



WISE

Women's Initiatives that Strengthen & Empower



WISE

Transforming Lives Through Education



A MESSAGE FROM OUR

ZAMBIA DIRECTOR

MAGGIE INDOPU WAMUNYIMA

I was raised in a small village in the Kaoma District in Western Province, Zambia. Growing up, I lived with my parents and eight siblings, along with other extended family members in a traditional African household. We had to walk nearly four miles to elementary school each morning.

Most of my friends and schoolmates ended their education after 7th grade. There was no high school nearby. My mother was determined that her children would get an education, however, so we moved to attend Kaoma Secondary School. My mother had to work night and day to afford our tuition, and if she got hurt or sick, that would have been the end of our education.



WISE gave me more than a scholarship—it gave me hope. This incredible organization allowed me to pursue higher education. With their support, I will soon complete my bachelor's degree in Community Development. My work is allowing me to put my education into practice as I coordinate WISE's educational and agricultural efforts in Zambia.

The past five years have been an exciting time. Watching the handful of students who were our first group of scholarship students graduate from high school and head off to college has been beyond rewarding. We now have 200 students in high school and nearly a dozen in college!

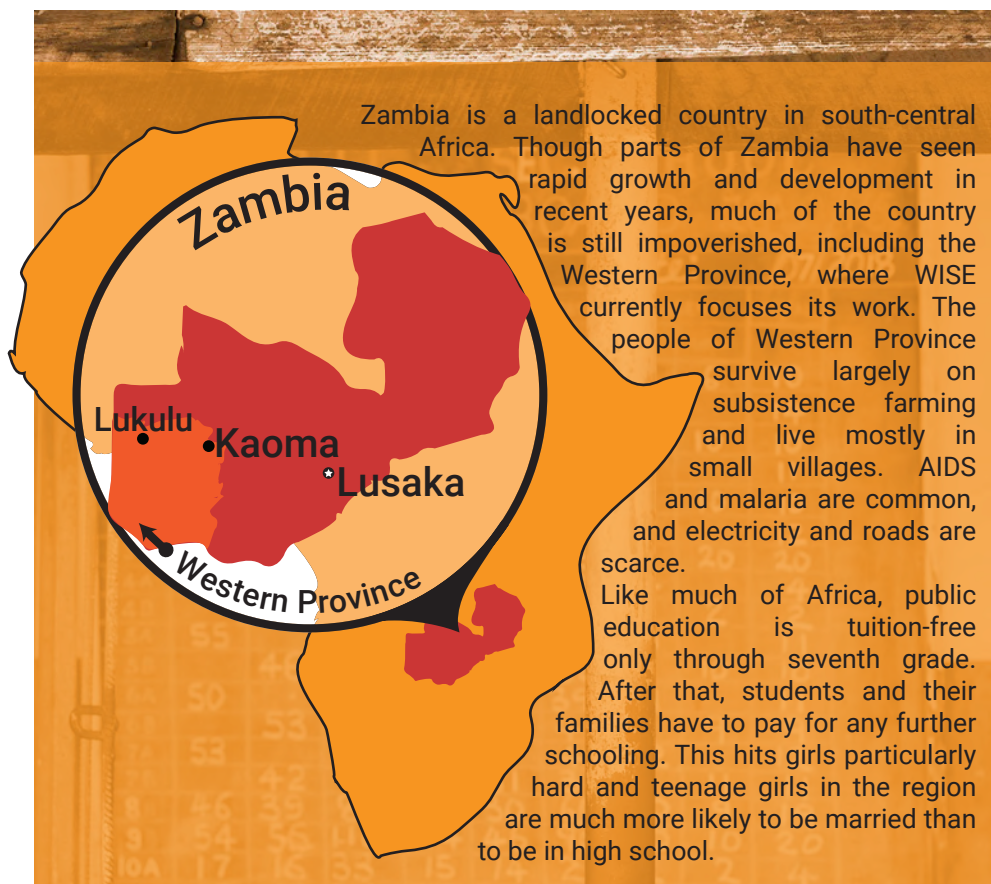
The next five years should be even more incredible. We consistently add at least 50 scholarship students each year and our agricultural training program for vulnerable women has more than doubled in size. We hope to obtain a four-wheel drive vehicle so we can expand our programs to even more remote communities. We also plan to construct a community school in Lukulu, which would serve as a satellite center for WISE, and break ground on a new dormitory for our female students in Kaoma. And soon, our first group of college students will graduate and begin giving back to their own families and communities.

