

PROJECT VISION

- To alleviate hunger and to improve nutrition by developing a water source to ensure clean drinking water which will benefit people and livestock alike, as well to enable planting of community gardens and to use the excess produce grown to feed families.
- To encourage local income-generation at the grassroots level through livestock-rearing, small-scale farming, vegetable-growing, traditional African medicine, and arts & crafts.
- To increase interest in empowering both women and men, individuals and groups and to uplift the living standards of the people.
- To source and procure sustainable water, agriculture and nutrition in rural village communities.

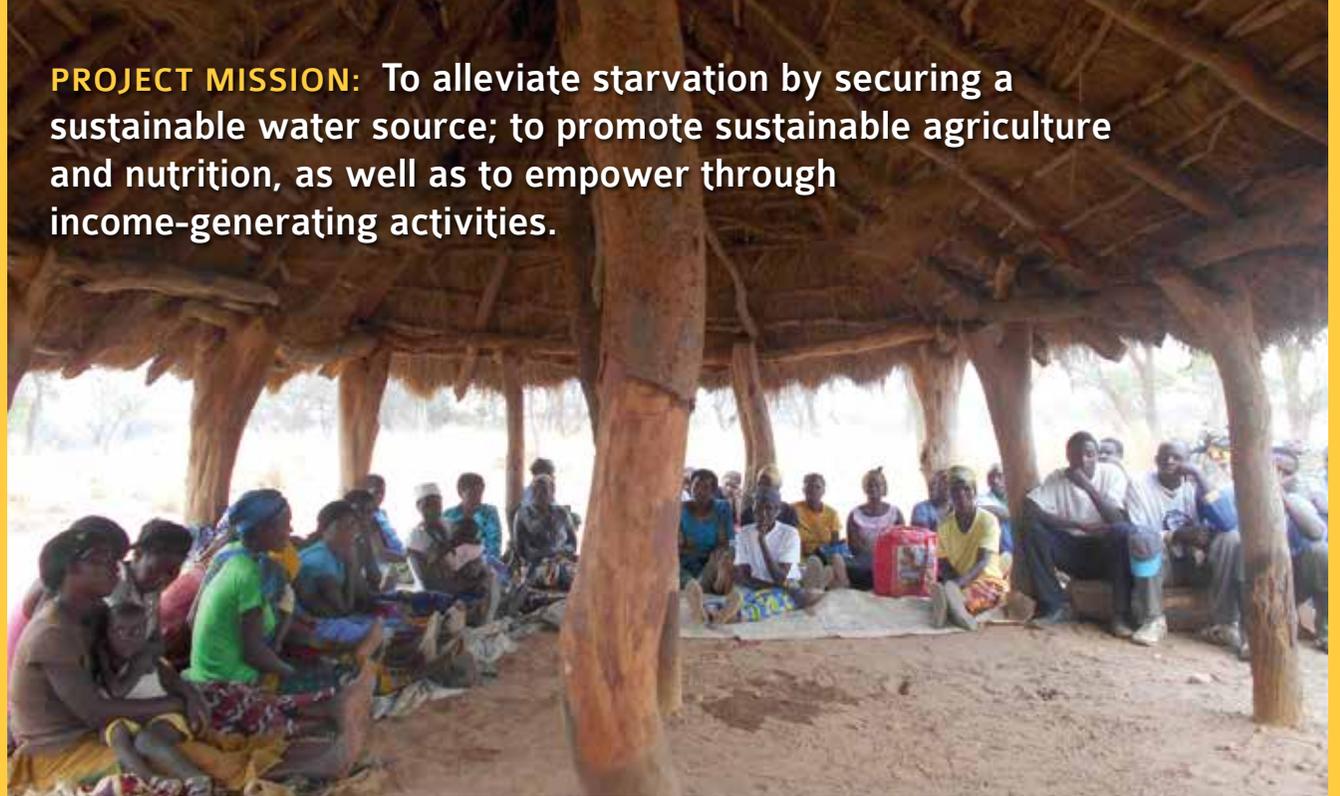
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Simwatachela Community – located approximately eighty kilometers from Kalomo, Southern Province, Zambia, is a hard-working, industrious community. The Project Director, Ms. Heather Cumming has lived within this community for eleven years, speaking the local language (ciTonga). In April 2008, Chief Simwatachela along with the headmen of three adjacent communities of Siamabwe, Simoono and Sibooli-B created a section of land joining the three communities as a space in which SSAAP could develop the community, specifically as a sustainable agricultural program benefiting the people of Simwatachela.

