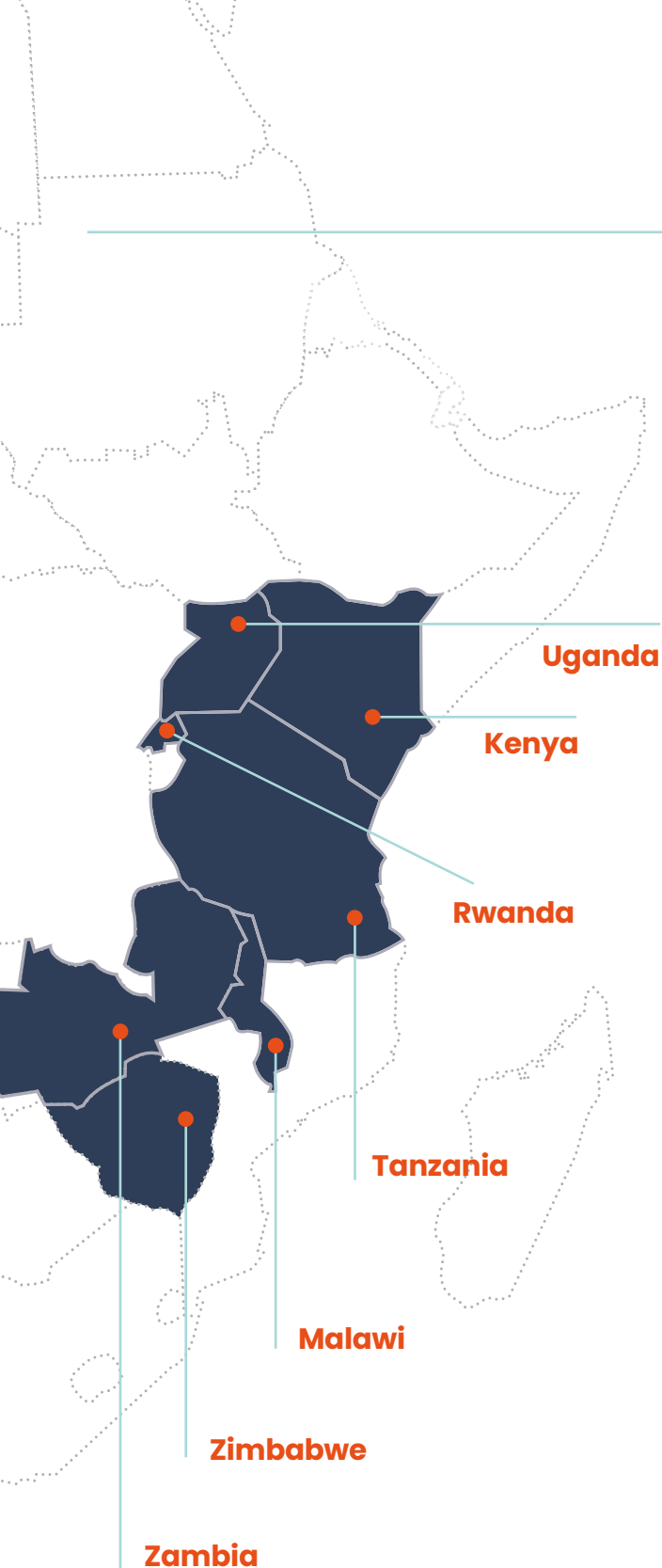
Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY), Child Support Tanzania (CST), Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC) UWEZO Youth Empowerment, Zambia Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD), Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM), Federation of Disabled Organisations of Malawi (FEDOMA) Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association (ZPHCA) and The Action Foundation (TAF).

The power of the Network

The Able Child Africa Network stands as an essential force on the continent. It is the only network in East and Southern Africa solely dedicated to advocating for children with disabilities and so is uniquely positioned to champion their rights. It has a crucial role in a region where the needs of this vulnerable population often go unaddressed and unheard.

The network operates in three main ways:

- 1 By combining resources, network members have greater capacity to **implement high-quality programmes and initiatives for children with disabilities**. This collaborative approach facilitates the sharing of technical and operational knowledge, while fostering innovation and best practices in inclusive programming. And by speaking with one voice, the network's influence is amplified, enabling it to engage more effectively with governments, donors, and international allies.



'We share a common vision of a world in which no child with a disability is left behind.'

- 2 The network actively **amplifies the voices of children with disabilities**, a perspective that is often marginalised or absent in policy discussions. By creating platforms for these children to share their experiences, the network fosters a more inclusive and rights-based approach to disability advocacy. This direct engagement ensures that interventions and policies are informed by the lived realities of those they intend to serve.
- 3 The Able Child Africa Network is pioneering in its commitment to **generating data** that is specific to children with disabilities within the region. This data is crucial for understanding the prevalence, challenges, and successes related to disability, informing evidence-based advocacy, and holding stakeholders accountable. The network's commitment to this data-driven approach distinguishes it as a unique resource, providing insights that have historically been unavailable.



Delivering high-quality programmes,

and building best practice for children with disabilities.



Generating data and evidence

of what works for children with disabilities in Africa.



Standing up for the rights

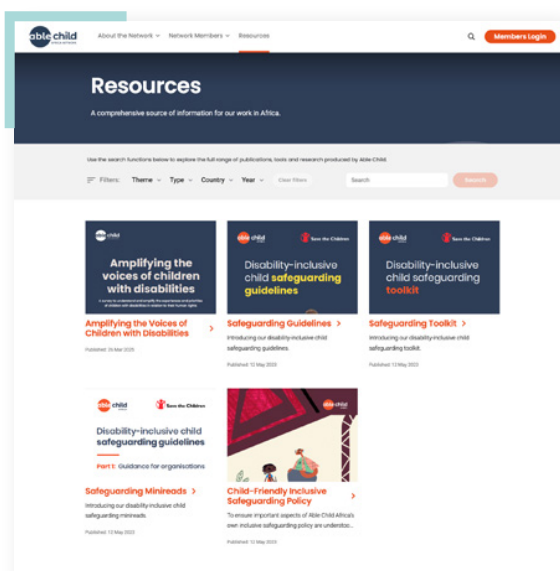
of children with disabilities, amplifying their voices to create change.

Delivering high quality programmes

At the heart of the network's mission is the concept of "delivering together."

This strategic objective focuses on high-quality, inclusive programming for children with disabilities, across the countries the Network operates in. It moves beyond delivering programmes in isolation, with multiple organisations collaborating to develop, innovate, and then scale impactful programmes. It involves creating evidence-based models that demonstrate success and then building best practices for inclusive education that can be replicated globally.

By participating in joint-funded projects and consortium-based initiatives, the Network Members can amplify their collective impact. Through these collaborations, the Network not only strengthens its expertise but position itself as a leader for inclusive programming for children with disabilities. These coordinated efforts will further allow the Network to engage with powerful global allies, such as donors, governments, and international organisations, advocating for systemic changes in disability inclusion policies and practices.



One of the Network's key successes in delivering together has been its first consortium project funded by Comic Relief. This project has facilitated the development of a resource hub providing programmatic tools, guides, and advocacy materials to network members and the wider sector. Alongside this, the Network is co-creating an Inclusive Education Toolkit. This toolkit, which is currently being reviewed and finalised, will be shared with the wider sector in 2025. It is set to become a comprehensive resource, consolidating the Network's collective technical expertise and methodologies into a practical open-access resource, available to all within the sector.

In addition to creating these resources, the Network has been working on consortium-level proposals, with a recent example being the development of a cross-country exchange program between Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. This collaborative effort aims to share learning and enhance early years education and inclusive education approaches. Such initiatives demonstrate the power of joint delivery and learning, and moving forward, this focus on collaborative programming and fundraising will continue to drive the Network's strategy.

