



Making Agriculture Attractive to Learners

Having Piped
Water was a
Pipe Dream-p6

Making Girls
with Disability
Count-p7

305 Learners
Receive School
Uniforms-p14

Executive Director's Foreword



We are very pleased to share news of our activities since our last newsletter. In the ongoing health and climate crises,

People's Action Forum (PAF) has found its place to support and continue facilitating help to the most vulnerable.

The stories speak of a wide range of activities from tackling the effects of climate disasters, to facilitating climate change preparedness at the community and school level. PAF is moving with the times to ensure the country is not left behind at the global level, and no-one is left behind in any community.

PAF has addressed educational challenges for the most vulnerable and left-behind our society has:- the rural, female, learning and physically challenged child. What is shared here shows that we have kept these beneficiaries in clear focus of all our interventions.

We must yet again acknowledge and appreciate all our partners for their financial and technical

support, each as named in the relevant story.

Indeed the different Government Departments of Education, Health, Agriculture, Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, Forest, Community Development and Social Welfare and Local Government for continuing to support and enable PAF to implement activities. We are firm partners in "Leaving No one Behind".

I also acknowledge the Chiefdoms of Hanjalika, Naluama, Mwanachingwala (Mazabuka) Jumbe and Msoro (Mambwe), Choongo and Hamunsonde (Monze), Nkomeshya (Chongwe) and Shakumbila (Mumbwa) for their welcoming and consistent support to PAF without which none of the following would have been achieved. For their committed participation, I commend all the schools and communities, who are the target beneficiaries, and the direct implementers of all programmes. We do look forward to more support and collaboration as we serve our rural communities together.

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COVID-19 PPEs Restore Girl-Child's Education Hope



Iness demonstrating
how to use a hand-
washing facility

For Iness Kasembe, being in school and comply with the COVID-19 protocols, is a huge challenge.

"Frequently washing hands with soap and masking up is not difficult at all," Iness stated and added, "The challenge lies on access to medical and protective materials against the disease."

In her sixth primary school year at Kachembe, in Mazabuka, Iness further said inadequate water and sanitation have also affected their education as girls in the rural school.

However, Iness is happy that People's Action Forum (PAF) has shown its commitment to ensure that a girl-child is kept in school by providing sanitary and covid protective materials.

"Our hope, which was on the wane has been restored," Iness said with a smile as she demonstrated the correct way of washing hands.

PAF has donated re-usable pads and masks, sanitizers, hand washing buckets and soap to needy schools and personal protective equipment to rural health centers in the districts where it operates.

GAF is Safe Space



GAF members display their products at Nega-nega School

such as baking, gardening, making doormats, drying vegetables and many others. These activities help to create

income for the GAFs as well as instill a mind of entrepreneurship in the learners. GAF is also about girls having fun, this means, sports and dance is a must do for the girls in GAFs. Recreation is important for girls too, because it relieves them of stress and creates an interaction environment where they share ideas and build each other.

To achieve this, PAF has established play parks with facilities and provided sports equipment such as balls and jerseys. Shade and fruit trees have been also planted to make a conducive green play park as well as protect the environment. The GAFs have been established in all the 25 schools in Mazabuka where PAF is implementing community led developmental projects.



Eneless Daka

By Eneless Daka

Girls' Action Forum (GAF) is simply a safe space, that enables girls to freely express themselves with regards issues that affect them and are rarely talked about in society and homes, especially in the rural areas. Some of the crucial topics that are discussed in the GAFs are; Sexual Reproductive health and rights, Menstrual Hygiene Management, Self-esteem, HIV/AIDS,

stages of growth, to mention but a few. The target group includes all school girls in the PAF catchment areas.

Topics taught vary from age group to age group.

Other activities such as exchange visits and development sessions are part of the programmes the girls undertake. The girls are also empowered with life skills,

Malomo, Namununga in MHM, PPE Materials Boost



Mrs Nyoni (l) handing-over MHM and PPE materials in Monze

PAF has donated re-usable pads and face masks as well as pants to Malomo and Namununga Community Schools in Monze.

This is in an effort to keep girls in school, who often times stay away from classes due to limited sexual health facilities and COVID-19 protective materials.

PAF Program Manager, Janet Nyoni observed that girls from lower income households have enormous challenges in accessing disposable sanitary pads because they are too expensive to manage.

