

Dear Reader,

We are very excited to launch our first PIN Zambia Newsletter!

Every issue will give you a glimpse of what we have been working on in Zambia, some stories from the communities we work with and some diving into our team.



At People in Need Zambia, our mission is to empower resilient communities by addressing pressing challenges such as malnutrition, poverty, and limited opportunities. Together with the people of Western Zambia, we collaborate to develop innovative solutions that enable them to adapt to the impacts of climate change and mitigate its effects on the most vulnerable households.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the local authorities for their unwavering support in delivering aid and fostering growth together.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to our local partners, who work hand in hand with us on the ground, shaping viable solutions that resonate with the communities we serve. Furthermore, we are deeply grateful to our beneficiaries, whose resilience and determination fuel our efforts.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our amazing team members across operations, finance & logistics, including MEAL, communications, and, most importantly, our project teams. Your dedication and hard work are the driving force behind our success.

Last but not least, I wish to convey my profound gratitude to our donors, whose trust and investment in our solutions and interventions make our work possible.

Enjoy this issue, and remember, it is only through the synergy of our collective efforts that we can achieve lasting results. Stay tuned for more updates on our journey towards creating a brighter future for all.

Stefania Lagonigro

Country Director – PIN Zambia
stefania.lagonigro@peopleinneed.net



Stories about PIN's work in Zambia



Livestock gifts lift Zambian farmers out of poverty

Through our Livestock Integration Initiative (LII) project, we are helping Zambians fight hunger and poverty and enhance their resilience to climate change. The LII project empowers farmers to develop sustainable livelihoods and agriculture practices. With continued support, it can create lasting change across Zambian communities.

[Read more...](#)



Biochar - Fueling a Regenerative Agriculture Revolution in Zambia

In the sandy lands of Mongu, Western Province, Zambian farmers rely on steady rainfall to provide for their families. However, the rainfall has become increasingly erratic in recent years, severely impacting crop yields. Without a reliable harvest, hunger looms large. Farmers pray daily for stable rain, and our innovative biochar project, funded by UNDP, offers an answer as biochar retains moisture and supports sustainable farming.

[Read more...](#)



Empowering Conservation and Prosperity Through Community Action in the Barotse Floodplains

Beneath the rich biodiversity of Zambia's Barotse floodplains lies a landscape marred by poverty's brutal grasp. Unsustainable practices like overgrazing, wildfires, and illegal charcoal production have strained ecosystems, jeopardizing communities and wildlife alike. But a transformative force is on the horizon. Funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, our pioneering 3-year project catalyzes an integrated revival benefiting both people and nature.

[Read more...](#)



Stories about PIN's work in Zambia



Climate change exacerbates humanitarian crises

Climate change is exacerbating humanitarian crises worldwide. According to the World Health Organisation, over 3 billion people live in areas highly vulnerable to climate impacts like intense heatwaves, floods, droughts, and storms. By 2050, climate change could cause 250,000 additional deaths annually from malnutrition, disease, and heat stress. Key drivers of this climate variability include phenomena like the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.

[Read more...](#)



The Drought Crisis Threatening Smallholder Farmers in Zambia

The impacts of climate change and El Niño droughts devastate smallholder farmers in Zambia. Signs of drought are emerging, and predictions indicate longstanding effects, disrupting millions through crop failures and food and water shortages.

Yet amidst the crisis, there are glimmers of hope. Smallholder farmers like Nang'unyi Bulele, utilising biochar compost, have yielded a minimal harvest to sustain their families.

[Read more...](#)

7 years, 5 sectors, thousands of stories

What are the sectors PIN works in? how have we evolved over the years, and how has this impacted the people we work with? here are some highlights!



Construction of a Biogas plant under our 'Through Biogas Technology Towards Higher Resilience of Communities in Western Province of Zambia funded by the Czech Development Agency' project.



Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience

PIN multi-sectoral approach guided by gender inclusion and human rights, aiming to alleviate poverty and support local organizations' participation. Since 2017, we have supported numerous farmers by building capacity in climate-smart agriculture. We have constructed 166 biodigesters for 166 households (approximately 830 individuals) in three districts of Western Province. These digesters, fed by animal waste and connected to kitchens, produce gas for cooking, reducing the cost of purchasing charcoal and the use of firewood. The digestion process also yields bio-slurry, a natural fertiliser farmers use, decreasing the need for chemical fertilisers.



