

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

March 2022 – February 2023

 **life child**
One life at a time

**LIFE CHILD EXISTS TO REACH ORPHAN AND
VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND RESTORE COMMUNITIES
FOR GENERATIONAL CHANGE; ONE LIFE AT A TIME.**





"Dig deep & pull the roots of confidence from the ground of your being, standing firm in the raging storm until sunlight blossoms inside you." — Curtis Tyrone Jones.

What powerful words that fully describe the kind of year that Life Child has experienced post-COVID and under the relentless impact of cyclones like Cyclone Ana on the East Coast of Africa. **"Stronger Together"** has been our battle cry as we, with your support, served the hundreds of children in our care. Thank you for allowing the sunlight to blossom from within you and stream into the lives of orphan and vulnerable children, bringing hope and opportunity.

Anthony Liebenberg, Life Child CEO & Co-founder



We are confident that Life Child has dramatically impacted the lives of those God has chosen to give us. In a world of great confusion regarding children's identity, we have seen how important it is to secure them in the love of God. We know that we have given them a place to feel secure in who they are; this has come about because of the great love that God has shown them through the beautiful **hands and feet** of our great team, who always go beyond in their giving.

Desiree Liebenberg, Life Child Co-founder



It is very encouraging to see the increasing impact of our children's families growing in their capacities to maintain their families together. The indices of intro trafficked children, premature pregnancies, and unions have significantly reduced in our communities, with an increasing number of our children continuing their education. Much of this begins in the focused approach of **'Child, Family, Community'** by intentionally sharing the gospel, pastoring, educating, and strengthening our families through a close follow-up from house to house. It is such a JOY to see the changes as we all continue towards the impact that we are trusting God for, which is "Christ-Centered family driven communities transformed into economic sustainability".

Annmaree Jorge, Life Child Co-founder & International Project Development Director



I am so grateful for the vision that God has given us as a family. The **Church in action** in a holistic way is so fantastic to see in practical, life-changing, and transforming ways that flow into our communities. In the face of harsh climatic changes that have impacted our communities over these recent years, it has been encouraging to see our communities pull together through our increasingly common beliefs, goals, and values to overcome these challenges in better and more sustainable ways. Thank you to all those who are dedicated to seeing our communities being changed.

Esvaldo Jorge, Life Child Co-founder

EDSON & TALENT

Life Child is one of the social justice expressions of Life Church in Africa. Meet one of our Life Church/Life Child Pastors who are intentional and dedicated to making a difference in their community.

Edson and Talent were born in Zimbabwe in 1981 and 1985, respectively; after completing High School, Edson joined the military, working in the Department of Army Finance as a finance clerk until he resigned after ten years of Service. During his time of service in the army, he met Talent, who was then working in the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education as an Examinations clerk. After they married, Edson resigned to pursue his tertiary education studying Business Management at the University of Zimbabwe. Talent enrolled as a student nurse at Parirenyatwa Hospital Nursing School. It was during the year 2008 that Zimbabwe suffered one of the worst economic downturns ever to be recorded in history.

Edson then left for South Africa as an economic refugee, later joined by Talent and their first-born son Darryl six months later. Edson got saved at Life Church Sea Point in 2009, and the family joined a cell group in the church. That marked the beginning of their spiritual development and growth through cell training, serving in the local church, leadership development courses, and discipleship. After a while, the family became cell leaders and then zone supervisors after multiplying their cell groups. In 2013, both were employed by Life Church, which helped them intensify their ministry training. They both attended two years of Leaders in Future Training (LIFT) run by the Assemblies of God (AOG). After that, they studied and obtained a Diploma in Ministry course through the Christian Leaders Institute based in America.

In 2017, they were sent by the leadership of Life Church and the AOG to go plant Life Church in Zimbabwe. Since then, they have been serving in Harare, where they planted Life Church, and have been actively involved in raising and discipling future leaders and equipping both the young and adults with different life skills. They firmly believe that the gospel has the power to restore hope even in a difficult country like Zimbabwe, one life at a time.

Life Church and Life Child Zimbabwe are actively involved in strengthening several high-need families. They are preparing to open a Life Child ECD focused on Montessori-styled education for vulnerable and orphaned children as part of the holistic expression of Life Church in the community of Domboshava.





CHILD

550

Primary
Beneficiaries

FAMILY

3284

Secondary
Beneficiaries

COMMUNITY

1935

Secondary
Beneficiaries

LIFE CHURCH

20
campuses

756
cell groups



EDUCATION

“In Sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 87 percent of children are learning poor, unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of 10.” UNICEF 17 Sept 2021

Life Child fostered a collaborative environment by engaging parents and guardians in their children's education, ensuring their active participation and support. The commitment of both students and educators has contributed significantly to fostering a positive learning environment, nurturing academic growth, and empowering the community through education. We are proud of these accomplishments and remain steadfast in our mission to provide accessible and impactful education to all.

Life Child Zimbabwe managed to assist children from vulnerable families with school fees and other school requirements, ensuring that they were able to attend school every day like other children.

