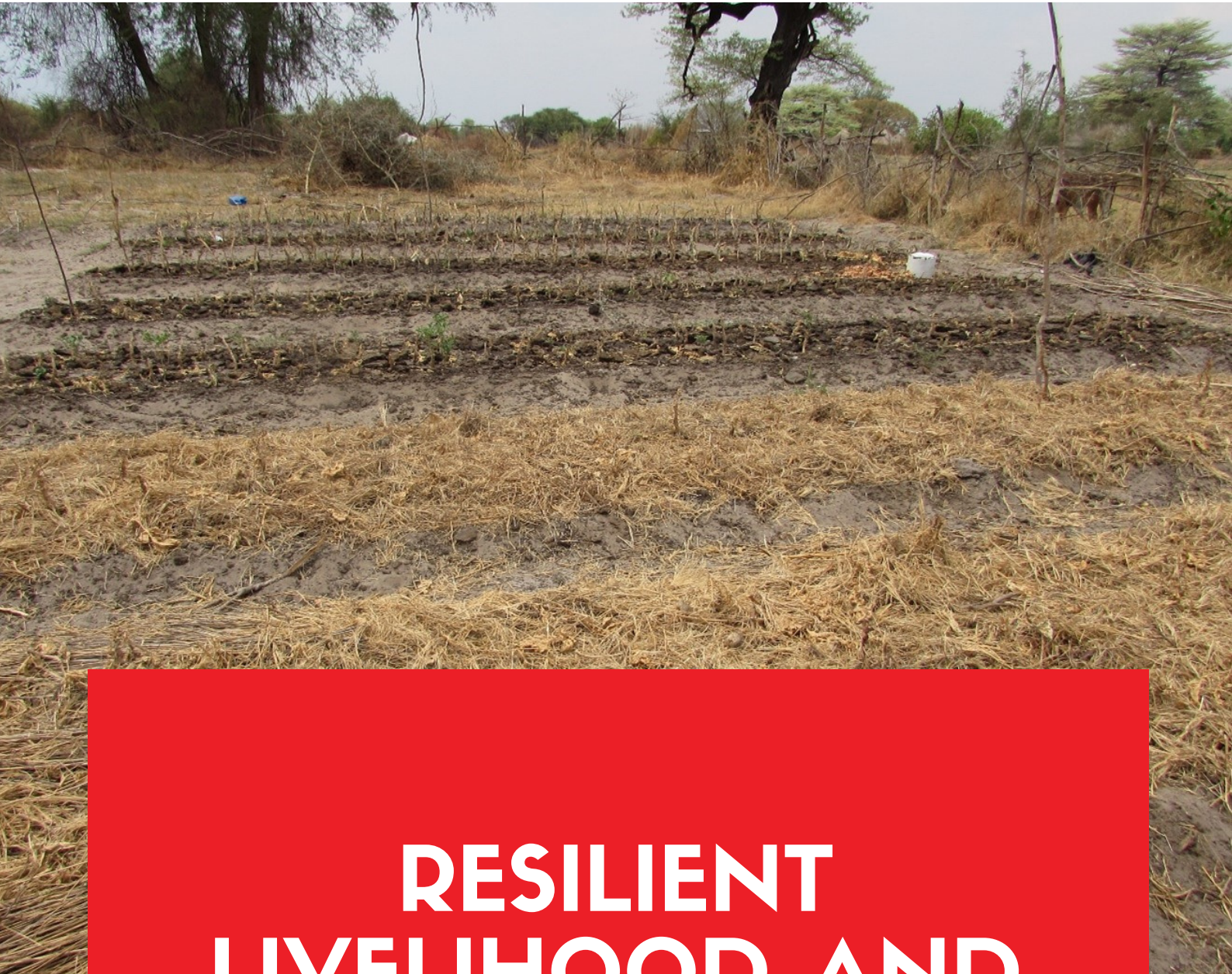


S U C C E S S S T O R I E S



RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD AND CLIMATE JUSTICE WORK

INTRODUCTION

ActionAid Zambia

ActionAid Zambia (AAZ) is a part of the ActionAid Global (AAG) Federation with values that are aimed at driving social change towards a just, equitable, and sustainable world by shifting and redistributing power and resources, strengthening the resilience of communities and movements, and fulfilling the rights of people living in poverty and exclusion especially women and young people. The organization works with the vulnerable and the excluded to end poverty and injustice. The organization has 5 priority areas which focus on: Women and Girls' Socio-Economic Empowerment, Civic Participation and State Accountability, Resilient Livelihood and Secure Climate Justice, Transformative Women-Led Emergency Preparedness, Response and Prevention, and Youth engagement under the Global Platform Zambia.

This brief will focus on Resilient Livelihood and Climate Justice, and its notable achievements.

Our Work under Resilient Livelihood and Climate Justice

ActionAid Zambia through its country strategy, embarked on a journey to ensure livelihoods for the poor and marginalized are improved and that there is accountability in climate change responses through three focus areas. The three focus areas are:

1. Food sovereignty and Agro-ecology.
2. Climate Justice; and
3. Natural Resources and Defence of the Commons.

In ensuring that ActionAid Zambia meets its focus areas, it has adopted strategic areas that would ensure access and control over land rights and other natural resources for rural communities especially women and youth for increased livelihood opportunities and enhanced food security and incomes through climate

resilient and sustainable food production systems and alternative income-generating activities that promote sovereignty among women, youth, and their households. ActionAid's key strategies are aimed at seeing women, young people, and their households with the ability and supporting systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth. AAZ is work on this is premised around the following strategies:

1. Awareness-raising & Capacity building on effects of climate change and best adaptation mechanisms.
2. Research and evidence generation on climate adaptation and violation of the rights of commons.
3. Building local, national and global Solidarity for climate justices.
4. Influencing and Campaigning; and
