



My names are Anna Carmen Murru, most of my friends call me Carmen. I was born in Lusaka to a Zambian mother and Italian father and I am a proud mother of three. Throughout my educational career I was very privileged to be able to attend private schools and then to have the opportunity to do my secondary schooling and university in Italy where I obtained a Masters' in Political Sciences.

My mother was also privileged to have a good education, and I see how this has impacted her life in such a positive way,

compared to most of her siblings who did not have the same opportunity. Our life would certainly have been different had this been otherwise!

From a young age, the power of education was very visible to me. As I was growing up I knew that I wanted to be engaged in social programmes and I eventually made my way back home and begun working in the social sector, first for the UNDP on attachment, then at CARE International as the Communications Coordinator, then at DanChurchAid, covering Zambia, South Africa and Zambia and lastly at VVOB, Education for Development, in the position of Programme Manager and more recently Partnership Manager at a regional level.

In my last positions, at DanchurchAid and more so at VVOB, education has been the core business, allowing me to further delve into the many complex challenges faced by the education sector in Africa and in Zambia in particular. The figures of out of school children on the continent and the many struggles children still face to access education at secondary level are quite astonishing. The impact of limited education is particularly severe for the girl child as this condemns her to unemployment, poverty and a life of deprivations for her and her children. This has prompted me to dedicate my free time, as a board member, given that I have a very fulfilling full-time job, to give a hand to three very dedicated and determined women, Ana, Jane and Veronique, who have a heart for vulnerable children and have committed to dedicate all their time and energy towards sponsoring as many children as they can to finish their full cycle of education. Their dedication to this cause, totally pro bono, has been truly inspiring.