



World Vision began an assessment study in Musosolokwe in July 2009. It was found that the target area was hampered by insufficient health facilities, ill-equipped schools and a lack of food security. Children had to walk long distances to reach medical centres that were inadequately stocked, schools lacked necessary items like desks and learning materials and food was not available all year round. Recognising these needs, we started work in Musosolokwe in April 2010.

BRIEF INFORMATION

IMPACT AREA POPULATION

29,205 people

PROGRAMME LIFESPAN

2009–2026

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Musosolokwe is on a flat land situated on the boundary of a swamp. With extreme wet and dry seasons, the area is prone to floods and droughts which destroy crops. Floods also displace households and destroy paths to health centres and schools.

PROGRAMME GOAL

The overall goal in Musosolokwe is to contribute to the improved quality of life for children and families with interventions related to healthcare, water and sanitation, education and child protection.

MUSOSOLOKWE
ZAMBIA

REALITIES

Educational Challenges

The harsh landscape in Musosolokwe deprives children of a fair chance at education. Children have to cover over 25 km to reach one of three schools in the area. Flooding also destroys roads and flood waters can wash away and drown children. These factors result in children dropping out of school to avoid the perils that potentially follow. To top it off, bad crop harvest results in children not having the energy to focus in school. Only 46% have effective Grade 2 literacy and 36% of girls are married off before the age of 18.

Healthcare Concerns

There is a high rate of malaria, diarrhoea and malnutrition among children. This leads to high mortality and stunted growth in children, which further perpetuates poverty in Musosolokwe. The community faces challenges in accessing adequate nutrition, clean water and insecticide treated nets. 33% lack clean water and 82% lack proper sanitation. Nearly 60% of the population was infected by malaria in 2009.

Economic Poverty

Over 40% of children have only one meal a day due to poor crop harvest as a result of bad weather conditions and poor farming methods. Alternative sources of income are hard to come by, and natural resources in Musosolokwe are slowly being exploited by the community to earn more income. In a community heavily dependent on growing crops for food and income, destruction of crops severely handicaps the community's well-being. Moreover, existing resources are consistently misused and exploited. Poor fishing methods have led to low catches and poisoned fish, making them unsellable to the market. Forests have also been ravaged to produce charcoal for sale.



KEY CHALLENGES AND WORLD VISION'S KEY INITIATIVES

CHALLENGE Children are illiterate and have no direct access to education

INITIATIVE Provide children with access to basic education

World Vision aims to promote child-friendly teaching and reading camps in schools by providing reading and teaching materials, as well as reducing travel times by building schools nearer to the community. By partnering with local authorities, it helps to ensure that teachers and students are all making progress, and by providing financial support, World Vision ensures that children are able to pay their school fees.



Teachers from community schools are supported by World Vision and undergo a Basic Teaching Methodology Course to improve the quality of education.



Water and sanitation in the village is improved through the construction of wells.



Fish ponds are a source of alternative income generation.

CHALLENGE Poor standards of health in the community, and the prevalence of malaria

INITIATIVE Improve the health status of children and families

To improve access to healthcare for children and families, good quality health centres and health posts are constructed. Community members are also educated on HIV/AIDS, improved hygiene practices, better nutrition and maintaining household surroundings to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. To tackle the issue of diarrhoea, safe water points are constructed. Local health workers are also mobilised and receive capacity building training.

CHALLENGE Limited income sources and vulnerability to the change in climate and weather

INITIATIVE Increase income sources to provide for families

World Vision looks to reach out to households to increase their agricultural yields through teaching proper farming methods, as well as providing alternative income generating activities such as sustainable fishing and beekeeping. Additional sources of income also mean that families have more crops for their own consumption.

Through all these interventions, World Vision is transforming the lives of children in Musosolokwe, making a change today as well as giving them hope for the future!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sponsor a child or give towards a **Gift Catalogue item**, which benefits the community!

Thank you for your heart for the poor, and for making a difference in the lives of children and families in Zambia.

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