"Disposable sanitary pads are often too expensive for families to afford. As a result, girls either skip school or use unsanitary options making them feel uncomfortable."

Mrs Nyoni emphasised that PAF endeavors to facilitate access to reproductive health education and cost effective menstruation materials to enhance girl-child education. She reiterated her organisation's commitment of promoting and protecting girl-child education in rural schools.

Learners at Kalonga
Community School in
Mazabuka installing
drip liners



Making Agriculture Attractive to Learners

...as they are the future of Food Security

Despite Zambia's population being predominantly youth, the number of young people involved in agriculture causes anxiety and pose a threat to future food security.

The unpleasant low interest amongst the young generation has been attributed to various factors which include unstable rainfall pattern, labour intensity among others.

To navigate these challenges and spark young people's interest and passion in agriculture, People's Action Forum (PAF) has targeted to nurture learners by creating an enabling environment in schools to make agriculture easy, fun and enjoyable.

Driven by the 'Catch them Young' concept, PAF seeks to provide a sound background for the up-growing youth to be partakers in agricultural activities and build their capacity to adopt climate smart agricultural practices, resilient to climate induced hazards and labour efficient.

PAF Program Manager, Janet Nyoni says the activity has focused on learners because they quickly grasp new ideas, "The youth have the propensity to learn and imbibe new ideas and technologies. Ultimately, they will act as agents of change and influence conservative older farmers to shift from conventional ways of farming to climate smart agriculture. PAF has installed solar powered water systems and drip irrigation in some schools in Mazabuka and Mambwe districts to address water scarcity challenges and backbreaking watering method of using buckets.

Ms Nyoni averred that the identified frustrating obstacles have deterred the young energetic generation from engaging in farming.

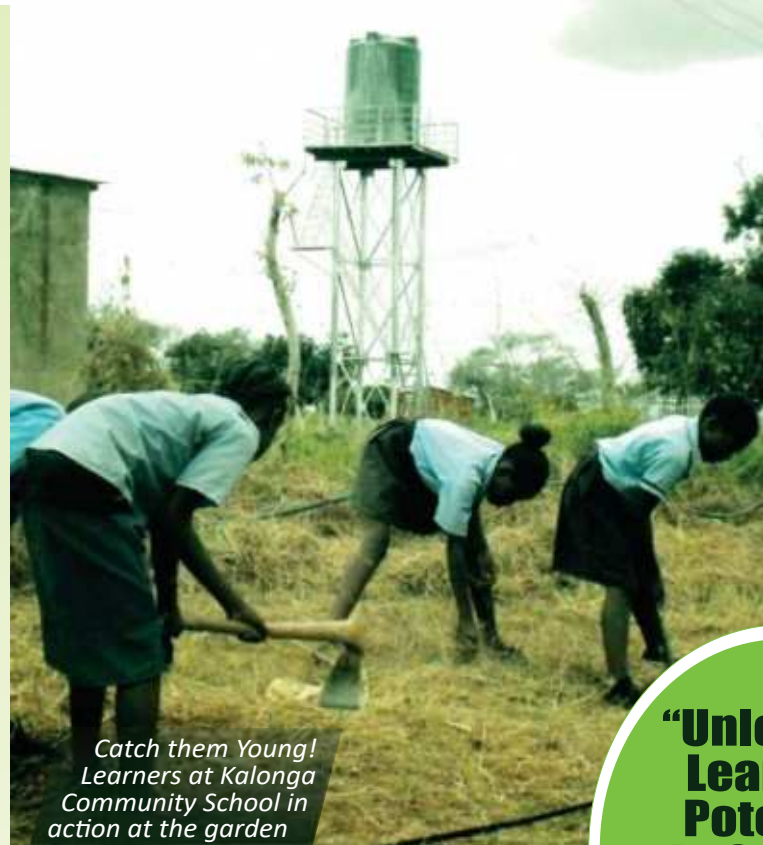
"The need to stress youth participation in agriculture to enhance food security cannot be overemphasized."

"This is because the future of agriculture in Zambia might be bleak if the bulk of the production efforts were relinquished to the aged farming population," Ms Nyoni said.



Nanga Special School
learners fitting drip
liners in Mazabuka

01 04 2022



*Catch them Young!
Learners at Kalonga
Community School in
action at the garden*



*Learners at Chobana
anxious to learn how
a drip irrigation
system works*

“Unlocking Learners’ Potential in Climate Smart Agriculture”

It is envisaged that the installed infrastructure in the schools will create a positive mind-set towards agriculture among the youth and harness the agricultural potential in the nation.

