

Background/Rationale

According to the **Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU)** Vulnerability Assessment conducted in 2019, between October 2019 and the end of March 2020, **2.3 million people** were estimated to be in crisis (phase 3) or worse, comprising **1.9 million (20%)** in Phase 3 and **450 000 (5%)** in emergency (phase 4). Only 39% of households had cereal stocks to last more than 6 months of which 31% had for more than 10 months. Three districts (**Gwembe – 15,000, Shangómbó – 13,000 and Lunga – 6,000**) were projected to be in phase 4 food insecurity situations and would face huge food gaps as the situation deteriorates due to consecutive reduction in cereal production largely due to erratic and late start of rains.

The **Coping with Drought and Climate Change in Zambia** Project of Gwembe District intended to meet the immediate needs of drought-affected communities and support people to recover from the drought as quickly as possible to alleviate the poverty and food shortages caused by the drought.

The aim of the project is to improve the food and nutritional security of drought affected small scale farmers, restore their livelihoods, and enhance their resilience to future climate threats. To achieve this aim, CARE International in Zambia plans to do the following.

To increase availability of vegetable and cereal foods for 5,700 drought-affected people, increase availability of goat milk and meat for 5,700 drought-affected farmers and increase the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture practices by 950 drought- affected households by April 2021. The project also aims at enabling conversations by communities to discuss how social and gender norms are perpetuating their vulnerability.

Key outputs

To achieve the above objective, CARE.

- I. Distributed two types of seeds to small-scale farmers:
 - Vegetable seeds to farmers that have access to a water source so that they can quickly start producing food, as some vegetables only take 6 – 8 weeks to grow.
 - Drought-tolerant cereal seeds for the 2020 planting season, which can help farmers producing crops even during droughts.

Project summary

- **Project name:** Coping with Drought and Climate Change in Zambia
- **Funded by:** ZF Hilft e.V.88038 Friedrichafen
- **Project region:** Gwembe District, Southern Province, Zambia
- **Partners:** Government line ministries (Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries), Community Development and Social services, Community structures
- **Target population:** 950 direct beneficiaries & 5700 indirect beneficiaries
- **Duration:** 01.05.2020-31.05.2022
- **Funding:** 208,184.00 Euros
- **IPIA:** CARE Germany and CARE International in Zambia

- II. Distributed goats to small-scale farmers to improve their nutritional security, as milk and meat provide a good source of protein.
- III. Trained small-scale farmers on climate-smart/conservation agriculture, which has the capacity to increase the efficient use of rainfall and reduce water runoff and evaporation, making better use of limited water.
- IV. Held regular community conversations with communities so that they can discuss how the social and gender norms in their communities perpetuate their vulnerability - in this instance, their food security and livelihood challenges. This was done with a methodology that CARE has developed and that is called “Social Analysis and Action”. These conversations led to significant transformation in knowledge, attitudes, and practices of participants and to greater equality in families and communities

Our approach

The project approach was to reach to the viable but vulnerable farmers that were affected by drought through the provision of agriculture inputs (vegetable seeds, drought tolerant cereal seeds, distribute small livestock (goats), train the farmers in Climate Smart Agriculture and Social action analysis training. The project collaborated with the government line Ministries and these included Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and the local government and administration. The project collaborated also with the local and international NGOs in the operation district and these included ADRA, Self-help Africa, Heifer International and this was necessary so that to avoid the doubling of efforts to the same beneficiaries.

Achievements

- 42 lead Farmers were trained in Climate Smart Agriculture in 21 centres of the 9 camps
- 935 (312 men & 623 women) were trained in vegetable production, climate smart agriculture practices and goat production
- 42 demonstration sites or plots were established (plots where conservation agriculture practices were demonstrated)
- 1425 direct beneficiaries were reached with climate smart agriculture messages and a total of 8550 indirect beneficiaries were reached on climate smart agriculture
- 1425 beneficiaries received vegetable seeds (cabbage, okra, amaranthus, rape, Chinese cabbage, pumpkin leaves, and cowpeas)
- 950 beneficiaries (314 men & 636 women) received drought tolerant field crop seed (white maize, orange maize, sorghum, millet)

- 1425 beneficiaries received Pesticides to apply in their field crops and vegetable gardens for control of pests
- 950 does (Female goats) were distributed and restocked to 475 farmers on the 'Pass on exercise Basis'
- 95 bucks (male goats) were distributed to 475 farmers (1 goat per 5 farmers)
- Drugs and chemicals for goats were distributed to the 475 farmers
- 21 Community facilitators were trained in SAA (Social Action Analysis) on community conversation on gender and social norms
- 1025 farmers were reached with SAA messages

Pictures



Rodinah in her garden showing the vegetable crops (Pictures courtesy of Brian Kafula)



Enock and nephew with goats (kids) Enock with CARE staff (Pictures courtesy of Brian Kafula)





Winert Ndeke in her Maize Fields



Winert

Ndeke sieving maize grains after harvest (Pictures courtesy of Brian Kafula)



Farmers displaying their goats after restocking in Lukonde camp (picture courtesy of Vincent Mwaba)