

END OF
YEAR
REPORT
2023

BARAKA LEARNING CENTRE

School Visits

Sports Partners

BOOST Programme

Adult Literacy

Prudential Programmes

Clubs

Sponsorship

ABOUT THE LEARNING CENTRE



2023 was the fourth year the Baraka Learning Centre has been in operation and it was our biggest and most successful year to date. Here are a few of the highlights:

- New infrastructure development
- Significant increase in visitor numbers
- Successful development of the sports programme
- Hugely impactful medical volunteer trip
- BOOST programme getting more children into school
- Increased number of teachers and improved educational delivery



QUICK STATS

37,221

Total visits



30,012

Educational visits

7,209

Sports visits



60

Community and Government teachers trained



Teacher Training workshops

HIGHLIGHTS

- **+90%** increase in annual visits from 2022
- **50%** increase in lessons and sessions per week
- **80+** BOOST children have graduated from the programmes and are now in school



Tenfold increase in sports visits



75% improvement in computer Literacy from visiting schools, local youth and adult classes

8

clubs for extra curricular activities up from 5 in 2022

29

schools engaged for educational programmes and teaching resource support

3

extra teachers employed

11

remote schools reached through educational outreach programme up from 3 in 2022

PROGRAMMES AT THE LEARNING CENTRE



BARAKA OUT OF SCHOOL TEACHING (BOOST)

We currently have 130 students in four classes of different abilities.

The children come in from Monday to Friday with the additional option of attending a Saturday reading club.

The curriculum includes basic literacy and numeracy for our younger learners, whilst higher-level classes cover English, mathematics, science, and humanities.

CLUBS

The Learning Centre hosts a total of eight clubs, including Dance, Girls' Club, "One child one tree", Chess, Cooking, Knitting, and the After-school club for our sponsored students.

These clubs, run by our teaching staff have been very popular and successful.

As well as giving fun and enjoyment, these activities help many of our visiting children develop general knowledge and life skills.



VISITING SCHOOLS

Six nearby primary schools attend ICT and reading sessions on a rotational basis. They are accompanied by their teachers and taught by the Learning Centre teaching team.

These schools are Mulungushi, William Reid, Muleba, Victory, Success and Maoma.





SPORTS

The Learning Centre offers volleyball, netball, football, and rugby for boys, girls, and adults. These take place at our extensive sports area which is currently being developed with plans for measured and demarcated pitches and courts.

Visitors to our sports area benefit from improved physical fitness as well as enjoying social interaction with friends and teammates. Some of our young sports people also represent Baraka competing with other local teams.

These activities play a pivotal role in keeping local community children occupied, safeguarding them from potential negative influences within the community while providing a healthy outlet for relaxation.

PARENT & TODDLER CLASS

This caters for parents and young children from one to three years. Parents engage with their children enjoying toys and games from our play bus and songs and stories.

The class serves as a supportive environment providing a nurturing and educational space for early childhood development.

VISUAL LEARNING

In addition to their regular lessons, BOOST children enjoy two mornings a week of “Visual Learning”. This involves watching educational cartoons and videos and is a real treat for our children, as none of them have televisions at home.

The children greatly enjoy this, and we have noticed that most of them are improving their English language skills with this exposure. This programme is also helping in developing their speaking, social interaction and listening skills.



FUN RUN

The fun run takes place twice a month on a Saturday morning, catering for children of all ages and abilities.

Led by Baraka staff, the runners stop and regroup two or three times along the way. They do some stretches and exercises before continuing. The course is approximately 2.5 km and was inspired by the world-famous Parkrun started in the UK.



A Year's Overview

WHERE WE ARE NOW

BOOST CLASSES

In 2020, the Learning Centre launched the BOOST class as one of its initial programs. Its primary goal was to provide educational opportunities to all under-privileged children in the area. This class was specifically created in response to the low literacy levels prevalent in the local community.

The aim of the programme is to get as many of these children into school as possible and over 80 children have graduated in 2023.

75% of the remaining children have shown great improvement in reading and writing this year.

ADULT CLASSES

Computer classes are run for those who want to learn the basics or improve the skills they already have. Literacy and English classes are available for adults of varied abilities, many of whom also attend knitting and cooking sessions.

