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Report of the First Meeting of the Roundtable Consultative Group on HIV/AIDS in Luapula Fisheries, Zambia

February 2009

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Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions



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List of institutional acronyms

CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSPR	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
DACA	District AIDS Coordinating Advisor
DATF	District AIDS Task Force
DoF	Department of Fisheries
HBC	Home Based Care
ILO	International Labour Organisation
NAC	National HIV/AIDS/STI/TB Council
NZP+	Network of Zambian People Living with HIV
PACA	Provincial AIDS Coordinating Advisor
PATF	Provincial AIDS Task Force
PDCC	Provincial Development Coordination Committee
PLARD	Programme for Luapula Agricultural and Rural Development
SFH	Society for Family Health

Introduction

Luapula Province is host to Zambia's most important fisheries and several 100,000 people – men, women and children – in the province depend on this sector for their livelihoods. Furthermore, fish from Luapula is a lifeline for millions of poor people in Zambia and the DRC, for whom this is a main source of essential nutrition. At the same time, however, fishing communities and fish traders are among the most vulnerable populations in terms of health, HIV/AIDS, work conditions, education, security, general rights and well-being. Organizations working to address these human development challenges in Zambia, and in Luapula more specifically, are increasingly aware of the importance of supporting fishing communities and fish traders and are increasing their engagement with these populations accordingly.

In the process of this engagement, many organizations are encountering new challenges and needs but also inherent strengths among fishing populations. These often require diverse types of support and a variety of agencies to deliver such services. Secondly, organizations engaging with fishing populations often find that they need to make adjustments to their approaches and build new institutional partnerships in order to have impact in this particular environment.

The WorldFish Center organized a Roundtable Meeting in Mansa on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th January 2009, hosted by the Mansa Diocese, to provide an opportunity for a wide range of agencies to exchange their knowledge and experiences of working with fishing communities and fish traders in Luapula Province. A total of 28 people participated, from government, NGOs and civil society, 6 of whom traveled from Lusaka.

Objectives

Objectives of the roundtable meeting:

1. To get an overview of agencies and their activities relating to fishing communities in Luapula province;
2. To discuss issues related to health, HIV/AIDS and social development affecting fishing communities in Luapula province;
3. To identify challenges in supporting fishing communities;
4. To discuss areas of potential collaboration in 2009 and beyond.

Background

After welcoming remarks by the meeting facilitator (Mrs. Saskia Hüsken), the Roundtable Meeting was officially opened with a prayer and opening remarks by the Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Mansa, Father Mpsa. Participants then proceeded with introducing themselves and the agency they represented at the meeting (see Annex 1: Participants' contact information).

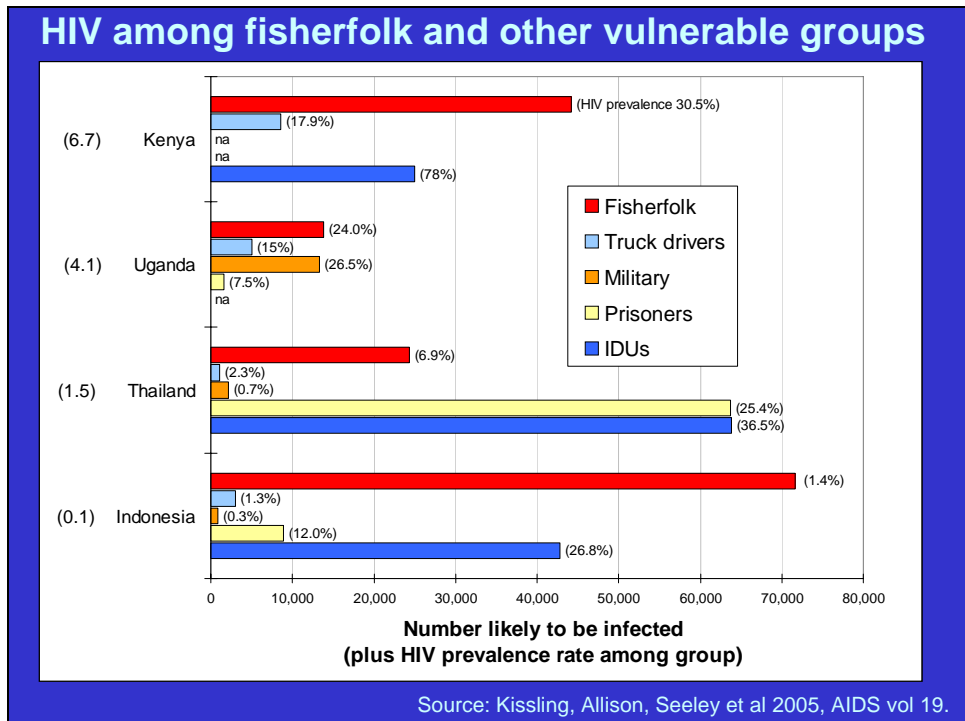
Vulnerabilities of fishing communities and fish traders