Please grow with us!

Sincerely,

Maggie Indopu Wamunyima

All programs are developed and implemented by local African leadership, with Maggie at the helm. WISE provides support to ensure success in the endeavors our partners undertake.



Zambia is a landlocked country in south-central Africa. Though parts of Zambia have seen rapid growth and development in recent years, much of the country is still impoverished, including the Western Province, where WISE currently focuses its work. The people of Western Province survive largely on subsistence farming and live mostly in small villages. AIDS and malaria are common, and electricity and roads are scarce.

Like much of Africa, public education is tuition-free only through seventh grade. After that, students and their families have to pay for any further schooling. This hits girls particularly hard and teenage girls in the region are much more likely to be married than to be in high school.

OUR MISSION

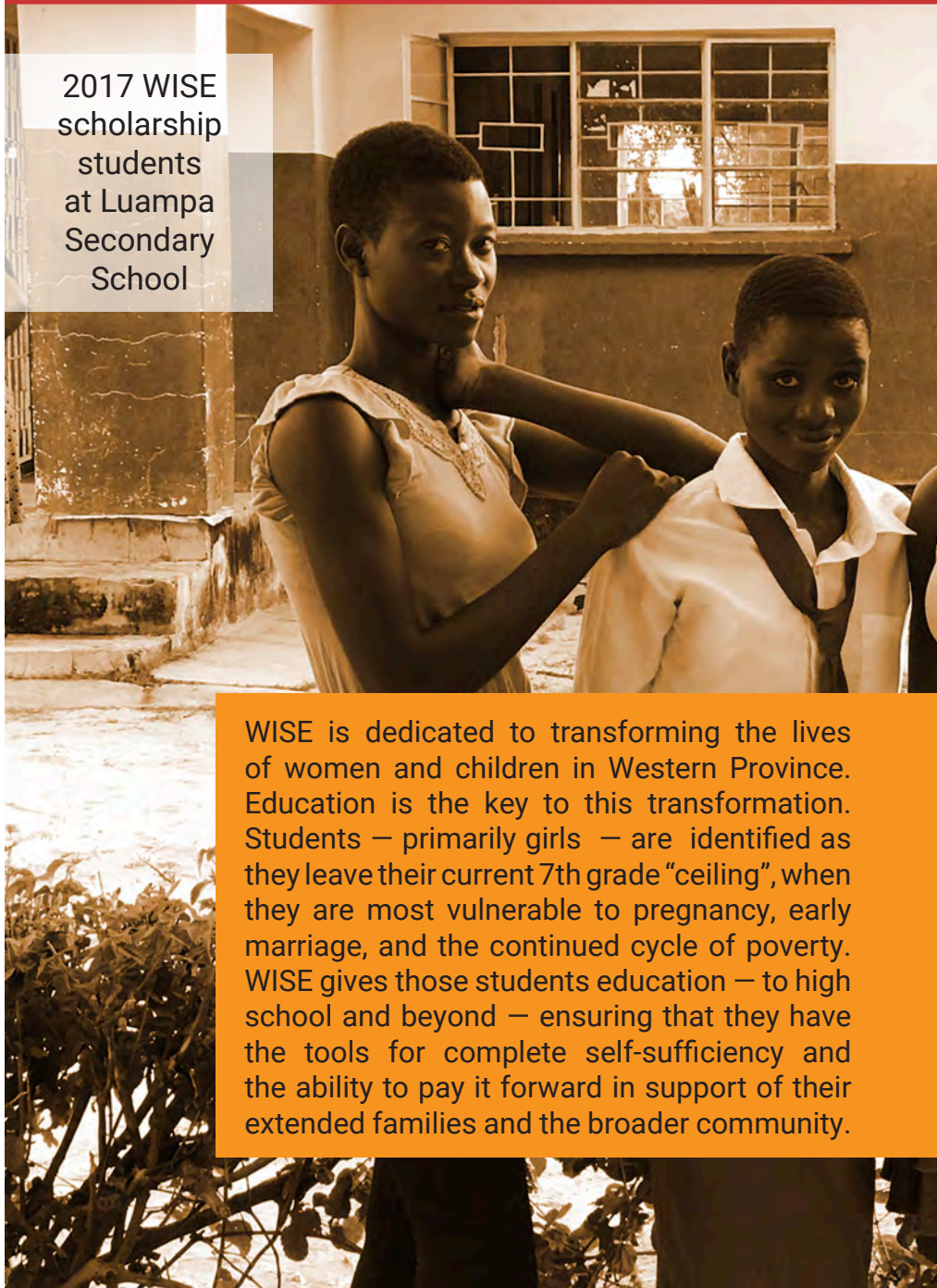
WISE supports empowerment and economic independence for vulnerable women and children in Zambia through educational, vocational, and agricultural initiatives.



