

UNITED CHILDREN OF AFRICA

Organisational Overview



UNICA's Mission

To collectively work with communities to support and empower children and youth through sustainable development initiatives for the benefit of present and future generations.

UNICA's Vision

A world in which all children and youth are free to enjoy their childhood with equal rights and opportunities to reach their full potential.

United Children of Africa (UNICA) is a not-for-profit organization working with vulnerable children and youth in under-privileged communities in Zimbabwe. The organization was founded in 2010 by a group of young people from Zimbabwe and Denmark, with an aim of uplifting the livelihoods of children and youth in Africa through supporting communities.

Children in Africa live in a world of unjust inequalities between the world's rich and poor regions, in HIV prevalence, human rights, economic development and access to healthcare. Many young people in Africa and around the world are deeply passionate about tackling these challenges, but often feel unable or unsure about how to make a difference.

UNICA harnesses young people's passion for social change and equips them with the skills, resources, and community to fight HIV/AIDS among other challenges, to promote equality now and throughout their lives. Combating global challenges into the future requires strong leadership and innovative ideas from young people.

UNICA is a non-political and non-religious NGO governed by a Board of Trust, made up of highly skilled members of the development community from Zimbabwe and Denmark. UNICA has built skills, capacities and a network of active supporters, and is gaining a solid reputation in its programming.

Victoria Falls Child Centre

In 2012, UNICA launched a Child Centre in Victoria Falls. The Centre includes indoor and outdoor games for children aged 5 to 15 and youth between 16 and 25. Targeting youth, the Centre acts as a recreational hub bringing youths out of risky places they might otherwise find themselves in due to lack of entertainment and employment opportunities.

New Sizinda Child Centre

Due to the success of UNICA's first Child Centre, construction is underway to establish another Centre in Sizinda, a rural community 20 kilometres outside of Victoria Falls. The construction phase is generously being supported by the Elisabeth Foundation. The Sizinda community has donated the land for the Centre and community members have mobilized by collecting local building material such as bricks and river sand.



Education Support: Income Generating Project (IGP)

With the support of generous donations from individuals, UNICA launched its Education Support IGP in 2012 to provide income for children at risk of leaving school for financial reasons. Each child receives two goats and five chickens for their family to breed and sell, to pay for their child's tuition fees and other school costs. Once sustainably funding their child's education, families are encouraged to donate a few chickens and goats to another child's family. UNICA has experimented with IGPs since 2010 and is excited to look towards future sustainable development initiatives.



Victoria Falls World Heritage Site Youth Ambassadors

UNICA has established a youth network in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and Livingstone in Zambia, with the support of the Global Green Grants Fund (GGF). The Youth Ambassadors advocate for regional and national support structures to reduce negative environmental impacts around the Victoria Falls World Heritage Site. These regional and national support structures promote sustainable environmental management.

Catch Them Young ECD Project

In May 2014, UNICA partnered with the Child Protection Society to launch a new Early Childhood Development (ECD) project, supported by the Roger Federer Foundation. The project will provide access to ECD support services for 4,500 young children aged four to six years old. Thirty ECD Centres will be constructed or renovated in Hwange District by the end of 2017. Training for facilitators on ECD curriculum, such as child protection issues, facilitating positive parenting dialogues and child rights, will be provided in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