Generating data and evidence

The lack of available data on children with disabilities is a major contributor to their omission from historical aid and humanitarian programmes, and there is a clear and significant need for improved data collection to inform policies and support for this marginalised group.

Because of this, building data on children with disabilities is a core objective of the Network. This year, we delivered our first large scale data report on the insights of children with disabilities in East and Southern Africa.

Amplifying the voices of children with disabilities

The Able Child Africa Network conducted a survey to gather insights from over 1,000 children with disabilities in East and Southern Africa, in order to amplify their experiences and priorities regarding human rights. The survey was collaboratively developed by Network members to ensure cultural relevance and child-friendliness. It aimed to collect responses from over 1,000 children across seven countries. Data was collected through guided interviews, ensuring a child-friendly approach tailored to individual needs. The survey included both quantitative and qualitative data, with a focus on ethical considerations and safeguarding.

The ground-breaking report 'Amplifying the voices of children with disabilities', was published earlier in 2025 and has received global recognition. Some key findings from the survey were:

A significant majority of children with disabilities enjoy attending school, with 92% expressing positive sentiments. However, their reasons for enjoyment and the challenges they face vary by disability type, age, and location.

The survey assessed children's understanding of their rights, revealing a strong belief in equality, yet a significant gap exists between this belief and their lived experiences. Many children report feeling unequal treatment, particularly in rural areas.

The majority of children with disabilities report feeling happy at home, largely due to love and care from family, but some experience feelings of neglect or unsafety. Variations exist based on disability type and region.

The survey highlights how adverse weather conditions affect children with disabilities, creating barriers to mobility, access to necessities, and social interactions. Children call for improved infrastructure and support during extreme weather.

A significant majority of children with disabilities remain optimistic about their future, although this optimism declines with age. While 71% believe they share the same dreams as their peers, 29% feel limited by their disabilities, with notable differences across countries and disability types.

Children with disabilities express a strong desire for social inclusion, safety, and equal access to education as key changes they wish to see in the world. Their responses highlight the importance of emotional wellbeing and support in their lives.

Children's responses reflect their aspirations for a more inclusive and supportive environment, emphasizing education, societal attitudes, and basic needs. Their voices highlight the barriers they face and the changes they envision. The findings suggest targeted interventions and further research to address the unique needs of children with disabilities. Recommendations include enhancing safeguarding measures, improving educational access, and fostering community support.

The full survey is available at <https://ablechildnetwork.org/resources/amplifying-the-voices-of-children-with-disabilities/>



What's next

A new survey will be conducted in 2025/26 on climate change and disability so as to delve deeper into the effects of climate change especially among children with disabilities. This report is expected to be published later in 2025.

Standing up for the rights of children with disabilities



We believe that the Network's united advocacy is crucial for lasting change.

There's a significant need for a strong, collective voice to amplify the voices of children with disabilities in global conversations, and the Network's strength lies in its many voices, proving that a united front is far stronger than individual efforts in delivering tangible benefits for children with disabilities.

Raising the profile of the Network

A major advocacy milestone was the official online launch of the Able Child Africa Network in 2025. This high-profile event drew significant international interest in our vision. The launch introduced the Network to stakeholders promoting the Network as a dedicated platform to champion the rights of children with disabilities across the region.

Network members have further boosted our profile through various platforms. Notably, the Network Manager representative from Zimbabwe Feminisms spoke at the Africa Philanthropy Network General Assembly 2024 exploring the collective power of pan-African and feminist philanthropies in crisis response, incorporating a crucial child-led and disability perspective across East and Southern Africa.

Data underpins all our advocacy work, ensuring that **our efforts are evidence-based and effective.**



This year, the Able Child Africa Network has significantly advanced its advocacy efforts, establishing itself in global forums, attending two key events to ensure the voices of our network members are heard at an international level.

International Development & Disability Consortium (IDDC) General Assembly 2025

Able Child Africa Network participation at the IDDC provided opportunities to promote further involvement of children and young people with disabilities, while strengthening relationships with organisations in the disability sector. Able Child joined the IDDC Board last year and still co-chairs the IDDC's Child Rights Task Group, strengthening our capacity to integrate the Able Child Africa Network's priorities, and the priorities of its members into international conversations.

Global Disability Summit (Berlin, Germany)

The Network Manager, alongside Able Child's Co-CEO and Programmes Manager, attended the Global Disability Summit in April 2025. Network Members from The Action Foundation, Child Support Tanzania, and FEDOMA were also present. The group were able to use the event to build new connections and champion global disability-inclusive development for children with disabilities. The event was used to launch our groundbreaking report, 'Amplifying the Voices of Children with Disabilities', published earlier in 2025.

Able Child Africa's UK advocacy team champions the Network's voice internationally, ensuring members and children with disabilities themselves lead advocacy efforts. We prioritise creating space for Network representatives, never speaking on their behalf unless essential. Our support empowers the Network to leverage its collective knowledge and drive impactful, locally-led change, fostering a strong African civil society.

By harnessing the collective expertise and experience of the Network, we have worked to drive meaningful change for children with disabilities at national global levels, challenging barriers to their participation, and equipping them to become global leaders.

We have achieved this through three key strategies:

- Publishing and sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise to strengthen the wider sector's capacity to include children with disabilities (as outlined on pages 16 and 17).
- Securing a platform for the Network's voice to be heard internationally through participation in global forums and partnerships.
- Supporting members to advocate locally by providing resources and data.



The Network has also been actively participating in other global campaigns and joint publications:

UK Foreign Secretary's Global Charter for Family-Based Care

Child Support Tanzania's CEO represented the Network at the Charter's launch during the Global Disability Summit. The Network ensures children with disabilities are central to this campaign, with their voices heard in consultations and the Charter's development, advocating for an end to institutionalisation.

Fairer Funding campaign

The Able Child Africa Network's visibility has been elevated through our participation in the Fairer Funding campaign. Our Network Manager played a pivotal role, advocating for more inclusive and equitable funding models. The Network now serves as a benchmark for other funders committed to supporting locally led, disability-focused initiatives.

Contributing to climate evidence

Network members ANDY and ZPHCA contributed to the "Unequal Climate Justice for People with Disabilities" report, a joint initiative by BOND and IDDC. This publication draws on global data, highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on people with disabilities. Network members provided crucial evidence on how climate change specifically affects children with disabilities.

Able Child Africa Network members have been instrumental in driving meaningful change at the local level. Through projects delivered together, network members have secured significant commitments from governments and other stakeholders to support the inclusion and wellbeing of children with disabilities. This impact is detailed with the other main activities on the following country pages.

Uganda

We have been working in Uganda **since 1984** alongside **Uganda Society for Disabled Children** (USDC). Our work supports children with disabilities and their families to break down the barriers to inclusion.

Many people living with disabilities in Uganda lack resources and access to services. Where we work in northern Uganda, 80% of people with disabilities have been identified as **living in chronic poverty**. Despite significant progress at a policy level in Uganda, there is an implementation gap. With a policy of Universal Primary Education, school enrolment has reached 90%. However, this is not the case for children with disabilities, where **only 2% are graduating to secondary level**.

What we achieved this year

Through funding from the Mercers Company, we undertook a transformative project in northern Uganda, to significantly improve access to inclusive education for children with disabilities. Using a range of interventions, this initiative empowered local communities and schools to create more accessible and supportive learning environments for their children. The result has been increased enrolment and better educational outcomes for children who previously had faced significant barriers, fostering a more inclusive educational landscape in the region.

We are also proud to be pioneering the creation of an innovative digital toolkit for Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Uganda through funding from the Lewin Trust. This initiative is empowering educators and caregivers with accessible, technology-driven resources, significantly enhancing early learning experiences. The successful implementation of this digital solution marks a crucial step towards improving ECD outcomes across Uganda, demonstrating the power of digital innovations in education.



