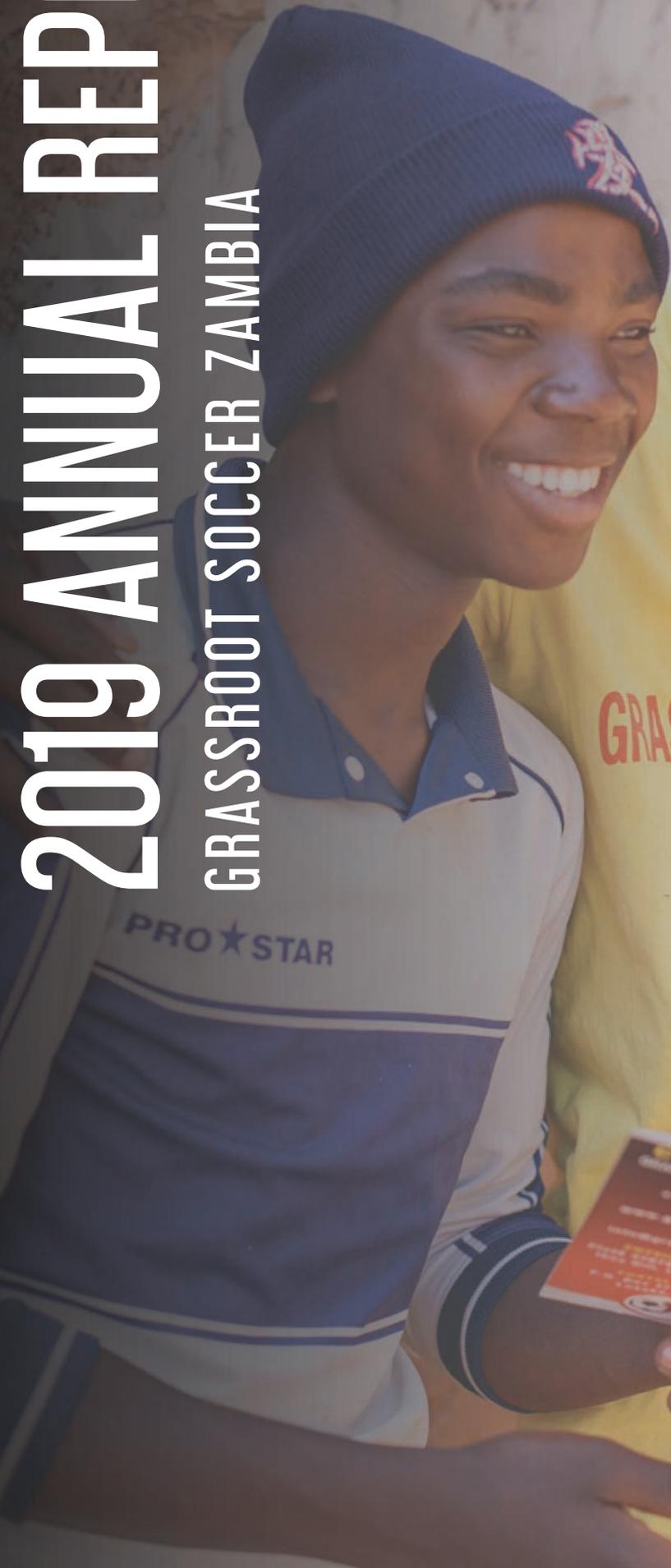


2019 ANNUAL REPORT

GRASSROOT SOCCER ZAMBIA



EDUCATE. INSPIRE. MOBILISE.

GRASSROOTSOCCER 



TABLE OF CONTENTS



02	OUR APPROACH
03	DIRECTOR'S NOTE
04	ORGANISATIONAL INFO
05	OUR DELIVERY METHOD
06	PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW
07	BUILDING ASSETS
08	FACILITATING ACCESS
09	PROMOTING ADHERENCE
12	TOTAL HEALTH: WHAT'S NEW
13	BY THE NUMBERS
14	SUCCESS STORY
15	TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS, THOUGHT LEADERSHIP, 2020 OUTLOOK
16	OUR SUPPORTERS
17	AUDITED FINANCIALS

OUR APPROACH

OUR MISSION

Grassroot Soccer Zambia (GRS) is an adolescent health organisation that leverages the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilise young people to overcome their greatest health challenges, live healthier, more productive lives, and be agents for change in their communities.

