

**SAMFYA DISTRICT POVERTY REDUCTION  
MONITORING**

**COMMISSIONED BY**

**CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION**

**WRITTEN BY**

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**9th July 2003**

## DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to the community members and local authorities who made it possible for us to conduct the monitoring and evaluation exercise in Samfya District in May 2003. We would like to express our gratitude specifically, the Local Council and residents of Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda communities. Their openness, willingness and commitment to inform, discuss and advise us on how poverty can best be reduced in their district was a great eye-opener to the monitoring team.

The note below must serve as a reminder to us as monitors, Samfya residents, civil society, the Government of Zambia and development partners that we all have a key responsibility and that it is:

*To make Zambia a better place for all, including the people of Samfya District in Luapula Province*

As expressed by Bana Chama;

*We have become discouraged and tired because people like you! You take a long time to come and assess how we live. It is true we are poor but you do not provide any form of tangible assistance – “starter packs” or “starter motors” for us to engage in some business activities so that we develop ourselves and live a better life like you! People have been making promises but nothing is being done. We are really suffering*

Bana Chama – Mwafuli Focus Group Discussion, Samfya District

# CHAPTER 1

## 1. BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Introduction

Every year, the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) network conducts a national poverty reduction monitoring and evaluation survey. These surveys are conducted in order for CSPR to establish the actual poverty situation on the ground. The information generated from these surveys is then used to inform wider civil society, Government and other stakeholders on the poverty situation in the country and what needs to be done. Since 2002, CSPR has been monitoring and evaluating the poverty situation of Zambia within the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) framework.

### 1.2 Study Objectives

#### General

- To monitor the implementation of poverty reduction strategies

#### Specific

- To find out the impact of the poverty reduction programmes
- To identify factors influencing the poverty situation
- To analyse the trends of poverty

### 1.3 Study Methods

The following tools were used in this monitoring exercise,

- The Now and Then Matrix
- Social Mapping
- Resource Mapping
- Flow Chart
- Transect Walk
- Gender Analysis Matrix
- Preference Ranking
- Institutional Analysis
- Seasonal Calendar or seasonal analysis
- Venn Diagram
- Trend Analysis
- Semi-structured Interviews and questionnaires

These tools were selected and utilised based on the following rationale:

- **Resource Endowment:** Visualise economic and social resources.
- **Trends in Poverty** - Find out what or not there has been change has taken place since the last monitoring exercise in the sites, namely Mwafuli and Miponda
- **Identifying influencing factors on poverty** – bring out issues that are influencing the poverty situation in these areas.
- **Poverty reduction strategies/programmes** – find out what type of activities are being implemented in order to address the problem of poverty in these areas.

### Respondent Groups

The monitoring exercise covered three sites, namely Mpanta, Mwafuli and Miponda. The selection was based on the following points:

- High poverty levels
- Miponda and Mwafuli were monitored in the previous exercise
- Mpanta was selected as a replace for Mbabala Island but has similar characteristics with Mbabala. The team could not reach the Island because there was no reliable transport (boat) available for hire.

The total number of participants was 246 and is broken down as follows (field data)

Site	Women	Men	Youth
Mwafuli	20	55	16
Mpanta	45	53	0
Miponda	16	18	23
Sub Total	81	126	39

### 1.4 Time Frame

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2003	Field Planning	Mansa
Morning	Questionnaire Distribution	
Afternoon		
13 <sup>th</sup> May – 15 May 2003	Mwafuli	Samfya
Morning	Questionnaire Distribution	
	Meeting Arrangement	
Afternoon	Meeting – Women Group	
14 <sup>th</sup> May 2003		
Morning	Meeting – Men Group	
	Meeting – Youth Group	
Afternoon	Questionnaire collection	
	Meeting Arrangement – Mpanta	
Evening	Recap and Notes writing	
15 <sup>th</sup> May 2003	Arrangements for Miponda	Samfya
Morning	Meeting Mpanta – Men and Women	
Afternoon	Transect Walk	
Evening	Recap and Notes writing	

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE
16 <sup>th</sup> May 2003		Miponda
Morning	Travel to Miponda	
Afternoon	Meeting Arrangements	
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2003		Miponda
Morning	Meeting – Men and Youth	
Afternoon	Meeting – Women	
	Transect Walk	
	Interviews	
18 <sup>th</sup> May 2003		On the Road
Morning	Travel to Mansa	
Afternoon	Break – Organise Individual Notes	Mansa
19 <sup>th</sup> May 2003		
Morning to Afternoon	Notes sharing and organising team report	Mansa
20 <sup>th</sup> May to 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2003	Report Writing	Lusaka

## 1.5 Study Sites

### MWAFULI

Mwafuli was selected to reflect the view of the peri-urban setting. This is an ancient village situated right in the centre of Samfya urban. At present, Mwafuli village consists of 600 households and has had about 5 headmen ruling with an average period of rule ranging from 40 to 50 years. Majority of the residents of Mwafuli village are engaged in fishing and agriculture. A few residents are in formal employment and private business. Only a few houses have access to electricity and piped water.

### MPANTA

Mpanta is located about 40 kilometres from Samfya central. It lies along the shores of Lake Bangweulu, at the point where the Luapula River breaks off from the Lake. Mpanta is the trading centre where fishmongers from the swamps and fish traders from urban areas conduct their business.

### MIPONDA

Miponda is located in senior Chief Mwewa. Miponda is a big village made up by 4 settlements namely Miponda, Chibose, Kabati, Poleni. It is located about 80km from Samfya Boma. Miponda is located on the plateau of Samfya district and is considered a “food belt” in district. It is a predominantly farming community.

## 1.6 Location of the district and its physical features

Samfya District is located in the south east of Luapula Province. The district is approximately 10, 000 square kilometres. The following are some of the key features of the district as obtained from the District Agricultural Offices.

