

# SSAAP Quarterly Newsletter, Edition XXVI

## Autumn 2019: Zambia



*For Jim Clark, Dr. Dennis, Bill, Laura, and Phong ~ mastermind Engineers on this project. Could not – and would not want to – ever do this without you. The water wells we drill in Zambia are by far the most challenging SSAAP-program in Zambia. It takes tremendous patience, skill and knowledge to source water in Simwatachela Chiefdom. Thank you for your \*engineering brain[s],\* so different from my own \*artist brain.\* You have better-balanced me and I have learned so much from you. Thinking and thanking you on a daily basis while I continue alongside the local people to hunt for water in the earth.*

Greetings to All! I wanted to update you on the specific issues we have worked with in Zambia since the most recent newsletter I sent out (July 2019). Since this time, we have primarily been working with the widespread hunger issue, rampant through Southern and Western Provinces, Zambia, due to drought in Angola, Namibia, and Zambia. We have also been drilling SSAAP's 2019 water wells ('boreholes'), as well working extensively with the SSAAP Microloan Program in Simwatachela ~ our farthest outreach program which serves hundreds of people with small, interest-free loans. Thank you for your interest in our work!

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## *The Politics of Hunger*



The village – be it in Zambia, Sierra Leone, or South Sudan (via Ethiopian/South Sudanese border) – is the deepest thing within me. No matter where I am, the village is always there inside of me. I can't make it go away, no matter how hard I try ~ so somewhere along the line I just accepted it was the most valuable part of me as well. The village is a sacred place where people, unintentionally, make the most out of even the worst of circumstances, utilize every resource they have, and are generally *happy* despite their obscene struggles for simple, basic needs such as clean drinking water, food, and sustainable nutrition. Their attitude towards their own hardship has not only changed the way I see the world, but has given me the impetus to work for them for the entirety of the life. My respect for the people of rural Africa is infinite. The influence of their suffering in the village has made seeing food wasted difficult for both my daughter and I, or seeing people complain about food even more difficult. For this reason I take food to be a sacred material resource – because of what it represents to people all over the world. Food teaches us about a culture, and that culture's relationship to it. In Africa, food is everything. It shows Love more than anything else. The people always say: "If you love us, you will help feed us". People who barely have enough to feed their families will offer a visitor whatever they are preparing that day to eat without

even thinking twice. The people in the village will give you whatever they have; that is their nature. They don't hoard and they share everything. They own close to nothing and anything they have is used by the entire family: toothbrush, soap, clothing, shoes, blankets, dishes, pots and pans. And in times of excessive need, their strength, their power, and their survival skills are even more inspirational. I am touched by what I have learned this last quarter in seeing their survival through one of the worst droughts they have had in decades.

Since childhood, Africa has been my dream. And it is still my dream! Now that I am a matured lady, and I am living this dream, I realize the responsibility that comes alongside it. There are layers and layers beneath the surface of Africa: things they don't tell us, stories *CNN* and *Al Jazeera* don't hunt – because you can't get the stories easily; they require the task of daily life here, thus intimate connections of trust with local people that take time to build ~ cannot be woven quickly, or even through choice. They *occur*, are created on their own. I have always considered an intensely strong-point of SSAAP to be that SSAAP stays with the [local] people whom we serve, thus forcing Radiance and myself to become local people. The village people serve us, we serve them. SSAAP's Newsletters are all stained with essentially the same theme: *were it not for the people we stay with in the village, then never could we have stayed so long here. They have made our life in Africa possible.*

Thus, we are loyal to the people in the remote areas of Africa first: the most destitute, those who are hit hardest with issues of draught, hunger, poor or no water, dark politics, tribalism, etc. I find people living in the village areas, on the whole, more pleasurable to work with than Africans in cities or towns as the village people are full of humility. They are open to learning, to new ideas, and are a wealth of wisdom that is their own. Our loyalty, energy, strength of body, mind, and heart go out to them.

Radiance (my daughter, age 9) and I arrived in Zambia on 16 April 2019. We were told by the taxi driver who collected us at the airport that Southern Province (where we stay, where Simwatachela Chiefdom is located) had had no rainfall the previous rainy season, that there would be starvation this year (2019/2020) and that the people were already hungry. I went home and saw for my own



eyes this:

*Butala*. Structure made to house maize: staple food of Zambia. Most years, a typical family has 2-3 *yatala* (plural of *butala*) on their compound, full of maize starting after the harvest (April), the supply

dwindling until the following year's harvest. This year, when I arrived home to the village *in April* I found the family I stay with had *butala* about 1/16<sup>th</sup> full of maize. I had my fingers crossed that perhaps this wasn't every family in the Chiefdom's situation. What I came to see was that my host family's situation mirrored every family I knew of within Simwatachela: literally no maize this year.

For this reason, I decided to join the Red Cross in May 2019, in hopes that when the relief food (*cifuli-fuli* in ciTonga) arrived, having no idea that *it isn't going to arrive at all* due to what I would term 'obscene corruption.' I had no idea in May 2019 that the Tonga tribe of Southern Province, the Toka Leya tribe of the Zambezi River, and the Lozi tribe of Western Province were being **intentionally starved**.

I decided back in May 2019 to try different channels for the situation. As the months have progressed, and the situation has worsened, my channels have become deeper and more intricate: a complex root system beneath the earth of a tree I hope will one day bear fruit.

Thus this newsletter is a synopsis of SSAAP's hunt for relief food and the reasons why each channel has failed despite SSAAP's constant and consistent attempts with each venue.