EDUCATE

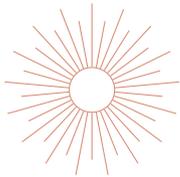
GRS uses soccer-based activities and lively discussions to educate participants on HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-related issues that affect them and their communities.

INSPIRE

GRS trains young community mentors and leaders, including local professional soccer players, to be health educators and GRS Coaches. Coaches connect personally with participants and become trusted mentors.

MOBILISE

GRS provides referrals to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and social support for participants who access these services. GRS provides health events, community mobilisation, and other opportunities for young people to access comprehensive health and social services. We provide young people with the life skills they need to break down harmful social norms that negatively impact their health.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



WELCOME to our 2019 Annual Report, which details our work in supporting Zambia's attainment of improved health outcomes for adolescents and young people, in line with the country's Health Strategic Plans and Adolescent Health Strategy and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Grassroot Soccer (GRS) Zambia is in the first year of implementation of a single-sex school-based NIH SKILLZ Project, funded by the US National Institute of Health (NIH), which we are implementing in partnership with the Centre for Infectious Disease Research Zambia (CIDRZ). GRS Zambia trained 54 Caring Coaches in delivery of the SKILLZ Curriculum and psychosocial counseling, enhancing their skills in engaging with program participants. The overall purpose of the study is to assess the impact of the enhanced SKILLZ Package, including different components of the program aimed at both HIV-infected and uninfected adolescent school girls over two years on the outcomes of (1) HIV testing and subsequent retention in care, and (2) contraceptive uptake and continuation for pregnancy prevention. The study will also assess the impact of school-based SKILLZ clubs on these same two indicators.

We have also continued with the implementation of our successful SKILLZ Plus programme, an adolescent ART adherence programme aimed at sustained treatment adherence and retention among young people living with HIV. The reach of SKILLZ Plus grew in 2019, with increased enrollment as well as an increased number of participants being referred to the programme by MOH through health facilities and other community level structures. In 2019 alone we were able to scale SKILLZ Plus to three more districts within the eastern province, namely Chadiza, Katete and Nyimba districts.

GRS Zambia also continued to pursue internal organizational improvements in the past year. To ensure that we continued to be efficient, effective, accountable, and sustainable, we saw the addition of three new members of staff and one new board member. We revised our Strategic Plan so that all our systems are primed to respond quickly to emerging priority public health emergencies. We continue to be proud of the growth of the local governance board.

The successes of 2019 give us the confidence to look forward to the prospects of 2020 as we aim to contribute to improved health outcomes for young people with a special lens on adolescents in Zambia.

Boyd Mkwandawire
Grassroot Soccer (GRS) Zambia Managing Director



ORGANISATIONAL INFO

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

GRS Zambia operates in seven provinces and currently implements activities in Lusaka, Central, Copperbelt, Eastern, Muchinga, Southern, and Western Provinces.



GRASSROOT SOCCER ZAMBIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Nalucha Nganga-Zibalsabel, Zambia
- Mutembo Mukelaba, Zambia
- Boyd Mkandawire, Zambia
- Thomas S. Clark, M.D., United States
- Angela Carpenter, United States

AT A GLANCE: GRASSROOT SOCCER ZAMBIA HAD 100% LOCAL HIRES & CARING COACHES IN 2019

- 17 staff members
- 131 Coaches

GRS ZAMBIA IS A REGISTERED NON-PROFIT NGO WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE PATENTS AND COMPANIES REGISTRATION AGENCY UNDER REGISTRATION # 59641.