### **1.6.1 Climate**

The district has clay and loam soils around the lakeshores and has sandy soils loam soils on the plateau. There are also dambo soils around the dambos. The weather is hot to cool and the district experiences heavy rainfall.

### **1.6.2 Population**

According to the records of Samfya District Council, the population of Samfya District is 170,000.

### **1.6.3 Ethnic Groups**

There are three major ethnic groups in Samfya district. These are:

- Kabende – in southern mainland and parts of the swamps
- Unga – in the swamps
- N’gumbo – North of Samfya and lake areas

## **1.7 Organisation of the Report**

This report is a compilation of site reports on the poverty monitoring and evaluation exercise undertaken in Mpanta, Mwafuli and Miponda catchment areas of Samfya district in Luapula province. This exercise was undertaken between 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2003. To monitor poverty, the team focused on the 5 issues namely health, education, livelihoods, agriculture with gender and HIV/AIDS as cross cutting issues.

The first part of this report gives background information on the monitoring exercise. The second part of the report focuses on the findings (results) of the monitoring exercise and is broken down into four (5) chapters on the major poverty reduction issues tackled namely agriculture, livelihoods, health, education and institutional support. Finally, the report gives a summary of the findings, concludes and makes some key recommendations.

### **Monitoring Team**

The team comprised 5 monitors. Four members of the team were came from the Luapula CSPR Provincial group and 1 member from the national office. The Provincial members were drawn from Church, private sector, women group and education

### **Limitation of the Exercise**

- Transport and Travel
- Limited time for planning
- Organising for Meetings
- Hesitancy by people to participate
- Inadequate Materials
- Limited Time -Frame

The monitors were only able to access official information on agriculture, education and district planning. It was impossible to obtain this type of information on health.

## 2 LIVELIHOODS

The communities of Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda have common main sources of livelihood. These are agriculture of crops and animals and fishing. There is also a developing trade enterprise, which is closely linked to the fishing business. In farming business, most households grow crops and keep animals for both home consumption and sale. The table shows the proportion (%) of what is sold or consumed when produced

**Table 1 The consumption and sale volume of major farm produce in Samfya District (Obtained from DACO))**

<b>Crop/livestock</b>	<b>Sold</b>	<b>Consumed</b>
Cassava	40	60
Maize	50	50
Ground nuts	50	50
Cattle	90	10
Goats	90	10

The communities have parted from “barter” type of trade to “cash” because they have to pay for health, education, housing and food in monetary terms. However, the common major constraint in relation to livelihood has been poor production (yield), huge production costs and low prices for produce. According to these communities, a combination of these factors has contributed to poverty.

There have been attempts to expand the base or source of livelihoods in these communities. The following are some of the examples:

### **Werner Farmers’ Training Centre:**

For instance in Miponda, the Werner Community Farming Skills Training Centre located 12km from Miponda community has been providing training in sustainable farming methods. These methods have enabled a few members of the community to engage in growing other crops such as maize and groundnuts. For livestock, the community members are now able to keep cattle for consumption and cultivation. But the Centre needs more support in terms of management.

### **Youth Resource and Skills Training Centre:**

There is training Centres in Mwafuli community targeting the Youth in skills development. The Centre called Youth Resource and Skills Centre is looked upon as an important institution in the community because it has been offering many courses such as nutrition, business management, thatching, carpentry and joinery. These courses are considered relevant to immediate practical livelihoods in Samfya.

Trade in form of small enterprise (stores, market stands, shops) is growing and is closely linked to local activities such as fishing and farming.

There is also a recognisable presence of formal employment in form of Government employers in education, health and local government. The major problem faced by this group of people in

terms of livelihood is low and late salaries. Most of them complained of bad working conditions and high cost of living.

A gender issue raised in relation to livelihoods is that women are mostly involved in beer brewing, selling of fish and groundnuts. They complained of suppression by their husbands, especially in form of misusing profits realised from such business as well as lack of financial support once they see that their wives are engaging in some business. The women also complained that livelihood activities are an added responsibility to their domestic roles. They also explained that they lack skills in trading and most often sell their produce at a loss.

This sector shows some shrinking signs especially when compared to the findings in the CSPR Baseline Survey in 2003. The major livelihoods seem to be narrowing down to two major activities selling of agricultural and fish. Activities identified in the baseline survey such as moulding of bricks, sewing, bicycle repairing, selling of thatching grass, basket making and hair braiding were not mentioned.

### 3. AGRICULTURE

Geographically, Samfya District is part of the Northern Province in Zambia. But administratively, culturally and socially, Samfya is part of Luapula province. Most of the inhabitants of this district are engaged in farming and fishing. Farming is mostly in form of growing crops and keeping livestock. Both males and females grow similar crops and are usually within the age range of 21 to 60 years. For livestock, cattle are mostly kept by males from the age of 40 and above. While it is usually the adults (both male and female) of the age 30 and above who keep goats and sheep. The female population seem to dominate poultry keeping.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Samfya district was implementing some poverty reduction programmes. These are the district food security, PACK under the Programme Against Malnutrition and the Rural Investment Fund. This ministry has also received funds from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. According to the District Agricultural Co-ordinating Officer (DACO), these funds have been used for the construction and improvement of infrastructure and the whole community has benefited.

**Table 2 Major Crops Grown by People in the Site areas (obtained from the DACO)**

Crop/Livestock	Men	Women
Cassava	4000 hectares	3,200 hectares
Maize	2000 hectares	1,650 hectares
Groundnuts	5,000 hectares	4,250 hectares
Cattle	1,7560 cattle	800 cattle
Goat/Sheep	5,420	3,900
Poultry	13,110	21,000

#### MWAFULI

Agriculture is one of the major economic activity in Mwafuli. Both women and men in Mwafuli are actively involved in farming. The crops grown are maize, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, cassava, sorghum, beans, rice, Irish potatoes, bambara nuts and finger millet.

The following were identified as the major constraints in farming

- Farming was tedious because people use hoes and family labour only. This limits the capacity to cultivate.



