

**2025**

# Annual Report and Audited Accounts



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# We are **Able Child**

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

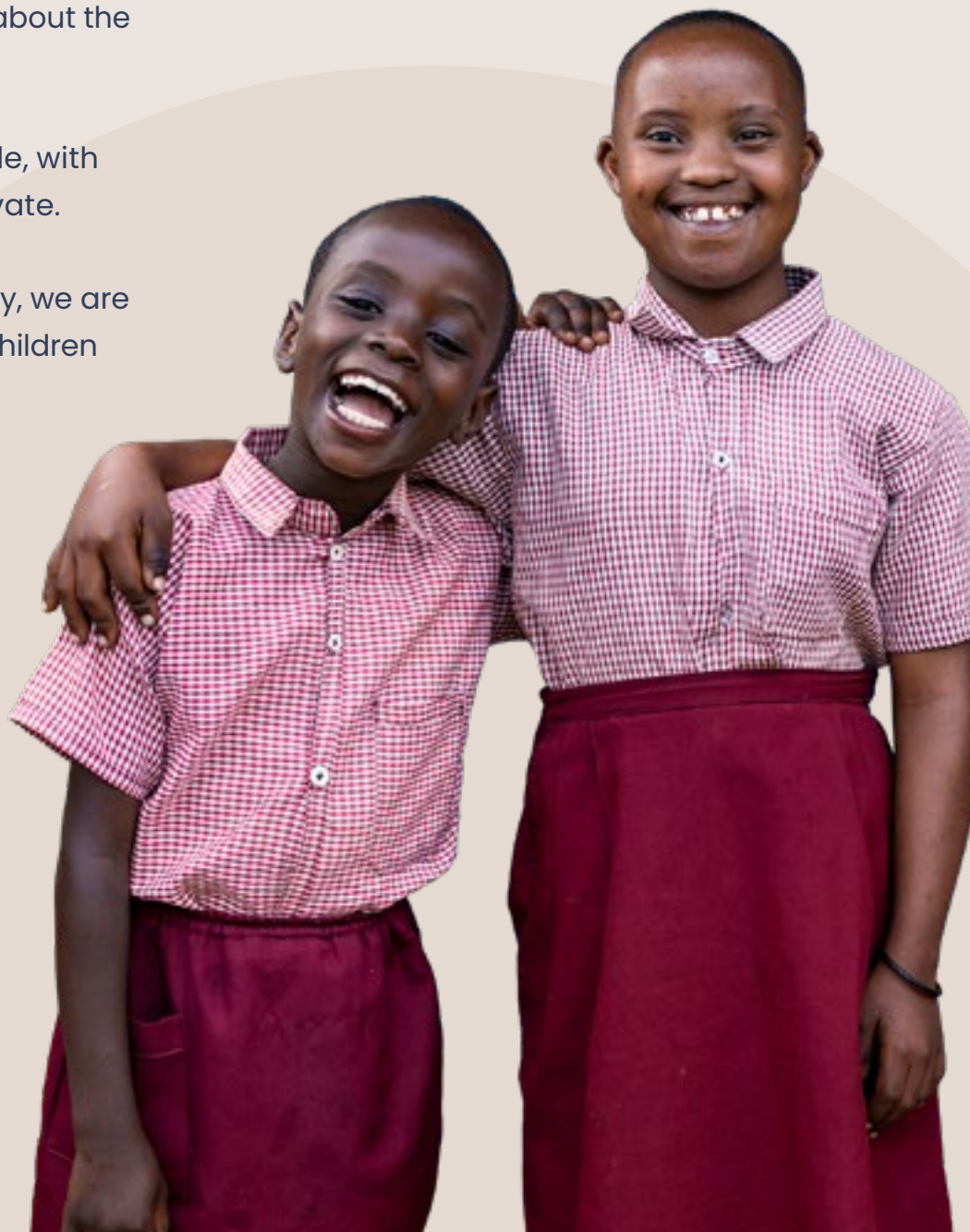
We do this by supporting a network of organisations to **protect**, **educate** and **amplify** the voices of children and young people with disabilities.

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.

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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.

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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:

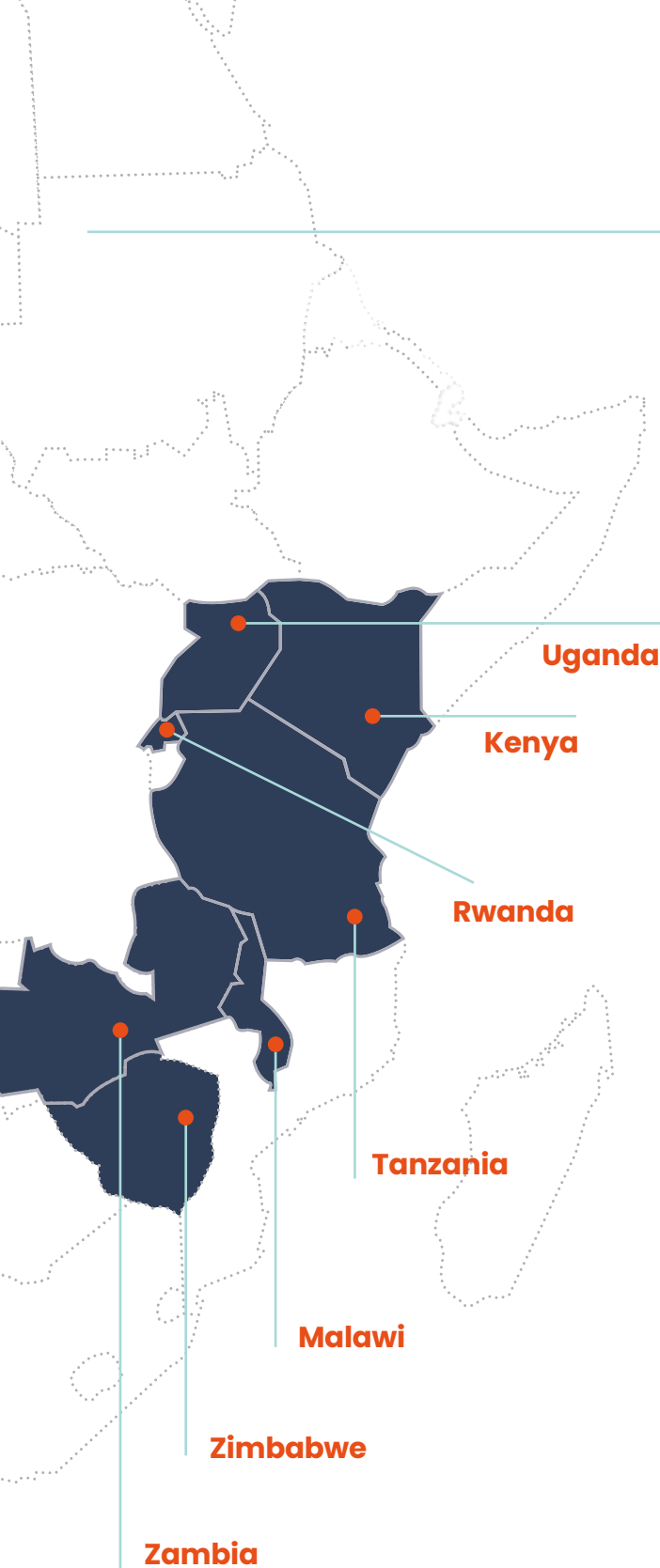
Action Network for the Disabled (ANDY), Child Support Tanzania (CST), Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC) UWEZO Youth Empowerment, Zambia Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD), Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM), Federation of Disabled Organisations 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

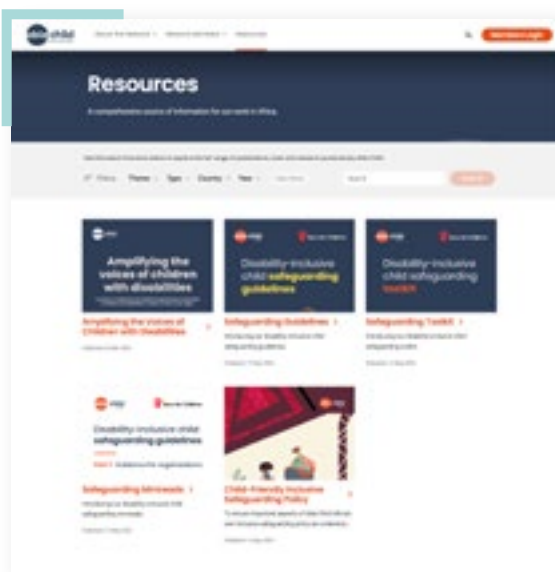
of children with disabilities, amplifying their voices to create change.

