

STS Zambia Newsletter: December 2025



R I S E

**Realising Inclusive
and Safe Education**

***Inclusive Schools: The Key to Achieving
Inclusive Education***



Today, on December 3, 2025, we join the United Nations and the global community in commemorating the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)**. Since 1992, this day has served as a powerful reminder of the rights of persons with disabilities and the urgent need to create an inclusive society where everyone can thrive.

This year's theme, *"Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress,"* calls for collective action to ensure that inclusion is at the heart of development.

As School-to-School Zambia, we are proud to contribute to this vision through the *Realising Inclusive and Safe Education (RISE)* Project, which breaks down critical barriers to education for children with disabilities, particularly girls. Through RISE, Schools are being empowered with inclusive education trainings which are equipping school headteachers and teachers with the knowledge and practical skills to create inclusive learning environments.

One inspiring example is *Nkwashi Primary School*, which has made significant strides towards inclusive Education.

Before RISE, Nkwashi Primary faced significant challenges. Although it had a class for learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN), the school lacked the knowledge and skills to foster true inclusion. Many learners with disabilities missed classes due to negative attitudes from parents, peers, and teachers. Discrimination was most severe against learners with physical and intellectual disabilities, who were often laughed at and excluded. There were no deliberate programs to educate teachers and learners about disability inclusion, and the school's infrastructure was far from accessible with no ramps, or modified toilets and the surrounding had so many physical obstacles.

In April and August this year, RISE conducted impactful teacher training activities that changed everything. Teacher Training 1 focused on the foundations of inclusive education, the formation of School Inclusion Teams, and screening and assessment techniques. Teacher Training 2 strengthened teachers' capacity to create safe, responsive, and inclusive classrooms. The leadership Training equipped school headteachers to promote whole-school inclusion, collaborative lesson planning, reasonable accommodations, and child safeguarding. Over 1,500 teachers and headteachers in Kabwe district were trained, and for Nkwashi Primary, this was a turning point.

After the training, Nkwashi Primary appointed a School Inclusive Education Coordinator and began screening learners for diverse disabilities. Further, the school tackled physical barriers by removing obstacles from corridors and aisles and installed ramps for accessibility. Weekly disability inclusion awareness talks during assemblies have changed attitudes. Discrimination has significantly reduced, and parents are more engaged and are appreciating the school's efforts.



One of the most inspiring outcomes is the story of Chama, a Grade 6 learner with visual and intellectual disabilities. Previously in a special unit, Chama was integrated into the mainstream class in January 2025. Because of the RISE capacity-building trainings, her teachers are now equipped with the skills and confidence to provide the tailored support she needs to learn effectively within the classroom. Chanda now attends classes regularly and has improved both academically and socially.

Similarly, Faith, a Grade 1 learner with learning difficulties, struggled to grasp lessons and often fell behind her peers. After teacher training 2, the School Inclusive Education Coordinator and Faith's teacher created an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) for her, Jane's numeracy skills have greatly improved and both she and her teacher enjoy classes much more.



Mr. Mubita, the School Education Inclusion Coordinator shared:

"We had learners who stopped coming to school, but they have now improved their attendance. The inclusive education pedagogy has seen a general improvement in the learners academically and socially. RISE Inclusive Education trainings have helped us as a school."

School-to-School Zambia, through the RISE Project, remains committed to promoting inclusive education. The project is implemented in Zambia, Malawi, and Rwanda through a consortium led by Link Education International.

Together, we can foster disability-inclusive societies and advance social progress ensuring that no child is left behind.



Scottish Government



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EDUCATION



Chance for
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