

SENANGA DISTRICT POVERTY MONITORING REPORT

COMMISSIONED BY

THE CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

Research Team

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1 BACKGROUND

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper is a national plan to reduce poverty and increase incomes for all Zambians. The PRSP plans to give all Zambians a chance to engage in farming, to get employment, or to start their own businesses. The PRSP supports better access to basic services, especially education and health. PRSP also focuses on improving infrastructure – like roads, water and fuel for all citizens. The PRSP adopted a sectoral focus and Government constituted working groups with a broad based membership, which included the civil society representative. The identified sectors were selected based on criteria that these have strong potential for economic growth or are critical for social development. These sectors are; macroeconomics, agriculture, tourism, Mining, Industry, Governance, Health, Education and cross cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, Gender and Environment. In September/October 2003 a baseline Senanga District poverty assessment survey was carried out by ZAMSIF in collaboration with Civil Society for Poverty Reduction. Similarly, in May 2003, Civil Society for Poverty Reduction carried out an independent rapid assessment survey as a follow up to the initial September 2003 baseline study. This document brings out the findings.

2 OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this research is as follows;

- To monitor the impacts of the PRSP interventions on people's lives;
- To come up with information and data for updating the PRSP; and
- To gather and assess community participation and perceptions of the poverty situation in relation to HIPC resources and the PRSP.

3 STUDY AREA

This research was done in Senanga district of Western Province. Senanga district is located on the southern part of Mongu the capital of western province. It derives its name from 'munanga' a Lozi term meaning extensive high bank'. The district shares boundaries with shangombo on the west, Mongu on the north, Kalabo on the northwest, Sesheke on the south-east and Kaoma on the northeast.

The district covers a total surface area of 14,954 Square km. divided into two main physical features namely the uplands, which include the forest and the low lands (wetlands), which has the flood plains and rivers such the Zambezi and its tributaries.

The district population in the 2000 census is 110,634 (52,821 being female) with an approximate density of 6 persons per square kilometer.

Study sites visited were:

Namalangu

A peri-urban area that is five Km north of Senanga Boma. People's livelihood is mainly micro small-scale medium business, livestock rearing, and cultivation. Social amenities available in the area are hospital, shops, two abattoirs, water taps, grinding mill, market and in Siite area an incomplete primary Health Care Unit.

Sinungu

This area has a poor road infrastructure and lacks a road transport system to connect it to Senanga or Kalabo. An alternative means of transport is the river and canal. Many residents depend on boats to ferry them to Senanga but this mode of transportation was said to have a lot of limitations and risks. The community covered in the study was Nambwae. The cropping area is available on both the flood plains and upper land. Main crops grown are cassava, sorghum and maize while livestock include goats, chickens and cattle.

Nambwae has one basic school, which is yet to go on rehabilitation funded by Zambia Social Investment Fund (ZAMSIF). It has primary Health Care. Mainly people's livelihood is fishing, cattle rearing and reed making.

4 MONITORING METHODS USED

The methodology used in conducting this research was participatory rural appraisal. The table reproduced below shows the participatory research tools used.

Table 1: PRA Tools Used and the Issues they Explored

PRA TOOL	OUTCOMES
Social Mapping	Visual representation of the area
Focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews	To explore all issues in the terms of reference
Ranking and Scoring matrices	Community identify, list, reflect on and prioritize their resources, constraints, priorities, concerns, etc
Gender Analysis	Explore differences and similarities between boys and girls, men and women's workloads in relation to various issues
Institutional Analysis	To analyse people's perceptions of the importance, relevance and effectiveness of the various institutions working in an area and the contributions they make towards the welfare of this community
Well-being/wealth ranking	Community members to identify well-being and wealth categories in a community. They also described the wealth categories and gave them their characteristics.
Transect Walk	As a research tool which enables the researchers to take note of the physical appearance of the infrastructure, natural resources, and agricultural productivity.

PRA TOOL	OUTCOMES
Flow Chart	There are a number of factors that influence situations in the society. Problems like hunger, poverty, farm yields or HIV/AIDS have their particular causes, which are often inter-related and influence each other. A flow chart explores these inter relationships.
Seasonal calendar or seasonality analysis	Explores changes that occur throughout the year in such vital issues as food security, morbidity. Labour demand, school attendance, incomes, expenditure and so on.
The “now and before” matrix	PRA tool designed to generate people’s perceptions of developments or deterioration on one or another aspect of life, e.g, food security, morbidity rates, farm inputs, etc.

The above briefly described tools are most ideal and effective in getting the views and perceptions of the people on the effectiveness of the interventions for addressing poverty and on the poverty situation in general and how it affects the people.

5 STUDY LIMITATIONS

The study had it several limitations in the context that the Senanga plain was flooded and it was so difficult to use the water transport. Respondents were also holding information indicating that they were tired of releasing information and the developments take so long to be envisaged. The period of the study was wrong, as most people were busy with their harvest.

6 REPORT ORGANISATION

The report bring out the findings looking at various sectors namely, livelihood encompassing agriculture, livestock, fishing, medium, small and micro economic enterprises and formal employment. The report then discusses the social sectors of education, health and water and sanitation. Cross cutting issues of HIV/AIDS, gender are discussed briefly towards the end of t he report as well as within the rest of the text. Finally the conclusions and recommendations are made.