Biochar is a charcoal-like material made by burning agricultural and forestry waste biomass. It is produced through a unique process that results in low contamination and allows for safe carbon storage. Unlike regular charcoal, biochar enhances soil quality by reducing acidity and helps sandy soils retain water better to minimise plant drought stress and nutrient leaching.

Through the Czech UNDP Challenge Fund and a pilot programme funded by PIN, we promote biochar – an innovative method of producing coal from crop waste that enriches the soil for better crop yields. These initiatives, which the Provincial administration and the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment fully endorse, contribute to improving living conditions and climate resilience in the province for 191 households (approximately 955 individuals). Our project plans to support 90 additional farmers this year.

[Read more...](#)



The Barotse Floodplain is an ecosystem crucial for the whole region. However, the population has recently faced challenges, such as unsustainable land management practices, inadequate food consumption, and poverty. These challenges put the ecological integrity and livelihoods of local communities—which depend on the floodplain—at risk.



Conservation and Livelihoods

In collaboration with WWF, we implement an innovative programme combining the protection and preservation of the Barotseland landscape with the promotion of livelihoods and green cooking solutions in two districts of Western Province. This approach, funded by Jersey Overseas Aid, enables us to gain visibility in promoting nature-based solutions that preserve the environment against climate change effects. We expect this project to benefit approximately 1 million people living in the Western Province.



Currently, we are positioning ourselves to intervene and support vulnerable households adversely affected by the drought in Western Province through collaboration with existing INGOs and UN agencies.



Humanitarian Support

We have supported the Zambian government (4 hospitals) and 1,100 people from communities affected by malnutrition and COVID-19 in Lusaka and Western Provinces. Through projects funded by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have supported health facilities, mothers, and children affected by malnutrition since 2020.

To date, the projects have supported 1,348 children, 1,674 pregnant and lactating women, trained 43 health workers and 321 community health volunteers, and supported 19 health facilities with distribution of 3.2 tonnes of ready-to-use-therapeutic-foods and 30.6 tonnes of high-energy-protein-supplements. Our projects have also screened 12,599 individuals (children under five and pregnant and lactating women) as part of a mass community screening programme, which enabled early identification of malnutrition cases in rural areas.

[Read more...](#)



PIN in Zambia intends to continue working with local organisations and communities to alleviate poverty and the effects of climate change, which disproportionately affect the population in rural areas with fewer resources and instruments.



Capacity Building and Local Partnerships

PIN always works with local organisations and puts efforts into building their capacity and giving voice to grassroots organisations with limited access to funds. In 2020, with funds from the European Union, we worked with 100 local organisations in two Zambian provinces, training them on governance and access to funds. Some of these organisations are now PIN partners.



PIN on the Socials

There is a lot of information about our projects on PIN Zambia and PIN social networks in English. See some highlights:

@People in Need Zambia

March 13th

From March 11-15, 2024, PIN was among over 100 organizations that convened in Livingstone, Zambia for the Accelerating Nature-based Solutions Conference. Hosted by the Global EverGreening Alliance, Government of Zambia, AFR100, African Natural Capital Alliance, FSD Africa, and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, this pivotal gathering drove progress through nature-based solutions. PIN's participation underscored its commitment to sustainable development and ecosystem preservation.



@People in Need Zambia

march 1st

Our Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities through Ecosystem Protection project team, accompanied by our visiting climate change advisor, launched focus group discussions in Namakondondo village to evaluate localized adoption of sustainable cooking solutions.

By documenting lived experiences, we illuminated community-sourced pathways for wider embrace of fuel-efficient improved cookstoves and eco-briquettes crafted by Mumwa Crafts Association as biomass alternatives to traditional charcoal and firewood.



@people_in_need

March 9th

Nestled in the heart of Western Province in #Zambia, farmers are harnessing the incredible power of biochar in their fields. 🌱 #Biochar, a charcoal-like material from burning agricultural and forestry waste, enhances soil quality, reduces acidity, and helps sandy soils retain water better, minimising plant drought stress and nutrient leaching.

