

ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by

**The Movement for Economic and Social
Development in Africa (MESDA)**

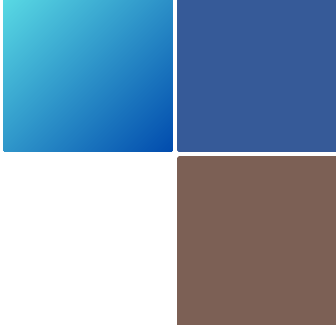


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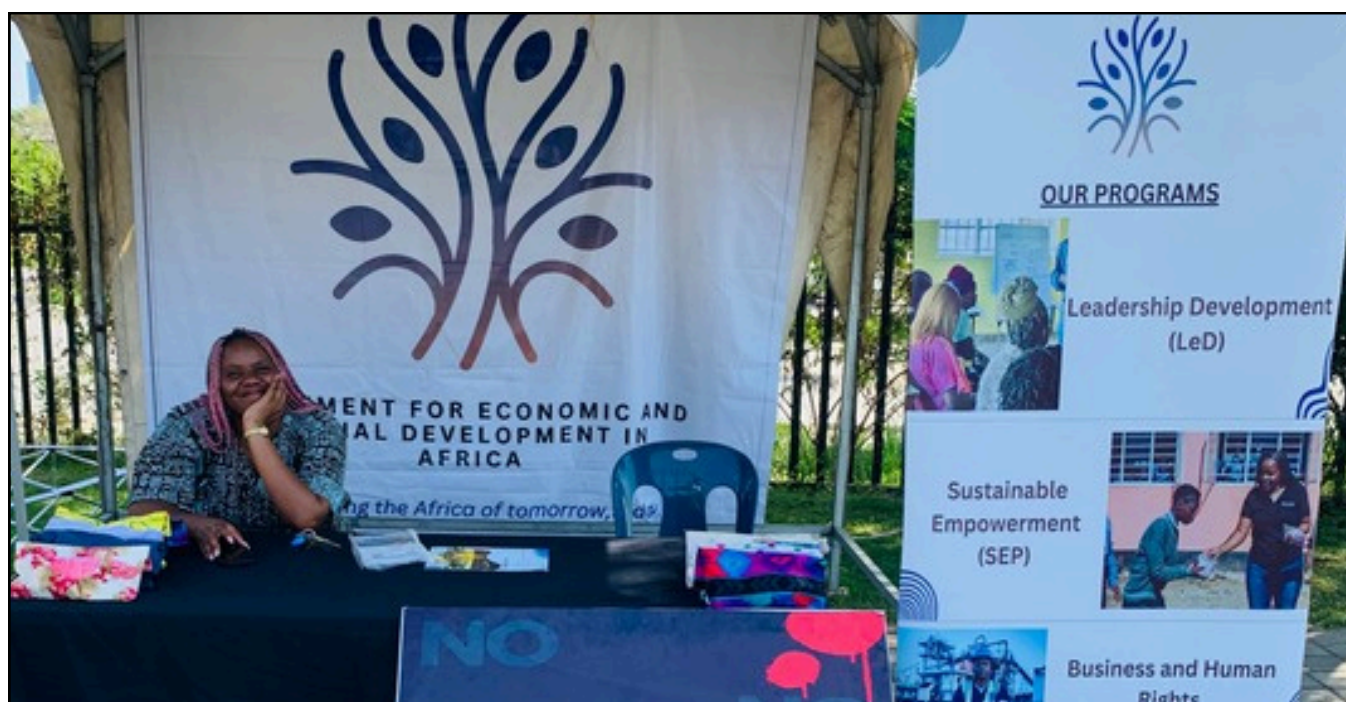
Introduction

This report highlights the strategic and programmatic activities implemented by the Movement for Economic and Social Development in Africa (MESDA) from January 2025 to December 2025. Its purpose is to highlight the implementation of our key objectives and provide a description of the measurable progress made towards achieving our target outcomes.

Our goal at MESDA is to advance social and economic development through fostered collaboration between civil society, businesses, governments and local communities. We seek to achieve this through the operation of the following programs:

- i. Leadership Development;
- ii. Business & Human Rights; and
- iii. Sustainable Empowerment

Below are the activities implemented as per program.



Leadership Development (LeD)

1. Leadership Development Workshop Kapiri, Central Province

On 17th January 2025 we partnered with the Baraka Foundation to host a leadership development workshop in Kapiri under the theme “Building Strong Foundations for Personal Leadership and Responsibility.” The purpose of this engagement was to introduce participants to the concept of personal leadership and equip them with practical skills necessary to navigate their professional decision making.



2. Conversations from the Continent Podcast

We officially launched the CFTC podcast to provide a platform for communities to access mentorship and guidance from industry leaders that may not be immediately accessible to them.

