

THE ZAMBIA INITIATIVE

IN PURSUIT OF SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

FOR

REFUGEES IN ZAMBIA



A brick silo is constructed by the host community in Mushawala, a village near Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement. The silo will improve grain storage and boost food security in the area.

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INTRODUCTION

Through the hospitality of Governments and communities of asylum countries, plus the steady generous donations of the international community, refugees have been able to live in safety and dignity in Southern Africa for many years, in some cases for decades

The majority of refugees originate from the Great Lakes region and Angola. Of late, Angola, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Burundi have witnessed positive developments. These developments will hopefully lead to the voluntary repatriation of large numbers of Angolans, Congolese DRC and Burundian refugees in the years to come. However, voluntary repatriation may neither be possible nor viable solution for all refugees as some may choose to remain in the countries of asylum.

Some host governments have introduced innovative measures to integrate the interests of refugees into long-term national development plans. These measures often target the local communities in refugee hosting areas in order to improve the living conditions for both the refugees and the locals. In this respect the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) has set a commendable precedent in Southern Africa. In recognition of the positive role refugees can play to alleviate poverty in refugee hosting areas, and to create an environment conducive for refugees to become productive members of the host society, the GRZ embarked on the **Zambia Initiative (ZI)**.

THE NATURE OF THE ZI

The ZI is a Government-led **Development through Local Integration (DLI)** project that promotes a holistic approach in addressing the needs of refugee hosting areas in the Western Province of Zambia. The main objective is to alleviate the combined effects of food deficit, poor infrastructure, limited access to public services and economic opportunities, and in the process finding durable solutions for refugees.

UNHCR has been active in supporting the efforts of the GRZ to conceive and implement this project. It is a long-term process envisaging the involvement of partners to improve the quality of life of local host communities and refugees. Ultimately ZI will contribute effectively to social integration, poverty reduction, security and stability in the region.

IN A NUTSHELL

Beneficiaries:

456,000 persons of which 150,000 are refugees.

Total Contributions:

USD 14,051,112 (contributions and commitments for the period of 2003- 2005). In-Kind Contributions: Zambia

Financial Requirements:

USD 25 million (for 3 years)

Donors:

Denmark, Japan, USA, Sweden, ECHO, JICA

TABLE OF CONTRIBUTIONS:

<i>COUNTRY</i>	AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED US\$	SECTOR TARGETTED	TIME FRAME/REMARKS
USA	US\$1 million (through UNHCR)	Agriculture, Health, Education, Environment and Natural Resources, Water and infrastructure development.	2 years, project implementation on going.
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT/ Human Security Trust Fund (HSTF)	US\$1.2 million (through UNHCR)	Agriculture, Health, Education, Environment and Natural Resources, Water and infrastructure development.	2 years, Project in process of final approval formalities .
JAPANESE EMBASSY	US\$54,112 Bilateral donation	Health, (procurement of 2 ambulances)	Already donated/procured
GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK	US\$10.5 million Bilateral (donor/Govt.)	Agri., Edu. & Health,	3 years, to start in 2004
DANNISH EMBASSY (small grants)	US\$241,000.00 Bilateral (donor/Govt.)	Education	1 year, project implementation on going
SWEDEN	US\$137,000.00 Bilateral (donor/Govt.)	HIV/AIDS intervention	1 year, project implementation on going.
ECHO/UNICEF	Euros 1.2 million	Health, Education/ Child Development/Water and Sanitation	1 year, project implementation completed (December 2003)
JICA	Training of 3 Agriculture Officers in Japan	Agriculture Cooperative Development	3 months (October - December 2002) - Done
GRZ	Technical Services in form of Human Resources both at provincial and district	Technical Services, Secondment of program coordination staff	On- going

	level, office premises + program staff for ZI Program Unit in Lusaka and Mongu, Kaoma, Senanga and Shang'ombo.		
UNHCR	US\$326,241.00 Covering period October 2001 through December 2003 Two vehicles, Admin./logistics support, office equipment, stationery and office supplies.	UNOPs Consultancy fees Technical, Admin & logistics Support	On-going On going