To put all participants on the same page regarding the subjects of the meeting, the facilitator presented some general background information on health, HIV/AIDS and social development issues in fisheries.

- **HIV/AIDS**
 - Populations at high risk

- Fish is important for nutrition & food security and income
- **Health and hygiene**
 - Exposure to disease
 - Access to services
 - Infrastructure
- **Work and social conditions**
 - Gender inequality
 - Child labour
 - Security and safety
 - Awareness of rights
- **Mobility and migration**
 - Social cohesion
 - Demographic structure
- **Poverty amidst plenty**
 - Cash incomes
 - Lack of financial infrastructure

When comparing the HIV prevalence among fisherfolk with other 'high risk' populations, it is evident that fisherfolk are at increased risk and that serious policy attention as well as targeted interventions in the respective fisheries are needed. There is moreover a need for quantitative data on HIV/AIDS in the respective fisheries in Zambia, especially in view of the contributions of fish to the economy, national food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of thousands of Zambians.



When looking at Luapula province, home to some of the most important fisheries in Zambia, we find that fisheries is the basis of the economy and people's livelihoods, while at the same time the province faces increasing HIV prevalence and social development challenges.

- Recognition that many hands are needed to develop solutions.
- Relevant agencies need to come together to discuss issues and exchange experiences working with fishing populations.

Background presentation by NAC

On behalf of the National AIDS Council (NAC), Mrs. Gladys Ngoma welcomed and supported the idea of this roundtable meeting on HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector, especially since the Mid Term Review (2008) of the National AIDS Strategic Framework shows that while the national prevalence rates have stabilized, Luapula province (together with Central and North Western Provinces) has a rising HIV prevalence. Therefore, Luapula province will be a priority for planning and interventions under the coordination of NAC. Fisheries, fish trade and mobility are seen as part of the challenge and contribute to increases in HIV prevalence and vulnerability. NAC would like to partner with a range of agencies to target specific issues (e.g. nutrition) or specific vulnerable populations (e.g. orphans), and emphasizes the need for unified reporting and M&E in order to be able to coordinate the national response to HIV/AIDS, and calls for all agencies to communicate what they are doing.

The role of the NAC is to coordinate the national response through a decentralized structure with Provincial and District AIDS Task Forces (PATF and DATF). There is a need to network better. As part of the decentralization of NAC, the Department of Fisheries will have more opportunity to express their priorities and to have influence at district level. The multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS requires functional linkages between sectors, but this is not yet as good as needed. It is a legal requirement and responsibility of all agencies and businesses to have a workplace HIV/AIDS policy and programme. NAC works with legal agencies for advocacy to ensure workplace programs are being implemented and can offer technical advice on how to set up a workplace policy and programme on HIV/AIDS.

NAC thinks this roundtable meeting can deliver 1) a network for reporting in support of national unified M&E, and 2) a plan for collaboration under the National AIDS Strategic Framework. NAC aims to strengthen the capacity of partners for M&E, to strengthen operational and behavior research and to improve coordination between districts and provinces.

The meeting programme (see Annex 2: Meeting programme) was then presented and agreed upon by all participants.

