

Understanding migration and mobility patterns, access to health services and vulnerabilities of female fish traders in the Kafue Flats fishery, Zambia

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Prepared for:
Policy Advisory Group Meeting

The study

To understand migration and mobility patterns, access to health services and vulnerabilities of female fish traders in the Kafue Flats fishery in Zambia.

Undertaken by the WorldFish Center Zambia

- Alphart Lungu
- Saskia Husken
- Team of local data collectors



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Research questions

- What are the migration and mobility patterns of people residing and trading in the Kafue Flats?
- How do migration and mobility affect people's access to health services in the Kafue Flats?
- What are the key HIV & AIDS risk factors for female fish traders in the Kafue Flats?
- What business-based innovations can reduce their vulnerability to some of these risk factors?

Study description and location

- HIV/AIDS prevalence in Zambia
- The Kafue Flats fishery
- Project sites: *Nyimba and Namalyo fishing communities*
- Selection criteria:
 - Infrastructure / services
 - Economy
 - Scale of fishing
 - Mobility and migration
- Target groups:
 - *fish traders*
 - *fishermen, fish processors*
 - *local authorities*
 - *stakeholders at district / national level*



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Activities undertaken / planned

2008:

- ❖ Literature review
- ❖ Secondary data collection
- ❖ Field data collection - Namalyo fishing community:
 - Semi-structured interviews with local leaders
 - 3 Focus Group Discussions:
 1. Female fish traders
 2. Fishermen
 3. Fishermen and female fish traders (combined)

2009:

- ❖ Focus Group Discussions in Nyimba fishing community
- ❖ Interviews and Questionnaires (Nyimba and Namalyo fishing community)
- ❖ Data analysis and technical report on field studies
 - Identification of specific vulnerability factors
- ❖ Pilot intervention by local NGO

Vulnerability factors identified in the Kafue Flats

1. Mobility and migrant labour:

- Within and from outside Zambia
- Seasonal cane cutters – sugar plantation in Mazabuka
 - Away from home migrants develop new sexual contacts
 - Prostitution and transactional sex

2. Gender imbalances:

- Men have more control and access to resources than women
- Unequal power relations; poor negotiation skills for safer sex
 - Fish-for-sex phenomenon
 - Female fish traders vs. Local women
 - Multiple sexual partners
 - Lack of condom use

Vulnerability factors identified in the Kafue Flats

3. Poor access to services:

- Lack of health services, sanitation and clean water
- Limited access to HIV information
- Challenge: Soil not suitable for construction of infrastructure
 - Low awareness on HIV transmission and prevention
 - Vulnerable to diseases, including STIs
 - Limited / no access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART)

4. Alcohol abuse:

- Lack of recreational facilities
- Source of income
- Medium for exchange of labour
 - Alcohol influences decision making process re. sexual partners and condom use.

Use of study findings

- Provides more data on mobility and migration, access to health services and vulnerabilities of female fish traders in the Kafue Flats.
- Supports the promotion of greater involvement of fisher folk and female fish traders in the response to HIV & AIDS in fishing communities.
- Provides an analytical basis for a pilot intervention by a local NGO.
- Informs policy and planning for reducing vulnerabilities of fisher folk and female fish traders in the Kafue Flats and other fisheries in Zambia.

Thank you for listening.



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