- Lack of credit and other financing facilities
- Lack of animal drought power
- Lack of farm inputs (fertiliser, seeds, chemicals)
- Absence of mechanised power
- Poor marketing opportunities caused by price fluctuations

### **MPANTA**

Apart from fishing, the people of Mpanta are heavily involved in agriculture. As in other sites, both men and women are actively involved in this sector. The main crops produced are maize, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, cassava and some traditional vegetables. The community also rears some animals such as goats, chickens and few pigs.

The following are the major problems faced by the community in agriculture

- Lack of finance
- Lack of access to fertilisers
- Late receipt of seed
- Inadequate seed and fertiliser

### **MIPONDA**

Miponda is considered the “food belt” in Samfya district. The community is actively involved in agriculture. At this site, we observed that all the groups, men, women and the youth were involved in agriculture for both consumption and sale. The crops grown in this site are cassava, groundnuts, beans, sweet potatoes, millet and maize. These are grown for both consumption and sale. The types of livestock found in this community are chickens, ducks, goats, pigs and a few cattle and pigs.

The major constraints encountered in agriculture are

- Poor prices for products
- Poor marketing and sales system
- Bad transport facilities
- Bad feeder roads
- Lack of transport
- Lack of access to fertilisers
- Limited farming methods
- Limited farming land
- Soils are not fertile (exhausted)
- Late receipt of inputs when available
- Lack of access to available inputs due to limited quantities

- High prices of inputs
- Lack of agriculture equipment and tools
- Poverty

**Table 3 Major Constraints To Agriculture Activities (Obtained from respondents)**

SITE	Miponda	Mwafuli	Mpanta
CONSTRAINT			
Poor prices	x	x	
Poor marketing and sales	x	x	
Bad Transport facilities	x		
Bad feeder roads	x		
Lack of transport	x		
Lack of access to fertilisers	x		x
Limited farming methods	x		
Exhausted soils	x		
Late receipt of inputs (seed and fertilisers)	x		x
Lack of access to available inputs	x		
High prices of inputs	x		
Lack of agriculture equipment and tools	x		
Lack of finances/credit		x	x
Inadequate seed and fertiliser			x
Lack of mechanised/animal drought power		x	

There seems to be no significant improvement in the sector since 2002. These were the same constraints identified in the previous monitoring and evaluation exercise (CSRP Baseline survey 2002).

But the District Agricultural Co-ordinating Officer (DAC) explained that Government was providing extension services to both men and women. The agricultural services were given to crop production, livestock, fisheries and co-operative development.

**Table 4: Services Provided to people engaged in farming by the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives in Samfya District (Obtained from the DACO)**

Support Service	Gender	Age
Credit (finance)	Males and females	21 years and above
Markets	Males and females	21 years and above
Inputs – seed, chemicals	Males and females	21 years and above
Infrastructure	Males and females	21 years and above

The DAC also explained the major constraints faced in the agricultural sector:

- Unreliable crop marketing system
- Unreliable agro input services/distribution
- Limited extension coverage/limited information access by users
- Inadequate sources of credit
- Poor infrastructure – feeder roads/storage

For these communities, most of the land is owned by men and only very few women own their own land. It is mostly the men that sell farm produce, especially when the market is far from the

community. Women are involved at the level of deciding how much must be kept for consumption and how much should be sold. Women also complained that the cases of men misusing money after selling the produce have become common. This was a major issue in Mpanta community.

## 4. HEALTH

### MWAFULI

Mwafuli has one health centre located right in the community. But this centre is not adequately equipped. The community wants the clinic to be upgraded to a hospital level because the current catchment area for the centre is too big. The centre lacks drugs, and the level of staffing is poor. Nursing and clinical care is poor. The attitude of the staff to the patients is also bad, especially to older people. One man in the group narrated how a nurse responded to him when he went to seek for medical assistance.

*Why do you old people want here, you are just finishing the few drugs we have in this clinic, just go home and let us keep these drugs for children*

The most common problems mentioned were malaria, cholera, diarrhoea, tuberculosis, chest infections, HIV/AIDS, dysentery, worms, scabies, small pox and sexually transmitted diseases. The respondents complained that it was not easy to get treatment for these diseases because the clinic rarely has medicines. For HIV/AIDS related cases, a lot of people prefer to go to the traditional doctors.

**Table 5 Show preferences in seeking treatment for the diseases mentioned above (drawn by women in Mwafuli)**

Disease	Home	Clinic	Grocery	Inganga
Cholera	2	1	3	
HIV/AIDS	1			
Asthama	1	2		3
Malaria	3	1	2	
Diarrhoac	1	2	3	
Disentry	1	2	3	
Worms	1	3	2	
Scabies	1			
Small Pox	1			
STDs	1	2		

The respondents also complained that water supply by the council was erratic. The water is not properly treated. This has forced people to dig wells. But these wells are not safe and protected. They explained that this was one cause of most water-borne diseases and the unhygienic living conditions.

### MPANTA

There is no health facility in Mpanta and nearest facility is found at Kapende Community People walk and use wheelbarrow to ferry the patients to Kapende. So for most health problems, the community depends on a traditional healer who operates from his home and is paid in kind. There have been plans to complete the building of the clinic, which was a window level by the time of monitoring.

The respondents explained that lack of a clinic has led to the following problems in the community,

- High death rates
- Lack of medicines
- Lack of hygiene
- Poor health

The main health problems mentioned were cholera, malaria, meningitis, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, diarrhoea, dysentery, sexually transmitted diseases, scabies and dental. The main source of water is the river. The respondents also complained about lack of access to clean water. The river was used for multipurpose – drinking water, washing bathing and a toilet. Most of the households in this community did not have toilets. The main reason given was that the toilets collapse during rain season. The community did not have wells too. The only well was found at the school premise.