CHAPTER 2

STUDY FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

1 LIVELIHOODS

A number of economic activities from which people obtain their sources of livelihoods in Senanga district were mentioned. The biggest was fishing and crop farming. Others were livestock rearing and small, medium and micro enterprises.

2 FARMING

Senanga district mainly has two types of soils – sandy and clay loamy. The rainfall has been good in the last two seasons except for short dry spells. The terrain is composed of stretches of upper land and a vast wetland (Barotse plain and Lui valley). The major crops grown in Senanga District are maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, cowpeas, rice, groundnuts and sorghum. Table 2 below shows these crops together with gender most concerned with their cultivation.

Table 2 Crops grown by Gender.

Crop	Men	Women
Maize	X	X
Cassava	X	X
Rice	X	x
Sweet potatoes	-	x
Cowpeas	-	x
Groundnuts	-	x
Sorghum	X	x

Source: Drawn by eight youths of Siite (Senanga)

While women are involved in growing all the crops men do not take part in growing groundnuts, cowpeas and sweet potatoes. Men are involved in maize, rice, cassava and sorghum cultivation. The first two are both cash and food crops. These are regarded women's crops. There is no specific age attributed to types of crops grown as youths work with their parents.

Diversification of crops:

In the past people concentrated on growing of maize but now they are growing other drought resistant crops such as millet and sorghum. Sweet potatoes are now grown in bulk as food security measure. Similarly cassava was mainly grown by the "Mbunda" people but now even the indigenous people (Lozi) have also started growing it. The seasonally analysis reproduced below shows that only cassava, sweet potatoes and vegetables are available throughout the year. The other crops are seasonal

Cassava, sweet potatoes and vegetables seem to be the only crops, which people have throughout the year. Most people are peasant farmers and therefore tend to consume more and sell less. The main crops for sell were maize and rice. Food security is prevalent with crops which were not meant for sell. The diagram above shows that only sun-hemp, cassava, sweet potatoes and vegetables are available throughout the year. The other crops are available only during certain periods of the year, especially from January to May.

Visual 1: Seasonality of crop availability in Siite

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Maize	x	xx	xxxx	Xxxx	xxxxx	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
P- Millet	xx	xxxx	xxxx	Xxxxx	xxx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum	-	-	xxx	Xxxx	xxxx	xxxxx	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cow peas	xxx	xxx	xxx	Xxx	xxx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cassava	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	Xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx
Groundnuts	xx	xxx	xxx	Xxx	xxx	xxx	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweet potatoes	xxx	xxx	xxx	Xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Rice	-	-	-	-	-	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	-	-	-	-
Sun Hemp	xxx	xxx	xxx	Xxx	xxx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Bambara nuts	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	Xxxx	xxxx	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vegetables	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	Xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx

Source: Drawn by 13 Women of Siite area, Senanga

Control and ownership of crops:

The crop production and income realized there from is mainly controlled by men, especially maize and rice. The other crops grown on small scale were controlled by women including the income realized.

Food Security:

There has been a positive progression in terms of food security, this season mainly because of crop diversification that included sweet potatoes and cassava among others. However, people still feel five years ago they had more food than this year. They further indicated that about five years ago people used to harvest 60 x 90 kg bags of maize. Meanwhile the biggest volume of harvest (maize) is 25 bags x 90 kg. The situation was worse for the people who live in the plains where the floods had adversely affected their food security. Most of their fields were completely washed away by the torrential rains and the floods. This was why the People of Nambwae said “**njimo ifelile mwa Senanga**” meaning agriculture is finished in Senanga. The people of Namalangu attributed the poverty situation to poor agriculture production

3 FISHING

Fishing is one of the major economic activities for people’s livelihood in Senanga district. However a semi structured interview (SSI) with the District Administrator (DAO) revealed that it was an area that has not received any funds from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) resources. The main area that needs funding was the refrigeration at the District level. Limited small freezers were limiting the volumes of the fish being sold out. Fishmongers transport the fresh fish to Lusaka. Hence the fish goes bad by the time it reaches in Lusaka.

A focus group discussion (FGD) with eight men in Nambwae, indicated that the area has plenty of fish but the industry does not make enough money due to poor water transport. Interviewees further indicated that prices of fish were determined by outside buyers and note the local fishermen. Therefore, They, therefore appealed to Government to improve on fish pricing policies.