Life Child Malawi enrolled the country director in a Montessori Diploma course to be equipped to train other teachers in order for them to provide quality education.

Preschool:

84

Preschool children received a quality education, getting them school-ready for primary school.

15

Preschool children graduated

Primary school:

89%

Life Child pass rate.
National pass rate was 53%.

96%

of Life Child children completed primary school.
46% of enrolled students don't complete primary school in Mozambique.

106

Primary school children graduated.

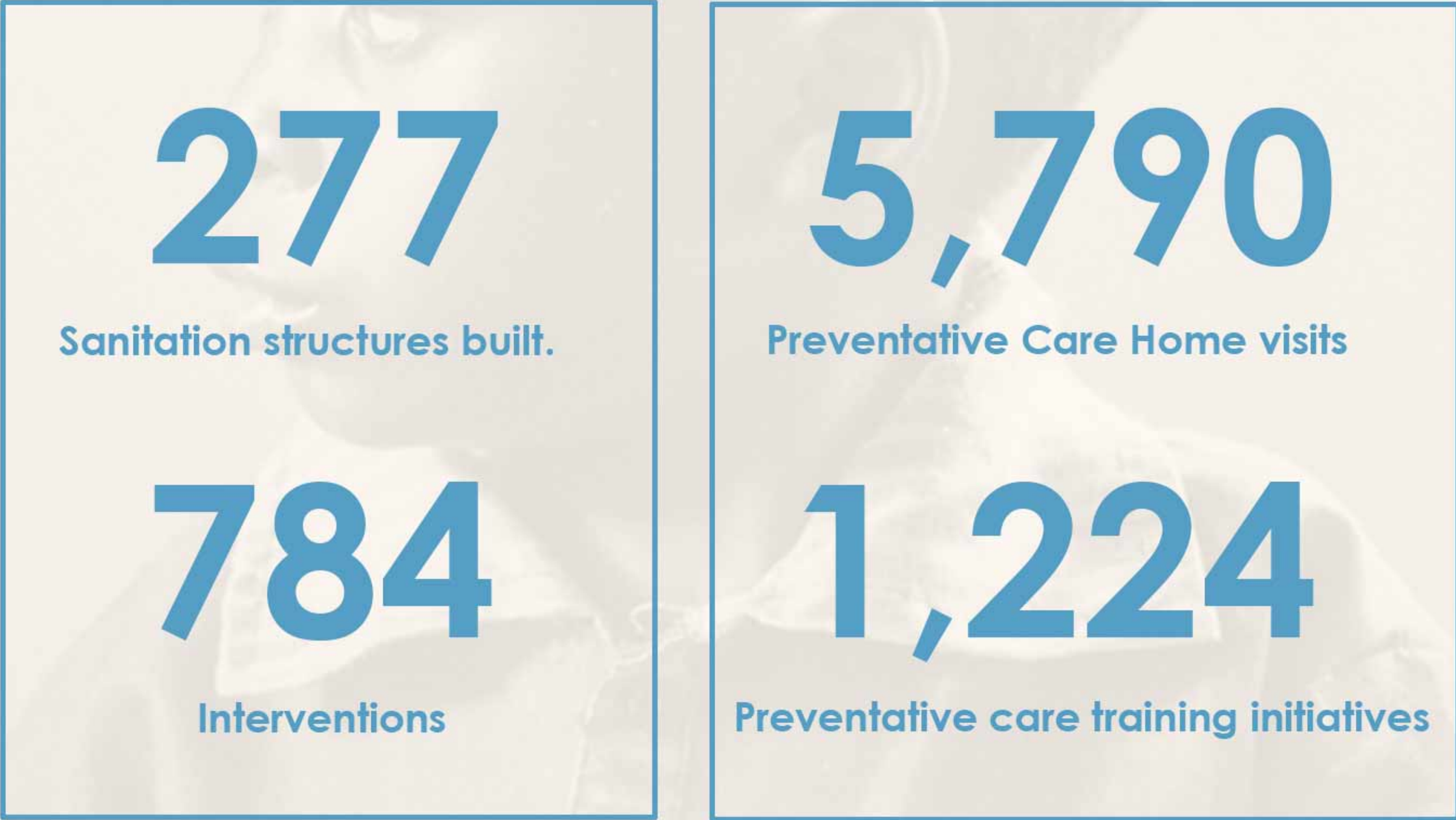




HEALTH AND NUTRITION

“Climate change and environmental degradation are existential threats to a child’s ability to survive, grow, and thrive” (UNICEF, 30 Jan 2023)

Life Child, through awareness talks, successfully broke taboos and instilled a greater understanding of disease prevention, leading to a positive shift in the community's mindset towards health in various ways.



According to the World Health Organization, malnutrition contributes to about 45% of child mortality in Africa.

Our fortified meals program led to remarkable improvements in the nutritional status of many children. Through these efforts, we nurtured a healthier and more nourished generation, ensuring a brighter future for those we support.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Life Child has made profound strides through its Cell Groups in all the countries where we are based.

