



Copperbelt Rural Livelihood Enhancement Support Project

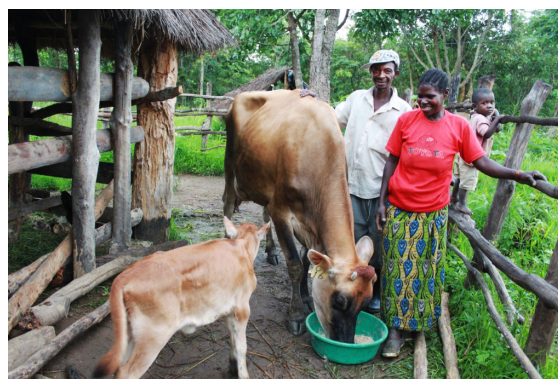
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Copperbelt Rural Livelihood Enhancement Support Project

The target project areas for the Copperbelt Rural Livelihood Enhancement Support Project (CRLESP) are Masaiti, Luanshya, Kalulushi and Mpongwe districts in Zambia's Copperbelt Province. The goal of CRLESP is to enable vulnerable rural farm families in the region to enhance livelihood security through integrated agriculture production, promotion of health and enterprise development.

This project will apply an integrated approach to the pervasive problems of illness, food insecurity and dependency, which stretch the resources of impoverished communities in the Copperbelt Province. Some specific challenges to be addressed are poor household food security due to low agricultural productivity; poor nutrition, especially in children; limited ability of resource-poor families to own livestock; limited capacity of local agricultural and veterinary extensions to engage in outreach; poor health, hygiene and sanitation practices; inadequate capacity of official health and social services to engage in outreach; high levels of deforestation; and poor market structures. The high incidence of HIV/AIDS in these communities has resulted in many households becoming more food insecure at a time when they require good nutrition, particularly high-quality protein. The result is a downward spiral of increasing illness and dependency, further stretching the resources of these impoverished communities.

A total of 37,260 individuals with 6,210 direct project participants or households (with an average of six people per family) will directly benefit from this project. From this, 680 families will be assisted through the placement of food and income-generating livestock, as well as training in integrated livestock management. Further, 5,530 families will benefit from other communal interventions such as environmental, HIV/AIDS mitigation and better hygiene/sanitation awareness. Before placement of livestock and other support, project participants will receive values-based training in Heifer's 12 Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development, animal husbandry, health and gender equity issues, group organizational capacity, basic record-keeping and Project Self Review and Planning (PSRP). Other capacity-building activities include integrated agriculture and horticulture practices (such as vegetable gardens) to improve nutrition among vulnerable groups, particularly children and people living with HIV/AIDS. Enhanced delivery of community-based animal health services will improve livestock health and productivity. Linkages to viable markets and technical service providers will allow for the development of



sustainable farming enterprises for participants. Widespread use of energy-efficient wood stoves in combination with agroecological farming practices will reduce deforestation in target areas. Further, the trainings and awareness raising programs will significantly increase knowledge in HIV/AIDS mitigation and better health, hygiene and sanitation in all target communities.

Over time, this project will build the communities' socioeconomic self-sufficiency through the Passing on the Gift® (POG) of animals, practical skills and knowledge, best practices in community-based animal management, integrated agriculture, HIV/AIDS care and support, sanitation and hygiene and pro-poor enterprise development.

Belinda and John Mulwanda, Project Participants

"This club you have embraced and are married to will never help you out of poverty!"

"People would mock us," said John Mulwanda, 49, the husband of Belinda, 51, of the Kamisenga Dairy Group. Belinda said, "These discouraging remarks continued for a long time. This was a very trying moment for us but we managed to endure the mockery, though at a certain point my husband stopped attending club meetings because he could not stand the torment."



The community could not understand why members of Kamisenga believed in Heifer International when several organizations had been there before and did not fulfill their promises.

"Deep down in my heart, I was firm in faith because I had heard and seen what Heifer International had done in the neighboring Kampelembe community, and that gave me strength to be even more committed to club activities," Belinda said.

She said the Kampelembe group members were given dairy cattle about six years ago and this made her not waiver in faith. "My friend Omelly and I were not discouraged in any way because we had invested a lot of time and resources preparing to receive the animals. We knew it was a matter of time," Belinda said, "We were encouraged to attend group meetings and training weekly because our desire was to know how to look after animals."