# 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 signalled strong international interest in our vision. The launch introduced the Network to stakeholders promoting the Network as 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.



**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.

**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.



# 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.

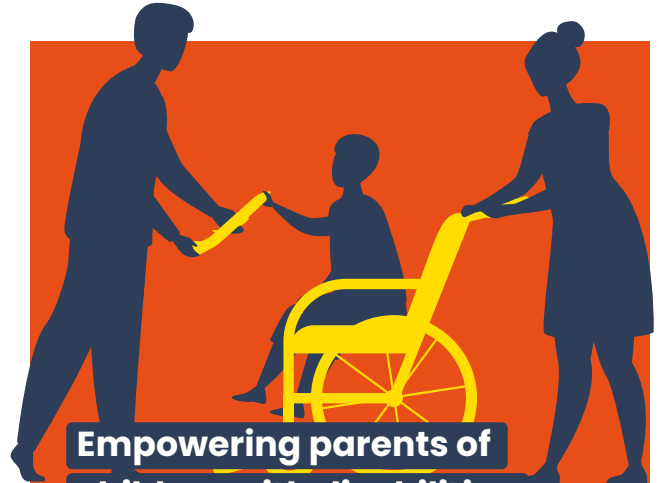
We are also in the final phase of implementation of our very first project with PODCAM, funded by the Vitol Foundation. The project has been instrumental in supporting more children to access inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD). Fostering shared learning among Network members, FEDOMA has worked 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.



## 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.

## 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.



# 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.

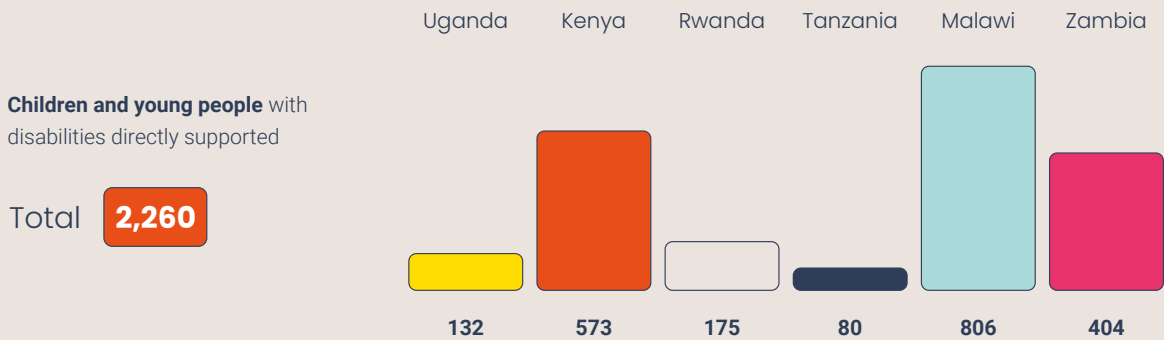
**Through the support of this group, she began to better understand Arthur's rights, including his right to an education.** Since Arthur does not have a wheelchair, she committed to carrying Arthur to school each day and waits there until he finishes so that she can take him home. His mother struggled 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.

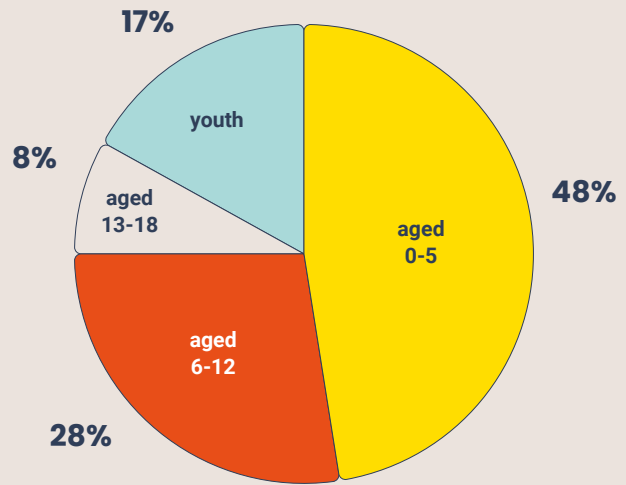
# Our impact

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.



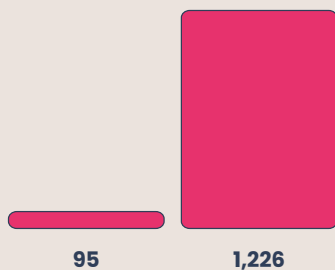


For the first time this year, the **largest number of children we supported were 0-5**, through our funded Early Childhood Development (ECD) or Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes.

**Protect**

Child Protection / Safeguarding

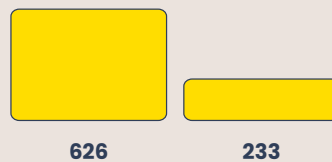
Early Childhood Development / Education



**Educate**

Inclusive Education

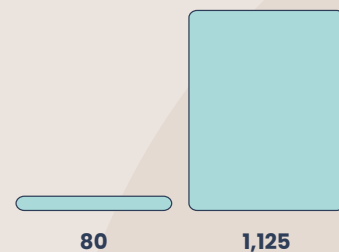
Livelihoods / Employability Support



**Amplify**

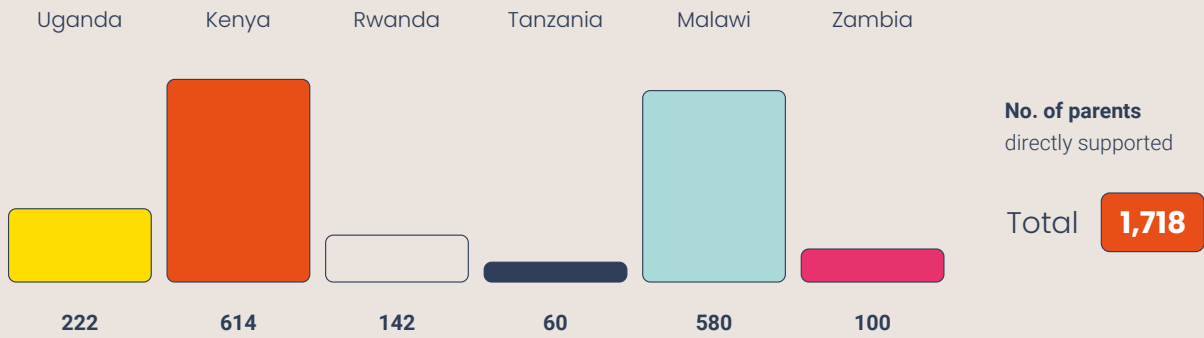
Mental Health & Wellbeing support

Amplifying the voices of children with disabilities



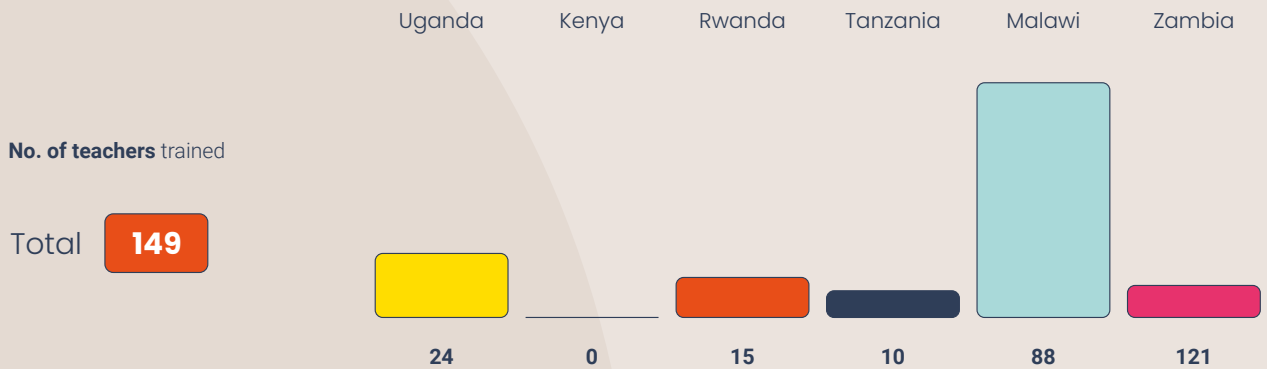
This year, **we enrolled 742 children with disabilities who were not in school**, into the school environment, so they can continue their education.