When a child receives salvation, it affects the lives of their families and the community at large. As a remarkable outcome, numerous families were inspired to join the local church, embarking on a spiritual path and welcoming Jesus as their savior. Amidst vulnerabilities that some children faced, the introduction of Cell Groups fostered trust in God, nurturing a newfound sense of faith and hope.

The purchasing of Spiritual resources (books and children's Bibles) has been and continues to be beneficial to the growth of the cell members.

149

Salvations in Mozambique
(33% of children received salvation)





SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Life Child assisted families to be self-sustainable, ensuring they are able to fend for their children. We also managed to make the children socially active, happy, and more confident.

This was done through training days that had a great impact on the families, having learned a lot about being a family, health and nutrition, money management, valuing children, and much more. This has strengthened their relationships and equipped them in various aspects of life. Through the training initiatives received, they are now able to manage their small businesses.

Highlight: In South Africa, one of our Foster Children is a part of a soccer team and won an award for "Player of the Year."

149

families are now engaged in
self-sustainable initiatives

17,707

Home Visits

45

Trainings

135

Interventions

LIFE CHILD GIVES BACK

Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

A new motorbike was given to Quilasse and Sara, who are our Pastors leading in Montepuez.

At the end of the year, Life Church, together with our partner, Dignidade from Spain, travelled to Cabo Delgado in the North of Mozambique. Together, they visited the camps where hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people continue staying and where Life Child Gives Back has been serving over the years. We were able to pray for this new pastoral couple that has taken over the work of Life Church in Montepuez, who are focused on expanding the work in their community and with this highly vulnerable group of people. Dignidade blessed them with a new motorbike so that they would have much-needed transport to reach people.

1935

beneficiaries

3029

food and dignity parcels distributed
to the internally displaced people.



We have established a micro-business of commercial clothing production in Mozambique to help sustain our ongoing work of Life Child in our community and create employment opportunities and skills training to help through economic strengthening to keep families together.

Many people in the community need more resources or educational skills to address their needs independently. There is little intervention at the government level. As a result, there is a significant stress on families staying together.

Through this commercial sewing project, we can employ and train a team to operate the industrial and electrical sewing machines donated through our partnership with Dignidad NGO from Spain for income generation locally, regionally, and in the future through foreign export to create income for Life Child projects.



28
Ladies
graduated from the
sewing course

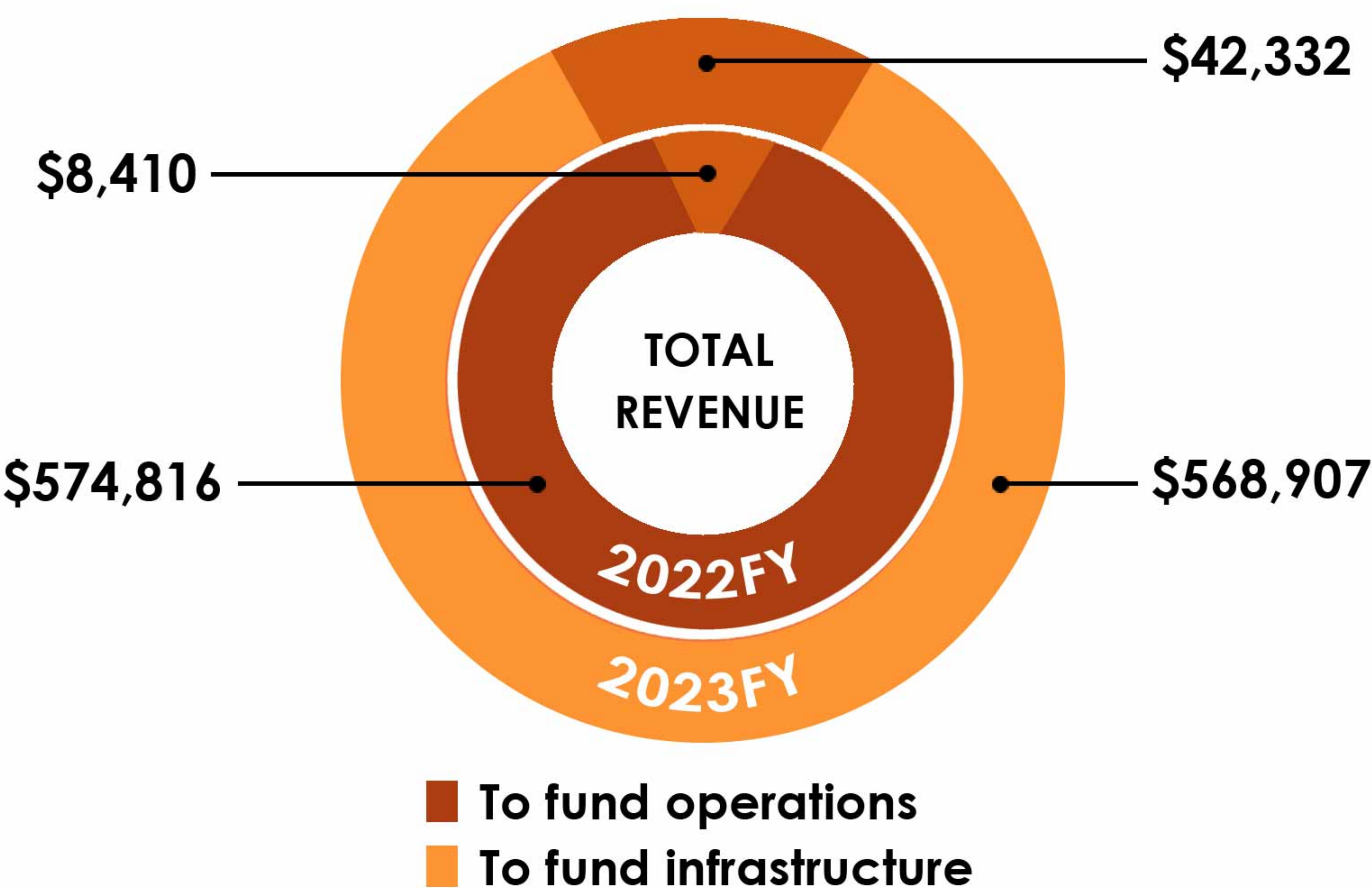
Life Business, regarding the Moringa Farm in Mozambique, has expanded its infrastructures by investing in a well for fresh water on site, a guard's house, a small storage facility, and frontal fencing. The section of cleared land is 20 hectares. However, severe flooding due to cyclones has been a real challenge to the low-lying parts of the farm, where plant loss has been visible. Work continues for corrections as strategies continue to be forged in moving forward.