“In line with the concept of inclusive education that pledges to leave no one behind, the project identifies the need for involving learners with disabilities in CSA as they are equally at risk of the adverse impacts of climate change. They face threats to their health, food security, water, sanitation, and livelihoods. Hence, the inclusion of Nanga Special School,” Ms Nyoni said.

Nanga Special School, Kalonga Community School and Chobana Community School have each been equipped with irrigation drip liners for their school orchard and vegetable garden.

And Education Standards Officer, Stanford Sibumba has observed that most youth do not consider agriculture as a lifelong career that can sustain their lifestyle but view it as a poor man's activity or one that is reserved for those who failed in school.

Mr Sibumba said there is exceeding need to shade off the perception by giving them a right playing ground with necessary equipment to unlock their potential in climate agriculture whilst in school.

Mr Sibumba further said the knowledge and skills acquired by the learners could be useful in raising awareness among their peers and members of the society on better ways of conserving nature.

He urged the learners to put into practice what they had learnt and advise their parents to adopt farming practices that are socially and environmentally friendly.

As part of the CSA package, Kachembele, Chobana and Kalonga had a one day training workshop on CSA conducted by officers from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The training in each of the schools included six learners, four teachers, a head teacher, GAF Mentor, a PTA member and a traditional leader.

The schools were also funded to acquire seeds and other inputs for their gardens which are expected to employ climate smart agriculture methods.

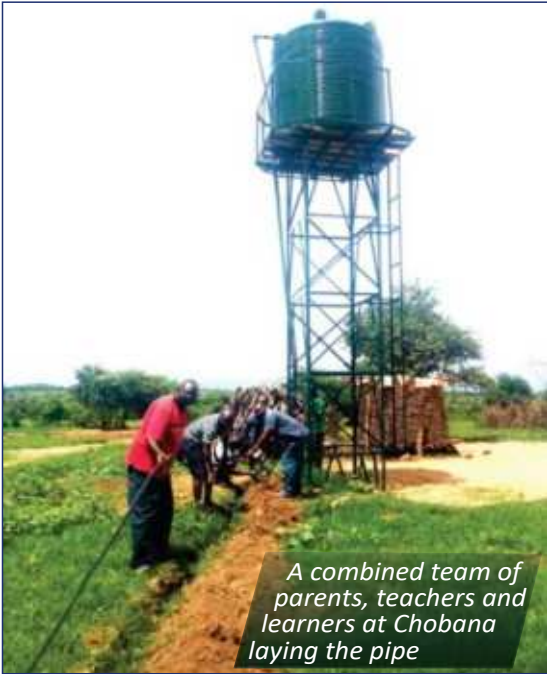


*Action time!
Learners working in the
school garden at
Chobana School*

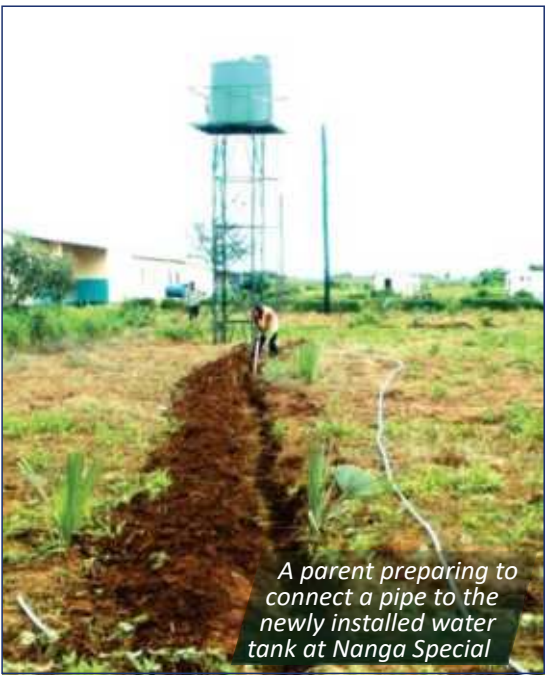


*Delighted Kalonga
learners pose for a
photo after successfully
installing drip liners*


“Having Piped water was a Pipe Dream”



A combined team of parents, teachers and learners at Chobana laying the pipe



A parent preparing to connect a pipe to the newly installed water tank at Nanga Special



Learners at Chobana express their happiness over the piped water

I ncreasing levels of access to clean and safe water and sanitation services for people in rural and urban areas is one of the key result areas PAF is passionately focussing on.