## **MIPONDA**

There is only one health centre in Miponda. The community does not find the nearest clinic helpful because of the two main reasons. The clinic lacks required drugs and equipment most of the time. And when available, the drugs are inadequate. For example, the clinic does not have a maternity wing and lacks proper materials to handle births. The same problem was raised in the last monitoring exercise.

For emergencies, the community uses the phone services from the Agriculture office to contact Lubwe Hospital for transport assistance. There are intentions to build a maternity wing under Zambia Social Investment Fund, which will employ people from the community. The respondents also complained that nurses (staff) are also very cruel and arrogant.

The major complaints were that the clinical officer and the nurse report at 10:00hrs for work. Specifically, the clinic officer chases patients from the clinic especially the old and even insults people's wives. The community were happy with the work of the cleaner. They described her as a hard worker; pleasant and explained that sometimes she performs the role of a nurse.

The most common health problems in Miponda are malaria, diarrhoea, marasmas, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS/HIV, tuberculosis, coughing and fits. Majority of the people preferred to stay home. This was followed by seeking treatment from hospital (outside Miponda at Lubwe Mission), then clinic and lastly traditional healer.

The main sources of water are the river, stream and village wells. The cleanest and most safe water is from the river and stream. The respondents explained that water from the wells was not clean because it was stagnant and contains a lot of mosquitos. They explained that the river water is safe because it was always flowing, thereby carrying away all the dirt. Only a few households have toilet facilities and most of them are in a poor state. Many of these toilets collapse during the rainy season. Children are not allowed to use the toilets for fear of falling into them. So children are taught to use the nearest bush as toilets.

From all the sites, the common diseases are malaria, diarrhoea, Tuberculosis, scabies, coughing and HIV/AIDS. Lack of drugs and treatment were emphasised in this survey too. These were the same problems identified during the Baseline Survey in 2003. For this survey (2003), scabies

and malnutrition were not mentioned. From these communities, this is the general picture that can be drawn about people's preferences when seeking assistance on health problems.

**Table 6 Sequence Ranking Seeking Health Assistance**

Community	Clinic	Traditional Healer	Home
Mwafuli	1	3	2
Mpanta	3	2	1
Miponda	2	3	1

These are similar finding to the CSPR baseline survey of 2003. People in the study sites seem to prefer home treatment first, followed by clinic or hospital as in the case of Miponda and lastly, traditional healers.

## 5. EDUCATION

Under the Ministry of Education, Samfya district does not have any programmes focused on poverty reduction. However, the Ministry has received funds from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries' (HIPC) Initiative. These funds have been used to rehabilitate two primary schools namely Kakote and Mungulube. Kaishe Basic School has also been constructed using HIPC funds. According to District Education Board Secretary, communities around these schools have benefited.

According to the Secretary of the Education Board, there have been a lot of developments in the education sector in Samfya. The Ministry was now providing variety materials such as books (exercise books), science kits, chalk, pens, pencils, textbooks, and manila papers.

The following table shows the type of education facilities found in Samfya District.

**Table 7 Education facilities available (Obtained from the Secretary of the Education Board)**

Available	Type	Number	Levels
Infrastructure	Buildings	308 classrooms	Basic
Furniture	Desks	-	Basic
Learning Materials	Text books	Quite many	Basic
Transport	Vehicles	3	Basic
Communications	Telephone, fax	2,1	

The sources of funding for the education sector in Samfya are from the Government, BESSIP, NGOs, CAMFED, Barclays Bank, ZAMSIF, ADB, IDA and OPEC. Specifically relating to the monitoring sites, the Secretary to the Board explained that Samfya Secondary School received K122, 000, 000 for the water and sanitation rehabilitation project under HIPC. The project is still in process.

He also explained that there has been improvement in the enrolment rates of pupils. He attributed this to the new policy of "free education" and parents' commitment to educating their children. The table below shows that current levels of enrolment in Samfya District.

**Table 8 Shows enrolment levels (obtained from the Secretary to the Education Board)**

School level	Girls	Boys
Primary	12,341	19,747
Secondary	694	964
Total	13, 035	20 711

The Secretary of Education Board further explained that Samfya district did not have adequate number of teachers. The table below shows the number of teachers in the district and the Teacher/pupil ratio.

**Table 9: shows the teacher/pupil ratio (obtained from the Secretary to the Education Board)**

Trained/Untrained	Ratio- Teacher/Pupil
735/24	1:44

On the impact of HIV/AIDS on the education sector, the Secretary to the Board explained that it has had very devastating impact. He explained that HIV/AIDS has affected the staffing levels as many teachers have died.

He further complained that HIV/AIDS has also damaged the image of the education system especially at Secondary level where the sector continues to lose promising and productive citizens of the country.

On major constraints in the sector, the Secretary mentioned lack of accommodation for staff, desks for pupils, inadequate staffing levels, unmotivated staff, and low enrolment levels in some schools, poor infrastructure and high poverty levels.

## **MWAFULI**

There are two schools in Mwafuli namely Chibolya Basic School and Samfya Secondary School. At both schools, some are trained but others are untrained. In Mwafuli, members of the community were happy with the introduction of “free education policy.” However they had major complaints such as;

- The books given to pupils are not enough. So parents are forced to buy books.
- There are still substantial costs incurred under the Parents’ Teachers’ Association (P.T.A). Respondents who sent children to Chibolya Basic School raised this issue. They explained that all parents or guardians were expected to pay K40, 000 per child each year as contribution to the Security Guard’s salary and electricity bill.

But one parent had this complaint

*How can we paying electricity bills for a school that does not have night classes because all our children came back by afternoon. So who uses lights at night? The school does not cook food for our children during the day, so which electricity bill am I paying for*

Another person in the group responded: *It is the electricity bill for teachers.*

One major inhibiting factor in education mentioned was the attitude of the teachers to their work. The respondents complained that most teaching were paying more attention to “tuition” than usual teaching sessions. Most teachers were also missing a lot of classes. Parents and

guardians were concerned about the number of times their children were turned back because “the teacher has not come.” Teachers were spending most of the time drinking in the villages or on business trips.

