



PRIMROSE COMMUNITY HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

The effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and Zambia experiencing the driest agricultural season in more than forty years, resulted in significant crop losses, increased livestock, deaths, and worsening poverty serves as a timely reminder of the fragility of Zambia's food systems.

Nevertheless, in our 20th year of serving communities to overcome health, social and economic challenges, we have much to celebrate and be proud of. We're proud that over than 3,000 community members have benefited from the Kids to Care Paediatric HIV Project supported by Aidsfonds. We're proud to have provided training and capacity building to Community Health Workers to carry out door to door case findings for infant, children and adolescents including pregnant and lactating women

Our mission is simple: Leave no one behind by investing in health, economic empowerment, education, climate change mitigation and resilience, water, sanitation and hygiene. We are proud that more than 250 households are now able to access safe and clean water. These are underserved communities which were affected by waterborne diseases. We launched a very robust Strategic Plan 2024 - 2030 which is focusing on key health, social and economic sectors of Zambia. Our bold ambition is to be part of history in the ending of HIV as a public health threat by 2030.

Primrose Community Health Organization changed its name from Pride Community Health Organization. This was necessitated by the health, social and economic transformation agenda the organization is undertaking. But no matter how many lives we have changed, we are always committed to becoming better. In 2024, we launched Strategy Plan which is relevant to the local context.

As we strive to amplify children's voices, I am excited that Aidsfonds agreed to support us in the area of Paediatric HIV care. Since the first cases of HIV infections were identified, the number of children infected with HIV has risen dramatically in Sub-Saharan Countries. The Global Alliance partners namely Angola, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe have joined together to end AIDS in Children.

Over the years, since the organization transitioned from a support group of people living with HIV/AIDS into a non-profit, its brand is now recognized with geographical foot print across twelve of the eighteen constituent wards in Kafue District, and the organization is fully aware that it does not exist in isolation and hence embraces the larger civil society body and its operating environment.

As Primrose Community Health Organization is committed to realizing our vision "Towards Healthy, Climate Change Resilience, Productive and Socio - Economically Empowered Communities for National and Sustainable Development." It also must fulfil its other statutory obligations which includes reporting our achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt.



Ms. Mwangala Namushi

Board Chairperson

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I am honoured to present the Annual Report for the 2024 financial year. I would like to personally thank every team member for their zeal, energy, commitment, and consistency in driving the organization transformational agenda forward throughout the year 2024. In our last report, I talked about the vital necessity for change within the organization. This year, we've been right in the thick of it, working to transform our organization from top to bottom while continuing, of course, to mobilize resources, and use it to help community members change their lives for the better. It hasn't always been easy; major change is never easy. But I can say with real conviction that we and our brilliant partners and key stakeholders achieved some incredible results in 2024 and made real progress towards ensuring that Primrose Community Health Organization contributes to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 is realized.

Here are some highlights:

We launched the Kids to Care Paediatric Project in Chiawa Chiefdom. This life changing project is the first to be funded by Aidsfonds in Zambia. Early identification of children found with HIV through door-to-door case finding improved from the **baseline of 0% at the beginning of the project to 26% at the end of December, 2024**. Male involvement improved from the **baseline of 17% to 67% at the end of December, 2024**. The project improved the collection, verification and validation of data both at community and facility level before being inputted into the Health Management Integrated System at District level. We rehabilitated two boreholes at a primary school and in a community which was experiencing an outbreak of cholera and diarrhoeal diseases.

A total of **250 households and 1,128 community members** are now accessing clean and safe water. This action contributed to reducing water borne diseases among children. We procured and distributed **120 school desks** to three primary schools in very underserved communities. The action contributed to reducing desk deficits from **40% to below 5% in these primary schools** which were affected by over enrolment of learners due to the free education policy which the Government introduced in 2022. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our vision. We will continue to innovate, collaborate, and advocate for positive change.

