

# SIOMA ZAMBIA

## OVERVIEW

IMPACT AREA POPULATION  
**31,059** (INCLUDING 5,913  
CHILDREN)

PROGRAMME LIFESPAN  
**2025 TO 2036**

Sioma is located in the Western Province of Zambia, 785 km from Lukasa capital city of Zambia and lies on the west bank of the Zambezi River. It is made up of dense woodlands, riparian forests, shallow wetlands, and settlements. The area is often affected by drought and floods during the farming seasons, resulting in livelihood issues for the community as majority of the population are small-scale farmers and fishermen. School infrastructure and teaching resources are also lacking resulting in low quality education for children. Families are susceptible to water-borne diseases due to contaminated water sources and open defecation.

## REALITIES

### Water and Sanitation

In Sioma AP, only 49% of households have access to clean, safe water supply. Although there are 22 water kiosks, their distance from scattered communities forces many to rely on contaminated streams and shallow wells. Schools face similar issues, with students fetching unsafe water for school use. Open defecation and a lack of sewage infrastructure further increase the risk of disease outbreaks.

### Health & Nutrition

Healthcare access is another major challenge, as the people in the community often have to travel long distances—up to 29 km—to reach healthcare services, due to insufficient health centers, staff, and equipment. Infant mortality rate is at 4.7% due to low antenatal care and delayed detection of complications as well as home-based child deliveries by unskilled community members.

### Education:

Zambia introduced free education in 2022 enabling parents of children who had dropped out of school due to financial challenges to now be able to send their children to school. However, there is inadequate school infrastructure, learning materials and lack of teachers to accommodate the increase in enrollment. As such there is overcrowding in classes, high teacher-pupil ratio. Pupils have to learn under trees and sit on the floor in the classrooms. Children have to walk long distances to schools, thus about 25% of children between 7 and 9 years are not attending school due to safety concerns.

### Livelihood:

The majority of the community in Sioma AP depend on fishing and small-scale farming of crops such as maize, cassava, millet as their source of income. Climate disasters such as floods and drought have affected the different farming seasons over the years, seriously affecting crop yield for the farmers, resulting in many families in dire need of relief food.



Students in Sioma AP experience difficult learning conditions due to inadequate school infrastructure. Students have to sit on floors or have their classes under trees



Climate disasters such as drought affect the farming seasons resulting in many families in dire need of relief food



In many Sioma villages, shallow wells are the main water source but are often shared with animals, leading to contamination and unsafe drinking water.

**Because of our community-focused solutions, for every child you help, four more benefit too!**