

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Foreword

Dear Friends

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with gratitude and pride in the progress Nzeve has made. The year was marked by resilience, collaboration, and steady growth in advancing our mission to promote the rights of children and youth with disabilities, persons with disabilities and their families, and to foster meaningful participation and a culture of inclusion across all community structures.

With the support of our partners, staff, volunteers, and donors, we expanded our reach and strengthened key programs, delivering meaningful impact across the communities we serve. Despite a challenging operating environment, our team remained committed to innovation, accountability, and responsive service delivery.

Strong governance and effective management continued to guide our work. The Board provided strategic oversight, while management focused on building internal capacity and ensuring sustainability. Together, these efforts have positioned Nzeve for continued growth and impact.

We sincerely thank our donors, partners, and communities for their trust and support. Your contributions have been vital to our achievements this year.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact and strengthening partnerships to better serve those who rely on our work. We invite you to read this report and share in the story of what we have achieved together.

With gratitude and commitment,



Blessing Chaipa

Nzeve Deaf Centre
Director



Luke Nyamakanga

Nzeve Deaf Centre
Board Chair

About Nzeve

New Zimbabwe Early Ventures in Education, hereinafter NZEVE a registered PVO 22/2005, is an organization of Deaf and hearing people promoting the rights of children and youth with disabilities.

NZEVE is located in the City of Mutare, in a high-density suburb of Sakubva, Manicaland. Its vision is to see a “Deaf community valued in an inclusive society.” Over the years NZEVE’s work has expanded to include children and adults with other disabilities who receive rehabilitation services and economic strengthening support from NZEVE.



NZEVE works with communities to foster inclusion and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities through family-centered approaches and disability inclusion awareness and dialogues.

NZEVE’s work extends across the Manicaland Province reaching persons with disabilities and their families both in urban and rural Manicaland.

Our Vision & Mission

We envision a Deaf community valued in an inclusive society.

***Deaf
community
valued in an
inclusive
society***

NZEVE is an organization of Deaf and hearing people that promotes the rights of children and youth with disabilities, to meaningfully and fully participate in society. NZEVE works to reduce isolation, stigma, and discrimination through promoting sign language and Deaf culture of inclusiveness across all community structures.



Website

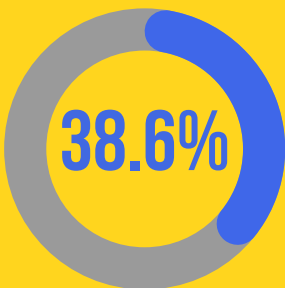
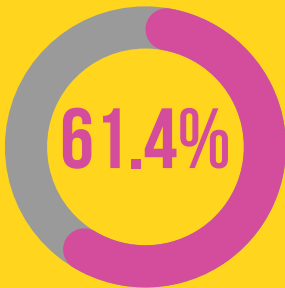
www.nzeve.org.zw

2025 AT A GLANCE

TOTAL REACH



12,778 people reached



Gender Breakdown

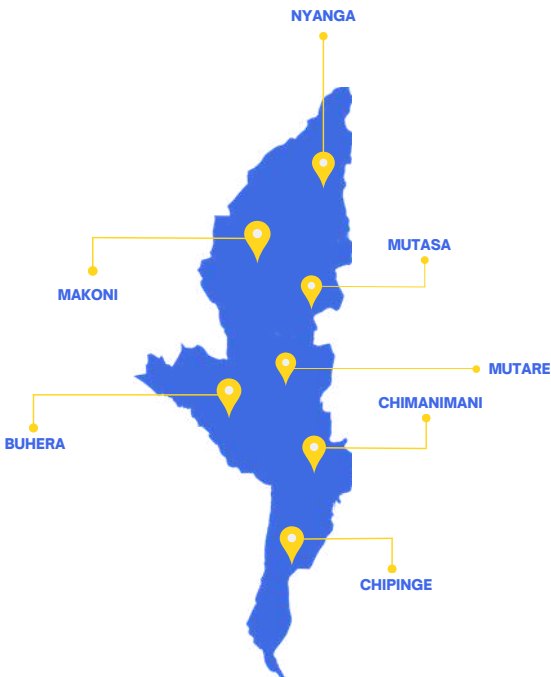
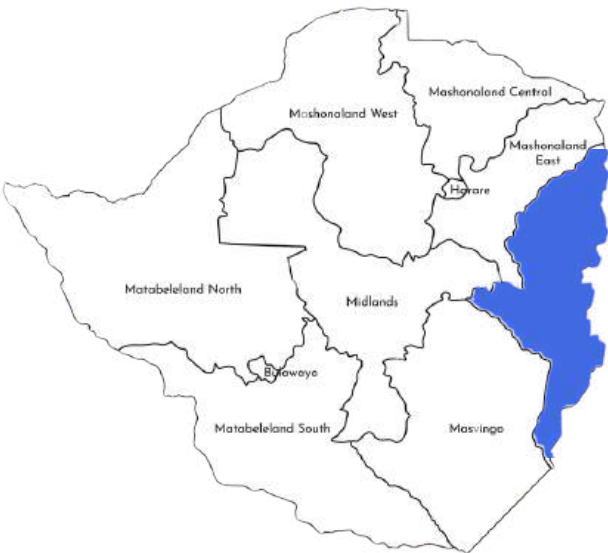