The organization developed and adapted a community led health model designed around the thematic areas of Health, Economic Empowerment, Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. As we support more community structures whose aim is to bring about transformation, we're also working to change systems, unlocking better health for local communities in the twelve designated wards namely **Kasenje, Shikoswe, Mungu, Chikupi, Magoba, Kabweza, Matanda, Shabusale, Chisakila, Kambale, Chiawa and Chitende in Kafue District.**

New Partnerships

The Egmont Trust

Since 2005, The Egmont Trust has committed over £13.2 million to 118 partner organizations in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Egmont Trust believes that the people most affected by AIDS in Africa are best at understanding, planning and implementing projects to alleviate the impact that the epidemic has

on children and their families. At the end of 2024, Primrose Community Health Organization was selected to become one of its partners in Zambia.

Key Board Governance Decisions

The Board approved the establishment of two critical standing committees namely; the Performance, Impact and Learning and the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committees to strengthen its governance systems. The Performance, Impact and Learning Committee is a standing committee whose role will be to perform a monitoring and oversight over the Primrose Community Health Organization's performance, impact and learning, with a dedicated focus on results and based on data and evidence. The Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee is a standing committee whose role will be to oversee risk management practices, financial management and audit arrangements of the organization and its resources; provides advice to the Board to ensure that the resources are being managed efficiently, and consistently with its mission, objectives and policies. When these systems are up and running, then the organization will have laid a firm foundation for organizational and programme sustainability.

“Towards Healthy, Productive and Socio-Economically Empowered Communities for National and Sustainable Development”

Total Revenue

Primrose Community Health Organization increased its organization revenue **from USD 337,660 in 2023 to USD 455,708.19 in 2024.** The year 2024 was a positive and progressive year for Primrose Community Health Organization, and the organization ended the year in a better shape than ever to face an uncertain future. Needless to say, the organization is extremely grateful for all the help and support it has received, from individual, local and international funders. The organization was able to partner with new funders namely the African Visionary Fund (AVFund), Aidsfonds, Egmont Trust, International Labour Organization, ELMA Masana wa Afrika, and Otto Mille Valdese. Thank you, everyone, including our outstanding Board Members, Management and Staff Members.



Kenan Ng'ambi

Chief Executive Officer

11th of January, 2024



Goats procured for the members of Savings and Loans Groups in Chiawa Chiefdom

1.0 WHO WE ARE

Primrose Community Health Organization is a registered non-for-profit in Zambia, and has been active for over twenty (20) years in Kafue district. The organization was originally established as a Support Group of People Living with HIV and AIDS in 2004, and transitioned into a well-functioning non-for-profit organization in 2010. In the last twelve (12) years, the organization has expanded the scope of its community driven interventions from one to twelve (12) constituent wards in a district that has a total of eighteen (18) wards with an approximate population of 219,574 (Zambia Statistics Agency: 2022) and covering an area of 4,471 km².

The organization works to enhance the provision of quality, comprehensive and cost-effective delivery of services through direct capacity and skills development, and investment in health, economic empowerment, education, climate change mitigation and resilience water, sanitation and hygiene to the marginalized and vulnerable communities in Zambia.

The organization which has a presence in twelve of the eighteen constituent wards in Kafue District continues to supports communities to build better lives for themselves, grow resilience including the protection of lives and livelihoods. The organization works with communities, public and private actors, women's movements, groups and networks, social movements and other allies to address the structural causes and consequences of inequality in service delivery. The organization connects the work it does at community level with broader efforts and struggles for dignity, equality, and social justice to make the greatest contribution towards just, equitable and sustainable communities.

Guided by human rights-based principles and approaches, the organization seeks to shift and transform communities through development of innovative community – led ideas that will ensure that every person can enjoy a life of dignity and fairness from all forms of oppression. This can be achieved through engaging vulnerable and marginalized communities. The organization prioritizes the leadership of young girls and women, especially those living in extreme poverty and exclusion, in order to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty reduction. The organization creates platforms for collective action, commitment and community ownership by enabling people to unite and contribute to community development efforts as citizens, supporters, staff and volunteers.

Primrose Community Health Organization is rooted in the contexts where it operates and proudly upholds its primary objective of being transparent and accountable to the people most affected by unequal power relations. The organization is committed to gender equality and equity and also has zero tolerance for any form of discrimination based in any way on gender within our organizational structures and in the communities where we will implement this strategy.