56,661
Moringa trees
planted

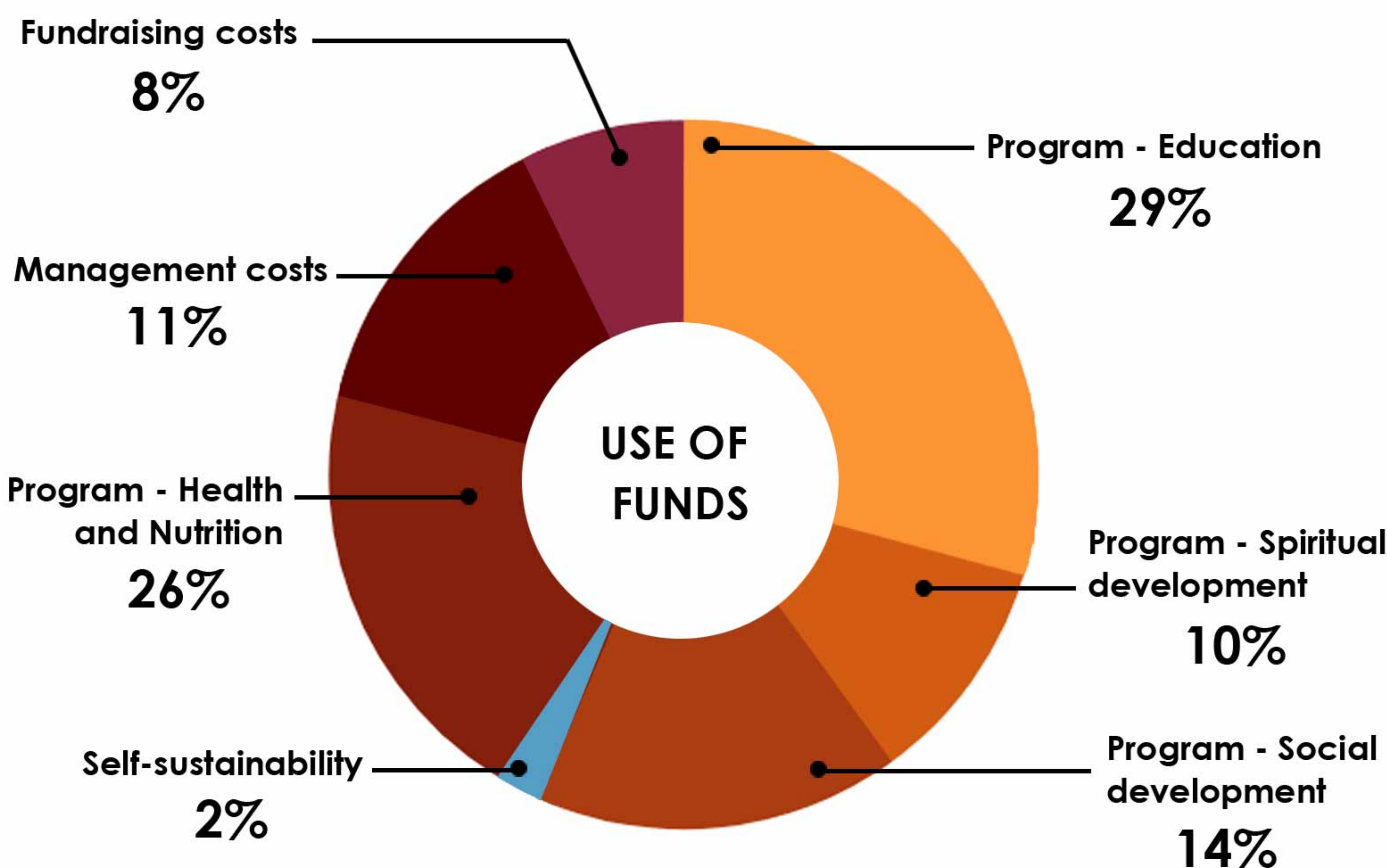
FINANCIAL REPORT

2023FY consolidated



TOTAL REVENUE

	2023FY	2022FY	% chg
To fund operations	\$568,907	\$574,816	-1%
To fund infrastructure	\$42,332	\$8,410	403%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$611,239	\$583,226	5%