### *Channel #1: SSAAP in Partnership with The Red Cross of Zambia*



I was invited to join the Zambian Red Cross to partner SSAAP with the Red Cross, specifically for food relief distribution during this year of hardship. This year the Red Cross is assisting with food relief. The last time the starvation situation was this extreme was in 2005: my middle-year of Peace Corps service. Even then the food relief distribution process was political – many families that

qualify are not served –and so the President of the Red Cross for Southern Province, Zambia asked me to join to ensure fairness and equanimity are present during the distribution process. The members nominated me to be the Financial Manager for Southern Province. As I am quite busy with SSAAP endeavors, I told them I would attend one meeting out of five as I do not wish to over-commit myself.

Above, left: Heather addressing the Society during a meeting. Above right: the President of Southern Province: Mr. Obert Moonga of Luyaba Community.



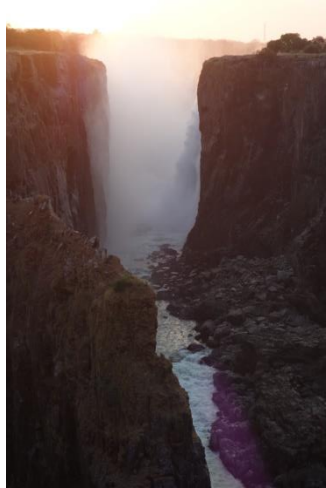
Red Cross meeting in mid-June, 2019, in our community.

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Little did I know that when I joined the Red Cross they would end up asking SSAAP to help them find relief food months later. The Provincial Director as well as the President of Red Cross of Southern Province have been calling and texting me, asking me how far I have gotten with finding relief food. I told them I have done everything in my power to push this programme forward, but at the highest levels of the government the relief food is intentionally being blocked.

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## **Channel #2: Chance meeting with people who work with the UN (United Nations)**



In Livingstone, I conduct most of my business meetings at the base of Victoria Falls; there is a hike down the gorge, then a series of small waterfalls at the base of the gorge that tumbles out into the Zambezi River.



Hiking up the gorge one July afternoon on a visit to Livingstone, we were fortunate enough to meet three men working for the United Nations: one Nigerian man, and two Zambians. We exchanged details and one of the Zambian men who is posted in Mongu, Western Province, Zambia, kept in touch with me very specifically in regards to hunger aid. He reported to me that Western Province is in just as dire straits as Southern Province, and that the Draught Belt actually stretched from Angola through Namibia and into Western/Southern Province, Zambia.

He put me in touch with a man working for the WHO: *World Health Organisation* based in Burundi in hopes of that man getting me in touch with the Disaster Relief sect of the UN. The man in Burundi gave me bad news: that all channels in regards to food relief/food distribution must be approved by the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (*DMMU*) of the Zambian government, which is a direct department under the Vice President of Zambia, and that without approval of the DMMU, no relief food could be distributed in the Province. Failure to heed to this would cause great problems for me, as well as my project in Zambia, he warned me.

The WHO worker in Burundi also informed me that without the declaration of a National Disaster or a State of Emergency by the Zambian President, no large-scale relief food could be distributed: through USAID, through UKAID, UN-WFP (UN's World Food Programme), or any other international aid organisation. I asked him if, on a small-scale, I purchased bags of *busu*: maize meal powder used to cook our staple food *n'shima*, I could distribute the food myself if I hired my own vehicle and used the guest house on my compound as a storage shed for the relief food. He said he wasn't sure about that but he would get back to me.

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### *Channel #3: Truck driver traveling to Durban, South Africa*



Radiance and I met George (pictured above) while we were hitchhiking from Kalomo (town nearest to our village) to Livingstone to meet our partners for the borehole well drilling at the beginning of September 2019. George is from Luapula Province, Zambia, and told me that many, many Zambians are outraged by the politics that are causing starvation in Southern and Western Province, Zambia. He told me that there is plenty of maize within Zambia, but it is specifically being prohibited to enter Southern Province. He told me he has maize on his farm in Luapula Province and is selling a 50-kg bag for 110 Zambian Kwacha per bag ~ which is a steal!) I told him I would buy up every bag he had and if we could use his truck to take the maize to Simwatachela Chiefdom I would give him money for the wear and tear on the truck, the fuel, his time, etc. He was driving when I said this, but nonetheless he leaned over and patted my arm, and said: “That maize truck would be blocked at the city limits of Lusaka (Zambia’s capital city) and the maize, confiscated.”

“Why?” I gasped.

“Because no maize is allowed to enter the South or the West right now. It is actually *illegal* to bring maize from outside those provinces into the Southern or Western Province. In fact, the government maize sheds in towns throughout the South or West – such as Monze, for example – are full of

maize! But the government won't allow the maize to flow to the people. There is plenty of maize in this country, only that it isn't allowed to be given to Southern or Western Province."

I bit my lip to keep from crying, and my throat tightened with tears. "*And why not?*" I asked George, already knowing the answer to my own question; I just wanted to hear him say it.

"Because the Tongas of Southern Province, the Toka Leyas of Livingstone and the Lozis of Western Province are being starved by the President because they didn't vote for him in the last election."

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### **Channel #4: Former First Lady Vera Tembo Chiluba**

I met Vera a few years ago; her husband was the second President of Zambia, and he created democracy in our nation, whereas our first president had over-stayed his position and was beginning to turn Zambia into a dictatorship, owning the country as his personal property. I am friends with her children and in August 2019 paid her a visit where she stays in Lusaka. I spoke to her about the hunger crisis in the region of Zambia where I live and work, and asked her if she had any venues in which she could assist these precious people. Her foundation, currently dormant, had previously assisted with relief food and borehole wells specifically, but the current First Lady was jealous of her project thus she had to put it on a temporary hold. She confessed to me she was equally disturbed by the starvation in Zambia, thanked me for my work in trying to help release it, and promised to support me in whatever way she could.