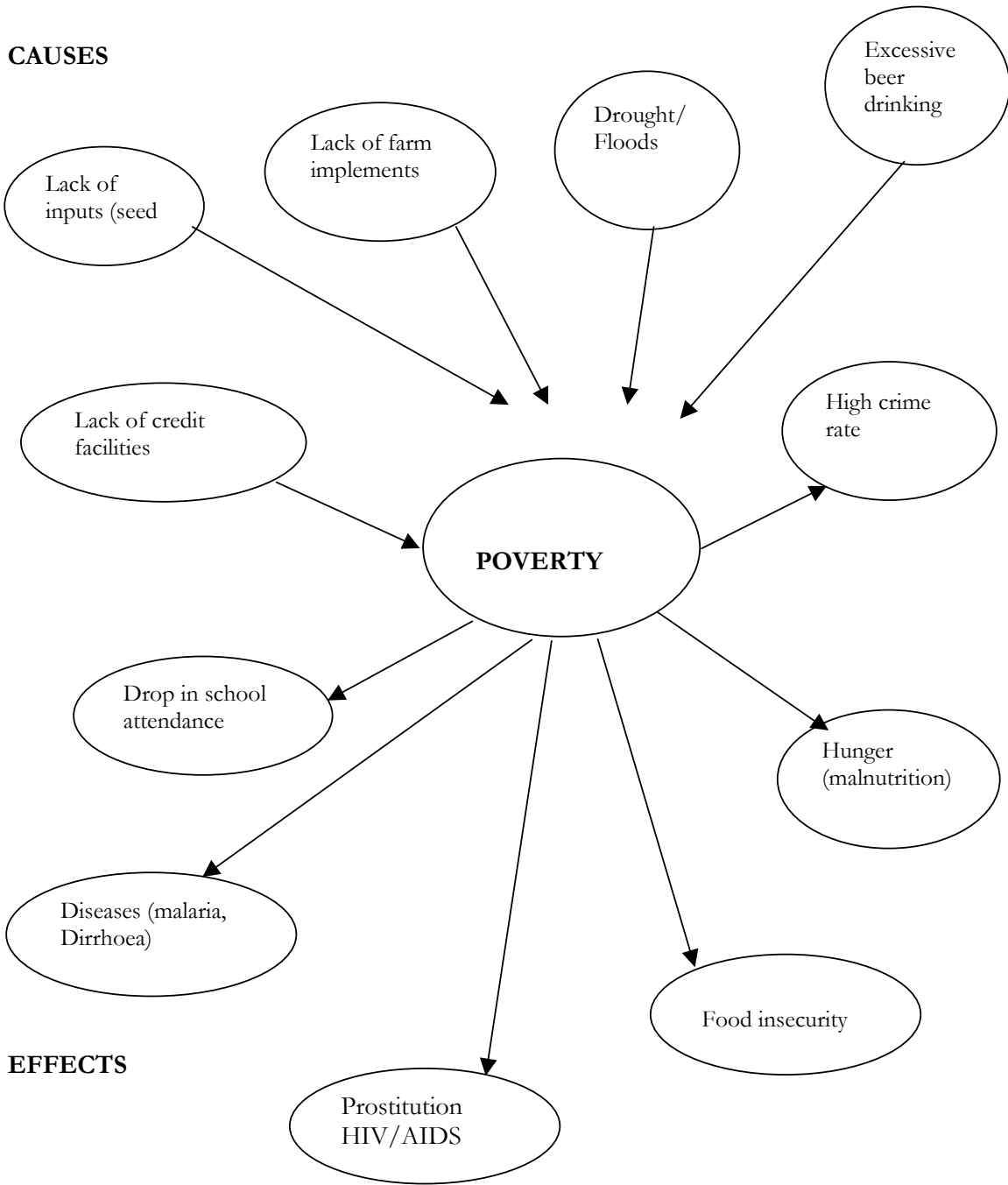
Poor proceeds from both farming and fishing was said to be the major causes of poverty in the study areas. Below are two flow charts exploring the causes and effects of poverty in **Namalangu** and poor farming in **Siite**

Flow charts were used to generate discussion and information on causes and effects of poverty. Visual 2 below was drawn in Siite study site.

Lack of farm inputs, implements and credit were identified as the three major causes of poverty. These are compounded by droughts and floods which periodically visit the area. Excessive beer drinking was also acknowledged as contributing to poverty since it withdraws people away from working in their fields.

In its turn poverty causes hunger and malnutrition. It brings about high crime rates; it promotes diseases, particularly malaria and diarrhoea. It brings about high crime rates and prostitution which lead to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Poverty was also seen to adversely affect school attendance.