2023FY USE OF FUNDS

Program - Education	29%	\$197,429
Program - Spiritual development	10%	\$66,828
Program - Social development	14%	\$94,043
Program - Health & Nutrition	26%	\$176,443
Management costs	11%	\$74,401
Fundraising costs	8%	\$56,340
Self-sustainability	2%	\$16,789
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$682,273

EVENTS

LIFE CHILD HOSTED EVENTS

International Walk For Little Feet

September was an exciting month; this was the time of year when our supporters put on their walking shoes and walked alongside our Life Child children, families, and staff. We had more than 1600 individuals walking in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, the USA, the UK, and Hong Kong, and we had our first walk in Sweden. People walked individually in their community or larger groups. The large groups had a great time after their walks with picnics, games, prizes, food trucks, boot camps, and music performances by Christian in Cape Town and Gwevedzi acoustic band in Zimbabwe.



We also had Champions raising funds through Facebook Fundraiser and GoFundMe, and we had some of our youngest Champions running a Lemonade Stand in Alabama, USA.

Foster Home Site Visit Day (SA)

During the visit, partners had the opportunity to tour our two Life Child Homes and Preschool, meet some of the children and our team members, and learn more about why the second Foster home will play a vital role in not just the lives of vulnerable children but also the wider community. It was an excellent opportunity to strengthen partner relationships, and they got to hear stories and see the work in action.



PARTNER EVENTS

Legacy Church in Doncaster, United Kingdom

For the last nine years, they have held their annual “Freedom” event, which has grown incredibly. It’s a place where ladies were invited to buy each other’s clothes; also, women who run their own beauty or baking business, etc., were asked to offer their services for free, and then all proceeds were given to change lives and make a difference. The funds from this specific event went towards new uniforms (bibs) and stationery packs for our children in Mozambique.