2.0 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Primrose Community Health Organization is regulated by the NGO Act of 2009 and the organization is bound by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, copies of which are available on request. It is governed by an Executive Board. Nominations for new board members are considered by the board and may subsequently be invited to join the board. There are currently eight (8) board members and the organization value the knowledge and expertise of these members. These board members were recruited and appointed for their skills and experience that they can bring to the organization.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

Primrose Community Health Organization is a nongovernmental organization by guarantee. Its purposes are made clear in its constitution. Board members apply and endeavor to achieve the highest possible standards of corporate governance. The Board always discharges its responsibilities in a manner based on transparency, accountability and responsibility. In discharging their responsibilities, the Board, and individual Board members, always endeavor to act in the best interests of Primrose Community Health Organization as a whole, irrespective of personal, professional, commercial or other interests, loyalties or affiliations.

The Board sets governance-level policies and establishes the strategic direction including the development of the organization purpose, values and the organization wide goals and objectives. The Board also exercises leadership, enterprise, integrity and judgement in directing the organization so as to provide assurance of its continuing and lasting prosperity. The Board members of Pride Community Health Organization are the people who share ultimate responsibility for governing the organization.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The management team holds the executive responsibility for implementing the policies and strategies approved by the board. The management team is made up of the Executive Director, Head of Programmes, and Head of Finance. It is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the organization. The Board has redefined the roles and functions of staff in terms of implementation of interventions.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Primrose Community Health Organization is implementing its new Strategic Plan 2024 – 2030. The Strategy aligns with the Vision 2030, National AIDS Strategic Framework (NASF) 2023-2027 that is anchored on the National Health Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the overarching health framework for contributions to the human capital and social development pillar of the 8th National Development. It also aligns with key government strategic frameworks namely Adolescence Health Strategic Plan 2022 to 2026, Agricultural Policy, Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan, and the Integrated Development Plan of Kafue District 2023 – 2033.

Primrose Community Health Organization commits to working towards just and sustainable local communities, and serving the targeted communities with “dignity, equality and social justice.” **The work is centered on Six Key Strategic Priority Areas:**

1. Health
2. Economic Empowerment
3. Education
4. Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience
5. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
6. Institutional Capacity Development

3. 0 OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

In 2024, Primrose Community Health Organization’s work directly benefited a total of **10,921** people through community - led advocacy, and scaling up of work in Kafue District. We are proud of our financial efficiency and accountability as we work to maximize the value of every dollar we receive. Over the past five years, the revenue of our organization has increased. Primrose Community Health Organization’s total revenue in **FY2024 was USD 455,708.19** coming from International NGOs, International Government Agencies, foundations, and individual donors around the world. Ninety percent of the funds received were invested into health, economic empowerment, education support, climate change mitigation and resilience, water, sanitation and hygiene programmes.

4.0 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH

Primrose Community Health Organization provided health education on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), HIV prevention messages, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), and gender equality to **17,334 girls, boys, men, and women**. Out of the people reached with this information, 2,677 individuals utilized HIV counseling and testing services, and 23 tested HIV-positive were initiated on antiretroviral therapy (ART). Among those tested were 1,647 children aged 0–14, 281 pregnant and lactating mothers, and 1,030 men and women.

