

Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2025, I'm delighted to share our latest newsletter highlighting PIN Zambia's continued impact across the communities we serve.

This quarter has been particularly significant as we celebrate the successful conclusion of two transformative projects - our Disaster Risk Reduction initiative and Climate-Smart Agriculture Biochar project - while simultaneously advancing our ongoing work in nutrition, ecosystem protection, and civil society strengthening.

The achievements you'll read about in these pages reflect not only our team's dedication but also the invaluable support of our donors, implementing partners, and government stakeholders. Together, we're building sustainable solutions that continue making a difference long after project completion.

I'm especially proud of our expanding partnerships, as evidenced by our climate advocacy work and the strategic Market Systems Assessment launch for Northwestern Zambia's Lobito Corridor. These collaborations amplify our impact and create pathways for lasting change.

I invite you to explore this newsletter and join us in celebrating these achievements as we continue our mission to support vulnerable communities across Zambia.

[Follow our work](#)

With gratitude,

Stefania Lagonigro

Country Director – PIN Zambia

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Media about PIN's work in Zambia



Strengthening Market Systems in Northwestern Zambia: Study Reveals Lobito Corridor Opportunities

Our groundbreaking assessment of Northwestern Zambia's Lobito Corridor identifies transformative potential in honey, cassava, and pineapple value chains, with projections showing agricultural exports could surge by 40% within five years if key infrastructure and skills development challenges are addressed.

[Read more...](#)



Communities Reclaim Forests to Safeguard Food Systems

In Western Province alone, over 281,000 hectares of forest have disappeared in two decades, threatening not only biodiversity but the very food systems that sustain local communities—yet our partnership with WWF has now placed 90,400 hectares under community protection through innovative management groups that are transforming conservation while securing livelihoods.

[Read more...](#)



Zambia's Civil Society at a Crossroads: EU Project Tackles "Partially Constrained" Democratic Space

Despite a historic 2021 democratic transition, Zambian civil society operates in what CIVICUS Monitor classifies as an "obstructed" civic space—now our CSO LEAD project is empowering local organizations through a unique self-assessment methodology that puts development trajectories directly in the hands of community-based groups across five provinces.

[Read more...](#)

Leadership Insights & Partnerships

RDD Director Strengthens Partnerships and Explores Project Impact in Zambia



During a courtesy call to Mongu's provincial administration, the RDD Director met with the Deputy Permanent Secretary and Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, joined by the PIN Head of Programmes and project coordinators and managers.

Jan Mrkvicka, Director of People in Need's Relief and Development Department (RDD), made his visit to Zambia, engaging with the communities we serve and deepening partnerships across sectors. His visit spanned both Western Province and Lusaka, offering valuable insights into our field operations and strategic collaborations.

In Western Province, Jan met with our team and carried out extensive community visits, witnessing firsthand the positive outcomes of our integrated development work. He observed the tangible impact of our climate-smart initiatives in transforming rural livelihoods.

In Lusaka, Jan participated in an Organisational Capacity Assessment with civil society partners under the EU-funded CS-LEAD project. He also held strategic meetings with key stakeholders—including the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Musika Zambia, Zambia Red Cross Society, Keepers Zambia Foundation, and Rinato Space—reinforcing our shared commitment to sustainable development in Zambia.



A standout moment came from Litoya, where an innovative farm demonstrates the power of integrated solutions. Here, bio-slurry from household digesters enriches both fish ponds and maize fields, creating a sustainable cycle of food production that's improving both incomes and nutrition.



In Limulunga, local entrepreneurs are turning environmental challenges into opportunities through eco-briquette production

Leadership Insights & Partnerships



Czech Republic Ambassador Visits PIN Biogas Projects in Western Province

His Excellency Pavel Procházka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Zambia, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Kateřina Procházková, visited People in Need's office in Mongu, Western Province. The visit included a detailed presentation of our Czech Republic-funded initiatives, with a special emphasis on the Biogas Project.

As part of their visit to Nalolo District, the delegation met with four farming households participating in the CZDA-supported Biogas Project. Ambassador Procházka commended the visible improvements the technology is bringing to rural families. He witnessed operational biogas stoves in use and the productive application of bio-slurry in home gardens—demonstrating the project's full-cycle sustainability and impact on livelihoods.