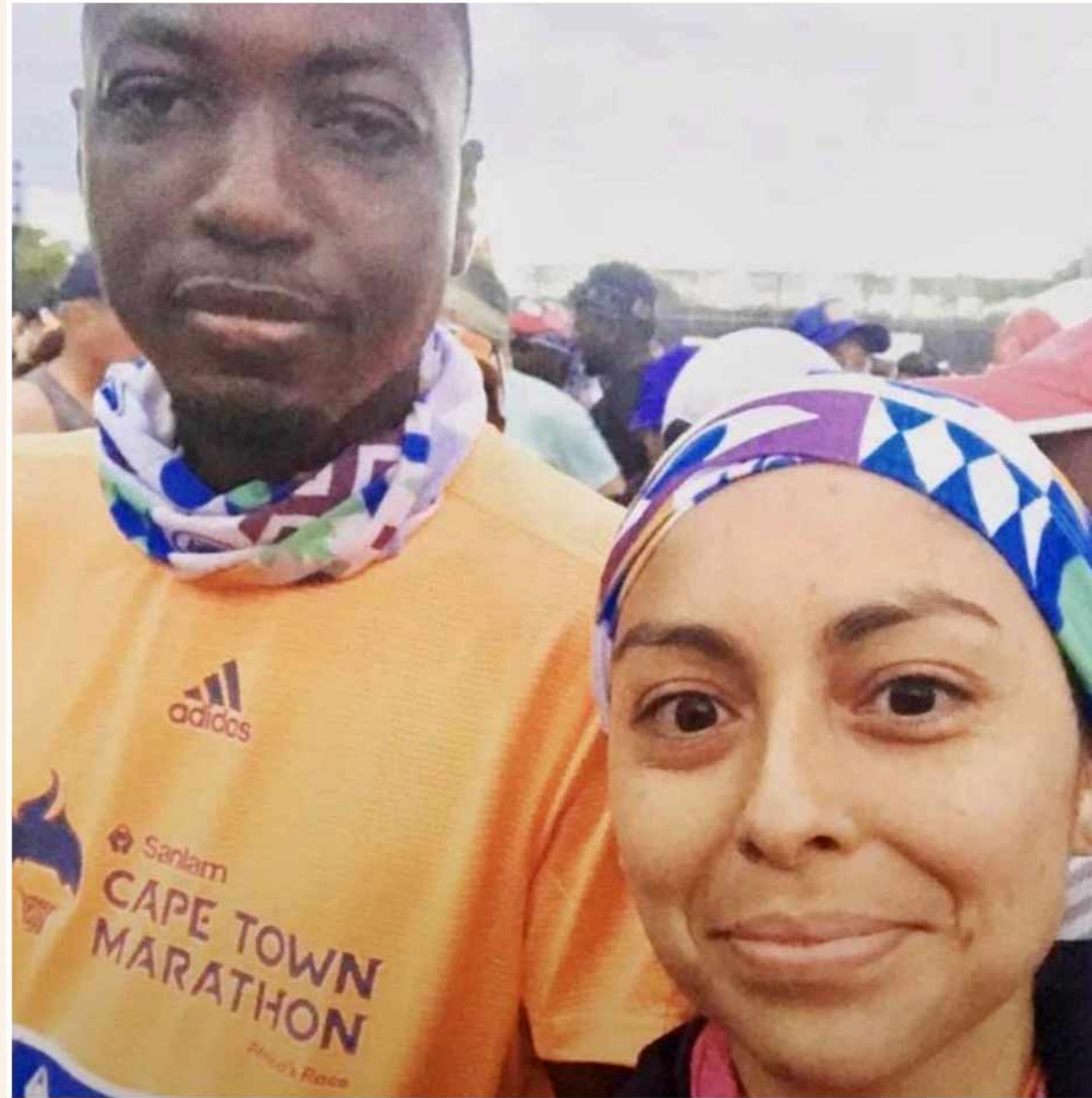
Motion Church in Utrecht, Netherlands

Motion Church organized a fabulous event in support of charities in August. We were so grateful to be a beneficiary and have been so blessed by the money that was raised. The much-needed funds went towards the renovation of our second Foster Home in Philippi, Cape Town. Their fun Sunday activities included a sponsor run, bake sale, and charity auction.



Sanlam Cape Town Marathon: Maria & Pradino (South Africa)

Maria and Pradino became awesome Champions for Life Child when they chose to run an impressive 42km as part of the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon. They didn't just run to reach a personal goal but also to make a difference! They used the fundraising platform GivenGain to raise funds and reached out to the people in their world, which also helped raise awareness about Life Child.



The Storm Centre: Storm (South Africa)

During the festive season, Storm appealed to her customers to join her in giving back. She aimed to raise funds to support two years of nutrition donations for orphaned and vulnerable children in Africa. She encouraged her clients to donate a very generous R300 each to this special cause, and then they could, in turn, receive a complimentary 'thank you' class.

Singapore Trip: Mad

As part of our champion's program, we were approached by a wonderful person, Mad from Singapore, who owns MAD Fitness Market. She has a track record of physical training, running gyms, and raising funds for various charities. She had fallen in love with what Life Child was doing and wanted to become a champion and host a champion event, so she had a fitness class on that Saturday and invited all her friends and people she knew. She asked them to come and participate in an exercise routine, and then they were all invited to a presentation by Anthony Liebenberg, which her local pastor hosted.



Then, they were hosted to lunch by business community members who joined the presentation, and out of that, Anthony could network with a broader range of people he would have never met. Anthony could then preach at the Emmanuel Assemblies of God church in Singapore on that Sunday. Two excellent partnerships emerged out of that. So, from a Champions event to a church event to meeting with community members, especially corporate people, and then being invited to meet with more corporate people in the week. In a way, Kim championing the event opened the door for God to allow us to meet many other people.

THANK YOU!

Life Child has the most amazing Sponsors, Partners, Champions, and Volunteers who have walked alongside us and helped us to carry the load, assisting us in bringing true transformation and hope into Sub-Saharan Africa. We appreciate everyone who has encouraged us to keep going and doing the work that is so valuable to making a child feel loved, seen, and heard. Thank you for being the voice of the voiceless.

Honouring our long-time partner, Cathedral of Faith:

Cathedral of Faith, in California, USA, has walked with us for more than 20 years and partnered with us, especially in the Okalawo Children's Village and the Peace School, helping us develop Life Child Mozambique. They continue to give us access to their congregation members, which is why we have many children being sponsored by church members. The church continues to support through donations and by encouraging teams of people to come and visit and become part of the work in Mozambique. Life Child would like to say a massive Thank You to Pastor Ken and Alicia Foreman and their fantastic team, who have ensured a strong relationship between Life Child and the Cathedral of Faith church.

Concert For Change (USA)

Cathedral of Faith hosted its annual Concert For Change in May, where they had various artists and dancers perform. They shared about Life Child and invited people to become Sponsors and support a child in Mozambique monthly. Our CEO and Co-founder, Anthony Liebenberg, was there to share his heart for Life Child.





Houston's First Baptist Church

Mary Ring from Houston's First Baptist Church came to Cape Town to upskill our Life Church and Life Child parents, staff, and individuals from our surrounding community on how to deal with vulnerable children and trauma. Mary presented a 2-day Parenting Course on creating better regulation and interpersonal relationships between parents/caregivers and their children.

Our Life Child staff also had the opportunity to spend another two days with Mary, where she trained the team on using attachment/trauma play groups to build healthy and healing connections with the children in our care. We are forever grateful for her wisdom, time, and investment in our communities, which will have a generational impact. Thank you, Mary Ring and Houston's First Baptist Church, for making Mary's visit possible! We value your partnership!