Women & girls: 7,842 (61.4%)



Men & boys: 4,936 (38.6%)

WHERE WE WORK



NZEVE'S FOCUS AREAS



EARLY INTERVENTION

140 children and caregivers supported through ECD, rehabilitation and family engagement.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

1,362 people reached with hearing health services, SRHR education and inclusive health outreach.



DEAF LEADERSHIP

103 Deaf youths and adults strengthened through leadership development and Deaf club engagement.



LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

774 persons with disabilities and caregivers supported through skills training, ISALs and income-generating initiatives.



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

10,399 community members engaged through disability awareness, inclusion dialogues, sign language training and school-based outreach.

2025 MILESTONES & MOMENTS

Throughout 2025, Nzeve marked important moments that strengthened inclusion, partnership and dignity for children and persons with disabilities across Manicaland.

Strength in Every Step: Lorraine



With continued support from Nzeve and Aspire Clinic, Lorraine Dengura received a new prosthetic leg, restoring her mobility, independence and confidence to continue pursuing her livelihood and future goals.

Parliamentary Engagement on Disability Inclusion



Nzeve Deaf Centre hosted Members of the Parliament of Zimbabwe during a fact-finding visit focused on advancing disability inclusion across key sectors.

Christmas Wish Granted: Godwillings

Through TM Pick n Pay's Grant a Wish programme, with support from the Meikles Foundation, Godwillings received a wheelchair and essential groceries bringing dignity, mobility and renewed hope to his family.



Learning Without Barriers



With support from POTRAZ, Nzeve received an interactive smart screen for ECD learners, strengthening inclusive, visual and engaging learning for Deaf children in their early years.

Australian Ambassador Visit



Her Excellency Minoli Perera, Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, visited Nzeve to celebrate children's milestones and reaffirm continued support for inclusive programmes for persons with disabilities.

INCLUSION IN ACTION

From early intervention to community-led change, these moments reflect how inclusion is built every day.



EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Action for Lifelong Inclusion



Early support changes life trajectories. In 2025, Nzeve marked its 15th Graduation Ceremony for Children with Disabilities, celebrating progress achieved through timely and well-coordinated early intervention.

The ceremony honoured five Deaf children who completed Early Childhood Development (ECD) at Nzeve, alongside twenty children with disabilities who reached key developmental milestones, including improved speech, mobility and social interaction. These achievements enabled children to transition into mainstream schools and community learning environments.



Children with disabilities particularly Deaf children and those with developmental delays are often identified late and face limited access to specialised early support. Without timely intervention, developmental delays can restrict learning opportunities and increase the risk of long-term exclusion.

Through Early Childhood Development, early identification and family-centred support, Nzeve works closely with caregivers to strengthen children's communication, mobility and social development during the critical early years. This work is supported by Brot für die Welt and Masana wa Afrika, whose partnership strengthens early intervention services for children with developmental delays.



The Parenting Pathways Project, supported by Brot für die Welt, further equips caregivers with practical skills and guidance to support their children to reach key developmental milestones at home and within their communities.

