

Asset Holdings of Rural Households in Southern Province, Zambia: A Report from Census in the Study Villages

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Abstract

Theme 2 of the Resilience Project conducted a census survey in the study villages in Southern Province of Zambia, based on which sample households for household survey were selected in September 2007. This report is a detailed description of the study villages using the census data.

Sinazongwe area of Southern Province (including Sinazongwe and Choma districts) can be divided into three distinctive zones in terms of not only agro-ecology but also historical settlement pattern: namely upper slope flat land zone, middle slope zone, and lower slope flat land zone near Kariba lake. Based on village-level information collected through group interview in intentionally selected 17 villages over the three zones, 5 villages were chosen as typical villages in each zone. For upper slope flat land zone Siachaya village is selected. Siachaya is an old village that has received immigrants from villages in lower slope flat land. Two adjacent villages, Chanzika and Kanego, are selected for middle slope zone. Chanzika were established in 1990 by immigrants from villages in lower slope flat land, and Kanego were separated from Chanzika due to increasing population. In lower slope flat land, there are two types of villages: one is original and the other is relocated. The former was established by the indigenous people in this area or created by separation from such villages. The latter was created in this zone by the relocation due to Kariba dam construction. Very often, the relocated villages were forced to settle in unfavorable land. Hence, for lower slope flat land zone Siameja village is selected from the original villages and Sianemba villages is selected from the relocated villages.

Following the village selection, a census survey was conducted in the five villages from July to August 2007. Census results are given in the table below.

Table: Village Characteristics based on Census

Zone	Village	Total Population	Number of Male Adults	Number of Female Adults	Number of Households	Household Heads Born Outside
Upper Slope	Siachaya	528	100 (18.9%)	121 (22.9%)	87	25 (28.7%)
Middle Slope	Chanzika	184	43 (23.4%)	41 (22.3%)	25	24 (96.0%)
	Kanego	95	19 (20.0%)	24 (25.3%)	16	16 (100%)
Lower Slope	Siameja	215	46 (21.4%)	55 (25.6%)	37	4 (10.8%)
	Sianemba	215	63 (29.3%)	53 (24.7%)	34	6 (17.6%)
Total		1237	271 (21.9%)	294 (23.8%)	199	75 (37.7%)

Note: Adults are those who were born in 1991 or earlier (i.e. older than the age of 15 years and 7 months as of July 2007).

Since household's risk management and risk coping behaviors depend on its asset holdings, the main part of the census questionnaires asks about household assets. They are classified as physical, human, social, financial, and natural assets. This report provides a detailed description of the study villages based on this asset classification.