Former First Lady, Vera, suggested lobbying on behalf of the people of Simwatachela to the Vice President of Zambia, who is a Lozi lady from Western Province, and asking for a meeting with her *in which I would speak in Tonga with her* and explain that people are eating one meal every two or three days, surviving on bush fruits and roots in the village – many of them dying due to eating poisonous foods they found in the bush which they didn't know were lethal. She told me to compose a letter on letterhead from SSAAP and get it into her hands, as she would make sure the Vice President – her personal friend – would receive it.

Please read, if you are interested, the additional attachment: *Letter to the Vice President of Zambia*.

I visited Vera in Lusaka on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to give her the printed and signed letter to the Vice President of Zambia. On September 15<sup>th</sup> she was hospitalized, having suffered a stroke. I have a glimmer of hope that the letter will still be delivered to the Vice President still, but am not holding all of my eggs into this basket – or *any* basket, for that matter.

### **Channel #5: Zambian Contacts**

My friend, a Tonga woman from Southern Province, explained many things to me about the hunger situation that I did not know.



She taught me that Zambia, specifically Southern Province, has had numerous draughts in their history, but that this year's situation is unique in a few main ways.

Previously there had been hunger, yet people could buy maize and maize meal (*'mealie-meal'*) from within their communities and the government supplemented with relief food distribution. This is not happening this year. The Government is bent to punish Southern Province because they did not vote for the ruling party, to the extent that government does not want to declare lack of food as a disaster so that international aid is can be provided. All they have said is that relief food will be availed in March yet people in remote communities have even run out of wild fruits and roots they have been surviving on since April this year.

In addition to this, as most communities do not have water for their animals and domestic use, she reiterated that many do not have water wells and many boreholes have dried up and local people are remaining with a few dams that still have water, which is shared between animals and humans. The situation has also been compounded by the fact that from March to August this year, most communities had their animals die from diseases, leaving them with no other source of income.

The government has discouraged anyone who tries to donate or find ways of donating food or other resources to starving communities as working against the government. Two people not in the ruling party last month tried to donate mealie-meal, but the government rejected the donation and stopped them from distributing the food.

In Lusaka, the nation's capital, there have been high alerts and rumors that there were going to be riots over government's failure to declare hunger as a disaster in Zambia.

Her advice is that we have to tread carefully. Firstly, this is too big a problem for SSAAP to address. For instance, she said, SSAAP alone cannot manage to feed all the families in Simwatachela without support from government and international organizations. If SSAAP had the relief food and resources to distribute food now (September 2019), she said we would have to continue until next year April, provided the people would be fortunate to have good rains in 2019/2020 rain season which starts in November this year and runs through March next year. She suggested SSAAP should do more advocacy and lobbying of decision-makers and appeal for international aid, that way we can save our communities. The other thing she suggested SSAAP should do is to try and help them with farming input for the 2019/2020 farming season as a long term measure. The challenge farmers always have is that they do not have farming inputs at hand when the rains start. This farming season (2019/2020) is likely to start in October this year. If only we can manage to help farmers plant early maturing varies so that by February, the crops will be ripe.

She reiterated that she has never experienced this kind of pain to see people struggling to survive.

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If you are interested, please also feel free to read the following link:

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### **Channel #5: SSAAP's Microloan Programme**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September I opened SSAAP's Office Hours for the last time until we are back from Sierra Leone in 2020. I had promised approximately 18 people that SSAAP would give them a Cycle #1 Loan (K200 ~ \$20 USD), another handful of 8+ people who already had taken out a SSAAP a Cycle #1 Loan who wished for a Cycle #2 Loan (K400 ~ \$40 USD) to be paid back when I returned from Sierra Leone in June 2020, two people who were ready for a Cycle #3 Loan (K800 ~ \$80 USD) and a husband and wife who were eagerly anticipating a Cycle #4 Loan (K1600 ~ \$160 USD). So essentially I had opened SSAAP's Office to 30 people.

Our Office is open from 10:00-13:00, then 15:00-18:00 whenever it is open (usually every week, Tuesdays and Thursdays). On Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup>, by 08:30 in the morning, this is what our compound looked like:





By 10:30 in the morning there were 186 people on our compound, hoping for a Loan.





When I addressed the group-at-large, explaining to them I would try to make the funds in the Loan Pool stretch as much as I could – even if I had to give out K100 (~\$10 USD) Loans, maybe I could do that but I would have to see what we had left to work with as the day went on and after I first gave out the Loans I had promised. The people told me, in ciTonga: “*Twamvwa nzala!*” meaning: ‘We are hungry!’ Many of the people who had come I had never seen before, but word had spread that SSAAP was helping people to eat through the Microloan Project.



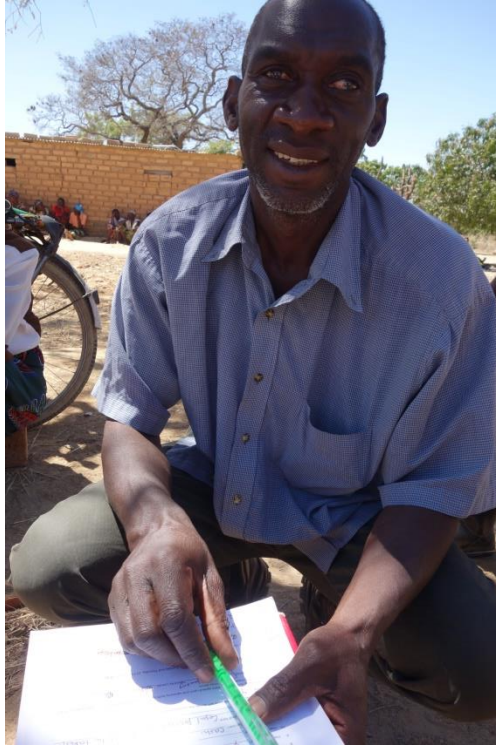
And so I did the best I could. I thought on my feet, best as I could, my mind working like a tornado, doing mental math and trying every hour to calculate and re-calculate how we could make this money stretch the farthest. I separated people into groups according to the previous promises I wished to honour, then began handing out new Loans.