OUR DELIVERY METHOD



OUR IMPACT

3A'S



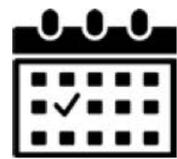
ASSETS

Increased health knowledge and the confidence to use it



ACCESS

Increased uptake of high-quality health services



ADHERENCE

Adherence to medical treatment, therapy, and healthy behaviors

OUR MODEL

3C'S



CURRICULUM

SKILLZ soccer-based health curriculum



COACHES

Caring adults and mentors



CULTURE

Vital conversation, safe spaces, inspiration, and fun

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

Grassroot Soccer was founded in 2005 as a Non-Profit NGO with a local board and all-Zambian staff that reaches over 15,000 adolescents and young adults across seven provinces each year.

Over 60% of the youth reached are adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 10-24 years old. In collaboration with a variety of research institutions and funders, GRS has participated in four research studies in Zambia.



GRS delivers a strategic, research-based approach to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including a combination of HIV prevention tools, ART adherence, family planning and reproductive health information, lessons on gender-based violence prevention, positive youth development, and community mobilisation.



Adolescent-centred design is at the core of our work, and we provide a differentiated approach with programming geared towards single-sex, mixed-sex, very young adolescents, and adolescents living with HIV.



GRS currently has 17 full-time staff and 131 Coaches, operates in schools and health facility settings through National MOUs with the Ministries of Education and Health respectively, and has built strong relationships with health and SRHR institutions and referral service providers including the Centre for Infectious Disease Research Zambia (CIDRZ), Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and the YWCA.

BUILDING ASSETS

Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW): A Community Effort

The SKILLZ Girl curriculum was updated to improve and expand content around contraception, HIV Self-Testing and PEP/PrEP in order to align with the NIH/CIDRZ study. GRS also trained 50 of its SKILLZ Girl Coaches in psychosocial counseling, NIH research human subject protection, and human rights based approaches, enhancing its programming and amplifying employability skills for its female Coaches

Healthy Habits from the Start: Reaching Very Young Adolescents (VYA)

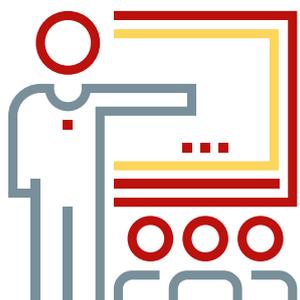
It's never too early to adopt a positive mindset about health. In 2019, we completed a refresh of the SKILLZ Core curriculum. We improved the quality and breadth of information provided around SRHR services relevant to younger adolescents between the ages of 10-14, meaning youth are equipped with life-saving health skills from an even younger age.



Promoting Positive Behaviours Among Boys and Young Men (ABYM)

GRS engages ABYM, aged 10-35, through demand creation strategies. The result? We're driving the uptake of health services like HIV testing services, voluntary medical male circumcision, and related care and treatment. Our soccer-based activities meet young men where they're at, and provide mobile, on-site, and integrated health screenings while teaching ABYM that prioritising their health is a worthwhile behaviour. We believe in promoting positive peer pressure – on and off the soccer pitch.

Launched in 2019, GRS's evidence-based SKILLZ Boy curriculum reflects the needs, interests, and health behaviours of boys aged 15-19. Funded by Swedish Postcode Foundation, SKILLZ Boy is delivered by male young adult mentors, and combines soccer language, metaphors, and activities to enable reflections and meaningful discussions around gender norms, goal setting and achievement, and peer support.





FACILITATING ACCESS

Mobilising Communities for Improved Outreach

If you ask anyone at GRS, they'll tell you soccer is our vehicle. It's the platform we use to connect youth with life-saving health skills, mobilising communities around SRHR and providing key health services in non-clinical settings, aligning with government-approved targeted testing strategies. In some cases, that means joining GRS for a high volume soccer tournament that doubles as a community health event, where participants can access vital services like HIV testing, voluntary medical male circumcision, TB and STI screenings, HPV vaccinations, and more. This non-traditional, community-based approach reaches individuals that may not typically seek care at health facilities, making health services more accessible than ever for adolescents.