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.

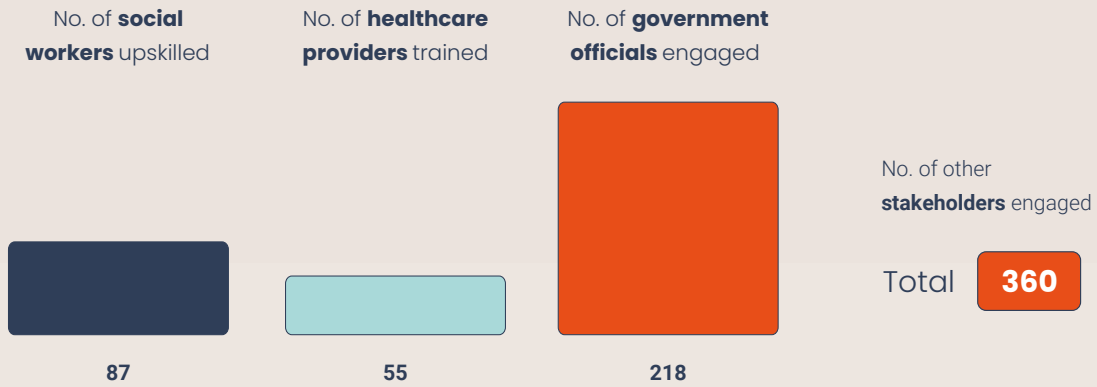
## Teachers and other stakeholders



**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.



**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

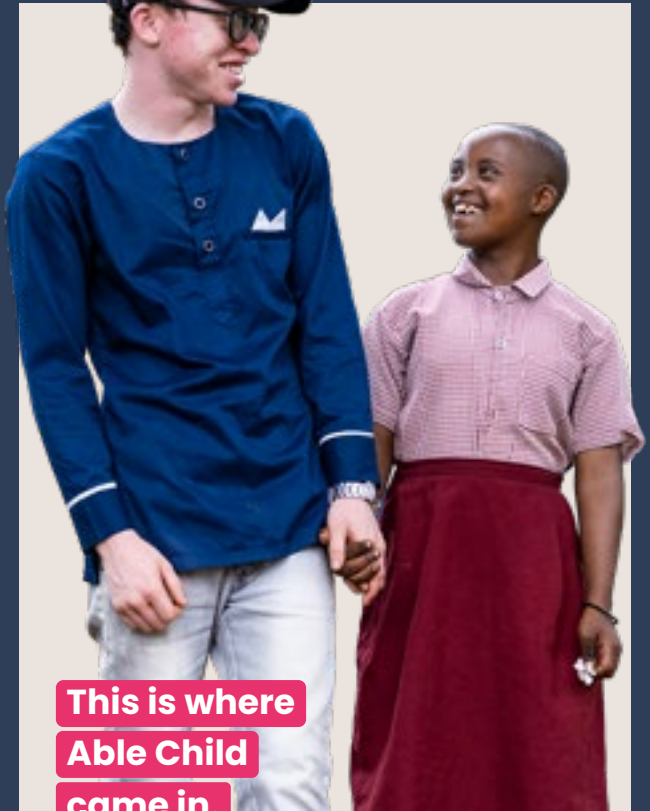


# Naomi's story

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.



**This is where  
Able Child  
came in.**

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.

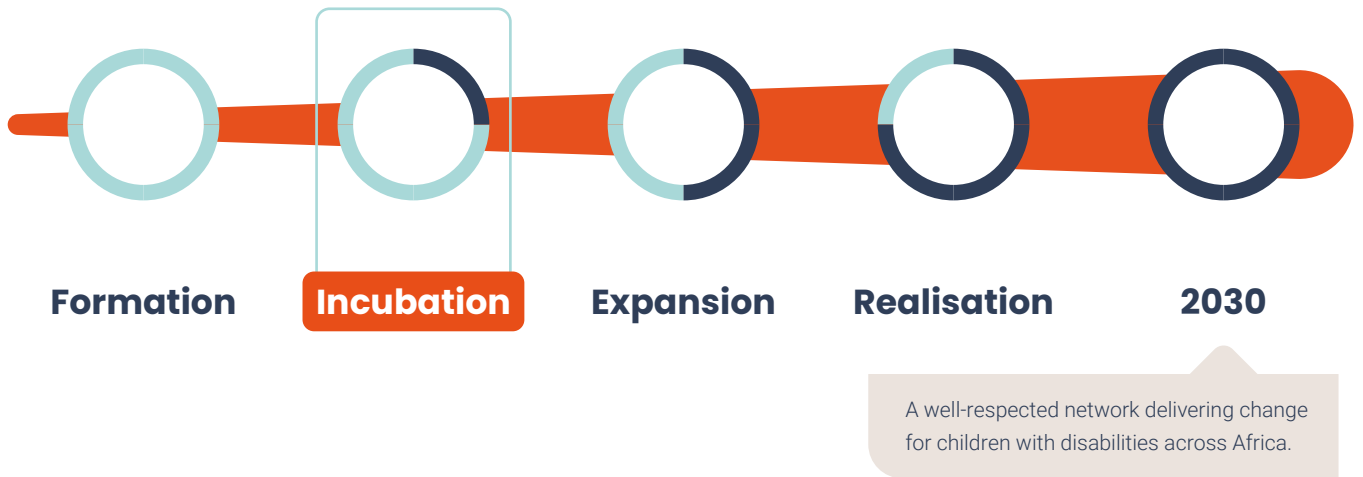
Since its launch, the Able Child Africa Network has achieved significant milestones. It has launched a comprehensive website, provided tailored support and training to members, and facilitated new collaborative projects. Able Child has offered flexible unrestricted funding to members, supported the Network's 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.

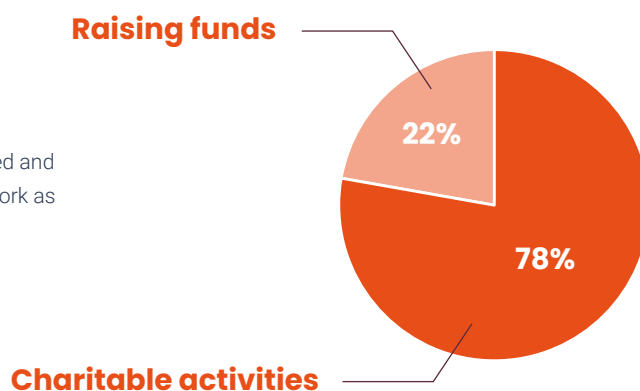
## Income and expenditure

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.

The complete Audited Accounts and Financial Statements can be found in this document from page 54.

# Celebrating you

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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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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 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, Miiro 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  
Ragoonwala Foundation  
Reed Foundation  
Rest-Harrow Trust  
Sir Halley Stewart Trust  
Sisters of Mercy  
Souter Charitable Trust  
States of Guernsey  
Tula Trust  
Vitol Foundation



# Report of the Trustees

- The Trustees present their report along with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared based on the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with Able Child Africa's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).



# 1. Structure, governance and management

## 1.1 Legal status

Able Child is the trading name of Able Child Africa, a company limited by guarantee registered in England, not having a share capital, incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 (company number 01861434). The company is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity number 326859). Able Child Africa was previously known as the Uganda Society for Children with Disabilities.

Able Child became the official trading name of Able Child Africa in 2024, and Able Child and Able Child Africa may be used interchangeably through this report.

## 1.2 Trustees

The Trustees (who are also Directors for the purposes of Company law) who held office during the financial year are set out in this document. They represent a diverse skill set with experience in finance, law and the third sector, including programme delivery, safeguarding and advocacy. The Board of Trustees is led by the Chair, Mitul Shah and Vice Chair Abigail Viljoen. The Trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the charity to the staff team, managed by the co-CEOs, Karl Hankinson and Lauren Watters. The co-CEOs act as the Company Secretary. During the year two new Trustees were appointed in September and October 2024, while two Trustees also left the Board.

