A power-sharing model for systemic change

Key Findings & Highlights
**Camfed: the Campaign for Female Education**

Since 1993, Camfed has been investing in girls and women in rural Africa as leaders of change. The Impact Report describes the results of 17 years of work in poor communities in Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The results speak for themselves, showing impact in areas ranging from education and child protection to economic empowerment and philanthropy. This is the ‘multiplier effect’ of girls’ education in action. Here are key findings and highlights. To read the full report, download it at [www.camfed.org/impactreport](http://www.camfed.org/impactreport).

**Education**

**The problem:** In a context where 45% of people live on less than £1 a day, girls and young women face massive exclusion from education. At the primary school level in communities where Camfed works, many families cannot afford the basic necessities such as shoes or school supplies that children need to go to school. Only 36% of children need to go to school. Only 36% of children are enrolled in secondary school in the countries where Camfed operates, and the number of girls at secondary school is even lower than this average. Pass rates for girls are lower still.

**Camfed’s approach:** To improve access to education for children in rural Africa, Camfed uses a long-term holistic model throughout their development:

- **Step 1:** In childhood, by supporting children to complete primary school.
- **Step 2:** Through adolescence, by supporting girls through secondary school.
- **Step 3:** In post-school years, with economic training and further education.
- **Step 4:** Onto leadership, as role models, activists and philanthropists.

**Camfed’s impact:** Working through a community-based model delivered by 56,387 local volunteers, Camfed has to date:

- Given **1,065,710 children** in Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi access to a safer, improved school environment.
- Provided **500,948** of these children with financial support to go to school.
- Delivered comprehensive support to **42,184** girls throughout the full four or five years of secondary level education – the level at which most girls are lost to education through poverty, but which delivers the greatest benefits.

These programmes are helping children succeed in school. Here’s how:

- Camfed-supported girls have consistently achieved a **retention rate above 90%** at secondary school.
- Across all partner schools in 2008, Camfed-supported girls in secondary school had attendance rates of **94.7%**.

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**Impact at a glance**

**Key achievements in education (through 2009)**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Children</strong></th>
<th><strong>1,065,710</strong></th>
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<td>Camfed provided 1,065,710 children in communities of rural Africa with access to a safer, improved school environment</td>
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<th><strong>Students</strong></th>
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<td>Of the 1,065,710 children supported, 500,948 of these children received financial support to go to school</td>
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**Examination pass rates**

Pass rates in the primary school leaving examination rose 80% for Camfed-supported girls in Tanzania between 2005 and 2007

**Retention rates**

Camfed-supported girls have consistently achieved a retention rate above 90% at secondary school

**Improving the learning environment**

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<th><strong>Teacher mentors</strong></th>
<th><strong>4,068</strong></th>
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<td>Camfed has trained 4,068 teacher mentors in its 3,139 partner schools</td>
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<th><strong>Teachers</strong></th>
<th><strong>392</strong></th>
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<td>Across four countries, Camfed has directly supported 392 young women into teaching</td>
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Child Protection

The Problem: Camfed believes a safe and supportive learning environment is a non-negotiable tenet of education. In the rural areas where it works, many vulnerable children, the majority orphans, have no access to a holistic system of adult support that protects them from dangers including early marriage, HIV/AIDS and sexual exploitation. In Zambia nationally, for example, 8% of girls are married by age 15; 42% are married by age 18. In rural areas, these numbers average two years younger.

The risk of HIV/AIDS is particularly acute for girls. Young women ages 15-24 are the most vulnerable to the disease. In some countries Camfed operates in, prevalence of the disease among young women of this age is on average about three times higher than among men of the same age.

Female teachers are also a minority, especially at the secondary school level where far more boys enrol in school than girls. This leaves girls with few female role models.

Camfed’s Approach: Camfed places child protection at the center of its programmes and governance to mitigate against risks to girls and vulnerable children; and it engages with the highest levels of authority to influence policymaking.

Within schools, Camfed provides material support only after implementing measures to address girls’ vulnerabilities and psychosocial needs. To do so, Camfed builds a network of support by training teachers and leading sensitisation sessions with community members and parents. This approach creates a continuum of care focused on a girl’s daily experience at school and within her wider social context. Alongside measures to expand educational access, Camfed’s integrated child protection approach includes:

- A zero tolerance policy and a network of psychosocial support in schools, including training female teacher mentors.
- Working with School Management Committees (SMCs) and district-level Community Development Committees (CDCs) to monitor schools and ensure children’s rights are protected.
- Training local government members and traditional leaders in child protection, including police, legal representatives and chiefs.
- Engaging with policymakers at the national and international level.

