



impact
REPORT 2018



Our vision is to see a world where all children are given opportunities, not handouts, to reach their full potential.

We empower vulnerable children to move beyond charity.

Over 380 million children worldwide live in extreme poverty. Among this population, orphans and child-led families are especially vulnerable to isolation and exploitation. In partnership with local leaders, we identify these young people within a community and provide them with tools, resources and training to pull themselves out of poverty—for good.

Handouts help orphans survive, empowerment helps them thrive.

After witnessing well-intended relief organizations enter her Rwandan village and leave behind a community dependent upon handouts to survive, Epiphanie Mujawimana decided something needed to change. Although community members of all ages utilized the outside aid, Epiphanie noticed orphans were impacted the most severely when it went away. She, along with a team of social workers, took action to lay the foundation for the program Zoe Empowers uses today.

Without orphanages, food banks or other common handouts, the empowerment model goes against the grain of traditional charitable giving practices. Instead, orphans receive training and resources specific to their personal needs giving each child the opportunity to implement the lessons learned in the program for themselves while being held accountable and encouraged by their empowerment group.

By promoting independent decisions, with the support of a community, the confidence and dignity gained is sustainable well beyond the three-year program. Program graduates continue to lift the entire community by conducting businesses, sharing their skills and knowledge, and reaching out to support others.



***We know we have succeeded
when children begin to stand up
and find their voice."***

– Reegan Kaberia, Zoe Empowers Chief Program Officer and Director for Zoe Kenya



Table of Contents—

The Orphan Crisis	8
Our Solution	10
How It Works	12
Graduates Make History	16
Country Impact in 2018	
<i>Kenya</i>	18
<i>Rwanda</i>	20
<i>Zimbabwe</i>	22
<i>Malawi</i>	24
<i>Liberia</i>	26
<i>India</i>	28
<i>Guatemala</i>	28
Impact Data	30
Financials & Program Impact	34
Board Members & Staff	35
Partnership	36
A Letter from the CEO	38



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The Orphan Crisis—

Orphans and vulnerable children living in extreme poverty are abused, sick and isolated from their community. Handouts and begging help them to survive temporarily.

Poverty impacts 8 areas of a child's life.

-  Children go days without food resulting in severe malnutrition causing other physical and mental health complications.
-  Inadequate shelter makes children vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and illness.
-  Limited access to healthcare and a lack of hygiene leads to life-threatening disease and poor health.
-  Education is not accessible or sustainable for children who are sick, homeless and unable to afford school fees.
-  Legitimate jobs paying a living wage are inaccessible to orphans and vulnerable children.
-  Vulnerable children are unaware of their rights and their voices are not heard because of their social status.
-  Orphans and vulnerable children have lost hope of belonging because of being isolated and stigmatized.
-  Isolation leads children to believe God has forgotten and even abandoned them.



Our Solution—

We simultaneously address multiple challenges, across eight areas of life, equipping vulnerable children with the knowledge and skills to overcome poverty through their own efforts.

From beggars to bosses in 3 years.



FOOD SECURITY

Children are able to buy or learn to grow their own food resulting in nutritious and ample meals for households with surplus to share and sell.



SECURE HOUSING

Secure housing is acquired by using business profits to rent or purchase land and building materials.



HEALTH & HYGIENE

Hygiene is taught to avoid disease, and access to healthcare is acquired for when young people do fall ill.



EDUCATION

Child-led families have the tools and motivation to re-enroll in or begin a formal education, with some even attending college and beyond.



INCOME GENERATION

Children own multiple businesses employing their siblings, orphans, widows and other community members.



CHILD RIGHTS

Human rights training is taught so children can stand up for themselves and those around them.



COMMUNITY

The sense of belonging to their peer group transcends into larger society as they move from being beggars to entrepreneurs and leaders.



SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

While we are a religiously non-restrictive program, children experience the gospel through words and actions in ways that are always inviting but never coercive.

How It Works

Because we only provide resources as on-ramps, every donation is leveraged by these young people to meet their own needs across eight areas of life. Our program is economically efficient, allowing supporters to maximize their impact in partnership with orphans and vulnerable children.





It all starts with a group.



We train holistically.



Dignity is restored.



Communities are lifted.

YEAR ONE

We unite orphans into a peer group (60-100 children) within their community.

Together, the members begin setting goals to pull themselves permanently out of extreme poverty within the next three years. Regular meetings and group projects facilitate a sense of safety, connection and trust.

YEAR TWO

We facilitate group lessons and individualized vocational training to meet each child's needs and goals.

