

LIFE TRUST ZAMBIA
empowerment
DESIGN STUDIO



WOMEN'S
WEAR
COLLECTION

SS 2025





The Empowerment Design Studio is part of the Zambian NGO Life Trust, which focusses on providing education for some of the most vulnerable children and youths of the community of Waya in Kabwe, Zambia. Tailoring has been a core part of our mission for over a decade, with the Empowerment Design Studio now offering women in Waya the opportunity to learn, work, and grow as tailors, leaders, and entrepreneurs.

Waya compound, historically known for severe lead pollution, is now gaining recognition for its creativity and craftsmanship. Our textile accessories and garments, are now available at high-end outlets across Zambia. This shift in perception is a testament to the resilience of the Waya community and the transformative power of fashion and design.

EMBEDDED

our community
based approach

How being a part of the local
NGO Life Trust enhances the
impact of the Empowerment
Design Studio



our HEART

why we do, what we do:
our mission, vision and values

At Life Trust Empowerment, we believe in holistic empowerment, integrating spiritual and social support with economic opportunity. Our goal is to uplift and empower women, ensuring they are seen not just as beneficiaries of aid but as contributors of value and change within their community and beyond.

The Empowerment Design Studio is more than just a workplace; it's a community where women find healing and growth through creative expression. By providing formal employment with contracts, social security, and health insurance, we offer a rare opportunity in a region with limited formal job options, especially for women.

Our approach emphasizes collaboration, transparency, and community-led decision-making. We're proud to see our studio become self-sufficient, soon no longer reliant on donations, and committed to ethical practices rooted in Christian values.

It is time to end the systematic exclusion of the Global South in the arts, which is why creative collaboration, amplifying the voices of Zambian artisans, is the heart of everything we do.

We are redefining what success means for an ethical fashion label, not solely focussing on profit maximisation, but rather developing a platform that impacts both customers and creators through purposeful products, created to foster contemplation rather than just consumption. This is why the Empowerment Design Studio's mission is to bring conceptual clothing lines to a global audience.



14° 28.435' S



Our debut Women's Wear Collection is fully designed and crafted in Waya compound. This collection pays tribute to the women of Waya—their beauty, strength, daily lives, dignity, joy, and the immense value of their often-overlooked contributions.



28° 27.7112' E

empowered women empower women



The concept is conveyed through an amalgamation of the traditional female-associated chitenge wrapper (rectangular fabric with vibrant print designs, draped around the body for modesty and clothing protection) with classical “western” workwear, typically worn almost exclusively by men who have better chances of finding formal employment in industries like mining, construction work or agriculture.

The designs further enriched by our own custom print design, which was inspired by everyday compound objects – such as metal braizers, mealie-meal bags, plastic chairs and carrier bags or more traditional household items, like farming hoes, mortar and pestle. Set in the colour pallet of the rich Zambian landscape with mango trees, flamboyant blossoms and the ever-present maize plant, this print appreciates the often unnoticed beauty that resides in communities like ours. We believe that even where financial wealth is scarce, communities are incredibly rich in experiential, spiritual, and relational capital. This belief inspired us to create our unique “Chitenge” print.



Through our bespoke print design and the high-quality craftsmanship (or crafts-womanship, to be precise), we honor the invaluable contributions that women make to Zambia in every aspect of society.

PRINT DESIGN





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All of our garments (except tops, of course) feature in-seam pockets!

Most pieces are available in sizes
S/M (EU 32-36) and M/L (EU 38-42),
or S (EU 32-34), M (EU36-38) and L (EU 40-42)

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OFF-SHOULDER TOP

This top reimagines the chitenge's practical beauty with a softly draped silhouette and a knotted shoulder detail, inspired by the way fabric is traditionally used to secure babies or carry goods. This piece bridges cultural tradition with contemporary style, making it a unique statement piece.



100% COTTON
SOFT PRINT

USD 30



100% COTTON
STRUCTURED IVORY

USD 25



100% COTTON SATIN
SAVANNAH

USD 25



STRAP TOP

This minimalist top features a flattering panel-cut with delicate straps, making it ideal for layering or wearing solo. Tiny golden D-rings in the back, reminiscent of the utility wear that has inspired this concept, make the shoulder straps adjustable for the perfect fit.



100% COTTON
SOFT PRINT

USD 28



100% COTTON
STRUCTURED IVORY

USD 20



100% COTTON
EARTHEN CLAY

USD 20

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DRAPED SHIRT

This shirt blends the graceful draping of a chitenge-inspired wrap with workwear elements like the structured collar. The wrap detail adds a feminine touch, while the modern construction nods to classic work attire, creating a versatile piece that celebrates the strength and elegance of women's work.



100% COTTON
SOFT PRINT

USD 75



100% COTTON
STRUCTURED IVORY

USD 50



DRAPED SHIRT DRESS

Drawing on the feminine essence of a chitenge, this piece wraps at the waist for a flattering silhouette, while the collar and back yoke are borrowed from utility wear. It embodies a balance of strength and grace, honoring the resilience of women's work through thoughtful design.



100% COTTON
SOFT PRINT

USD 85



100% COTTON SATIN
SAVANNAH

USD 60

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UNISEX UTILITY JACKET

This jacket serves as the collection's cornerstone: a classic workwear piece reimagined with our unique print design, transforming it into a statement garment. Designed for both men and women, it is made from durable printed cotton twill and is available in four sizes.



