

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES IN EDUCATION

THE CASE OF ZAMBIA OPEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

A presentation by Cleopatra Chona Muma

Contact and Find Us

www.zocs.org.zm

260-211-253841



20, Tito Road, Rhodespark,
Lusaka Zambia.



Presentation layout

1. ZOCS introduction
2. Importance of parent and community participation in school
3. Developments in Education in Zambia
4. The future for Community Schools



1. Advocacy and Policy Influencing

2.Capacity Building



**Working with
Colleges of
Education to
train volunteer
teachers.**

3. Service Delivery

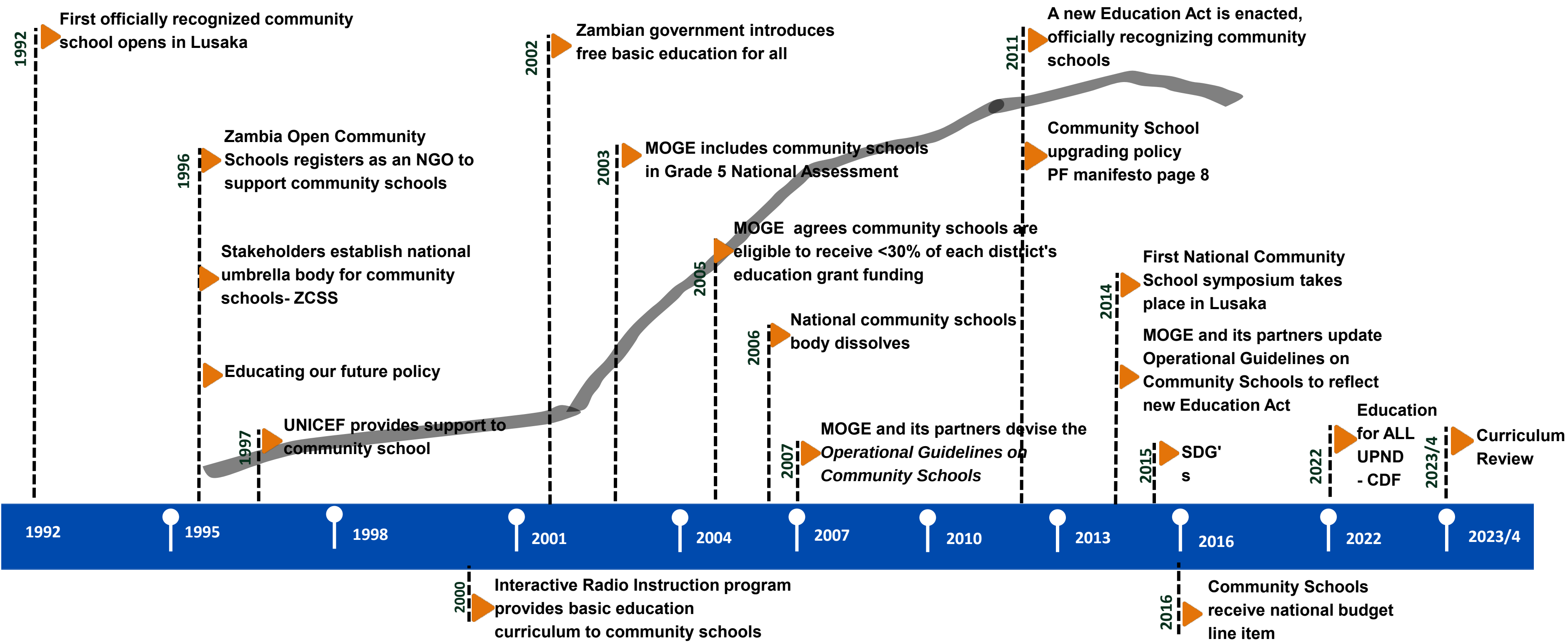
- ☐ WASH in schools
- ☐ School Feeding
- ☐ Bursary support
- ☐ Distribution of Teaching & Learning materials
- ☐ Solar powered computers
- ☐ Solar lighting
- ☐ Construction of schools
- ☐ Construction of natural play parks



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- ❑ Schools established by communities
- ❑ *The second largest provider of primary education in Zambia (ESB, 2020);*
- ❑ A grassroots strategy
- ❑ Schools closer to home
- ❑ Schools with strong parents and school partnerships

