

1st Quarter 2022

Newsflash

ActionAid Zambia



COVER STORY

Loud voices on Youth Day

The youth were loud, and made sure to have their voices heard on their day. The Youth of Zambia demand to be included.

Action for Social Justice, Gender Equality
& Poverty Eradication

ActionAid Zambia

Newsflash from ActionAid Zambia provides you with the most important stories and achievements of ActionAid Zambia this quarter.

- Women and Girls' social and economic Empowerment
- Civic Participation and State Accountability
- Strengthen Resilient Livelihoods and Secure Climate Justice
- Transformative Women-led Emergency Preparedness, Response and Prevention
- Youth Led Alternatives and Engagement

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Women's Day: Women4climate Summit & tree planting

ActionAid Zambia hosted and celebrated International women's day in special manner. The commemoration took a 2-pronged approach.

First, a Women4climate Summit with a wide variety of activities including a panel discussion, champion case study and an expo to showcase innovation and entrepreneurial climate response initiatives led by women. A wealth of knowledge was shared!

Secondly, fruit tree planting at Kabwata Preschool in Lusaka. An estimated 60% of Zambia's population is dependent on subsistence farming – a food source estimated for 48% of the World's deforestation. Traditional methods of 'slash and burn', which has been evidenced especially in the southern province of Zambia, is incredibly damaging for the environment. Lusaka and Southern province are both in ecological zone one and this is the worst hit zone in Zambia with regards to climate change and so it is imperative to start making the change we want to see and indeed break the bias for a sustainable tomorrow.

#BREATHEBIAS: Sustainable agriculture training changes the future

In 2019, 50-year-old Connie Mumbela of Senenga struggled to feed her family and help her husband sustain their livelihood. Senenga is within Zambia's Agro-ecological zone number one and known for extreme temperatures, frequent droughts, reduced rain and sandy soils.

ActionAid Zambia promotes climate resilient sustainable agriculture practices with capacity building trainings in the Western Province. Specifically designed to build resilience to the challenges posed by climate change and the impact on poor people's lives. These trainings could not have come at a better time for Mrs Mumbela. With the adoption of the sustainable agriculture practices, she learned, Connie has been able to reverse her and her families' farming misfortunes.

"I am able to maximize on the limited amount of rainfall that we get by practicing sustainable agriculture techniques. One technique that I use is Agroecology, where I ensure that I integrate my maize farming with cover crops such as beans and groundnuts. This practice ensures that soil temperatures are controlled, and moisture content is retained in addition to protecting the soil from degrading effects of wind and water erosion."

The now empowered Mrs. Connie Mumbela adds, "As a Secretary of Lubosi Farmer Cooperative, I share my skills with fellow farmers in Litoya village. I have also volunteered my farm to be used for a field day so that other farmers can learn from me."

It is inspirational to see the levels of participation of farmers in sustainable agriculture. Farmers in Litoya are now able to grow food and feed their families as well as earn an income despite the hostile weather conditions. And even more inspirational to have a woman like Connie take the front seat in advocating for change while also being the epitome of a woman of power that continues to break the bias!

AAZ stands with the Youth!

The youth must be recognized and much needs to be done to fully tap into their potential as young fresh innovative minds. Youth constitute more than 70% of Zambia's population and the age median is only 17 years of age. Zambia is a young nation.

Inevitably, this justifies the need for youth to be at the center of all strategic developments of our country. It is no hidden secret - the power is in numbers.

Youth inclusion needs deliberate and collated efforts by all factions of society – state and non-state players. Integration can be achieved through identification of youth-led solutions, inclusion in all major and minor decision-making processes, in consultations and design of alternatives. High youth unemployment makes it increasingly difficult for the youth to achieve their full potential. Therefore, in line with the theme “Enhancing youth participation at all levels of National Development”, it is fundamentally important that all developmental policies are designed to ensure youth participation and empowerment.

We continue to strengthen the capacity of the youth constituency to participate at all levels governance:

- Building resilience, leadership and innovation in young people in Zambia to ensure they enjoy basic rights to protection and sustainable livelihoods through a climate just economic development model.
- Providing youth-led alternatives on economic models and climate change solutions that are designed to work for marginalised communities, young women and ensure that no one is left behind.
- Building youth capacity and leadership in efforts that hold the state accountable on service delivery through different methods of social movement building and organising.
- Mentoring Youth into leadership positions and capacitating Youth in leadership to become transformational and ethical leaders that respond to the needs of their constituents.



Loud voices on Youth Day 2022

The youth were loud, and made sure to have their voices heard on their day. The Youth of Zambia demand to be included in governance and all things to do with the future of Zambia. Besides hosting debates at the Global Platform the youth also celebrated Youth Day in Garden Compound - one of the communities they operate from.

A walk from Garden LCC site office (old Police) to Kampala Grounds where youths from different organisations displayed different artistic talents in poetry, drama, music and speeches.

How to be that girl/woman 2022?

