

DIOCESE OF MONZE

DIOCESE OF MONZE REPORT TO FAIRHANDELN ON 2018/2019 DROUGHT RESPONSE

Prepared by

*The Diocesan Development Office
Diocese of Monze*

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is to share with our friends of Fairhandeln on the effects of the 2018/2019 drought on the people of the Diocese of Monze. It is also intended to acknowledge and appreciate Fairhandeln's contribution towards reducing the stress caused by the effects of the drought among some members of the Diocesan Community. The Financial Contribution sustained 508 women, men, girls, boys and children of two Village communities in Monze District of the Southern Province in Zambia.

2. BACKGROUND

During the 2017/2018 crop production season, the Southern African Region was characterised with wide spread rainfall anomalies. Southern Province which is mostly the Diocese of Monze coverage area rainfall started late (in mid-December instead of either late October or early November 2017) and experienced prolonged dry spells in January 2018. As a result, overall crop production declined. The Crop Forecast Survey (CFS) estimated maize production to have dropped by 33.6%.

During the 2018/2019 agricultural season, the country experienced prolonged dry spells between January, 2019 and March, 2019. Among others, Southern Province (which is mostly the Diocese of Monze) was impacted negatively by the prolonged dry spells of 2019. Random crop assessment undertaken by Diocese of Monze Development Department staff in April 2019 revealed that 72% (estimated 83,654) households in the 13 Districts within the Diocese of Monze area had complete maize crop failure despite them having cultivated and planted fields averaging 3 hectares per household. This means over the past two years the communities in Southern Zambia not only do they have a household food security threat, but that also their livelihood asset base has gradually been depleted.

2.1. Indicators of the negative effects of the 2018/2019 dry spells.

- 2.1.1. An overt increase in numbers of people in the urban areas. Many young women and men left their Villages and migrated to town with the hope of getting some kind of employment for income to buy maize meal and other food stuffs which they then would take back to the villages. However most of them were not able to get the needed income due to very limited employment opportunities in towns.
- 2.1.2. Poor attendance in schools by school going children were being reported by school authorities in many of the rural schools.
- 2.1.3. An increase in the number of rural men and women getting involved in cutting down of trees for charcoal burning which has become a lucrative business due to an increase in the demand for a cheap source of energy. This further compromises efforts to deal with climate change and shatters all hope for improvement in rainfall in the years to come.
- 2.1.4. Scarcity of water for both domestic and agricultural use as most of the streams have already dried up increasing pressure on boreholes where such exists; *see pictures 1, 2 and 3.*

3. REVIEW OF THE CONTEXT AS AT END OF MARCH 2020

The period October 2019 to end of March 2020 had a lot of challenges because the effects of 2018/2019 farming season's drought had reached the pick. As already alluded to rural communities suffered from a critical shortage of food and water for both domestic and agricultural use. The shortage of water and food coupled with ever increasing temperatures contributed to livestock deaths. In trying to ensure they got something out of their emaciated animals, communities were disposing off their cattle and goats at very low prices; to as low as K450 for a fully grown cow / ox and K40 for a goat. In the meantime, where these were found, food stuffs' prices had gone up; a 25kg of roller meal was selling between K155 and K165 while a 50kg of white maize was selling between K210 and K240.

However there was a ray of hope as rainfall pattern was consistent. First rains were 11th to the 12th November 2019 and many farmers took to their fields as this marked the beginning of the crop season. The second rains were from 8th to the 9th December 2019. The second rains were a savior to the crop planted with first rains although some had wilted already. Third rains were from 27th to the 28th December 2019. Fourth rain were from 3-4/01/2020, the fifth and the best rains were from 7-21/01/2020. Dispite the damages caused to some infrastructures, these rains gave hope for some harvest at the end of the year as crops were now at tasseling stage. 4 in every 10 households interviewed were hopeful for a good harvest. Sixth rain was from 26 – 27/01/2020; February and March rains were uncountable and the crop across the Diocese was promising. *See pictures 4 and 5.*

When all hope was being restored, people's lives were now threatened by COVID-19. The situation though seemingly not real among the village communities in the Diocese is instilling fear among community members. Its effects are already showing:

- People's freedom of Movements has been curtailed
- Community meetings intended for their development have stopped
- There's a big test for Christians to worship God as large assemblies are no longer allowed
- Income among people is dwindling as their economic activities are being restricted.
- Generally there's pressure on the country's economy evidenced by increase in costs of goods and services.