Camfed’s Impact: By putting child protection at the center of its work, Camfed has seen impact including:

- Zambia has adopted Camfed’s Child Protection Policy as a national strategy at schools.
- As Co-chair of UNGEI (the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative), Camfed developed a code of practice for child protection that has been endorsed by UNGEI partners internationally.
- In Camfed partner secondary schools in Zambia pregnancy rates fell by 9% between 2006 and 2008 compared to an increase of 38% in a control sample of schools.
- Camfed has trained 4,068 teacher mentors in its 3,139 partner schools and supported 392 young rural women to become local teachers.

Impact at a glance

Key achievements in child protection & partnerships (through 2009)

- Community activists 56,387
  56,387 volunteer community activists are working in partnership with Camfed to deliver the programme
- CDCs 77
  77 Community Development Committees (CDCs) are operating in each of 77 poor rural districts
- Government 5
  Camfed has built operational partnerships with 5 national governments in Africa

Building partnerships: the process

1. Build partnerships with national and local government
2. Build partnerships at district level by establishing CDCs
3. Work with CDCs to identify girls in need of support
4. Work with schools to support girls through education

Impact on key indicators

Pregnancy rates
In Camfed secondary schools in Zambia pregnancy rates fell by 9% (to 2.6%) between 2006 and 2008

National advocacy
Zambia has adopted Camfed’s Child Protection Policy as a national strategy at schools
Young Women’s Leadership & Economic Empowerment

The Problem: In a rural context of high unemployment and limited job opportunities, female school leavers have few economic choices. Threats to young women's health and security after school include poverty, early marriage and urban migration in search of work.

Given the international research indicating that women invest twice the proportion of their income in the family as compared to men, an increase in women's income has a profoundly beneficial social impact.

Camfed’s Approach: Cama – the Camfed Association – was founded in 1998, in partnership with the first 400 secondary-school graduates of the Camfed programme. Its goal is to provide young women with a vital bridge from school into safe livelihoods. Cama provides:

- A safe place where women can address the issues that confront them.
- A platform to develop leadership and business skills.
- A vehicle for practical health support services aimed at young women.

Camfed’s Impact: Cama is now a pan-African social movement, with 14,005 members in 77 rural districts in four countries. Over the past three years, the Cama network has grown at an average rate of 34% per year.

Its members are reinvesting the benefits of their education in their families and communities. To date, they have supported 118,384 children through school— with their own money.

Through Cama, programmes have:

- Enabled 6,084 young women to set up or expand their own small businesses.
- Provided 10,329 young women with financial training.
- Trained 1,504 Community Health Activists, who reached 139,908 children and young people with vital health information in 2009.
- Helped 150 young entrepreneurs develop commercial and social enterprises through the three-year Leadership & Enterprise Programme in Zambia. This programme also led to the creation of one of the first IT centers in the region, staffed by Cama members who learned to use computers for the first time through the programme.

Innovative film production programmes in Ghana and Zambia are training women in filmmaking, radio broadcasting and journalism through Cama. Here are the highlights:

- Forty-five women have produced 141 broadcasts and films about social issues including domestic violence and HIV/AIDS.
- Penelope Machipi, one of the young Zambia women filmmakers, won the 2009 Goldman Sachs Fortune Global Women Leaders Award in recognition of her courage and achievements.

Some of Cama’s pioneering leaders are now occupying senior posts within the Camfed organisation: Angeline Murimirwa (née Mugwendere), for example, is Executive Director of Camfed Zimbabwe.

Impact at a glance

Key statistics for leadership & economic empowerment (through 2009)

- **Members**: 14,005
  - Cama, the Camfed Association, currently has 14,005 members
- **Philanthropy**: 118,384
  - 118,384 children and young people have been supported by community philanthropy galvanized by Cama
- **Training and micro-finance**
  - **Businesses**: 6,084
    - 6,084 Cama members have been supported to set-up or expand their own businesses
- **Economic life skills**: 10,329
  - 10,329 young women have been trained in economic life skills
- **Health**
  - **Activists**: 1,504
    - 1,504 Cama members have been trained as Community Health Activists and are providing vital health information
  - **HIV/AIDS outreach**: 139,908
    - Activists have provided health information on issues such as HIV/AIDS to 139,908 children and young people

The Camfed Multiplier Effect

Camfed’s approach of engaging with girls’ education within the social context of their whole lives launches a virtuous cycle of change for girls that, in turn, generates further virtuous cycles for communities and nations.