Sarah's return to education in a refugee settlement

This year, we concluded implementation of our two-year grant with Educational Opportunity Foundation, which supported children and young people with disabilities in refugee settlements to access inclusive education and gain vocational skills.

Sarah was one of the recipients of support from the project. She is a 21-year-old with a physical disability currently living in a refugee settlement in northern Uganda, who had lost hope of returning to school after a three-year break. Yet becoming a community champion proved to be transformative. Through the project, Sarah's mind was opened to the benefits of education for someone with a disability, which led to her securing sponsorship and re-enrolling in Secondary School. She is currently working to complete Senior Four, with the aim to progress to University and has become an important role model for other children and young people with disabilities in the settlement, inspiring other youth champions to return to school.



Examples of our success

60 children with disabilities

living in refugee camps were supported, as part of a groundbreaking project in northern Uganda.

400 community members

were engaged on disability inclusion, early identification and early intervention for children with disabilities.



Achol's journey to the front of the class



Achol, a bright 10-year-old with a hearing impairment, initially struggled profoundly in her refugee settlement school. Despite her love for learning, the absence of teachers able to use basic sign language left her feeling isolated and unable to understand lessons. This led to Achol frequently missing school. Even after transferring to one of the project primary schools, communication barriers caused her peers to distance themselves, further deepening her withdrawal.

The turning point arrived when her mother connected with a teacher who had been trained by our programme at the school, funded by Educational Opportunity Foundation. This teacher was able to provide crucial support, placing Achol at the front of the class to aid visual learning. Slowly, her participation and confidence grew, particularly in her favourite subject, science.

The other introduction of child play days proved transformative, fostering connections and leading to a strong bond with a new friend. This buddy not only helped with classwork but also ensured consistent school attendance, with Achol now eagerly arriving first each morning. While challenges with peer understanding persist, teacher mentors continue to provide counselling, fostering a truly inclusive and supportive environment where Achol is no longer alone.

This teacher was able to provide crucial support, placing Achol at the front of the class to aid visual learning. Slowly, **her participation and confidence grew**, particularly in her favourite subject, science.

Kenya

We have worked in Kenya **since 2009** alongside **Action Network for the Disabled** (ANDY) and **The Action Foundation** (TAF) **since 2023**, where we support children and young people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of their lives.

Very few children with disabilities have access to early childhood education in Kenya, and their systematic exclusion often means that young people with disabilities are less likely to be employed and are more likely to be living in poverty. With limited access to education, healthcare and other services, these young people continue to face injustices, stigma and are at higher risk of abuse and violence.

What we achieved this year

We are in the first year of implementing a two-year programme, funded by the EA Foundation with ANDY, which has already yielded remarkable success. Through this project, parents and caregivers receive vital entrepreneurship training, empowering them to generate income to better support their families. This training was complemented by crucial mental health support, increasing caregiver confidence in fostering the development of their children with disabilities.

Importantly, the project also facilitated comprehensive training for practitioners across other health and educational sectors, enhancing their capacity to effectively collaborate with parents of children with disabilities. These holistic interventions have demonstrably strengthened families, improved child development outcomes, and fostered a more inclusive support system.



Uplifting families and children with disabilities

Many parents and caregivers of children with disabilities lack the resources to adequately support their families. They have limited economic opportunities and inadequate access to crucial support, leaving them ill-equipped to manage their child's unique needs, creating a cycle of vulnerability, which impacts family wellbeing and limits the child's potential.

Addressing these critical gaps together with ANDY, a total of 344 parents and caregivers underwent comprehensive entrepreneurship training, to build the skills needed to generate income for their families. They received mental health training to increase their confidence in fostering their children's development, and practitioners from various sectors were given specialised training so they are able to better support parents. This strategic investment has yielded remarkable success. The project has equipped families with economic resilience and bolstered their emotional capacity to support their children. And it has enhanced collaboration, creating a more supportive and inclusive environment to support the needs of children with disabilities.



Dunstan – A father's journey of caregiving

In a society where caregiving is predominantly viewed as a woman's responsibility, **Dunstan**, a person with a disability, stands as a powerful testament to breaking gender norms. Raising three children, including one who has cerebral palsy, Dunstan has courageously embraced his role as a primary caregiver, at the same time managing a small barbershop to provide for his family. His journey highlights the immense societal pressure and stigma male caregivers often face. **Yet with unwavering dedication, he has taken full responsibility for his children's wellbeing.**

Dunstan was identified and enrolled onto ANDY's entrepreneurship training programme, which proved to be a pivotal intervention in his life. Through the project, Dunstan was able to enhance his understanding of business management, which was crucial for expanding his small business. But beyond that, the programme connected him with other caregivers, where he was able to develop a sense of community. The training environment empowered Dunstan to gain confidence in challenging the entrenched gender norms in his community, allowing him to fully embrace his caregiving role with pride.

Looking ahead, Dunstan's aspirations are clear. He aims to expand his barbershop, securing a more stable financial future for his family, while continuing to provide dedicated care for his children. He hopes to inspire other men to actively participate in caregiving, demonstrating that with the right support and encouragement, men can confidently balance family responsibilities with building sustainable livelihoods.

The training environment empowered Dunstan to gain confidence in challenging the entrenched gender norms in his community, allowing him to fully embrace his caregiving role with pride.

Examples of our success

344 parents and caregivers

were equipped to support the early childhood development of their children with disabilities.

218 young people with disabilities

were given entrepreneurship and vocational skills training.



Tanzania

We have been working in Tanzania **since 2007** alongside our partners **Child Support Tanzania** (CST) to change the lives of children and young people with disabilities through inclusive education.

85% of children with disabilities in Tanzania are outside the education system, with increasing numbers of children dropping out of school due to a lack of support, which is severely lacking and poorly resourced. Although primary education is free in Tanzania, children with disabilities are continually left behind when it comes to accessing the school system and fail to develop the basic early learning skills needed to succeed.

What we achieved this year

Together with our CST, we have achieved remarkable success in enhancing access to inclusive education for children with disabilities in CST's own inclusive Early Childhood Education centre. With funding from Rangoonwala Foundation, CST have adopted a comprehensive programme that integrates vital occupational therapy and physiotherapy services. Through strategic partnerships with Educational Support Resource Assessment Centre experts and medical professionals, CST conducted medical assessments for children with disabilities, determining their rehabilitative and health needs.

While some received medical services such as speech, occupational, and physical therapy, others underwent functional assessments for appropriate educational placement and support. This holistic approach ensured tailored intervention to each child, significantly improving the health outcomes and educational integration for these vulnerable children.



Improving children's access to education through physiotherapy

Previously, many children at CST's school relied heavily on walking frames or direct assistance from teachers and parents to move around. Recognising this, a collaborative approach was developed, bringing together therapists, teachers, and parents to develop tailored intervention plans for the children at the school.

The result was the introduction of a physiotherapy programme, where activities have significantly improved the mobility and independence of children who experience physical challenges. A key strategy was fostering independent walking, encouraging children to build self-reliance, gradually transitioning from full support to using minimal aids like a single stick. Weekly physiotherapy sessions were run both at school and at home, where parents received training and guidance on how to facilitate their child's progress through daily exercises. Regular home visits also ensured consistent support and allowed therapists to train other relatives in the household.



Examples of our success

191 children with disabilities

were supported through access to quality physiotherapy and other rehabilitative services.

105 parents of children with disabilities

were supported through Parent Support Groups and physiotherapy training.



Jessica –

A mother's

unwavering dedication

Solomon navigates life with multiple disabilities, including physical and intellectual challenges, and low vision. Yet, despite the stigma surrounding her son's disability and immense financial pressures of her mobile hairdressing work and, his mother **Jessica's** commitment to her children remains steadfast, displaying remarkable resilience in raising her son.