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions in the Articles of Association, which allow for appointment at any time. New trustees are nominated by current members of the Board of Trustees, following an open and competitive recruitment process, and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Once appointed, Trustees undergo a thorough induction process. Trustees do not receive any remuneration but may claim for incidental expenses, such as travel to board meetings.

The full Board meets on a quarterly basis. We also have one sub-committee, the Resources Sub-Committee that meets quarterly to oversee finance, unrestricted fundraising and give recommendations to the Board. The Resources Sub-Committee has its own identified terms of reference, nominated chair and reports to the full board. The chair of the Resources Sub-committee is currently Martin Hill, appointed in March 2020.

The Board of Trustees is primarily responsible for setting and maintaining the strategic direction of the organisation, setting policies and managing resources, risk and staffing. Trustees ensure appropriate procedures and safeguards are in place and take reasonable steps to ensure that these are followed, and they review the Articles of Association, which was revised in July 2023, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. They carefully monitor finances to ensure viability and sustainability of existing commitments and future plans; they oversee decisions relating to non-budgeted commitments in excess of £1,000; and budgeted commitments in excess of £5,000. Trustees also oversee and ensure compliance of statutory and legal requirements, both internally within the organisation as well as to our beneficiaries and donors.

The Board oversees staff remuneration and sets the pay scales and any benefits package, currently limited only to pension payments, for the organisation. Salary scales are benchmarked using the Croner Charity Rewards Report, which provides the most comprehensive set of data on salary and benefit packages for the Charity Sector in the UK. The last pay scale review was completed in 2017 and amended in 2020.

### 1.3 Staffing

Able Child maintains a small staff team in the UK. For most of the financial year we had eleven staff members, which included two co-CEOs, a Head of Fundraising & Communications, a Programmes Manager, a Senior Programme Officer, a Programme Officer, a Finance & Operations Manager, a Finance & Operations Executive, a Programmes Funding Officer, a Senior Fundraising & Communications Officer and a Fundraising & Communications Executive. We also had one part-time Advocacy & Communications Executive for the full year.

Able Child is an equal opportunities employer, committed to equality of opportunities regardless of gender, disability, race, religion, or sexual orientation. We are also proud to be a registered 'disability confident' committed employer. In our recruitment processes we particularly encourage applications from people with disabilities and people with direct experience of living or working with children with disabilities; those meeting essential criteria are guaranteed an interview.

### 1.4 Fundraising performance

We have delivered our best unrestricted fundraising total for the second year in a row, seeing our income increase from £471k in 2023/24, to £516k this year. This was achieved by doubling our unrestricted Trusts and Foundations income (to £95k) and growing our individual giving portfolio by 73% (to £85k). Our individual giving totals were boosted by the Radio 4 Appeal in December 2024, alongside the Big Give campaign and a growth in HNW donors. Our corporate (£123k) and event-based income (£135k) remained strong through the year, with new events delivered and new corporate donors secured. This illustrates our unrestricted income portfolio is diverse, spread across a number of different sources.

Our total income remained just under £1million for the second year in a row, with a decrease in restricted or grant-based income from the year before. In an increasingly challenging external funding environment, we saw our restricted grant income fall from £477k to £423k from 2023/24, with less multi-year funding opportunities available. We go into 2025/26 with just over £100k of grant-funding secured with opportunities in the pipeline to achieve similar income levels to the last two years, well below our highest restricted income totals above £700k.

### 1.5 Public benefit statement

Able Child works for the public benefit through its international development and advocacy work, in support of children with disabilities in Africa.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's objectives and aims and in planning future activities for this year and those contained in the next Strategic Plan.

Our charitable object as outlined in the Articles of Association is:

To relieve charitable need, promote health, advance education and promote the social integration of disabled children for the public benefit, with a focus on (but without limitation) promoting such disabled children achieving their human, social, cultural and economic rights (as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ("UNCRC"), Universal Declaration of Human Rights ("UDHR") and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations and in regional codes of human rights which incorporate the rights contained in the UNCRC, the UDHR and those subsequent conventions and declarations) by any means the Trustees in their absolute discretion choose and in particular by raising awareness as to the needs of disabled children and advocacy as to how those needs can best be met.

## 2. Financial review

We are proud that our work offers real value for money to our donors. Our expenditure on 'charitable activities' amounts to 78% of total expenditure. As a small, bespoke charity, we recognize the value of every penny donated and reaffirm our continuing commitment to carefully managing support costs to maximize expenditure on charitable activities.

While this percentage is slightly lower than last year, we are still incredibly proud of how low our support costs are given the challenging external environment. The increase in fundraising costs is primarily due to external factors, including inflation and higher staff costs, which have impacted the price of goods and services essential for our work. We also recognise the need to invest in staff and are committed to making reasonable and timely investments to respond to increasing regulatory requirements and secure our financial sustainability through unrestricted fundraising in an increasingly difficult and uncertain environment.

### 2.1 Income

Our total income this year was £938,833. This represents only a 0.9% decrease from the previous financial year, indicating that whilst there is a slight decrease in income we are mostly maintaining our income levels. This is comprised of £422,501 in restricted funding (including grants) and £516,332 in unrestricted flexible funding. A slightly lower proportion of income for the financial year was restricted through grants (45%) then last year (50%). Our institutional and corporate donors include Comic Relief, States of Guernsey and Vitol Foundation – see note 4 for more details. Unrestricted income was raised from individual donors, through unrestricted corporate support from Exile Group, PenCarrie, The Bartlett Foundation, Cargill Financial Services Europe Ltd, Findlay Park and Hassell Inclusion; and through our fundraising events including our Gala Dinner, Children's Walk, the London Marathon and the Charity Golf Day.

### 2.2 Expenditure

Total expenditure this year was £1,005,852 which is a 5% increase from the previous financial year. Restricted expenditure totalled £493,229, which was spent delivering projects to benefit children with disabilities in Africa; these are detailed in note 6. 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 for every pound 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.

Support costs, which cannot be solely attributed to either charitable or fundraising expenditure, are allocated in proportion to estimated staff time spent on each activity.

### 2.3 Reserves

It is our policy to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard ongoing commitments and operations. Trustees regularly review our reserves policy in line with ongoing plans, budgets and cash flow forecasts.

The reserves policy states that the organisation should hold a minimum of 3-months of unrestricted expenditure at all times, with the aim to maintain reserves at a level above 6-months unrestricted expenditure. This decision is overseen by the Resources Sub-Committee.

Based on the 2024/25 budget this indicated a target reserves of £243k. Having carried forward unrestricted reserves £225,537 at the start of the year, we ended March 2025 with £229,246 of unrestricted reserves, a gain of £3.7k. With lower expenditure levels budgeted in 2025/26, our 6-months reserves target was lowered to £216k, meaning we start the year above our reserves target.

## 2.4 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the charity will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Despite a challenging international development funding environment, the organisation has demonstrated financial resilience. Income remains consistent with the five-year average, slightly below £1million, and unrestricted income had its best year ever, growing to over £500k due to successful fundraising strategies and greater returns on events, corporate support and individual donations. We have been able to maintain free reserves above our six-months target and are in a strong position to manage any future shocks.

Recognising the decline in traditional restricted funding however, we are adopting a bold new strategy focused on localisation and filling knowledge gaps, where we are working to secure new and untapped funding streams and redefine restricted funding targets that will secure Able Child's role for the future. Alongside this, the Board has implemented robust measures to manage costs and ensure financial sustainability through this period. The Board maintains strong financial oversight through quarterly Resource Sub-Committee meetings and monthly reviews of Management Accounts, ensuring proactive financial management and close monitoring of projections and funding pipelines.

While acknowledging the inherent risks associated with grant-funding and the challenging external environment, the Board are confident in the organisation's ability to navigate these challenges through the strategic measures and diligent oversight described above. The Trustees are therefore confident in the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements, as is evidenced by the financial performance presented here and the robust forecast for the next 12-months.

## 2.5 Voluntary help and gifts in kind

We would like to thank all our generous volunteers and supporters for their work this year. We would like to thank the Exile Group for their continued in-kind support, most notably providing us with a long-term office space. We would also like to thank Corney & Barrow for their donation of wine for our Golf Day, Kunle Fagbenro for his continued support at our Annual Gala and every other person and company that donated a prize or service for our events throughout the year.