Experiences by agencies working with fishing communities in Luapula

All participating agencies were asked to produce a short overview of their agency, including the main purpose and activities of the agency, the issues they come across in fisheries, and the challenges they face in supporting fishing communities (see Annex 3: Detailed overview per agency). Each agency presented their overview and responded to questions from the meeting participants. The following agencies presented:

- Society for Family Health (SFH)
- Network of Zambian People Living with HIV (NZP+)
- Programme for Luapula Agricultural and Rural Development (PLARD)
- District AIDS Task Force – Samfya (DATF)
- Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED)
- Catholic Diocese of Mansa – Home Based Care (HBC)

- ILO/IPEC supported partners: Jesus Cares Ministries, Multi vision youth development and job creation center, and Fibale Community Organization.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- WorldFish Center

The facilitator agreed to collect and compile an overview document with organizational profiles of all participating agencies to the Roundtable. This can serve as a reference document and will be up-dates as and when other agencies join this network.

Issues identified in Luapula fishing communities

On the basis of the presentations and discussions, the meeting identified some key health and social development issues that in Luapula fishing communities. While these issues vary according to the specific fishery and/or fishing communities in the province, the following table summarizes the participants’ shared understanding of the main issues.

Issues identified:	Details:
<i>Health</i>	
High HIV/AIDS prevalence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence in Luapula is rising again; • Fisherfolk among high-risk populations; • Poor access to HIV/AIDS related services; few mobile units;
Lack of health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service provisioning is intermittent and sporadic; • Health centers on islands; • In remote fishing camps no services at all;
Vulnerability to other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaria; • Schistosomiasis; • Communicable diseases, incl. diarrhea;
<i>Children</i>	
Child labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread problem in fishing camps; • Disrupts education and child development; • Security and safety concerns;
Child abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, mental and sexual abuse; • Inadequate protection and legal recourse;
<i>Education</i>	
Illiteracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For many years, poor access to schools and other educational services in fishing camps;
Low primary school attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing activities and mobility interfere with school attendance; • Costs of schooling are high for many families; • No positive role models to motivate families and children;
Girls’ education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have to change people’s mindset; • Lack of boarding facilities; • Early marriages and pregnancies interfere;
<i>Poverty</i>	
No path out of poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisherfolk maintain low profit margins; • Weak market position of remote fishing camps puts them at a

	disadvantage; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak organizational capacity;
<i>Gender relations</i>	
Prostitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread in fishing communities; • Rarely addressed as an issue;
Early marriages, teenage pregnancies;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families encourage early marriage; • General lack of social infrastructure and schooling add to this;
Marriages are short-term and multiple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No expectation of permanency in marriage; • Seasonal migration and mobility add to difficulty;
Transactional sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish for sex practices in many areas; • Weak business position for women;
<i>Fisheries management</i>	
Fishing ban imposes hardships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravates food insecurity; • Alcohol abuse, risky behavior are rising during these months; • Necessity of ban and other measures unclear;
<i>Mobility and migration</i>	
Many fisherfolk and fish traders are mobile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to target interventions; • Adherence to ART; • Introduces vulnerability and risk;
<i>Cultural barriers</i>	
Shame, silence and stigma ('s-factor')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to have open discussions on HIV/AIDS in communities and families; • Preventing access to services; • Lack of family planning and child spacing;
<i>Poor infrastructure</i>	
Poor sanitation and infrastructure in fishing camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowded conditions; • Poor site selection; • Contributes to diseases;
Lack of roads and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive to operate services; • Poor market access;
Lack of recreational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No diversion for youth; • Contributes to child labour, risky behavior; • Illicit beer brewing;

Challenges to address these identified issues in Luapula fishing communities

The meeting then compiled a similar table on the challenges that agencies are facing when trying to support fishing communities and to address the above issues.