5. Learning from the bottom up and generating Alternatives

RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD AND CLIMATE JUSTICE KEY MILESTONES

BUMPER HARVEST IN THE MIDST OF DETERIORATING CLIMATE CONDITIONS

“Lukulu District has not been spared by effects of climate change such as floods and droughts. These effects have led to low agricultural production and food insecurity in most households in Lukulu District,” explained Mr. Thabo Mwangala the Senior Agriculture Officer during the vulnerability assessment report to the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). He further explained that, “over 1000 farmers will experience crop failure this year as a result of heavy rains that destroyed crops like cassava and maize.”

In the face of this hopelessness, there is a glimmering light of hope for farmers like Mr. Kafunte Muzala that have been practicing climate-smart agriculture. Mr. Muzala belongs to the Mwandu Farmers Association that has been supported by ActionAid for the past five years. ActionAid has been promoting agriculture diversification among farmer groups as a response to adapting to the effects of climate change. Some of the activities that have been provided are skills training in livestock and crop production, peer learning through exchange visits to agriculture shows, and hosting field day events to facilitate learning among farmers. Other initiatives are the promotion of mixed farming of crops and livestock, production of climate-proofed crops like rice and cassava, and support of farmer groups with agroforestry seeds to reduce the cost of fertilizer.

Mr. Muzala is one of over 1,500 (825 Females and 675 Males) farmers that have been supported by ActionAid to diversified their farming activities from

livestock production to climate-resilient crops like rice and cassava. He recounts his fortunes of producing more than 20 x 50 Kilograms to the knowledge he gained from ActionAid programmes.

He explains that “as a result of heavy rains that we experienced in the District most farmers who grew crops like maize and cassava have reported poor harvests. However, for farmers like myself and others who have been heeding the call from ActionAid to spread the farming risk from growing maize to rice, we have a bumper harvest”.

Mr. Muzala who serves as a chairperson of the Mwandu Farmers Association and a trained Business entrepreneur has his eyes on adding value to his rice by polishing it to fetch a good market price. With these skills and experience, Mr. Muzala hopes to influence more farmers in Lukulu District to grow rice.