"Our families could not afford more than a meal a day and the only meal of the day would be taken in the evening when all the family members were present," Belinda continued. "We would go to

nearby farms to exchange labor for food, and my husband would also try to sell charcoal, but that was not sustainable because the work demanded a lot of energy and time. When I look back it was quite shameful and those are memories I would wish to forget.”

“I will never forget the day we received our dairy cattle from South Africa. When we saw a big truck approaching our communal holding pen, everyone ran to the track ululating (a trilling howl), yelling and some clinging to it. People shouted, ‘*Shaisha ing`ombe twalelolola,*’ or ‘the cattle we have been waiting for have finally come’ in Bemba.”

“Through the knowledge and skills we acquired from the training we were able to look after Elanco, the cow (named after project funder Elanco, a division of Eli Lilly and Company), adequately and she gave birth to a beautiful female calf. This brought joy to our family and we made sure everybody in the community knew exactly what had happened. The income from milk sales helped us in improving our lives and we are a very very happy family.”



“We no longer go out looking for food because it is our turn to also help other families with milk. My husband has already started buying iron sheets to improve the roof of our house. It is no longer a dream but a reality that soap, cooking oil, lotion... which were a myth, are now abundantly available. When schools open in January, I will not avoid visiting the head teacher’s office because I have what it takes to be a grandmother. I will walk straight in and pay for school fees directly just like Omelly did last year. The head teacher could not believe that Omelly, once a defaulting parent, could pay cash for her children’s school fees! It had even become a custom negotiating for her children to remain in school, promising to settle the fees immediately after she sold off charcoal or vegetables. Our monthly income from milk is 800,000 kwachas (\$160) and with part of this money, I buy Elanco a bag of dairy meal.”



“We used to feel really ashamed of ourselves mixing with other people because we rarely had bathing soap. No matter how hard we tried to look our best, we felt like outcasts. We could not even afford clothes because that was far beyond our reach and the death of a calf simply amplified our poverty because we thought we were not fit to own an animal. But with all this, I now know that we were in the school of patience.”

With much joy, Belinda's husband, John, said, "We were too desperate to find a solution to our poverty, especially since I only reached my seventh grade and my wife grade four, but now that Heifer has come to our aid, we are now well able to conquer and win any battle!"

"Most of all we are very grateful to Elanco, Heifer International, Village Water Zambia and government staff like Mr. Widney Munsaka for their support," Belinda concluded.

Project Comments

The Copperbelt Rural Livelihood Enhancement Support Project has been operating in four communities in Masaiti, Mpongwe, Luanshya and Kalulushi districts in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. The livelihoods of people in the target communities have continued to improve due to integrated agriculture, nutrition education and sanitation activities. This is evident in the increased household income, access to food, improved diets and improved hygiene.

Heifer International continues playing a leading role in implementing activities in partnership with the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), Village Water Zambia (VWZ) and the government ministries of Community Development, Maternal and Child Health (MCDMCH) and Agriculture & Livestock (MAL). The partners continued providing training and monitoring project activities. To enhance the partnership and project ownership by participants, review and planning meetings were held monthly at the community level.

Through a number of interventions, 6,462 families have been reached. 364 families have been supported with livestock, 753 with vegetable production, 248 with human nutrition, 221 with agroforestry, 60 with conservation farming and 4,816 with water and sanitation activities.

Progress Toward Objectives

Objective 1: To enable 80 percent of participating families to attain food security through improved access to animal protein and food crops by the year 2014.

- ☐ 80 families received 40 draft heifers and four bulls at Ibondwe.
- ☐ 140 meat goats were passed on to 20 families in Kanyanje.
- ☐ 19 dairy heifers and one bull were passed on to 19 families in Kamisenga.
- ☐ 140 meat goats placed at Kanyanje for 20 families.
- ☐ 6,462 families consumed a variety of vegetables.
- ☐ 2,696 families preserved a variety of local vegetables and mushroom for off season consumption.

Objective 2: To increase household income of 90 percent of project participants by at least 50 percent of their current level.