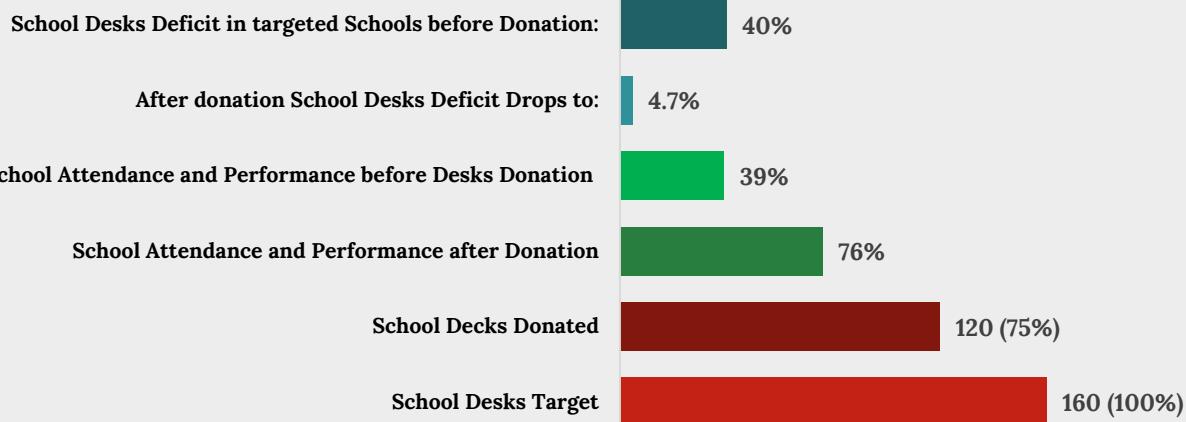
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Primrose Community Health Organization facilitated and supported the training of 71 young women in Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET Ahead) whose aim was to equip young women with the business management and essential soft skills to embark on their entrepreneurial journey. Four Village Savings and Loans Associations comprising of 80 members were trained by the Department of Small and Medium Enterprise Development and the groups received seeds for improve nutrition for their children and also received cash to procure 60 goats and also kick start village banking amounting to Zambian Kwacha 80,000.00. In response to these challenges, Primrose Community Health Organization invested in procuring vegetable seed starter packs whose aim was to improve household food security for pregnant, breast-feeding women and caregivers in Chiawa Chief

EDUCATION

In 2024, Primrose Community Health Organization procured and donated one hundred and twenty (120) school desks to three (3) rural based primary schools in Chiawa Chiefdom in Kafue district, Zambia namely Gota Gota, Mafungautsi and Chiawa primary school. Each school has an average population of 520 learners, translating into reaching approximately 1,560 learners. Since the introduction of the free education policy in 2022, schools have experienced overcrowding. It was observed that Mafungautsi, Gota Gota, and Chiawa had a 40% deficit of desks compared to the school population. After Primrose Community Health Organization donated desks, the deficit decreased by 35.3%, and the current deficit stands at 4.7%. As a result, school attendance improved by 37%, from 39% to 76%.

Education Programme



CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE

Chiawa and Magoba are among the eighteen wards in the district, which experienced severe drought in 2024, which led to significant crop losses, increased livestock deaths, malnutrition, food insecurity, and poverty. Primrose Community Health Organization invested its resources in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). 71 young women aged 15 – 24 years were identified in Magoba ward, and the International Labour Organization supported the capacity building programme. Conservation Agriculture (CA) was identified as one viable farming practice that is climate friendly and at the same time, allows for agricultural intensification in communities around Magoba area of Kafue district. Young women received training in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Conservation Agriculture (CA) with a strong focus and emphasis on CA principles, CA aim and CA practices. Much emphasis was on practical training pertaining to CA practices zeroing in on land preparation, soil health improvement and management as well as weed management/herbicide application.

A key component of this initiative was building the capacity of 151 young women and women in smart agriculture techniques and practices. Through comprehensive training, they acquired essential skills in Conservation Agriculture practices, including agroforestry, irrigation, intercropping, and early-maturing crops, as well as minimum tillage, residue retention, crop rotation, field management, and crop families. Additionally, they learned how to manage pests and diseases in maize and legumes. This empowerment is enabling them to make informed decisions about their agricultural practices, which is expected to lead to improved yields and increased food security.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Access to clean and safe water, as well as adequate sanitation facilities and practices, is fundamental to human health and development. However, the lack of these essential services has far-reaching consequences, affecting not only individual well-being but also societal and economic progress. In 2024, Primrose Community Health Organization rehabilitated two boreholes and installed a solar-powered mechanized water system benefiting 1,128 community members. This initiative significantly reduced waterborne diseases among children in Magoba and Chiawa communities. Additionally, the organization rehabilitated the ablution block at Saint John Community School, which serves a population of 511 learners. Learners from this school are now having adaptable sanitation facilities and the school attendance has improved.