I survived the day through emotional support from my daughter as well intermittent breaks between groups to stuff Frosted Cinnamon Pop-Tarts and Cheez-Its from a recent Care Package (We Love you Holly, Margie and Sia! Thank you!) into my mouth. It was one of those days that, looking back on it, I don't know how I managed to get through.



Many of our Loan recipients cannot read or write so they sign their Loan Agreement with their thumbprint instead.



Mate had been waiting to get his Cycle #4 Loan (~\$160 USD) for some time now (above); Veronica has been waiting for a SSAAP Microloan since she applied in April 2017 (below). She finally received it on 10 September 2019.





Some of the groups SSAAP gave Loans to were quite large (above). We worked as hard as we could with the sun and the light of day...





... into the fading light of the day...





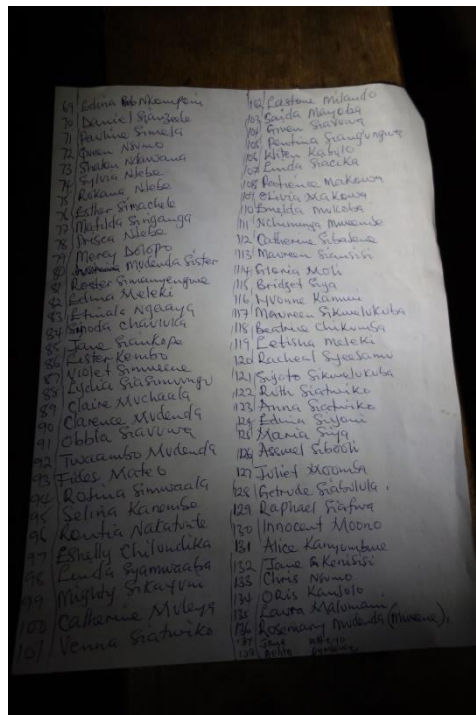


...and into the night.



The attendance list stretched to over 186 people that day, and sadly, there was no way SSAAP could begin to help them all.

I promised all the people we were unable to help that after all the Loans were returned in June 2020, I would help all of those I hadn't been able to on 10 September.



## *Channel #6: Meeting with the Mayor of Zimba*

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, en route to Lusaka, at 06:30 in the morning, on the side of the road at Radiance's and my hitchhiking post (we hitchhike all over Zambia and have been doing this since my Peace Corps days), we met the Mayor of Zimba. Zimba is the town between Kalomo and Livingstone, just before reaching the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe. Simwatachela Chiefdom is technically in Zimba District, rather than Kalomo District, and the Mayor and I had been trying to meet for some time. I told him, just before the sun rose, to come to my Office. Radiance and I had been up since 02:00 on transportation from our village to the main road (shown below). Mr. Moonga with the Red Cross drove us to town so that we could meet the Mayor.



Mr. Moonga, in blue above, has been trying to connect the Mayor and I since May.

I suggested to him that if SSAAP could raise funds for relief food, perhaps he could work with me to distribute it. He explained that no food distribution could occur without permission from the Permanent Secretary (PS) as well the Provincial Minister (PM) for Southern Province, and that both of them would have to go through the DMMU (Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit) of the Zambian government, but that he was hoping both the Permanent Secretary and the Provincial Minister (personal friends of his) would override this and allow food relief to pass through the Province without going first through the DMMU. He explained that no matter what we would do, he and I, or any other aid organization, we would be blocked.

I told him I didn't understand, was missing something. The Mayor, in black, told me even more startling news. He said that no matter what we did, we would be blocked by the highest levels of red tape in the Zambian government *who wish to see these people starve*. He warned me that both he and I could get in a lot of trouble for trying to feed people that the government wishes to starve.



I asked him if he cared if there was a personal consequence involved in doing the right thing in this situation. He paused. He asked me if I did.

I shook my head and smiled. “So, for me, there are two kinds of leaders. There are elected leaders and there are natural leaders. Elected leaders of nations will rarely do something if there is a personal consequence or disadvantage to them. Ninety-nine percent of the time national elected leaders will choose themselves over their people. The intoxication of power is too intense for most human beings to rise above this.

Natural leaders, however, are a different breed. They will stand in Truth even if it means personal loss rather than personal gain. They understand that many people will support them and just as many will oppose them. I urge you to research the position of Dalai Lama XIV, Mohandas Gandhi, William Wilberforce and Nelson Mandela. Ask me how many Indians abhor Gandhi? I tell you the number is vast. Gandhi didn’t react to the hatred of others. Rather, he acted in favour of humanity. So if asked if I care about a personal consequence: I want health and safety for my child and myself and as Zambia is my African home, I do not wish to generate any tensions for my family here. So I will have to bear the risk. It’s hardly even a choice I have, unfortunately. The entire centerpiece of my project, the work I am doing here, is food and water: the skeleton of human survival on planet earth. I have come here to help these people; everything else is just a side effect of that. My enjoyment of the village or of Africa or our six cats or glorious sunrises and sunsets ~ those things fall secondary or tertiary to the priority of why I am here. Food and water – it really doesn’t get any more simplified than that. And right now, these people have *neither*. There really isn’t any other reason I am here other than for this issue.

