



ZAMBIAN GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION  
■ FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ■



## Namanongo Community Profile

December 2019

## 1. Introduction

The Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF) was established in 2009 and in the first eight years focused on strengthening the role of civil society in the national development process through grants, capacity development support and information sharing. In 2018, local philanthropy was added as the third strand of ZGF's work, aimed at helping communities to organize themselves and utilise community resources to address their needs as active citizens using the asset-based community development approach. ZGF chose to pilot this work in Namanongo, a rural community located in Rufunsa district, 108 km east of Lusaka, and in Chawama, a peri-urban community based within Lusaka.

In order to get a comprehensive understanding of the Namanongo community and the dynamics at play there, ZGF undertook a community profiling exercise that sought to collect information related to different socio-economic aspects of households in the area.

The community profiling exercise, conducted internally by ZGF staff, was undertaken between July and August 2019. The methodology used was door to door interviews using standardized questionnaires with both open ended and closed questions. The survey had a total of 95 individual respondents, each representing a household.

This report constitutes the community profile<sup>1</sup> for Namanongo community.

## 2. Population

The Namanongo community is made up of 18 villages. However for the purpose of the ZGF local philanthropy work, only two villages - Kabandi and Musanshika - have been targeted in this pilot phase, with the ultimate hope being that the work can be extended to other villages once it has borne fruit. According to the survey, the total number of people in the two villages is estimated at 173, with the average number of people per household ranging from 1 to 29. The big households can be attributed to existence of family ties where families live within the same yard but have more than one house.

Age group	% of respondents
18-24	11
25-35	25
36-45	24
46-59	24
60 and above	16

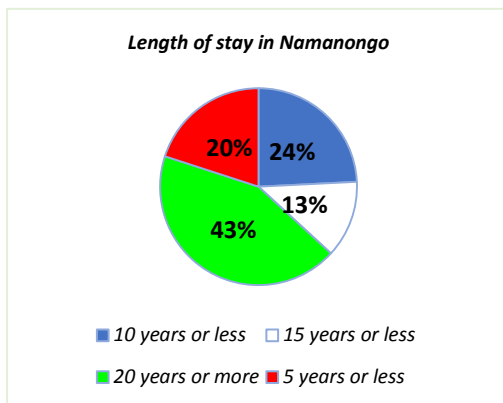
Of that estimated 173 population in the two villages, 60 percent are female while 40 percent are male, entailing that the two villages are female-dominated in terms of sex. This also suggests that the gender dimensions in the two villages are worth considering for any intervention that takes place in Namanongo. In terms of age range, there is a fair representation of all age groups among the respondents, with nearly half (49 percent) being in the 25 – 45 age range. This entails that a significant proportion of people in Namanongo are in what is generally considered to be the economically productive age group, which can be taken as another non-monetary asset from which the community can potentially benefit.

The survey did not go into breaking down the demographics of respondents in terms of how many houses are female or single-headed. However, it was evident that there is tightly knit social fabric where younger people take care of the elderly, as is the case in most communities in Zambia.

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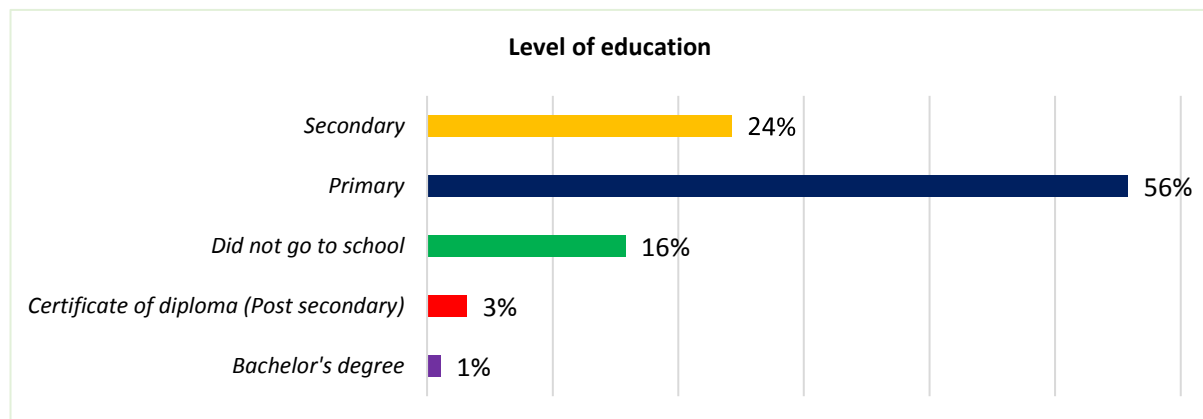
<sup>1</sup>A community profile is a comprehensive description of the needs of a population that is defined as a community, and the resources that exist within that community, carried out with the active involvement of the community (Hawtin, Hughes and Percy-Smith, 1994: 5).