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

An analysis of the pattern of settlements in refugee hosting countries shows that the majority of refugee camps and settlements are located in the remotest and least developed parts of host countries. The presence of large numbers of refugees puts enormous strain on the local resources, especially in rural areas where infrastructure is less developed and the same limited resources and economic opportunities are competed over. This state of affairs exacerbates poverty, increases competition for livelihood opportunities and can erode the relationship between refugees and the host community. In the long term, this can jeopardize local security. Although refugees flee to asylum countries with few possessions, they do arrive with promising human potential. The aim is to contribute through ZI towards a more development-oriented rural programme for the local population and the refugees who are not likely to repatriate in view of their high degree of integration in Zambia. The major challenge for UNHCR and the hosting Government is to capitalise on this potential to develop the human, financial and social resources.

Currently ZI focuses on the Western Province of Zambia, an area with a long history of hosting refugees. The region is home to the **Nangweshi refugee camp** and the **Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement** hosting mainly Angolan refugees. A total of some **456,000 persons** are expected to benefit directly or indirectly from the project. This includes some **100,000 refugees** who live in the two settlements, and those who have spontaneously settled along the border areas, as well as in the local villages surrounding the settlements.

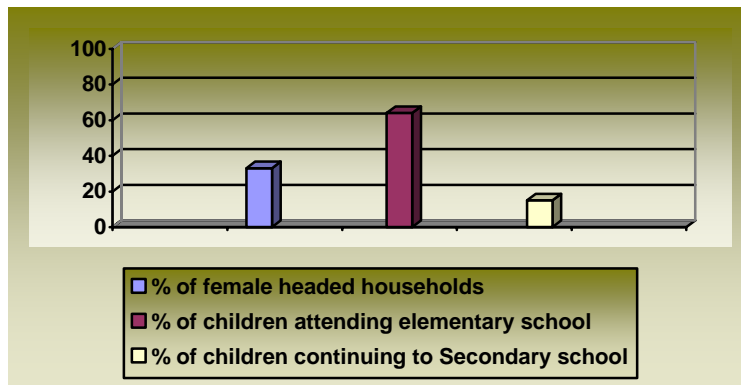
RATIONALE FOR SELECTING THE WESTERN PROVINCE

The Western Province is characterised by challenging geographic and climatic conditions. It has under-utilised natural resources and poor rural infrastructure. Large numbers of spontaneously settled refugees have been living side by side with the local hosting communities for a protracted period of time in villages near the established refugee camps/settlements or along the border areas with Angola. This has brought about increase in population density thus bringing about increased pressure on the social amenities such as schools and health centres that are already in a deplorable state.

Also an increased number of people due to refugee movements also brought about increased environmental degradation due to unchecked cutting of fire wood and depletion of wild life. The annual flooding of the floodplains controls the pattern of life for large numbers of people and their livestock. These factors have led to a low level of development compared to other provinces of Zambia. The falling standards of living conditions and low food production have led to increasing incidences of diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

Poverty levels are exacerbated by the fact that 33 per cent of households in western province are female-headed and 28 per cent of children are orphans. The attendance at primary school level is estimated to be at 64% of school age children – close to the national average of 66%. However, the attendance at secondary school is 15% compared to the national average of 23%. The number of government schools is limited and not sufficient to accommodate school age children.

Facts on the Western Province:



(Source: National Census Report of 2000)

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

The GRZ has been playing a leading role by placing refugees on its development agenda through ZI within the context of its poverty reduction strategy and within its National Development Plan priorities. Their role has assisted in the conceptualisation, mobilisation and implementation stages of the process. Technical support has been provided through an Inter-ministerial Committee (IMC) and through line ministries' expertise at the field level. Staff have been seconded to the ZI Programme Unit both in Lusaka and the field.

The sectors that are targeted through community development processes are: agriculture development, health, education including vocational training and skills development, plus infrastructure. The ZI thus aims to contribute to enhancing the food security in the province through the introduction of new, simple/modest agricultural techniques and provision of inputs as well as bringing development to the refugee hosting areas by way of improving the health, education and vocational training sectors through Local Development Committees (LDCs).