Challenges:	Details:
<i>General</i>	
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of NAC, PATF, DATFs to be communicated, recognized and supported; • Information flow from/to all agencies working in this area;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting for coordination and unified M&E; • Need for coordination at all levels to ensure coherence of HIV/AIDS response;
Collaboration between agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still weak at all levels (national, province, district, community); • What are incentives and disincentives for collaboration?
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of who is doing what; • Availability of technical information and statistics; • Awareness of available resources and capacities;
Continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When projects stop they leave a gap; • No coordination to ensure that essential aspects are continued (through other means);
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions designed at national level without adequate local consultation;
Changing the mindset of decision makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government officers; • Local authorities, traditional leaders; • NGOs; • Political parties;
<i>Legal and policy</i>	
Lack of legal backing for decentralized structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DATFs; • Fisheries committees;
Placement of NAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current placement of NAC within Government makes it difficult to influence line ministries;
Lack of recognition of fishing camps as villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recognition in planning for schools, health centers;
Lack of policy framework for fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No national fisheries policy; • Implementation of amended Fisheries Act (2007) not yet started;
<i>Capacities and operations</i>	
High cost of operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remoteness, dispersal and mobility of target populations; • High costs of water transport;
Limited capacities of relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial; • Human resources (skills, numbers);
<i>Fisheries</i>	
Department of Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS not mainstreamed; • DoF keeps low profile, has limited capacity;
No integration of fisheries and health sectors at district or provincial level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No integrated planning and budgeting; • No service mentality;
<i>Community level</i>	
Weak organizational capacity among fishing communities and fish traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For social support to community members; • For economic advancement;
Lack of positive role models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For education; • For positive living;

On the second meeting day, the DVD film “Deadly Catch” (from Integrated Regional Information Networks - IRIN) was presented on HIV/AIDS in a fishing community at Lake Victoria. Participants discussed on differences and similarities between Lake Victoria and the Luapula fisheries. The WorldFish Center will try to make copies of the DVD available to all participating agencies, to be used as sensitization material in their work.

Way forward

To identify possible areas of collaboration among the participating agencies, and to plan for this in a structured way, the meeting agreed to have NAC propose a way forward and to take up their role to coordinate the response to HIV/AIDS in Luapula province, specifically in the fisheries sector.

NAC stated again that it is prioritizing Luapula province and the fisheries sector in the national response in 2009. The Mid Term Review by NAC showed that the informal sector was marginalized in the national response, so for 2009 there is much emphasis on HIV/AIDS workplace programmes, with a special emphasis on the informal sector. Since fisheries is largely informal, fisher folk and especially fish traders are a specific target group for these interventions.

The meeting was advised to work within the national indicators, and to use the NAC formats for reporting, to capture all the efforts and activities on the ground. Narrative reports on activities are also required. The meeting agreed that where possible, funding needs to be pulled together.

NAC has a work programme for a series of district meetings with private sector and councils in 2009; but no dates are fixed yet. Under the Mainstreaming and Decentralization Theme Group (Theme 4), the NAC has some resources to facilitate dialogue and to coordinate stakeholder meetings. NAC’s role is to coordinate, but everybody needs to be part. NAC has planned a private sector meeting in Nchelenge, where fish traders need to be targeted. They encouraged the Department of Fisheries and other agencies to participate. NAC has some funding to pay for the costs of people to participate in the planned district meetings (Luapula has 7 districts). This will be done upon request, as resources are limited, and this is to allow especially line ministries to attend, who often face delays in receiving their funding from national level. NAC agreed to give notice of its meetings a month ahead to allow councils, NGOs, line ministries and other participants to organize their funding and availability for participation.

The meeting agreed that local councils need to participate in order to capture planners at the departments, including DoF. The meeting highlighted that the DoF needs to explain the fish ban and be open to listen to the problems the fish ban is causing at community level.

The decentralized response requires local authorities (district level) to take the lead and to strengthen their role in the HIV/AIDS response. CSPR (Civil Society for Poverty Reduction), an NGO umbrella organization, would also need to attend such meetings. The meeting agreed that NAC will clearly communicate the objectives and target audience for the meetings, through the DATFs, so that it is clear who should be invited at district level.

NAC clarified that their Civil Society Unit is specifically targeting and organizing meetings with and for traditional leaders. They need to be aware of this roundtable meeting however, but do not need to participate. The meeting agreed that it would be important to try to involve area MPs in the issue of HIV/AIDS and Fisheries, to get leverage at national level, but also commitment locally.