Visual 2: Flow Chart showing the causes and effects of poverty

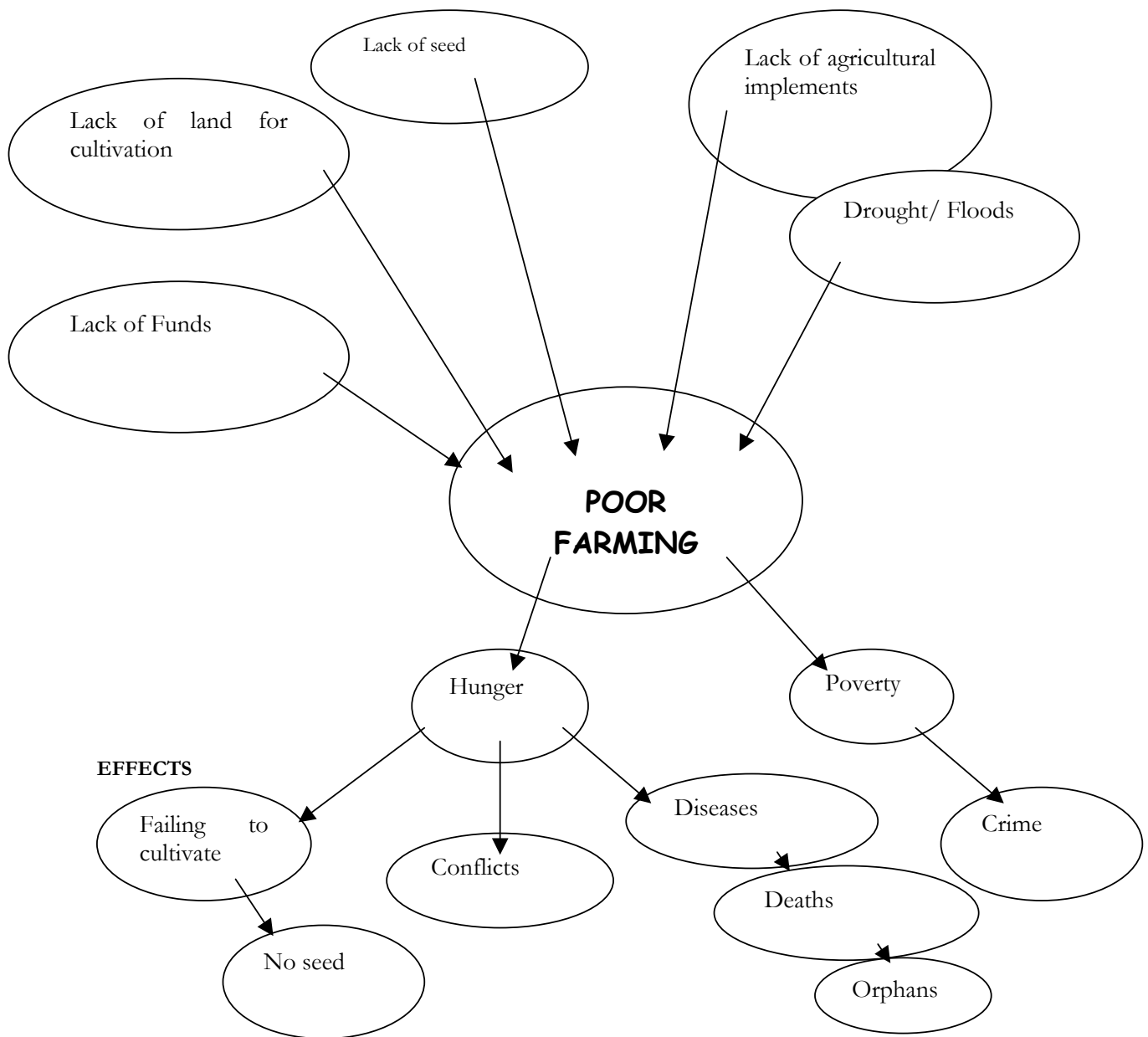


Source: Drawn by 13 Men of Namalangu

The views of the people of Namalangu were shared by those of Siite as the Flow Chart below shows. The chart explores further the farming situation which was said to be the major cause of poverty.

Visual 3: Flow Chart showing the causes and effects of poor farming

CAUSES



EFFECTS

Source: Drawn by six youths of Siite

As highlighted in the above flowchart, the major cause of low agriculture production in Senanga was due to floods, droughts and lack of agriculture inputs. An SSI with one of the peasant farmers revealed that “**ni salibelala mukamo mapulu hasa patehile, hakayo funamenaha mubu kele oma**”. Translated as “I wait for the agriculture equipments which I have to borrow, by the time I access them the moisture would have dried up. What is killing us is lack of farm equipment (ploughs, oxen).

Bad road infrastructure was also attributed to the poor agriculture production. People of Nambwae complained that they do not access fertilizer and seeds in time due to poor roads and the flood plains. Crop marketing too has been a major constraint. Outsiders dictated most of the prices of food produce.

4 CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT

Below is a trend analysis diagram, which is indicating high levels in food security this year as compared to last year. This was attributed to the massive seed distribution by Government and Non-Governmental (NGOs) such as Care and Oxfam in Senanga district during last farming season. Women of Siite feel that if this exercise can be enhanced, the food security will stabilize.

The value attached to education, the performance of NGOs and the quality of life in general were said to have improved since the previous year. On the other hand sanitation and the availability of farm credit had deteriorated. Other factors including poverty levels, access to information on markets and incomes and expenditure levels had remained the same. So did poverty and mortality rates.

Visual 4: Trend Analysis on key life issues

#	ISSUE	NOW (2003)	BEFORE (2002)
1	Food security	xxxxx	Xx
2	Poverty levels	xxx	Xxx
3	Levels of employment		
4	Income and expenditure	x	X
5	Performance of NGOs and other agencies	xx	-
6	Credit	xx	Xxx
7	Deaths	xxx	Xxx
8	Value of Education	xxxxx	Xx
9	Sanitation	x	Xxx
10	Access to information on markets, crop and livestock production, release and utilization of funds	xxx	Xxx
11	Quality of life in general	xxxx	X

Source: Drawn by 18 Women of SIITE

Poverty reduction strategies aimed at providing agriculture inputs for household food security was the notable strategy that people of Senanga recognized. For example, one respondent in Nambwae thanked those responsible for bringing in the inputs and wished the programme would continue.

It was, however, noted that other strategies like policies on crop marketing, land utilization and infrastructure development and trade- agric business have not been implemented in the district. If they had, then people were ignorant about strategies or rather they have not had any impact on poverty reduction.