Underprivileged schools in the vulnerable areas are now receiving a fair share of modern water and sanitation infrastructure to enhance provision of equal and quality education opportunities.

The traditional leadership in the areas where the school environment has been improved is grateful and happy to witness community driven development taking place.

In the Chiefdom of Hanjalika, Manyona Village head, Plasidia Cheelo says a shift from hand pump water borehole to mechanized solar water system is a remarkable development and marks a defining moment in her village where Chobana Community School is located. Mrs Cheelo said she did not envisage that at one time there would be such a water infrastructure in her area,

Having piped water was a pipe dream. I can't believe that our children will now draw water from the taps at school."

She recalled that learners previously walked to school with containers of water for drinking and handwashing after using the pit latrine, a situation which posed some burden to the young ones.

The traditional leader is happy with the development taking place at the learning institution describing the facilities installed as progressive.

Mrs Cheelo is particularly delighted that her subjects are actively involved at all stages from activity identification to implementation.

And Nanga Special School head teacher, Arthur Bweupe has also applauded PAF for providing the school with a solar propelled water system and irrigation drip liners.

Mr Bweupe says the installation of the infrastructure will help the enhancement of agricultural productivity in the school garden and orchard as they will be able to manage more plants with less labour.

"Using irrigation drippers will improve our output and make farming activities easier and enjoyable. It delivers water and nutrients directly to the plant's root zone, in the right amounts, at the right time, so each plant gets exactly what it needs, when it needs it, to grow optimally," Mr Bweupe said.

He said children with disabilities like any other able-bodied child have the capacity to make a significant contribution to food security.

Mr Bweupe said engagement of the learners at the institution has created confidence and motivation among the children.

He implored for more involvement of children with disabilities in programs that mitigate the effects of climate change and foster practices that incorporate environmental consideration.



Making Girls with Disabilities Count

We need to listen to the voices of girls with disabilities to develop a better understanding of their needs and concerns, to help identify barriers and also opportunities in their lives- Emmy Mundia, Girl Action Forum (GAF) mentor at Nanga Special School remarked. Mrs Mundia said GAF at the school has played a critical role to promoting a safe learning environment for girls with disabilities to develop self-esteem and realise their full potential. She added that the girls have acquired practical skills which they have started applying to contribute towards sustainable development as they generate income to meet some of their personal needs.

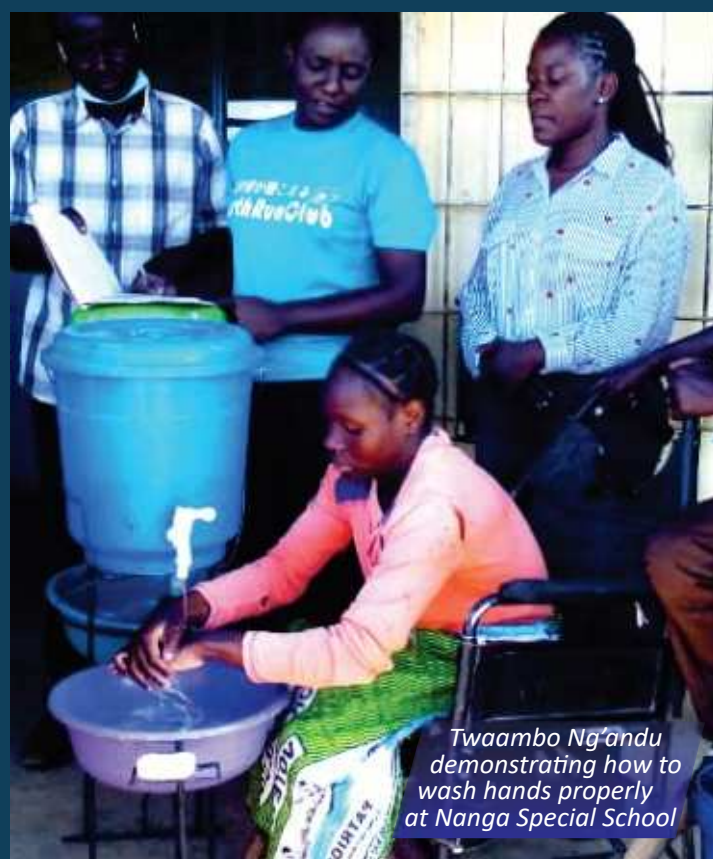
She noted with happiness that the dependency syndrome associated with persons with disability was slowly taking a downward trajectory.

