**Project Overview**

*Time to Learn* (TTL) is USAID/Zambia’s flagship program for improving education in community schools. TTL supports the Ministry of Education and works with others in the education sector to develop a model for improving students’ reading skills and providing support and psychosocial services to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) in community schools.

This model features an evidence-based early-grade reading instruction and community-led strategies to help OVCs to succeed in school. TTL works in Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt, Eastern, Muchinga and Southern provinces. TTL also provides scholarships to OVCs, enabling their transition to secondary education.

**Background**

Community schools are an important part of Zambia’s education system; more than 20 percent of students in basic education attend community schools, which are owned and managed by the community. These schools enroll the most economically disadvantaged children, those who struggle with both psychosocial and academic issues.

Unfortunately, the quality of education in community schools is often poor, and student reading performance is low (TTL Early Grade Reading Assessment, 2012). To improve reading, the Ministry of Education plans to increase support for community schools, and TTL is supporting this effort.

**Project Goals**

- Assist Ministry of Education to increase support for community schools
- Build the capacity of community groups to mobilize support and resources for community schools
- Improve reading instruction for 500,000 students in community schools
- Improve school management and school-based assessment
- Develop teachers’ continuous professional development
- Support education access for OVCs through scholarships, mentoring, and community support
- Support educational research

**Activities**

- Develop and deliver a reading program package, including learning materials, teacher training, and improved teacher supervision and support
- Connect communities with psychosocial support services and scholarship opportunities to mitigate the effect of poverty and HIV/AIDS on children’s learning

**Our Partners**

- Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED)
- EnCompass LLC.
- Forum for African Women Educationalists in Zambia (FAWEZA)

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