Another inhibiting factor was the role of parents. The respondents explained that some parents were still pulling their children from school into marriages (girls) and into fishing (boys). This problem has been worsened by lack of employment and absence of role models in the communities. Most parents find school a waste of time because Mwafuli has a lot of school leavers who cannot find employment. Most parents ask this question “what is the use?”

The youth respondents explained that female students still faced a disadvantage in comparison to male students. They explained that this was worse for female students who attended day school. The girls have an overload of housework and usually come to school late or tired.

The youth also complained that parents and guardians were still marrying off the girls at an early age. The issue of pregnancies were also common among school going girls. Most of them left school and got married.

Others stayed at home or went into the streets. None of the Youth respondents had ever heard of the “go back to school” policy.

The respondents had the following positive issues about the education in their community;

One major point of appreciation about the “free education” policy was that many parents were now able to send their children to school. It was mentioned that the Chief in this area has taken it upon himself to promote this policy. Parents who fail to send their children to school face punishment.

The role of the P.T.A was appreciated from the point that it had become a forum where parents and teachers shared information and exchanged ideas about education. For instance the sensitisation of parents on the importance of the “girl-child” education and the dangers of early pregnancies and marriages have been promoted through the P.T.A

## **MPANTA**

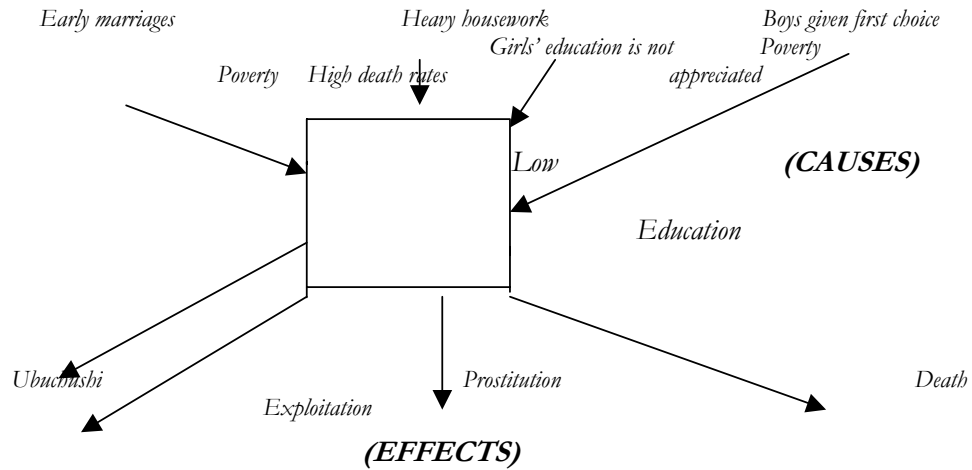
There is only one basic school in Mpanta. This school caters for the entire community and the surrounding areas. This school only has four (4) teachers and the members were expecting four (4) more teachers at the beginning of the second term. According to the members of the community, there were numerous constraints faced in education.

The school did not have adequate number of teachers. The teachers always ran away because life in Mpanta was tough. There are no social amenities, lack of proper housing (teachers live in the huts amongst villagers) no health and transport services. The school did have electricity and there are only 3 toilets to cater for the school.

Parents usually send their children to school but only a few go as far as grade 8 because parents cannot afford to meet the school requirements at this level of school. Only a few girls also go beyond grade 7 because of pregnancies and early marriages.

The community does not have any models in education because school came “late” to the community. This is worse for girls because most of them end up in marriages and the community only receives a few female teachers. These few female teachers fail to live in the community

**Table 10 Flow Chart on causes and effects of low education in women (drawn by women in Mpanta)**



According to the respondents, the relationship between the teachers and pupils is good. Parents and teachers also share a good relationship. The Parents' Teachers Association (PT.A.) was playing a key role in society especially in terms of promoting the importance of education children.

The respondents would want to see more girls become educated and get employed because women are usually good at looking after their parents, brothers and sisters than men.

**MIPONDA**

There is only one school in Miponda called Miponda Basic School (grade 1 to grade 9). The school has 7 trained teachers and 3 untrained teachers. This school caters for all the school going children in Miponda and surrounding areas.

The adult respondents' (men and women) major complaint was that the teaching standards at Miponda Basic School were too low. Teachers were cited as the main source of these low standards. They blamed the teachers for discouraging children from appreciating the importance of school and also producing poor results. They gave an example of last year that only 2 pupils passed to grade 8 and these were children of some teachers. The following were the reasons given for this view:

- Teachers were spend more time drinking beer in the village than attending to school matters
- Teachers usually reported to school drunk and in dirty clothes. Sometimes, without shoes or unpolished shoes.

The respondents also complained that school was losing its importance in Miponda because there was no employment for school leavers. That is why most of them are engaged in farming, fishing and marriages at an early age.



### **Case: Early Marriage**

Evelyn Musonda is 16year old. She got married in July 2002 to a man aged 22 when she became pregnant. She became pregnant in grade 7. She did not want to get married but her Uncle, who is a teacher at Miponda Basic School insisted that she gets married. Her mother was later informed about this decision and she also agreed. She is now a mother of Grace who is 7 months old.

The community also explained that it was good that parents were not required to pay for their children's school at primary. However, they complained that it was difficult for them to pay K15, 000 per term for the children in grades 8 and 9.

The main issue raised in relation to gender was that there was need to encourage parents to send their girl-children to school. The major concern was that cases of early pregnancies and marriages were still common in these communities. Men dominated the P.T.A and teaching staff.

The major and positive development in this sector identified by communities visited, has been the introduction of the "Free Education Policy." In the last survey, education costs and requirements such as books and uniforms were identified as some of the major constraints to sending children to school. The removal of these fees and provision of some learning materials has encouraged guardians to send their children to school.