### 3. History



In order to have a basis for ascertaining historical trends in Namanongo, the survey sought to find out how long people had lived in that community. It emerged that most of the respondents – 57 percent to be specific - have not lived in Namanongo for a long period<sup>2</sup>. That said, 43 percent representing respondents that have lived in the area for at least 20 years is a significant number and suggests that there is a significant pool of knowledge in place for tracking historical trends that have happened in the social, economic and political life of Namanongo over the years. Some of the people who live in Namanongo were born there, while others moved

and settled there upon retirement from formal employment. There is nevertheless a small group of people in the community that does not necessarily live in Namanongo permanently, but they



temporarily live in the community whenever they need to tend to their farmlands.

### 4. Education

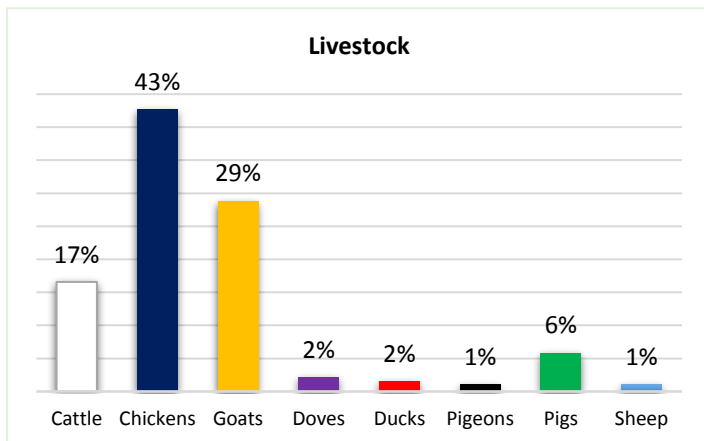
Namanongo community has one government school, which caters for grades 1-7. Pupils that pass to go to secondary school have to go to Chinyunyu or Chongwe, which are an estimated 30 and 60 kms away, respectively. Despite there being only one school in the area, the vast majority of people in Namanongo – comprising 80 percent - have at least primary level of education, suggesting that they are able to read and write at basic level. The picture is however more gloomy when it comes to post-secondary education, with a paltry 4 percent of people having that level of education. Close to one-fifth (16 percent) of respondents stated that they do not have any formal education at all.

### 5. Household assets

Kabandi and Musanshika, the two villages targeted by the survey, have a combined 95 households, with an estimated population of 173 people. There is a community spirit with families living together in close proximity, with some families having separate houses for the children or sharing one house, if it is big enough. The houses are built with locally made bricks using local resources found within

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this survey, “long period” was taken to mean 20 years or more