After discussing these important points and agreeing for NAC to take the lead, the meeting summarized the key points that should happen in follow up of this first Roundtable Meeting:

- WorldFish to provide a report on this first Roundtable Meeting;
- WorldFish to develop and circulate a format for organizational profiles of all participating agencies, and to compile this into one reference document;
- PACA and DACAs to share the mapping of agencies in the province / districts;
- Efforts will be made (through the DATFs) to inform and link up with district planners;
- NAC/PATF/DATF to function as coordinators and referrals for related issues;

Planning for first half of 2009:

early February	NAC communicates work programme for Luapula
end February	First quarterly district level meetings held; coordinated by NAC
Last week March	PDCC (Provincial Development Coordination Committee) meeting; the PACA will report on the first Roundtable meeting and district level meetings to the PDCC
Mid June	Second Roundtable Meeting, Samfya; hosted by NAC (and DoF?)
Last week June	PDCC meeting PACA to report to PDCC on Roundtable meetings.
Last week Sept	PDCC meeting PACA to report to PDCC on Roundtable meetings.

The meeting agreed that the focus of this group is on HIV/AIDS in fisheries in Luapula. Other related issues such as child labour, education, etc., will be taken up by agencies working in these areas. These respective agencies will inform the Roundtable group of their work and all agencies involved will actively try to create linkages to improve success of interventions. The Roundtable group can identify issues in the field and bring to the attention of relevant member organizations.

Meeting participants agreed that the aim is not to create a new structure or institution, but to use the Roundtable to inform, coordinate and link efforts undertaken by a number of agencies around HIV/AIDS in Luapula fisheries. To strengthen this goal, the meeting agreed on the name of the group to be: *Roundtable Consultative Group on HIV/AIDS in Luapula Fisheries.*

The first Roundtable meeting was rounded up with closing remarks from the WorldFish Center and words of thanks to all participants and a prayer from the Catholic Diocese of Mansa.

Annex 1: Participants' contact information.

Roundtable Consultative Group on HIV/AIDS in Luapula Fisheries		
First Meeting		
Mansa, 29-20 January 2009		
Name:	Agency/organization:	Contact details:
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Annex 2:

Meeting programme:

Day 1:

Time:	Item:
8:30	Welcome & Prayer & Official opening
9:00	Self-introductions of participants
10:00	Purpose / background of the meeting
10:30	Tea
11:00	Agencies' profiles and activities (exercise) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main purpose and activities - Issues they come across in fisheries - Challenges for interventions in fisheries
11:30	Presentations of agencies' profiles and activities
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Presentations continued
17:00	Close of the day

Day 2:

Time:	Item:
8:30	Welcome & Prayer
8:40	Video "Deadly Catch" & discussion
9:30	Recap and analysis of Issues mentioned by agencies (from Day 1)
10:30	Tea
11:00	Recap and analysis of Challenges mentioned by agencies (from Day 1)
12:00	Examples of interventions
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Identifying areas of potential collaboration
16:00	Close of the meeting

Annex 3: Detailed overview per agency.

Activities, issues and challenges in working with fishing communities in Luapula.