## 2.6 Investment policy

The Trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. At the present time we do not have any funds invested but may review this position in future should resources allow.

### 3. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring we have the appropriate systems of control in place, financial and otherwise. Through the implementation of the Strategic Risk Register, the Trustees interrogate and proactively seek to reduce, eliminate or mitigate risks. The major risks to which we are exposed to are identified by the senior management team and nominated board members and reviewed by all Trustees at each quarterly board meeting.

The Trustees remain satisfied that current internal systems provide reasonable assurance that the organisation operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations. At present the Trustees consider the two most significant risks are around financial sustainability and preventing child safeguarding incidents. These main risks, together with agreed mitigation strategies, are summarised below.

#### **Risk of insufficient funding and economic instability preventing us from delivering against our mission**

In the current climate, risk to income, particularly restricted grant-income is high. At present we have a strong unrestricted reserves position, with 6-months reserves at March 2025 and a stable unrestricted income portfolio. This has helped us manage navigate the turbulent period over the last three years. However, the decline of multi-year grant-funding in the sector is accelerating, with most national governments significantly reducing expenditure on aid. While this would not affect our ability to operate, it would affect our ability to make impact on scale. Changes in grant donor arrangements or preferences, particularly regarding our largest and most regular donors, could have a significant impact on our output. At present we have over £100k of grant-funding already secured for 2025/26 but are working to identify new donors and diversify our funding streams as we implement our new strategy. All financial planning is done collaboratively and transparently with the Board of Trustees to ensure proper oversight and a strategic response to a changing situation. This oversight is provided by the Treasurer (monthly) and Resources Sub-Committee (quarterly) who review rolling cash flow projections and annual budgets. This regular monitoring ensures we regularly monitor performance against targets, as well as implement strategic shifts early when required.

#### **Risk of compliance in the implementation of projects by our partners**

Our new strategy and theory of change both clearly lay out why we have chosen to work as a network of African-led organisations. Principally, we believe we are a vehicle for African organisations to achieve higher impact; we also believe this offers greater value for money to our donors. However, taking responsibility for the implementation of projects by our African partners, particularly where we are the primary grant holder, carries financial and reputational risk. We seek to mitigate this risk by developing collaborative, working relationships and transparent lines of communication; and having in place overarching Network and Grant Agreements. Our Programmes Team also conduct multiple in-person visits each year to check compliance of grants and improve systems. During these visits, the team regularly review activity delivery and project expenditure for specific grants, interrogating the quality of delivery and spend against outcomes. Project specific risk registers are developed collaboratively for each project; these inform our overall Operational Risk Register and are reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis. We have also developed a bespoke Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy, as well as a summary for the organisations we represent, which is in compliance with the UK Bribery Act 2010.

#### **Risk of safeguarding incident causing harm to one or more of the vulnerable people we work with**

As an organisation working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and young people, we understand the importance of our role in their safeguarding. We also understand the threat of an incident involving one of our or our partner's staff, volunteers, or Trustees. While we do everything in our power to minimise the risk involving a staff member, volunteer or

Trustee, we accept that due to the nature of our work, there is an increased likelihood of the witnessing or reporting of abuse. We aim to deal with this risk in an honest and transparent way that puts the child or vulnerable adult at the centre of any action. We updated all our safeguarding policies and procedures in 2023, to ensure they are not only fit for purpose, but best practice. These procedures outline the measures in place to reduce a safeguarding incident that affects a child or vulnerable adult; and to appropriately act on any reported incident or suspicion of abuse. We have robust recruitment processes, with DBS checks on all staff, Trustees and volunteers upon appointment. All our staff are trained in safeguarding with regular team workshops where staff can discuss thoughts and facilitate learning and we have recruited a safeguarding professional onto the board as the nominated lead.

### **Risk of loss of business continuity through unexpected sudden departure of key members of the team**

The success of our results and impact lies with its small and dedicated staff team. The unplanned and sudden loss or departure of staff therefore places a risk to our ability to operate efficiently, particularly given the size of the team. To mitigate this, we have taken a number of steps both to improve staff retention and to ensure the loss of institutional knowledge is reduced. Over the course of the last three years, we have placed an emphasis on staff wellbeing and organisational culture to improve staff retention and provide an attractive and supportive environment for staff. To protect institutional knowledge, we have built processes into our CRM system and have started to implement a change in culture to document the organisational knowledge away from individual staff members. We have a comprehensive Business Continuity Policy which works to ensure we are well-equipped to manage this risk, particularly in the current unstable external environment.

### **Risk to Able Child staff or volunteer safety during travel**

Although we do not currently work in conflict areas, political instability, violence and kidnapping risks associated with travel to our chosen countries cannot be completely eliminated. We take our duty of care to our staff, Trustees and volunteers very seriously through robust travel policies and procedures to identify security risks and provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against any occurrence. Ahead of each trip the Programmes Manager undertakes an internal risk assessment, documents travel plans and movements, and provides a travel briefing. Staff, Trustees and volunteers who travel have access to a security and emergency travel app on the smartphone they are provided for travel and this is available to download on personal devices. Our latest security procedure review and staff training was undertaken in 2023/24, with a new Travel Safety and Security Policy developed following an internal review. This is refreshed annually.

### **Risk of ineffective management of staff, volunteers, supporters' and/or beneficiaries' personal data**

As a small organisation with limited resource to cover IT infrastructure, we understand the potential risks of ineffective IT systems or a cyber security attack that leads to a potential data breach. As part of the GDPR regulations, we have improved our IT policies, systems and infrastructure to better ensure that individual's data we hold is consensual, relevant for its purpose and secure. We have revised Data Protection Policies to bring them up to date with GDPR legislation and ensured their effective implementation across the organisation. We have developed new IT Usage and Security Policies and Procedures to provide effective guidelines to staff on using IT and people's data within the organisation. We have developed a data register outlining the data we collect, the purpose for collecting it and where it is stored. Staff receive annual Data Protection training and we review our data retention policies annually. We have developed Privacy Notices for all stakeholders to the organisation, including staff and Trustees. We conducted an organisational-wide data cleanse and updated our Data Protection Policy in 2025, with all our Privacy Notices and practices undergoing an external review to ensure we are fully compliant and identify any areas of potential risk.

## 4. Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. In so far as the trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2025 was ten. The Trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

### Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd were appointed as the charitable company's auditors in 2017 and have acted in that capacity for the last seven years. They have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 11 October 2025:

*Mitul Shah*

Mitul Shah – Chair

# **Able Child**

## **Report and Audited Financial Statements**

### **31 March 2025**

**Able Child Africa****Reference and administrative details****For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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<b>Company number</b>	01861434	
<b>Charity number</b>	326859	
<b>Trading name</b>	Able Child	
<b>Registered office and operational address</b>	Unit 6 Madeira Tower 34 Ponton Road London SW11 7BA	
<b>Trustees</b>	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:	
	Emily Bueno	resigned 30 January 2025
	Catherine Carter	resigned 15 October 2024
	Thomas Edwards	appointed 15 October 2024
	Martin Hill	
	Hannah Loryman	
	Bharat Mehta	resigned 23 July 2025
	Miir Michael	
	Maria Omare	
	James Sellars	
	Mitul Shah	Chair
	Dhiran Tanna	appointed 19 September 2024
	Abigail Viljoen	Vice-Chair
<b>Company secretary and Co-CEOs</b>	Karl Hankinson Lauren Watters	
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling ME19 4JQ	Barclays Bank 1 Churchill Place London E14 5HP
<b>Solicitors</b>	Bates Wells & Braithwaite 2-6 Cannon Street London EC4M 6YH	
<b>Auditors</b>	Godfrey Wilson Limited 5th Floor Mariner House 62 Prince Street Bristol BS1 4QD	

## **Independent auditors' report**

### **To the members of**

### **Able Child Africa**

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#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Able Child Africa (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 8 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

#### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

## Independent auditors' report

### To the members of

#### Able Child Africa

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In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

#### Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out in the trustees' report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Independent auditors' report

### To the members of

### Able Child Africa

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#### Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The procedures we carried out and the extent to which they are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below:

- (1) We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, and assessed the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Throughout the audit, we remained alert to possible indications of non-compliance.
- (2) We reviewed the charity's policies and procedures in relation to:
  - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations, and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risk of fraud, and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
  - Designing and implementing internal controls to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.
- (3) We inspected the minutes of trustee meetings.
- (4) We enquired about any non-routine communication with regulators and reviewed any reports made to them.
- (5) We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and assessed their compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- (6) We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected transactions or balances that may indicate a risk of material fraud or error.
- (7) We assessed the risk of fraud through management override of controls and carried out procedures to address this risk. Our procedures included:
  - Testing the appropriateness of journal entries;
  - Assessing judgements and accounting estimates for potential bias;
  - Reviewing related party transactions; and
  - Testing transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. Irregularities that arise due to fraud can be even harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

**Independent auditors' report****To the members of****Able Child Africa**

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A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*William Guy Blake*

Date: 11 October 2025

**William Guy Blake ACA**  
**(Senior Statutory Auditor)**

For and on behalf of:

**GODFREY WILSON LIMITED**Chartered accountants and statutory auditors  
5th Floor Mariner House  
62 Prince Street  
Bristol  
BS1 4QD

**Able Child Africa****Statement of financial activities** *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)***For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations	3	-	393,285	<b>393,285</b>	390,448
Charitable activities	4	422,501	94,977	<b>517,478</b>	518,001
Other trading income	5	-	17,611	<b>17,611</b>	28,695
Investments		-	10,459	<b>10,459</b>	10,268
<b>Total income</b>		<u>422,501</u>	<u>516,332</u>	<b><u>938,833</u></b>	<u>947,412</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		-	218,531	<b>218,531</b>	184,968
Charitable activities		<u>493,229</u>	<u>294,092</u>	<b><u>787,321</u></b>	<u>775,314</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	6	<u>493,229</u>	<u>512,623</u>	<b><u>1,005,852</u></b>	<u>960,282</u>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) and net movement in funds</b>	8	(70,728)	3,709	<b>(67,019)</b>	(12,870)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>332,511</u>	<u>225,537</u>	<b><u>558,048</u></b>	<u>570,918</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u><u>261,783</u></u>	<u><u>229,246</u></u>	<b><u><u>491,029</u></u></b>	<u><u>558,048</u></u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 15 to the accounts.

**Able Child Africa****Balance sheet****As at 31 March 2025**

	Note	£	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets	11		<u>5,312</u>	<u>3,299</u>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	12	100,556		49,274
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>404,979</u>		<u>538,935</u>
		<b>505,535</b>		588,209
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	13	<u>(19,818)</u>		<u>(33,460)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>485,717</u>	<u>554,749</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	14		<u>491,029</u>	<u>558,048</u>
<b>Funds</b>	15			
Restricted funds			261,783	332,511
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			<u>229,246</u>	<u>225,537</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>491,029</u>	<u>558,048</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 11 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by

*Mitul Shah*

Mitul Shah - Chair

**Able Child Africa****Statement of cash flows****For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
<b>Cash used in operating activities:</b>		
Net movement in funds	<b>(67,019)</b>	(12,870)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	<b>2,655</b>	1,649
Dividends and interest from investments	<b>(10,459)</b>	(10,268)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	<b>(51,282)</b>	73,878
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	<b>(13,642)</b>	17,531
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(139,747)</b>	69,920
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	<b>(4,668)</b>	(974)
Dividends and interest from investments	<b>10,459</b>	10,268
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>5,791</b>	9,294
<b>Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>(133,956)</b>	79,214
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>538,935</b>	459,721
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>404,979</b>	538,935

The charity has not provided an analysis of changes in net debt as it does not have any long term financing arrangements.

## Able Child Africa

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 1. Accounting policies

##### a) General information and basis of preparation

Able Child Africa is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. The registered office address is Unit 6 Madeira Tower, 34 Ponton Road, London, SW11 7BA.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Able Child Africa meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

##### b) Going concern basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from the government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of provision of earned income, sales, and consultancy is deferred until criteria for income recognition are met.

## **Able Child Africa**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **1. Accounting policies (continued)**

##### **d) Donated services and facilities**

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item, is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

##### **e) Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity: this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

##### **f) Funds accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

##### **g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

##### **h) Redundancy and termination benefits**

Where an employee receives a termination benefit the full cost is recognised at the date the employee is notified.

##### **i) Grants payable**

Grants payable are recognised as expenditure on the earlier of a) when the charity has a present obligation to transfer resources; and b) when the charity ceases to control the resource (e.g. via transferring funds to the grant recipient).

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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**1. Accounting policies (continued)****j) Allocation of support and governance costs**

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on the basis of staff numbers, as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
Raising funds	<b>26%</b>	22%
Charitable activities	<b>74%</b>	78%

**k) Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computers, database and website	33% reducing balance
Furniture and fittings	33% reducing balance

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500.

**l) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**m) Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**n) Creditors**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**o) Financial instruments**

The charitable company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently recognised at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**p) Pension costs**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for its employees. There are no further liabilities other than that already recognised in the SOFA.

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****1. Accounting policies (continued)****q) Foreign currency transactions**

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Balances denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the year end.

**r) Accounting estimates and key judgements**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are depreciation as described in note 1(k).

**2. Statement of financial activities: prior period comparatives**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations	-	390,448	390,448
Charitable activities	476,584	41,417	518,001
Other trading income	-	28,695	28,695
Investments	-	10,268	10,268
<b>Total income</b>	<u>476,584</u>	<u>470,828</u>	<u>947,412</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	-	184,968	184,968
Charitable activities	489,398	285,916	775,314
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<u>489,398</u>	<u>470,884</u>	<u>960,282</u>
<b>Net expenditure and net movement in funds</b>	<u>(12,814)</u>	<u>(56)</u>	<u>(12,870)</u>

## Able Child Africa

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 3. Income from donations

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>Total</b>	Total
	£	£
Sponsored challenge events	<b>99,086</b>	81,634
Fundraising events and community	<b>36,007</b>	48,391
Individual donors	<b>84,555</b>	48,941
Corporate donors	<b>122,867</b>	158,882
Gifts in kind*	<b>49,770</b>	42,600
Legacy income	<b>1,000</b>	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>393,285</u></b>	<b><u>390,448</u></b>

All donation income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

\*Gifts in kind relate to the following goods and services provided free of charge:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
Rent	<b>41,040</b>	39,600
Auction and event prizes	<b>8,730</b>	3,000
Gifts in kind	<b><u>49,770</u></b>	<b><u>42,600</u></b>

#### 4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted	Unrestricted	<b>2025</b>
	£	£	<b>Total</b>
			£
<i>Grants &gt; £10,000:</i>			
Vitol Foundation	129,355	-	<b>129,355</b>
States of Guernsey	49,492	-	<b>49,492</b>
Marr-Munning Trust	-	40,000	<b>40,000</b>
Comic Relief	38,000	-	<b>38,000</b>
Euromoney	35,000	-	<b>35,000</b>
The Bartlett Foundation	-	30,000	<b>30,000</b>
The Allen & Nesta Ferguson Trust	30,000	-	<b>30,000</b>
Sir Halley Stewart	29,994	-	<b>29,994</b>
Educational Opportunity Foundation	29,968	-	<b>29,968</b>
EA Foundation	24,542	-	<b>24,542</b>
Leggatt Trust	15,000	-	<b>15,000</b>
The Lewin Trust	15,000	-	<b>15,000</b>
The Coles-Medlock Foundation	10,000	-	<b>10,000</b>
Sisters of Mercy	-	10,000	<b>10,000</b>
<i>Smaller grants &lt; £10,000</i>	<u>16,150</u>	<u>14,977</u>	<b><u>31,127</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>422,501</u></b>	<b><u>94,977</u></b>	<b><u>517,478</u></b>

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****4. Income from charitable activities (continued)****Prior period comparative**

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	2024 Total £
<i>Grants &gt; £10,000:</i>			
Vitol Foundation	171,999	-	171,999
Comic Relief	134,966	-	134,966
Faroe Islands	68,825	-	68,825
The British & Foreign School Society	59,892	-	59,892
The Bartlett Foundation	-	30,000	30,000
Rangoonwala	25,000	-	25,000
The Marr Munning Trust	15,902	-	15,902
<i>Smaller grants &lt; £10,000</i>	-	11,417	11,417
<b>Total</b>	<b>476,584</b>	<b>41,417</b>	<b>518,001</b>

**Government grants**

The charitable company receives government grants, defined as funding from the Faroe Islands Ministry of Justice to fund charitable activities. The total value of such grants in the period ending 31 March 2025 was £nil (2024: £68,825). There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attaching to these grants in the prior year.