Through this innovative project, funded by United Nations Development Programme - UNDP and spearheaded by People in Need Zambia, smallholder #farmers like Hastings Nasilele have witnessed increased #crop yields after using biochar. This community-led biochar production not only improves livelihoods but also mitigates #ClimateChange.



@People in Need Zambia

February 16th

Bioslurry, a nutrient-rich by-product of biogas production, is a game-changer for smallholder farmers. During a recent field visit, our team witnessed bioslurry's transformative power firsthand. Local farmer Mr. Mulonda's maize crops, fertilized with bioslurry, were lush and vibrantly green, showcasing exceptional productivity.



KEEPING THE WHEELS MOVING AT PIN ZAMBIA

Meet our Logistics Specialist, Joseph Mulife.

Behind the scenes of every successful project implemented by PIN in Zambia's remote communities is a well-oiled logistics operation. At the heart of it all is Joseph Mulife.

He vividly recalls a 2021 incident when a truck distributing emergency health supplies got stuck in a remote forest area, forcing the team to spend the night there before trekking to call for rescue.



"All the experience I've acquired is dedicated to ensuring uninterrupted, efficient and cost-minimizing operations that achieve an impactful contribution to PIN projects in Zambia." - Joseph Mulife

Despite such challenges, Joseph has implemented strategies to optimize PIN's fleet efficiency and effectiveness while upholding safety standards. "It's all about having good systems, policies, and skilled drivers who check their vehicles consistently," he explains. Initiatives like the Movement Planner system he created allow logistical needs to be consolidated and routes to be meticulously planned ahead of time.

At the core of Joseph's approach is valuing the frontline drivers as "key players" through regular skills training, one-on-one meetings to discuss issues, and analytical tools like mobile logbooks and PowerBI to track performance data. "I take keen interest in making sure they are well and have the right skills to flourish," he says.

Looking ahead, Joseph hopes to continue advancing the logistics operations as PIN's Zambia program grows. "All the experience I've acquired is dedicated to ensuring uninterrupted, efficient and cost-minimizing operations that achieve an impactful contribution to PIN projects in Zambia."

It's a vital behind-the-scenes role that keeps PIN's live-saving work on the move across Zambia's most remote, hard-to-reach communities. With passionate specialists like Joseph at the helm, PIN can continue driving positive change.

PIN's Logistics specialist, who has steadily risen through the ranks over the past 5 years to take on this critical role.

Joseph's journey began in 2019 when he joined PIN as a Logistics Assistant, handling purchasing, overseeing drivers and vehicles. But it was the tangible impact of PIN's work that motivated him to specialize in fleet management. "The overwhelming response on the impact of our projects fueled a lot of interest and motivation for me to pursue fleet management as a profession," Joseph shares.

However, managing PIN's fleet across the sandy, rugged terrain of the regions it serves is no easy feat. "The biggest challenge stems from the limited variety of vehicles suited for our operating environments available in the local market," Joseph notes.



PINs Team

COUNTRY DIRECTOR



CONTACT:

Stefania Lagonigro
stefania.lagonigro@peopleinneed.net

HEAD OF PROGRAMME



CONTACT:

Rajesh Rai
rajesh.rai@peopleinneed.net

OUR TEAM:



PROJECT MANAGERS

Have questions about specific projects, need training assistance, or have important inquiries?

Feel free to reach out to our dedicated project experts listed below. They're here to support you and address any concerns you may have.



Kopi Kamona
Biogas Project Manager
kopi.kamona@peopleinneed.net



Lastford Miyanda
Nutrition Project Manager
lastford.miyanda@peopleinneed.net



Winfridah Musonda
JOA Project Manager
winfridah.musonda@peopleinneed.net



Mwangala Mwangelwa
Biochar Project Coordinator
mwangala.mwangelwa@peopleinneed.net

Got feedback? CFRM it!

Any Feedback, inquiries or complaints related to PIN programmes and projects in Zambia can be submitted confidentially by email: cfrm.zambia@peopleinneed.cz

For updates from our team!

[Follow us on FB](#)



Big thanks to donors and partners



CZECH REPUBLIC
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Stand 3060, President Avenue 41,
Mongu Zambia



[People In Need Zambia](#)
[People In Need \(Official\)](#)