Society for Family Health (SFH)	
Purpose and activities	<p><i>To increase the use and access of health related products.</i> Including condoms, Safeplan, Microgynon, Clorin, mama safe night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sales and marketing
Issues	Early marriages, high mobility of fish traders, concurrent partnerships, poverty, low literacy levels, child abuse, high numbers of divorce, commercial sex workers.
Challenges	Accused of promoting promiscuity and prostitution, high cost of use of 'love boat', safety of staff, insufficient funds for interventions.
Discussion and additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SFH follows fish traders to the islands, even the remote camps. They also work at night to reach people who are not available during the day. - Acceptance of female condom is limited; women themselves don't want to use them and prefer a man to use a male condom. - Female fish traders: their first sexual partners are male fish traders. SFH is working with both; free condoms are also available for those who can't afford the socially marketed Maximum. - While SFH staff is often accused of promoting promiscuity, their message is first of all ABC (Abstinence, Be faithful, Condoms). Their message is that condoms don't promote promiscuity, people naturally engage in sex and they need to know how to protect themselves. This message needs to be reinforced by further spiritual messages. - Marketing of condoms: need to look at what educational messages are needed in addition (e.g. for which infections do condoms provide protection and for which infections not). - High rates of transactional sex: perhaps condoms need to be the focus. - Reasons for high levels of divorce: no expectations for permanency, serial short-term marriages, early marriages, linked to low educational enrolment. - Child abuse: there is no legal recourse. Cases are often just being settled with money. Issue of child abuse needs to be targeted specifically. - The Love Boat is big and therefore too expensive to run. SFH goes out only once a month; there is need for more funds to reach the fishing camps and remote islands more regularly.
Mansa Chapter Network of Zambian People Living with HIV/AIDS (NZP+)	
Purpose and activities	<p><i>To promote the dignity, health and socio-economic situation of PLHIV, through representation, support and advocacy on issues affecting them.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and facilitate creation of support groups, enabling positive living. • IEC, community mobilization for VCT, PMTCT and ART services. • Advocacy, contribute to MIPA (Meaningful Involvement of PLHIV) all levels. • Adherence counseling • Livelihood opportunities (micro enterprises, distribution of beans) • Resource center (with online connectivity)

Issues	<i>Samfya, Nchelenge:</i> Few alternatives during fish ban (leading to higher sexual activities), lack of coordination among fishermen (difficult to reach them), lack of HIV related services, long distances to cover, few HIV sensitization programmes after MS left.
Challenges	Transport to reach islands, limited resources, distance to access HIV-related services.
Discussion and additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSF pulled out – no continuity of support to islands. - VCT, ART not available outside urban centers; high stigma levels in fishing camps. - NZP+ links with partners; DATF, Peace Corps. - Their reporting is not (fully) captured at national level. - In future: focus more on livelihood support and awareness raising. - Need for the DoF to be actively engaged. - No mobile ART service in Luapula. - All agencies feel the need to quantify their available resources: capital resources (boats etc), human resources; who is moving to fishing camps (for whatever purpose) – look at how these resources can be shared and made available to a wider range of agencies. - Support groups are important to ensure ART is being followed through. - NZP+ needs to be involved in all parts of the country to represent PLHIV through their chapters. - NZP+ Mansa currently has more female than male members; reflects the general higher levels of VCT among women. - Coordination at district level: information flows through regular DATF and partner meetings, but what about other aspects of coordination and information sharing.
Programme for Luapula Agricultural and Rural Development (PLARD)	
Purpose and activities	<i>To promote improved and sustainable income and food security among rural communities through fisheries development in Luapula Province.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable fisheries collaborative management; • Development of the fish value chain; • Fisheries policy and legislation; • Infrastructure rehabilitation and improvement (landing and marketing sites) • Mainstreaming of HIV in all areas of intervention
Issues	Lack of coordination and collaboration among relevant stakeholders; need to improve utilization of available resources across efforts, lack of awareness of the policy and fisheries act; including among staff of DoF, lack of capacity to enforce regulations; collaborative approach needed, poor infrastructure, fish for sex.
Challenges	Conflict of interest: illegal activities by members of committees. High post-harvest losses of fish (up to 40% lost?)
Discussion and additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How is PLARD dealing with HIV among staff? Workplace policy is being developed. - HIV among stakeholders? Realize the vulnerability of target groups; mainstreaming is now being taken up, but no specific activities; want to work with CBOs on HIV/AIDS in target communities; utilizing already existing structures Village Management Committees, Fisher Associations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Starting next week: inventory of all CBOs on HIV/AIDS in areas where PLARD is working (all of Mweru-Luapula fishery). The intention is to get them on board to provide capacity building for existing structures (f.i. Village Management Committees - VMCs). - Point of discussion: this is not mainstreaming; you are doing AIDS work which will add to PLARD budget and quality is not clear. - Current weaknesses of existing structures: VMCs just emerging. - During period of fish ban: how do you mitigate negative impact on livelihoods? Agriculture development to provide diversification. - Collaborative management: e.g. mosquito nets – all agencies have to work together (chiefs, VMCs) to help with patrolling; meetings at community level: not just DoF, but health department, SFH need to participate in the meeting – to get it away from a patrolling effort. - SFH works with CBOs to actually hang the nets in the homes – house-by-house. - Integrated approach needed: targeting individuals, targeting leaders to advocate for proper use, social support systems; policy and by-laws. - DoF: have they taken on HIV/AIDS into policy, work plans, budgets? It's a long process; PLARD wants to facilitate this change, but more allies are needed.
Samfya District AIDS Task Force (DATF)	
Purpose and activities	<p><i>To coordinate all HIV/AIDS related activities in Samfya district.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision • Monitoring & Evaluation • Capacity building • Resource mobilization • Planning
Issues	<p>Fishing communities are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS (fish traders from Copperbelt and Lusaka frequent Bangweulu swamps), child labour (families have moved to swamps with all the children, who don't go to school but have to help with fishing), lack of access to social services (no schools in swamps, expensive to reach communities, agencies shy away to provide services), high illiteracy rates, poverty (barter trade is common, fish exchanged for soap or chitenge, fish trader take advantage of remote locations, fishers stay poor), cultural views leading to shame, silence, stigma (s-factor).</p>
Challenges	<p>CATFs (Community AIDS Task Forces) have no resources/capacities; legal framework and policy needed to back up decentralized structure so that resources can flow. Accessibility; water transport much more expensive than land transport; agencies shy away.</p> <p>Cultural perspectives: difficult to have open discussions in families, communities.</p> <p>Externally imposed interventions: national-level design of interventions is an obstacle to success.</p>
Discussion and additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decentralization needs to be implemented; no clear perspective on how policy will be rolled out. Policy exists, but is not being implemented. It is clear however that national level institutions don't have capacity to deliver on the ground. - NAC is placed under Ministry of Health; AIDS remains a health-only challenge and it is a difficult and lengthy process for NAC to reach Cabinet or Parliament. NAC should be shifted to Vice President's office (as in other countries), as is