5.0. IMPACT OF OUR INVESTMENTS

Paediatric HIV Care Services

There has been an improvement in paediatric HIV case identification to identify the remaining children and adolescents living with HIV in Chiawa Chiefdom in all the four wards namely Kambale, Chiawa, Chitende and Chisakila to accelerate progress toward 95 -95 -95. This has been achieved through expanding, strengthening and sustaining of community systems to enhance early identification, testing, and treatment of children who are unaware of their HIV status aged 0-14 years, along with pregnant and lactating women. These improvements have clearly been observed in treatment adherence, efficient management of commodities such as HIV test kits, reduced exposure to infectious diseases, enhanced healthcare worker hospitality, minimized travel time for ART refills, stigma reduction, and decreased waiting times. Primrose Community Health Organization also invested in facilitating and supporting the certification of more forty (40) HIV community testers in Chiawa Chiefdom and Magoba ward in Kafue District. This action significantly increased the quality and effectiveness of the organization's HIV testing programme by ensuring proper training, standardized procedures, and enhanced competence, leading to higher rates of accurate HIV diagnosis, improved client confidentiality, and increased trust in testing services within the targeted communities, ultimately contributing to better HIV prevention and treatment outcomes.

Economic Empowerment

The setting up of Village Savings and Loans Associations created an opportunity for adults living with HIV (including pregnant women and lactating mothers), caregivers and community health workers in Chiawa Chiefdom to save money and begin to access loans for small business ventures and income generating activities. These groups were trained on how to develop their own constitution and group agreements, electing leadership, keeping track of savings and loans, and how to plan for a small businesses or income-generating activities.

Education Support

The delivery of basic education has been one of the top priorities on the agenda of successive governments in Zambia. As a result, several policies and programmes have been introduced at both policy and programme levels including the free education policy whose aim is to promote access and quality in the delivery of basic education. Education has a huge impact on any human society and it can safely be assumed that no society is optimally functional until it is properly educated. There has been a trend in all primary schools in rural Zambia which shows that school-going age population for girls is higher than that of boys. However, boys school enrollment is higher than that of girls. The reason could partly be ascribed to the lack of desks to promote a welcoming school environment for girls. Primrose Community Health Organization invested in primary education by procuring and donating one hundred and twenty (120) double seater desks to three rural primary schools in Chiawa Chiefdom. This action contributed to reducing desk deficits from 40% to 4.7% and improving school attendance by 37% for 1,560. This contributed to enhancing the conducive school learning environment in Chiawa Chiefdom.

Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience

According to micro-level estimates pertaining to poverty and inequalities levels, the incidence of poverty in rural Kafue is about 40%, meaning a high number of people are considered as living in poverty or below \$1.25 per day. The impact of HIV/AIDS in the selected communities is one that has continued to put a significant economic strain on many of these targeted families affected by HIV. The Zambian government on the 29th of February, 2024 declared a national disaster and emergency due to prolonged drought that had severely affected a staggering 84 out of 116 districts, including Kafue district. The severe drought adversely affected the production of maize, a vital staple. Primrose Community Health Organization invested in Climate Smart Agriculture in Magoba communities to enhance their resilience to climate change, increase their agricultural productivity, improve food security, and promote sustainable land management practices, ultimately leading to better livelihoods for the affected communities. These communities now can make informed decisions about their agricultural practices, fostering a culture of knowledge sharing within the community.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Children and their families have a chance to flourish when they have access to clean water, but many rural residents struggle to get access to clean, safe drinking water. Investing in water and sanitation in Zambia has a significant positive impact by improving public health, boosting economic development, and enhancing the quality of life for citizens, particularly in vulnerable communities, by reducing waterborne diseases, increasing productivity, and promoting education opportunities through improved hygiene practices. However, challenges remain regarding infrastructure maintenance and access to clean water in remote areas. Primrose Community Health Organization invested in the rehabilitation and mechanization of the water boreholes in Chiawa ward in Chiawa Chiefdom and at Magoba Primary School in Magoba ward in Kafue District. The investment in mechanized water system included procurement and installation of water pumps, one powered by electricity and another powered by solar energy which now extract water from the rehabilitated boreholes and distributes the water through pipes to taps within the target communities, providing a reliable and accessible source of clean water, and thereby improving access to clean and safe water. This action contributed to 500 community members accessing clean and safe water, and thereby contributing to the reduction of diarrheal diseases. The rehabilitation and mechanization of the borehole at Magoba Primary School contributed to good sanitation services among the learners, and there was improvement in school attendance especially among girls. 1,128 community members are now able to access clean and safe water at the school and surrounding villages.