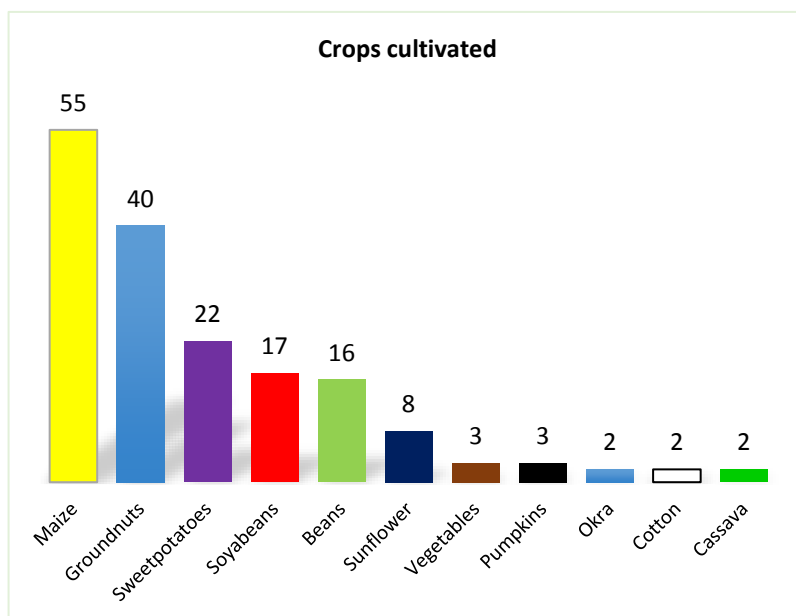
the community. The building is also done by the brick layers within the community, and this skill represents one of the key non-monetary assets that Namanongo has.



In terms of other non-monetary assets, the survey revealed that 89 percent of respondents own livestock, with cattle, chickens and goats appearing to be the most prominent. Just over two-fifth (43 percent) of respondents said they own chickens, 29 percent said they own goats, and 17 percent said they own cattle. The animals reared are used for consumption purposes, but also provide a source of income for families. In addition, some families also use their animals to make in kind payments for

various community projects. Another important non-monetary asset in Namanongo is land, and the survey therefore sought to ascertain how the land ownership situation is in the area. It emerged that a vast majority of 91 percent of respondents own land. In terms of utilization of the land, the vast majority of respondents (95 percent) stated that they were involved in farming activities of some sort. Out of these, some own the land they farm on while others are allowed to use other people's land, especially family land where different members of the family share a piece of land for purposes of production. When it comes to the type of crops grown in the community, the survey showed that there is great variety in that regard. The respondent were asked what crops they cultivate and maize was the most common, with 55 mentions, followed by groundnuts and sweet potatoes with 40 and 22 mentions, respectively. The community also grows mixed beans, okra, cotton, cassava and sunflower among others.

In terms of livelihoods, the vast majority of respondents (79 percent) indicated that they produce enough to sustain their families, while 11 percent said that was not the case. The remaining 10 percent were not categorical on either response, stating that depending on the rain patterns from one year to another, production from farming varies. Namanongo's soil is fertile and the rains generally tend to be sufficient.



## 6. Employment



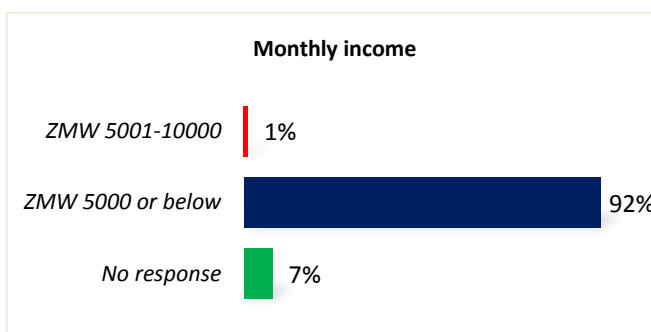
The survey sought to understand the employment status of people in Namanongo under three categories: formally employed, self-employed and unemployed. From the findings, it emerged that 12 percent of respondents are formally employed, with specific examples such as working as a caretaker at a poultry farm, chef for an EU diplomat, community health assistant, deputy head at Namanongo school, farm worker, nurse, officer at national parks & wildlife and truck driver. In addition to the formally employed, 44 percent of respondents are self-employed and

work as blacksmiths or businessmen, with others working in charcoal burning, doing piece work such as building or farming, owning grocery stores, being involved in gold mining and wood logging, running a bar, renting out houses, and selling fritters. Some members of the community in Namanongo have relatives working in formal employment in Chongwe, Livingstone, Lower Zambezi, Lusaka, Mazabuka and Mongu.

