mukundi

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Who are we?

Mukundi is a Zimbabwean non-profit organization committed to ensuring essential care and protection for orphans affected by HIV/AIDS when social ills arise. The end of year 2025 marks two years since our inception, and our work remains deeply rooted in our founding principle, that orphans are not limited, but are capable individuals.

Orphans are **mukundi,** a Shona word meaning "one who overcomes" This defines our **mission** to create environments where orphans not only access their immediate needs but also develop the necessary skills and mindsets to navigate real-world complexities with confidence as they transition into adulthood.

Our mission is holistic and sustainable thus delivered through five interlinked pillars; health & wellness, exploration, enhanced competencies, integration, and self-actualization. As we fulfil our mission, we envision a world where orphans can grow in environments, where they can realize their full potential thus enabling them to become resilient individuals with self-determined futures. ***www.mukundizw.org***

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Mutongi .T. Kawara
Founder & Director of Mukundi

Director's message

I welcome you all to Mukundi's annual report for the year 2025. The year 2025 was nothing short of incredible for us, as it was filled with a lot of winning and learning that are sure to propel us forward. As I reflect on the milestones we have reached, I look at the challenges we faced, not with disdain, but with pride. True to our name, Mukundi, we have overcome.

The children remain our constant source of strength. Therefore the year 2025 saw us create child-friendly spaces, provide opportunities for skills development, and expand our reach by integrating into the community thus ensuring platforms where children's voices are heard.

One of our key milestones this year was the completion of our first residential facility. This home, alongside our "Overcoming Barriers" project, ensures our center is not an isolated institution, but a community hub, a haven that invites collective action and integration. Witnessing this already as a start-up organization renews our hope for the future.

As the founder of Mukundi, my critical focus is ensuring our work remains guided by our founding philosophy. This foundation is something we will always look back to ensure our survival beyond the initial years where many organizations falter. While we face the uncertainty that comes with shifts in the global donor landscape, I remain resolute.

Our plans for 2026 running our residential facility, expanding our skills programs, and deepening our community advocacy are firm. With gratitude our work in 2025 would not have been possible without the **kanthari Switzerland foundation;** the dedicated individuals and partner organizations who stood by us. We thank you for your support!

I invite you to join us in 2026. Together, we will continue to turn vulnerability into strength.

Year at a glance

Number of beneficiaries
275

Number of projects
4

Number of community engagement events
3

Number of supporting foundations
1

Number of caregivers reached
35

Impact dashboard

Health & wellness pillar

1 residential facility constructed
#90% of beneficiaries access psycho-social support activities

The change?
The center has become a child friendly space where children are free to explore and express themselves.

The proof
Influx of engagement by members in the community enquiring how they can be more involved

Exploration pillar

95% of beneficiaries have plant germination themed camp; earth and climate and water conservation themed camps

The change?
75% of beneficiaries are actively involved and make practical use of skills and knowledge which they leveraging in formal education and daily lives

The proof?
Beneficiaries have become eager to attend school and
they independently apply gained skills in their daily lives

Enhanced competencies' pillar

100% of beneficiaries establish vegetable garden and plant trees
#150 indigenous trees planted in nursery
#2 co-curricular clubs

The change?
Beneficiaries have continued access to enhance learning and make use of existing knowledge/skills in their daily lives

The proof?
Beneficiaries are engaging their peers and community around them to share skills and knowledge. Overall they have improved performance and participation in school.

Integration pillar

1,100% of target achieved 275 children empowered with life skills/knowledge through our co-curricular clubs.
3 community mini fairs successfully carried out

The change?
The community has deeper understanding and appreciation of how Mukundi initiatives are working and are therefore open to hearing beneficiaries speak

The proof?
Influx of engagement by members in the community enquiring how they can be more involved

Pillar 1: Health and Wellness

Our objective is to promote the physical and mental development of orphans in an environment that allows them to realize their full potential. By prioritizing well-being, we help children develop the capabilities needed to become resilient individuals who own their futures.

Activities

From May- December 2025, Mukundi was on a journey of constructing our first residential facility. This pilot project focuses child development, welcoming children between the ages of 0 and 10 into a specialized care environment.

The facility is more than a shelter; it is an environment designed to help beneficiaries truly feel at home. At the heart of this vision is an open-space layout that minimizes physical barriers. This intentional design fosters constant engagement between children and their caregivers, creating a profound sense of safety and emotional security.

Through this layout, children participate in daily tasks both individually and alongside their caregivers. This balance allows them to develop personal autonomy while simultaneously building strong socialization skills.

Looking ahead!

Our commitment to wellness includes;

- Comprehensive nutrition plans ensuring every child receives the healthy balanced meals essential for their growth;
- Regular health checks and consistent monitoring of physical milestones and
- Integrated pathways to early childhood education and foundational skills training.

Even in its pilot phase, the residential facility has already become a beacon for the local area. Children from the surrounding community are visiting the center to engage in our various projects, ensuring that our home is never isolated. We envision this center evolving into a community hub where neighbors engage, learn, and work together, ensuring that the children under our care are not isolated but fully integrated into community.

Pillar 2: Exploration

We empower our beneficiaries by providing diverse learning opportunities including through themed camps. Our goal is to foster a mindset of curiosity and growth, equipping children with the essential skills essential to their transition into adulthood. This is being realized through our three-year "Overcoming Barriers" project (2024–2027), which utilizes school holiday periods to turn education into an adventure.

Our methodology

Guided by our curriculum we intentionally move away from "frontal teaching". Instead, our themed camps involve nature, science, culture, and technology expeditions. We use interactive methods including experimentation, hands-on exploration, games, and sport to immerse children in the subject matter.

Activities

Carrying on from the year 2024, by the end of 2025, we have successfully completed five of our nine planned themed camps. These camps were strategically designed to address both modern inequalities and global challenges:

- Bridging the Divide: Our health themed camp prepared beneficiaries for emergency situations, while our information technology themed camp was specifically chosen to bridge the digital divide in our community.
- Climate Resilience: The plant germination, earth & climate, and water Conservation camps were designed to equip children with the capacity to understand and respond to the climate crisis.

Looking Ahead!

As we move into 2026, we look forward to completing the final four themes of this series: Living Organisms, Food Literacy, Landforms & Geography, and Art & Culture. Each camp brings us one step closer to ensuring our **mukundi** are well-rounded individuals ready for the world.

Pillar 3: Enhanced competencies'

We create platforms for the independent application of learning in daily life. By providing access to specialized skills development, we ensure our youth have the practical tools necessary to build a foundation for success. Since the beginning of 2025, our beneficiaries have moved beyond learning to practically applying the hard and soft skills gained during our themed camps.

Our methodology

We prioritize the independent application of skills in the children's daily lives whether at school, in their households, or within the broader community. To ensure mastery, we provide **"challenging prompts"** that require the children to take initiative and work collaboratively.

Activities

Using skills and knowledge gained from the IT, plant germination; earth and climate and water conservation themed camps our beneficiaries have been engaged in;

- Vegetable gardens: The children manage dedicated garden spaces. By growing food that contributes to their own meals at the center, to achieve tangible food security.
- The 'Tree Child' Initiative: Each child was tasked with planting and nurturing a tree at their own household. This long-term assignment encourages personal responsibility and the practical use of "zero-waste watering" techniques.
- Tree Nurseries: Following a prompt, the children identified deforestation as a primary challenge. They took the initiative to collect indigenous seeds and establish a nursery a vital first step in their plan to reforest their community.
- Co-Curricular school clubs: To ensure continuous growth, we have facilitated the setup of school-based clubs. Our Information Technology sessions at the local school allow children to maintain and improve their digital literacy in a peer-led environment.

Looking ahead!

As we move into 2026, we look forward to the establishment of more co-curricular clubs; mentorship and support for the children's self-initiated projects.

Pillar 4: Integration

We actively work to dismantle social barriers created by neglect, exclusion, poverty, inequality, HIV/AIDS and related stigma. By targeting the beneficiaries' peers and the extended community, we ensure our interventions are woven into the fabric of daily community life and dialogue.

Our methodology

Integration is not just about placing children in a community; it is about giving them a valued role within it. We create platforms where our children are the experts, the teachers, and the voices of change, ensuring they are seen as capable equals by their peers and elders.

Activities

We have initiated the following activities under this pillar;

- **Leading co-curricular IT clubs:** In January 2025, we launched Information and Technology sessions at our local community school. Through this initiative our beneficiaries have been thriving through taking the lead, to teach their classmates how to use computers and navigate digital tools. This leadership role directly counters social isolation, fostering a environment where our children are heard, respected, and sought out for their expertise.
- **Community mini-fairs:** At the conclusion of every themed camp, we host public mini-fairs. These events serve as a stage where children present the knowledge and skills they have gained, ranging from water conservation models to climate action plans, to the wider community. These presentations serve a dual purpose. They build the children's public speaking skills and provide visual proof to the community that these children are knowledgeable contributors to society. Moreover they enhance the children's confidence.

Looking ahead!

As we move into 2026, we look forward to the continuation of these activities and launching the second pilot phase of our comprehensive sexuality education program, towards making a contribution towards curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Health and Wellness: Rio's story

While the physical walls of our residential facility rise, the true foundation of our health and wellness pillar is already being built within the hearts of children like **Rio**. Children from the surrounding community are already visiting the center to engage in our various projects, ensuring that our home is never isolated. Rio's journey is a powerful testament to the impact our center is having even in its pilot phase.

When Rio (pseudonym) first started working with us, he often carried a distant, guarded look. He would seclude himself, rarely interacting with other children. However, through our psychosocial support sessions and art-based wellness programs, we witnessed a profound shift.

When Rio creates art, that distant look disappears. In its place, we see the focus of a "person on a mission." Because we have prioritized a safe, barrier-free environment, Rio has moved from isolation to engagement. Today, he is socially connected to a network of peers, feeling free to express himself and play with a sense of peace we did not see in him before.

"I like coming to the center because I am allowed to play. I have many friends to play with here." ***Rio's Voice***

Exploration: Clyde's story

While our themed camps focus on broad subjects like technology and the environment, the most profound impact is often seen in the individual child's rediscovery of their own potential. Clyde (pseudonym), a bright 9-year-old boy, joined our program facing significant academic hurdles.

When we first met Clyde, he was struggling in school and attending inconsistently. He had great difficulty with basic literacy; writing even his own name was a challenge he often forgot how to master from day to day.

Through the consistent support of the Overcoming Barriers project, Clyde's progress has been truly incredible. Today, he has mastered 22 letters of the alphabet and writes his first name with confidence and accuracy. But the true transformation isn't just in the letters it's in his attitude toward his own future.

> *"I co-facilitate the language-themed sessions where children develop their reading and writing skills. I know how hard Clide has worked and the struggles he still faces. But one day, Clyde came to the center and asked me a question that filled me with joy:* ***'May I please have a book to read?'***
> *In that moment, I saw a child who was no longer defined by his limitations. Even though I knew he might only make out a few words, his eagerness to try, his hope to succeed was the most beautiful proof of transformation I have ever witnessed."* ***Voice from the team (Mukundi project coordinator)***

Enhanced competencies': Leading the Way!

The true mark of competency is when a child moves from being a "recipient" of knowledge to a "leader" of others. In January 2025, following our IT themed camp, we witnessed this transition in real-time.

fix of our beneficiaries independently organized small study groups within their school classes to share the digital skills they had gained. This initiative inspired us to get into a formal agreement with the local school, allowing Mukundi to impart IT knowledge to the wider student body.

This has fundamentally shifted the social dynamics for our children. Instead of being viewed through the lens of vulnerability, they are now seen by their peers and teachers as capable leaders and mentors. This integration ensures they are no longer on the margins of their community but at its very center.

> *"I grew up in this community and I have always seen the challenges our children face: poverty, early marriage, and the lure of destructive paths. Since joining the 'Overcoming Barriers' project, I have realized the role I can play in changing that story. Mukundi is a way out for these children.*
> *When they are here, they are protected and empowered. But the learning goes both ways. I have watched them work together toward a common goal, and I believe the adults in our community could learn a lot from their unity. Personally, this work has changed me; it has taught me that we must never neglect a child. I am committed to doing better for my own children and every child around me. This project isn't just improving individual lives; it is improving my community."* ***Voice from the team (Mukundi volunteer)***

Integration: Catalysts for community change

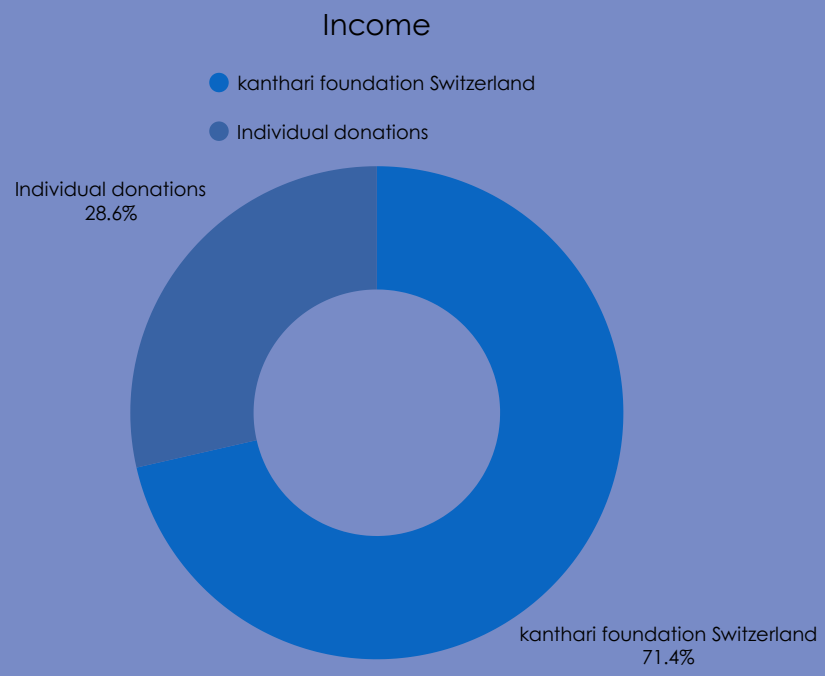
Our information and technology (IT) co-curricular clubs are doing more than teaching digital skills; they are acting as a catalyst for a generational shift. In a rural community where opportunities are often limited and many adults have never had the chance to explore technology; our children have become the primary source of digital knowledge.

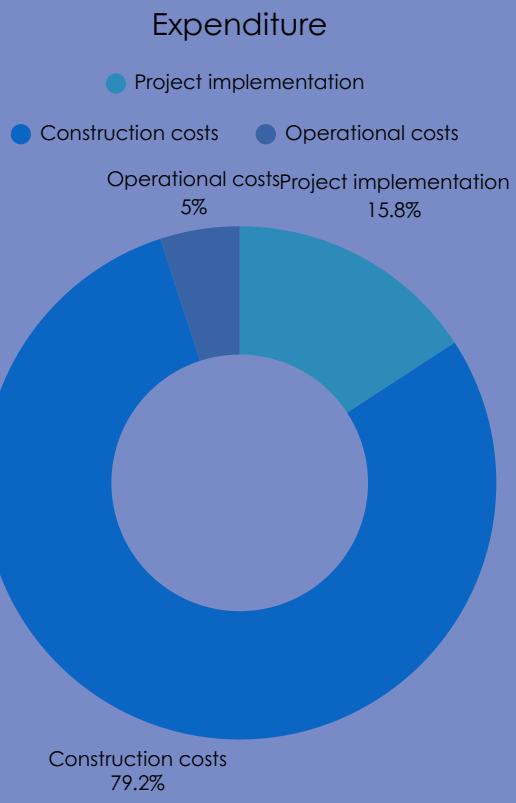
Flipping the script

In a traditional setting where young people are rarely the teachers, our beneficiaries are now being listened to at home, at school, and elsewhere in the community. We are witnessing the birth of a new era where young people are respected as experts. We foresee a future where the mukundi will not only identify community problems but will be welcomed by their elders to design and implement innovative, technology-driven solutions.

> *"Our community and our school have been marginalized for a long time. In my experience as a teacher, I see many schools like Zengenene Primary where we teach children about computers for seven years. The tragedy is that a child can complete their entire primary education having never once touched a computer. This is a massive disadvantage.*
>
> *I am truly happy that through Mukundi, these children finally have access to laptops. They are now applying practically what was once only a theory in a textbook. You can see the difference in their eyes when the screen turns on they aren't just students anymore; they are part of the modern world."* ***Teacher, Zengenene Primary School***

Financials


Income
kanthari foundation Switzerland
Individual donations
Individual donations
28.6%
kanthari foundation Switzerland
71.4%


Expenditure
Project implementation
Construction costs
Operational costs
Operational costs
5%
Project implementation
15.8%
Construction costs
79.2%

Looking ahead

As we transition into 2026, the opening of our first residential facility in Murewa marks a milestone in this journey. The establishment of this shelter signifies the enabling environments we believe are key for our beneficiaries and extended community to thrive. It provides Mukundi with the stability required to create social change through our strategic pillars;

- Health and wellness: formalizing and strengthening our support systems within our new home to ensure the development and wellbeing of the children under our care.
- Exploration: Carrying out three of the four remaining themed camps under the Overcoming barriers project where children will enhance knowledge and competencies to help in their daily lives, education and development.
- Enhanced competencies': Cultivate platforms for independent learning and practical application of skills/knowledge through providing prompts, support and mentorship for our beneficiaries.
- Integration: Initiating community-wide inclusive events and programs to dismantle the barriers of poverty, exclusion and HIV/AIDS related stigma.

Thank you
for your ongoing support

If you would like to make a contribution you can do so **here**

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