To effectively implement this innovative programme, the ZI project uses the strategy of involving the local and refugee communities, organised as Local development committees and registered as cooperatives with the GRZ, Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that their needs are met. In order to achieve this in a structured manner, 22 local development committees (LDC's) have been created in

the target communities composing of 50% refugee participation where there is high concentration of refugees and 25% participation in target areas where the refugee presence is not high. The tasks of these LDCs are to identify, implement and manage projects. Each LDC covers some 6-10 villages comprising of elected village representatives, including traditional leaders.

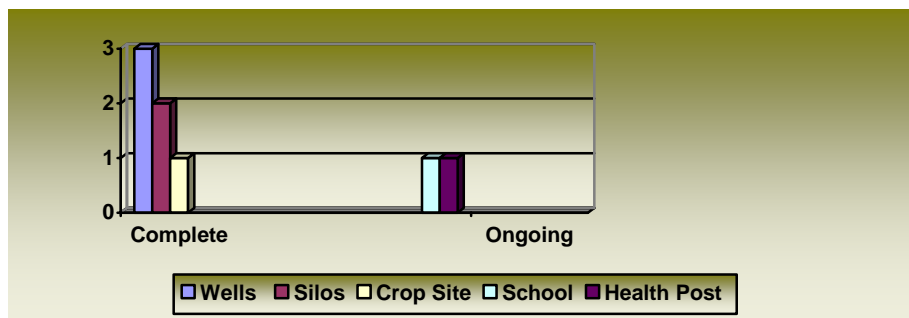


Pupils at the Orphanage centre, in the Senanga District in grass thatched classroom (before the implementation of the ZI).

Whilst the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees is progressing, the ZI is providing opportunities and creating grounds for local integration for those refugees who will remain in Zambia. The programme is also preparing refugees who may wish to return acquire enough skills to rehabilitate and rebuild their shattered societies hence facilitating for a quick reintegration in their societies. UNHCR sees harmony between the ZI and the ongoing voluntary repatriation to Angola, as both are durable solutions targeting refugees in return and local integration. Through the ZI, the social and cultural process of integration will enable refugees to live amongst or alongside the host population, without discrimination or exploitation and as contributors to local development. ZI aims at creating the enabling environment for a society that is both diverse and open, where refugees and hosting communities can build a community that enhances and reinforces their human security and for them to peacefully co-exist.

In December 2003, the ZI End of Year Review Meeting was held in Lusaka with the participation of the GRZ, donors, UN agencies and NGOs. The meeting reviewed the progress made so far in the implementation of programmes; lessons learnt and drew an action plan for 2004 – 2006.

ACHEIVEMENTS AND WORK IN PROGRESS IN KAOMA



(Source: ZI End of Year Review Report 2003)

THE ROLE OF UNHCR

UNHCR has extended multi-faceted support by working with the GRZ and partners to achieve the set objectives. This is done in the context of the ZI holistic approach through the provision of technical support in procurement, strategic planning as well as in interaction with the refugee programmes and above all, fund-raising at Headquarters and field levels. UNHCR monitors the implementation of projects both at the capital and field levels. UNHCR also provides the operational link between the refugee programme and the Initiative, ensuring that the objectives of ZI contribute to refugees becoming firmly incorporated in GRZ's rural development strategy. This process will further facilitate the empowerment and local integration of refugees.

PARTNERSHIP

As ZI is a long-term developmental initiative, the GRZ and UNHCR have designed the project in a way that renders it sustainable after the phase-out of UNHCR. UNHCR is also charting effective strategies, in collaboration with UN sister agencies (WFP, UNDP, FAO, ILO, UNIDO, UNICEF) and NGOs, to identify specialised areas of intervention and to develop a joint methodology for capacity building.

In addition, the ZI has enjoyed a considerable donor support since the launching of the idea. During the donor mission of March 2002, a framework for the ZI was established, and subsequently financial and technical support was provided. In particular, the Governments of USA, Denmark, Japan and Sweden have been providing funds and closely following the implementation process.