6.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

Many factors combine to make the environment for resource mobilization, fundraising and engagement become tough, whether it's the challenge of navigating an uncertain and sometimes polarized social and political landscape, securing grants from a competitive environment. To be a powerful change agent over the long term, Primrose Community Health Organization will need to focus on securing support from local and international partners who can help us have the greatest impact and to balance activities that can have an impact today with those that can keep making change long into the future.

7.0 ENGAGING WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Primrose Community Health Organization is seeking to improve the way it works with local and international partners so that they will be at the forefront of our partnership, advocacy, programme design, and implementation. The organization is working towards transformative partnerships built on equity and respect. In 2024, our partners supported our programmes, shared their expertise, and helped amplify our impact and ability to create lasting change.

8.0 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Primrose Community Health Organization will continue to invest in institutional capacity development, as the organization is growing and in the last two years has employed new staff who are now managing new programmes such as Climate Change, Mitigation and Resilience, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

and Economic Empowerment. This investment in organizational capacity development will help our organization to use resources effectively and efficiently in order to achieve its goals, and this will also help the organization's capability to adapt, develop, and consistently improve overtime. Investing in capacity building programmes will in the long-term success helps the organization identify strengths and weaknesses, increase efficiency, and better serve our targeted beneficiaries. In the next twelve months, we intend to invest in resource mobilization, people skills, technology and systems.

This investment will also include leadership capabilities; strategic planning; human resource development; marketing strategy; beneficiary service practices; risk management approaches; communication and collaboration within the organization; knowledge transfer principles; information management approaches; data analysis methods; and the ability to identify new opportunities.