ActionAid works with farmers like Muzala to promote climate-resilient agriculture to adapt to the effects of climate change in Lukulu Districts.



Mr Kafunte Muzala in his rice field that is ready to harvest.

PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FOR IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Under ActionAid and Keepers Zambia Foundation (KZF) partnership, Lukulu Local rights Programme focuses on building climate-resilient livelihoods among small-scale farmers that are heavily impacted by climate change. As an alternative, Action Aid is demonstrating how farmers can use appropriate technologies to enhance agriculture productivity during the off-season. ActionAid is promoting the use of solar-powered irrigation pumps among small-scale farmers. Three solar pumps were bought at a cost of \$3,000.00 for the Mwandu, Luanchuma, and Ngimbu Farmers association for promotion. Three field days were hosted in respective wards to demonstrate the performance of solar pumps in agriculture production. This has led to increased demand for solar pumps from farmer's associations and the Ministry of Agriculture. Five other farmer groups with a membership of over 300 have come together and mobilised resources to procure solar-powered pumps. KZF and ActionAid have also facilitated market linkages for the ministry of Agriculture in Lukulu and Mitete District to buy six solar pumps to use in Vulnerable communities.

Mr. Patrick Siyawa is one of the three farmers that has benefited from solar-powered pumps from ActionAid. Patrick and his family live in Mulongo village, he is sixty-two years old. He is married to Monde, and the couple has three children. Patrick is an active member of his community, he is a Treasurer for Mwandu Farmers Association as well as a Community Facilitator for ActionAid child sponsorship activities. His livelihood is dependant on farming. He grows tomatoes, cabbages, and a local vegetable called Sindambi. As a member of Mwandu Farmers' association that is supported by ActionAid and KZF, he has learnt more about agriculture production which has helped him improve his farming skills. He appreciates training on conservation farming organised by Keepers Zambia Foundation, farming inputs such as agroforestry seeds that improve the soil fertility, and most recently the solar-powered pumps.

Mr. Siyawa described his days at his farm before the support as: "very tiring especially during watering of his crops using a bucket." He explained that "it took me about 8 hours to finish watering his one Lima cultivated land and this often gave him shoulder pain." Patrick further explains that "the use of a solar pump has changed the fortunes of his Household in many ways." Just by the push of a button, he is able to irrigate his 1 lima of vegetables within an hour. Because of this Mr. Siyawa plans to expand his field to 3 limas of crops. He has also been supported with a water tank which will help him store water for irrigating as well as domestic water use. "My wife and children do not need to walk long distances to fetch water at the local water point."

As part of achieving resilient livelihood and secure climate justice, ActionAid is providing alternatives and building adaptive capacities for vulnerable groups to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience.



Mr Siyawa in his field with fellow farmers



Watering using Solar pump

SUPPORTING YOUNG FEMALES TO ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

ActionAid Zambia has been working with young people so to promote women and girl's access to and control over productive resources. ActionAid identified 30 young people whom the organization trained in leadership and activism. ActionAid has been mainly targeting young people especially females as these form part of the marginalized people within the communities. It was from this group that Lungowe Lingomba aged 24 was identified as one of the participants. Lungowe participated in Ward Development Committee member elections and won the elections of WDC membership for a five-year tenure of office.

As a member of the Activista Movement for Nalolo, Lungowe participated in a small-scale agriculture training organized by AAZ and benefitted from farming inputs. She started her own vegetable garden in which she has been able to grow tomatoes, cabbages, onions, and eggplants. In her last tomato harvest in 2018, Lungowe has raised a sum of K1,900.

Lungowe is a single mother who was a victim of teenage pregnancy and has faced several challenges especially raising her daughter and many other challenges prone to people living in the community. She has had a passion for development work within her community and through the trainings and other interventions ActionAid has offered in her community, she has been able to get empowered. Through the income generated from the vegetable garden, she is able to take her daughter to school and also able to meet her basic needs. Lungowe has also used her membership in the Ward development committee to lobby for her community as well the youths whenever the need arises.



