

## Zambia: Refugees' livelihoods and economic inclusion July 2019

### Background

The majority of the **81,776** refugees in Zambia live in one of the three refugee settlements in Mayukwayukwa (14,571), Meheba (24,151) and Mantapala (14,720) as well as in the capital Lusaka (15,930). The influx of Congolese refugees during the second half of 2017, led to the establishment of the Mantapala Integrated Refugee Settlement in January 2018 while Meheba and Mayukwayukwa were established in 1971 and 1966 respectively.

### Refugee response

The Government of the Republic Zambia (GRZ) provides a favourable protection environment for refugees through the promotion of settlement approach.

**2017 Refugee Act** repeals and replaces the Refugees (Control) Act of 1970. Although no policy has been developed to operationalise the new law, it is progressive and offers opportunities for further improved asylum space in Zambia, mainly in regard to livelihood and self-reliance opportunities. Refugees must obtain a time-restricted gate pass to legally move freely in the country.

Zambia joined the **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)** thus adopting the whole of society approach to increase the self-reliance of refugees. The GRZ is finalizing the roadmap of the CRRF.

To ensure that refugee' settlements are being consistently governed with the country rule of law, GRZ have placed them under the leadership of the **Commission of Refugees (COR)** within the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Access to allocated land for shelters and agricultural use:** The GRZ allocates a piece of land (for both residential and for farming) to every refugee household living in the settlements making agriculture the main activity.

### Socioeconomic features of the refugee population

- Women and children constitute up to 72% of the total population
- High levels of destitution and poverty due to loss of assets<sup>1</sup>
  - Maheba: 15% very poor, 48% poor, 29% in between, 8% well off
  - Mayukwayukwa: 20% very poor, 70% poor, 8% in between, 2% well off
- 47% of total population of PoCs in Zambia is within the active working age.
- The main livelihoods activities are subsistence farming and small trade
- Only 25 %, of the total working age population in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba, have received direct livelihoods support overtime.

### Livelihoods Strategy' key focus

- Increase agricultural productivity and incomes of households among refugee and host communities through modern agricultural and livestock practices and agricultural market linkages and value chains
- Promote access to digital financial services and financial literacy as well as off-grid energy solutions for refugees and host communities.
- Increase non-farming livelihoods through entrepreneurship and skills development and

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<sup>1</sup> The categories are contextualized and based on local wealth indicators (assets, number of daily meals, PSN). The majority of refugee households would be classed as extremely poor by international standards.

- facilitate wage-earning employment.
- Advocate a conducive environment for livelihoods that includes infrastructure development, private sector engagement as well as targeted policy and planning.

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## Progress

Jan - July 2019

### **In the newly established Mantapala, host and refugees communities population being supported to stabilise:**

- 659 households were supported with rain-fed agriculture in the 2018/2019 season
- 460 households were supported in back yard gardening and small livestock
- 220 households have been supported in business start-up grants
- One temporal market hosting 220 traders is functional. A new market is to be constructed with support from a Korean NGO.
- One business trader association has been established.
- 39 households have been supported with beehives. An apiary has been established.
- 500 fruit tree seedlings have been distributed for planting.

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### **Graduation Approach in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba**

- With the aim of achieving beneficiaries' self-reliance after an 18 months period of coaching, support to group savings and credit scheme, transfer and building of livelihoods assets and skills training, in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba, 105 PoCs were graduated in April 2019.
- The second cohort of 150 PoCs were enrolled in May 2019 and will be provided with similar support for the next 18 months.
- A further 40 youths and foster parents supported to engage in small scale income generating activities.
- 40 youths have been supported to enrol for various vocational skills trainings in Government training institutions in Solwezi and Mongu..
- 2000 fruit tree seedlings distributed for planting in Meheba
- Two refugee groups of 20 individuals supported with two green house to engage in horticulture (vegetable farming).
- FAO supporting 50 former refugees to engage in vegetable farming in the local intergration area through a solar powered irrigation system.

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## Identified needs, gaps and opportunities

- No skills development targeting youth in the settlements.
- Due to insufficient funding, support towards livelihoods opportunities is low and the scale of the programmes implemented is limited.
- No connection to electricity grid and alternative environment-friendly energy solutions is lacking, leading to environmental degradation and inhibiting growth of businesses.
- Limited opportunities and support for non-farming livelihoods
- Private sector engagement remains low.
- Restricted mobility and right to work as well as insufficient food rations induce negative coping mechanisms among refugees

## *Opportunities*

- Linkage between CBI and key sectorial interventions – education, shelter, energy (pay-as-you-go solar, digital agent for energy), financial services, savings and livelihoods opportunities.
- Linkage to market through agricultural value-chain businesses, large scale honey producers and training institutions.
- Scale up access to digital financial services and increase financial literacy

## Partners

Commissioner for Refugees (COR) / Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Ministry of commerce and cooperatives

Caritas Czech Republic (CCR)