

Sunday, Kafue (19th November, 2023)



CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON CHILDREN IN KALOMO UNSETTLES RICAP

Some parents in the Climate stressed Kalomo District in Southern Province are forcing children into early marriages to raise money for food as a hunger coping strategy due to persistent drought.

Rise Community Aid Programme (RICAP) Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager George Mumbi, who represented RICAP Executive Director Samuel Tundu said Kalomo District in Southern Province is in Zambia's Agro - Ecological Zone 1, which is prone to drought.

Mr. Mumbi further said agriculture is sometimes affected by drought which threatens food security resulting in malnutrition especially among children.

He said his organization is hoping to soon implement a donor funded project that hopes to focus on reducing the vulnerability of children and their communities to impacts of Climate Change in selected wards of Kalomo district.

"On the other hand, when rivers are flooded, children fail to go to school thereby tempering with their Right to Education," he said.

Mr. Mumbi was speaking in Kafue District at House of Excellence (HoE) Lodge when sharing his Organisation's efforts on Environment and Climate Action, during a Training organised by Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) which is implementing a project dubbed "Strengthening Civil Society Voices for Climate Advocacy in Zambia", funded by United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), covering five districts namely Lusaka, Chirundu, Luangwa, Chongwe and Rufunsa.

"The interventions that we focus on include a cross cutting theme of advocacy and accountability in Education, Economic Strengthening, Health and Humanitarian Aid. Some of the interventions such as relief food distribution have been implemented in areas such as Chiawa on humanitarian aid because of the effects of Climate Change the area experiences," he said.

He said RICAP operational districts now include Siavonga, Chikankata, Kalomo and Kazungula Districts in Southern Province.

“Currently, the Organization is executing a sustainable forest management project to target Simaamba and Sinadambwe Chiefdoms of Siavonga as part of community led forest management. The project intends to strengthen and build capacity of local communities and stakeholders to safeguard and conserve the local biodiversity and forest ecosystems. One of the contributing factors to this is the commercial charcoal trading which has resulted in forest degradation and ultimately impacting on Climate Change,” he said.

Mr. Mumbi said the project is being supported by Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP- UNOPS).

“RICAP has also partnered with the Research Triangle Institute International (RTII) on another USAID funded project focusing on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) targeting Kalomo and Kazungula Districts in Southern Province. RICAP has also been working with Save the Children International focusing on advancing the Rights of Children in Kafue District, Lusaka Province. The Organization is working with other partners such as the Global Fund through Ministry of Health under an adolescent health project in Chikankata district,” he said.

Meanwhile, Kafue Youth Club (KYC) Programmes Youth Coordinator Linda Inonge Sipalo says her Organisation has embarked on a campaign dubbed Keep Kafue Clean and Green.

Ms Sipalo said the Campaign is a transformative community initiative aimed at cultivating a cleaner and more environmentally responsible Town.

"KYC intends to carry out a Comprehensive Trash Audit to understand waste management issues and develop a strategy," she said.

Issued By: CEJ Communications Unit

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