CHALLENGES

A number of important factors will determine the progress of ZI. Firstly, UNCHR will continue to work within the UN Development Group (UNDG) to enhance the sustainable involvement of UN agencies and NGOs. Secondly, external financial support and, in particular, securing predictable funding. Finally, local integration of refugees in their host country and the exit of UNHCR will be dependant on the existence of a legal framework/environment that allows refugees to qualify for permanent residency and /or acquire citizenship, and this is foremost in the agenda of UNHCR and GRZ for action.

A MODEL TO BE REPLICATED

The progress achieved to date by the ZI is encouraging enough to affirm that DLI concepts are applicable to the realities of refugee situations. However, the strides made by ZI would not have been realised without the keen support, demonstrated commitment and active participation of the GRZ and the invaluable and generous support of donor governments, and other partners. The ZI experience is a resounding assurance that the collective will of governments hosting refugees, donors and UNHCR can improve prospects for sustainable solutions.

Summary of Updated Activities Under ZI

1: AGRICULTURE



Construction of Communal Hand-dug wells

The picture above shows one of the demonstration hand dug wells under construction in one of the fields in Nkenga, plus an embankment raised for construction of a reservoir on top.

Two other hand-dug wells are under construction at Mangango and Mbale in Kaoma District and are at almost completion level. The well at Nkenga in kaoma is almost complete and is awaiting completion of the reservoir and lying of the irrigation canals. Three other hand dug wells are being constructed in Shang'ombo and Senanga Districts at Namaenya, Matebele and Ngundi villages respectively. So altogether six wells are almost reaching completion level. The project is funded under the US contribution.

Construction of Improved Storage Grain Bins

The picture below shows an improved grain bin constructed using clay bricks. During construction villagers/LDCs ferry up sand, stones and clay burnt bricks to site using ox-carts while the project provides cement and reinforcement bars to put up the bins. Local masons are used who are organised from the local community and refugees; and are technically backstopped by the GRZ technical expert at the field level. **Four** bins have been constructed in Nkenga, Mangango and Mayukwayukwa



A member of the host community in Matebele LDC explaining how a demonstration storage silo will benefit her community.

(Kaoma) and another 4-grain bins have also been made in Matebele, Namaenya, Ngundi and Kalongola in Senanga & Shangombo districts respectively. The Silos are able to store 25-30x90kg bags of Maize each). The project is funded under US contribution.

Promotion of Animal Draft Power

Some 37 yokes of various types (21 plough yokes, 16 ridgers, inter row cultivation and planting) were manufactured at Looma Oxen Supply and Training Centre in Mongu and Five donkey harnesses were acquired from Palabana Farm Institute in Lusaka. These were used for ADP



Training, ADP implements (100 ploughs, five ridgers, five cultivators and two planters) were distributed for training in all LDCs. Five demonstrations plots were used for ADP training per LDC, covering 300 farmer households. Also Some 480 farmers in eight LDCs were trained in ox handling and management. The rationale is to improve the cultivatable acreage per family. The animal power is used in various projects including construction of schools like above (LDCs using Ox-carts to ferry sand to construction site at Mayukwayukwa High school project site). The project is funded under US contribution.

Food Processing Technology

Food processing training is being conducted in Senanga, Kaoma and Shangombo districts. The food-processing training mainly involves dairy milk processing, cassava, groundnut, cowpeas and Vegetables aimed at adding value to the food produced by the local farmers in the refugee hosting areas.



Above, a Zambian woman displaying some of the food products (Butter) produced under the income generation programme at Lui-Wanyau in Senanga District



The ZI has also embarked on dairy processing using simple traditional techniques. Above is an Agriculture Officer providing training to local farmers in Lui-Wanyau in Senanga on how to process cheese and other dairy products.



Members of the LDC in Lui-Wanyau in Senanga District demonstrating on how to use a hand-oil-making machine. The machine is used for peanut butter processing and also for extracting cooking oil.