SECONDARY SCHOOL

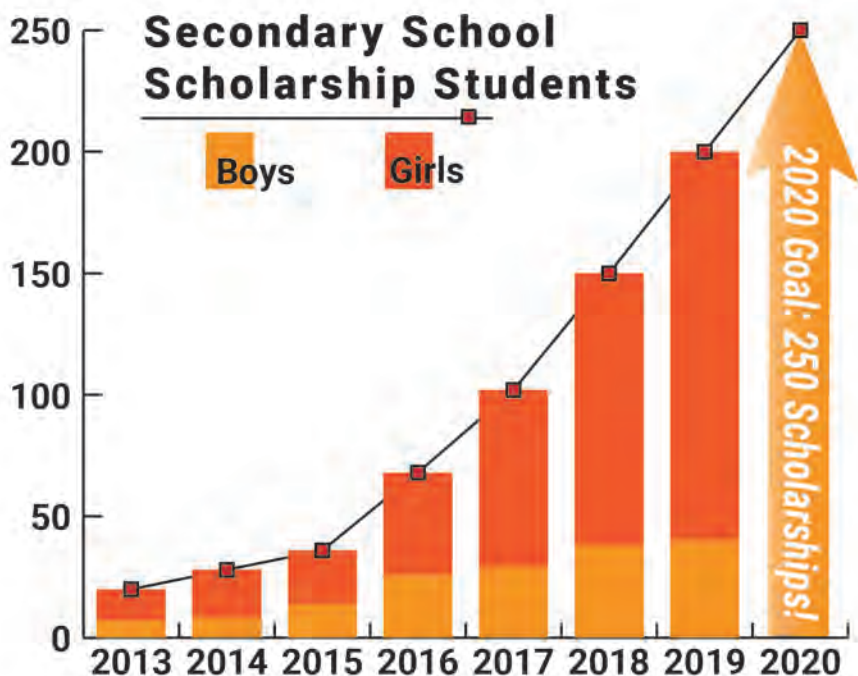
SCHOLARSHIPS

2017 WISE
scholarship
students
at Luampa
Secondary
School

A photograph of two young women, likely students, standing in front of a building. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored sleeveless top and has her arm around the shoulder of the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a white collared shirt and a dark tie. They are both looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with a window and some foliage.

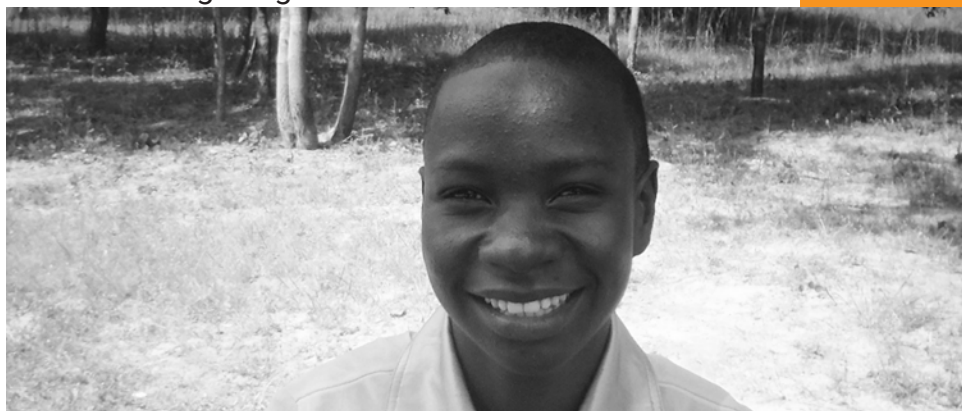
WISE is dedicated to transforming the lives of women and children in Western Province. Education is the key to this transformation. Students – primarily girls – are identified as they leave their current 7th grade “ceiling”, when they are most vulnerable to pregnancy, early marriage, and the continued cycle of poverty. WISE gives those students education – to high school and beyond – ensuring that they have the tools for complete self-sufficiency and the ability to pay it forward in support of their extended families and the broader community.