Mrs Mundia observed that since the establishment of GAF at the special school, the girls have been accorded a conducive platform at which they open up and freely talk about the challenges they face with regard to their situation in the school and society.

She said the forum has also helped teachers to understand the girls' needs and address the challenges accordingly. "GAF has yielded an array of positive impacts which have reduced the gender and disability stigma that afflicted the girls both in school and communities."

Mrs Mundia has prodded parents who are hiding their children with disabilities saying they are depriving them of a future and

delaying their social, emotional and mental development. Nanga Special has 18 girls among them the deaf, dumb and physically challenged.



*Twambo Ng'andu
demonstrating how to
wash hands properly
at Nanga Special School*



Hand washing buckets and medical materials being handed over at Nanga Special School

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, PAF has scaled up response in communities, health centres and schools in Mazabuka to enhance efforts for prevention and control of the disease.

With financial support from the United Church of Canada (UCC), PAF has worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, to acquire and distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to four rural clinics and five schools to help improve access to materials key to combating COVID-19.

Making the PPE donation at the District Commissioners' Office, PAF Program Manager, Janet Nyoni said there was need for continued support to government which has been overstretched by the pandemic.

Ms Nyoni warned that people should not reduce their efforts to prevent COVID-19 infection and transmission as the disease has continued to cause havoc.

"From the onset of the Covid19 pandemic, PAF has not only

"There's Need for Continued Effort to Combat COVID-19"

sensitized communities but also given support in terms of preventive materials. Since 2020 PAF has gone on to assist and donated personal PPE which include re-usable and disposable face masks, hand washing liquid and bar soaps, hand sanitizers, hand-washing buckets and sewing machines for face mask making."

"This year, PAF has donated more Covid 19 PPEs to 5 schools and 4 clinics namely Lubombo Primary School, Nega-Nega Community School, Kachembele Community School, Nanga Special School and Kalonga Community School.

The health centres include Nega-Nega, Lubombo, Nanga and Chalimbana.

The target is to reach 12, 200 learners, mostly from vulnerable groups found in the rural community schools where PAF works. And in the quest of not living anyone behind, PAF has also donated to Nanga Special School, a school with learners living with different disabilities.

"The pandemic has touched every corner of the world and all demographics including people living with disabilities.

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PAF Scales Up
COVID-19 Response
through PPE Distribution
and Sensitization

Learners with disabilities face disproportionate impact of Covid-19 because they face additional vulnerabilities and as a result, they become the hardest hit.

Improving access to face masks, handwashing buckets and other protective materials will help a great deal to combat the pandemic among them.

And speaking after receiving the donation, Mazabuka District Commissioner, Oliver Mulomba thanked PAF for continued support to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

Mr Mulomba noted that PAF has supplemented government's effort in various areas of need in Mazabuka and beyond.

"PAF has always supported government in different sectors and it is pleasing that the organisation has continued doing so. I appeal to our partners not to relent but heighten the COVID-19 response.

The materials distributed include 5X5ltrs disinfectant, 25X12 pack dettol soap, 15X12 pack liquid soap, 15X12 pack sanitizers 17X50 pack box of disposable face masks and 35 Hand-washing stands and buckets.



Chief Hamusonde (in glasses) handing over the blankets to flood victims at the camp

PAF Touches Lives of Monze Flood Victims

People's Action Forum (PAF) has donated 200 blankets to displaced victims impacted by the devastating floods in Chief Hamusonde's area in Monze District.

PAF Executive Director, Gina Chiwela said her organization was saddened to learn of the 70 households that had been hit by floods which left a trail of destruction.

Making the handover at the camp where the displaced fishing community has been relocated, Ms Chiwela said the donation was meant to give succor to the relocated families who had lost much of their belongings. She hoped that the blankets will help the impacted flood families brave the coming winter chill and prevent any cold related illnesses in their temporal homes.

"Upon learning about the calamity, it became apparent that we assist in any small way possible, especially that many families had lost everything in the floods. PAF was concerned about the current state of living and general well-being of the victims," Ms Chiwela said.