5 LIVESTOCK

Cattle rearing is one of the major economic activity and livelihoods source of the people in Senanga district. The well being of a person is attributed to how many cattle he/she poses. Below is reproduced the results of a Wealth Ranking exercise which shows the categories of well being and their characteristics. The wealth ranking indicate that very rich people have a lot of

cattle whilst very poor people have no cattle. Suffice to say cattle are major agricultural input in terms of ploughing.

Visual 5: Wealth Ranking in Siite

Category	Issues	Score
Very rich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who have a lot of cattle • Those who have agriculture implements 	Xx
Rich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who have large portions of land • Those who able to take their children to school 	x
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who can manage to eat atleast 2 meals a day 	Xxx
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who do not have fields 	Xx
Very poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orphans • Without children • Without fields • Those without cattle 	xxxx

Source: Drawn by eight Siite youths.

However most people viewed the depletion of cattle due to diseases such as CPBBP, back leg and anthrax as a threat to their livelihood security. Communities explained that the disease prevalence has also increased their poverty levels, as in some cases; some families have been left without cattle.

The respondents in Nambwae felt that the Government has not taken the prevalence of cattle diseases seriously. An average one cattle is lost in a day. The respondents further indicated that despite informing the Government about the anthrax disease, there has been no intervention at all.

“ we cannot afford to buy the vaccine, we do not have any money hence we foresee a situation where our cattle is gong to diminish” said one respondent in Nambwae (Sinungu), in reference to the cost of livestock medicine.

The other concern that came out from all the sites visited was cattle selling, marketing and cattle rustling. Despite the proliferation of abattoirs in the area (Senanga), the price of cattle has remained low. Senanga has five abattoirs namely, ZAMZAM, Kembe, Twikatane, Halla and Fresh Trade. In all the sites visited, people indicated that the abattoir owners were buying their cattle at very low prices. Meat is sold at K3, 000 per kilogramme (kg) to the abbatoirs, which they sell in Lusaka at K12, 000. This was said to be exploitation. The researchers were further informed that these abattoir owners determine the prices without consultation with the local communities. The coming of abattoirs has increased stock theft as thieves find it easy to steal and sell immediately to these abattoirs.

Changes and Development

Poverty Reduction strategies include animal draft power, techniques to reduce livestock diseases and increased livestock production. However, there has been very little impact on this sector. Communities in Senanga feel the strategies have not been implemented ever since the inception of the PRSP.

6 MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

The major income generating activities in Senanga are fish mongering, makeshift shops, carpentry, welding, timber industry and cash crops sells.

In fish mongering the women outnumber the men. Mostly it is women who are involved in this exercise. An SSI with one of the fishmongers in Nambwae said that women walk very long distances in order to buy and sell the fish. Sometimes they walk long distances with children on their backs. *Tuntamba* (makeshift shops) are common in both the peri-urban (Namalangu) and (Nambwae) rural. The enterprises involve both men and women on equal levels of participation (a respondent of Namalangu Village”.

Constraints

The major constraints in carpentry and welding is lack of capital for improved tools, particularly electrical, this results into low quality products, which were sold at very low prices; hence low incomes were generated in this industry.

Timber production is one growing income generating activity in the study areas. However, the people in Nambwae (Senanga East) indicated that their constraints were lack of capital and bureaucratic licencing policies by the Forestry Department. The other problem was marketing which was restricted locally. The quantities of timber produced and income generated relies on the number of people building and constructing.