## **6 INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

It was observed that these communities have little institutional support and community-based initiatives. Though the Samfya District Administration Report presented to the Provincial Development Co-ordinating Committee in 2002 shows a lot of activities by agencies such as Rural Investment Fund (FID), ROADSIP, CHIF, IDA, BESSIP, the members of the community were only able to identify a few from this list. The members of these communities easily identified themselves with locally based institutions such as the Church, traditional leaders and School.

### **MWAFULI**

Zambia Social Investment Fund: According to the respondents, the Zambia Social Investment Fund has been playing a key role in developing the community. The role of ZAMSIF was mentioned in the building of schools and roads. Some of the community members took part in these projects.

Chief: The royal establishment has continued to play a key role especially in keeping the community together. However, the members of the community complained that the modern society was ignoring the importance of this institution. They gave the following examples:

- **Beer drinking:** The Chief has been in the forefront of discouraging drinking beer in the morning so that people can concentrate on producing food but people have been ignoring him. Beer drinking has made most of our people lazy and has greatly contributed to poverty in Mwafuli because people are not working.
- **Municipal Council:** The Council no longer consults the Chief over important issues concerning the district. The members explained that the Council was giving out plots to

people coming from town without the permission or knowledge of the Chief. The Council was also getting taxes from the fishmongers but were not giving any portion to the Chief.

- **Assistance:** In the traditional society, the Chief was looked after by the people. People would give the Chief part of their harvest, fish and even clothes. That is how the Chief sustained himself. But now, the Chief goes around to ask for assistance.

Church: The community members appreciated the role of the Church in their community. They explained that apart from giving spiritual guidance, the Church has been in the forefront of providing training in skills such as nutrition, carpentry and farming. The Youth showed great appreciation for the social amenities and guidance in life services offered by the Church.

They community members complained about the following institutions:

Area Member of Parliament (MP): The community felt that their MP had neglected them for a long time. They complained that he never visits them and that he did not come back to inform them whether their development requests have been met by Government. They also accused the MP for exploiting the forest reserve in Samfya.

Councillor: For the community, their representative to the Council was failing to perform his duty. They complained that he does not hold any meetings with them. According to the community members, these meetings are important because that is the only way the councillor would know the desires of the community.

Municipal Council: The community did not see any benefits of the Council to the District. They explained that the Council was only interested in collecting taxes from fishmongers and allocating plots to people come from towns. They also complained that the council was failing to provide services such as tap water.

## **MPANTA**

In Mpanta, the community members complained about lack of support from agencies, NGOs especially those dealing in agriculture and women empowerment. They explained that because of this problem, the community was not united and thus was failing to develop. They narrated how other communities around the districts had developed because of assistance from NGOs. However, they were able to identify attempts made by some NGOs such as:

Programme Against Malnutrition: In the last farming season, PAM had given the “club” a few sacks of seed for distribution. Only people who belonged to the “club” and could pay K6, 000 were eligible to get the seed. Some members of the community complained that a few people benefited because the people in charge of distributing this seed were only giving it to their relatives. Others complained that men benefited more than women because they were the majority in the club. People wanted more seed.

Society for family health: SFH distributed condoms to villagers through members of the “club.” The members of the community complained that these condoms were simply “dumped” and people did not know what to do with them. The women complained that the condoms had contributed to promiscuity in the community.

Area Member Parliament: The members of the community explained that they did not appreciate their Member of Parliament. They complained that he had failed to complete the clinic building after encouraging the community to bake bricks for its construction. They also complained that he does not visit the area ever since he was elected.

Clubs: The community members explained that there was a farmers' group in Mpanta. The purpose of this group was to assist members of the community in farming. However, the group was dominated by some families and most these were men. The club was serving the interests of the community members especially the young farmers.

## **MIPONDA**

Wena Family Farming Skill Training Centre: The community highly praised the existence of this training centre. The centre was identified as the main source of farming skills and also farming inputs such as fertilisers and seed. The community members explained that in the past, the centre used to provide oxen for ploughing to the community members. The members explained that the farm was now facing some problems and so had cut off the oxen-plough programme.

Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM): The community explained that PAM had provided some credit in form of fertilisers. The community members were supposed to pay back in form of produce. They said that this kind of assistance was very helpful but complained that it came late and was not adequate.

Micro Projects: The community explained that Miponda Basic School was looking much better now because of the assistance given to the community through the Micro projects. Before then, the structures were in a very bad state.

Churches: The community explained that apart from giving spiritual guidance, the Church was playing a key role in looking after orphans in the community. The problem of orphans was growing because of high death rates amongst parents in the village. The community explained that most of the parents who died are those who came to the village from the urban areas. According to the respondent, grandparents who go for funerals to the urban areas come back with orphans to the village because there is no one in town to look after the children of the deceased.

Sub-Chief: The community appreciated the role of the Sub-Chief because he has been able to maintain peace in Miponda. They explained that the Sub-Chief has also been key to ensuring that people in the community worked hard to produce food for consumption and sale. That is one way in which the community has been trying to prevent severe poverty.

Fish traders: The community in Miponda explained that trade in fish was very important because it was the main source of employment. Many members of the community were feeding, clothing and sending their children to school through this trade. However, the members of the community complained that number of fish in most rivers and lakes has greatly reduced. This is because of bad fishing method (even small fish was killed) and poor enforcement of law during the fish ban period.

Neighbourhood Watch: The community appreciated the role of the Neighbourhood Watch especially as regards assisting people to access hospital services, maintaining order and keeping peace in the community. The community also explained that the level of crime was low because of the presence of the Neighbourhood Watch in the community.