Businesses begin to thrive. Children find encouragement and support from their group as they apply what they have learned, overcoming individual obstacles.

YEAR THREE

Children find their voices and transform their lives while community members bear witness to their empowerment journey.

They begin to see themselves as valued members of the community and are often called upon to teach their knowledge and skills.

A NEW, BETTER CYCLE BEGINS

As a child exits the cycle of poverty, a new cycle centered on kindness begins.

Graduates actively mentor and adopt other vulnerable children, lead social change and seek ways to give back, benefiting an entire community in the process.



Graduates make history.

Last fall, empowerment groups in Kenya united for “Thanksgiving”, a two-month initiative, self-organized among the groups as an expression of gratitude. An impressive \$12,415 USD (enough to fund half an empowerment group in another country) was raised by over 1,800

children, making it the single largest donation from group members ever! Another Zoe Empowers supporter from the U.S. agreed to match funds raised by the Kenya participants. The children decided to fund a group in Malawi, which began in January 2019.

A POWERFUL PEER VISIT

Seven months into the program, Zoe Empowers staff facilitated a visit from two of the Kenya donors/graduates, Pamela and John. They shared their experiences, visited homes and businesses, answered questions and offered advice to their Malawi peers. Pamela encouraged the group to continue to show love for one another. “With love

you can surpass money,” she explained. “With love, you can do more for each other. That is why program participants are supporting more children with fundraising. It is because of love.” John and Pamela never imagined they would become donors, but both felt “blessed” to give the Malawi group the strength to continue.



Pamela (left) and John (right), both Kenya graduates, are two of the donors who have become Empowerment Group Partners with the Tithandizane group in Malawi.



“

Giving is not about what you have. It's about what is in your heart.”

– John, 2018 Kenya graduate & donor



"We had young minds to succeed but lacked the resources to make it happen. Zoe Empowers made a bridge for sound minds to cross to success. Today, I can take myself to the next level of education and pay for my own university education. I want to become a journalist."

– Joe phat

Kenya

CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER &
KENYA COUNTRY MANAGER

Reegan Kaberia

12,010

children empowered

116

empowerment groups

\$921,844

invested in programs, services and grants

95%

of Kenya graduates surveyed report that through their work they can pay all the school expenses for their household.





"We used to be called dogs for sleeping outside and on most days we did not know where each other were living. Because of Zoe Empowers, we are no longer wandering. My proudest moment was the day I put my feet in our house because it meant reunification with my brothers, no longer being called street children, and a healthy future."

– Jean Claude with brothers, Jean Batise and Nkomeje

Rwanda

EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FOUNDER
& RWANDA COUNTRY MANAGER

Epiphany Mujawimana

10,356

children empowered

115

empowerment groups

\$868,237

invested in programs, services and grants

99.5%

of Rwanda graduates surveyed report they live in an adequate/safe home.





"I used to wash clothes for a woman in my community who would only pay me with food. When my son became sick, I asked her if she could pay me with money so I could take him to the clinic. She told me that I will always live in poverty and was not worth receiving medical care. Today, that same woman lives in poverty. I always give her vegetables to assist her. I am no longer stigmatized by my community and this gives me gratitude in my heart motivating me to help others."

– Sharleen

Zimbabwe

COUNTRY MANAGER
Barbara Matsanga

8,408 children empowered **96** empowerment groups

\$600,298 invested in programs, services and grants

98.6% of Zimbabwe graduates report they feel like a valuable member of their community.





"I have not yet graduated from the Zoe Empowers program but already, after only two years, I am completely self-sufficient. Today, my family has food, clothing, a beautiful home and my siblings are in school. I named my shop 'Mphatso' because it means "Gift". Zoe Empowers has been a gift from God."

– Martha

Malawi

COUNTRY MANAGER

Mercy Chikhosi

6,722

children empowered

70

empowerment groups

\$437,912

invested in programs, services and grants

93%

of group members surveyed in Malawi report they can sufficiently provide food, clothing, school expenses and other necessities for their household by the 2nd year of the program.



MPHATSO Shop



"I not only know my rights but am equipped to enforce them and teach others to do the same. I was a vulnerable orphan when I entered the Zoe Empowerment Program, and today I am a Zoe Empowerment Group Mentor. As a young man, I want to educate others about their rights, together, working for change. This is how we will put an end to gender-based violence."