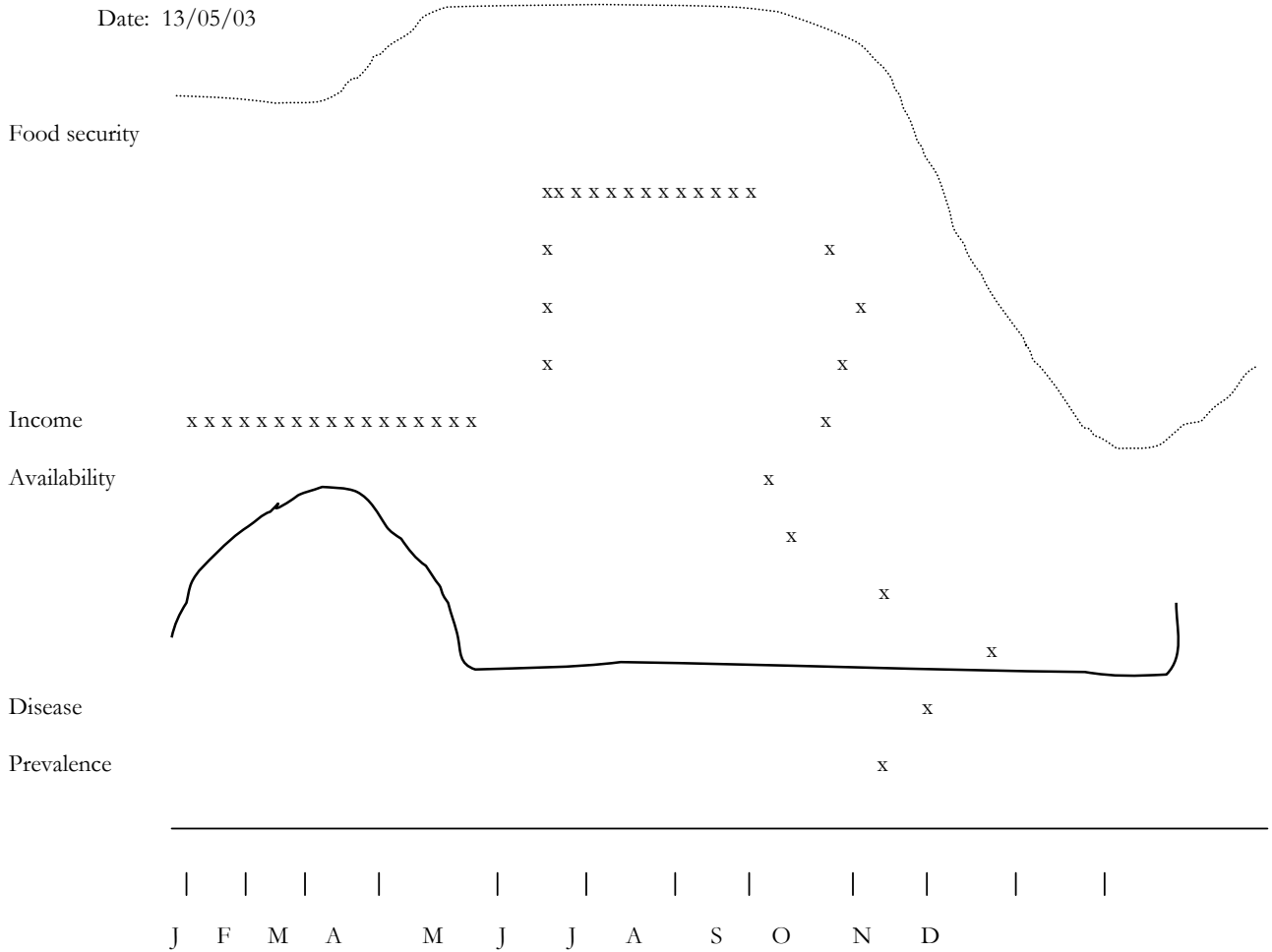
7 CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENT

Poverty Reduction strategies emphasize on small business as essential for poverty reduction. The strategies look at supporting technical training, business management skills, credit facilities, product marketing and provisions of necessary land/sites for various enterprises. However, communities in Senanga feel very little has been done in this sector. None of the above mentioned strategies were having an impact in the poverty reduction.

“Luna ma Mbunda aluna mubu, a balufi likoloti ba muso kakuli luba zwahuli”, SSI statement from a respondent in (Siite) Namalangu. The statement indicates that the “Mbunda” people were denied land and access to credit just because they are believed to be from Angola.

Below is a diagram illustrating the seasonally availability of income. The diagram indicates that people had incomes only between July and October, an indication that most of the micro small medium enterprise businesses flourish during the harvest period or rather when people are food secure. This is also the time when food security is at its best. However, a lean period is experienced between end of November till April when diseases are very common and incomes are low.

Visual 6: Seasonality Analysis of food security, incomes availability and disease prevalence



MSME

Source: Drawn by eight youths of SITE

8 FORMAL EMPLOYMENT

In the formal sector, the major employers are Government, NGOs, the beef industry (abattoirs), retail shops, guest houses and parastatal companies like ZESCO, ZAMTEL and ZAMPOST.

The proliferation of NGOs involved in poverty mitigation projects have enhanced the formal employment, though at a very minimal level. Similarly, abattoirs have employed quite a number of youths. However in Siite, most people complained that salaries from the abattoirs were very little to sustain ones livelihood. They said that the highest paid worker gets about K150,000.

The informal sector is the largest employer. These are in the areas of timber production, carpentry, welding, makeshift shops (tuntembas) and reed and mat making which are most common in (Nambwae). The transport sector is one area which is developing. In Namalangu) a group of men indicated that it was interesting that the youth were the ones accessing and owning minibuses and other vehicles.