Lungowe in her farm where she planted local maize amidst a drought in Nalolo

TRAINING SMALL SCALE FARMERS ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

Senanga falls within the agro-ecological zone number one of Zambia as designated by the Department of Agriculture. This Zone is known for frequent droughts, reduced rainy season, extreme temperatures, and sandy soils. There is also limited early warning information on the annual forecast by Zambia Meteorological Department. The weather forecast is very general for understanding and use by small-scale farmers. With such kind of critical farming information missing most farmers are unable to plan on what type of inputs to buy or when to plant their crops. This situation is impacting the livelihoods of over 13,000 people in Nalolo district.

To address these challenges ActionAid has been promoting climate-resilient sustainable agriculture practices. ActionAid has been working with the Ministry of agriculture through supporting capacity-building trainings for farmer and women's groups on climate-resilient sustainable agriculture. The trainings are designed in such a way that they incorporate new challenges posed by climate change and impacts on poor people's lives. These practices include minimal soil disturbances and maintenance of permanent soil cover.

These trainings came at a better time for 48-year-old Connie Mumbela. Mrs. Mumbela and her husband has been struggling to feed their five children because of poor yields. However, with the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that she has learnt through ActionAid-supported trainings, Connie has been able to reverse these farming misfortunes. "I am able to maximise on the limited amount of rainfall that we get through practicing sustainable agriculture techniques. "One such technique that I use is to 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.” explained Connie. “Since I am also in constant contact with the Extension Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, I consult them on the weather forecast and on what type of inputs to use.” 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.”

I was inspired at seeing the levels of farmer's participation in sustainable agriculture contrary to the national traditional way of supporting farmers with inputs without extension support. Farmers in Litoya are now able to grow food to feed their families as well as earn an income despite the hostile weather conditions. “What is more inspiring is that farmers that were supported by ActionAid have managed to secure food for their families while the government-supported farmers need continued support from the government due to poor yields. I am happy that the government is adopting AAZ models of sustainable agriculture and this gives me strength to advocate for upscaling of such kind of farming alternatives.” Concluded Connie excitedly.



Small scale irrigation gardening in Litoya- Nalolo

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SUPPORT WITH LOCAL CHICKENS

In the area of resilient livelihoods, ActionAid Zambia supported 82 children from three different schools in Yangeni, Chishala and Changanilo go to School Because of Village Chickens

In 2014, ActionAid Zambia working together with the village and school Heads put into practice the traditional belief that chickens multiply in huge numbers once given to children. To tap into this, ActionAid with the help of community facilitators selected eighty-two (82) children from Yangeni, Changanilo, and Chishala communities for the 'Chicken Pass on Project'. The children were trained in simple Livestock Management by Livestock Officers. The training was simplified and made practical for children as young as 7 years old to understand. After the training, the 82 children were given two chickens each, which they were required to rear. Once their chickens multiplied, they were required to give two of their chickens to their friend who would, in turn, do the same. The aim of the project was to benefit over 900 children in the three selected communities.

The training and the purchase of start-up chickens were at a total cost of ZMW 10,000. Since the start of the project in 2014 over 250 children have so far benefitted from it. The children are rearing the chickens which are providing them with income to purchase school requisites such as school shoes, pens, pencils, books, and uniforms. The parents and guardians of these beneficiaries sell a chicken or two once the need for school requisites arises.

The project has also impacted positively on most of the parents and guardians in the three communities as they are now able to use chickens to educate even their older children who are in school. Furthermore, most of the families have gone into chicken rearing such that even those families whose children were



not part of the initial beneficiaries were also given chickens so that they can rear them on their own and use the proceeds for education purposes. 30 children outside the project have so far been given chickens by their parents so they can also be able to afford the school requisites and prevent them from dropping out of school.

