

Background/Rationale

According to the 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS), 64 per cent of Zambia's population had access to basic drinking water services while 33 per cent had access to basic sanitation services. An estimated 10 per cent of the population practiced open defecation while 24 per cent of households had access to a hand washing facility with soap and water in 2018.

Considerable disparities exist in the coverage of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in Zambia. The access to basic water supply is 87 per cent in urban areas and 49 per cent in rural areas. Similarly, access to basic sanitation is 41 per cent in urban areas and 28 per cent in rural areas. About 16 per cent of rural population practices open defecation compared to one per cent in urban areas

Lack of adequate WASH services in Zambia is one of the major barriers to achieving improvements in the health and development of children and women. It drives a number of poor outcomes, contributing to childhood illness, malnutrition, and elevated school dropout rates for adolescent girls, amongst other issues.

Luapula Province is among the most challenged provinces in the country in terms of water supply and sanitation coverage and stunting rates. It is in this context that UNICEF, with funding from Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, planned to support improvement of WASH services in six districts of Luapula Province during 2020 to 2022.

It is within this context that a partnership programme between UNICEF and CARE was developed and signed on 03 November 2020 to improve WASH services in Kawambwa and Mwense Districts of Luapula Province. To achieve the planned results in the targeted districts and going through a transparent process, the Programme Document signed on 03 November 2020 was revised to include implementation of WASH interventions in Mwansabombwe District.

This revision resulted in the following key changes: (i) increased scope of works (ii) increase in the number of beneficiaries (iii) increase in the total UNICEF cash contribution from ZMW 10,146,158.79 to ZMW13,728,722 and (iv) extension of the duration of the programme document till 30 December 2022.

Project summary

- **Project name:** Improving WASH services
- **Funded by:** Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through UNICEF
- **Project region:** Kawambwa, Mwense and Mwansabombwe districts
- **Partners:** Local councils, Government line ministries, Community structures
- **Target population:** 133,076 people
- **Duration:** 26 months

Key outputs

The project's strategy has focused on maintaining sustained WASH services for communities through supporting the Districts and local structures in achieving set goals. Key project outputs include:

- **4,670 volunteers, front line workers and district staff trained** in: Hand pump repairs/Water scheme operation, Water point management; Climate resilient latrine construction, O&M/climate resilient WASH, Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) promotion & School WASH club Model
- 330 villages attain ODF by: Triggering meetings; Sanitation marketing events; Construction of demo latrines; Distribution of wash supplies to vulnerable households
- **Systems strengthening by providing support to:** (i) Conducting Pre-CLTS triggering surveys/Assessments (2), Putting in place PSEA and grievance mechanism (iii) Providing logistical support to council management and D/WASHE community engagements (iv) Review and Planning w/shops (3), (v) Joint quarterly monitoring visits (12)

Our approach

The project implementation approach is focusing on implementing practical, doable and replicable actions, promoting functionality and sustainability of services, and working with district local authorities to strengthen their service delivery capacity. The project also places significant emphasis on community engagement and community voices, and therefore: 1) supports the establishment and strengthening of community-based service providers; 2) participates in sector networks to increase their voices. Furthermore, the project integrates a gender lens at each stage of programming cycle to ensure that women, men, boys and girls all benefit from, and are empowered by improved water and sanitation services as well as improved hygiene practices.



To enhance pace, improve quality & ensure sustainability of our work, we are using:

- Community Contracting - Use of community artisans to undertake unspecialised works (e.g. latrine construction, borehole repair etc)
- Community/School Led Total Sanitation - Use of CLTS approach but with emphasis on improved latrines. CLTS principles are being used as sensitisation tools to trigger community action (mass construction of latrines). Project can then target support to some vulnerable households with construction of latrines and WASH supplies (Not leaving anyone behind)
- Community Action Plans - Communities prepare WASH action plans. Project uses action plans to support villages
- Outsourcing Technical Assistance - Use of available structures/ staff to provide technical skills to the project (e.g. use EHT/CHA to do hygiene promotion, CDO to do social mobilisation, Govt/NGO staff to facilitate trainings, etc)
- Child centred approach - use of children as catalyst for change
- Phase out strategy - Develop an exit mechanism right from the start of project to prepare mind set of communities

Achievements

- So far, the project has reached out to 34,227 women, 32,885 men and 12,876 school going children. These people have been reached with hygiene messages, trained in different areas including Hand pump repairs/Water scheme operation, Water point management; Climate resilient latrine construction, O&M/climate resilient WASH, Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) promotion and School Led Total Sanitation using the School WASH club Model
- 44,868 people are gaining access to basic and effective sanitation services
- 67,112 people are adopting good hygiene practices
- 30,576 people are aware about Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and how to report SEA cases
- 1,328 household toilets constructed/upgraded without any subsidy
- 215 villages have been triggered and verified for open defecation free (ODF)
- 24 School WASH Clubs established & trained