Solomon arrived at CST's inclusive school three years ago and has thrived. This is testament to the dedicated support from teachers and the entire CST team.

Driven by her gratitude and a deep desire for Solomon to continue receiving his education and support services, **Jessica volunteers her time at CST's Inclusive School.** Since August 2024, she has embraced her role with the seriousness of a paid job, assisting with cleaning, kitchen support, and ensuring the children's wellbeing and feeding during school hours. This self-initiated contribution **allows her to offset school expenses, a common challenge for many parents from low-income families, and ensures Solomon's consistent access to vital physiotherapy and education.**

Jessica's unwavering dedication is a shining example of the project's profound impact, transforming parental perception and fostering community engagement. **Her commitment not only directly benefits Solomon but also inspires other parents to volunteer, creating a collaborative environment where every child can flourish.** Jessica's story is a powerful reflection of how parents, with the right support, can challenge norms and significantly enhance the quality of life and access to rehabilitative services for children with disabilities.

Jessica's unwavering dedication is a shining example of the project's profound impact, transforming parental perception and fostering community engagement.

Rwanda

We have been working in Rwanda **since 2016** alongside **Uwezo Youth Empowerment** (UWEZO), empowering children and young people with disabilities to access inclusive services.

Children and young people account for half of all people with disabilities in Rwanda. Two thirds of these are not in education or employment, and over 90% fall below the national poverty line. While Rwanda has a good track record of inclusive policies, many children with disabilities are still unable to access basic services and face damaging stigma and discrimination.

What we achieved this year

This year we are proud to be delivering a project with UWEZO funded by Sir Halley Stewart Trust to enhance children with disabilities' access to vital mental health support. Addressing the critical lack of provision for children with disabilities, who are highly vulnerable to mental health issues, the project has established crucial support systems for the children supported by this project. This vital intervention is now improving the psychosocial and wellbeing outcomes for the children, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment where their mental health needs are being addressed for the first time.

UWEZO are also implementing a project funded by Euromoney, which is successfully enhancing access to crucial child rights and protection services for children with disabilities. Addressing a critical gap, the initiative has empowered these vulnerable children to understand and claim their rights, while also strengthening child protection mechanisms. This targeted support is creating safer environments and ensuring that children with disabilities can access the essential services needed to protect their wellbeing and secure their fundamental rights.



The power of positive parenting

Parents of children with disabilities often face significant stigma, which undermines their efforts to adopt positive parenting practices and effectively address their child's unique needs.

Recognising these barriers, UWEZO began implementing targeted sessions on positive parenting through a series of workshops. Through these interactive meetings, parents collaboratively identified the common challenges that hinder effective parenting, validating their experiences and building a shared understanding.

The project empowered parents to navigate these complexities, equipping them with specialised knowledge and fostering a supportive community. Parents are now better able to overcome the societal pressures they face and implement positive parenting strategies.



Examples of our success

85 children with disabilities

were provided with one-to-one mentoring from a young person with a disability.

68 parents of children with disabilities

were trained on positive parenting and child protection.



Mwiza – a story of resilience and inclusion



Mwiza, a 15-year-old girl with a physical impairment, faced considerable adversity in her early life. Frequent health issues kept her in and out of the hospital, delaying her recovery and causing her to regularly miss school. Starting primary school at age 11 meant that she was significantly older than her peers, most of whom were six years old. By her third year, this age gap led to feelings of inadequacy and isolation, causing her to withdraw from her classmates.

A pivotal moment arrived when **she joined one of UWEZO's wellbeing clubs as part of a funded project**. Mwiza quickly became an enthusiastic participant, often the first to arrive and actively recruiting other students to join. This engagement provided a **much-needed sense of belonging and significantly boosted her self-esteem, motivating her to interact more openly with her classmates**. Her newfound confidence translated into academic success. She continued to excel in her studies, earning recognition from teachers as one of the school's best students.

Mwiza's involvement in the wellbeing club ignited a clear vision for her future.

"I want to become a health worker when I grow up so that I get to teach people about inclusion... I know my mother will be proud of me,"

Mwiza's journey is a powerful example of the project's ability to transform the lives of children with disabilities, fostering not only academic achievement but also social integration, self-confidence, and the development of future aspirations where she can have a positive impact on her community.

Malawi

We have worked in Malawi

since 2020 with **Federation**

of Disability Organisations

in Malawi (FEDOMA) and

since 2023 with **Parents of**

Disabled Children

Association of Malawi

(PODCAM) to improve

children with disabilities'

access to Early Childhood

Education.

Children under 18 account for more than 50% of the total population in Malawi. Malawi has one of the highest pre-term birth rates globally, resulting in many children being born with a disability. 70% of children with disabilities are not in any form of education and their needs have not been prioritised.

What we achieved this year

This year we are excited to have commenced our second project with PODCAM, funded by the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust. The project is promoting Early Childhood Development services for children with disabilities by upskilling teachers in learning centres and making the learning centres themselves more inclusive through specific modifications.

We are also in the final phase of implementation of our very first project with PODCAM, funded by the Vitol Foundation. The project has been instrumental in supporting more children to access inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD). Fostering shared learning among Network members, FEDOMA has worked closely with PODCAM to build their capacity to implement the project, sharing their expertise of an inclusive play programme for younger children. Through this collaborative approach, we are fostering knowledge exchange between Network members and promoting best practices.



Enhanced inclusion and community support in Malawi

Both projects delivered with PODCAM have delivered significant impact in promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities in early learning centres across Malawi. There has been the marked increase in both the enrolment and retention rates of children with disabilities in these centres, pointing to the effectiveness of the projects to create more accessible and welcoming environments; thus ensuring children receive the support and education they need at a crucial stage in their development.

There was also a strong correlation between the centres where parent support groups engaged in savings and loans schemes and the ongoing financial success of the centres. The savings schemes, formed through the project's empowerment initiatives, are not only fostering economic self-reliance among parents but are also directly contributing to the improved welfare of the children. In a remarkable display of community ownership and collective responsibility, many of the parents involved in the schemes have contributed a portion of their profits to purchase essential materials for the children attending the centres. This self-sustaining model ensures that basic needs are met, further improving the children's learning environment and overall wellbeing.



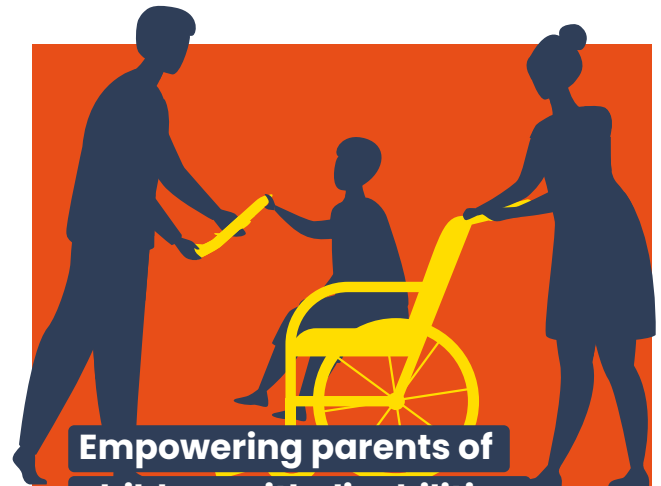
Examples of our success

254 parents of children with disabilities

were enrolled into inclusive
Parent Support Groups.

48 teachers

were trained on disability
inclusive practices.



Empowering parents of children with disabilities

For **Maria**, a mother of two children, one of whom has severe disabilities, life often felt isolating and financially strained. Like many parents of children with disabilities, she grappled with limited resources and the immense demands of caregiving, often feeling overlooked by community support systems. The prospect of improving her household income and securing her children's future seemed distant.