Coaches as Roadmaps: Guiding Linkages to SRHR and Other High Impact Services

Through community mobilisation, completed referrals to clinics, and community-based follow-up, GRS Coaches serve as guides that connect adolescents to youth-friendly and quality health and social services. A key strategy is the secondment of Coaches to local clinics. In addition to implementing SKILLZ programming, 12 Coaches receive a monthly stipend to act as an adolescent-focused “friendly face” during designated times at private clinics. Not only do they support intake of youth who are seeking services, they mentor existing clinic staff about how best to provide SRHR services to youth.

PROMOTING ADHERENCE

Improving Adherence for Adolescents Living with HIV (ALHIV)

GRS developed SKILLZ Plus, a 12-session programme for ALHIV, in Lusaka in 2012. Topics like HIV prevention and transmission, antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence, acceptance, disclosure and healthy relationships are discussed in a safe space where ALHIV can feel seen and understood. SKILLZ Plus participants then graduate to monthly, long-term adherence support clubs. SKILLZ Plus participants demonstrate increases in self-concept, feeling supported in their lives, SRHR knowledge, retention in care, and adherence to ART.

In 2019, in response to the feedback of young people living with HIV themselves, GRS reviewed and updated the SKILLZ Plus curriculum to include integrated content on mental health and wellbeing to more holistically address their needs, which will be rolled out in 2020.

In 2019, GRS scaled SKILLZ Plus to five districts and 27 health facilities in Eastern Province through collaboration with multiple partners, including Chisomo and the Provincial Health Office.

GRS Zambia is supported by the Eastern Province Provincial Health Office (EPHO) under the Zambian Ministry of Health (MOH) in working with local organisations and health facilities to decentralize SKILLZ Plus interventions and support groups. Adapted for rural and urban youth, the decentralized SKILLZ Plus model strengthens community-based support groups through the Network of People Living with HIV, Health Centre Committees, and Neighborhood Health Committees. This partnership builds on GRS Zambia's long-standing relationship with the MOH – with over 90% of SKILLZ Plus participants being referred directly into the programme from MOH facilities. This relationship has been central in building sustainability and scaling up of SKILLZ Plus interventions and support groups across Zambia.



What's a Graduate to do? GRS Provides Teen Clubs for Continuation of SRHR Services and Adherence

GRS engages SKILLZ graduates through continued programming. The goal of these programmes is focused on repeat service uptake and adherence to protective behaviours. SKILLZ Teen Clubs communicate the importance of long-term adherence to protective behaviours in youth ages 9-14, and promote repeat uptake of SRHR services among AGYW aged 15-19.

External Engagements

GRS participated in the 2019 National HIV Testing Counseling and Treatment Day in Lusaka, an annual event to increase the number of people who know their HIV status. At the event, GRS's SKILLZ Plus Coaches demonstrated our programs, and the Minister of Health participated.

In 2019 GRS made progress in increasing adolescent adherence to healthy behaviours, piloting a self-reported adherence tool for both ART (SKILLZ Plus) and healthy behaviours (Teen Clubs).

That means in 2020 we're gaining a better understanding of how well youth are adhering to healthy behaviors – and how we can increase adherence in the future.



Co-design for improved SRHR outcomes:

GRS collaborated with young people, government, community leaders and other district level organisations in a co-design process facilitated by GRS and the Ministry of Health to integrate findings from early marriage research into the Nyimba 2020 District Adolescent Health Strategy, which is spearheaded by the Ministry of Health through the Adolescent Health Technical Working group at district level.





"I want to provide counsel and be an activist to my fellow peers and spread this information on positive living. This is because the GRS support program helps society to accept people living with HIV, the way they are in different communities."