The graduation brought together families, government representatives, members of the business community and partners in a shared celebration of inclusion. Her Excellency Minoli Perera, the Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, attended as Guest of Honour and underscored the importance of sustained investment in early intervention to advance inclusion and long-term empowerment for children with disabilities.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Inclusive and Accessible Health Services

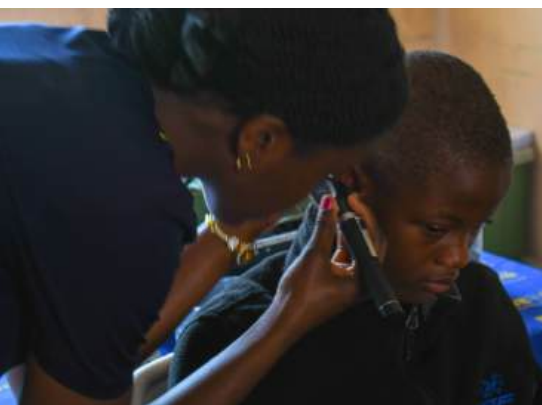
Across Manicaland, Nzeve strengthened access to inclusive health information and services through community-based outreach and strategic partnerships.

With support from Amplify Change through the Turiranai / Let's Communicate More project, Nzeve conducted several Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) camps for Deaf girls and women, as well as boys and men. Implemented in collaboration with government institutions and health partners, the initiative focused on improving access to accurate SRHR information, building confidence in engaging with health services, and strengthening referral pathways.

Participants accessed essential health services, including HIV testing, family planning and wellness checks, within safe and inclusive spaces that supported open dialogue with health professionals.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Nzeve also engaged Deaf men and boys through targeted discussions on safety, equality, SRHR, mental health and safeguarding, strengthening awareness and shared community responsibility in preventing violence.

In Chipinge District, Nzeve conducted hearing health screenings and community awareness dialogues on hearing health and disability inclusion, supporting early identification and promoting timely access to appropriate services for children and families.





DEAF LEADERSHIP

Strengthening Voice, Confidence and Representation

Leadership grows when people are given space, skills and opportunities to lead. In 2025, Deaf leaders from Deaf clubs across Manicaland came together for a two-day Deaf Leadership Training aimed at strengthening leadership capacity and collective action within Deaf-led structures.

The training focused on financial management and budgeting, decision-making and planning, and team building, equipping participants with practical tools to lead their clubs effectively and advocate for inclusive communities.

Through group discussions, presentations and interactive sessions, Deaf leaders strengthened confidence, accountability and collaboration.

Leadership was also strengthened through sport participation, which provides an important platform for teamwork, discipline and visibility. During the City of Mutare Paralympic Sports Festival, Nzeve-supported Deaf teams demonstrated leadership on and off the field.

The Deaf Girls' Netball Team secured first place, the Deaf Boys' Senior Football Team finished second, and the Junior Football Team placed third. Participation in inclusive sport created opportunities for Deaf young people to lead, compete and represent their communities with pride.

Together, leadership training and sport engagement reinforced Deaf leadership as both voice and action, advancing participation, representation and Deaf-led community development across Manicaland.

LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Building Skills, Strengthening Resilience

Economic empowerment remains central to strengthening independence and reducing vulnerability for persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

Across Manicaland, Nzeve supported inclusive livelihood initiatives that combine skills development, savings and community-led enterprise to promote sustainable economic participation.

With support from Women Against Violence Through Empowerment (WAVE), Deaf girls accessed practical nail therapy and hairdressing skills training, equipping them with income-generating abilities while strengthening confidence and economic independence.

By expanding livelihood options and promoting self-reliance, the initiative contributes to reducing vulnerability to gender-based violence among Deaf young women.

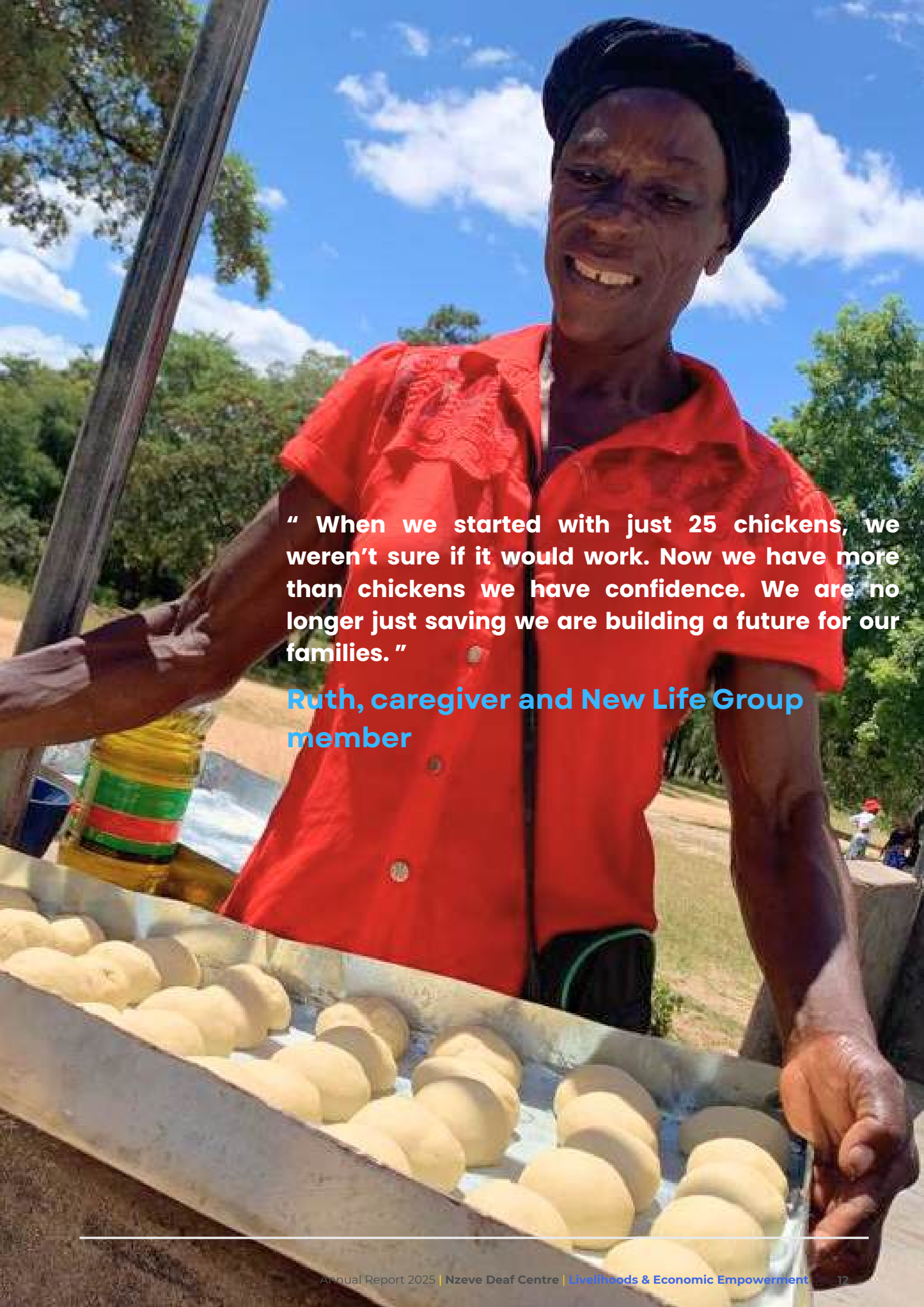
Nzeve also supported community-based livelihood initiatives through the Our Hands Together Project, with support from Tearfund Australia.

In Makoni and Buhera Districts, caregivers of children with disabilities and persons with disabilities participated in Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups, alongside feed formulation trainings designed to strengthen small-scale income activities and household resilience.

In Nzvimbe area, Makoni District, communities further established a garden project linked to disability inclusion efforts, promoting food security, participation and shared responsibility.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how skills training, savings and locally driven enterprise can support sustainable livelihoods and dignity for persons with disabilities and their families.





" When we started with just 25 chickens, we weren't sure if it would work. Now we have more than chickens we have confidence. We are no longer just saving we are building a future for our families. "

Ruth, caregiver and New Life Group member



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Strengthening Inclusive Communities

Lasting inclusion is achieved when communities take ownership. Across Manicaland, Nzeve supported partnerships and locally driven initiatives that placed persons with disabilities at the centre of community life.

During the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2025, Nzeve partnered with the Zimbabwe Nurses Association (ZINA) in a strong show of solidarity, providing grocery hampers to persons with disabilities and their families. The initiative combined practical support with a clear message of dignity, care and shared responsibility.

Community leadership was further demonstrated in Chimbike, where residents organized a community-led Disability Day following disability inclusion training supported through the Our Hands Together Project with Tearfund Australia.

Building on this momentum, the community established its own centre for persons with disabilities, creating a dedicated space for participation, support and inclusion. Linked to the centre, the community also initiated a gardening project to promote food security, shared responsibility and economic participation.

In Rusape, Nzeve amplified visibility and awareness through a vibrant Deaf Awareness Roadshow, which brought Deaf identity and sign language rights into public spaces.

From a march through town to celebrations at Vengere Shopping Centre, the roadshow created opportunities for dialogue, visibility and solidarity, reinforcing the message that human rights cannot be realized without accessible communication.

