THE PROBLEM

The problem: Acting and performing are important forms of self-expression which allow children and youth to tell stories, both fictional and nonfictional. Giving children a voice, drama can help vulnerable youth find a sense of identity. Drama education is not widely available to young people in Africa. For most LubutoDrama participants, this program provides the first and often only opportunity to engage in drama and performance.

LUBUTO’S APPROACH

Lubuto’s drama program includes improvisation, collaborating together to develop scripts and produce plays, adapting books and stories for performances, and more. The young actors build props, make costumes, learn lines, rehearse and perform for the community at Lubuto Library public performance spaces.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The drama program instills confidence in participants, giving them opportunities to express their opinions and have their voices heard. Some participants have gone on to act in films and TV. Two boys were cast in a footwear commercial in Lusaka, and two others were featured in the award-winning and internationally celebrated film I Am Not a Witch. These and other opportunities have generated livelihoods for youth with their acting skills and set them on a path to stable employment.