Once enrolled in the project run with PODCAM, Maria experienced a profound shift. **She received seed capital, a vital injection of funds to boost her small business, which offered a tangible pathway to improving her family's financial stability.** The implementation of a home-based care approach in the project resonated deeply with her: "We no longer feel side-lined," Maria shared, highlighting how this tailored support has made her feel seen and valued. It has also **ensured her child received the support she needs to reach her educational milestones.**

The project's commitment to inclusive play has not gone unnoticed. When play materials were distributed to centres, Maria's child along with other children with disabilities, were fully included in the inclusive play programme. This reinforced the project's dedication to leaving no child behind, empowering parents like Maria to feel truly supported and integrated within their community.



"We no longer feel side-lined," Maria shared, highlighting how this tailored support has made her feel seen and valued.

Zambia

We have been working in Zambia **since 2020** alongside **Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities** (ZAPCD) to understand and address the barriers that children with disabilities face when accessing education.

Despite primary and secondary education being free in Zambia, only 63% percent of all children transition from primary to secondary school and learning outcomes are generally poor. For children with disabilities, the number completing secondary education is estimated to be as low as 12%. With as few as 22% accessing Early Childhood Education, there is a great need for children with disabilities to be fully considered in government plans, with national data and evidence desperately needed to inform and influence the government.

What we achieved this year

This year ZAPCD is proud to have supported children with disabilities to access Early Childhood Education (ECE) for the first time, tackling the complex barriers they face. The delivered projects have had a significant impact on the lives of the children in the project, increasing access to essential services, including education, healthcare, and rehabilitative support.

Through a variety of projects and funders, ZAPCD has successfully delivered teacher trainings, created Parent Support Groups, and improved community awareness raising. Through these valuable partnerships, they have delivered targeted interventions such as community-based rehabilitation, parent empowerment initiatives, and advocacy campaigns with government officials, ensuring that children with disabilities in the communities where they work receive the appropriate care and opportunities for development. This collaborative approach is proving instrumental in fostering greater inclusion, reducing stigma, and ultimately improving the overall wellbeing and future prospects of these vulnerable children and their families across Zambia.



Fostering inclusive education through inclusive play

One of ZAPCD's initiatives this year, focused on an inclusive play programme has been met with overwhelming enthusiasm from teachers. They expressed satisfaction with the knowledge gained on the inclusive play programme guide, which was developed collaboratively with teachers, government officials and other stakeholders. This comprehensive tool, coupled with practical training, has equipped educators with the skills and resources necessary to create more inclusive and engaging play environment for all children.

Teachers highlighted their appreciation for the project's direct support, recognising the significant impact it will have on their daily practices. Crucially, they committed to becoming champions of inclusive play within their communities. With the newly acquired guide and expertise, teachers pledged to share their knowledge not only within their own schools but also with educators in neighbouring schools around Chadiza, where the project is delivered. This commitment ensures a ripple effect, and fosters a wider adoption of inclusive play practices.



Examples of our success

286 children
with disabilities

were enrolled into
inclusive Early
Childhood Education

**6 Early
Childhood
Education
Centres**

received accessibility
modifications to make
them safer and more
inclusive for children
with disabilities.



David's journey to school



For years, **David's** daily journey to school was an immense challenge for his mother, Maria. Maria recounted the arduous task of physically carrying David to and from the inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) centre each day, a testament to her dedication but also a stark reminder of the mobility barriers David faced. This constant struggle not only impacted David's ability to attend classes regularly but also placed a significant physical and emotional burden on his mother.

The project's intervention brought a profound sense of relief and hope. **Maria expressed heartfelt gratitude for the provision of a wheelchair for David.** "It has been such a challenge to take him to school, always carrying him," she shared. "Now that my child has been given a wheelchair, it will really ease his mobility so he can attend classes regularly." This simple yet life-changing mobility aid has **transformed David's access to education, granting him newfound independence and ensuring consistent participation in his classes.** It clearly illustrates how targeted support can dismantle barriers and unlock a child's potential.



"It has been such a challenge to take him to school, always carrying him," she shared. "Now that my child has been given a wheelchair, it will really ease his mobility so he can attend classes regularly."

Zimbabwe

We have been working with one of our newest founding members of the Able Child Africa Network, **Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association** (ZPHCA), **since 2023** to champion the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities in Zimbabwe.

As with many countries globally, reliable data that captures the prevalence of disability is scarce in Zimbabwe. Despite launching a national disability policy in 2021, there are several issues with its implementation and children with disabilities are among the most marginalised and under-represented. Due to facing several barriers alongside stigma and discrimination, they are routinely excluded from mainstream health, education and other services.

What we achieved this year

This year, staff from Able Child visited ZPHCA's office in Harare, Zimbabwe for the first time, which presented a fantastic opportunity to meet the team, collect imagery and stories of children with disabilities that have been supported by ZPHCA, and develop some exciting new project ideas together.

We collaborated with ZPHCA to develop two innovative projects, which we are actively seeking funding for. The first is a project focused on tackling the acute challenges children with disabilities and their families are experiencing as a result of climate change. The other would see the creation of a community information hub and vocational skills centre, where ZPHCA would also base their offices to enable them to provide vital support and services to enhance the lives of children and young people with disabilities, and their families.





Shining a light on ZPHCA's work

Arthur is nine years old and has a condition that causes him to have brittle bones. Having broken his legs multiple times and without access to good healthcare, Arthur experiences difficulties walking. His mother struggled to get the help she needed for Arthur, and she wasn't aware of any support mechanisms to guide her. Despite this, Arthur's mother was steadfast in her determination for Arthur to get an education. She learnt of a local support group for parents of children with disabilities, which had been established by ZPHCA, and she hasn't looked back.

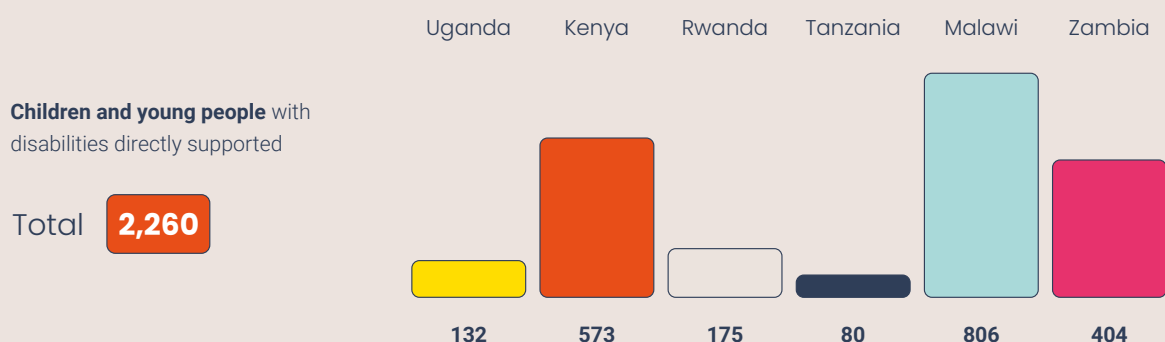
Through the support of this group, she began to better understand Arthur's rights, including his right to an education. Since Arthur does not have a wheelchair, she committed to carrying Arthur to school each day and waits there until he finishes so that she can take him home. His mother struggled to earn an income as a result, which caused huge strain on the family. **Yet thanks to the support group, which has an established savings and loan scheme, this has provided welcome financial support, providing the family with greater reassurance.**

While ZPHCA, together with other members of the support group, are working hard to secure a wheelchair for Arthur, his mother's dedication alongside his own self-determination **has resulted in a drastic improvement in his happiness and development.** Arthur has a special talent and enjoys making toys on wheels, which are made using thick pieces of wire. He has made lots of new friends this way and even makes a small income from his endeavours. Arthur's parents are extremely proud of him and remain dedicated to securing a bright future for their son.

Arthur has a special talent and enjoys making toys on wheels, which are made using thick pieces of wire.