"We believe these blankets will help to prevent possible illness like pneumonia or any other illnesses that can be related

to cold, or exposure to extreme wetness and damp conditions," she added.

Ms Chiwela disclosed that the donation, worth K40, 000 was made possible with the funds from United Church of Canada, who were equally distressed with the disaster.

"PAF has always been rural focused and as such, we were concerned to hear about the displacement of households due to the flooding following the heavy rainfall."

She thanked His Royal Highness, Chief Hamusonde and Monze District Commissioner, who is also the chairperson of Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) for providing information about the situation of the flood victims.

And speaking at the same function, His Royal Highness, chief Hamusonde thanked PAF on behalf of the affected flood victims for timely responding to their needs.

Chief Hamusonde said the donation will help reduce the suffering of the relocated people.

Chief Hamusonde noted that the families were in dire need of support to help them recover from the floods which

washed away their property which included blankets and food.

The traditional leader said there is a lot that needs to be done in assisting the flood victims and pleaded with local organisations or businessmen to help with food parcels and other basic needs. Meanwhile, Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Committee (NGOCC) has also supported the affected flood community in Monze with children's clothing to help restore dignity.

On behalf of NGOCC, PAF handed over the assorted clothes at the same function in Chief Hamusonde's chiefdom.





**“ WE HAVE A
RIGHT TO
QUALITY EDUCATION ”**

Grade 6 School Girl Retrieved from Marriage

A forty-seven-year-old man in Mambwe district was slapped with a 21-day punishment to clean a mortuary at the hospital for marrying a teenage girl.

The man, whose name has been withheld was cornered during a disrupted wedding ceremony with the young girl by a combined team of PAF, Victims Support Unit, Social Welfare and DEBS after a tipoff from concerned community members.

Chief Jumbe ordered the man to do community work and pay a cow to deter teenage marriages in his chiefdom. The parents of the girl were also ordered to pay a cow for giving out their daughter for marriage.

The grade 6 girl, 14 was retrieved and has since been taken back to school for continuation of her education.

PAF has halted sixteen early marriages in Mambwe District since last year.

Nega-nega East Community School Lives Up to Expectation



Joseph Kawina

Built nineteen years ago, to meet educational needs of a rural and marginalized child, Nega-nega Community School's relevance to the community is conspicuously emerging as past learners are taking up responsibilities in society.

School head teacher, Tina Mtonga bragged that the community school, which was established by People's Action Forum (PAF), has proudly produced responsible persons who are poised to make a positive impact to the nation's development agenda.

“We can now walk with our heads high boasting that we have the capacity to impact the future of tomorrow's leaders. We have produced teachers, officers in uniform and health workers who started and completed their primary education at this community institution,” Ms Mtonga proudly said.

“Among the notable ones, we have Joseph Kawina, an officer with Zambia Army, now based in Kaoma, Victor Chigantu, a teacher of Business Studies with a degree from Kwame Nkrumah University and Vida Chilanga, a diploma holder in education awaiting deployment.”

And a parent to one of the school's models has paid glowing gratitude to PAF for initiating the learning institution which has provided quality education to the rural children of Nega-nega.

Enerst Chigantu, the father to Victor, said the school is effectively meeting the educational needs of a big population of vulnerable rural children with humble family backgrounds.

Mr Chigantu appealed to other organisations to be part of a success narrative at Nega-nega by supporting its vision to become a secondary school.



Victor Chigantu



(Below) A grass thatched pit latrine in the Chieftdom



Communities in Chief Nsefu of Mambwe District have embraced change and stepped up efforts to improve sanitation in the area by constructing pit latrines under the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) program.

The change in mind-set is expected to reduce the risks of waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery which have largely been caused by open defecation.

One of the community members, Golden Mwanza, is happy that households in the chieftdom have wholly accepted to use pit latrines instead of a long time unsanitary habit of open defecation.

"I am glad that we have finally discarded the old traditional practice of disposing human waste in the bush.

Equally, I am grateful to organisations that have implemented the CLTS in our area because it has enlightened us on the effects of the practice to our health and environment," Mr Mwanza said.

Mr Mwanza disclosed that people in the chieftdom were now aware of the causes of the increased cases of diarrhoea they have had especially during rain seasons.