– Henry

Liberia

COUNTRY MANAGER

Isaac Dowah

4,071

children empowered

47

empowerment groups

\$330,142

invested in programs, services and grants

100%

of graduates surveyed in Liberia report knowing their rights and how to enforce them.





India

COUNTRY MANAGER

Jabez Williams

3,428

children empowered

48

empowerment groups

\$307,348

invested in programs, services and grants

Guatemala

COUNTRY MANAGER

Carla Gonzalez

918

children empowered

14

empowerment groups

\$151,200

invested in programs, services and grants

Impact Data

In partnership with SAS Institute Inc., a world leader in business analytics along with supporters with an expertise in social sciences, we are proud to share the results from our systematic data gathering process.

HOW WE MEASURE

We measure the results of the empowerment program for orphans and vulnerable children through gathering and analyzing data drawn directly from randomized program participants.

OUR RESULTS

Young participants move from the hopelessness of crushing poverty to meeting their needs across eight major life areas: food security, secure housing, health and hygiene, child-rights, education, income generation, community connections, and spiritual strength.





100%

say that boys and girls are treated equally in their group.

ZIMBABWE GRADUATES



96%

employ orphans, widows or other members of their community.

RWANDA GRADUATES

98%

feel God loves them

KENYA GRADUATES

99%

made home repairs or improvements, or moved to a better home.

LIBERIA GRADUATES

100%

can afford 3 meals if he/she wants them

LIBERIA GRADUATES



96%

taught their acquired vocational skills to others.

KENYA GRADUATES



90%

have savings in cash, livestock or other assets.