Lamb International

In August, Lamb International ran a very informative one-week Master Training. They trained two trauma trainers for Life Child, one from Mozambique and one from Cape Town. This was to help equip them to train the Life Child staff and the community. This was valuable as many children and families in our communities face heavy trauma. Life Child is committed to seeing lives restored.

MOZAMBIQUE

Adalaide

Adalaide is a student at our Life Child Peace School in Mozambique. She entered school with many traumas and with a lot of family vulnerability. Still, over the years, she learned from her teachers in the cell (discipleship) group about the love of Jesus and how Jesus changes our lives and perspectives. It was not easy for her at first. However, as she learned and prayed with her teachers the previous year, even amid the pandemic, she decided to surrender her life to Jesus Christ, accepting him as her Lord and Saviour. Excitingly, she publicly testified her faith in Jesus Christ through water baptism.

Today, Adalaide no longer feels alone and abandoned but believes that God is her Father and cares for her and her family. Her family is highly vulnerable; they have no home of their own, and they live by renting houses from people of good faith in the community; her mother works hard as a subsistence farmer. Adalaide is a joyful girl whose life has been forever transformed.

life child
ONE LIFE STORY





MALAWI Milika

Milika, aged four, stays with her parents and three other siblings; she is the last born. The family struggles financially and depends on piecework to make ends meet. As the income is unstable, it doesn't sustain their basic needs. Milika loves reading, Arts, and ball play. She is also part of a cell and is being nurtured spiritually. In terms of food, she loves porridge. Milika joined the Moyo Preschool in Malawi in January 2022, and we have seen a massive transformation in her life.

Through our routine home visits, we also visited her home, only to find that they were not spared from the damage caused by Cyclone Ana which hit Malawi in January. We found that their house fell to one side, and they had to source for temporary measures to fix the house. Luckily a good Samaritan borrowed them used Iron sheets. At the time of our visit, they were due to be returned to the owner, and they had nothing to use as a replacement.

Through the local church, we managed to get another temporary fix by supplying them with black sheets to cover the affected area, as a permanent solution was being sourced. In addition, they were given an extra blanket that was also in short supply in their home. They are so thankful to God for the support they received. "We are so thankful for the timely support given to us; God should richly bless you," the mother said.

ONE LIFE STORY

SOUTH AFRICA

Princess

Little Princess joined the Life Child Preschool in February 2022 as a two and a 1/2-year-old just out of diapers and the tiniest tot in the class. There has been a remarkable change in the family since she joined our preschool. Princess integrated into school life quickly. She is a softly-spoken little girl and smiles a lot. She has great learning potential and is taking steps in this direction, retelling everything she did at school to her family when she gets home, including singing new songs for her household.

The home situation is a challenging one. Princess's mother, Phumeza, is sharing the home with her sister Lindiswe who has a medical condition where the nerves in her feet are dead, which makes it challenging to work. Five years ago, their third sister in the Eastern Cape passed away, and they took in her two 'motherless' children to live with them. The family of five lives off R1350, which is three Social Grants, in a two-roomed shack home.

When Princess's 20-year-old cousin in the Eastern Cape was beaten to death, Life Child offered to counsel Phumeza as she was grief-stricken. We also invited her sister to join the Parent Workshops, which could assist her in raising her nieces. Life Child also helped with some toiletries and a food parcel.

Despite the family challenges, Phumeza did not take the opportunities presented by Life Child lightly. She had previously kept busy offering her time at Siqalo Creche in Kosovo, cleaning, engaging with the children, and enjoying the classroom environment. When Princess joined the Life Child Preschool, she volunteered to clean and showed a keen interest in 'teaching.' When the school needed a relief teacher for a month, Phumeza was the obvious choice, and the preschool could employ her as a stand-in. We are thankful for Phumeza and her family and trusting God for a wonderful unfolding of His plan for them all.

ONE LIFE STORY





ZIMBABWE

Meltina

Meltina Jofiles is a widow who lives with her three children and grandson in a one-room cabin in the high-density suburb of Dzivaresekwa. Her husband passed away ten years ago, and she has been struggling to look after her children as a widow since then. Besides all the hardships, she has been doing odd jobs, which enabled her to provide the little she could, although it was not enough. Meltina's husband was a tailor, so before he died, he taught her the basics of sewing, which has been extremely helpful for her.

When Meltina and her family joined Life Child, she testified that her family's life had changed because she was now hopeful. The lessons she has learned have helped her approach life differently. She is grateful that the food parcels she receives every month can supplement the little she can afford. Out of everything, she benefits from the program; she is happy that her children can now attend school like other children without being sent home for non-payment of school fees, as Life Child has been paying them. She testifies that she is a better mother because of the parenting skills she has learned from Life Child. This has strengthened them as a family.

Since her husband died, Meltina has been hand sewing clothes for selling, helping them as a family. Because she is already gifted, Life Child provided a sewing machine for Meltina, which will help her with her sewing and hopefully increase the family's income. Meltina is so excited about what God will do through the sewing machine and believes that the future looks promising and that income will be generated through the sewing machine.

