

NEWS LETTER

THBF

Sensitization Meeting on Child Marriage in Musokotwane



THBF and their partners visited Musokotwane village to inspire learners to report any cases of abuse and to raise awareness about the importance of bringing justice to survivors. During the sensitization programs, learners and parents shared their experiences and identified the reasons why many cases of abuse were not reported to the necessary authorities. The meeting was insightful and resulted in the identification of local structures where young people can comfortably report any cases of abuse. Our partner, "Justice for The Reyd", contributed immensely to this undertaking and continues to provide support to survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

We also donated items such as sanitary towels and dolls to the orphanage and vulnerable community women. We would like to acknowledge the support rendered by **Liseli initiative** and "Justice for The Revd" June Dolley-Major for the partnership.

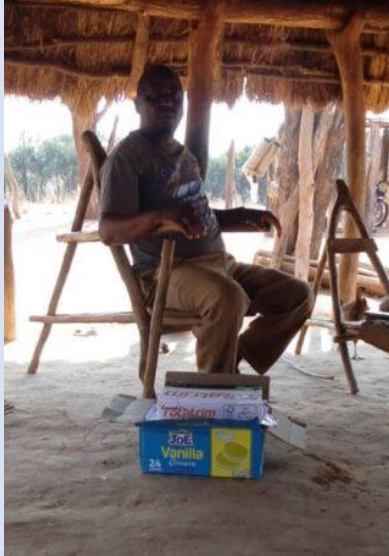
TOP NEWS...

- **SENSITIZATION MEETINGS IN 10 VILLAGES OF GWEMBE DISTRICT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CDF.**
- **MUSOKOTWANE FOLLOW-UP ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON CORRUPTION.**
- **RADIO PROGRAM TARGETING THE REMOTE PARTS OF GWEMBE AND SURROUNDING AREAS ON EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
- **DATA COLLECTION SURVEY HELD IN 10 VILLAGES TO CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES AND EFFECTS.**
- **EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITY: A SPORTING SPECTACLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CDF**

Disability inclusion is our core Business

Disability Inclusion is our core business. Persons with disabilities are among many vulnerable groups in our society. This is why we registered three of our many children with a disability on social cash transfer to enable their caregivers to continue providing for them and reduce poverty in their household.

Meeting with Traditional Leaders in Gwembe on Climate Change.



THBF team led by Marvin Chuulu Be Nyangale in Chipepo and Lukonde ward of the southern province of Gwembe Munyumbwe met with traditional leaders on the climate justice/

change project. This is to build our traditional leaders' capacity to help curb charcoal burning issues in their chiefdoms, which has greatly contributed to the adverse effects of climate change.

Climate justice is possible through local adaptation strengthening thus it was an incredible interaction exploring the challenges and solutions to combat climate change in vulnerable their area and sharing their support to curb climate change.

With the traditional leaders on board, the team started working on the ground with the help of traditional leaders to spread information as they are the key stakeholders because they hold an important place of influence in their villages which would greatly facilitate the objective of the project in their areas so as everyone is reached.

Thank you very much to the [Zambian Governance Foundation](#) for funding this project.

Our local leaders are very excited and determined to bring about change regarding cutting down trees in their areas.

Climate Change meeting in Lukonde ward of Munyumbwe, Southern Province



Our team in Gwembe met with 20 traditional leaders in Lukonde ward of Gwembe district, Southern province to discuss how traditional leader engagement can be a catalyst in curbing charcoal burning in the area.

This excited the traditional leaders as they have struggled for a long time not knowing how they can engage in the fight against climate change. This is because charcoal burning is the number one source of income for most of the Gwembe and Munyumbwe residents.

It is with this understanding that **Zambian Governance Foundation** through its catalyst fund has partnered with us The Healing Balm Foundation to build resilience and strengthen the capacity of traditional leaders through the introduction of alternatives to charcoal burning.

Musokotwane Follow-up Engagement Meeting on Corruption.



On November 1st, 2023, The Healing Balm Foundation with financial support from **Restless Development** held a community engagement meeting focusing on strengthening the voices of community members to demand for Transparency and Accountability on the use of public resources which will enable them to identify and report issues of corruption in Musokotwane. This was a follow-up meeting to the one held in August, where community members identified several issues related to corruption and came up with an action plan to address them.

In the follow-up meeting, community members shared the progress they had made since the last meeting and discussed the challenges they faced when reporting corruption. They also talked about the steps they took to stop corruption in their areas. One of the challenges they faced was the lack of participation from some traditional leaders in community meetings, which made it difficult to report issues affecting the community, including cases of corruption. However, after a sensitization meeting, the leaders became more active and started following up on community issues, especially cases of corruption.

During a community meeting, members raised concerns about the unfair distribution of maize seeds under the Farmers Input Support Program (FISP). The Healing Balm Foundation inquired if there were any issues with the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and FISP. The residents discussed cases where some individuals were omitted from receiving seeds and fertilizers. Moreover, they mentioned that they have become more empowered and can now challenge public officials if they encounter corruption. They now know where to report issues of misappropriation of funds leading to corruption.