Leadership Insights & Partnerships



Multi-Agency Climate Advocacy: PIN Co-hosts UNFCCC Preparatory Workshop

Strategic coalition builds capacity for SB62 and COP30 participation

People in Need Zambia, in partnership with Zambia Climate Change Network, ActionAid Zambia, Plan International, CARE International, FIAN International, and WWF, co-hosted a pivotal two-day capacity-building workshop to prepare stakeholders for upcoming global climate negotiations. Held from April 24–25 at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka, the event strategically positioned Zambian civil society and private sector actors ahead of the SB62 sessions in Bonn and COP30 in Belém, Brazil.



The workshop focused on elevating Global South perspectives in international climate dialogue, reinforcing principles of climate justice, and pushing for concrete commitments on emissions reductions and adaptation financing. Participants received in-depth technical guidance on critical negotiation topics, including the Global Goal on Adaptation, implementation of Article 6, the Global Stocktake report, and the ambitious “Baku to Belém Roadmap to USD 1.3 trillion.”

A unified call to action emerged, urging the Zambian government to engage UNFCCC leadership in countering the influence of fossil fuel lobbying in climate talks. The coalition further stressed the importance of building on outcomes from COP29, while spotlighting gender-responsive climate strategies and forest ecosystem protection as essential to driving meaningful progress.

Major Initiative Launches



PIN and Musika Launch Market Systems Assessment for Northwestern Zambia's Lobito Corridor

On April 3, 2025, People in Need Zambia, in collaboration with Musika, officially launched the Market Systems Assessment Study focusing on Northwestern Zambia's Lobito Corridor. The launch event was officiated by Ms. Bernadette Mwakacheya, Director of Small and Medium Enterprises at the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development.



The study provides a comprehensive analysis of economic potential in Solwezi, Mwinilunga, Ikkelenge, and surrounding districts, with a specific focus on honey, cassava, and pineapple value chains. It highlights promising opportunities for smallholder farmers and marginalized communities while underscoring the importance of skills development through Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training (TEVET).

A key moment during the launch was the ceremonial handover of the study to the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprise Development and the Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU), represented by Mr. Hector Hamusankwa, Agriculture and Livestock Specialist. Government representatives expressed strong support for the study's findings. Mrs. Subeta K. Mutelo's office noted that "SMEs can leverage the strategic advantage of the Lobito Corridor to expand their market reach, enhance trade connectivity, and contribute meaningfully to the broader economy."



The study's recommendations align closely with several government initiatives, including the Rural Enterprise Development Programme, the Citizens Economic Empowerment Commission (CEEC), the SDEP-SWY Project, and the TRACER Project. Mr. Hamusankwa also referenced complementary Presidential initiatives, including the national irrigation strategy targeting 500,000 hectares by 2027.

[\[Read the full Market Systems Assessment Study Report here\].](#)

Project Highlights



Nutrition Emergency Response in Western Province

Our Nutrition Emergency Response across Western Province—including the districts of Senanga, Sioma, Limulunga, Lukulu, Nalolo, and Sikongo—continues to make meaningful progress in tackling acute malnutrition. In Nalolo, Limulunga, and Lukulu districts, we have trained an additional 115 health workers and 723 community-based volunteers in the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), strengthening local capacity to detect and treat malnutrition effectively.

To date, our teams have screened over 74,000 children under the age of five for malnutrition. As part of our ongoing nutritional support, we have distributed CSB++ (Corn-Soya Blend) to 10,375 children aged 6–23 months, provided Micronutrient Powders (MNP) to 9,109 children in the same age group, and supplied Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) to 3,288 pregnant women.

This integrated approach not only addresses immediate nutritional needs but also lays the groundwork for sustainable community-led malnutrition management in these vulnerable areas.



Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities Through Ecosystem Protection

Our project continues to make strong strides toward sustainable development and environmental protection in recent months.

We have launched a pilot distribution of improved cookstoves to 250 households across all targeted areas, promoting the adoption of cleaner, more efficient cooking technologies.