**5. Other trading income**

	<b>2025 Total £</b>	2024 Total £
Auction sales	<b>16,882</b>	15,160
Sales income	<b>729</b>	13,535
	<b>17,611</b>	28,695

All other trading income in the current and prior year was unrestricted.

## Able Child Africa

## Notes to the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

## 6. Total expenditure

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2025 Total £
Grants payable (note 7)	-	246,958	-	<b>246,958</b>
Staff costs (note 9)	112,983	321,683	50,501	<b>485,167</b>
Non-salaried personnel	-	10,014	32,394	<b>42,408</b>
Running costs	-	-	67,169	<b>67,169</b>
Fundraising and events	61,684	-	-	<b>61,684</b>
Governance	-	-	18,689	<b>18,689</b>
Programmes and operations	-	83,777	-	<b>83,777</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>174,667</b>	<b>662,432</b>	<b>168,753</b>	<b>1,005,852</b>
Allocation of support and governance costs	43,864	124,889	(168,753)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>218,531</b>	<b>787,321</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,005,852</b>
<b>Prior period comparative</b>				
	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	2024 Total £
Grants payable (note 7)	-	264,034	-	264,034
Staff costs (note 9)	90,589	315,899	45,171	451,659
Non-salaried personnel	-	14,556	16,024	30,580
Running costs	-	-	68,334	68,334
Fundraising and events	63,535	-	-	63,535
Governance	-	-	8,875	8,875
Programmes and operations	-	73,265	-	73,265
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>154,124</b>	<b>667,754</b>	<b>138,404</b>	<b>960,282</b>
Allocation of support and governance costs	30,844	107,560	(138,404)	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,968</b>	<b>775,314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>960,282</b>

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****7. Grants payable to institutions**

Grants were paid to the following overseas partner organisations in pursuit of the charity's objects:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
Action Network for Disabled Youth (ANDY)	<b>35,441</b>	50,357
Zambia Association of Parents for Children with Disabilities (ZAPCD)	<b>108,756</b>	82,694
Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC)	<b>31,782</b>	58,709
Child Support Tanzania (CST)	<b>4,445</b>	12,240
UWEZO Youth Empowerment	<b>33,620</b>	17,029
Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA)	-	42,507
Parents of Disabled Children Association of Malawi (PODCAM)	<b>32,914</b>	498
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>246,958</u></b>	<b><u>264,034</u></b>

**8. Net movement in funds**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	<b>2,655</b>	1,649
Trustees' remuneration	<b>Nil</b>	Nil
Trustees' reimbursed expenses	<b>523</b>	Nil
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
▪ Statutory audit	<b>5,900</b>	5,550
▪ Other services	<b>-</b>	350
	<b><u>-</u></b>	<b><u>350</u></b>

In common with other charities of our size and nature we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements and to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities.

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****9. Staff costs and numbers**

Staff costs were as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	<b>427,642</b>	398,686
Social security costs	<b>37,843</b>	34,261
Pension costs	<b>16,503</b>	15,737
Other staff costs	<b>3,179</b>	2,975
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>485,167</u></b>	<u>451,659</u>

Included in salaries and wages are redundancy and termination costs totalling £7,500, comprising settlement payments. Redundancy and termination costs have been funded from unrestricted general funds.

One employee earned between £60,001 and £70,000 during the year, and one employee earned between £70,001 and £80,000 (2024: one employee earned between £70,001 and £80,000).

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the co-CEOs. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel, including gross salary, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions were £155,501 (2024: £94,503).

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	No.	No.
Average head count	<b><u>11.00</u></b>	<u>10.40</u>

**10. Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****11. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 April 2024	<b>20,896</b>
Additions	<b>4,668</b>
	<b>25,564</b>
At 31 March 2025	<b>25,564</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 April 2024	<b>17,597</b>
Charge for the year	<b>2,655</b>
	<b>20,252</b>
At 31 March 2025	<b>20,252</b>
<b>Net book value At 31 March 2025</b>	<b>5,312</b>
At 31 March 2024	<b>3,299</b>

**12. Debtors**

	<b>2025 £</b>	2024 £
Trade debtors	<b>10,174</b>	-
Accrued income	<b>65,038</b>	16,593
Prepayments	<b>25,344</b>	32,681
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,556</b>	49,274

Included with prepayments are £nil (2023: £4,933) of prepayments relating to more than one year in the future.

**13. Creditors: amounts due within 1 year**

	<b>2025 £</b>	2024 £
Trade creditors	-	11,791
Accruals	<b>9,351</b>	7,700
Other taxation and social security	<b>9,879</b>	10,975
Other creditors	<b>588</b>	2,994
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,818</b>	33,460

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****14. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	5,312	<b>5,312</b>
Current assets	261,783	243,752	<b>505,535</b>
Current liabilities	-	(19,818)	<b>(19,818)</b>
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2025</b>	<b><u>261,783</u></b>	<b><u>229,246</u></b>	<b><u>491,029</u></b>

**Prior period comparative**

	Restricted funds £	General funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	3,299	3,299
Current assets	332,511	255,698	588,209
Current liabilities	-	(33,460)	(33,460)
<b>Net assets at 31 March 2024</b>	<b><u>332,511</u></b>	<b><u>225,537</u></b>	<b><u>558,048</u></b>

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025****15. Movements in funds**

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY	12,789	14,984	(27,773)	-
The British and Foreign School Society - USDC	14,763	14,984	(29,747)	-
Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling	81,387	38,000	(72,975)	<b>46,412</b>
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY	1,000	-	(1,000)	-
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	(60)	-
Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO	7,124	35,000	(39,274)	<b>2,850</b>
Faroe Islands - ZAPCD	44,089	-	(44,089)	-
Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission	-	49,492	(34,797)	<b>14,695</b>
The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC	6,523	-	(6,523)	-
Network for Social Change - UWEZO	3,819	-	(3,819)	-
Rangoonwala Foundation – CST	4,016	2,500	(6,516)	-
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	77,716	90,676	(99,189)	<b>69,203</b>
Vitol Foundation - PODCAM	79,225	38,679	(50,418)	<b>67,486</b>
Leggatt - ZAPCD	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
James Tudor Foundation - ZAPCD	-	8,650	(8,650)	-
The Coles-Medlock Trust - ZAPCD	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
EA Foundation - ANDY	-	24,542	(19,134)	<b>5,408</b>
Mercers - USDC	-	5,000	(4,995)	<b>5</b>
Sir Halley Foundation - UWEZO	-	29,994	(7,232)	<b>22,762</b>
The Allen & Nesta Foundation - PODCAM	-	30,000	(11,413)	<b>18,587</b>
Lewin Trust - USDC	-	15,000	(625)	<b>14,375</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>332,511</u>	<u>422,501</u>	<u>(493,229)</u>	<u>261,783</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	<u>225,537</u>	<u>516,332</u>	<u>(512,623)</u>	<u>229,246</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>225,537</u>	<u>516,332</u>	<u>(512,623)</u>	<u>229,246</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>558,048</u></u>	<u><u>938,833</u></u>	<u><u>(1,005,852)</u></u>	<u><u>491,029</u></u>