WISE's model is based on creating a "ripple effect", expecting that its students, having received an education, will in turn pay it forward to other deserving young people. The ripple has already begun. In 2017, WISE alumni and others in Zambia funded two high school scholarships, and in 2018, that number grew to 10. Every student who benefits from WISE's scholarships has committed to help younger students in the years to come.

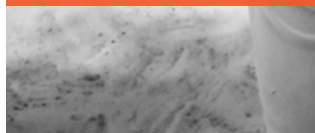


SCHOLARSHIPS

True self-sufficiency cannot happen unless a child has the opportunity to reach the highest pinnacle of her abilities and desires. Thus, WISE's scholarship program does not stop at high school — students can continue to post-secondary education, from vocational training to engineering, to nursing or medical school, and any field in between. Girls who would have dropped out of school and married not long after 7th grade are now working towards college degrees because of WISE's work.



Pelekelo began as an 8th grader in 2014, one of the first students from her remote village to attend school beyond 7th grade. She graduated in the top of her class of 2018 and is about to start nursing school — paying it forward. Pelekelo says, **“My life has been transformed because of WISE.”**



Mubiana at Nkrumah University, Humphrey at University of Lusaka





Nasilele's first year in chemical engineering at Copperbelt University.

WHY WOMEN



There are a great number of struggling people in Western Province, but women and girls are especially at-risk. Poverty and a traditional patriarchy work together to steal the dreams of girls and women in this part of the world. By specifically targeting programs to benefit girls and women, WISE — under local leadership — is helping to promote equality and empower women.

“Educating girls has proven to be one of the world’s best ideas. When women are educated, all kinds of wonderful things happen in societies.”

—Hans Rosling, Factfulness: Ten Reasons We’re Wrong About the World and Why Things Are Better Than You Think.” (Flatiron Press, 2018)

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM



WISE has pledged to help the families and neighbors of our scholarship students. Through our agricultural and animal husbandry training programs, we identify especially vulnerable women and provide them with expert training to improve the efficiency of their small farms and their animal raising. This program offers women living in dire poverty, immediate, material and sustainable improvements in their lives. With WISE, dreams and hopes become realities.



How You CAN

HELP

WISE has no paid staff in the United States. Every dollar raised goes directly to providing education and opportunities for vulnerable women and children who would otherwise suffer in poverty, so the single best thing people can do to help is to donate. The plight of people in Western Province is often overlooked—when was the last time you read a news story about Zambia? Unlike so many complex problems in the world, however, education for women and children in Western Province is a place where even one person can make a big difference. Right now, a 12-year-old girl in rural Zambia is going to finish 7th grade soon. Will she be married off within just a few years, and spend her life in grinding poverty? Or will she go off to high school, to college, and change her community, her country, and our world for the better? The choice is in your hands.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE WHEN IT MATTERS M



With your support, we:

- Provide educational scholarships to at-risk youth; **75% are awarded to girls**
- Expect and inspire all recipients to **give back**
- Promote **no ceilings**, enabling students to reach the peak of their dreams and abilities
- Build and upgrade rural educational facilities and resources
- Create **economic self-sufficiency** through agricultural, vocational, and educational training programs

**EDUCATE,
EMPOWER,
REPEAT.**

WISE has already transformed hundreds of lives, and we hope to reach thousands more with your support. Visit wisezambia.org to learn more.



MAIL DONATIONS TO:

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WISE

Women's Initiatives that Strengthen & Empower

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WISE is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization