

Champion quality education for vulnerable children and youth!

Wednesday 18 April

Maximising educational opportunities for vulnerable children and youth: This is how you do it! Inspiring practices from Zambia and Suriname.

PROGRAMME

09:00 – 10:00	Welcome and reception with poster presentations and videos
10:00 – 12:00	Workshops, round 1
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
12:30 – 13:30	Networking with poster presentations and videos
13:30 – 15:30	Workshops, round 2
16:00 – 16:45	Closing address by Lieve Blancquaert, renowned international photographer

WORKSHOPS (choose one)

- 1) **“Connectedness: the Ministry of Education in Zambia creates an enabling environment in the struggle against child poverty.”** By Esvah Chizambe

The challenges related to poverty are huge in Zambia. Budgets are limited, but the Ministry of Education makes the difference by taking up a facilitating role in the struggle against child poverty. They connect actors, from schools and teacher training colleges to NGO's. They create an enabling environment which makes collaboration possible and where each stakeholder can take up its responsibilities. Esvah Chizambe talks about the role of the Ministry and wants to exchange ideas. *This workshop is conducted in English.*

- 2) **“Beyond the ordinary pedagogy: focus on the development of love, care and belief in the early childhood teacher training in Zambia.”** By Muyangali Muyangali

Muyangali Muyangali is very aware of the importance of going beyond subject teaching in teacher training. Mathematics lecturers, like him, must teach their students to have attention for the love and care of children, especially those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. All student teachers must be aware of the impact they have on the learning opportunities of vulnerable children. This impact is related to the role of the teacher in society. Muyangali Muyangali wants to talk to you about the role of teachers and teacher educators in reaching the most disadvantaged children. *This workshop is conducted in English.*

- 3) **“The Responsible Teacher: how Zambian teachers reach out to the homes of their learners.”** By Mutinta Sifaya

For Mutinta Sifaya, disadvantaged children are a daily reality and she considers it her responsibility to make sure her most vulnerable learners are equally involved. To do so, she actively collaborates with parents. At school or in parent-teacher meetings, she informs them on the classroom activities. When appropriate, she also involves them in the decision-making processes. In addition, she does home visits and sends text messages to make sure parents are aware of a meeting. Get inspired by this early childhood education teacher, her approaches and insights. *This workshop is conducted in English.*

4) **“Empowerment: community schools in Zambia make the difference for disadvantaged children.”** By Georgina Sakala

In Zambia, disadvantaged children attend [community schools](#) created by parents. This way they avoid the high registration fees in public schools or the long walks to public schools. These community schools face some challenges: their teachers are often not (or hardly) trained, learning materials are scarce and the infrastructure is very basic. However, parents and teachers agree: education is too important for our children! Georgina Sakala takes you into the wonderful world of community schools and brings you some haunting stories of change on how communities can make a difference for disadvantaged children.

This workshop is conducted in English.

5) **“G-PAG: a trained teacher is worth 2.”** By Anton Douglas

Since 2008, Anton Douglas has been training teachers in the prevention of behavioural problems. In 2017 a gender dimension was added to this training. Working with teachers is challenging. They sometimes lack motivation. Awareness on the importance of working actively on the prevention of behavioural problems needs to be developed. Anton is looking forward to telling you more about his teacher trainings. He will present you with some cases and ask you to reflect: how would you deal with these bumpy moments?

This workshop is conducted in Dutch.

6) **“YES: working towards Youth Empowerment in Surinam.”** By Rachel Wittenberg
[Youth Empowerment Surinam](#) (YES) contributes to the development of youth in Surinam, increases their opportunities of succeeding in education and their chances in society. YES organises trainings, workshops and coaching trajectories for youth. Their focus is on positive self-image, which enables youngsters to discover their talents and to participate actively in society. Rachel Wittenberg is a YES trainer and eager to share her knowledge and experience on working towards the empowerment of vulnerable youth.

This workshop is conducted in Dutch.

7) **“iGrow: schools in Surinam don’t stand alone.”** By Maggie Schmeitz

Secondary vocational training (LBO) in Surinam is often a last resort for youngsters that drop out of general education. LBO caters to a lot of vulnerable youth who deserve extra attention to maximise their chances of decent work. A safe learning environment is crucial for them. But due to complex issues like traditional gender norms, aggressive behaviour, sexually transgressive behaviour, the teacher is unable to do everything by him/herself. VVOB’s [iGrow project](#) turns to the wider school environment as a powerful tool. External expertise is brought into the schools, and values are strengthened. Schools also engage in conversations with parents. Maggie Schmeitz tells you more about iGrow and is curious about your insights on collaborating with the wider school environment.

This workshop is conducted in Dutch.