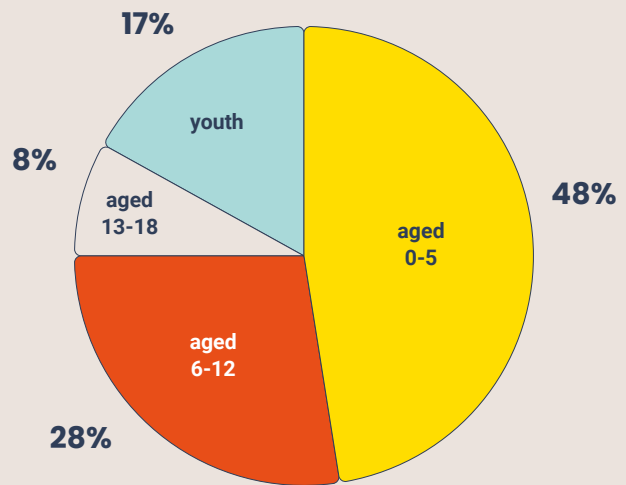
Our impact

In 2024/25, we have been delivering projects with seven network members across **seven countries in Africa** to protect, educate and amplify the voices of children and young people with disabilities, so they are able to thrive.

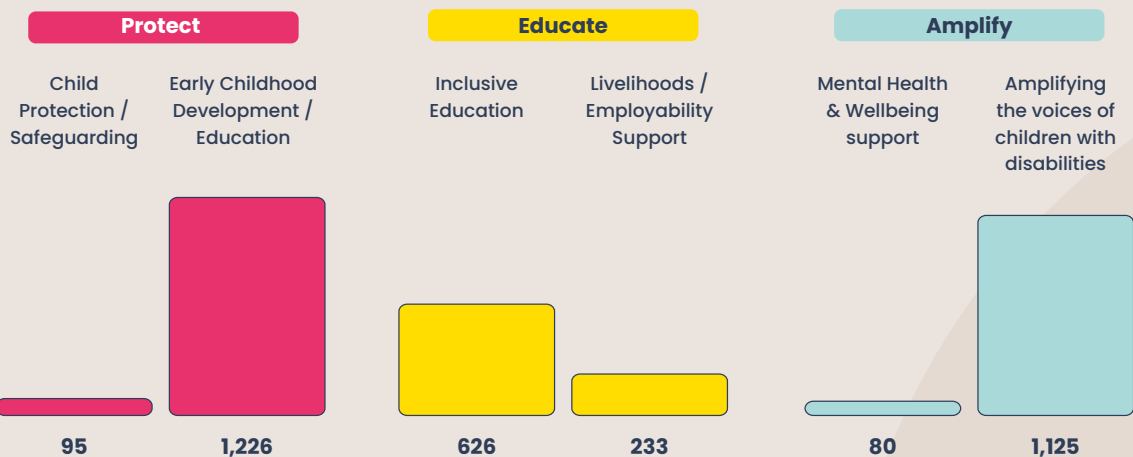


We directly support children and young people with disabilities by implementing early identification tools, enrolling out-of-school children into schools, making school environments more accessible, establishing peer-to-peer mentorship schemes and supporting young people with disabilities to access employment.



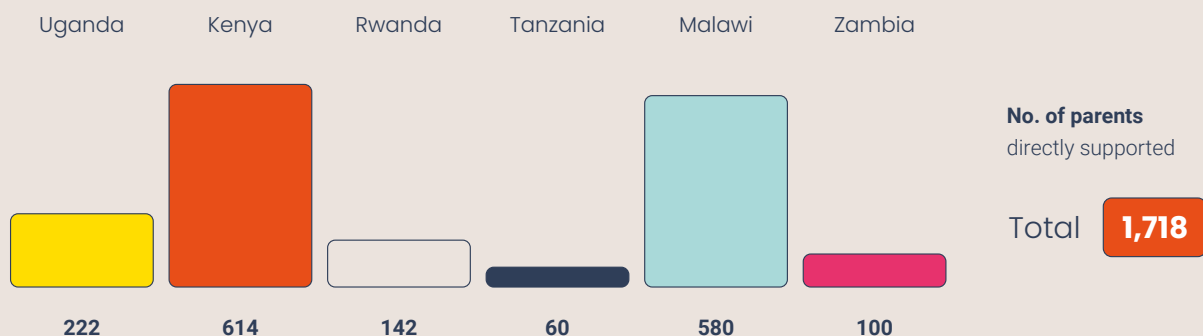


For the first time this year, the **largest number of children we supported were 0-5**, through our funded Early Childhood Development (ECD) or Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes.



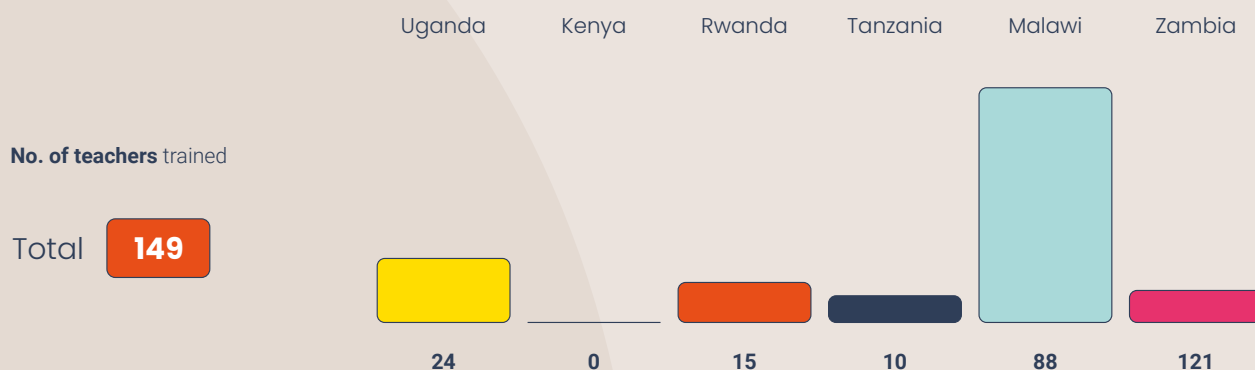
This year, **we enrolled 742 children with disabilities who were not in school**, into the school environment, so they can continue their education.

This includes the children we engaged through the Network data survey we conducted.



We support parents of children with disabilities through the establishment of Parent Support Groups and the facilitation of community events, giving parents the opportunity to discuss the challenges they face, support each other and work together to advocate for their children's inclusion.

Teachers and other stakeholders



We train teachers in inclusive teaching methods, providing information and tools to help teachers support all children in the classroom, and ensuring children with disabilities can participate effectively in lessons and play activities alongside their peers.



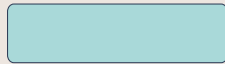
We enrolled 259 youth with disabilities enrolled into vocational training, to support them into a livelihood.

No. of **social workers** upskilled



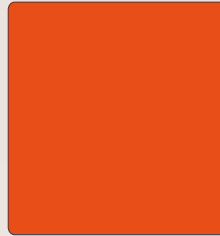
87

No. of **healthcare providers** trained



55

No. of **government officials** engaged



218

No. of other **stakeholders** engaged

Total **360**



We engaged 218 government officials across seven countries, influencing policy change at a local, regional and national level. We work with government officials to advocate for disability inclusion in the development and implementation of government policies and programmes, while evidencing effective methods to achieve this through our own work.



We were able to directly engage over 5,000 community members through 50 awareness raising events across seven countries to improve the support within communities for children with disabilities.