On Friday the 3rd of November, 2023, they were all waiting for seeds and fertilizer distribution. The community leaders explained the distribution process and took it upon themselves to investigate and identify ghost beneficiaries.

In conclusion, during the follow-up meeting community members developed an action plan to guide them on “who should be responsible for reporting and who to report to” to curb corruption. Traditional leaders signed a petition to strengthen laws against corruption and protect

whistleblowers. This was a great step towards preventing corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in the community.

Unearthing Ignorance: A Database Survey Reveals Alarming Gaps in Rural Understanding of Climate Change

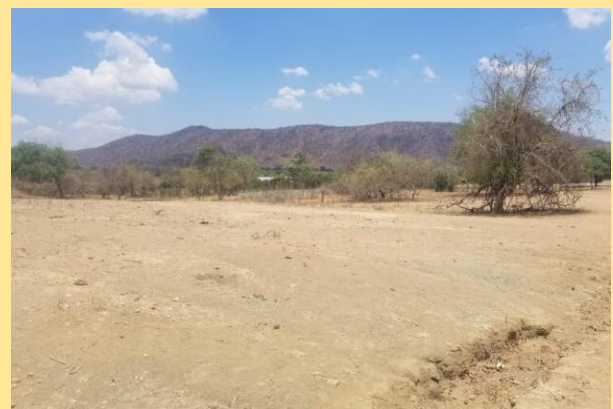


A recent survey conducted in Gwembe Villages, where life centers around planting maize and burning trees for charcoal, revealed limited awareness about climate change. The results emphasized the need for targeted education and sustainable practices in areas where traditional agricultural methods are the primary source of income. Urgent action is needed to educate these communities about sustainable alternatives to ensure the longevity of their income sources.

The Healing Balm Foundation and **Zambia Governance Foundation** endeavor to bridge the information gap through practical and sustainable practices, reforestation initiatives, and education programs. Governments and environmental

organizations must collaborate to create policies that incentivize sustainable practices, provide access to resources for reforestation efforts, and ensure that educational initiatives reach the grassroots level.

As climate change continues to impact our planet, it is crucial to recognize and address the knowledge gaps that persist in rural areas. The recent database survey of maize-farming communities burning trees for charcoal serves as a wake-up call, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted education and sustainable practices. By empowering these communities with knowledge and resources, we can foster resilience and contribute to a more sustainable future for both the people and the planet they call home.



Bridging the Gap: Radio Program Empowers Rural Communities to Combat Climate Change Using CDF



A recent radio program aimed to raise awareness and empower rural communities in the face of climate change. The program was supported by the **Zambia Governance Foundation** and provided valuable insights into sustainable practices. Climate change experts, environmentalists, and community leaders came together to share information on the far-reaching consequences of climate change and how rural communities can play an active role in mitigating its effects.

The radio program was broadcast in remote villages and rural areas, serving as a vital platform for education and discussion. It emphasized the importance of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and how it can be used as a tool for local empowerment. CDFs are financial resources allocated to communities for their development, and they provide a unique opportunity for locals to address specific challenges, including those posed by climate change.

Listeners were encouraged to call in and share their observations and experiences related to climate change. The response was overwhelming, with locals providing valuable insights into the ground-level impacts of climate change. Callers shared stories of changing weather patterns, altered agricultural practices, and the challenges

they face in maintaining their traditional ways of life.

Experts on the show provided guidance on how CDFs could be used to implement community-driven projects aimed at building resilience against climate change. These initiatives included sustainable farming practices, water conservation projects, and reforestation efforts, as well as encouraging cooperative groups and youths to take advantage of CDF grants to reduce the cutting down of trees for charcoal.

The program's engagement with the local community demonstrated the effectiveness of radio as a medium for outreach. By allowing residents to share their experiences and concerns, the program fostered a sense of community and collaboration in the face of a shared challenge. Among the panelists was a Traditional leader who advocated against excessive tree-cutting and emphasized the adoption of policies to protect forests and planting more trees as a custom.



“Empowering Rural Communities: Climate Change Sensitization and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) awareness”

A comprehensive sensitization program was conducted across ten villages in the Gwembe District of Southern Province, Zambia, to address climate change and promote sustainable practices. The primary focus of the initiative was to educate residents about the adverse effects of climate change, with a specific emphasis on the importance of tree conservation and utilization of CDF. The program highlighted the negative consequences of deforestation and provided insights into adopting sustainable alternatives. The Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was utilized as a strategic tool to reduce the cutting down of trees and foster eco-friendly practices in these communities.



The program began by exploring the direct and indirect consequences of deforestation on the local environment and livelihoods. Residents learned how the loss of trees contributes to climate change, disrupts ecosystems, and jeopardizes their own well-being. They also realized that the rainfall pattern has been hard, and the heat they have been experiencing in the last few years is unusual compared to a decade ago and more.

The program then delved into the specific challenges each village faced due to rampant tree-cutting. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between tree conservation and their daily lives, from loss of biodiversity to soil erosion and reduced water quality. Livestock handlers related how their animals struggle to find food and water due to lack of water, as the watering holes or streams dried out months ago.