On this platform we engage with Africa's most inspiring thought leaders and doers to tell African stories, discuss solutions to African problems and shape positive African narratives.



Leadership Development (LeD)

In 2025 the Conversations from the Continent Podcast concluded its first season which consisted of 11 episodes as follows:

1. **Medicine in Africa: Strengthening Africa's Pharmaceutical Self-Reliance**, featuring Dr Bwalya Angel Witika, South Africa.
2. **Female Leadership, Human Rights Defending and Advocacy**, featuring Ms Doris Kathia, Kenya.
3. **Student Leadership: Navigating University, Personal Motivation and Finding Opportunities**, featuring Mr Jephason Kalengo, Zambia.
4. **Finding Yourself in Music: Personal Convictions and Navigating Challenges**, featuring Ms Abigail Muzenda, Botswana.
5. **From Africa to the World: Leading with Boldness from the Global Frontlines**, featuring Mr Clément N Voule, Togo.
6. **Blue Economies and Maritime Security: The Role of Our Oceans in Advancing Sustainable Development in Africa**, featuring Mr David Willima, South Africa.
7. **The State of Electrification in Africa and its Impact on Economic Development**, featuring Dr Moliehi Shale, Lesotho.
8. **Strengthening Safeguarding Mechanisms to Build Strong Institutions in Africa**, featuring Ms Furaha Saungweme, Tanzania.
9. **Developing the Capacity of Social Enterprises to Sustain Impact Work in Africa**, featuring Ms Chembo Ndinawe Litana, Zambia.
10. **Strengthening Capacity in Business and Human Rights to Advance African Development**, featuring Dr Howard Ayo, Uganda.
11. **Linking Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Systems to SocioEconomic Development in Africa**, featuring Dr Inonge Mbikusita Lewanika, Zambia

Leadership Development (LeD)

3. Webinar on the Internationalisation of Legal Practice in Zambia

On 1st April 2025 we partnered with the Law Association of Zambia to host a webinar titled "The Internationalisation of Legal Practice in Zambia." The purpose of this engagement was to launch and lay the foundation for our ongoing capacity building series with lawyers and law students aimed at increasing local knowledge of litigation options available internationally. This series will particularly focus on international bodies that promote and protect human rights.



4. Capacity Building on Building and Sustaining Partnerships and Coalitions, Lusaka

On 30th May 2025 we facilitated a capacity building training session on building and sustaining partnerships and coalitions with the leaders of 15 Zambian civil society organisations. This engagement was apart of a project titled "Strengthening Civil Society Effectiveness in Promoting Good Governance and Increasing Citizen Awareness and Demand for Human Rights" run by ActionAid Zambia.



Leadership Development (LeD)

5. Webinar on Understanding and Engaging with the ACHPR

On 12th November 2025 we partnered with the Law Association of Zambia to host a webinar titled “Understanding and Engaging with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.” This capacity building workshop was facilitated by a panel of seasoned legal practitioners from across Africa with extensive experience and insight on engaging with the ACHPR.

Understanding and Engaging with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR)



Landilani Banda

University of Pretoria



Kayan Leung

Lawyers for Human Rights



Petrus Hatupopi

African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights



Fiona Illif

American Bar Association

Business & Human Rights (BHR)

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1. Webinar on Corporate Accountability and the Contamination of the Kafue River Basin

On 8th April 2025 we hosted a webinar titled “ Corporate Accountability, Environmental Rights and the Contamination of the Kafue River.” This was motivated by the tailings dam failure at a copper mine in Kitwe, Zambia which released over 50 million litres of mining effluent into the river system. The purpose of this engagement was to equip the public with information on the incident, projected damage and potential solutions.



Musonda Kapena
CEO, Namfumu
Conservation Trust



Manson Gwanyanya
Regional Researcher &
Representative, Business and
Human Rights Resource Centre



Rhadia Mtonga
Environmental Sustainability/
Human Centred Design Enthusiast

📅 8 April 2025
🕒 14 :00 CAT
📍 Online

2. Indaba on the Contamination of the Kafue River Basin, Lusaka, Lusaka Province

On 29th May 2025 we partnered with the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to host a multi-stakeholder consultative Indaba to discuss the contamination of the Kafue river Basin due to mining operations. Stakeholders present included lawyers, INGOs, NGOs, government and the media and the primary objective of this engagement was to consolidate and coordinate existing efforts to address damage and prevent future incidents.



Business & Human Rights (BHR)

3.Membership in the Technical Working Group Developing a National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights in Zambia.