CHAPTER 3

SOCIAL SECTORS

1 EDUCATION

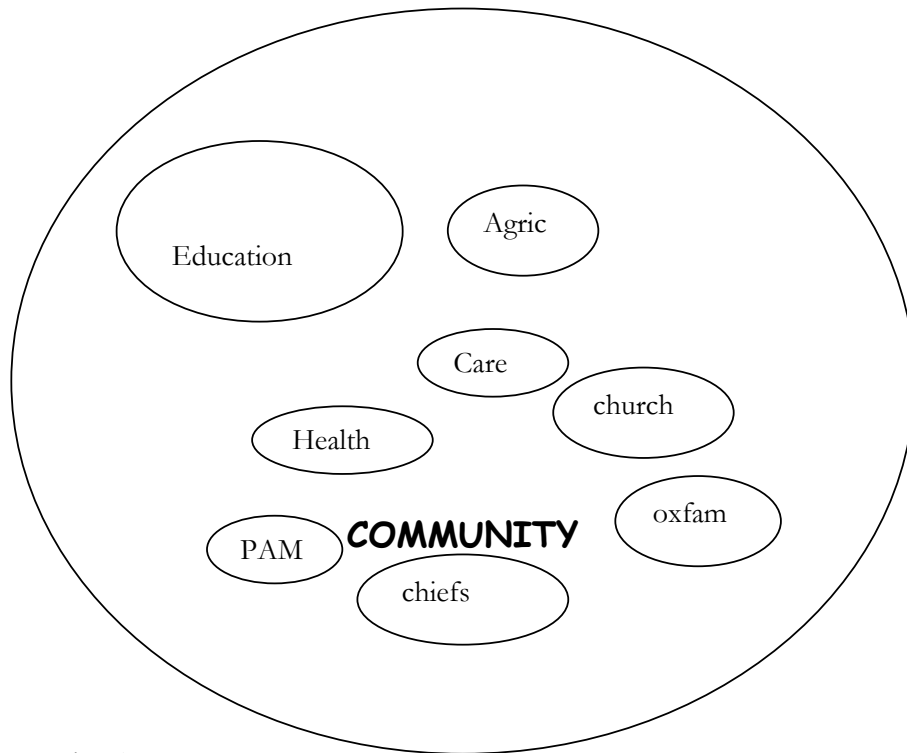
Senanga district has 72 government schools and 15 community schools. The distance of these schools from the communities is between 15 and 20 kilometres. The current enrollment of pupils in the district is about 22,000. Most schools in Senanga have poor infrastructure, inadequate teaching materials and inadequacy of teachers especially in rural areas. The district has a total of 529 teachers of which 310 are male and 219 female.

In all the study sites, the issues of access to education were translated in terms of school infrastructure, distance to school and poverty, while those of quality of education were expressed in terms of adequacy of teachers, classrooms and books as well as quality of teaching. The value of education is perceived in different ways ranging from its usefulness in helping the young people to obtain formal employment to just being able to read and write.

In **Nambwae**, education ranks as the most valued in terms priority as compared to other institutions. This is clearly shown in the Venn Diagramme drawn by 15 men of Nambwae and reproduced below. However, the school infrastructure leaves much to be desired. The community expressed dissatisfaction at the state of the school, which has not been renovated since it was built in 1971. Nambwae basic school has only three teachers, two trained and one untrained handling grades 1 – 9 classes. This inadequacy of teachers has led to poor quality of education in the area. Another issue of significance, which came out strongly in Nambwae is that when the Barotse plain is flooded, pupils who stay in the plain also stop going to school because there are no boats to ferry them to school.

Other institutions include the government departments of health and agriculture, the Church, two international NGOs, namely Oxfam and CARE International. The Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM) received the smallest circle indicating least importance.

Visual 7: Venn Diagramme showing the institutions found in Nambwae.



Source: Drawn by 15 Namwae men.

In **Siite**, the community sited distance to school and the cost of education as some of the factors affecting the quality and value of education. HIV/AIDS, which has continued to ravage many communities in the area, has resulted in the increase of orphans in the area and this has increased the number of the out of school children.

2 CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Government of Zambia's policy on free education from grade one to seven has somehow helped in that the burden felt by the community to pay school fees has been eased. This has resulted in an increase in terms of school going children. The school attendance rate has been further boosted by the fact that girls who drop out of school as a result of pregnancies are being readmitted.

In **Nambwae**, the school has received some funding from the Zambia Social Investment Fund (ZAMSIF) and will soon be undergoing a face-lift. This will include the construction of two by one classroom block, an office and two teachers' houses.

In **Siite**, a community school has been constructed and this has enabled the community to send their children to a nearby school.

3 HEALTH

Health issues in all sites visited in Senanga are perceived to be related to poverty and to the effectiveness of health services.

Health Facilities

Senanga district has 13 health centers and one hospital. Most people get services through periodic outreach services. Inadequacy staff, distance to health centers and lack of medicine in most of the clinics were cited as contributing factors to poor health delivery in all the sites visited.

Major Constraints on access to good health

- I. Understaffing of health workers in Rural Health Centres.
- II. Lack of qualified Health Workers.
- III. Long distances to Health Centres.
- IV. Lack of income to manage the health costs.
- V. Lacks of beds and cots in health facilities.
- VI. Poor physical infrastructure and equipment.
- VII. Non-drug availability in health centres, e.g., AIDS drugs.

Diseases

Malaria, backache, abdominal pains, diarrhoea, coughs, eye infections, tuberculosis (TB) and rheumatic fever were said to be the most prevalent diseases in all the three sites visited. Except for HIV/AIDS which is perceived to have remained the same as it was during the October 2002 Baseline Survey and for malnutrition which has reduced largely because of better crop yields, the prevalence and intensity of all the other diseases are perceived to have increased as the trend analysis done by the men of Namalangu and reproduced below shows.

Visual 8 Trend analysis of disease prevalence in Namalangu area.

Diseases	Now (2003)	Before (2002)
Malaria	xxx	xx
Diarrhoea	xxx	xx
TB	xxxx	xx
HIV/AIDS	xxx	xxx
Malnutrition	xx	xxx
Ring worms	xxx	xx

Source: Drawn by 15 men from Namalangu.

4 WATER AND SANITATION

Access to Water is considered a priority in all the sites visited. The major sources of water in Senanga district are streams, hand pumps, wells and taps. Sanitation is not really considered a priority. Pit latrines are not common in all the sites visited. Most people go in the nearby bush to answer the call of nature. Rubbish pits are also not visible in all the sites. Most people argued that it is not realistic to build a shelter for human waste disposal.