	<p>being pushed for by the Cooperating Partners, otherwise it remains difficult to influence budgets and Permanent Secretaries in other line ministries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a challenge to get information from/to a range of agencies; in principle, all agencies are ‘members’ of DATF, but that isn’t usually realized. For DATF / NAC to capture what’s happening on the ground is difficult. - DATF is under the District Development Coordination Committee (DDCC); any relevant agency can be registered under the DATF. - Policy needed to give legal backing to DATF and DDCC at district level so that reporting and comprehensive coordination can be implemented, this includes information on funding, budgets etc. – so you need legal foundation compelling agencies to share this information. - Clarification is needed on ‘coordination’ role of DATF. Challenges faced are that agencies by-pass DATF because they don’t know of its existence, DATF has no strategic plan because they don’t know their stakeholders, lack of an inventory of activities at district level to direct new initiatives towards priority needs and to strengthen and share technical capacity. - What are the benefits of having DATF? To ensure that the key players are together and to ensure that Zambia’s National AIDS Strategic Framework is being implemented. For instance, if the DATF is aware of the activities of the Diocese, they can be recognized as leading in HBC and a best practice can be disseminated. If NAC is aware of activities on the ground, international partnerships can be linked and directed to local efforts, a range of programmes can be better aligned and there will be increased local – national coherence.
Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED)	
Purpose and activities	<p><i>To promote girls education in rural areas (Luapula, Northern, Western Provinces).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMFED supports girls’ education; • Provide support to families to pay fees, uniforms etc. • Seed money schemes for school leavers to start IGAs • Tertiary education sponsorships (government colleges) • Training in leadership and enterprise; phased three-year program • Samfya women film makers • Child protection policy: awareness of child abuse in/through schools
Issues	<p>Poverty, child abuse, illiteracy, children don’t go to school during fishing periods (child labour), poor health conditions for children in fishing centers, early marriages (girls drop out of school for this reason).</p>
Challenges	<p>Changing people’s mindset, poverty (people can’t afford school fees and costs), insufficient boarding facilities, insufficient role models, teenage pregnancies.</p>
Discussion and additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Min of Education - CAMFED district committees (chaired by education officer); in all Luapula districts - At school level: school-based committee including parents, teachers, faith-based organizations. These committees identify needy children for sponsorship and support, in selected schools in Luapula.