Zambia is currently developing its first ever National Action Plan on business and human rights, an initiative being supported by the Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Justice and UNDP Zambia. The purpose of this policy document is to provide a clear framework for responsible business conduct, and to ensure that economic development in Zambia is aligned with the respect for human rights.

As a member of the technical working group tasked with strategic oversight of this process, we conducted country wide consultations and facilitated several stakeholder validation meetings throughout the course of 2025.



Business & Human Rights (BHR)

4.Site Visit and Needs Assessment in Mwense District, Lupaula Province

From 2nd - 4th December 2025, we partnered with Action For Nature and the Centre for Transnational Environmental Accountability to conduct a site visit and needs assessment in Mwense District, Luapula Province, Zambia. This activity was in response to a tailings dam failure at Mukabamo copper mine which resulted in the release of mining waste into the Lupaula river.

The purpose of the site visit was to evaluate the extent of the damage and identify urgent exposure risks. The needs assessment was additionally intended to identify priority needs for vulnerable communities living close to the contaminated area.



Sustainable Empowerment (SEP)

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Our SEP program houses the African Aid for Africans (AAA) project which is designed to develop African philanthropy. In 2025 we partnered with local businesses and organisations to address immediate needs in our communities using local resources. This was achieved through skills training and donations.

1.End Period Poverty and Say No To Skin Bleaching Campaign, Kapiri, Central Province

On 11th July 2025, we partnered with Melanin Organics, a local business to donate reusable sanitary towels to women and girls at Baraka Learning Centre in Kapiri, Zambia. Through the support of the company, we conducted a community mentorship session to evaluate the immediate needs of women and girls, and concluded the activity with the donation of hygiene packs. Each hygiene pack contains 2 reusable sanitary towels, soap and underwear.



Sustainable Empowerment (SEP)

2.Site Visit and Entrepreneurship Training, Bwana Mkubwa Constituency, Ndola, Copperbelt Province

On 20th August 2025, we conducted two entrepreneurship and financial literacy workshops in Mkulungwe and Mushili Wards respectively. The purpose of this engagement was to enhance the entrepreneurial skills and economic independence of marginalised youths and women.

Prior to the workshops, we visited participant's businesses to ensure that the training was relevant and context specific. We concluded each session by donating hygiene packs containing reusable sanitary towels, underwear and soap donated by Melanin Organics.



Sustainable Empowerment (SEP)

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3. Entrepreneurship Training, Chawama, Lusaka, Lusaka Province

On 30th August 2025, we partnered with Glaze Baking Studio and Bonako Zambia to conduct an entrepreneurship and skills building workshop in Chawama, Lusaka.

The purpose of this training was to introduce women and girls to eco-friendly charcoal alternatives and train them how to build resilient baking businesses that can operate with charcoal ovens and thrive without the use of electricity.

In this session, participants were taught common baking recipes, and trained to use the charcoal oven and eco-friendly briquettes. They were also trained on marketing, branding and business financing.



Key Milestones



New Office Premises

In November 2025 we moved to new office premises to accommodate our growing capacity.

Our new address is: Plot 37541, Off Lake Road, Ibex Hill, Lusaka



Tangible on the Ground Impact

- 400 individuals trained
- 86 local businesses trained
- 250 women and girls empowered
- Local presence in Lusaka, Luapula, Central, Copperbelt, Western and Southern Province



Successful Strategic Partnerships

We were able to demonstrate the willingness of the business community to engage and partner with civil society to support community development. This presents a new opportunity for sustainable development through collaboration.

Key Challenges



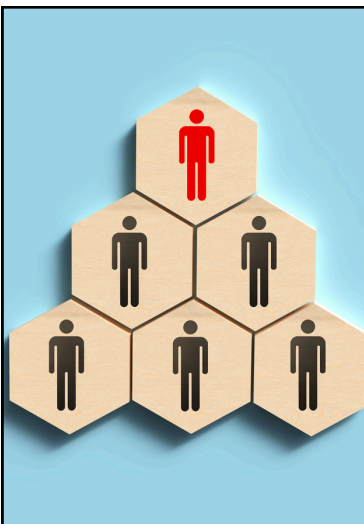
Financial Instability

In 2025 we faced a continuous challenge in securing consistent and long-term funding. This limited our operational efficiency and our ability to meet the demand for development initiatives in target communities.



Operational & Geographical Challenges

Work in remote communities and mining areas presented significant logistical challenges. Conflict prone areas also exposed staff members to significant personal risk



Limited Organisational Capacity

Our human resource was under significant strain which led to burn out and slower operational effectiveness.

Contact Us



www.mesdafrica.com



info@mesdafrica.org



**Plot 37541, Off Lake Road, Ibex Hill,
Lusaka, Zambia**

M E S D A



**MOVEMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN
AFRICA**

“Building the Africa of tomorrow, today.”