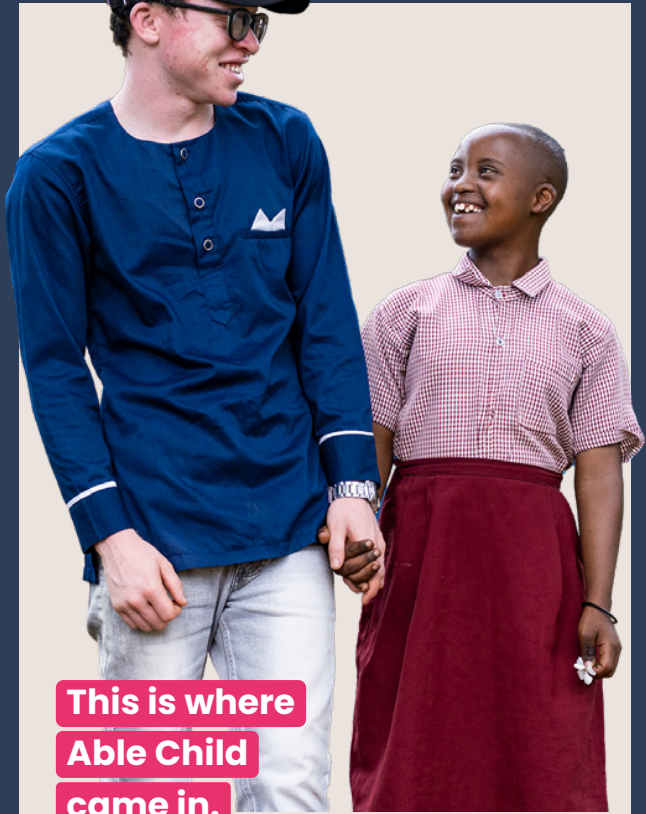
Meet 15-year-old
Naomi – **gaining
confidence** everyday

Naomi's story

Naomi is 15 years old and lives in Rwanda. **She has Down Syndrome**, which is a genetic condition that can affect the way the brain and body develop.

➤ When she was younger, Naomi would often face stigma and discrimination due to her disability. She didn't understand why she was treated differently to other children, and this made her dread going to school. Naomi's confidence was low, and she was in danger of becoming isolated, and drifting further away from her peer group.

Children with disabilities, like Naomi are at an elevated risk of mental health issues and psychosocial disabilities due to the high levels of stigma and exclusion they experience. Despite this, there is very little mental health provision for children and young people with disabilities in the countries where we work.



Through a project with **Uwezo Youth Empowerment**, we began supporting child protection and mental health systems to be more sensitive to the needs of children with disabilities, particularly girls.

We started working with parents of children with disabilities through 'positive parenting' workshops to ensure they are better supported to prevent abuse. And we began training young people with disabilities to mentor children with disabilities to inform them of their rights and to better support their mental health.

Through the mentorship programme, **Naomi was given support and companionship from a young person with a disability who she could relate to**, someone who empathised with her in a more meaningful way. Her mentor had not only been in her position before but had also received support as a mentee when they were younger.

This relationship provided a platform for Naomi to share her experiences and receive advice from someone who had walked the same steps before. Now several years into the programme, **Naomi has grown in confidence, is better equipped to understand her potential and now, is beginning to thrive.**

Our Strategy: Safe, Thriving, Heard – Looking Forward

2025 marks the second year of our **Safe, Thriving, Heard Strategy**, which runs until 2030.

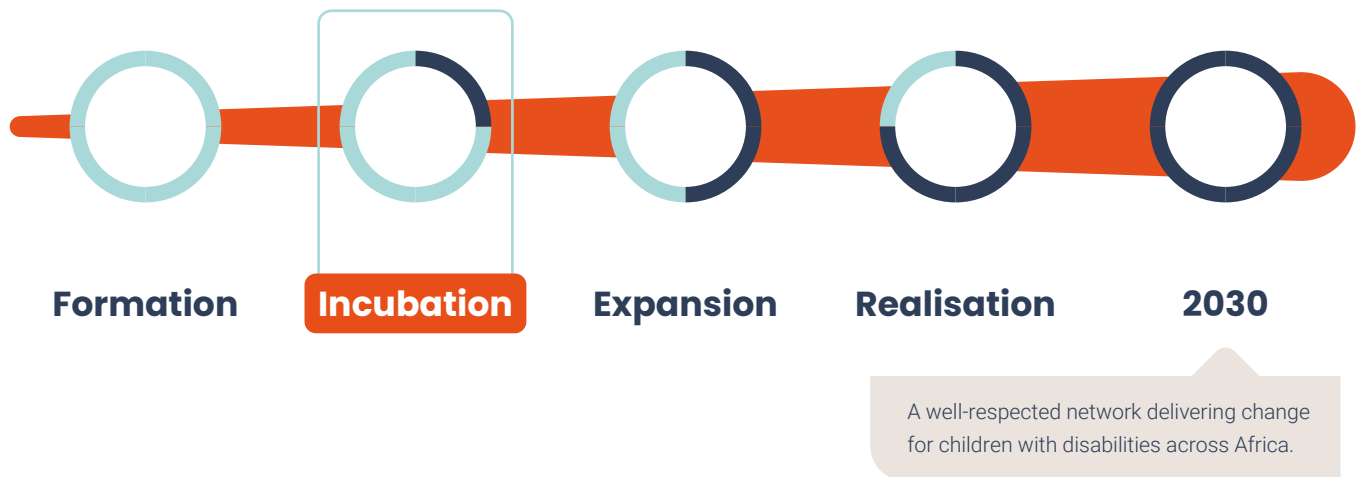
Since its launch, the Able Child Africa Network has achieved significant milestones. It has launched a comprehensive website, provided tailored support and training to members, and facilitated new collaborative projects. Able Child has offered flexible unrestricted funding to members, supported the Network's first consortium bid and helped to organise the second Able Child Africa Network General Assembly in Rwanda at the end of last year.

The Network has already published a series of reports, position papers, and tools on its website for others to access and learn from. Additionally, the Network has begun developing a data collection system to generate stronger evidence and identify gaps in service delivery for children with disabilities. Through a self-funded innovation project, we have also begun developing a report that captures the survey results of over 1,100 children's voices, which is due to be published in late 2024.



The role of **Able Child**

Able Child has long served as a platform for organisations working with children with disabilities in Africa to build expertise, access funding, and advocate for meaningful change. Our new strategy is a natural evolution of this role—placing our partners firmly at the heart of our mission through the formation of a Network. Most importantly, it recognises the development and realisation of a network of African-registered organisations as an ongoing journey until 2023.



We have successfully moved from the **formation phase** into the incubation stage of our strategy. During formation, we established strong foundations including the Executive Council, elected by Network members, which ensures that all decisions remain truly member-driven.

The current **incubation phase**, expected to continue over the next couple of years, focuses on delivering the Network's first activities with support from Able Child. A key milestone ahead is the registration of the Network, marking an important step toward greater independence. This transition is being carefully phased, with a focus on practical implementation and a shared vision.

Looking forward, we are keen to deliver on some of the Network's key objectives this coming year.

Next year will see a significant focus on **climate change**, including a new 2025/26 survey to delve into its effects on children with disabilities. This data will ensure their voices are integrated into global climate crisis conversations, alongside funding a child-led campaigns on inclusive climate justice.

We will continue to position ourselves as a repository for data, and evidence of "what works," understanding that the Network's strength comes from combined knowledge. The publication of data and sharing best practices will continue to elevate the Network's profile so our members are heard.

As opportunities for traditional restricted funding decline across the sector, we recognise the need to adapt to a changing landscape. We will take a bold approach to securing new and untapped funding streams, exploring creative avenues and rethinking what restricted funding can look like. At the same time, we will continue to strengthen and diversify our unrestricted fundraising efforts, ensuring greater flexibility to deliver work that truly reflects the needs and priorities of our Network members.

We remain committed to providing flexible, unrestricted funding to our Network members, recognising its critical role in their sustainability in turbulent times and continue to advocate for increased direct funding to local civil society across Africa. Finally, we will continue to prioritise the development and well-being of our staff, recognising our people as our greatest asset—especially during challenging times.