"Through sensitization campaigns conducted by PAF and other organisations, we have come to know that some of the human waste disposed of in the bush is washed into our streams and water wells thereby contaminating our drinking water.

He disclosed that the practice of open defecation is surrounded by cultural beliefs and taboos which do not allow the use of toilets.

Mr Mwanza disclosed that some villagers insist to use the bush to help feed their pigs which feast on the waste.

And People's Action Forum (PAF) CABLAC supervisor, Musamalia Banda explained that the CLTS programme was initiated in Chief Nsefu's area to curb the unhealthy practice of open defecation which exposed the villagers to waterborne and other vector diseases.


Ms Banda hailed the traditional leader and his subordinates for realigning their mind set to accommodate a change in the way they got rid of human waste.

Ms Banda disclosed that 514 pit latrines have been constructed by the villagers and were in use, adding that the chieftdom has attained the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status.

She further said each toilet was equipped with a hand washing bucket facility for use after using the latrine.

PAF is one of the D-WASHE stakeholders that carried out community sensitization on open defecation in the chieftdom under the CLTS programme.

BHRC ENGENDERS ACTION



Community Trainers in Chanyanya having group work

With 2000 community members trained in the ten chiefdoms, communities living in the basin are poised to become better stewards and potential partners of the private sector in natural resources stewardship activities. At political level, government will be lobbied for the Lower Kafue River Basin grade to be raised from 'c' to a higher grade by securing an actionable commitment from lawmakers in parliament.

To facilitate government engagement, a video documentary with community and stakeholders' voices has been produced and will be submitted to government through the parliamentary committee on conservation.

In an effort to capture a wider cascade, community radio programmes have been conducted in all the districts.

The Lower Kafue River Basin Health Report Card (BHRC), has enthused communities living in the basin to take responsible action that will enhance sustainable utilization and protection of natural resources. Following the community launch and subsequent awareness raising and sensitization on the BHRC conducted by People's Action Forum (PAF) in partnership with WWF, communities have realized that the high rate of natural resource degradation largely driven by anthropogenic activities in the basin, will lead to obliteration of ecosystems if it continues unabated.

According to a report released by PAF, communities and other stakeholders are receptive to the BHRC findings and recommendations, and have since taken responsibility and ownership to collectively participate in the enhancement of natural resources management in an effort to improve the health status of the Lower Kafue River Sub-basin.

In the BHRC, the Sub-basin has been graded 'c', an indicator implying a poor health status of the basin. Among other areas of concern, the BHRC has highlighted deforestation, poaching, depletion of fish and poor human health and sanitation.

As a way to protect the basin from further degradation, the chiefs have recommended the preparation and implementation of the chiefdom by-laws so that enforcement of the legislation at chiefdom level could foster sustainable natural resources management and practices. And to enhance community participation, community-led natural resource management committees have been formed and trained to sensitize people in the basin on the by-laws, connection between the social, economic and the environment and the benefits of sustainable natural resources management at chiefdom level.

The natural resource management committees are expected to train fellow community members in best practices so that there is increased community awareness on the negative effects of unsustainable methods of natural resources utilization.



A Natural Resource committee in Senior Chief Shakumbila



About One Hundred and Sixty women in Mambwe District are set to drive cashew nut growing. The ambitious women from People's Action Forum (PAF) groups known as circles, have embarked on the activity following a capacity building training conducted by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zambia.

According to PAF Capacity Building Learning Center (CABLAC) supervisor, Musamalia Banda, the women farmers of Kamphasa have over and above receiving training being empowered with a total of 250 seedlings to kick start the project.

Ms Banda said cashew nut growing is envisaged to improve both the livelihood and nutrition of the circle members who are key bread winners in their households.

She noted that the crop is suitable for the area which receives inadequate rainfall owing to climate change effects.

"The crop is drought resistant making it ideal for Mambwe which experiences precipitation variability due to some climate shocks," she noted.

Meanwhile, the women's farming venture has been buoyed following the installation of a solar powered water system and a full set of drip irrigation equipment.

As one of the ways to improve food security in the face of climate change, PAF with the funds from United Church of Canada (UCC) has drilled a borehole, installed a water tank and provided drip irrigation system at the CABLAC in Kanamvula community.

The community has not been spared from the climate shocks

160 Women Get Cashew Nut Growing Package

Women Trained and Given 250 Seedlings

which have affected rainfall patterns across the globe.