ONE LIFE STORY

LOOKING AHEAD

Our project initiatives focus on building firm foundations within our four focus areas. We are currently at maximum capacity with our current infrastructures, and the construction of these new projects will enable us to continue on the journey of transformation:

1. **Additional classrooms at the Peace School in Mozambique, which is currently a full primary school (Grades 1-6) in Mozambique. Life Child has a vision to build a secondary school, enabling us to enroll our children from Grades 1-12.**
2. **A new building for our Moyo ECD in Malawi (in the picture): The existing Montessori ECD is rented and will be transferred to a new Life Child-owned building.**
3. **A new Montessori ECD in Chimoio, Mozambique: with children 3-5 years old, totalling 60 children.**
4. **The purchasing of land for a new Montessori ECD in Zimbabwe: 3-5 years old, totalling 60 children.**
5. **Classrooms at the Okalawo Village in Mozambique, which is currently a full primary school (Grades 1-6) in Mozambique. Life Child has a vision to build a secondary school, enabling us to enroll our children from Grades 1-12.**

With several cyclones severely hitting Mozambique over the last few years, we have had assistance from structural engineers to review the damage, make recommendations on infrastructure improvements, and reconstruct our buildings and community homes resiliently.

Our building projects are facilitating not just infrastructure, but we are building into the lives of our children, their families, and the communities for generational change, one life at a time.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LIFE CHILD INTERNATIONAL TRUST

Anthony Liebenberg

Co-Founder and CEO of Life Child

Esvaldo Jorge

Co-Founder and Senior Pastor of Life Church Mozambique

Annmaree Jorge

Co-Founder and Executive Director

Bradley Anthony

Director of Fairtree (Pty) Ltd

Anthony Farr

CEO of Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies

Richard Chapman

COO of Edge Growth Ventures

LIFE CHILD AFRICA FOUNDATION (USA)

Anthony Liebenberg

Co-Founder and CEO of Life Child

Annmaree Jorge

Co-Founder and Executive Director

Ken Foreman

Senior Pastor of Cathedral of Faith Church

Lidia Bernardo

Executive Administrative Manager

LIFE CHILD FOUNDATION UK

Grayson Jones

Senior Pastor of Legacy Church

Annette Windle

Retired State Qualified Nurse

Patrick Leckie

Marketing Manager

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



SPONSOR

Sponsor an individual child for R300/USD\$30/£20 per month.



CHAMPION

Advocate our cause and mobilise your community through initiating a fundraiser, event or campaign.

PARTNER

Partner with Life Child in areas of development, operations, self-sustainability and building new homes and schools.



GO

Experience first-hand the impact of Life Child through volunteering or joining a short-term mission trip.



CONTACTS

LIFE CHILD INTERNATIONAL TRUST

WEBSITE: www.lifechild.org.za

HEAD OFFICE:

Karin Muller

Executive Director

Telephone: +27 21 439 4721

karin.muller@lifechild.org.za

SOUTH AFRICA OFFICE:

Nokwanda Mzimela

Life Child South Africa

Office Manager

Telephone: +27 21 439 4721

[nokwan-](mailto:nokwanda.mzimela@lifechild.org.za)

da.mzimela@lifechild.org.za

MOZAMBIQUE OFFICE:

Annmaree Jorge

Mozambique Country Director

Telephone: +258 825 927 270

annmaree.jorge@lifechild.org.za

MALAWI OFFICE:

Catherine Msonda

Malawi Country Director

Telephone: +265 999 276 046

catherine.msonda@lifechild.org.za

USA OFFICE:

Doreen Stewart

USA Resource Manager

Telephone: +1 817 733 0268

doreen.stewart@lifechild.org.za

UK OFFICE:

Judith Guidotti

UK Co-ordinator

Telephone: +44 794 741 165

judith.guidotti@lifechild.org.za

ZIMBABWE OFFICE:

Talent Bengura

Zimbabwe Country Director

Telephone: +263 77 154 4550

talent.bengura@lifechild.org.za

Tribute to Pastor Gocas



We sadly lost a great man who was a big part of the Life Church and Life Child family in Mozambique. We want to pay tribute to Pastor Gocas, the principal at the Peace School in Mozambique, who tragically passed away. He not only dedicated his life to taking care of hundreds of children at the school but was also the Pastor of Life Church, Namuinho. He loved and greatly supported the children, their families, and the larger community. He will be greatly missed by all. We will continue to embrace and support his wonderful wife, Junelia, and their children. Junelia continues to be a blessing to Life Child and Life Church Mozambique.

Annmaree Jorge, Life Child Mozambique Country Director, shared the following: "What a wonderful privilege to have walked alongside my son Gocas for these past 22 years, watching you love, worship, and serve Jesus with all your heart. I can only imagine your joy now and look forward in faith to the day that we can worship together once again in the presence of our wonderful savior."



Isaiah 60:22 NIV

“The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.”

www.lifechild.org.za



@LifeChildAfrica