The program encouraged residents to see trees not only as a resource but also as vital contributors to a balanced ecosystem. To that extent, residents were encouraged to plant edible fruit trees in their homes in an attempt to fight back against climate change. The CDF was introduced as a financial resource to support tree conservation initiatives. Through engaging sessions, villagers were educated on how the CDF could be accessed to fund their projects like cooperatives projects, personal business, and community projects, which encouraged especially

women and youths to take advantage of it.

As part of the action plan, the program encouraged communities to be key drivers in spreading this information to everyone. Traditional leaders encouraged their communities to take this seriously and put up rules for offenders when caught. The team was tasked to ensure that the promises made by traditional leaders on matters of climate justice were upheld and followed, and those communities where CDF information and application issues faced were followed up and found out what was being done.

The sensitization program empowers rural communities to take charge of their environmental destiny. By promoting climate change awareness, sustainable practices, and using the CDF, these 10 villages are now on the path to an eco-friendly future. This initiative, supported by the **Zambia Governance Foundation**, showcases community-driven efforts to combat climate change at the grassroots level.

“Empowering Rural Communities: A Sporting Spectacle on Climate Change and Constituency Development Funds”



In a vibrant display of community engagement and environmental awareness, several villages came together in Gwembe–Lukonde to participate in a unique sensitization program. Unlike traditional awareness campaigns, this event ingeniously blended sports with crucial discussions on climate change and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The program aimed not only to inform but also to actively involve residents in the ongoing dialogue about the environmental challenges they face and the resources available to address them. Organized within the heart of the Lukonde community, the event drew participants from various villages, creating a sense of unity and shared purpose.



The focal point of the day was a spirited sporting activity that captivated the attention of both young and old. As soccer fields turned into arenas for friendly competitions, the air was filled with enthusiasm and camaraderie. The choice of sports wasn't arbitrary; it was a deliberate effort to attract diverse age groups and promote a sense of inclusivity.



Amidst the athletic fervor, interludes were strategically scheduled for discussions on climate change and the role of the CDF. The Healing Balm Foundation and community key stakeholders took the stage, providing valuable insights into the local impact of climate change and the potential of the CDF to address pressing issues.

Participants had the opportunity to witness the direct correlation between climate change and their daily lives. The discussions were not only

informative but also interactive, fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership among the attendees. Visual aids, real-life examples, and success stories from other communities helped illustrate the tangible benefits of collective action.



The beauty of this sensitization program lies in its ability to seamlessly integrate serious discussions with the joyous spirit of sporting events. This innovative approach ensured that important messages about climate change and CDF were not only heard but also embraced by the Gwembe population.



As the sun set on the day's festivities, the impact of the sensitization program lingered in the hearts and minds of the villagers. Armed with newfound knowledge and a strengthened sense of community, these rural residents were better equipped to navigate the challenges posed by climate change and leverage the CDF for the collective well-being of their villages. This sporting spectacle had not only entertained but had also sown the seeds of sustainable change in the fertile soil of rural consciousness. This eventful day wouldn't have been possible without the Support of our partner [Zambia Governance Foundation](http://www.zambiasovereignty.org)



Know us and Contact Us

The Healing Balm Foundation is a local non-governmental, not-for-profit and non-partisan organization based in Livingstone along Kafubu Road, stand number A 100 former Works and Supply. We are passionate and driven and we have a bigger heart for the community striving to improve their lives through poverty reduction among the marginalized, the youth, women, girls, persons with disabilities and the aged. We endeavor to bring long-term sustainability measures and let the locals take full ownership of the sustainability strategy that would see them throughout their lives thereby reducing the dependency syndrome in our communities.

The organization is affiliated and registered with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, it is also a partner with the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities. The organization has also been nominated to sit on the Ward Development Committees under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development in more than four wards of Livingstone with its representation of marginalized groups and youths in more than eight wards.

We are working in several areas of Livingstone like; Mulala, Dambwa sit, Highlands, Maramba, Simatobolo and we are closely going into other Parts of Zimba, Kazungula and Kalomo, Simoonga and other surrounding areas. We always use the community approach to bring about the desired change such as engaging traditional leaders, rural community churches, and rural community schools

and create youth-friendly spaces so that youths especially can freely talk about certain pressing issues such as menstrual hygiene, sexual reproductive health and general sanitation.

VISION

To empower and attain an inclusive society were the marginalized youths, women and children including those with disabilities and the aged have equal access to social, economic, educational and moral benefits thus creating a self-sustaining generation.

MISSION

Empowering PWDs, aged, women, Other Vulnerable Children, and the youth out of social marginalization, isolation, and discrimination through income-generating initiatives, skills development activities and provision of access to education for better resource exploitation, management and control for improved quality of life which includes access to clean water and hygiene especially in rural areas.

To improve the knowledge and rights of persons with disabilities by teaching them how to advocate for their rights and their inclusion in society through participating freely and enjoying equal rights and policy formulation contributions in a democratic country like Zambia.



+260776605593



thehealingbalmfoundation@gmail.com



www.healingbalmfoundation.org



former works and supply, stand number A 100. Along Kafubu Road.