

Project Summary

Africa

Zambia

**Copperbelt Rural Livelihood
Enhancement Support Project
(CRLESP)**

Project Holder
Heifer Zambia



Copperbelt province

Project Budget¹

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total US \$
Categories						
Livestock & Freight	94,000	142,880	139,510	0	0	376,390
Horticulture & Freight	1,200	2,000	1,400	0	0	4,600
Agric. Equipment & Supplies	13,770	21,863	11,606	0	0	47,238
Travel & Vehicle operation	10,900	12,492	12,692	6,450	5,408	47,941
Training	21,100	28,600	23,300	0	0	73,000
Technical Services & Evaluation	27,603	28,850	18,350	8,550	0	83,353
Personnel & Benefits	39,806	41,000	47,979	19,393	19,975	168,154
Office Expenses	14,288	7,475	7,774	8,085	8,409	46,031
Capital Expenses	46,150	0	0	0	0	46,150
Overhead/Administration	32,258	34,219	31,513	5,097	4,055	107,142
Total	301,075	319,379	294,124	47,576	37,845	\$1,000,000

¹ Reflects actual dollars for grant and number of years of actual financial/material support. HPI is directly involved with each project for an additional two years beyond the financial support years. The funding years indicated represent HPI's fiscal year July 1 through June 30.

Project Profile

The Copperbelt Rural Livelihood Enhancement Support Project (CRLESP), which is fully funded by Elanco, will serve the Masaiti, Luanshya, Kalulushi, and Mpongwe districts in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia. The goal of CRLESP is to enable vulnerable rural farm families in the region to enhance and secure their livelihoods through integrated agriculture, promotion of health and enterprise development. Specifically, the project will address poor household food security caused by low agricultural productivity; poor nutrition, especially in children; limited ability of resource-poor families to own livestock; limited capacity of local agricultural and veterinary extensions to engage in outreach; poor health, hygiene and sanitation practices; inadequate capacity of official health and social services to engage in outreach; high levels of deforestation; and poor marketing structures. The high incidence of HIV/AIDS in these communities has also resulted in many households becoming more food insecure at a time when people require good nutrition, particularly high-quality protein.

CRLESP will directly benefit a total of 37,260 individuals within 6,210 direct project households (average of six people per family). From this total, 680 families will be assisted through the placement of food- and income-generating livestock and training in integrated livestock management. Further, 5,530 families will benefit from other community interventions such as environmental and HIV/AIDS mitigation and better hygiene and sanitation awareness. Trainings will include Heifer's 12 Cornerstones, animal husbandry and health, gender equity issues and group organizational capacity. The project will implement integrated agriculture practices and vegetable gardens to improve nutrition among vulnerable groups such as children and people living with HIV/AIDS. Improved delivery of community-based animal health services will improve livestock health and productivity, thus safeguarding livelihoods. Linkages to viable markets and technical service providers will provide opportunities for the development of sustainable farming enterprises for the project members. Widespread use of energy efficient wood stoves in combination with agroecological farming practices will reduce deforestation in target areas. Further, the trainings and awareness-raising programs will significantly increase knowledge in HIV/AIDS mitigation and better health, hygiene and sanitation in all targeted communities.

Project Holder

Heifer Zambia is the project holder. Heifer Zambia works primarily with vulnerable but viable farm families to fulfill the goal of fighting hunger and poverty and good environmental stewardship. Heifer International has existed and worked in Zambia since 1988, supporting rural families and grassroots organizations by providing them with livestock and training in sustainable diversified farming practices based on values and principles of Heifer International. The Program is led by the Country Director. The in-country staff has grown under the stewardship of the Country Director and represents a strong set of team with expertise in leadership, agriculture and training skills. Heifer Zambia has 22 staff (13 males and 9 females) that directly supports the program work. The program has three established offices in Lusaka (Head office), Copperbelt and Eastern regional offices.

