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In cooperation with:

Ministry of Fishery and Livestock

Department of Fisheries

Fish For Food Security in Zambia Project (F4F)

Initiated by the *ONE WORLD – No Hunger* Special Initiative and part of the Agriculture and Food Security Cluster Zambia

Background

Hunger and malnutrition are two of the greatest global challenges. In Zambia the majority of the rural population depends on subsistence agriculture, mostly engaging in the production of staple starch crops. The resulting low food diversity produced by farmers leads to an insufficient micronutrient intake for much of the population.

Fish can be a helpful supplement for the diet. As a popular and affordable food in Zambia, fish can help combat undernourishment and malnutrition as it is an excellent source of important nutrients. Fish production can be increased in three ways:

1) *Improved management:* Fishing in Zambia's many natural lakes, swamps and rivers provides employment and a livelihood for millions of families. Fishing communities, government authorities and fish experts/researchers can work closely together to make sure that these water bodies continue to produce fish into the future.
2) *Aquaculture:* Aquaculture– the farming of fish in ponds, tanks and net cages– is a rapidly growing industry in Zambia and has contributed to an increased supply of fish in the country in recent years.
3) *Strengthened fish value chain:* the businesses that supply fish producers with inputs, and the traders that process, transport and sell fish products to the consumers, play an important role in getting fish onto plates. By addressing inefficiencies in the value chain, more fish of higher quality and nutritional value can be supplied.

Furthermore, by improving the access that fishers and aquaculture farmers have to technical resources, loans and advice will give them the means to establish better management practices. Authorities can also be supported to improve cooperative and inclusive regulation of the fisheries sector and bring together best-practice from across the country.

At a glance

Project name	Fish for Food Security in Zambia (F4F)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Eastern Province: Chipata, Chipangali, Lundazi, Petauke, Kasenegwa, Katete & Nyimba Districts; Luapula Province: Kawambwa, Mansa, Mwense, also Samfya, Nchelenge, Lunga & Chipili Districts
Political partner	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL) Department of Fisheries (DoF)
Target population	Food-insecure households, artisanal fishers and aquaculture farmers, dam management committee members and value chain actors
Duration	07/2019 – 06/2023

The project assists artisanal fishers and fish farmers in operating sustainably and efficiently.

Local communities benefit from secured livelihoods in fishing, fish farming and fish processing. Improved access to a broader range of fish products helps to combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

The project creates linkages between food and income security, environmental and resource conservation, education and women's empowerment.

F4F is part of the GIZ Global Program on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (GP-Fish). It is being implemented in the following countries: Uganda, Madagascar, Mauritania, Malawi, Zambia, Cambodia, India, Ghana and Mozambique.

L. to r.: fish ponds in Luapula Province, fish trade at the market, fishermen in Eastern Province, fish consumers *Pictures: © GIZ –Jason J Mulikita*

Our Approach

The project supports fisherfolk and aquaculture farmers to operate sustainably and efficiently. We aim to expand job opportunities in the sector, improve incomes and contribute to the sustainable use of fish resources.

Women are an integral part of the fish trade in Zambia. The project is paying attention to women's needs and has the objective of securing recognition of their role along the entire value chain.

The F4F project aims to improve access to nutritious fish products of people facing food insecurity with the following **four key activities**:

1. **Increasing aquaculture production:** Fish farmers in the Luapula Province receive training in fish pond management, adapted feeding methods and business management. The Programme intends to increase sustainable aquaculture production in the region.
2. **Fisheries management for small water bodies:** Local communities adjacent to dams represented by dam committee members benefit from training on fisheries management to effectively balance the usage and conservation of fish stocks and water resources.
3. **Training of trainers:** Institutions, organisations and businesses that interact with the fisheries sector receive training to ensure long-term availability of advisory services for aquaculture and fisheries management of small water bodies.
4. **Promoting knowledge exchange:** F4F is supporting DOF to bring together various stakeholders in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, furthering cooperation and the implementation of practical approaches for the future development of the sector.

Target Group

Some Successes

"More fish, more work"
Fish farmers receive interactive pond-side training tailored to their situation in Luapula Province. At least 95% of trainees adopted simple changes at their ponds to boost the amount of fish for sale and for food.

"Sustainable fish"
Zambia celebrated its first World Fisheries Day (WFD) in 2020, and again in 2021. WFD highlights the importance of the fisheries sector for food security, nutrition and livelihoods. At the event, a stakeholder conference was launched as a crucial link in aligning policies with the needs of the sector.

"Less fish from illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries (IUU)"
Rapid ecological assessments of the dam fisheries of Eastern Province were carried out. A detailed understanding of the fish species, fishing methods and catches was obtained, which supports dam committees and DoF to formulate better plans.

"Fish for a healthy diet"
Radio shows aired 20 episodes in Luapula and Eastern Province, helping to safely reach our target group during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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'Special Initiative: ONE WORLD – No Hunger'
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