

# Irish Aid Local Development Project (2013–17)



Foster Simeo, Maela village, Zambia.

[selfhelpafrica.org](http://selfhelpafrica.org) | [twovillages.org](http://twovillages.org)



**Irish Aid**  
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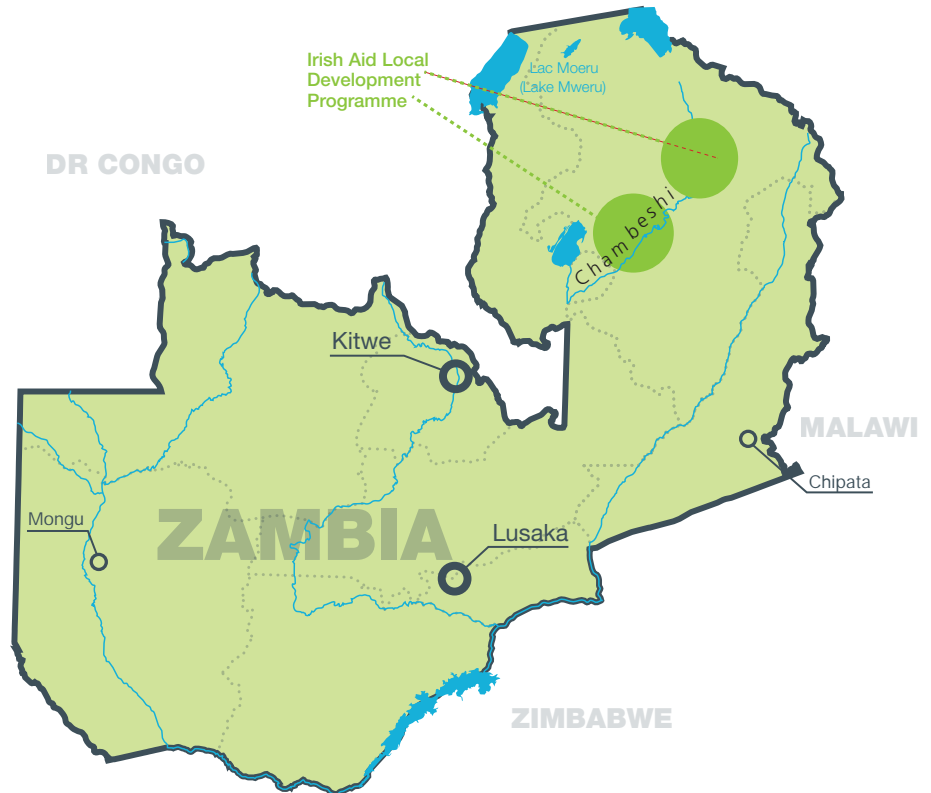


**Self Help  
Africa**

## Background

Irish Aid Local Development Project (IALDP) has been one of the single largest development projects implemented by Self Help Africa. IALDP, which concludes in 2017 has sought to **improve food and livelihood security for 16,700 households** in Zambia's isolated, poor Northern Province — in Mbala and Luwingu districts.

In this remote poverty pocket, support services are scarce to non-existent, and most people survive on just a single meal a day for part of the year.



## The Goals

Zambia is one of the poorest countries of sub-Saharan Africa with 60% of its population living below the poverty line. In isolated Northern Province, access to education, health services, markets, resources and information is very limited, leaving few opportunities for locals to work their way out of poverty. Over the past five years, Self Help Africa have been working in the region to make the following objectives a reality:

- 1. Reducing poverty**  
Lift **16,000 vulnerable households** out of poverty in Mbala and Luwingu districts.
- 2. Improve nutrition**  
Provide a better nutrition, food and health status for **80,000 people**.
- 3. Facilitate entrepreneurship**  
Improve access to markets and promote a market-oriented approach.

## The Impact

### Increased production

**16,000 Farmers** (60% female) have increased their agricultural production following training from Self Help Africa.

### Better living standard

The percentage of households living below the standard of living threshold (less \$1.90 per day) has **reduced from 42% to 33%**.

### Sufficient food

**67% of households** in the project area have access to sufficient food throughout the year, compared to 57% at the start of the project.

### Empowering women

**Over half of the female participants** feel they have more decision-making power within their household and community.

### Access to finance

**17% of households** have access to financial services thanks to savings and loan groups initiated

by the project. This compares to 2% beforehand. Families reporting a significant increase in household assets, including cash savings increased from 0 to 30% percent.

### Children's health

Chronic malnutrition amongst children (aged under 18 months) has **reduced from 40% to 31%**. In addition, **28% of children** are receiving at least the minimum food diversity in their diets, compared to 17% before.

### Improved hygiene

Households accessing safe, treated drinking water increased **from 14% to 40%**.

### Family food security

In Nsunda, **88% of households** are able to cover their family's basic needs for the whole year. Before the project, this figure was **58%**.

### Enterprise

**62 enterprise groups** were formed, with a total of **1,860 members**.





## Two Villages

In the Northern Province of Zambia lie two quiet villages, Nsunda and Malela – both of which are part of the Irish Aid Local Development Project. For four years, we have been meeting with and interviewing people from these two villages, filming, photographing and hearing from them their stories.

The resulting work has been used to create ‘Two Villages’, a multi-media project that includes words, pictures, videos and first person

accounts of life in rural Africa. A website ([twovillages.org](http://twovillages.org)), newsletter, technical reports, worksheets and a photographic exhibition have been produced, and form a part of our Development Education work in post-primary schools, and our public engagement activities at events, and in communities across Ireland. ‘Two Villages’ is a microcosm of the work that Self Help Africa is doing, with support from Irish Aid, across sub-Saharan Africa.







*"We are more secure than in the past. Today, we grow more crops and know that if we have problems with one of our crops, we still have the others."*

- Emmanuel Musundo, Malela village.



*"I am now teaching others how to breed livestock. This is a positive thing for our village. With some help and hard work we will be okay."*

- Showthem Sikombe, Nsunda village.



*"Because my children are eating twice a day now, they don't go hungry in school. I have even found that they are doing better in school as a result."*

- Rosemary Chate, Malela village.



Pascalina Mulenga, Malela village, Zambia.

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