Our established projects involve Draft Cattle, Small-holder dairy Cattle, Bee keeping, Dairy & meat goats and related livelihoods development activities. The historic impact of Heifer Zambia's programs is felt in many parts of the country through the direct empowerment of rural poor beneficiary farmers. To date their number has exceeded 40,000 people (12,000 original and 28,000) through Passing on the Gifts and the projects are found in five provinces of the country namely; Copperbelt, Lusaka, Central, Eastern and Southern Provinces. The Heifer Zambia country program collaborates with other local & international NGO's, and the government's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is its main partner.

Heifer Zambia is a leading actor of the livestock sector in the Copperbelt province - initiatives recognized by local authorities and the private sector. Over 800 families (or 4,600 beneficiaries over 15 Projects groups) have directly benefited from Dairy cattle, draft cattle and Dairy Goats placements since 2000. This project will be managed by Heifer Zambia's Copperbelt Regional Office. Heifer Zambia is currently scaling-up activities in the province and building on the successes and lessons learned to accelerate achievements for holistic and sustainable livelihoods.

Heifer's activities in the region will have a ready-made learning platform for working with new community groups (many of which have already applied to Heifer for assistance, hearing about its projects impact, as well as diversifying the nature of Heifer's interventions (i.e. human health). Heifer's continuous presence in the Copperbelt will greatly facilitate participant screening as well as minimize project start-up times. Additionally, as one third of livestock-receiving families will be endowed with goats and horticulture activities, benefits will start to be achieved within the first year of project life.

Heifer Zambia will take responsibility for project coordination and management. The project will be implemented at two complementary levels: on one level, Heifer International/Zambia will be the project holder in promoting diverse small scale farming through closely monitoring the group's financial and project progress activities. Heifer Zambia will provide the skills and knowledge to build capacity of farmer groups to address the high levels of illiteracy, basic bookkeeping skills and intra-group accountability systems. On the other level, the local community will form project management committees to oversee the day to day running of the project. Through these committees, the project will lead to greater family and community cohesion and the rekindling of the community spirit underpinned by the cornerstones. The regaining of human dignity and self-confidence especially among resource poor farmers is a tangible benefit that has instilled high self-esteem among the families receiving Heifer International support. To ensure that issues of nutrition and water, hygiene and sanitation are addressed by the project, Heifer Zambia will collaborate with the Zambia nutrition commission and Village water respectively. Heifer Zambia will further strengthen its collaboration with the ministry of agriculture, ministry of livestock, ministry of health and the ministry of community development and other NGOs and CBOs experienced in the areas of HIV and AIDs operating within the targeted project areas.

Local Conditions & Opportunities for Assistance

Zambia's key development constraints and opportunities are linked to HIV/AIDS, poor governance and high poverty levels. Zambia is a large landlocked country (752,614 sq km) with a population of 12.9 million people. Though the Country is endowed with vast resource like majestic rivers, abundant water resources, immense forests, enormous mineral wealth and vast tracts of arable land, this potential is currently under utilized. This high potential if fully exploited could significantly contribute to food security and economic growth.

Zambia remains one of the poorest countries in the world, ranked 164th out of 182 countries on the UN's human development index (2009) suggesting that the gains in economic growth and democracy have not translated into real poverty reduction affecting 70 % of its population. Despite its huge potential, Zambia's agriculture sector is not making a significant contribution to poverty reduction and overall growth of the economy. Government investment in Agriculture is low, averaging around 6% of the national budget over the last 3 years. In general small scale farmers have been left out of policy dialogue, and instead must cope in an increasingly variable environment of high input prices, little access to new technology or knowledge, dilapidated infrastructure and the regular occurrence of droughts and floods.

Since the beginning of the decade, however, the economy of Zambia has grown by an average of some 5%, driven by a policy environment conducive to new foreign investment and political stability.

According to the Living Conditions Monitoring Survey Report by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Copperbelt province has the highest population in Zambia of about 1.7 million people out of which almost 50% live in the main towns. As its name suggests, the province's economy rises and falls with copper. In the early days of independence the state owned copper mines were a huge employer and driver of the local and national economy. After gaining independence in 1964, Zambia's fortunes rose and later in the early 1990s the economic mainstay copper prices fluctuated, corruption, mismanagement and IMF imposed economic reforms all took their toll on the fragile economy causing development to spiral backwards.