**Table 11: Institutional Analysis**

Institution	Mwafuli	Miponda	Mpanta
Church	x	x	
Council			
Counsellor			
Chief	x	x	
Member of Parliament			
School	x		x
Clinic			
NGOs		PAM Micro Projects	
Any other		Werner Training Centre Neighbourhood Watch	

## 7 POVERTY

According to the respondents in Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda, more people are becoming poorer in their communities. To them, the rich people in their communities are those who:

- Have money for most parts of the year (including non-harvest time)
- Have brick and iron-roof houses
- Have a lot of livestock
- Have a lot of crops
- Have stores
- Can send their children to school without any problems
- Have good and strong toilets and water wells

And in all the communities, the respondents emphasised that the number of rich people is reducing at a very fast rate.

The poor people can be identified by the following

- Do not money
- Poor housing
- Inadequate food
- Poor clothing
- Cannot afford to meet their children's health and education needs
- Share or do not have toilet facilities
- Draw water from the river or lake for use at home

**Table 12: Wealth Ranking – drawn by a group of men in Miponda**

Category	Characteristics	Now	Before	No.
Poor	Poor clothing Have one or no meal at all in a day Live in weak and shabbily built houses Some do not even have houses Livestock Can not afford to go the clinic Inadequate crops and harvest Do not have excess products to sell Can not send their children to school Do not have toilets	*****	***	82
Medium	Eat twice a day Have houses build out of bricks but covered with grass Have toilets but weak ones Can send their children to school Can afford to go the clinic	****	*****	6
Rich	Have houses made out of bricks covered with zinc sheets Eat three meals a day – good food such as meat and fish Can afford maize meal Can afford to go to the clinic Can send their children to schools Have a lot of livestock and crops Have big farming land Have good toilets	**	*****	4

The following were given as the major causes of poverty:

**Poor agriculture production:** Exhausted soils and limited farming methods coupled with lack of access to inputs such as fertilisers and seed has led to low and poor production. Lack of support from Government in form of extension and credit services has also contributed to poor production. So people have little to consume or sale.

**Lack of employment:** Retrenchments and privatisation have robbed people a source of income. People need employment in order to earn money. This money can then be used to buy food, health and education.

**Low prices trading prices:** Traders from urban areas exploit people in rural areas. So rural people are always making a loss and thus fail to buy fertilisers or seed. They are also failing to meet their domestic needs such as food, health and education.

**Selfish Leaders:** Leaders especially MPs and Councillors are not doing much to develop rural communities. The leaders always rush to rural areas during campaigns to make promises, which they never fulfil, once elected.

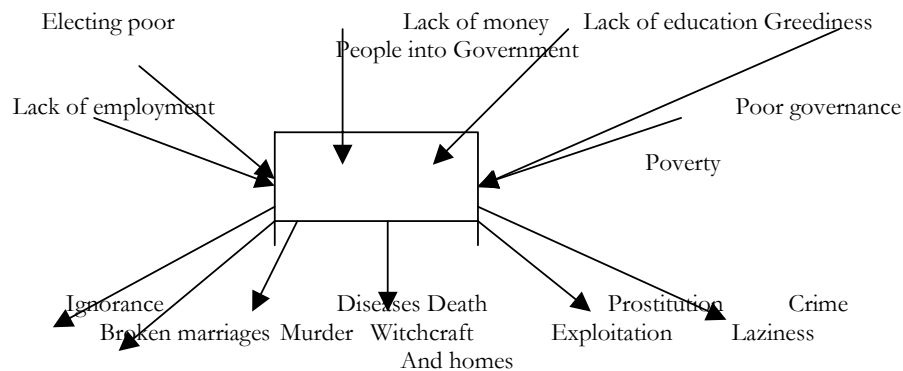
The table below illustrates some of the factors that people used to describe their worsening living conditions. They measure their living conditions using the following factors – education, agriculture, health, sanitation, water and poverty.

**Table 13 Now and Before in the living conditions of the people (drawn by a group of men in Mpanta)**

Factor	Now (Nomba)	Before (Kale)
Amasambilo (Education)	0	000000000
Ubulimi (Agriculture)	0	000000000
Ubumi (Health)	0000	000000
Ubusaka (sanitation)	000	0000000
Amenshi (water)	000	0000000
Ubupina (poverty)	00	00000000

The main issue identified was that people felt poverty as lack of “money.” Lack of money constrained people from farming, trading and travelling effectively. The major result of such a situation has been that parents have been failing to send their children to better schools and clinics. They have also failed to feed their families and this has caused a lot of problems namely destruction of family values as members resort to theft and prostitution.

**Table 14 shows the overall analysis of poverty as understood by the communities (drawn by a group of men in Miponda)**



## 8 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### SUMMARY

The following were the major findings of the poverty reduction monitoring and evaluation survey

Agriculture: This sector faces a lot of constraints that are impacting negatively on the economic, food and social status of Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda communities. There are very little interventions, especially by Government to ensure that expectations of the people are met. The major problems identified are lack of access to farming inputs such as seed, fertilisers and extension services. Where these services are available, they are delivered late and are usually in adequate. Support services to farming such as markets, good prices and transport are also missing. The general picture is that the situation in this sector is becoming worse.

Health: This sector is facing several constraints. Whilst the health problems are increasing, services to deal with these problems are reducing. Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda communities

are located around water sources in form of rivers, dambos, swamps and lakes. This make them easily prone to water –bone diseases. Yet there are no health and sanitation services available. The health system is failing to cope with the increasing demand from communities. In all the communities, drugs are rare and when available, are inadequate. Staffing levels are low and lowly trained. The capacity of health points to accommodate clients is small.

Education: Unlike the other sectors monitored and evaluated, this sector showed significant improvement. Both the service providers and the clients can see these improvements. The “Free Education Policy” was highly appreciated. The major constraints that seem to be affecting this policy are low levels of staffing in schools, low motivation to work amongst teachers and the attitude of teachers to their work. The workforce in this sector needs to be motivated.

Livelihoods: This sector is actually a combination of activities that form the sources of income and trade for communities in Samfya. Specifically, the people in Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda earn their livelihoods mainly from agriculture and fishing. They engage in trade by selling agriculture and fishing products for other goods and services. There is a small but recognisable formal and self-help employment segment.