Event: Young ladies from different areas discussed the problems girls and women currently face in Zambia. It was an awesome networking experience and they had very insightful sessions on how to raise their self-esteem. Being a strong and independent girl is harder now than it used to be - particularly due to more young people and graduates being unemployed and dependent on their families

They discussed things to avoid in order to become independent girls/women e.g. they should;

- not neglect their careers,
- not let other people affect their confidence,
- never stop learning,
- not rise to the bait of haters,
- not let others affect their confidence,
- never ever stay in toxic relationships!





New school changes reality of Tahalima

The ActionAid Zambia team, led by the Country Director, Nalucha Nganga Ziba, has handed over a refurbished 1x3 classroom block to the Ministry of Education. Prior to this, the pupils of Tahalima had poor and unsafe facilities of learning. They had either to share the few desks available or sit on the floor in order to learn. The only other school available to these pupils was more than 5km away in Maondo - a long and unsafe walk to Education. This is the case in many rural areas of Zambia.

This project was sponsored by our friends in Italy.

Rise of School Environmental Clubs

The objective of school environmental clubs is to help students become environmentally conscious and enable participation in school clubs. The aim of these clubs is to develop environment friendly, skilled, dedicated and responsible citizens who are willing to work individually and collectively towards achieving a high quality of life and environment.

In December 2021, ActionAid Zambia under its Northern Hub, trained teachers on tree planting and climate resilience while supporting the formation and revamping of school environmental clubs in Senga, Mpulungu, Nakonde and Lavushimanda.



Call to Action - Free education vis-a-vis education infrastructure

These pictures depict the livelihoods of pupils at Sianda Secondary school in Nalolo. More than 25 girls share a single thatched one-room structure. More than 28 boys share another.

Education is a birthright of every child in Zambia. Free education allows children to have access to their birthright.

The situation in Sianda is not isolated. It is common in most rural areas of Zambia. Pupils sit under a tree or on the ground for lessons. Children have to walk over five km to get to school without shoes. What is their motivation to stay and keep going back these environments that leave much to be desired?

The decolonization of education in this country means that no child should be learning under trees and it means that children should have equal access to education, regardless of their financial background.

Buildings, classrooms, laboratories and equipment- education infrastructure - are crucial elements of learning environments in schools and universities. There is strong evidence that high-quality infrastructure facilitates better instruction, improves student outcomes and reduces dropout rates etc.

If all children are to have equal rights, why does the conditions for a child in Sianda differ from a child in Lusaka?

Action Aid Zambia calls to Government to facilitate building proper school infrastructure to allow pupils joining government schools to stay in these schools and complete their education. Government should also ensure proper living standards for teachers to encourage them to work in rural areas like Sianda.

Shortage of medicine in hospitals

The Government needs as a matter of urgency to critically address the shortage of medication currently being experienced in Zambia.

Shortage of medicines triggers patient care and safety issues. The country has been facing challenges concerning shortages of medicine for quite some time. As a result, most citizens get prescriptions as opposed to medication from the institutions' pharmacies. This is despite government rolling out a universal coverage package.

ActionAid recognizes the challenges faced by the Ministry of Health, which among others limit procurements due to the perceived cartels that have captured the procurement industry in Zambia to an extent of endangering lives through the supply of substandard medicines such as expired drugs.

We call on the government as a matter of urgency to develop a comprehensive plan of providing medicines to all facilities. It must include the process of strengthening the procurement systems as the continuation of these challenges has potential to collapse the entire health system. A system, which is already limping.

As a rights-based organization, we call on the government to ensure that they view access to medication as a human right. We all know that the continued lack of access to medication is likely to increase the mortality rates in the country. This further, exacerbates the care work that largely places a burden on women and children who are the most vulnerable and need these services the most.



Launch: Community Voices for Education

ActionAid Zambia launched the Community Voices for Education project in Chipata in the Eastern Province on February 8th.

The project aims to increase engagement and information sharing between duty bearers and right holders in the education sector. Empowering the community, the rights holders, to be free to organize and claim their rights and hold duty bearers to account.

Country Director, Nalucha Nganga Ziba, led the launch. In attendance was Chipata District Commissioner, Ms. Elidah Banda, representatives' office of the District Education Board Secretary, the Ministry of Local Government, the Anti-Corruption Commission, media and representatives from Civil Society Organizations.

Chief Mpuka gives go ahead to fishing Camps

ActionAid Zambia, The Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and the Luangwa District Department of Fisheries paid a courtesy call to the Chief before proceeding to train fishing cooperatives in the Fish Value Addition.

The project aims to empower at least 824 members of fishing camps (men, women and youth) in Luangwa and Kafue district with entrepreneurship and business management skills. With training in the fish value chain and requisite information, skills and resources, they are empowered to run fishing projects as viable businesses.

Chief MPUKA decided to join the day's training. He was elated to see the three institutions combining their efforts to help transform the mind-sets of fishers in his chiefdom.



ActionAid Zambia in partnership with ZAMSOF and KZF, working with Zambia Development Agency and the Department of Fisheries with support from the ECO-FISH Programme and the European Union, is implementing the Zambia Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Project (ZSSSFP) in seven districts.

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