With the decline in copper production due to declining reserves, there has been a major reduction in formal employment in the Copperbelt province. The industrial base which supported the mines also declined due to liquidation of the mines in the early 1990s leaving a huge number of people without gainful employment leading to increased poverty of urbanites and in proximal rural communities. This left large segments of the population in the Province to seek alternative means of livelihood in subsistence farming and charcoal burning which has led to deforestation. Even if copper (and other mining) has picked up, this is largely under the control of international companies who carry out much of the work using mechanized methods and export most of the earnings abroad.

In the face of these socio-economic hardships, hunger is wide spread, parents fail to pay for children's school fees (high school drop outs) and these communities have not been spared by

HIV/AIDS. HIV prevalence in Zambia is amongst the highest in the world – estimated at 14.3% in 2007 and has led to family labor constraints, increased number of orphans, widows and other vulnerable persons. Over 50% households look after orphans adding more pressure in affected households. Due to under-resourcing in the Public health sector and poor access to basic health services, the overall HIV/AIDS prevalence rate remains high and little has been done to reverse the drivers of the epidemic, which include: poverty, gender based violence, high population mobility, multiple partnerships, literacy, cultural beliefs and practices, stigma and discrimination.

According to the March 2010 assessment carried out on Farming, Markets and Livelihood in Copperbelt (Gabriel Banda, Consultant-Researcher), the study highlighted both challenges and opportunities in the region. The constraints and opportunities identified from this study will inform Project on strategies to be considered in the development of sustainable agriculture enterprise development. This will boost household food security and nutrition, especially for children and to people living with HIV and AIDS. Income earning potential is also huge as there is a big market due to the large population in the proximal towns and across the border in Congo DR – where produce prices are very high, sometimes over five times what is yielded in Zambia.

This project will provide high quality inputs and training to improve agricultural production. The action also introduces integrated farming in the target communities to diversify production and income that will further increase resilience to inevitable shocks such as when a household member gets sick. The action emphasizes the community as the focus of the intervention of improving food security through improved livestock, crop and horticulture production and enhancing coping capacity of people affected by unemployment and HIV or AIDS.

The expected long-term result for this action include; Sustained improvement of household nutrition and incomes, the participants will become more resilient in terms of community-based animal health management, conservation farming and environmental restoration will value the education of children, restore dignity through ownership of animals; strong relevant partnership with service providers; social mobilization at the community level , a reliable source of consumable by-products, savings on energy costs and enhancements of the local ecosystem, awareness raising programs on Gender awareness and HIV/AIDS mitigation, alternative livelihoods and market linkages, the promotion of nutrition, human health, hygiene and sanitation activities and passing on the gifts of food and income-generating animals, as well as the necessary agricultural skills and resources.

Membership Criteria

Identification and selection of target groups, giving priority to women-led groups, has been done in farmer groups that have requested assistance. Project participants' selection criteria include;

- Genuinely needy, interested and committed families with limited productive assets.
- Families with available labor to efficiently implement project
- Cohesiveness of the group members determined by how they enforce their by-laws

- Commitment to attend all training courses.
- Families who agree to pass on the gifts to other families
- Access to other support services

Planned Number of Original Families to be included in the Project: 5,770

(i.e. 240 Livestock families and 5,530 for other interventions)

Project	No. Groups	Families per group	Original families	Pass-on families	Total families
Dairy Cattle	3	20	60	80	140
Draft Cattle	5	20	100	120	220
Dairy Goats	4	20	80	240	320
Total	12		240	440	680

Planned Number of Pass-On Families to be included in the Project: 440+

(i.e. 440 families from livestock and an estimated 5,000 from intangible resources)

Single headed households, women, widows, HIV/AIDS infected and affected, and youth will be targeted. The target groups will be empowered to use the same criteria above to select POGs families.