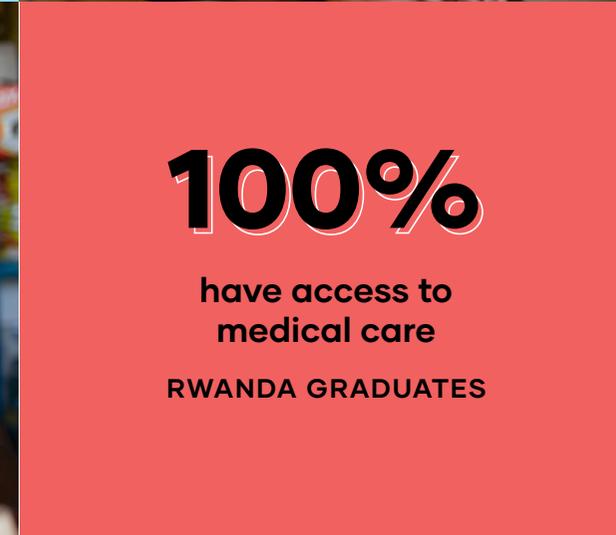
MALAWI GRADUATES



100%

have access to medical care

RWANDA GRADUATES



Financials & Program Impact

\$7.38

Monthly cost per child

\$88.56

Annual cost per child

\$265.68

3-year cost per child

45,914

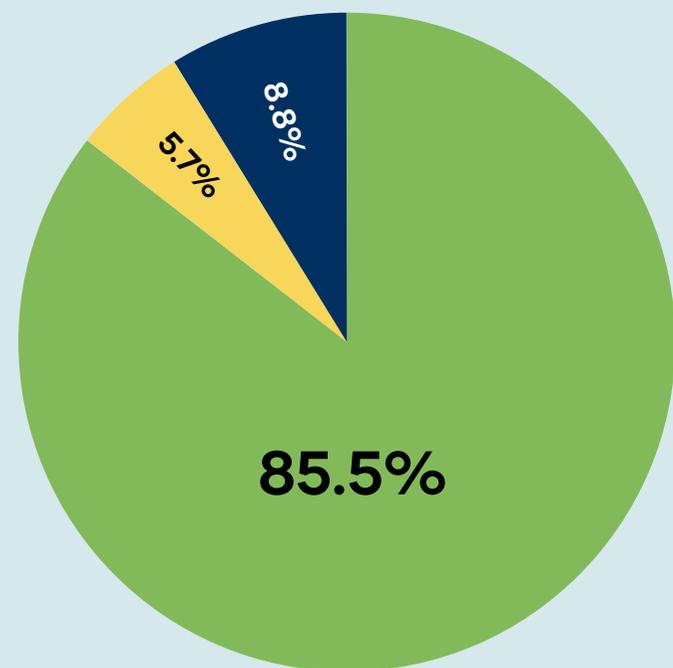
Children served in 2018

92,817

Children impacted since 2007

1,400

Indigenous volunteers



\$5,519,092

Total revenue in 2018*

- Programs, services and grants
- Administrative
- Fundraising

US BOARD MEMBERS

Donna Banks

Lead Pastor, McMannen UMC

Ann Eppinger *vice chair*

President of Eppinger & Associates, LLC

Chris Graebe

Founding attorney, Graebe Hanna & Sullivan, PLLC

Mark Konen

Retired President of Lincoln Financial Group, Insurance and Retirement

Mike Mandl

Executive VP of Piedmont Health-care

Erik Ross

Sales Executive with Accenture

Jaye White *ex-officio*

Outreach Ministry Coordinator, NC Conference of the United Methodist

Michael Wilson

Executive for Netsmart Technologies

Stan Bradshaw *treasurer*

Chairman of the Board Pulaski Financial Corporation

Linda Folger *secretary*

Executive Vice President for HUB International Southwest

Emmanuel Jackson

Lead Pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church

Mark La Branche

President of Martin Methodist College

Mark McAndrew *board chair*

Retired CEO and Chairman of the Board of Torchmark Corp

Abbie Shipp

Associate Professor of Management of Texas Christian University

Matthew Williams

Senior Pastor, Lighthouse United Methodist Church, Florida

Nancy Van Antwerp *ex-officio*

Deaconess in the United Methodist Church, NC Conference

US STAFF

Gaston Warner *ceo*

Randy Wiersma *coo*

Elena Ballam

Toni Cole

Ruth Hillmann

Lyndsey Lessner

Kristin Magee

Laura Nemecek

Tina Schmidt

Three ways to partner.

Empowerment Group Partner

By investing in a full empowerment group of 60-100 orphans and vulnerable children (\$8,500 a year for three years) or a half group (\$4,250 a year), Empowerment Group Partners help dreams come true, determine the country in which they partner, and receive regular reports on the young people in their group.

Collective Partner

By committing to a monthly gift and choosing the number of children you wish to impact, your donation is pooled with others to fund entire groups in the country of greatest need. Regular reports are provided.

Campaign Partner

Campaign partners get creative in how they fund their group partnerships, through birthday campaigns, social media, circle of friends, or corporate campaigns. You choose the country of impact. Zoe Empowers can assist in setting up a fundraising web page and share additional ideas.

| For more information on ways to give, visit: zoeempowers.org.

Partner with us in empowering orphans and vulnerable children to become socially, economically, and spiritually strong.

zoeempowers.org/partner



Impact made simple and powerful.

Dear Friends of Zoe Empowers,

Who knew how important data would be? We have always tracked the progress of orphans and vulnerable children moving through the three-year empowerment program. However, in 2018 we implemented a systematic data gathering process. The numbers you see throughout this report, and on the zoeempowers.org website, are the result of two years of working with program staff on methodology and implementation to yield the best possible measurements of the empowerment program impacts.

The already busy program staff at Zoe Empowers were happy to add this piece to their case load, because they knew what these numbers would show—miraculous and sustainable transformations within a few short years. Through the hard work of staff, volunteer experts in assessment, and SAS Institute Inc., a world leader in business analytics who donated the talent of their Data for Good team, the results have been impressive.

I am a little embarrassed to admit I did not think many people would be interested in this data. Stories of an individual orphans' transformation are powerful, while numbers can seem detached and clinical. However, we needed to show the results of this distinctive mission in more systematic ways because of a strange problem - large granting organizations did not believe our empowerment model could accomplish all we claim for so little money!

For Zoe Empowers, empowerment means never doing anything for these young people that they could do for themselves and each other. In addition to being effective, this approach is exceptionally cost efficient. The ability to quantify results, while showing how rapidly participants achieve success across every area of life, has been a game-changer. We have also found that churches, groups and individual supporters value having data to add breadth and depth to the amazing stories of life transformation.

Here is our promise to you: we will continue improving our data collection system and sharing the results with you. We will also track these groups over time, better showing their progress even past graduation. At the same time, we will continue sharing inspiring stories of orphans and vulnerable children rising above suffering to self-sufficiency and paying this forward to others.

Can you help us spread the word of what these young people are accomplishing? I know of no other program achieving these results in working with children in ultra-poverty. God has entrusted something extraordinary to us, will you help steward this exceptional mission through your introductions?

With gratitude,

Gaston Warner

Gaston Warner, CEO
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We empower vulnerable children to move beyond charity.

*“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord.
“They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to
give you a future filled with hope.”
- Jeremiah 29:11*

*Zoe Empowers is a 501(c)(3) organization
All donations are tax-deductible*