Despite just over half of the respondents being in some form of employment, the 44 percent who said they are unemployed still represent a significant number and is symbolic of the overall high rates of unemployment prevailing in Zambia. It was also telling that most of the 44 percent unemployed respondents were female, suggesting that gender inequalities are an issue in Namanongo. The high unemployment levels can be attributed to the low employment opportunities existent in Namanongo, especially when it comes to formal employment.

## 7. Household income

The quality of people's livelihoods is related to the household income they generate, and the survey therefore sought to get insight on this aspect. It emerged that 68 percent of the respondents undertake different income generating activities, with some examples being bee keeping, blacksmithing and bricklaying, gardening, goldmining, wood logging, and poultry farming, among others.



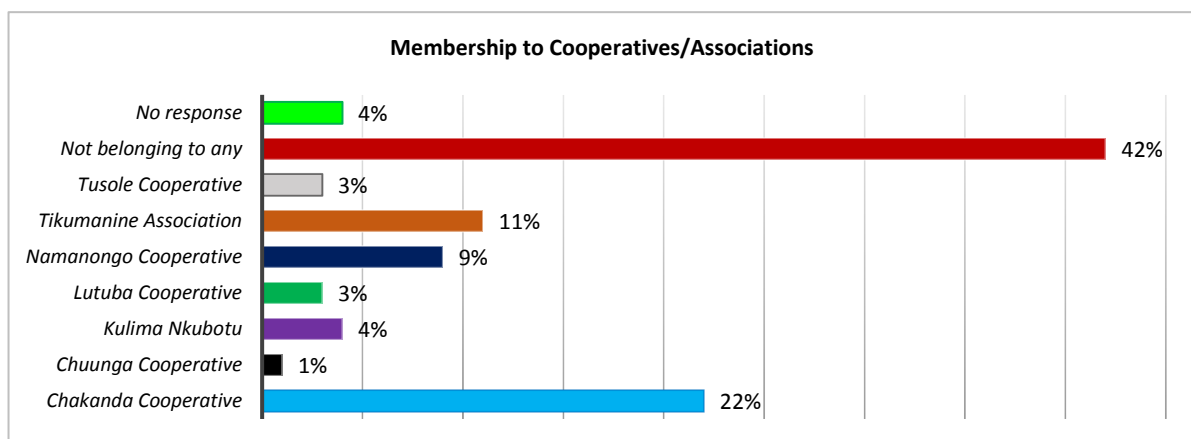
In terms of monthly income, the survey showed that no one in Namanongo earns anything above ZMW 10,000. The vast majority of respondents – representing 92 percent – stated that their monthly income is below ZMW 5,000, with some earning as low as ZMW 10 per month. The low monthly incomes can be attributed to low number of viable economic activities in Namanongo.

When it comes to practices of keeping money, a majority 68 percent of respondents stated that they keep their money at home, with only 13 percent stating that they use the bank to keep their money. For 17 percent of the respondents, mobile money services such as Airtel and MTN money, as well as keeping their money in asset form, provide feasible options for keeping their money safely and they therefore make use of them. A small percentage of respondents (2 percent) opted not to provide information on how they keep their money.

A key aspect of ZGF’s work in Namanongo has been to understand the level of financial support provided to the community from different sources. The survey therefore asked respondents to state whether they had received financial support from outside Namanongo, and an overwhelming majority of 91 percent responded in the negative. This suggests that interventions that seek to harness external financial support to complement whatever the community can provide from their own means would be very timely for Namanongo.



