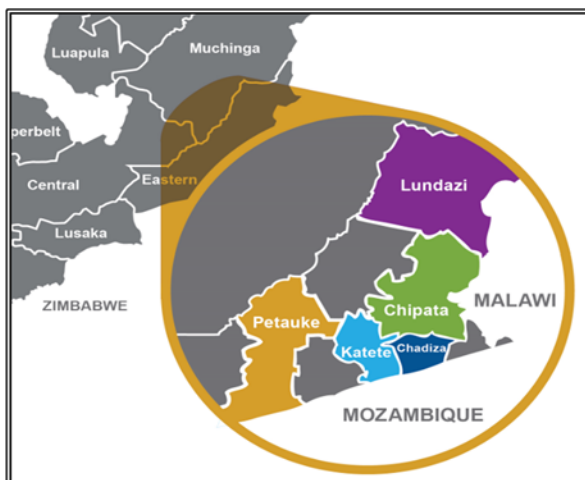


EMPOWER: Increasing Economic and Social Empowerment for Adolescent Girls and Vulnerable Women in Zambia

Winrock International, in partnership with WECREATE Entrepreneurial Centre Zambia Limited (WECREATE) and Panos institute of Southern Africa (PANOS) with funding from the United States



EMPOWER TARGET DISTRICTS

Department of Labor (USDOL) is implementing the project EMPOWER: Increasing Economic and Social Empowerment for Adolescent Girls and Vulnerable Women in Zambia (EMPOWER) — in five districts of the nation’s Eastern Province, namely Chipata, Chadiza, Lundazi, Katete and Petauke districts.

EMPOWER is a four-year project that began on November 1, 2016. Its overall goal is to **reduce the prevalence of child labor** in the targeted rural areas of eastern Zambia.

Project Outcomes:

EMPOWER will reduce the prevalence of child labor through interventions that support four long-term outcomes: **adolescent girls** engaged in or at high risk of entering child labor have increased **access to acceptable work and high-quality training opportunities**; **vulnerable women** whose households have children engaged in or at high risk of entering child labor **have increased livelihood opportunities**; **public awareness** of child labor and gender equality is increased; and there is greater **collaboration between the government and private sector** on the promotion of acceptable work for adolescent girls and vulnerable women.

Strategies:

To achieve EMPOWER's goal, Winrock and its partners will undertake the following strategies to address identified gaps.

1. Offer the Rural Entrepreneurial and Leadership Course (REAL) for adolescent girls, women and men. EMPOWER will engage community trainers and place them in a six-month training program of applied learning, technical training and business start-up support. Once this program has concluded, mentors will be selected and trained to provide six months of active follow-up and mentorship, promote networking opportunities and create linkages to private sector buyers, finance and markets to women's business groups.

2. Community Awareness and Mobilization through partnerships with local radio stations and discussions at Town Hall meetings. This strategy will also include training community radio stations; developing and broadcasting child-labor sensitive radio programs; promoting Radio Listening Club (RLC) mobilization and support to community dialogues and debates.

3. Promotion of the 3 Ps (Public Private Partnership), which involves additional collaboration with government, private, worker's groups, media and civil society organizations. To strengthen collaboration, stakeholders will sign MOUs, MOU implementation will be supported vertically and horizontally; and mentorship programs will support the Rural Entrepreneurship Network (RWEN).

Anticipated project results:

EMPOWER will provide:

- **2,500 girls ages 15-17 who are engaged in or at risk of child labor** with relevant skills and access to acceptable work,
- **1,500 women from households with**

- **children vulnerable to child labor** access to increased livelihood opportunities,
- increased understanding of acceptable work and the importance of gender equality with **1,000 male adults** from the girl's or women's households heads,
- increased understanding of acceptable work and the importance of gender equality in **20 community hubs**,
- **33 government, civil society, and private stakeholder groups** the chance to convene and create and promote **safe, market-oriented opportunities** for adolescent girls' and women's economic and social empowerment.

EMPOWER will collaborate with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS), which plays an essential role in the elimination of child labor by ensuring implementation of the Employment Act (Cap 268) and the Employment of Young Persons and Children's Act (Cap 274). Both aim to eradicate child labor and promote sustainability and safe working conditions for Zambians.



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