



Fast Facts

Country: Zambia

Duration: May 2004 to March 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNHCR; UNOPS

Other Implementing Partners: Zambia Initiative Programme Unit; Ministry of Home Affairs

Budget: \$1,201,020.58

Key Words: IDPs; refugees; agricultural development; poverty reduction

BACKGROUND

In 2004, the Western Province of Zambia was host to some 150,000 refugees from across Southern Africa. Many of the refugees had been born in Zambia, while others had fled to Zambia as long as 40 years earlier. Efforts had been undertaken to improve the situation of refugees in western Zambia, however, many of these initiatives had also generated unexpected friction

between the refugees and the host communities in the region. While refugees received support for their health, economic and food security, host communities living under similar conditions of insecurity often received little or no support from the international community.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Focusing on Kaoma, Senanga and Shangombo districts, the project sought to reduce poverty through a comprehensive approach that brought together refugee and host communities in order to improve the state of agriculture, infrastructure and natural-resource management in the participating areas. To this end, farmers were trained in improved crop production techniques, while a community-managed fund

provided critical agricultural inputs to both refugee and host communities. At the same time, the rehabilitation of roads improved access to basic social services, while the establishment of tree nurseries and the accompanying public outreach campaign on natural resource management reversed environmental degradation in the region.

BENEFICIARIES

Through building the capacity of over 4,000 farmers from both the refugee and the host communities, and providing the necessary facilities to increase agricultural output, improve infrastructure and strengthen environmental management, the project

improved the food, economic and health security of some 400,000 individuals, while strengthening relationships between refugees and the host communities.