Knitting and cooking classes always contain an element of language development in the form of pattern or recipe reading and writing.

SPORTS

90% of our children take part in at least one sports activity at the Learning Centre. This keeps them happily occupied and helps them to appreciate the benefits of physical activity.

CLUBS

In addition to baking, cooking club members have learnt to use local products in new recipes.

14 members enjoy the chess club. Many are now good enough to compete and there are plans to have matches with local schools. The dance club is hugely popular with many enthusiastic performers.

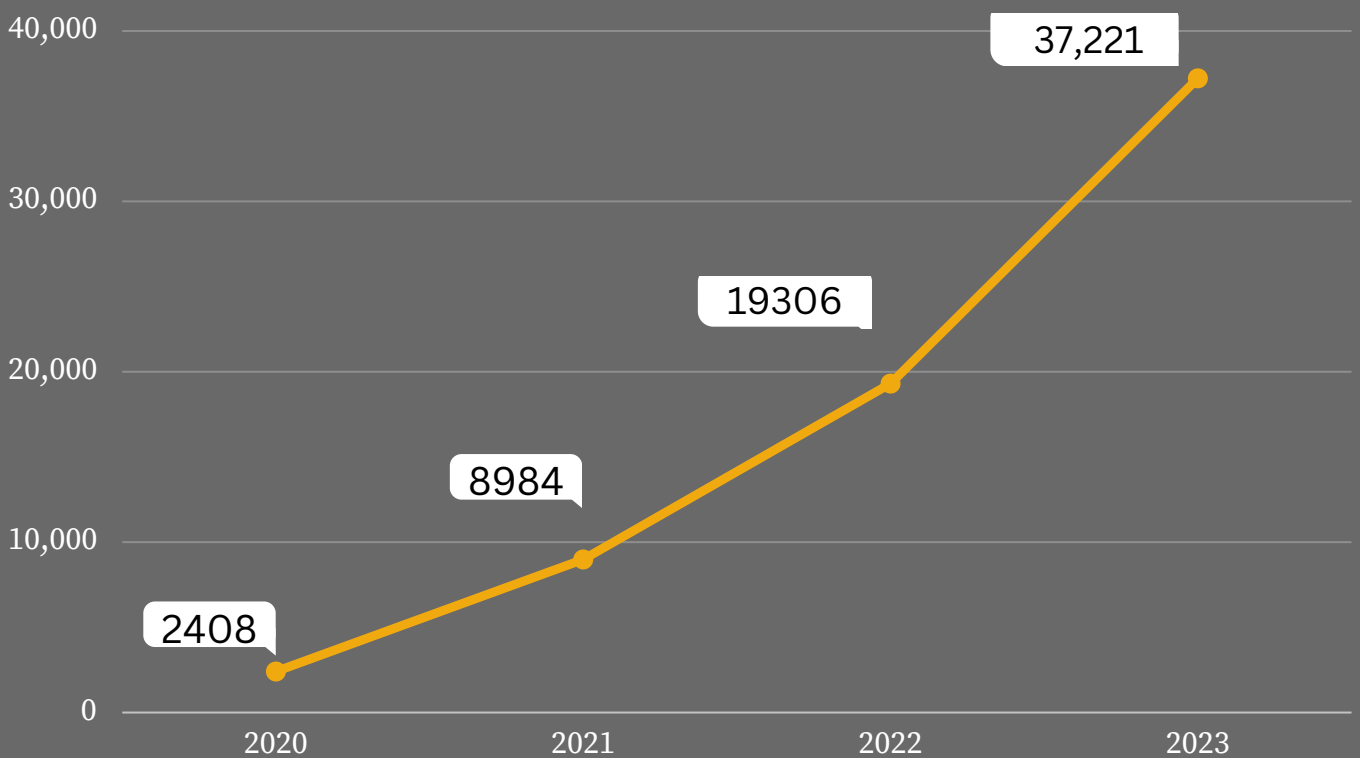
Girls' club activities are varied. The girls receive advice and are encouraged to discuss many issues relevant to them as they mature into young adults.



Over the Years

ANNUAL VISITS

Since its opening in 2020, there has been a steady increase in visits as more and more people hear about the Learning Centre. 2023 has seen over 33,000 visits.



The number of visits to the Learning Centre has increased in line with the increase in activities it offers.

