



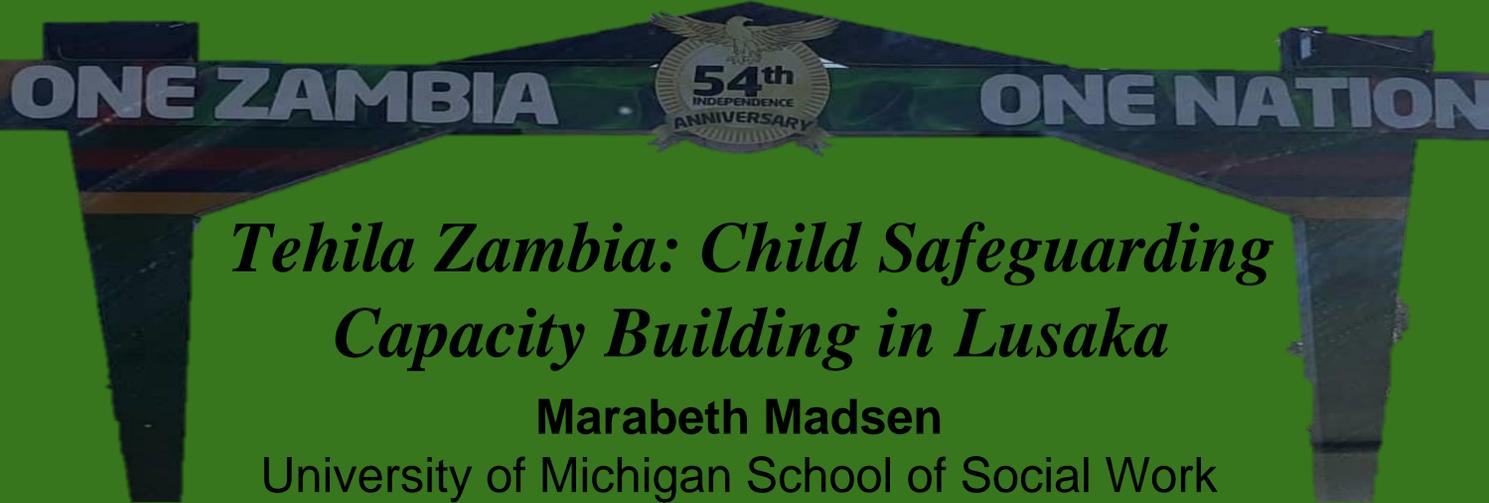
Lusaka, Zambia

Zambia's population is 17.8 million people. 10% of the population (1.7 million) live in the capital, Lusaka. Copper, cobalt, cotton, coffee, fresh flowers, tobacco, gemstones, and maize are Zambia's main economic exports. Chinese, South African, and Indian business people have immigrated and invested deeply in Zambia's infrastructure. Zambia includes 72 tribes with 72 languages, including Nyanja, Bemba, Tonga, and Losi. English is Zambia's official language.

Child abuse often goes unreported or unresolved due to fear, shame, and corruption. Tehila strives to **end child abuse** through educational workshops with churches, community schools, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to establish organizational child protection policies and build community capacity to prevent and respond to child abuse.

Social Work in Zambia

Macro practice dominates social work in Zambia. The government is the largest employer of social workers. UNZA's social work curriculum is currently shifting to include more micro practice and interpersonal skills as awareness of the need for counseling and trauma-informed practice grows.



Agency/Community Partner

Tehila is a Christian nonprofit with a funding arm in the UK run by 3 part-time directors and 2 part-time Zambian staff, including 2 LMSWs. Adding a full-time MSW intern contributed greatly to Tehila's organizational capacity. Through child protection training, Tehila is developing the Samaloni—Nyanja for “to care for”—Children At Risk (SCAR) network, which unites 62 churches in 6 “compounds” of Lusaka: Chelstone, Garden, Kalingalinga, Matero, Ng’ombe, and South East. Community leaders volunteer with SCAR to work towards the shared goal of safeguarding children.

Outcomes

- Researched child marriage and gave a social justice presentation to a class of 50 6th graders at an international school in Lusaka
- Attended a 2-day round-table discussion hosted by World Without Orphans supporting Zambia's transition from institutional care to family care
- Assisted with developing monitoring and evaluation for Tehila's programs: Touch Talk, Teen Discipleship, Safe Places, and Mentoring
- Supported SCAR network community organizing for the World Weekend of Prayer and the Good Treatment Campaign in partnership with Viva

Career Connections

I learned to adapt my communication and networking strategies to match local culture. This required slowing down and listening carefully before offering to help. Tehila's work also deepened my faith in the effectiveness of people working together for change.

Skills Utilized/Developed

- Data management
- Program monitoring and evaluation
- Professional report writing
- Media outreach
- Community organizing
- Engaging children in youth development programs
- Team communication with a small staff
- Administrative support

Classroom Connections

- SW 560/512: Intro to Macro Practice
- SW 504: Diversity and Social Justice
- SW 648: Global Social Work
- SW 799: Data Management Mini-Course
- BA 601: Nonprofit Management

Volunteering with the Community Technical Assistance Collaborative (CTAC) and my first field placement also prepared me for this GFP in Zambia

Lessons Learned

Patience, flexibility, and persistence. The pace of life in Zambia is much slower than in the US. Project results are often relationship-focused instead of task-focused. Community organizing is often done in-person or through phone calls and text messages instead of by email or facebook/social media.

In Zambia's traditionally orally based culture, standardized Western written evaluation tools must be adapted to be effective for measuring impact.

Zambian people are very friendly and welcoming.



Advice

- Ask lots of questions, both before you leave and during your experience
- Pack light! I needed way less than I brought
- Know how to use the GeoBlue insurance and find a good hospital before you need it

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