



Project Overview:

The Realising Inclusive and Safe Education (RISE) project is a five-year initiative (July 2024 – March 2029) funded by the Scottish Government and implemented in Malawi, Zambia, and Rwanda. Led by Link Education International, the project works in Kabwe and Chibombo Districts in Zambia to strengthen inclusive and safe education systems for children with disabilities, particularly girls, through partnerships with government, regional and local organisations.



Context:

Zambia continues to make progress toward inclusive education. However, significant challenges remain in identifying and supporting children with disabilities. Many learners continue to face barriers to enrolment, participation, and learning due to weak screening and referral systems, limited teacher capacity in inclusive pedagogy, inadequate access to assistive devices and inclusive learning materials, inaccessible school environments, and limited coordination between education, health and social welfare systems, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Key interventions:

1. Supporting identification, screening, assessment, referral, and assistive device provision.
2. Support teacher and leader professional development.
3. Community engagement and governance.
4. Strengthening safeguarding systems.



Achievements 2025/2026:

- 50,000+ learners reached across 246 schools; 47,249 learners screened, representing 99% primary learner screening coverage achieved in Kabwe District.
- 1,180 learners were assessed for disabilities at school level, with 813 identified as having a disability with 396 assistive devices and technologies distributed to schools and LWDs.
- 2,168 teachers and school leaders trained in inclusive education practice.
- 89 Community Champions and 105 Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWACs) trained and active across 29 wards in Kabwe. 100+ out of school children identified and actively being linked to schools.
- Parents and caregivers engaged through sensitisation campaigns and support groups.
- School-hospital referral pathways strengthened through Kabwe Central Hospital.

Key activities 2026/2027:

- Continue learner screening, identification, and assessment; expand provision of assistive devices to newly identified learners.
- Continue professional development for teachers and school leaders with a focus on inclusive pedagogy and IEP development and monitoring.
- Strengthen community engagement through support groups, sensitisation events, and Community Champion networks.
- Support sustainability through national advocacy, coaching and mentoring support, and government systems integration.
- Provide ongoing safeguarding orientations to support safe schools and communities for CWDs, and strengthen case reporting.

Key partnerships:

- Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), Ministry of Health (MOH), Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD), Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) Zambia Police Child Protection Unit (ZP-CPU)
- Community structures and local authorities – Schools, Parent Support Groups, Community Champions.

Contact:

Zambia Lead: Kafeka Alutuli KAlutuli@STS-Zambia.org

Grant Lead: Dr Samantha Ross, Executive Director Programmes & Partnerships
samantha@linkeducation.org.uk

Social media: [Facebook](#), X: [_School-to-School Zambia \(@sts_Zambia\)](#) / X

LinkedIn: [_School-to-School Zambia: Company Page Admin](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Website: <https://sts-international.org/country/zambia/>