- ☐ 489 families raised between 50,000-4,000,000 Zambian kwachas, or about \$10-\$800, from vegetable sales.
- ☐ 43 families were selling between one to five gallons of milk per day and increased monthly incomes ranging from 375,000-1,500,000 kwachas, or about \$75-\$300.
- ☐ 15 families of Kanyenda each sold a goat at 250,000 kwachas, or about \$47, and used the income to pay for the government-subsidized input packs (fertilizer and seed).
- ☐ 21 families diversified their income sources by engaging in small-scale enterprises like grocery shops, selling food stuffs and trading.
- ☐ 16 families increased their ploughed acreage from .6 to 12 acres.

Objective 3: To increase access of rural population to improved sanitation, health and hygiene practices and environmental management.

- ☐ 7,500 people adopted hand-washing using tip-taps and soap.
- ☐ 2,322 families adopted at least three hygiene practices (tip-tap, pit latrines, dish racks, refuse pit, bath shelter and hand-washing).
- ☐ 45 families planted pastures after receiving 4.4 pounds of pennisetum seed each.
- ☐ 315 families were using goat and cattle manure in their gardens and crop fields to improve soil structure and fertility.
- ☐ 110 families built energy-saving stoves, bringing the total number of users to 347.
- ☐ 10 families used and maintained their mulberry fodder plots.
- ☐ Peer educators conducted training in water and sanitation to 15 schools.

Objective 4: To build strong linkages with agriculture support institutions for the development of viable enterprises.

- ☐ The Department of Veterinary Services established a disease surveillance schedule with Kamisenga and Ibondwe farmer groups.
- ☐ Kampelembe established a direct linkage with Parmalat.
- ☐ The ministries of Community Development, Maternal and Child Health donated 10,000,000 kwachas, or about \$1,860, to the Ibondwe Draft Cattle Project to start up a poultry business.
- ☐ The Nkutaizya Draft Cattle group was linked to Freshmark and Amiran for vegetable production and marketing.

Objective 5: To improve the nutrition and health status of 80 percent of participants against the baseline status.

- ☐ 6,462 families consumed a variety of vegetables.
- ☐ 136 families from cattle and goat groups were consuming between .13 and .5 gallons of milk per day.
- ☐ The income generated from goat sales was used to purchase fertilizer and seed for maize, the staple food.

Quantitative Data

Families Assisted		
	Original	Pass on the Gift
Planned	950	90
New (this period)	2,391	39
Previous total	3,990	-
Total (all periods)	6,381	39

Individuals Assisted		
	Original	Pass on the Gift
Planned	-	-
New (this period)	13,932	234
Previous total	23,940	-
Total (all periods)	37,872	234

Original Placements of Livestock and Other Resources				
Resource type	Number planned	Number new	Previous total	Total (all periods)
Dairy Cows	20	5	40	45
Fodder Trees	-	150	6	156
Veterinary Medicine Kits	4	4	6	10
Dairy Bulls	2	3	4	7
Milk Cans	20	20	40	60
Irrigation Systems	4	-	-	-
Draft Cattle	80	80	80	160

Vegetable Seeds	-	-	60	60
Goats	100	260	300	560
Bull Cattle	4	-	2	2
Veterinary Services	-	-	6	6
Cement (pounds)	-	-	13,200	13,200

Training Information			
Training Topic/Theme	Hours	Number of Training Attendees	
		Project Participants	
		Male	Female
Leadership	6	25	31
Animal Health Care	60	143	258
Group Management	17	40	53
Pasture Management	5	11	19
POG Management	10	28	63
Animal Breeding Improvement	6	8	10
Recordkeeping	17	43	67
Animal Well-Being	5	18	28
Shelter & Housing	6	10	19
Livestock Health	12	31	43
Animal Management	34	76	117
Livestock Breeding Technique	5	15	33
Livestock Management	11	32	59
Enterprise Development	6	11	21
Animal Nutrition	15	24	32
Improved Animal Management	10	11	14
Project Management	12	24	36
Offspring Management	6	12	17
Cornerstones	10	28	49
Hygienic Milk and Milk Product Preparation	6	19	29
Poultry Diseases	6	16	16
N/A	6	13	15
Group Capacity Building	5	14	26