## Able Child Africa

## Notes to the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 March 2025

## 15. Movements in funds (continued)

## Prior period comparative

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY	9,160	29,907	(26,278)	12,789
The British and Foreign School Society - USDC	3,134	29,985	(18,356)	14,763
Comic Relief - Cost of living Grant	15,000	-	(15,000)	-
Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling	47,500	95,000	(61,113)	81,387
Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY	31,218	32,386	(62,604)	1,000
Comic Relief – Take All My Friends to School - CST	4,773	-	(4,773)	-
Comic Relief - IECE 4 ME! - USDC	37,210	7,580	(44,790)	-
Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other	60	-	-	60
Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO	29,872	-	(22,748)	7,124
Faroe Islands - ZAPCD	-	68,825	(24,736)	44,089
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission	1,908	-	(1,908)	-
The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC	11,992	15,902	(21,371)	6,523
Network for Social Change - UWEZO	15,775	-	(11,956)	3,819
Rangoonwala Foundation – CST	(3,665)	25,000	(17,319)	4,016
Vitol Foundation - FEDOMA	67,147	-	(67,147)	-
Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD	74,241	92,774	(89,299)	77,716
Vitol Foundation - PODCAM	-	79,225	-	79,225
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>345,325</b>	<b>476,584</b>	<b>(489,398)</b>	<b>332,511</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	225,593	470,828	(470,884)	225,537
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>225,593</b>	<b>470,828</b>	<b>(470,884)</b>	<b>225,537</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>570,918</b>	<b>947,412</b>	<b>(960,282)</b>	<b>558,048</b>

## Able Child Africa

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 15. Movements in funds (continued)

##### Purposes of restricted funds

###### *The British and Foreign School Society - ANDY*

This two-year project seeks to improve disability-inclusion of female youth with disabilities in vocational training and employment. It aims to do so by addressing the triple discrimination that many young women with disabilities in Kenya face in trying to access employment due to their gender, disability, and state of being youth. Female youth with disabilities will gain from training opportunities in employability skills, entrepreneurial business development and business leadership. The project will utilise a mentorship model, with female youth with disabilities also being supported to establish tested enterprises through seed funding or being matched with employment opportunities.

###### *The British and Foreign School Society - USDC*

This two-year project seeks to improve access to inclusive education for children and youth with disabilities in northern Ugandan refugee settlements. The children of refugees and displaced people living with disabilities face many challenges in accessing basic human rights including access to quality education. Using a multifaceted approach, working with children and youth with disabilities, teachers, and duty-bearers (government officials, community members, parents), activities include the identification and enrolment of out-of-schools children with disabilities, mentoring of children to keep them in education, training of teachers on inclusive methodologies and advocacy with local and national government officials.

###### *Comic Relief - Deepening and Scaling*

The deepening and strengthening project consists of three overarching phases of activities to review and consolidate, adapt and deepen and strengthen and scale the inclusive education programmes delivered by Able Child Africa Network members. The project seeks to produce an inclusive education toolbox while supporting Able Child's role in building the capacity of Network members.

###### *Comic Relief – Ready, Steady, Go - ANDY*

This three-year grant supported seeks to improve access to quality inclusive ECE for children with disabilities aged four to six in Nairobi, Kenya. This project will develop effective early identification systems, build the capacity of key ECD duty-bearers, and design an innovative Inclusive Play Programme to sustainably and holistically address barriers to their inclusion.

###### *Child Support Tanzania (CST) – Other*

This consisted of a 1-year grant from the The Leggatt Trust. The grants provided top-up funding to support our inclusive education programme in Tanzania and ensured children with disabilities received medical assessments during the project lifecycle.

###### *Euromoney Institutional Investor Plc. – UWEZO*

This three-year project seeks to make Rwandan child protection systems more disability-inclusive for children with disabilities. The project adopts a community-based inclusive development approach to target child protection systems in Gasabo, Rwanda and looks to ensure that children with disabilities can equitably access child protection systems.

## Able Child Africa

### Notes to the financial statements

#### For the year ended 31 March 2025

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#### 15. Movements in funds (continued)

##### Purposes of restricted funds

###### *The Government of the Faroe Islands – ZAPCD*

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face, such as through the development of an early year's child functioning assessment tool.

###### *Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission*

This project will support unemployed parents of children with disabilities and youth with disabilities to access a new Inclusive Livelihoods Hub. This project will provide youth with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities with space and resources so they can sustainably lift themselves out of poverty. The newly constructed Hub will be accessible, community-owned and fully equipped to cater for different businesses, with bespoke livelihoods training, and access to rotating loan schemes and business management support.

###### *The Marr-Munning Trust - USDC*

This three-year project expands on our previous programme funded by The Marr-Munning Trust to directly support the education of 60 children with disabilities across six schools in Lira, Northern Uganda. It will support the scale-up and merge of two previously developed tools; an Individualised Learning Plan (ILP) and a disability screening tool, supporting teachers to identify areas for improvement that aids children with disabilities' learning and development.

###### *Network for Social Change - UWEZO*

This innovative one-year pilot project directly responds to a significant gap identified in Rwanda's mental health service provision for children with disabilities. This project seeks to make mental health provision more inclusive through the creation and testing of an innovative mental health guide, as well as a 'toolbox' of inclusive mental health tools for children and youth with disabilities.

###### *Rangoonwala Foundation – CST*

This three-year project seeks to improve the health and education of children with disabilities in Mbeya, Tanzania. Utilising the brand-new physiotherapy room at Child Support Tanzania's Early Childhood Education Centre, the project will ensure children with disabilities are supported both at school and in their homes, where their parents will also receive guidance to better support their children's rehabilitative needs.

###### *Vitol Foundation - ZAPCD*

The 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project seeks to ensure children with disabilities aged three to six equitably access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. The project's innovative inclusive ECE methodology will tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face in accessing IECE through targeted interventions with different stakeholders.

## **Able Child Africa**

### **Notes to the financial statements**

#### **For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **15. Movements in funds (continued)**

##### **Purposes of restricted funds**

###### *Vitol Foundation – PODCAM*

This three-year project seeks to scale up the FEDOMA Vitol Foundation project by supporting more children with disabilities to equitably access Early Childhood Development in Malawi. FEDOMA will support PODCAM to adopt the approaches used previously, working in both the same and in new ECE centres to create greater impact for children with disabilities.

###### *The Leggatt Trust – ZAPCD*

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will tackle the complex barriers children with disabilities face, such as through the development of an inclusive play programme guide.

###### *The James Tudor Foundation – ZAPCD*

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will specifically focus on the provision of medical assessments and assistive devices to support children's access.

###### *The Coles-Medlock Foundation – ZAPCD*

This project seeks to further support the delivery of the 'Onse Ana Apunzile' project, where children with disabilities aged three to six years old are supported to access inclusive Early Childhood Education (IECE) in Chadiza, Zambia. Activities will specifically support girls with disabilities by addressing the specific barriers they face.

###### *EA Foundation – ANDY*

This project will draw on our collective experience to understand how best to effectively and sustainably address the poverty and exclusion experienced by parents of children with disabilities in Nairobi. Activities will address barriers associated with having children with disabilities, generate concrete evidence of what works and inform the production of a specialist guide for organisations across the sector to replicate success.

###### *The Mercers Company – USDC*

This project will support the inclusive education of displaced children and youth with disabilities in Northern Uganda. Key activities will include the identification and enrolment of out-of-schools children with disabilities, mentoring of children to keep them in education, training for teachers on inclusive methodologies and advocacy with local and national government officials.

###### *Sir Halley Stewart Trust – UWEZO*

This project will strengthen mental health provision for children and youth with disabilities in Rwanda by building the capacity of youth with disabilities to advocate for more gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive mental health services. Youth with disabilities will be empowered to become inclusive mental health champions, conducting research and mapping exercises, assessing existing mental health services, suggesting ways to improve their accessibility, and engaging with government to ensure long-term changes to mental health provision and policy.

**Able Child Africa****Notes to the financial statements****For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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**15. Movements in funds (continued)****Purposes of restricted funds***Allan and Nesta Ferguson Trust – PODCAM*

This one-year project provides top-up funding for the PODCAM Vitol Foundation project. This project will further improve children with disabilities' access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) through innovative, inclusive, caregiver-run play schemes and the capacity building of actors responsible for early years development including government, (in)formal ECD service providers, communities, parents, and children with disabilities themselves.

*The Lewin Trust – USDC*

This project will contribute towards a more inclusive and equitable Early Childhood Education system in Uganda, with a primary aim of creating a stronger foundation for children with disabilities' lifelong learning. This will be achieved through a participatory approach to developing and training 18 teachers on a digitalised tool, which improves children with disabilities' access to quality inclusive education. The tool builds on the paper-based version developed as part of the Marr-Munning Trust- funded project.

**16. Related party transactions**

During the year, 6 Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £9,850 (2024: £9,500 from 4 Trustees).



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Able Child is a registered charity (no. 326859) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 1861434) in England and Wales under the name Able Child Africa.