Key Moments in the Growth of Community Schools in Zambia



RELEVANCE OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN ZAMBIA

- ☐ Access to education
- ☐ Social emotional Learning
- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Advocacy and Influencing
- ☐ Teacher training
- ☐ Preserve of indigenous knowledge
- ☐ Resource Mobilization
- ☐ Community school partnerships
- ☐ Self sustaining model of education

School Readiness Initiative

To secure a good start into primary education for vulnerable children to access quality pre-primary schooling in community schools





Benefits of Parent/
Community participation

- ❑ Ownership
- ❑ Sustainability
- ❑ home grown solutions
- ❑ Increased teacher and school support

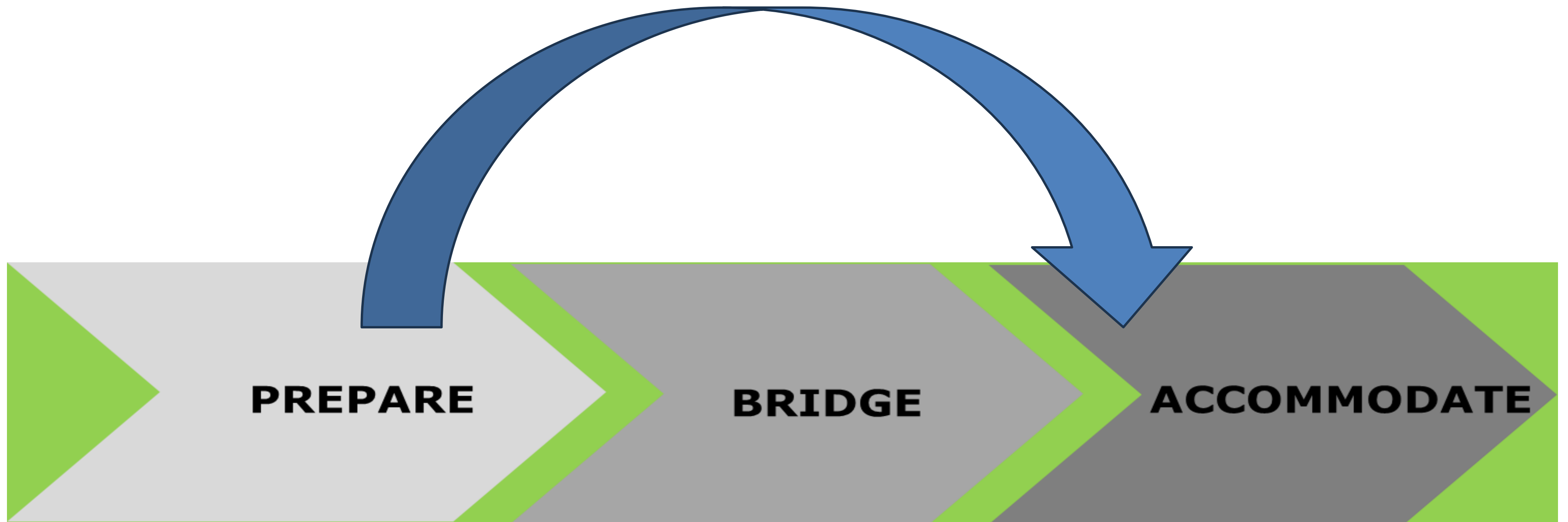


Community members curing bricks at Chaola CS for construction of a classroom block