- SKILLZ Plus Participant Mwiza Banda (Left)

"GRS is one of the leading organisations in teaching young people about sexual reproductive health and rights, and it's also aimed at ensuring that girls like myself are aware about gender equality. As a youth I did not have the opportunity to learn about gender equality, but through GRS linkages I am able to say that they have provided a platform for girls in different communities to not only participate in advocacy work but also in sports activities."

- Coach Kunda Mwitwa



TOTAL HEALTH: WHAT'S NEW?



Grassroot Soccer's "Total Health" project aims to reach over 80,000 young people in Zambia and Zimbabwe with life-saving health information and access to health services and treatment. This four-year project will run through 2020 and will support key national government efforts to improve the sexual and reproductive health of young people.

In 2019, GRS Zambia conducted a review and refresh of several SKILLZ programmes implemented under Total Health. We updated our SKILLZ Girl curriculum to improve and expand content around contraception as well as HIV self testing, aligning with the upcoming NIH/CIDRZ study and providing AGYW with health knowledge that's even more accessible.

Additionally, our SKILLZ Boy curriculum was adapted to increase relevance to Zambia and better develop boys' assets, improve gender equitable norms, and increase uptake of prevention services in the Zambian context.

GRS also conducted a review of the SKILLZ Plus Curriculum, and our staff and Coaches are being trained on the revised SKILLZ Plus curriculum. Revisions include updated content on reproductive health, mental wellbeing, and community engagement, giving ALHIV a community-based support network with the most up-to-date life skills that are both critical and relatable.

BY THE NUMBERS

15,744
YOUTH
REACHED

2,081
SKILLZ PLUS
PARTICIPANTS

When we say we're changing the game for youth, we're growing our reach across all of Zambia. In 2019, we expanded our impact on adolescent well-being across all SKILLZ Health interventions and community events.

Adolescents in Zambia have some of the lowest viral suppression rates of any population. Assets, Access, and Adherence are critical to continuing this trend – and our tailored SKILLZ Plus programming is the solution. By adhering to the MOH-supported model to support ALHIV, we're meeting youth on the front lines as they confront their greatest health challenges.





SUCCESS STORY

Linda* is an enthusiastic 18-year-old young woman who is HIV-positive, with special needs related to hearing and speaking. Her mother died when she was two years old. Linda has been raised by her father's mother, and her father and the rest of the family are very supportive in her life.

A Grassroot Soccer SKILLZ Plus participant, Linda spoke to Grassroot Soccer for an interview through her father, who uses sign language. Of his daughter's experience with GRS and finding out his daughter was enrolled in the SKILLZ Plus programme, her father shared, "The SKILLZ Plus programme was introduced at the clinic where Linda collects her medicines, so she signed up. But with her hearing impairment, I had to be there to interpret."

A GRS SKILLZ Plus Coach who worked with Linda explained, "I had no idea in the first practice that my participant had a hearing impairment, but I realized during the second practice when I noticed that she was not participating in the activities or contributing. I saw that she came with her father for the next practice, and started fully participating and seemed to love the programme."

When asked what Linda liked about being a Grassroot Soccer participant, her father said, "It was a very overwhelming experience. Linda doesn't have friends in the community, so the programme allowed her to socially associate with her peers." Through sign language to her father, Linda also reflected, "The SKILLZ Coach was so kind and accommodating, which made me feel wanted and loved." She added, "As it stands, our communities are not fully equipped with information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV/AIDS, and we are still fighting discrimination. Therefore, such programmes have a high positive impact on us as individuals as well as a community." In response to a question about how Grassroot Soccer has influenced their lives, Linda's father answered with a smile that, "Linda's adherence has enabled me to disclose my status to family members as well. [My] young girl understands that HIV/AIDS is not a death sentence from the knowledge she has acquired, and so she gives me courage to take my medicines and look forward to a brighter future as well."

Linda aspires to be a nurse and is also working hard to get herself a higher education scholarship.

As Grassroot Soccer Zambia looks ahead to 2020, we are grateful for the opportunities presented to us in 2019 and the opportunity to advance our role as thought leaders in adolescent health.

