

Economic Opportunities



Beehive: Here's the buzz: A hive produces honey to sell at the market.

VSLA starter kit: Village Savings and Loan Associations are like a community credit union. While totally organized and run by volunteers, this gift provides a lock box, booklets, and training to start the savings groups off right.

Beekeeper training: Keeping bees isn't as simple as just having a hive around. With some education, keepers can enjoy the sweet taste of success!

A pond for raising fish: Fish provide wonderful variety! Fresh flavour and lots of nutrients make fish a welcome addition to village markets.

Diversifying livelihoods: trying all the things!

When we talk about "livelihoods" in global development, we mean any work folks can do to earn a little money. A variety of abilities, resources, and skills equip folks to weather the storms of life with flexibility and grace.

Elisabeth is a member of Ebenezer Self-Help Group, a VSLA organized through a United Church of Zambia congregation in her neighbourhood within the capital city of Lusaka. "I joined the group and started putting in the USD\$0.25 each week and it grew!" she says. When Elisabeth was able to take out a loan from the group, she started selling charcoal from her house. The profits from her sales enabled her to buy food for herself and her dependents. "I'm very grateful for this project because before the group, it was extremely hard. Thanks to this group, hunger at home has ended," she says. "I'm even starting to look better because I have bought some lotion so I can take care of myself."



Elisabeth outside the church where her Village Savings and Loans Association meets

José Pop Pop is the Deputy Mayor of his village in Guatemala. José uses a smoker to keep bees at bay. World Renew supports projects in this Q'ekchi' indigenous community including beekeeping. Members of the community are already beginning to sell honey, wax, and other byproducts, and to make more hives as they learn. This village's location in the jungle of Peten is a great environment for beekeeping, as long as the hives are a good distance from farms that use agrochemicals.



José tends to his beehives

Thank You!