Health Constraints

Drug shortages and the fact that when available the drugs are very expensive deter people from enjoying good health status.

5 CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS

The district grants have had a positive impact on the health service delivery. For instance, the hospital has been rehabilitated. Part of HIPC funds were used for rehabilitation of Rural Health Centres. The general infrastructure of both the hospital and health centers have improved. The other factor that has helped in achieving some of the District objectives is the autonomy the district enjoys in terms of being able to make plans and implement health delivery services. There is minimal beurocracy, which is a recipe for efficiency

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector of the PRSP strategies focus at supporting WASHE activities where they are on going, and will establish new rural water programmes where none exist. The strategy further indicates that rural areas that do not have safe water and sanitation will be targeted.

Communities in Senanga East (Nambwae) said this was one strategy of the PRSP, which was visible and having an impact. They sited a D-washe project funded by UNICEF, which was under implementation with the participation of the community. The project involves construction of pit latrines, water wells and community sensitization in sanitation.

CHAPTER 4

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

1 HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS was sited as a real threat to human life and contributed greatly to the disintegration of social and economic life of the people. The HIV/AIDS situation, in all the sites visited, has increased household poverty and long term food insecurity. During a mapping exercise in Siite, respondents indicated that there are many households keeping orphans. One woman in Nambwae (Sinungu) had this to say “ most energetic and productive young people are dying or too weak to engage in farming. This has increased poverty in our area because we now spend most of our time looking after the sick children”. Community sensitization on HIV/AIDS was being carried out in all the sites but the impact of these interventions seems not to be bearing any fruits.

2 GENDER

Gender perspective on various issues such as access to land, access to income, decision making and access to credit indicated that men were in a better situation than the women. The latter were still marginalized. Below is a diagram illustrating key areas that hold back women in National Development. While men and women have equal access to incomes and credit facilities, women are very disadvantaged with regards decision-making and access to land.

Visual 9: Gender Analysis Matrix

ISSUES	MEN	WOMEN
Access to Land	15	5
Access to Income	10	10
Decision making	18	2
Access to Credit	10	10

Source: Drawn by 18 Women of Nambwae

The PRSP strategies look at promoting women’s economic activities through targeted programmes. The strategies look at strengthening and expanding women’s businesses by ensuring access to credit, training and market support. However, none of these strategies were being implemented in Senanga. 18 women in Nambwae at FGD indicated this.

3 POVERTY LEVELS

The monitoring exercise found that poverty reduction strategies have not reduced the poverty levels in Senanga District. Poverty can often still be seen in terms of poor health and low educational status. Limited access to clean and safe water can also be attributed to poor conditions communities live in.

The major criterion which distinguishes a poor person from a non poor in Senanga District, was whether or not someone has enough food to eat. Whoever ate less than two meals a day was described as poor. The poor people in Senanga were further described as those who do not have access to food production resources like labour, animal draft power, and farming implements, large fields. Ownership of cattle is another determinant of wealth/poverty in the district as

already shown in Visual 5 above. Communities in Senanga suggested that poverty can only be reduced if they were to access loans for acquiring the above mentioned food production resources.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. CONCLUSION

The findings of the monitoring exercise seem to point to the fact that people in Senanga are still adversely affected by poverty despite the PRSP Strategies. Similarly respondents expressed concern with the HIPC resources which they said were not reaching the target beneficiaries.

The information collected from the September 2002 Baseline Study when compared to the current survey shows very little activities and development tailored at poverty reduction. The respondents however, appreciated the agricultural input distribution for the last season, which has boosted the food security in the District.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Agriculture

Agricultural inputs like seed and fertilizer should be delivered before the rainy season, preferably between April and September.

Agricultural input distribution should be done without any corruption and nepotism.

Crop diversification should be intensified in order to maintain soil fertility and food security.

Agro-forestry should be emphasized as a cost saving and natural way to reduce acidity of soils. This will eventually fade out the traditional slash and burn *chitemene* system of cultivation. In turn, deforestation will be minimal in Senanga District.

Government should enforce the fish ban and effect policy measures on fish pricing.

Government should help the pricing of cattle by the abattoirs that are terribly exploiting cattle owners.

2.2 Health, Water And Sanitation.

More funding and support is needed in the D-WASHE Water and Sanitation Project in Senanga District.

Government should recognize the important role the water sector has in overall socio-economic development of the District and vest control of water resources in the people.

Government should support and accelerate the D-Washe project so that the activities could cover all the rural areas in Senanga.

2.3 Education

The BESSIP program, which is tackling issues such as infrastructure, staffing, education materials should be exposed to secondary schools.

Government's free education policy should be clearly defined and extended to secondary school level.

National literacy program should be revamped and revised to meet the current literacy requirements.

2.4 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise

Government should support technical entrepreneurship training in business management.

- Credit facilities should be improved by, among other things, introducing cooperative banks.

2.5 Other Issues

Sufficient funds should be allocated to road rehabilitation and construction in order to improve accessibility to markets, communications and transportation.

HIPC resources distribution should be decentralized to grass root level such as Neighbourhood Health Committees, PTAs etc.

There should be intensive education on HIV/AIDS and provision of ARVs in Rural Health Centres.