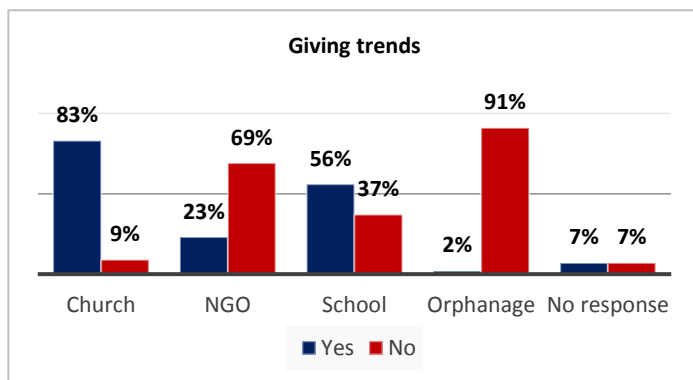
## 8. Institutional assets



Namanongo community has various cooperatives and associations, with 53% of the respondents belonging to an association or cooperative. In terms of the registration status of the various associations or cooperatives, the survey revealed that 51 percent of respondents said their groups had some form of registration, with only one percent saying their groups were not registered at all, and six percent opting not to respond to the question. For 42 percent of respondents, the issue of registration of their groups was not applicable, as they did not belong to any cooperative or association.

The survey also sought to ascertain what the key areas of focus were for the different cooperatives and associations existing in Namanongo, with the results showing that agricultural inputs was the most common issue that the cooperatives and associations focused on, as represented by 32 percent of respondents. Most of the other focus areas – such as promotion of easy access to farm products, attending agricultural shows, and enhancing farming skills – all still revolved around agriculture, suggesting that the focus on agriculture as a broad category was even more prominent than was stated. Other focus areas mentioned were capacity building through loans, raising funds for the community, and promoting peace in the community, all at three percent or less.

## 9. Community philanthropy



Because ZGF's work in Namanongo is entirely about promoting local philanthropy, the survey sought to get clarity on different aspects of community philanthropy in the area.

The majority of respondents – representing 63 percent - indicated that there is always somebody willing to help another community member who is having trouble, suggesting that the basic conditions exist for community members

to help each other in philanthropic ways. There is a general desire and willingness in the community to help each other with people coming through with help during times of funerals and sickness. However, due to high poverty levels in the community, it is difficult for people to lend a hand every time, especially in monetary terms, as the immediate concern tends to be on the wellbeing of the immediate family, then the community at large only afterwards. Despite the suggested presence of such community goodwill towards helping others, slightly over half of respondents (51 percent) were of the view that people in Namanongo can be trusted to borrow or lend money.

Despite the high poverty levels in the community, people in Namanongo are still able to give, with 83 percent indicating having given to the church, 23 percent to NGOs, 56 percent to schools and only 2 percent to orphanages. The results in this regard are in largely conformity with the findings of ZGF's local giving study, which also showed that most Zambians are inclined to give towards the church.

In terms of the monetary value of the giving that occurs in Namanongo, the survey showed that 43 percent of respondents have the ability to give between ZMW 50-100, 12 percent between ZMW 101-150, 9 percent between ZMW 151-500, and 2 percent between ZMW 501-1000. Just over a third of respondents (34 percent) stated that they do not give at all.

As a follow up on the giving patterns in Namanongo, the survey sought to ascertain what causes people were more inclined to give to, and revealed that the majority (62 percent) of respondents were most likely to support agriculture causes due to the community's focus on farming. The second most common cause people are willing to support is education, as stated by 30 percent of respondents, with health and orphanages represented by only 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

## 10. Challenges

- The majority of the community have **water problems**, as there are only two boreholes in the community, one at the school and one at the clinic. During the dry season, the boreholes dry up, thus posing a very big problem for the community.
- Most members of the community, including the school have **no access to power**, while a few have solar systems in place.
- **Limited health care services:** There is one clinic equipped with a nurse and two community health workers. All serious illnesses are referred to Chongwe or Chinyunyu, as the clinic does not have capacity to handle serious cases.

- **Limited education facilities:** Namanongo has one government school catering for children in grade 1 to 7 from eleven villages, causing overcrowding and an inadequate student – teacher ratio. Secondary school children have to relocate to Chongwe or Chinyunyu.
- **Limited transport services and infrastructure:** There is a road connecting Namanongo to the main corridor to the East of the country and Lusaka, but it is not in good condition. There is no public transport available to the community, but one community member provides private bus services. Community members have to walk 23 km to get to the main road to hitch hike.
- There is a **lack of employment opportunities** in the area, with most people being self-employed or doing piece works to raise a bit of income for their families.