Meanwhile, comprehensive training sessions for Community Rangeland Management and Community Forest Management groups have culminated in the initiation of formal cooperative registration—laying the foundation for long-term sustainability and increased economic opportunities.

In support of alternative energy solutions, we also facilitated the installation of a commercial eco-briquette production plant by Easy General Dealers, advancing local access to sustainable cooking fuel options.

Project Highlights



CSO LEADs Project: Strengthening Civil Society Capacity

Our Local Empowerment and Development – Civil Society (CS-LEAD) Project continues to bolster the capacity and resilience of Zambia’s civil society. We convened more than 90 representatives from 30 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and 10 networks in Lusaka for an orientation session on this EU-funded initiative. Participants were introduced to the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) and explored available sub-grant opportunities.

Building on this momentum, we facilitated in-depth OCAT sessions with 30 CSOs across five provinces, alongside Network Organizational Capacity Assessment (NOCAT) workshops for 10 civil society networks. These three-day participatory assessments enabled organizations to identify capacity gaps and design sustainability plans—highlighted by strong engagement from women-led groups.

Each participating organization received expert guidance to develop tailored strategic plans and action documents. This is further supported through Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP), ongoing mentorship, and targeted training programmes.



Project Highlights



Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity in Western Province

Our Disaster Risk Reduction initiative concluded this quarter with notable achievements across Western Province. Three District Disaster Management Committees (Nalolo, Kalabo, and Sikongo) received comprehensive training on essential DRR concepts, hazard profiling, and vulnerability assessments.

Key deliverables completed before project closure include:

- Three district-specific Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans
- Early Action Protocols for drought and flood disseminated with Zambia Red Cross Society
- AWARE platform training conducted with International Water Management Institute

These interventions leave communities with improved capacity to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters, creating lasting resilience beyond the project timeframe.



Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture Through Biochar Technology

Our Biochar Project successfully wrapped up after introducing sustainable soil enhancement technologies to farming communities. Before conclusion, the project provided:

- Climate-resilient seeds and fertilizer to 35 lead farmers and 171 follower farmers
- Training on biochar production and utilization for improved soil fertility
- Vermicompost production skills for sustainable farming
- Exposure visits to demonstration plots for practical learning

These interventions have already improved soil health and crop yields, with knowledge transfer systems in place to ensure techniques continue benefiting communities long after project completion.



PIN on the socials

There is a lot of information about our projects on PIN Zambia and PIN global social media page in English. See some highlights:

@People in Need Zambia

February 28

14 districts across 5 provinces successfully completed a three-day Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) exercise, helping Civil Society Organizations identify strengths and areas for improvement through a participatory self-assessment process. The exercise sets the stage for tailored strategies and targeted investments to strengthen CSO operations and amplify the voices of underrepresented communities.



@People in Need

April 14

The connection between #forests and #foodsecurity in Zambia has never been more evident. Together with WWF Zambia, we're working with local communities to ensure that forests continue to provide food, shelter, and economic opportunities for generations to come.



@People in Need Zambia

March 14

PIN and the Zambia Red Cross Society HQ successfully hosted the first distribution of Early Action Protocols (EAPs) among disaster management stakeholders from select Western Province districts.

The gathering highlighted the critical importance of Anticipatory Actions (AAs) in strengthening disaster preparedness and response effectiveness.



@peopleinneedzm

March 31

We joined the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Lusaka's stand at the International Day of Forests exhibition, representing our "Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities through Ecosystem Protection" project funded by Jersey Overseas Aid and CzechAid. Alongside Mendelu and Caritas Czech Republic in Zambia, we engaged stakeholders on sustainable forest conservation and non-timber forest products as alternative livelihoods, emphasizing our commitment to community-based approaches that protect resources while creating sustainable income opportunities.





PIN Team



We have moved!

We're excited to announce that People in Need (PIN) Zambia has officially relocated! Our new office is now in Kabulonga 8655, Kudu Road, Lusaka.

Our contact details remain the same, so feel free to reach out or visit us at our new location. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to welcoming you soon!



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Big thanks to donors and partners



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