It is our school and
NOT the teachers' or Government school

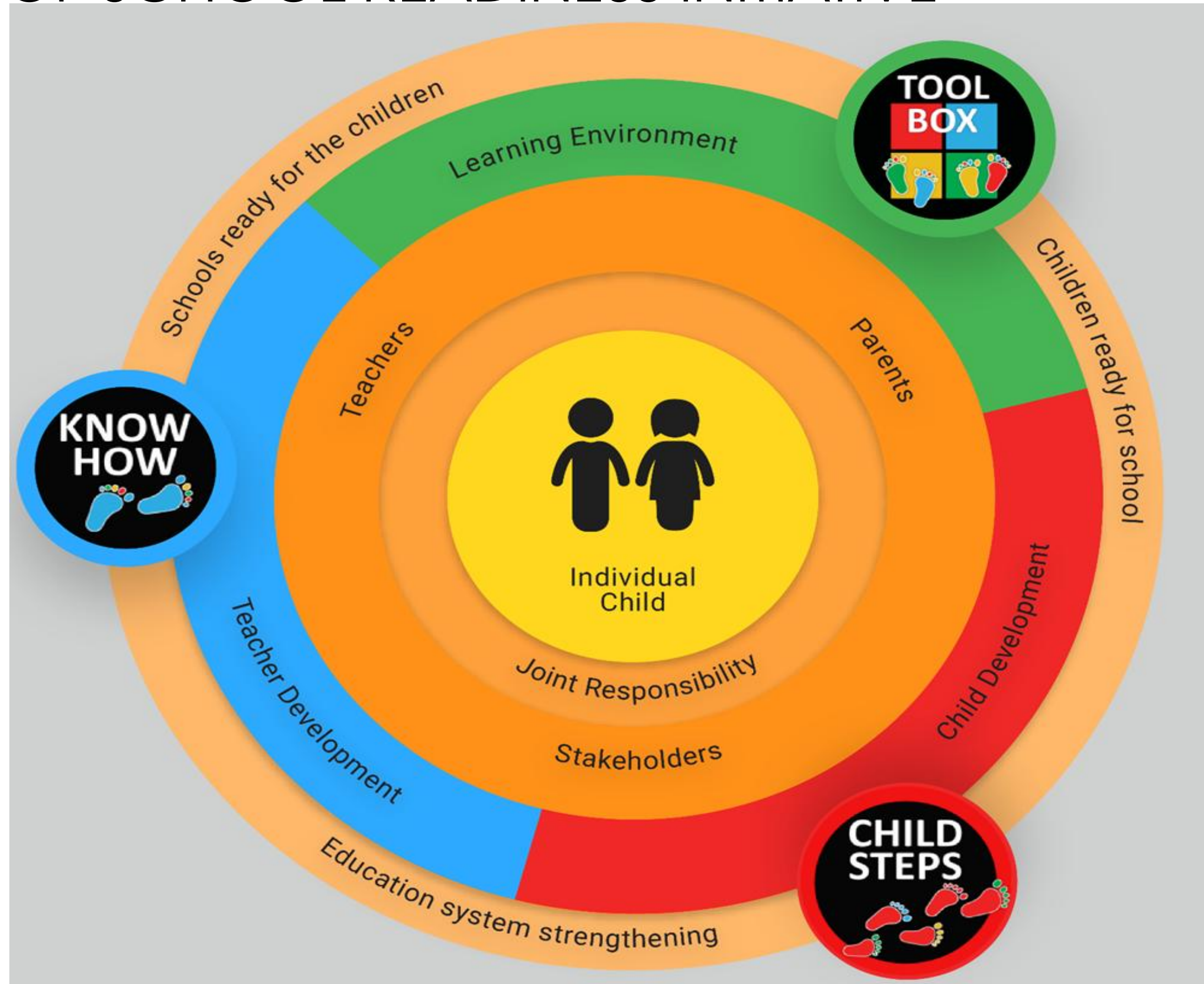
STRATEGY ON PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



KEY ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ☐ Clear Purpose
- ☐ Inclusivity
- ☐ Transparency
- ☐ Building Trust
- ☐ Feedback Mechanisms
- ☐ Sustained Engagement

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE LENS OF SCHOOL READINESS INITIATIVE



ZOCS funding amid global funding cuts

- ❑ Donors
- ❑ Community School Model is self sustaining
- ❑ Diversified funding through:-
 - Social enterprises
 - Corporates
 - Legacy giving

Free Education policy and the future of Community Schools in Zambia

key Findings:-

- ❑ Addressed major barriers to education
- ❑ Out-of-school returned
- ❑ School Grants
- ❑ Teacher recruitment
- ❑ New curriculum



Undesired outcomes of the Policy.

- ❑ Education is Free Books Are Not
- ❑ High teacher-pupil ratios
- ❑ Poor learner assessments
- ❑ Inadequate infrastructure
- ❑ Reduced community participation

The future of Community Schools

- ☐ Community Schools are formal (Education Act of 2011)
- ☐ Government grants & resources increased
- ☐ Not until every child is reached, Community Schools remain relevant
- ☐ CS- Local solution to education gaps





Education breaks the cycle of poverty. Every child should enjoy this right. Thank you!