Technical Working Groups and Forums

- Adolescent Health Technical Working Group
- M&E Technical Working Group
- FP Technical Working Group
- District AIDS Task Force
- VMMC Technical Working Group

Major Presentation: ICASA Youth Pavillion

The International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA) is a major bilingual international AIDS conference. ICASA 2019 provided a space for researchers from around the world to share the latest scientific advances in the field of HIV, learn from one another's expertise, and develop strategies for advancing collective efforts to end AIDS by 2030.

In addition to leading GRS programming demonstrations in the Youth Pavilion, GRS had three abstracts accepted to the conference.

Up Next: NIH-funded Trial Launches in Zambia

In collaboration with Centre for Infectious Disease Research - Zambia (CIDRZ), and the University of California San Francisco, Grassroot Soccer is undertaking a multi-year cluster randomized controlled trial, entitled "Using All of Our SKILLZ". The NIH R01-funded trial will evaluate the impact of an enhanced sport-based SRH package paired with high-quality adolescent- and girl-friendly SRH services in Lusaka. The package of services will include HIV self-testing kits, PrEP, and a modern contraceptive method mix, including DMPA-subcutaneous (a self-injectable contraceptive that is new to Zambia), as well as STI testing and treatment. GRS is both an implementer and co-investigator in the study and the pilot is set to begin in quarter 1 of 2020.

2020 Outlook

Building on the achievements of 2019, we are optimistic that 2020 will be an even more successful year for Grassroot Soccer Zambia. Leveraging continued good will from our donors, we are poised to scale our programs to rural areas, where access to SRHR information and services still remains a challenge. In 2020 we will be introducing an HIV/AIDS & Mental Health integrated curriculum. Mental health is a key consideration for young people living with HIV, and can interfere with their treatment adherence. We are also excited to start enrollment of study participants in the NIH SKILLZ study, as we anticipate this study will provide many learnings.

OUR SUPPORTERS



The work we do at Grassroot Soccer Zambia is powered and uplifted by generous financial and community support from the following organisations and foundations. Thank you!

- Action Aid
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Bohemian Foundation
- CIDRZ
- Comic Relief
- FIFA Legacy Trust
- FIFA Programming
- Hivos
- JSI/DISCOVER Health
- MAC VIVA GLAM Fund
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- National Institutes of Health
- USAID
- BT Supporters Club
- Swedish Postcode Foundation
- Vitol Foundation
- YWCA



AUDITED FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL POSITION FIGURES IN KWACHA

2019

2018

ASSETS

Non-Current Assets

Property, Plant and equipment 166,334 80,780

Current Assets

Accounts and grants receivable 802,378 77,354
Due from related party - 403,039
Other assets 32,615 37,359
Cash and cash equivalents 310,760 345,309

TOTAL

1,312,087 **943,841**

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

Equity

Accumulated fund 840,528 649,641

Liabilities

Accounts payable 77,709 16,024
Accrued salaries and leave pay 112,268 54,862
Due to related party 242,256 -
Deferred revenue 39,326 223,314

TOTAL

1,312,087 **943,841**

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Grant income 8,281,617 6,732,673
Other income and donations in-kind 409,372 365,662
Operating expenses (8,500,102) (7,261,048)

TOTAL GAIN (LOSS)

190,887 **(162,713)**

TOTAL EQUITY

Balance at 01 January 2018 812,354
Net assets for the year (162,713)

Balance at 01 January 2019 649,641
Net deficit for the year 190,887

Balance at 31 December 2019 840,528

CASH FLOWS

Cash flows from operating activities

Cash generated from (used by) operations 133,533 200,249

Cash flows from investing activities

Purchase of property, plant, and equipment (168,082) (14,199)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant,
and equipment - -

Net cash (used in) from investing activities

(168,082) **(14,199)**

Total cash movement for the year (34,549)
Cash at the beginning of the year 345,309

186,050
159,259

TOTAL CASH AT END OF YEAR

310,760 **345,309**

GRASSROOTSOCCER ZAMBIA



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