Livestock Disease Control

The Zambia Initiative Project procured 36 solar, gas, and electricity freezers for storage of veterinary products, drugs and vaccines to help combat CBPP a disease that has drastically killed cattle in western province. These Cold-chain facilities for veterinary Extension Camps, among others have been installed at Mukukutu, Central and Sibukali in Senanga District while some more are yet to be installed in other veterinary Camps in western province. This project activity is running parallel with the Danish bilateral programme and, already the ZIP provincial coordination office is coordinating very well with the Danish coordinator in Mongu to avoid duplication.

Capacity Building in LDCs and Staff Training

Some LDCs registered as co-operative societies received training in readiness of introduction of a community managed rural credit scheme and revolving fund. The project is funded under US contribution. In the context of capacity building, three District Agricultural Officers were sent on Agricultural Development training in Japan. This was done in October to December 2002 under the sponsorship of JICA. A series of workshops have been planned to ensure LDCs are trained and able to manage and implement the project at the grassroots.



The picture shows a group photo of LDCs and GRZ agric. Camp Extension officers during the Orientation workshop for agriculture development stakeholders conducted in Mongu, at Namushakende farm institute in April 2003.

Crop Demonstration Activities

This activity has been embarked upon by the ZI programme mainly to do with research on the best variety of seed as well as the rate at which to plant different maize, cassava, millet, sorghum varieties to produce a good yield. Eight demonstration plots were set up per district using trail varieties of seed and fertilisers i.e. maize variety MM603, MM604, MRI 455, MRI 734, MRI 724 etc and fertiliser variety D, Compound, Super D, Urea, Ammonium nitrate, Calcium ammonium nitrate etc.



Food security has also been promoted by encouraging LDCs to practice winter cropping in the dambos.



An LDC member in Shangombo inspecting her field. She benefited from the rural credit and she is expecting a bumper harvest.

Rural Credit & Revolving fund

In parallel to the demo activity, the programme also embarked on distribution of agriculture inputs. Seed and fertiliser were procured through the GRZ subsidized fertiliser support programme FSP and a total of 1405 farmers benefited in the just ended planting season. LDCs have been tasked to select borrowers and loans contract signed and endorsed by a local indunas as guarantors. ZANACO a national bank is also involved to administer the funds. Repayment will be in-kind i.e. some bags of maize to the respective LDC who in turn would organise the repaid bags and store it in a safe area awaiting for marketing at good price and the money would be put in the bank as revolving fund to benefit other farmers the next planting season.

2: HEALTH

The ZI in most construction projects are using burnt bricks to save resources as well as ensure that majority of funds trickle down to the local people who have been involved in brick making and are selling to the project. This is demonstrated, below in construction of health facilities.



Women above seen engaged in clay brick moulding in Mayukwayukwa

Construction of Mother and Child Block at Nangweshi

The Building is currently at Slab level. The community is making burnt bricks for the continuation of construction of MCH block. Below is an old grass thatched structure at Nangweshi health centre being used as an MCH block. The project is funded under US contribution.



Health Post Construction in Ngundi has gone above window level. Work is currently progressing steadily.

Construction of Mother and Child Health Block at Nangweshi

Below: setting up of foundations for the MCH block has been done. The project is funded under US contribution. Progress is awaiting production of clay burnt bricks that the community has engaged itself in making



Construction of the HIV/AIDS Drop in Centre

The construction is at slab level. The project is funded under Swedish small grant contribution.



Construction of the YWCA Reproductive Health Training Centre

Building is at wall plate level. The project is funded under Swedish contribution, and below is a poster showing the site of the project.



Above, is a sign post at the site where the centre is under construction. Once completed, it will assist in providing skills training in various vocations, including handling reproductive health counselling issues.

Provision of Ambulances

Provision of two Ambulances for Senanga and Kaoma District Referral Hospital through the Japanese Embassy in Lusaka was done. The Japanese embassy donated US \$ 54, 112 for purchasing of the two ambulances.