I urged the Mayor to regard the context of this situation at a higher level and see that there is great justice in the Universe, greater than the justice of mankind. What is going on inside the mind of someone who would prefer that people starve and potentially die because they didn’t vote for him? A natural leader accepts that there will always be people against him and people who support him. An elected leader wants to punish those who didn’t support him. So what disease cancers the mind of your leader? Is it a balanced, healthy mind that cares more about votes than people’s lives? Our world is full of mentally-diseased leaders right now, bringing more and more confusion to the human race than ever before. We have to rise above it and not drown in it. Their ‘leadership’ is false. We just have to do the right thing; and every single one of us knows the subtleties of what that is.

Starving people can never resonate at the heart level. And the heart always tells the truth, whereby the mind is corrupted by the ego and usually gets confused. The justice in all of this is that eventually, what is happening here in Zambia will be leaked to the international community and they will understand that we have a leader here who cares more about people voting for him than if they die. And this matters in the Universe. Did this answer his question?" I asked him.



He probably wished he'd never asked!

I then went on to say that I was personally outraged by this situation as well that in my opinion, what is happening in terms of the starvation situation is beyond politics now; it borders on *Crimes Against Humanity* because blocking food from reaching a starving community is an act of violence, as well the reverse of true leadership of a nation.

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## *Channel #7: Catholic Relief Services*



I made an appointment in Lusaka at the Catholic Relief Services office on 18 September 2019. Their Headquarters is out of New York City, and what I was told when I went there is that the President of Zambia must simply declare a State of Emergency in Zambia or a National Disaster and *within days* USAID, UKAID, the UN's WFP will bring relief food to the country. But without this Declaration from the President, no relief food can enter the country. The man I met with, from NYC, told me that just some weeks back the President of Angola declared a State of Emergency for the same drought-based-hunger issues we have in Zambia, and literally overnight they received \$300,000 USD from the American government. This was without a grant, without waiting – just immediate aid. The man from NYC told me: “All of us working for NGO’s, or service organisations or charities have our hands tied. But we are all tied together. Let’s keep in touch while you are in Sierra Leone.” I told him that if any relief food could come, then I wanted to make sure it got specifically to my area: Simwatachela Chiefdom.





They were so kind and loving to us at the Catholic Relief Services office, and thanked us for caring so deeply about the plight of the people we stay together with.

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### *Tidbits of Information on Starvation*

- One of the core layers of my interest in this issue has to do with my daughter. She has the inside story in a way I never will. And the pain of her friends starving in the village has opened something inside of her. I think this has been a very life-changing episode for her. She is bilingual: English/ciTonga, and she understands Tonga more deeply than I do. As well, she listens to adults talking, and plays with the children. She is my eyes and ears in the village, the undertow of what is really happening: all the things they specifically hide from me. She tells me what they are cooking on the big pot in the center of the fire at night: when the pot is almost empty, or what weeds the family has dug up to eat for dinner.
- Radiance told me that the day of Office Hours when we gave out the SSAAP Microloans (10 September 2019) that multiple women fainted from the heat and exhaustion and lack of nutrients/food to keep up their strength and had to lie down for half the day. A few of the elderly were escorted to the clinic. I was oblivious to all of this as I had my hands too full with distributing the Loans.
- Radiance always reports back to me when the kids on the compound she plays with haven't eaten for some days. She tells me they can't really play because it hurts them to run and they get tired too easily sometimes even to walk.
- We can always tell too when people haven't eaten because the babies cry all day: sunrise to sunset.
- A sign of hunger, a subtle one, is always when people go to bed early, just after the sun sets (~ 19:00) because they are too drained to stay awake, have no evening meal and therefore no

reason to stay awake, and because it is less physically painful to be asleep than awake on a stomach cramping with pain from hunger.

- Most of the Zambians who stay in the towns or the city who I have spoken to about the issue did not know that this obscene hunger was occurring in the remote grassroots areas of Zambia.
- I have met too many people here in Zambia who openly and admittedly do not care about the hunger issue, claiming it is 'their fault' they are starving rather than to analyze the reason behind the starvation: *no rainfall*. The people whom I have met who do not seem to care cannot be generalized. Many of them are foreigners who have enough to eat so don't seem to mind if others do not. Many of them are Zambian with the same attitude. Many of them are Africans from other African nations. This is more disheartening to me than I can even begin to express.

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### *Bush Food in Times of Starvation*



Here is an example of the bush fruit that people are finding in the African bush (wilderness) to eat. They boil it and eat it alone, without their staple dish 'n'shima' to go alongside it, as they have no maize to make the *n'shima*.





No one seems very excited about eating it – as it doesn't taste very good! – but it is better than nothing.



They pick the larger leaves off of it and just boil the mossy-green part of the plant.

# SSAAP-Zambia Water Wells; September 2019

Rec'd  
9/10/2019

contribute  
\$ 500

maybe a problem -  
far distance

asked  
July 2019 -  
couldn't  
contribute  
has motorcycle

**SIANZIBA VILLAGE (LUYABA AREA)**

**Community Assessment Tool (CAT)**

SSAAP: Simwatachela Sustainable Agricultural and Arts Program  
NGO Ilimu U.S.A., Ibelekelu mu Zambia a mu Sierra Leone, kuombo lya Africa

Amubonane ku U.S.A.: 001-303-408-5775  
Amubonane ku Zambia: 011-260-978058678  
Amubonane ku Sierra Leone: 011-232-30178615

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
HEADMAN SIANZIBA  
CHIEF SIMWATACHELA  
27 JUN 2019  
P.O. BOX 010000

**Mubunji:**

1. Ino bana Malaya bajisi nzi:

- Bamucaala 16 Ino bongaye? 16 Bafwida omwe? 10
- Bafwida boonse? 05
- Balumi? 03
- Bakaintu? 13 DIRECT - BENEFICIARIES  
INDIRECT - " "

(Amulembe muzigaga izyabo.)

