

Improving livelihoods - creating sustainable access to social services

Context Zambia has experienced a time of peace since independence in 1964. Despite the relatively stable political situation, the abundance of natural resources (especially copper), water and fertile land, Zambia belongs to the group of the poorest countries in the world. Zambia expresses the wish of *“the Zambian people to live in an industrial nation that provides opportunities for improving the well-being of all.”* To achieve this vision, Zambia launched the 7th National Development Plan (7th NDP) in 2017; in it is stated that, although some progress has been made in recent years, poverty remains the biggest challenge. The number of vulnerable households has increased, affecting people with limited access to basic services needed for people's survival, such as health, education, water and sanitation. In addition, Zambia lacks sufficient skilled workers. The biggest challenge facing the country is that many workers enter the labor market after dropping out of school without sufficient basic education. The lack of adequate skilled workers has, in combination with other factors, resulted in the fact that many services offered do not fulfill the basic standards and they need to improve urgently. While many other NGOs support the Zambian people in certain fields, such as health or basic education, COMUNDO has adopted a methodological approach and supports local organizations and institutions that provide and improve access to services for vulnerable groups in Zambia. This is in line with strategic objectives 2 and 3 of the 7th NDP (reducing poverty and vulnerability, inequality and enhancing human development). Social services include educational services (formal, informal, skills development), health services and all other services that are essential to people's survival (eg food security, shelter ...).

COMUNDO in Zambia

Since 1974 COMUNDO (formerly Bethlehem Mission Immensee) has been supporting and accompanying Partner Organizations in Zambia to overcome a variety of challenges through capacity building, organizational development and the strengthening of networks.



Lis Krämer talking to Amal Felisitas, a resident of Mulele in Mpanshya. Partner organization: Mulele old people's village Ltd.

Country Program Objectives

The 7th NDP recognizes the need to improve the quality of services in health, education (including skills development) and social protection. Derived from this and based on the needs of the Partner Organizations, COMUNDO has two main objectives in Zambia:

- COMUNDO-Partner Organizations are strengthened to provide access to life-sustaining social services for vulnerable groups on an ongoing basis.
- The quality of the social services provided by COMUNDO's Partner Organizations to vulnerable groups are sustainably improved.

In order to achieve these two goals, COMUNDO Co-Workers focus on capacity building of the Partner Organizations in the areas of professional education and training of employees and the strengthening of organizational structures such as project implementation and management.

Beneficiaries

COMUNDO supports projects of Partner Organizations providing social services (including education and health), and focusing on disadvantaged groups. The focus is on child-headed households, persons with disabilities, orphans, the chronically ill and the elderly. Within the framework of the Country Program 2018-20, at least 5,500 directly affected persons are to be supported.

Partner Organizations and Networking

COMUNDO in Zambia supports projects of faith based organizations, non-governmental organizations as well as community-based organizations. All projects are carried out directly with the beneficiaries and stakeholders, some of them in urban and some in rural contexts.

The organization COMUNDO

COMUNDO is committed to social justice and holistic sustainable development. Its goal is improved life situation of the vulnerable people in the South. It focuses on the areas of livelihood, democracy and peace and the environment. COMUNDO works using the method of personnel development cooperation (PDC). This means, on the one hand cooperation with Partner Organizations in the South, through the provision of Co-Workers from Switzerland and Germany and on the other hand awareness rising in Switzerland. COMUNDO is represented in seven countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia with around 100 Co-Workers. It is represented in each country by a Country Program Manager. The commitment of Co-Workers to work on-site is primarily intended to strengthen Partner Organizations and their work to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged population groups. COMUNDO strives for an exchange on an equal footing in which Co-Workers and Partner Organizations contribute their knowledge and experience.

In Switzerland, COMUNDO promotes awareness of global contexts and sensitizes civil society to responsible behaviour.

The country program Zambia is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). COMUNDO works with numerous institutions and private individuals for complementary financing.

Statistics

Surface area	752 612 sq km	(UN Data)
Population	16.71 Mio.	(World Bank 2016)
Life expectancy at birth	female 60.3/male 57.2	(UN Data 2010-15)
Poverty headcount ration at national poverty line	61.3%	(World Bank 2015)
Literacy rate:	63.4%	(UNESCO 2015)



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