Rehabilitation of Senanga District Hospital Ground Water Tank

To facilitate for adequate clean water supply, the rehabilitation and equipment of the ground water tank at Senanga District Hospital was done. This included the installation of a new centrifugal water pump.



The project is funded under US contribution. Above the pump house is rehabilitated and well secured to avoid vandalism.

3: EDUCATION



Senanga orphanage day school



Above, is a 1x3 Classroom block Building has been completed at the orphanage centre, awaiting finishes like fixing window panes and painting. The classroom is already in use. The project is funded under a US contribution.

The orphan day care centre in senanga has recorded tremendous progress in terms of construction of a 1 by 3 classroom block. The project now is earmarking the construction of another 1 by 2 classroom block plus ten VIP toilets and a kitchen. Because of the rehabilitation and construction of concrete structures, the school enrolment of orphans and vulnerable children including refugees has now doubled.

Rehabilitation and Construction of the Senanga Trades School for Drop Outs

In the vocational and training sector, the ZI embarked on the rehabilitation of old and dilapidated school for drop out in senanga district. The buildings were almost falling off and the grass thatched roof structures had collapsed rendering the school inhabitable. The ZI has also facilitated for the construction of a water borne ablution block at the site to pave way for quick re-opening of the school.



Above is a rehabilitated wood workshop at Senanga Trade School for drop out. The insert at the far left depicts an old structure with leaking grass thatched roof before ZI embarked on rehabilitation. Only final touches are remaining to complete the rehabilitation works

Rehabilitation and Construction of Ngundi Middle Basic School

In addition to the substantive three-year contribution made by the Government of Denmark to the ZI (US\$10.5 million), as indicated in the table of contribution above. The Royal Danish embassy in Lusaka also contributed to the development of the refugee hosting areas through some small grant at the disposal of the embassy towards rehabilitation and construction of two schools in Mushwala (Lyamunale basic in Kaoma) and Ngundi basic school in Senanga district. The funds were donated through the ZI to the two Local development committees (LDCs) of Mushwala and Ngundi who have been charged with direct execution of the project. The GRZ technical experts offer technical backstopping to ensure minimum standards are met.



Above, a 1x2-classroom blocks that has undergone rehabilitation at Ngundi Middle basic school. The insert in the above picture depicts the dilapidated building before ZI. Teachers' houses rehabilitation has been completed. The project is funded under Danish embassy small grant contribution to the ZI.

4: FORESTRY

Community Based Tree Plantation

Community mobilisation tree species needs assessment done in Mayukwayukwa, Shang'ombo and Senanga Districts where nurseries have been scheduled to be established.



The project is funded under US contribution. Pot filling has been done and planting of some forestry species. The project however requires serious attention in order to achieve the set objectives.

ILLUSTRATIVE PHOTOS OF THE ZAMBIA INITIATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. Agriculture

Grain Storage:

Before:



A traditional silo in Mushwala before the intervention of the Zambia Initiative.

After:



2. Construction/Education:

Before:



A thatched school in Senanga District (Senanga School for Orphans) before intervention of the ZI. Opposite-bricks for construction

After:



Before:



Above, a dilapidated 1 by 2 classroom block at Ngundi. Below, a new classroom block at Ngundi built with funding from the Zambia Initiative.

After:



This is a newly constructed classroom block at Ngundi, currently being used by students



A 1 by 3 classroom block under construction at Senanga Orphan day care centre.



Construction of the 1 by 3 classroom block at Mayukwayukwa high school under construction, and the building is at roof level.



Above is a Kiln prepared in readiness for buring of bricks in Mayukwayukwa.

The ZI program has been engaging LDC's and local villagers/refugees in moulding clay bricks used for construction of schools and health centres.

Before



A teacher's house in Ngundi in a deplorable state, before Zambia Initiative intervention.

After:



*The rehabilitated teacher's house at Ngundi Basic School in Senanga district.
This is a Danish funded project.*



Cassava Demonstration plot in Mayukwayukwa, chief Mufaya area. ZI project introducing new varieties of cassava cuttings that mature early.