4. FOOD AID ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

4.1. Food / Maize Purchases

The activity was preceded by identifying the supplier. Unfortunately the Food Reserve Agency would not sell maize to the Diocese of Monze despite them open to the public under the supervision of the District Disaster Management Committee. Therefore we ended up buying maize at ZMW 180.000 x 50kg from farmers who had the fortune of having had a good harvest. In this way 200 x 50kgs of white maize was bought *refer to Income and Expenditure statement.*

4.2. Food Distribution

4.2.1. Communities supported and Food Items Given

Community	Maize x 50kg	No. Households	Estimated No. People
Lukamantano Village	30	5	48
Miyoba	170	42	460
Totals	200	47	508

4.2.2. Number of beneficiaries segregated by sex and age.

Activity	Maize Kgs	Female			Male			Totals
		Under 18	Between 18-50	Over 50	Under 18	Between 18-50	Over 50	
Lukamantano Village	1,500	9	12	5	5	13	4	48
Miyoba	8,500	74	136	30	64	115	41	460
Totals	10,000	83	148	35	69	128	45	508

4.2.3. The Beneficiaries for the Fairhandeln financing were selected from:

4.2.3.1. Lukamantano Village is 17 kilometers East of Monze comprising 5 households for the handicapped people – *see pictures 6 and 7*. Lukamantano Village is one of the Fairhandeln’s water project beneficiaries in the Diocese of Monze. During this time of Food crisis each family was supported with 300kgs of maize.

4.2.3.2. Yet another recipient community is known as Miyoba, 15 kilometers South East of Monze town. We targeted 42 households who have also been part of our interventions on food security and strengthening Resilience against the effects of Climate Change. This food aid support enabled the community to sustain their already acquired assets through the Food security Project. The sustained assets included chickens, goats, cattle and pigs. These would have been untimely sold due to food crisis pressure. Retention of these assets are a recipe for improved livelihood.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

It must be noted that the Fairhandeln support was very timely. It would not have come at a better time than this. The Diocese of Monze represented by Bishop Moses Hamungole, Bishop of Monze wish all at Fairhandeln God’s continued blessings and protection for the rest of their lives. This generosity meant life to the beneficiaries. Therefore the support given has been equated to an act of saving life whose reward is immeasurable.

6. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	Details	Actual ZMW	Totals ZMW
A	INCOME		
1	Fairhandeln Grant	38,918.60	
2	Local Contribution Miyoba Community	6,800.00	
	Total Income		45,718.60
B	EXPENSES		
1	Food maize purchased 200 x 50kgs @ZMW 180.00	36,000.00	
2	Food Beans Purchased.	-	
3	Cooking oil purchased.	-	
	Total Food Purchased		36,000.00
4	Handling Charges:		
4.1	Transport DDO vehicles	2,200.00	
4.2	Allowances DDO staff	570	
4.3	Stationary	-	
4.4	Storage (loaders, Hire of scale etc)	750	
4.5	Transportation of food maize	6,200.00	
	Total Handling Charges		9,720.00
	Total Expenses		45,720.00
	<i>Closing Balance</i>		-1.40

Pictures



Picture 1.

A Drying water point normally known as a dependable water point by a community in Namwala District.

Picture 2: A fully grown Cow found dead in an overgrazed field and members of the community attributed this death to lack of drinking water.



Picture 3: Thank God the trees are still alive and yet this area is really semi-arid and communities living in this area of Chirundu District Rural setting had to cover at least 7 kilometres in search of water as their main water point had dried due to the 2018/2019 drought.



Picture 4: A visit to Muluwe community located along the Kafue River during the first week of March was an encouraging site.

Picture 5: An even encouraging image was taken upon visiting a community of Lukamantano Village in Monze in mid-March. This is a community of (6 families) the handicapped people who benefited from the Fairhandeln food financing during the period October to November 2019.





Picture 6: Maize Distribution at Lukamantano Village. First Distribution in October, each Family received 150 kgs of Maize and assorted snacks a gift from friends of the Bishop.

Picture7: There is one happy family comprising of father, mother, daughters and grandchildren. Appreciating their gift of food.





Picture 8: Miyoba Community receive their first consignment of maize grain in October 2019.