Our strategy is built for adaptability in a changing environment. With an approach grounded in the credibility of localisation and a focused ambition to fill knowledge gaps rather than pursue exponential growth, we will ensure there remains a clear role for Able Child in the years ahead.



Financial report

Overview

Able Child's total income this year was £938,833 which represents a decrease of 1% from the previous financial year.

This is comprised of £422,501 in restricted funding (including grants) and £516,332 in unrestricted flexible funding.

Total expenditure this year was £1,005,852 which is a 5% increase from the previous financial year.

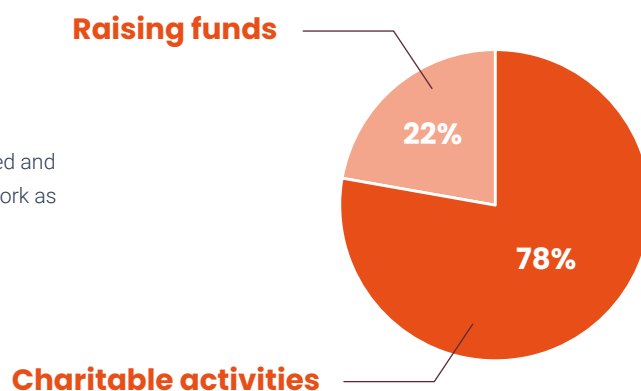
Income and expenditure

Income and Expenditure	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
Income	£422,501	£516,332	£938,833
Expenditure	£493,229	£512,623	£1,005,852
Net Income / Expenditure	-£70,728	£3,709	-£67,019

Spending on charitable activities

Expenditure Split	Charitable Activities	Raising Funds	Total Expenditure
Total	£787,321	£218,531	£1,005,852

Expenditure on charitable activities amounts to **78p for every pound** raised and comprises costs of our projects in Africa, our advocacy and influencing work as well as related support and governance costs.



Our fundraising costs, (**22p in every pound raised**), raised, are kept as low as possible while still allowing us to raise sufficient funds to deliver against our mission. This year the cost of raising funds is slightly higher than previous years as the costs of goods and services have risen due to inflation, and we have faced increased staff costs to retain our talented team.

Celebrating you

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

Our Patrons

We are lucky to have some fantastic patrons who continue to support our work and raise the profile of what we do. We want to thank Anne Wafula-Strike, Ellie Robinson, Keith Nethercot, Emeli Sandé and our newest patron, Marsha De Cordova MP, for all their support and we look forward to working together during an exciting year ahead.

Our Ambassadors

There are a small group of people who go above and beyond in their support of our work. Our Ambassadors are incredibly dedicated individuals who understand the importance of our work and are willing to back us on a personal basis and over a long period of time. We want to say a huge thank you to Azad Ayub, Clare Persey, Paul Harrison, Vijay Parikh, and to Stephen Trowell for your amazing support and personal connection to what we do. Your support is not taken for granted and we are proud to call you part of the Able Child family.



Our corporate supporters

We are very fortunate to have some amazing corporate partners, whose continued support through a challenging environment over the last few years has been vital. To Exile - to Dan Sheriff, Dom Kloiber, Katy Rose and Hesham Zakai and all the team, a huge thank you not only for your continued generosity of support, but your willingness to make us part of your family. Exile currently provides us with an office space free of charge, which means a significant saving to the charity and means more money can get to where it is needed most.

To Findlay Park, thank you for investing in our mission and continuing your journey with us. A particular thanks goes to Sello Lekalakala for his ongoing support, and to Jacqui Shilling and the rest of the SRC.

To Cargill and Juwon Sofola for your significant and continued annual donation towards our work.

To Hassell Inclusion, to Rosnah and Jonathan Hassell for quietly providing an incredibly generous and long-term commitment to the charity and buying in to what we do. Your support is invaluable, and it is great to have you with us on this journey.

To two new supporters the BGC Group and The Reed Foundation, we are excited to build a partnership with you that will hopefully go from strength to strength.

We would also like to thank everyone that donates their services free of charge or at reduced rates to help us keep our costs down and ensure as much money as possible goes to where it is needed most.

A finally, a big thank to Raihan Islam and Iirth for the brand and website support over the year, and to Michèle Renée Creative for your fabulous design support.



Celebrating you

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Our challenge takers

Every year we are lucky to have an amazing group of fundraisers who take on the challenge of the London Marathon and raise funds for our work. This year, we had an incredible team of 29 runners who raised crucial funds for our work. We want to thank each and every one of you. As always, your commitment to fundraise for our cause throughout your journeys is hugely appreciated.

We also want to say a special thank you to a few of you who went even further this year. Firstly, to Joe Muller who raised a remarkable sum of over £11,000. To Christian Hofman who raised over £4,500 in part by selling a lovely woolly hat in aid of Able Child; and Ben Gogarty who raised a wonderful amount of nearly £3k. And to Georgie Grobler, Benjamin Giliomee, Conrad Paxton and Isaac Oliver who all ran for Able Child for the first time and exceeded targets. Thank you, one and all.



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Our individual supporters

There are so many of you that support our work from regular monthly donations to spreading news of our work. You are all an inspiration, and we thank you for the role you play in changing the lives of children with disabilities. A special thank you goes out to our Champion donors Cath Ford and Tony Shubrook, Heather Barr, Jim Sellars and John Ingram for your unwavering support to help us achieve our mission. And to all our long-term individual supporters, who for over a decade and in some cases more, have supported Able Child through regular donations - thank you for your commitment to our cause. As we move into the next phase for the organisation, we thank all those who over many years have enabled us to support children with disabilities in Africa.

Our Trustees

None of what we do would be possible without the support of an incredibly passionate Board of Trustees, who all give up their time to make us a better organisation. They have remained compassionate, strategic and committed to the staff team, which helps create a positive atmosphere throughout the organisation. So, to Mitul Shah for a successful first year as Chair, and Abigail Viljoen as Vice Chair - both have been an invaluable support this past year. To Martin Hill, Jim Sellars, Baz Mehta, Maria Omar, Miir Michael, and to our newest Trustees, Dhiran Tanna, Hannah Loryman and Thomas Edwards, we want to say a massive thank you for everything that you do, we couldn't do it without you.

Our staff

And finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible staff team for their unwavering dedication to Able Child. Together this year, we've embarked on an ambitious journey and one we can be proud of. We implemented our new strategy that has pushed the boundaries of what we can achieve, and your passion, patience, and innovative spirit have been instrumental in making this possible. We celebrate your courage in challenging the status quo and holding ourselves to such high standards. You have created a positive, inclusive, and welcoming workplace culture that is the fundamental to our success. Thank you for making Able Child a place where new ideas thrive, and everyone feels valued.

Celebrating you

Nothing we do would be possible without the many people who support or fund us, complete challenges for us or provide in-kind support. So, to all of you, a massive thank you!

We would like to thank the following donors for their support in the last year

Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust
American Century Investments
Ashla Charitable Trust
Azad Ayub Ltd
Bartlett Foundation
BGC Group
Cargill
Chalk Cliff Trust
Cheruby Trust
Coles-Medlock Foundation
Comic Relief
EA Foundation

Educational Opportunity Foundation
Euromoney Institutional Investors
Exile Group
Findlay Park
Golden Bottle Trust
Government of Faroe Islands
Hassell Inclusion
James Tudor Foundation
Leggatt Trust
Lewin Trust
Marr-Munning Trust
Mercers Company

Network for Social Change
Rangoonwala Foundation
Reed Foundation
Rest-Harrow Trust
Sir Halley Stewart Trust
Sisters of Mercy
Souter Charitable Trust
States of Guernsey
Tula Trust
Vitol Foundation





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