Together, these initiatives reflect a shift from awareness to sustained, community-driven inclusion where persons with disabilities actively contribute to and benefit from community life.





WHEN A COMMUNITY CHOOSES INCLUSION

In Buhera District, access to basic sanitation remained a daily challenge for Felistas, a young woman with a disability. Without a proper toilet, her dignity, safety and independence were compromised a reality her father, John Mvuto, had struggled with for years while caring for her on his own.

Through Community Disability Dialogues facilitated by Nzeve under the Our Hands Together Project, with support from Tearfund Australia, community members were supported to reflect on disability inclusion and practical ways to support persons with disabilities. As John explained, “the people here were aware of our situation but didn’t have the means to help.”

That began to change when the community received disability inclusion education. “When Nzeve came and opened people’s minds, everyone contributed in their own way,” he shared.

Community members donated bricks, cement, roofing sheets and small amounts of money, working together to construct a toilet designed to meet Felistas’ needs.

As a builder, John oversaw the construction while the community provided materials. What started as dialogue turned into collective action, restoring dignity and independence for his daughter. “Now, my daughter has her own toilet, which she can use with dignity and independence,” he said.

Beyond the physical structure, the process transformed attitudes within the community. Felistas was no longer seen only through the lens of disability, but as a valued member of the community deserving of support and respect. Her story demonstrates how community-led inclusion, when paired with the right support, leads to practical and lasting change.



TRANSFORMING LIVELIHOODS, BUILDING RESILIENCE

In Buhera District, economic exclusion and social isolation were everyday realities for many caregivers of children with disabilities and women with disabilities themselves. These challenges came into sharp focus in Buhera Mambo site, where opportunities for income generation and community recognition were limited.

Following disability inclusion training facilitated by Nzeve, the New Life Group was formed in 2024, bringing together 12 mothers of children with disabilities and five women with disabilities. For many members, participation in the group marked a turning point. Beyond savings, the Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) approach created a space for solidarity, shared purpose and renewed confidence.

As part of its economic strengthening work, Nzeve supported ISAL groups to move beyond saving towards income-generating activities that could strengthen household resilience.

Guided by training and mentorship, the New Life Group invested their pooled savings into a broiler chicken project, starting with just 25 chicks. Through careful planning and collective management, the flock doubled within two months.

Building on this success, the group diversified into a baking business, investing in a metal oven and baking supplies. Within weeks, their products were supplying local schools and small businesses, creating a reliable income stream for members.

For Anna, one of the women with a disability in the group, the change has been significant. “What started as a small poultry venture is now a bakery business serving the community. The income is helping us meet daily needs and contribute to school fees,” she shared.

Ruth, a caregiver in the group, reflected on their journey: “When we started with just 25 chickens, we weren’t sure if it would work. Now we have more than chickens we have confidence. We are no longer just saving; we are building a future for our families.”

The New Life Group’s journey demonstrates the power of inclusive, community-led economic empowerment. What began as a small group of caregivers and women with disabilities has grown into a resilient collective generating income, restoring dignity and inspiring others in the community.

With continued mentorship and support, the group is shaping a future defined not by limitation, but by opportunity and shared resilience.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026–2030

Building on 25 years of experience and strong community trust, Nzeve enters the next strategic phase with a clear commitment: to scale proven models, deepen impact, and strengthen systems for lasting disability inclusion across Manicaland Province.

Guided by our **2026–2030 Strategic Plan**, we will focus on five interconnected priorities:

Early Intervention and Inclusive Education

We will expand early identification and intervention services for children with disabilities, strengthen inclusive education systems, and support families and schools to ensure children can learn, grow, and transition successfully through the education system.

Comprehensive Health and Wellness

Nzeve will deepen partnerships to improve access to disability-inclusive health services, including developmental screening, hearing health, SRHR education, and community wellness initiatives that remove barriers to care.

Inclusive and Sustainable Livelihoods

We will scale vocational training, social enterprises, savings groups, and income-generating initiatives that enable persons with disabilities and caregivers to achieve economic independence and resilience.

Research, Advocacy and Deaf & Disability Leadership

Through evidence-based advocacy and leadership development, we will support persons with disabilities to influence policy, lead community action, and advance rights-based inclusion at all levels.

Organisational Sustainability and Growth

We remain committed to strong governance, authentic disability leadership, diversified funding, and partnerships that enable long-term impact and responsible growth.

Together, these priorities reflect our vision of **an inclusive society where every person with a disability thrives with dignity, opportunity, and voice.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nzeve extends its sincere appreciation to the donors, partners and collaborators whose support made our work possible in 2025.