2. Zina lya buleya? SIANZIBA VILLAGE

3. Ino a buleya bujanwa kuli? LUYABA AREA

4. Sena kuli a sibuku buleya? IYI NGU SIANZIBA

5. Sena balabeleka du lusumpuko na? IYI BALABELEKA KULUSUMPUK  
KU NJABALOMBE SCH GILIMWI AKU LUYABA SCH & RI

6. Cintu ce bay a ndisya bana maleya? NDUSUMPUKO, KWIINDA MUKUBEL  
ANTOOMWE. ENO CABASHUPA MEENDA

7. Nkaambo nzi eco bayandisyo n'icakata citwa?  
MA DRILLERS BAKALEKA KUSTYA AMETRES ALI 60m  
PELE SWEBO KUNO MEENDA ALI KWIINDA 60M

**Maanzi:**

1. Sena bana maleya kuli kobajana maanzi mabotu a kunywa?

2. Pali? PEEPE Ku busena a nzi? MUMULONGA MASIZI ST  
Ku lamfu buti? 1.5 Km - 3 Km

3. Sena aba bana maleya balayanda maanzi mabotu? YES NA IYI

4. Sena buleya bulijisi dambwa a fwafwi? PEEPE (SHALLOW WELLS  
STREAM

Here is the Community Assessment Tool (CAT) for a well in Sianziba Village, Simwatachela, Zambia.

\*NGO iyanda banamaleya bape 25% kuli eco cicitwa kupa kwa 25% nkupaanzi.\*  
 NKUULA MABBUKU, PENS, PENCILS, SCH BAG, -  
 BATHING AND WASHING PASTE, BODY LOTIONS

**Lwiiyo-->**

- Kucinaana bweenzinyina mukulembelana
1. Sena buleya bulakoma kucincana kwasicikolo ba kuno mukulembela basicikolo USA?  
 YES NA (Iyi)
  2. Oyo mulimo uyandisha boonse basicikolo nabamayi kababala nkulemba cikuwa. Sena banamaleya baya kukanzya kucita obyna? YES BALAKOMANA

\*\*\*NGO iyanda kuti bana maleya bape 25% kumulimo oyu. Ino kupa 25% kunoli kwa buti?\*\*\* NKUULA ZYAKUBELESTA ZYA CIKOLO

**Mukaintu Clubs antoomwe ma Groups:**

1. Sena kuli tubunga twabamakaintu alimwi / amabunga amwi mubuleya obu?
    - Mbongaye? YES (Iyi)
    - Amwamba mazine a mabunga abamakaintu? MINSI CLUB, WOMEN'S TUKOMANE LUYABA AREA MANAGEMT CO-OP. YOUTH GROUP
  2. Ino cino ciindi ba makaintu balabotelwa kubeleka SSAAP? YES
  3. Munzila nzi? KWIYA LUSUMPUKO LUNYOWANI (New Technology)
- \*\*\* NGO iyanda bamakaintu kupa 25% kumulimo oyo, kupa 25%, kunolikwabuti?

**Milimo yakukomozya mali:**

1. Sena banamaleya milimo nzi yakukomezya mali njobacita?  
 Rearing goats,
  2. Ino u milimo nzi? Netting, BUILDING HOUSES FOR RENTS
  3. Mbuti loko SSAAP bwikonzya kubwasha kumulimo izwidlilila? KWIISA, ALIMWI AKUPA MALIANTA'SHO
- \*\*\* NGO iyakuyanda kupa 25% ku mulimo wakukomezya mali ino kupa 25% kunoli kwabuti?\*\*\* DO THE BASIC NEEDS, LIKE MOULDING BRICKS PROVIDED LABOUR

**Ma sena amwi:**

1. Sena ziyanda banamaleya nzizi? MAANZI MABDTU AKUNYWA
2. Ino SSAAP iyobeleka buti abanamaleya kuzuzi kizya bayanda? MAANZI AKUTILALIZYA ZISTU  
NKULETA UPFRONT MATERIALS, NKUBELEKEZA  
ANTODMWE
3. Ino banamaleya bayakupa 25%? -UPFRONT MATERIALS  
-DO THE BASIC NEEDS NEEDED

**Muntu wakukwaba na awe kuzwa kubuleyo:**

• Izina? OBERT MOONGA  
• Namba ya luwailli? 0979773954  
0955942864  
• Cidindo? NILU  
• Meezi? 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2019  
• Cidindo ca sibuku? \_\_\_\_\_  
• Cidindo ca Mwami? Pa



\*\*\*Amwambe, amuzibe kuti kumanizya ipepa eli tacishomezi na kumazinina kupegwa mali. Kubbado ulwa kucikolo na kupa mdanzi kubuleya ecincepepa biyo kwalo SSAAP nkwanana kubwezelela twaambo kuzwa kubuleya mukucita kuti banamaleya inga babeleka antoomwe a SSAAP kabitu akuzwidilila. SSAAP uyakukwaba amuntu waambwa apepa kuti banamaleya bayanda kweenda a SSAAP.

SSAAP igwasilizya maanzi ookulya alimwa abusene bubotu a kupa inguzy kukokamu kabambindwa abantu. Kubeleka kuyabola kwa bantu. Kakataukilo mwa Simwatachela mu mwaka wa 2008. SSAAP uya kuzumanana kubeleka mu jisi ecino mbubo nya mbuli ku Sierra Leone mumiinzi, West Africa.

NDALUMBA LOKO.