Institutional Support: Whilst document found at the local authority office (Samfya District Council) show a lot of institutional arrangements and networks to develop the district, very little is found in the communities. There is little organised or significant community based initiatives in Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda. The major institutional support to these communities is the Church and traditional authority. The members of these communities did not seem to appreciate the role of the Members of Parliament and Councillors in their development and specifically poverty reduction.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the finding of the monitoring and evaluation exercise, there is very little being done to implement specific poverty reduction strategies in Samfya District. The reduction in poverty, specifically in Mwafuli, Mpanta and Miponda communities is insignificant. Neither Government nor civil society (organised and community-based) seem to be implementing significant poverty reduction strategies and programmes. Out of all the sectors monitored, namely health, education, agriculture, livelihood and institutional support, only the education sector showed definite improvement.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Agriculture Sector**

#### Government Support:

In order to promote the agriculture sector, improve the quality and quantity of production, Government must support the farming communities by providing

- Information – on policy, programme and available inputs. This information must be provided timely.
- Inputs – especially in form of fertilisers, seeds and ploughing equipment.
- Credit – especially in form of fertilisers and seed
- Market – create a sustainable and stable market for small-scale farmers products. This market must operate on fair regulations.

- Critical analysis of Gender issues in the sector: Government through the Gender In Development (GID) Department must ensure that the needs of the women are catered for as Government designs its policies and programmes. Government must also ensure that women are actively involved in all its programmes in agriculture.

#### Co-operatives:

Government must bring back the co-operative system. The system must be well organised and not manipulated by a few politicians. These co-operatives must operate as a basis for Government and small-scale farmers engagement. It is mandatory that women are members of co-operatives and also that they take up some of the leadership responsibilities.

#### Strengthen Extension Support:

To promote good and sustainable methods in agriculture, Government must strengthen the current extension service system. Extension officers must be motivated and equipped in order to assist the small-scale farmers effectively. These extension officers must be adequately trained in gender in order to ensure that they capture and address the needs of the women as they deal the general farming communities.

### **Health Sector**

#### Proper Drug Delivery System:

Government must put in place a good and effective systems to facilitate timely deliver the drugs. This system must also ensure that there are adequate drugs in the health centres at all times. Government must involve local communities, especially the women members in designing these systems.

#### Extension and Increase of Health Centres:

Government must extend some clinics into hospitals and also increase the number of health posts. This will reduce the pressure on the current few health centres in the District. Clinics that were initially set-up to cater for certain services and a certain number of clients are now stretched and are operating like hospitals. The health centres and posts must also be adequately equipped. Government must also ensure that health centres (posts, clinics and hospitals) cater for the special health needs of women and children.

#### Motivate Health Staff:

Government must address the working conditions of the health staff. This will boost their motivation and improve their performance and attitude towards their responsibility.

#### Promote Community-Based Health and Sanitation Programmes:

Stakeholders in this sector, namely Government, civil society and external partners must initiate activities that will promote health-focused activities. These activities must aim at raising health and sanitation awareness, HIV/AIDS, home-based care and treatment in the communities.



## **Education Sector**

### Motivate Teaching Staff:

Government must address the working conditions of the teachers. This is important in building a sense of responsibility and in improving their performance. The Ministry must also develop an effective teacher- performance monitoring system for teaching staff.

### Improve School Infrastructure:

Government, external partners and civil society must work towards improving school infrastructure. Rehabilitations, construction and repair works must be closely supervised to ensure that proper work is done.

### Develop Education Promotion Programmes:

Government and civil society should develop community-based activities that will aim at revitalising the importance of school in communities. Such an intervention is critical in order to ensure that parents and children become more committed to school. On-going programmes such as “role modelling” should be intensified in the rural areas. Government should send more female teachers to rural schools as well as ensure that more women from communities in school development projects

## **Livelihoods Sector**

Government Support: Government must show commitment to its people by performing the following duties. It is also very important that women’s concerns are addressed within the general framework of improving this sector.

Regulation: The local authority must play a key role of providing guidance on how this sector must operate. This is important especially as it relates to trade and activities such as fishing. Government must assist these communities to come up with economic and profitable prices for their commodities. It is also important to safeguard the fishing industry against over-fishing by reinforcing the fish-ban. The local authority must also improve facilities at the fish harbour using the tax received from fishmongers and traders.

Finance And Training: Government and NGOs must assist this sector by providing small and group credits and training. These two factors will assist in improving the operations and productivity in this sector. The salaries and training opportunities for civil servants in the rural areas must be increased. Ensure that women are participants

Improve Transport Systems and Communication Facilities: Government must improve transport (road, water and air) and communication facilities (broadcast, print and telephones) in the district. This will facilitate effective linkages to other parts of the country and will promote efficiency in information generation and dissemination. Specifically, improvement in transport and communication will facilitate trade and access to markets. Better transport and communication systems will encourage more women to reach market sources.

Employment Creation: Government must develop a strategy on creating employment in the rural areas. Apart from self-employment in small-scale farming, there is a need to tap and promote the potential human resource. Unemployment in the rural communities is high and this is causing a lot of stress on families. It will be solution to heavy drinking, prostitution and crime, especially among the Youth.

## **Institutional Support**

Promote civil society action: Civil Society in form of organised NGOs and CBOs must be set up to foster community action on development and poverty reduction. It is important to organise these communities around issues of poverty reduction, human and civil rights, good political and economic governance. Specifically, CSPR must strengthen its Provincial programme in order to link up with communities in more effective manner.

Role of MP and Councillor: Members of Parliament and Councillors must take up their responsibilities to facilitate development and reduce poverty in these communities. It is important that MPs and Councillors establish a reliable and mutual relationship with their constituencies. Specifically, they must sensitise their constituencies about development policies and programmes. They must also be constantly in touch with their people in order to share concerns and solutions to the challenges raised in the survey.