Your commitment enabled us to strengthen early intervention, expand inclusive health and livelihood initiatives, and support community-led disability inclusion across Manicaland Province. Together, we are advancing dignity, opportunity and participation for persons with disabilities and their families.

We are deeply grateful for your continued partnership, trust and shared vision of inclusive communities where every person can thrive.

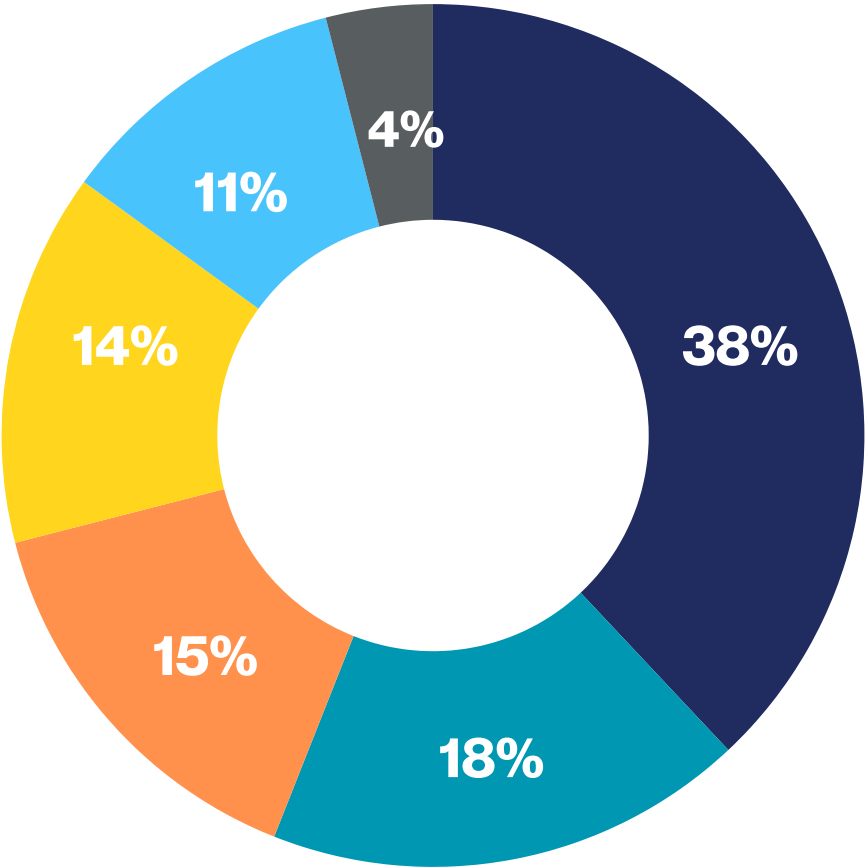


SEE THE IMPACT BEYOND THE PAGES

Scan the QR code to watch a short documentary highlighting Nzeve Deaf Centre's work advancing disability inclusion, Deaf rights and community-led change across Manicaland.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Our Funders:

- Oak Foundation
- Tearfund Australia
- Brot für die Welt
- Amplify Change
- Masana WaAfrika
- Other Partners

Our 2025 funding portfolio reflects strong and trusted partnerships that continue to sustain our work.

This diversified support base strengthens financial stability and positions the organization for long-term sustainability under our 2026–2030 strategic direction.

Support Children with Disabilities

CHANGE A LIFE

Join our new giving program a meaningful, child-focused alternative to our past golf fundraiser. Your support helps children with disabilities access early intervention, inclusive education, therapy, and assistive support so they can thrive.

Every child deserves the right to communicate, learn and thrive.

“Support Children with Disabilities” is Nzeve Deaf Centre’s latest initiative to directly connect donors with the life-changing needs of children with disabilities.

With as little as USD \$1, your support can help provide:

- Early Childhood Education
- Sign Language
- Assistive Devices
- Family Support and Counseling
- Inclusion in safe, accessible, and disability-inclusive learning environments

For Sponsorship & Donations



Scan to Make a Difference



THANK YOU

None of this work is possible alone.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the **persons with disabilities and families** who place their trust in Nzeve to our community leaders and **volunteers who champion inclusion** at local level and to our **partners, donors, government departments and collaborators** whose support enables meaningful and lasting change.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to working together learning, adapting and building a future where inclusion is not an exception, but the norm.

For feedback and comments please contact Us:

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