27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF WANTED

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES TOTAL HOUSE HOLDS  
IS 15 HH WITH A TOTAL POPULATION OF 120  
PEOPLE

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES TOTAL HHs IS 16  
WITH A TOTAL POPULATION OF 144 PEOPLE.

TOTAL HH of 31

TOTAL POPULATION OF 264 PEOPLE



**Simwatachela Sustainable Agricultural and Arts Program (SSAAP)**

*A food, nutrition and water sustainability organization created by the people and committed to serving the needs of the people.*

**In the U.S.A.:**  
 2845 Golden Wheat Lane  
 Fort Collins, CO 80526  
 www.ssaap.org  
 Phone: 1-931-406-1775

**In Zambia, Sub-Saharan Africa:**  
 P.O. Box 620097  
 Kalomo, Zambia  
 Sub-Saharan Africa  
 001-260-9798058678

**In Sierra Leone, West Africa:**  
 P.O. Box 3  
 Moyamba, Sierra Leone  
 West Africa  
 ssaapafrika@gmail.com

Borehole Request Form

I would like to request a borehole for the following community: SIANZIBA VILLAGE

My name is: OBERT MOONGA

My contact information is: 0979773954, 0955942864

The nearest borehole is located how many kilometers away: 3-4KM

Can your community access water from this borehole? SOME TIMES (YES)

What is your community willing to do in order to work for this borehole? BRING IN UPFRONT MATERIALS ON THE SITE

The NGO (SSAAP) requires 25% community contribution towards the borehole project. What will your community do for their 25% community contribution requirement? CASH CONTRIBUTIONS AS 25%

Signed: [Signature]  
 Date: 26-08-2019

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

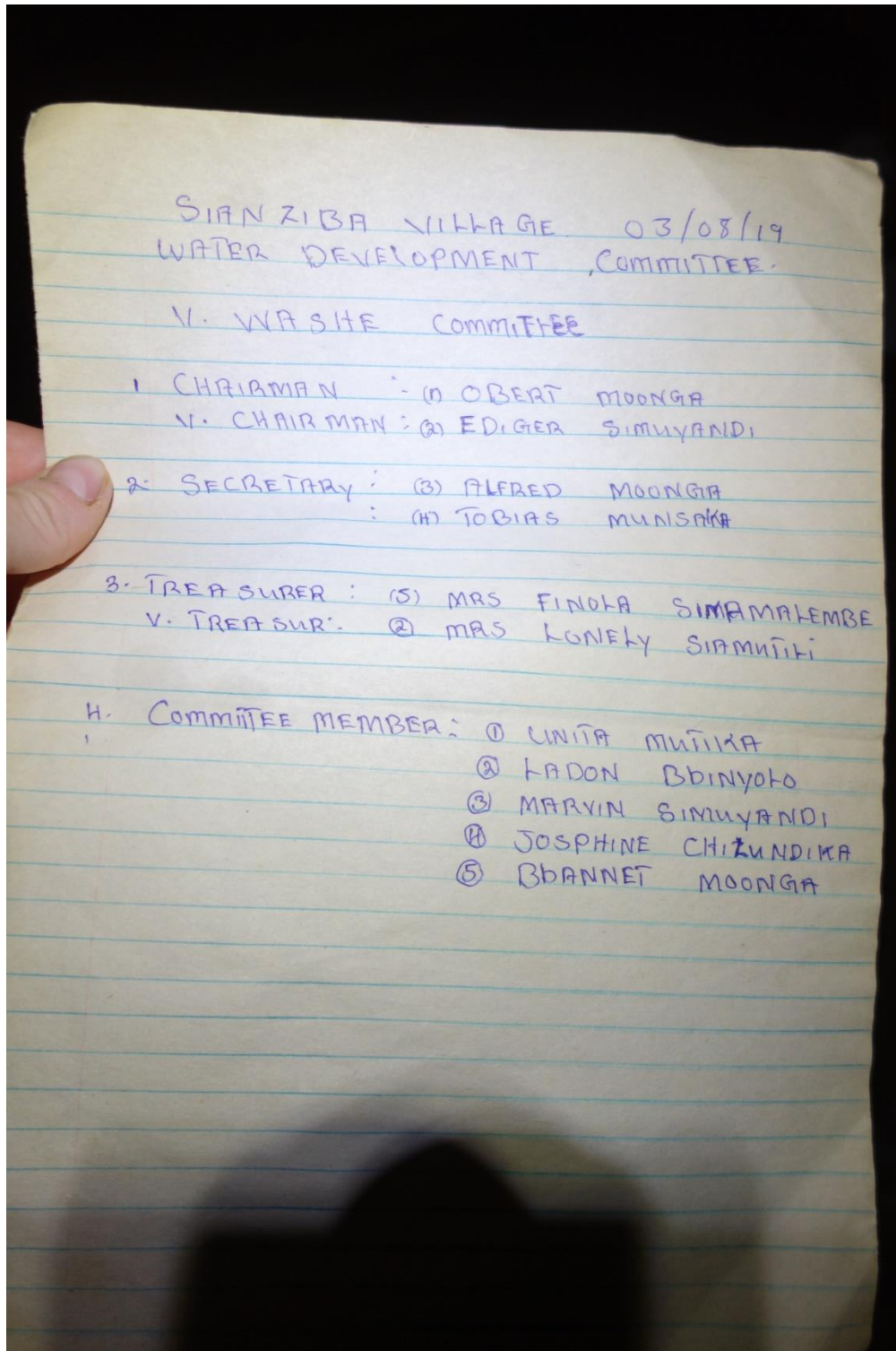
Request received date: 29/08/2019

Approved/Denied? Approved

Reason for approval or denial? Community contribution + Communicative need is there.