Catholic Diocese of Mansa – Home Based Care (HBC)	
Purpose and activities	<p><i>To provide integral evangelization.</i></p> <p>Five departments: Health, Education, Pastoral, Economic and social development, Communications.</p> <p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health institutions • home-based care <p>Activities under Home Based Care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care and support to PLHIV and the chronically ill • CTC (static and mobile) • Food distribution to clients on HBC program; to supplement nutrition • Promotion of income generating activities for clients in communities • Outreach program for treatment and care • OVC support • Information dissemination on HIV/AIDS/TB/STDs • Provision of mosquito nets (ITNs) • ART adherence and TB support • Provision of chlorine to clients on HBC program; to address sanitation issues.
Issues	High levels of poverty, poor nutrition, high illiteracy levels, high mobility, population density, lack of recreational facilities, very few health facilities and difficulty of access.
Challenges	<p>Transport and accessibility.</p> <p>Nomadic type of life: seasonal, different types of mobility.</p> <p>Limitations in terms of resources: funds, human resources, skills.</p>
Discussion and additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Response from people to HBC is very positive: need for counseling, health services. - Fishing camps are crowded (islands e.g. Kanakashi), resulting in poor sanitation. - Caregivers in HBC: drug administration etc. Slightly more women than men. HBC also functional in fishing communities. - Nutrition support: important to see positive impact of ART, but the whole household needs nutrition support, not just the patient (who is often the breadwinner), which is very costly, Diocese cannot meet all the demand. - Select target households on need basis; but even then not all in need can be supported. - Referral system: Diocese does not have capacity to diagnose patients, but acts as referrals to health services. Diocese targets communities, not individuals. - Saving and Integrated Lending Community (SILC): groups are formed who will decide on their own rules and priorities. Members contribute money (K5,000) to a group fund which will be given as loans to members who use it for whatever IGA. The groups also have collective activities e.g. poultry, piggery, gardening. - Entrepreneur skills are a challenge – what about the market? Training in entrepreneur skills now being pursued; marketing is part of decision making on what IGA to start with. - Start-up funds: illness intervenes in follow-through with business plans.

ILO/IPEC supported partners:	
- Jesus Cares Ministries;	
- Multi vision youth development and job creation center;	
- Fibale Community Organization;	
Purpose and activities	<i>Combating child labour in fishing communities of Lake Bangweulu and Lake Mweru.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness creation • prevention of child labour • education support of OVCs • skills empowerment for youth • economic empowerment of caregivers
Issues	Early marriages, high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates, disruption of education during fishing periods, prevention of blindness.
Challenges	High illiteracy levels, lack of infrastructure, poor sanitation, few/no fish ponds.
Discussion and additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working through community schools; facilitate (re)integration into schools. Not institutionalizing them, but home-based. - Not that children shouldn't work, but it shouldn't disrupt education or damage their development potential.
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	
Purpose and activities	<i>To serve those in need targeting the poorest of the poor.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health: HIV/AIDS, OVC, HBC (Mansa Diocese), Education • Agriculture, microfinance, peace and justice • M&E
Issues	Poverty, low educational levels, high HIV/AIDS prevalence, high mobility, increasing engagement in risky behaviors.
Challenges	Low literacy; requires elaboration and specific IEC interventions. Barrier for development. Gender dynamics and roles; related to social structures.
WorldFish Center	
Purpose and activities	<i>To reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture through research-for-development.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional programme on Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: vulnerability assessments; business-based innovations for female fish traders; nutrition assessments; institutional analysis; • Policy development in fisheries sector
Issues	High vulnerability of fisher folk, high mobility (transient communities), gender inequality and violence, poor health infrastructure, fishing populations still marginalized in context of health and social development interventions, strong role of traditional leaders.
Challenges	Lack of policy framework to develop fisheries, Weak capacity and lack of collaboration for implementing programmes, Difficult to access relevant information and statistics re. fisheries (health, education).