CABLAC is a place where adults and youth learn various livelihood skills among other interventions.

In addition to improved food security, the community will have access to adequate and clean water.

PAF has also constructed a 1 X 2 classroom block in the community to provide learning opportunities for the marginalised children who are unable to walk long distances to school.



One of the women planting a cashew nut seedling



Some of the learners pose for a photo after receiving uniforms

KALONGA COMMUNITY SCHOOL LEARNERS RECEIVE UNIFORMS

As an organisation that is committed to promoting fair, equal and sustainable development through education in rural areas, PAF has donated uniforms to learners at Kalonga Community School in Chief Mwanachingwala area in Mazabuka.

All the 305 learners at the school have benefitted from the uniform donation made possible with funds from United Church of Canada.

"Kalonga had been recording high number of learners' absenteeism with lack of uniform being one of the contributing factors," according to school head teacher Sibanda Ngandu. "Hence, learners' performance had been

adversely affected due to missing lessons." She noted with dismay that girls were disproportionately impacted as they could not withstand derogatory comments on their appearance in school.

Mrs Ngandu disclosed that outdoor activities such as production unit and sport had also been affected due to the learners' absence. She was however, happy that the school attendance is set to improve and consequently boost learners academic and vocational performance. And one of the beneficiaries, Cecilia Mabuku thanked UCC and PAF for extending their hand to clothing learners.

"The environment at school is extremely hostile when you are not dressed in uniform. We are subjected to hurtful language which we have tried to avoid by remaining at home instead," Cecilia, grade 7 narrated. She said lack of uniform made them feel inferior and shied away from participating in class for fear of being teased.

Another recipient, Cheelo Moonga is now cheered up and feels to be truly at school.

She has assured the donors that she will take good care of the uniform so that it serves as a souvenir in remembrance of PAF after her primary course at Kalonga.

Kalonga is one of the schools in Mazabuka PAF has established. In addition to the existing three classrooms, PAF is currently, constructing a 1 x 2 classroom block.

GREEN CLUBS SWING INTO CLIMATE ACTION

Over 500 learners in Mazabuka, Monze and Namwala districts have joined the global movement to prevent, halt and reverse ecosystem degradation in the Kafue Sub-basin.

The young people have committed themselves to take climate action at local level by implementing activities to protect and restore natural resources, raising awareness and promoting environmentally friendly practices.

People's Action Forum (PAF) and Self Help Africa (SHA) have partnered to implement a Green Club project in Mazabuka, Monze and Namwala districts.

The clubs have been established under the PRESERVE-KAFUE project which aims to promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the Kafue Sub-basin.

The learners in consultation with club leaders, have initiated hands-on activities to demonstrate how ecosystems can be protected and restored. The activity based projects which include fruit and forest tree planting, vegetable gardening, waste management, water conservation and fish rearing in the schools are expected to foster nature connectedness.

In Mazabuka, five selected schools which include Kalonga, Maggobbo, Malaika, Munenga and Shimungalu are pioneering the Green Club project.

For Monze district, Hakunkula, Kambaza, Munyenze, Banakaila, Mutiti, Mahiba, Keemba and Kaumuzya West are the eight schools that have formed the clubs while Namwala has Lubanga, Nakamboma and Baambwe schools running the clubs.

Some of the notable projects the schools have initiated include the Maggobbo's fish pond which will serve as a learning laboratory to showcase aquatic ecosystem restoration.

The activity will help members to understand aquatic ecosystem and foster environmental stewardship.

In Monze, Kambaza Green Club has established a woodlot and an orchard for carbon sequestration.

In case of Namwala, Lubanga School Green Club has come up with creative and sustainable eco-friendly ways of managing waste at school and in the community through reusing discarded water bottles.

The club members collect thrown away water bottles to make waste bins which are later used for litter disposal in the classrooms and school surrounding.

The initiative has put the club in the front line to combat climate change by reducing waste pollution, one of the leading drivers for global warming.



*Waste Reusing at
Lubanga School in
Namwala*



*Clean and Green
School activity at
Kambanza School in
Monze*



*Aqua Ecosystem
restoration demonstration
at Magobbo School in
Mazabuka*

Improved Sanitation for Schools



We need girl friendly
sanitary facilities because...
we deserve to be
in school...every school day
of the month

Let's join hands to
improve menstrual
hygiene & sanitation
in schools

Designed by Mazabuka Times



giz