Schools in remote areas are visited by our teaching team for outreach sessions and the new Baraka bus has enabled more visits to the Learning Centre from other distant schools.

With a total of 48 sessions and approximately 850 visits a week, the Learning Centre hosts about ten schools each month.

Generous funding from Prudential Zambia has been a contributing factor in the increase. Their support has allowed the centre to offer:

- Additional classes in core subjects to primary and secondary school groups
- Teacher training
- Educational bootcamps for local Grade 12 students and Baraka sponsored students
- Additional outreach sessions

Most of these visiting schools had their first visit to the Learning Centre and benefited from the educational support.



x 10 increase in sports visits

Since last year, the number of weekly participants has risen ten-fold from 50 to 500. The extra sports activities, developing sports area, and the quality of coaching from the Learning Centre team attract both children and adults.

8 extracurricular clubs

Club members learn some useful skills whilst enjoying the social interaction and having a lot of fun.

29 schools engaged in educational programmes

This is comprised of 11 outreach sessions, 7 bootcamps, 4 day visits and 6 schools timetabled to visit once a week.

75% improvement in computer literacy.

Visiting schools, youth groups and adults have all benefited from our ICT classes, gaining skills to help them in their personal lives as well as enhancing career prospects.



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

★ Kapiri District has 270 schools, the majority being primary schools in remote areas. Despite the difficulty of travelling to these areas, our team has visited 11 this year, taking the Learning Centre to the schools.

The Photo on the left shows our teacher Patson during an ICT lesson at Shamabanse Primary School.

SCHOOL RESOURCE SUPPORT

★ Most Zambian schools struggle with educational resources and have little more than a damaged blackboard and a few books.

We distributed many teaching and learning aids to 22 schools helping teachers improve the quality of education.



HIGHLIGHTS OF LC ACTIVITIES

★ Chess club is becoming increasingly popular, especially with teenagers. Those attending say they enjoy developing analytical and strategic skills.

★ The Funrun has seen a big increase in numbers. Many young children have joined and the route, including shorter and longer options, has adapted accordingly.

★ ICT Teacher Training resulted in 30 teachers performing extremely well in assessments and gaining certification.

★ Programmes funded by Prudential Zambia have been a great success helping students prepare for examinations. All were inspired by the lovely environment at the LC and motivated by the varied learning resources.

★ Weekend Bootcamps helped to prepare Grade 12 students for their final school examinations. Their accompanying teachers enjoyed exploring the teaching resources available at the LC and everyone had a lot of fun.

★ After school club for our sponsored children compliments what they learn at school, helping them to maintain steady progress.

GOALS AND MEASURES

The Learning Centre has managed to meet many of the goals it set at the beginning of the year. Below is a highlight of what has been achieved so far:

- Our target for annual visits was 25,000 which we have exceeded with a total of over 33,000.
- We planned to reach 20 schools and reached 31 schools. 6 of these were secondary schools, which has set the groundwork for our science lab visits next year.
- We have ensured over 30% of children in our BOOST classes have started school.
- The Learning Centre has dramatically increased sports and recreational activities.
- With the target of educating the parents in the community, more parents are now joining our clubs.



GOALS FOR 2024

- The construction of the science lab is one of the most exciting and essential projects we have undertaken this year. The lab, which will open in February 2024 will respond to the severe lack of science resources faced in government schools.
- We have set a target of 40,000 visits by the end of 2024.
- We plan on engaging more secondary schools. This will be made possible with the science lab and a newly constructed classroom, which hopefully will be finished by July 2024.
- A Safe house at the Learning Centre is under construction and by early 2024 we hope to have 30 girls in residence who will be attending nearby secondary schools.
- A major development of the sports facilities will increase the range of activities resulting in an expectation of over 10,000 visits.



A BIG

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped us in 2023 to develop and grow the Learning Centre. Whether your support was financial or practical and however large or small we greatly appreciate your efforts to help us to help the children we serve.

The Learning Centre is based in an area that is surrounded by children who live in extreme poverty and schools that are chronically under-resourced with very poor infrastructure. The Learning Centre is starting to make a huge difference to these children and schools and whilst we are delighted with our progress so far there is still much to do. If you would like to support us further in our aspirations and help us to target more children in need then please feel free to contact us