Darius Kafula, one of the children that were trained and received two chickens from ActionAid has seen his Chicken project grow tremendously. With the help of his family, the school head, and an agricultural officer, Darius' chickens have multiplied from the initial 2 to 30. The chickens have helped Darius to support him with the school supplies that he was not able to afford before. His family also uses the chickens for food whenever they are lacking in food or for special occasions such as Christmas day or Darius's birthday.

Nancy Sakala is also part of the Chicken project. She has been able to buy school uniform, shoes, and a school bag and still has more than 30 chickens to support her and her family in their livelihood.

"I'm very happy to have been supported with Chickens because when I sell 1 or 2 chickens, I'm able to buy books, Shoes and last time I even managed to buy a school bag" said Nancy.

ORGANIC FARMING CREATES BETTER CONDITIONS FOR FARMER FAMILIES

Climate Change in Zambia has resulted in droughts and flooding in some parts of the country. Western Province has been negatively affected and this has resorted to households not having adequate food and low-income levels. This has worsened poverty levels in communities.

Kalabo district is one of the districts in Western Province which is very sandy and one of the poorest in the Province. The district has a population of 90,000 people, and 40% of the population are subsistence seasonal farmers often economically marginalized, and about 20 percent live in poverty.

Mr. Samangoma and his family in Kalabo have a two-hectare plot, and they only use a small portion to garden vegetables because they cannot afford the high prices of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer. In the past, their vegetable farm would produce about 2 boxes of tomatoes and few vegetables, earning the family less than K300. This made it very difficult for Mr. Samangoma to support his family. To fill in the financial gap, he would do odd jobs to afford food for his family including this parents.

The solution for the Samangoma family was not to plant more vegetables using fertilizer and other inorganic farming

inputs, but to branch out into more profitable and sustainable ways of farming by using organic methods that reduce the cost of doing farming and maximizes profits for the family. In June 2019, ActionAid Zambia's partner, Zambia Social Forum (ZAMSOF) a grassroots social movement organization began implementing project activities supported by the SIDA project called building collective for Climate Justice and Natural resource sovereignty. They trained local farmers on Agro-Ecology and Food Sovereignty, cultivation techniques using organic means, and how to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Encouraged by the training and the local agriculture promotion, Mr. Samangoma was hopeful that the new farming methods and technics would help boost his family's income and secure better living conditions as well as preserve the soil's fertility as he had learnt. Mr. Samangoma applied the techniques and saw immediate results after planting 500 cabbage seedlings, 150 eggplants, winter maize among others. He harvested and sold about 400 pieces of cabbage going at between K5-K8, he raised over K500 from the sale of Eggplants while he awaits winter maize to be ready for harvest. This farming season, Mr. Samangoma and the family

plan on applying the same cultivation technics using organic means in their rice field and they are expecting similar results. In addition, Mr. Samangoma applied the pruning, watering, and organic fertilizer techniques he learned on his farm and was able to increase the yield of his harvest compared to the previous years. His land now yields produce that brings greater food sovereignty to his house.

"Organic farming is an excellent add-on to our farming/garden business. Now we have something to harvest throughout the year. This contributes significantly to improving the living conditions of my family and education for my children" said Mr. Samangoma.

Mr. Samangoma is one of the thousands of farmers who have benefited from the ZAMSOF project to building a collective for Climate Justice and Natural resource sovereignty initiative as he and many others have managed to expand his garden farming in Kalabo through the use of organic means that are readily available and cheaper. In addition to increasing the volume of sustainably produced vegetables and other farm produce in Kalabo, the project also helps improve the quality at all levels of the vegetable farming value chain and transfers the development approach to local groups/institutions through trainings. "This helps save land area and contributes to plant and cash crop diversity in order to reduce poverty and eradicate hunger," said Mr. Samangoma.



Mr. Samangoma and the Wife overcoming the impact of Climate Change