100% COTTON
Twill PRINT

USD 60



CROPPED UTILITY JACKET

Our more feminine take on the utility jacket features a chic, cropped length and playfully tied cuffs, echoing the chitenge wrap as Zambia's emblematic "female workwear". This piece is a tribute to the invaluable contributions women make, blending practicality with a distinctly graceful touch.



100% COTTON
Twill PRINT

USD 65

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A-LINE DRESS MINI

The flowy mini dress offers a refined take on chitenge-inspired paneling, bringing big, expressive shapes into a streamlined silhouette. Adjustable webbing straps with D-ring closures add a subtle utility detail, creating a look that's effortlessly stylish.



100% COTTON
SOFT PRINT

USD 60



100% ETHIOPIAN COTTON
NATURAL OFF-WHITE

USD 40



A-LINE DRESS MAXI

Crafted from sturdy cotton twill, this maxi dress embraces bold proportions with side slits and strong paneling, channeling the spirit of the chitenge. The webbing straps with D-ring closures bring a touch of utility, blending workwear inspiration with a strikingly feminine presence.



100% COTTON
TWILL PRINT

USD 75

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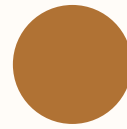
ASYMMETRICAL SHORTS

These wrap-style shorts feature an asymmetrical waistband fastened with a side buckle that gives them a modern edge. The elastic waistband at the back ensures comfort, and hidden buttons keep the silhouette sleek. This design takes cues from the chitenge wrap, blending tradition with modernity.



100% COTTON
SOFT PRINT

USD 40



100% COTTON
STRUCTURED IVORY

USD 30



ASYMMETRICAL CULOTTES

These culottes merge structured design with graceful movement, featuring an asymmetrical waistband and adjustable buckle for a unique silhouette. The elasticated back adds comfort, while the wrap style nods to the chitenge's layered look. Inspired by workwear, they offer a refined take on versatility.



100% POLYESTER
MICROFIBRE

USD 35



100% COTTON SATIN
SAVANNAH

USD 30

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ASYMMETRICAL TROUSERS

These wide-leg trousers blend the elegance of chitenge-inspired draping with a modern, utilitarian edge. The asymmetrical wrap waistband adds structure, while the elasticated back enhances comfort. This piece stands as a refined nod to tradition, reimagined for contemporary styling.



100% COTTON
Twill PRINT

USD 70



100% POLYESTER
MICROFIBRE

USD 50



WRAP SKIRT

This midi wrap skirt blends traditional chitenge-inspired wrapping with a modern silhouette. Featuring an elastic waistband and in-seam pockets, it is designed for both comfort and practicality. Its clean lines and versatile style give it a unique character that suits both casual and refined styling.



100% POLYESTER
MICROFIBRE

USD 40



100% ETHIOPIAN COTTON
NATURAL OFF-WHITE

USD 35

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BUCKET HAT

Our bucket hat is a high-fashion take on practical headwear. Crafted from the small version of our signature print on one side and hand-woven Ethiopian cotton on the other, it's fully reversible. It comes in two adult and a children's size with a practical chin strap.



100% COTTON PRINT TWILL
& ETHIOPIAN COTTON

USD 18



SCRUNCHY SET

Crafted from the same unique fabrics as our main pieces, our three-piece scrunchy set combines functionality with style. Perfect for adding a subtle statement to any look, they're a small but thoughtful way to carry a piece of our collection with you.



100% COTTON
PRINT, SAVANNAH & CLAY

USD 8

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WAIST BAG

This waist bag features two zip pockets for secure storage of essentials. The strap, crafted from durable webbing, ensures a comfortable and adjustable fit. A versatile accessory, it's built to complement any look while adding a functional edge inspired by the utility elements of the collection.



100% COTTON PRINT TWILL
& ETHIOPIAN COTTON

USD 25



SLING BAG

This versatile sling bag combines style with security, featuring a large front zip for easy access and a discreet, invisible zip pocket on the back to keep valuables safe. With a comfortable, adjustable strap, it's designed for practicality on the go while showcasing the collection's signature fabrics.



100% COTTON PRINT TWILL
& ETHIOPIAN COTTON

USD 28

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TOTE BAG

This spacious tote bag combines functionality with effortless style, featuring durable webbing straps for comfortable carrying. Crafted in the collection's signature print, it's perfect for everyday use, blending practicality with a touch of Zambian heritage.



100% COTTON
SOFT PRINT

USD 20



ZIP PURSE

Our zip purse (approx. 20x17cm) combines our unique small print design with hand-woven Ethiopian cotton, making it the perfect everyday companion. Ideal for electronics, cosmetics, stationery, or organizing small valuables, this piece brings a touch of artisanal charm to your day.



100% COTTON PRINT TWILL
& ETHIOPIAN COTTON

USD 12

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ORDER NOW

Simply send a message
through any of the channels
below to order



@lifetrustempowerment



info@lifetrustempowerment.com



+260 96 7734650

DELIVERY TIMES DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY OF GARMENTS
DELIVERY CHARGES WILL BE CALCULATED DEPENDING ON LOCATION
SLIGHT ALTERATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT AN ADDITIONAL FEE

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