Irish Aid Local Development Project (2013–17)
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.
My life is changing for the better. Years ago, I couldn’t look forward to the future …

**Now I can.**

Emma Kayela, Nsunda village, Zambia.

---

**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 multimedia project that includes words, pictures, videos and first person accounts of life in rural Africa. A website (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.