Zambia is one of the world's poorest countries. Food production levels vary significantly from year to year. Food security is fragile because subsistence farmers depend on rainfall and traditional hoe cultivation. Even in years of national food surplus, many subsistence farmers or households struggle.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has exacerbated food insecurity levels, contributing to a decline in socioeconomic activity. HIV/AIDS is also both a cause and a

PROJECT MISSION: To alleviate starvation by securing a sustainable water source; to promote sustainable agriculture and nutrition, as well as to empower through income-generating activities.



consequence of household food insecurity in Zambia. Around 17% of adults aged 15-49 years are HIV positive and life expectancy is only 37 years. HIV/AIDS undermines the capacity of people in most rural areas to produce enough food for their families. Malnutrition is present to varying degrees in most communities nationwide.

The SSAAP project model has also been extended to Sierra Leone, West Africa, in the rural areas of Moyamba and Port Loko, identifying the need for water wells. SSAAP's educational program assists primary school children grades 1-6 and secondary school mothers to continue their education. SSAAP works as well with animal-rearing projects (pigs, chickens, goats).

In 2014, the Ebola virus spread across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, scarring Sierra Leone in significant ways. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and Al Jazeera, some 40% of Ebola survivors have experienced eye problems and a loss of eyesight. Other survivors have had their homes and properties burned or have been ostracized within their own communities or even immediate families. In an effort to right such injustices,

SSAAP has founded an Ebola Outreach Fund, specifically targeting those who have lost significantly (health, family members, homes, jobs, food).

In addition, although Sierra Leone has plentiful natural resources, the decade-long civil war (1990-2001) severely devastated the country's economy, destroyed infrastructure and caused large-scale human suffering. In 2013, Sierra Leone ranked 183rd out of 187 countries on the Low Development Index (UN) with a life expectancy at birth being 45.6 years of age – the lowest in the world – and the average amount of years spent schooling is 7½ (2012 study). Some 40% of all children in Sierra Leone below age 5 are chronically undernourished which places them at high risk to be able to meet their full physical and mental potential.

Your help can alleviate much more than you realize. A little goes a long, long way to the grateful people of both Zambia and Sierra Leone. Never think one person cannot change the world; one person making a change might be just what the world needs.

PROJECT GOALS

- To bring water to a dry rural area.
- To generate income from sales of artwork.
- To empower primary school children to attend school by affording their school fees and uniform, as well to encourage secondary school girl pupils who are also mothers to return to secondary school in rural Sierra Leone.
- To encourage animal-rearing projects (goats, pigs, chickens, and hopefully cattle), to generate income among individuals and groups in rural areas as well to promote better quality health through consumable products given to beneficiaries through the animal-rearing projects.
- To promote artisans from both Zambia and Sierra Leone through selling art each year in craft fairs, or through contacting SSAAP.
- To provide rural schools with clean drinking water through distributing water filters, wells, and/or water sources if available.
- To educate on the importance of basic sanitation and hygiene: hand-washing, proper disposal of human waste, teeth-brushing, and other health-related skills.
- To provide Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone with skills, encouragement, and programs to continue their lives despite significant setbacks and death among family members, decline to their health, loss of habitat and community support, and other Ebola virus-related problems.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Donations are appreciated and much needed. Please contact us at www.ssaap.org.
 - » Cost of a chicken in Zambia: \$3
 - » Cost of a chicken in Sierra Leone: \$3-5
 - » Cost of a goat in Zambia: \$25-30
 - » Cost of a goat in Sierra Leone: \$40
 - » Cost of a pig in Sierra Leone: \$35
 - » Cost of a cow in Zambia: \$500
 - » Cost of a hand-dug well in Sierra Leone: \$1000
 - » Cost of a machine-drilled borehole in Zambia: \$5000
 - » Cost to sponsor one primary-aged child to school in Zambia, grades 1-7, plus uniform and shoes for one year: \$20
 - » Cost to sponsor one primary-aged child to school in Sierra Leone grades 1-6, plus uniform and shoes for one year: \$8
 - » Cost to sponsor one secondary-aged teenage mother to return to school in Sierra Leone after giving birth, plus uniform and shoes for one year: \$28

- Wooden art, jewelry, textiles and basketry from Zambia, paintings and batik from Sierra Leone are available for purchase at craft shows where SSAAP sells its art; venues, dates, times, etc. shown at www.ssaap.org.

- SSAAP hosts fundraisers throughout the year. Details also available on the SSAAP website.

- Contact SSAAP:

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Simwatachela Sustainable Agricultural and Arts Program (SSAAP)