*SSAAP is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. Federal Tax Identification Number: 272033029*



Each community receiving a well must have a Borehole Committee which is the sustainable piece of the well project, so that they can maintain it and understand that this is their responsibility to do so – not SSAAP's ☺



Sianziba Village is quite stark and dry, as you may note from the photos, and we had to drill two holes before the second hole yielded water!

Below, the first hole they drilled was dry. This is always so sad, but luckily try #2 water was found.







The drillers looked for signs that water would be in the area for the second hole. This tree, above, was a sign that water would be accessible underneath the ground. As it is tall, and would need water to grow this tall, this was a major indicator



Drilling always brings quite a crowd to the site; everyone eagerly anticipating the presence of water at the site.





A dirty and artful business this well-drilling is!



Distinction between soil layers at every 5 metres will reveal the cavity of earth in which we are entering. Drillers like to see variations in soil colours, gradations between particle size which indicate a change in the earth's crust and therefore a potential for Divine Waterflow – what we are all seeking.

This site had them worried. There is barely any change in the soil, as you can see above. The drillers were nervous and so was I.



Mr. Moonga, who I work with through the Red Cross, is our contact for the Sianziba Site. He is smart and talkative, very intense, very thoughtful. Won't be pushed around; isn't a sheep.



Worn-down drill bit. This thing probably weighs 50 kgs – I can't even lift it – and we wore through two on the Sianziba site. The soil is so rocky, so dry, and so hard to drill through that Simwatachela is very high on the red-flagged area that drillers don't want to come drill in as the chances of getting water on every try for drilling a hole are scarce. For that reason, I have written into our contract with the contractor that every site has two tries for water.

(The drill bit is the part of the drill that chisels into the earth in its hunt for water.)



We wait for hours. I am tearing at my cuticles, so nervous that hole #2 will be dry and we will have to leave Sianziba without finding water – crushing on so many levels.

I fall asleep in the shade, and wake up to Mr. Moonga in my face. He takes my hand and leads me to this:



Then he hugs me and we start crying together; we are overwhelmed and relieved with joy!!!





This site is going to have a very strong water source. We found water at 85 metres, but when they flushed the hole, found that it was filling up quickly (replenishing) and at only 22 metres, the water was available!







They pull the drilling pipes out of the ground and replace them with PCV casing pipes, then inside of the PCV pipes the pump stems which, when pressurized through the hand-pump, activates the water to come from the ground and exit the hole via the hand-pump at the ground level.





This old man ('Badaala' means 'old man' in ciTonga) came to me and started thanking me profusely until tears were dripping from his eyes. He told me God would bless me. I told him god/dess already has.



The hand-pump will be installed into the ground in a few days (after the hole has settled and also the casement pipe). Mr. Moonga, below, tired and relieved, has agreed to dedicate the well by writing in the cement, on my behalf, as I will not be present when the cement is laid (after about five days).



\*



Photos of the finished water well (*Courtesy: Catia Conde*).



# Simwatachela Sustainable Agricultural and Arts Program (SSAAP)

A food, nutrition and water sustainability organization created by the people and committed to serving the needs of the people.

**In the U.S.A.:**

2845 Golden Wheat Lane  
Fort Collins, CO 80528  
www.ssaap.org  
Phone: 1-303-408-5775

**In Zambia, Sub-Saharan Africa:**

P.O. Box 620097  
Kalomo, Zambia  
Sub-Saharan Africa  
001-260-9798058678

**In Sierra Leone, West Africa:**

P.O. Box 3  
Moyamba, Sierra Leone  
West Africa  
ssaapafrika@gmail.com

## Well (Borehole/Hand-dug Well/Fixed Well/Hand-pump) Report

Well Information:

- Site #1
1. Borehole ID: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Country: ZAMBIA
  3. Province: SOUTHERN
  4. Chiefdom: SIMWATACHELA
  5. Village: SIANZIRA
  6. Headman Name and Phone #: GEODFREY MOONGA
  7. Location (GPS Points, where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
- 
8. Any other boreholes in this area? YES NO
  9. Where are they located? / How many kilometers away? 5KM IN ANOTHER VILLAGE
  10. Population served by borehole (estimate): 402
  11. Description of well site: SIANZIRA VILLAGE IN SIMWATACHELA CHIEFDOM.
- 
12. Photos and videos secured? YES
  13. Date drilled/dug: 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPT 2019
  14. Driller / digger: \_\_\_\_\_
  15. Testimonies of how well will help community: DISTANCE TO FETCH WATER WILL BE CUT SHORT. GROWING VEGETABLES AER AFTER SELLING PAYING SCHOOL FEES FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

SSAAP is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. Federal Tax Identification Number: 272033029

Completed Well Report form.

Site Information:

DEPTH to WATER TABLE	SOIL TYPE	DEPTH of WELL	DEPTH WHERE WATER FIRST FOUND	NUMBER of PIPES USED
22m		85 MTS		

Inventory and Supplies Used Information:

Water Condition:

ELEMENT TESTED	WELL 1	WELL 2	WELL 3	WELL 4	WELL 5	WELL 6
Color						
Odor						
Turbidity						
Taste						

Drilling/Digging Information:

Date drilling/digging started: 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPT. 2019  
 Date work completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of drilling company/digger: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of workers: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foreman: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Other Pertinent Information:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for the generous gift of your time!

I will update you as we move to Sierra Leone to work on our projects there (animal-rearing, water wells, sponsorship of hundreds of pupils to go to school). I sincerely cannot wait as we haven't been to Sierra Leone since 2017; we are aching to go back again and have so many wonderful resources to share with them when we go back: 19 water wells for four districts in Sierra Leone and sponsorship of children and teenaged mothers. All thanks to you! 😊

With Love,

Heather