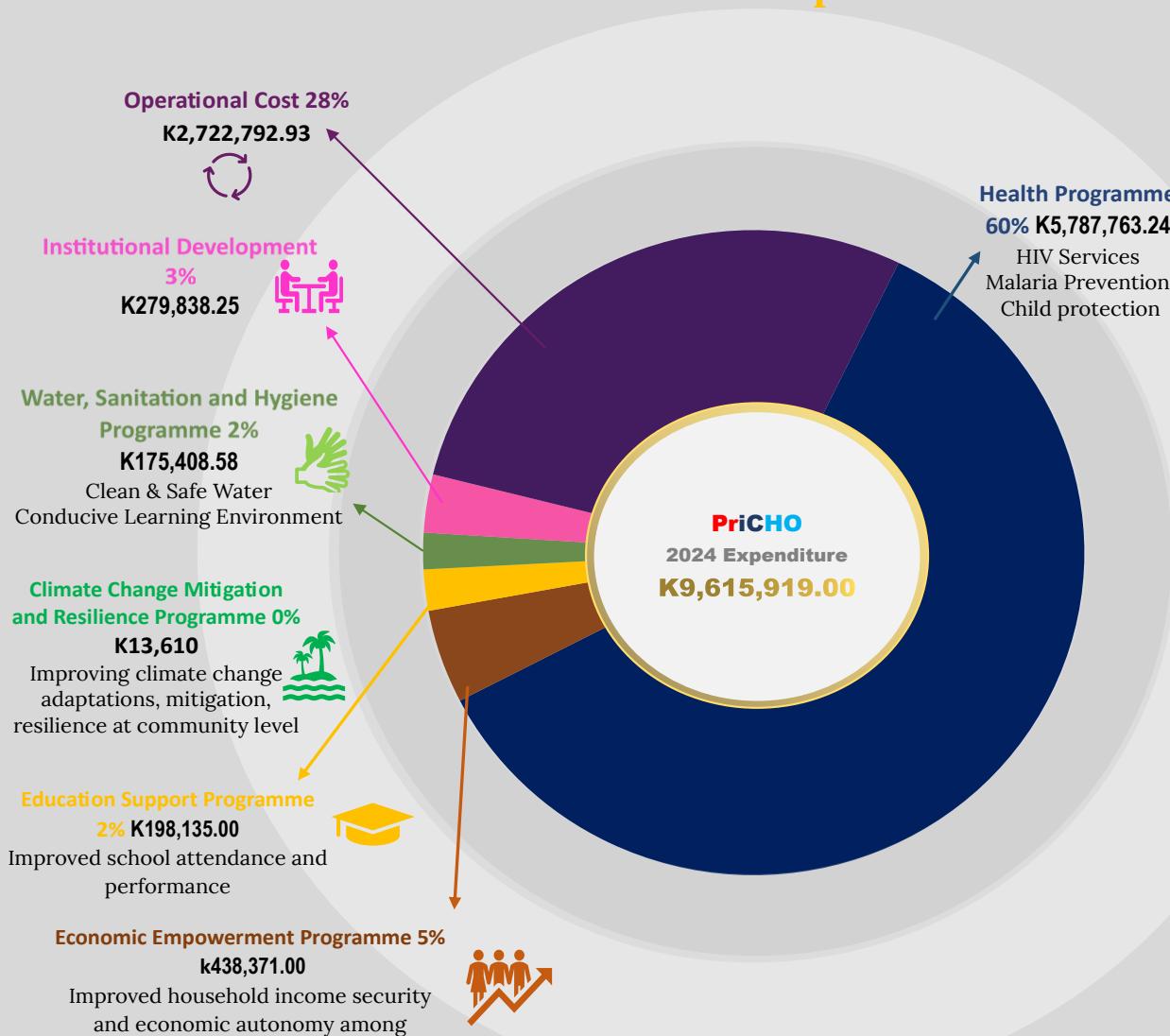
9.0 CURRENT PARTNERS

We would like to extend our thanks to the local partners, International NGOs, foundations who so generously supported our work in 2024:

1. The Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation
2. Egmont Trust U.K
3. Aidsfonds The Netherlands
4. The African Visionary Fund
5. International Labour Organization
6. Otto Mille Valdese Italy
7. ELMA Masana wa Afrika
8. The Kafue District Health Office
9. Life Concern Organization Malawi
10. The District Administration
11. The Office of the Member of Parliament Kafue
12. The Kafue District HIV/AIDS Committee
13. The Department of Social Welfare
14. The Department of Small and Medium Enterprise Development
15. The Department of Community Development
16. The Department of Agriculture
17. The Department of Fisheries
18. The District Education Board
19. The Kafue Town Council
20. The Harvest Fund Zambia

9.0 EXPENDITURE

2024 Primrose Community Health Organization Expenditure



THEMATIC AREAS AND SOME KEY ACTIVITIES.

Health Programme

- Facilitate and support promotion of health education on SRH, CSE, HIV, STI, Malaria, PEP and PrEP
- Facilitate and support HIV testing services in the targeted communities
- Facilitate and support the distribution of contraceptive methods to adolescents and young people
- Facilitate and support the promotion of male involvement in ANC services
- Facilitate and support the provision of malaria prevention services to pregnant girls and women who attend ANC
- Facilitate and support training of parents and community gatekeepers on child rights and protection.
- Facilitate and support identification of malnourished children and provision of HEPS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme

- Facilitate and support the installation and rehabilitation of boreholes in targeted communities
- Facilitate and support the procurement and distribution of reusable sanitary pads in targeted schools
- Facilitate and support the procurement and distribution of sewing machines to rural and community schools for production of reusable sanitary pads
- Facilitate and support the rehabilitation of ablution blocks in rural and community schools

Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Programme

- Facilitate and support the identification and training of community members in smart agriculture practices and technologies.
- Facilitate and support the procurement and distribution of drought resistant crops to targeted community members
- Facilitate and support linkages for community members to access social protection services

Education Support Programme

- Facilitate and support the procurement and distribution of school requisites (books and school uniforms).
- Facilitate and support the procurement and donation of double seater school desks in targeted schools

Economic Empowerment Programme

- Facilitate and support the identification, training, referral and linkages of vulnerable girls and young women to economic empowerment opportunities