CLIMATE JUST COMMUNITIES
Communities leading on climate justice

NIRAS

CLIMATE JUST COMMUNITIES - ZAMBIA

Endline Evaluation Report

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

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Contents

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMF	Adaptive Management Fund
BRE	Barotse Royal Establishment
CBM	Christian Blind Mission (UK)
CCZ	Council of Churches in Zambia
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CDP	Community Delivery Partner
CEJ	Centre for Environment Justice
CJC	Climate Just Communities
CMC	Community Management Committee
CL-FS	Community-Led Field School
CSPR	Civil Society for Poverty Reduction
CWAC	Community Welfare Assistance Committee
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DMMU	Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife (formerly ZAWA)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRW	Disability Rights Watch Zambia
EFZ	Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia
EQ	Evaluation Question
FRA	Food Reserve Agency
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FISP	Farmer Input Support Programme
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GLM	Green Living Movement
HWC	Human–Wildlife Conflict
KII	Key Informant Interview
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MCDSS	Ministry of Community Development and Social Services
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIRAS	NIRAS International Consulting
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPD	Organisation of Persons with Disabilities
PMU	Project Management Unit
SCT	Social Cash Transfer
ToC	Theory of Change
ToT	Training of Trainers
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WDC	Ward Development Committee
WPC	Water Point Committee
ZAPD	Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities
ZAWA	Zambia Wildlife Authority (now DNPW)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the endline evaluation of the Scottish Government-funded Climate Just Communities (CJC) project in Zambia (August 2023 – March 2026). The evaluation assesses the extent to which CJC's community led interventions have contributed to building more inclusive, climate resilient communities, in line with the three pillars of climate justice: procedural, distributive, and transformative justice. Data was collected in January–February 2026 across four districts, namely Luangwa, Shangombo, Sinazongwe, and Sioma. Data was collected in line with a theory-based mixed-methods design and drew on a household survey (155 direct and indirect beneficiaries), key informant interviews (82 participants), and focus group discussions (310 participants).

At a glance

4
DISTRICTS
Luangwa, Shangombo, Sinazongwe, Sioma

22
WARDS
In underserved and climate-vulnerable areas

15,300+
PEOPLE
Participating in project activities

3
CLIMATE JUSTICE PILLARS
Procedural, distributive and transformative justice

7
INTERVENTION AREAS
Holistic support with a focus on inclusion and sustainability

Project Background & Approach

CJC Zambia was implemented by NIRAS in partnership with local Community Delivery Partners – the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ), Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), and the Green Living Movement (GLM) – alongside technical partners on advocacy - Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) and Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) and disability inclusion (CBM UK and Disability Rights Watch Zambia). The project targeted four of Zambia's most climate-vulnerable and underserved districts, selected through an evidence-based vulnerability ranking and multi-stakeholder consultation.

The project's Theory of Change is structured around three interlinked pillars of Climate Justice and 7 intervention areas:

Pillars of Climate Justice

INTERVENTION AREAS

WASH
Construction and rehabilitation of waterpoints (boreholes and wells), improved latrine construction, weirs for rainwater harvesting.

Climate-resilient agriculture
Seed distribution, field schools, livestock and veterinary kit distribution, irrigation scheme installation.

NRM
Tree planting, beehives, fuel-efficient stoves, farmer-managed natural regeneration.

Economic development
Business skills training, Village Savings and Lending and Market Linkage.

DRR
Preparedness, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict and humanitarian response.

GEDSI
Gender training and identifying and supporting people with disabilities.

Advocacy
Training of advocacy champions, social accountability meetings, support to access Constituency Development Funds.

KEY FINDINGS

Overall findings

The Climate Justice approach has delivered clear and distinctive results. The evaluation finds strong, triangulated evidence that CJC has contributed to improved climate resilience, particularly through inclusive governance, improved water access, livelihood diversification, and strengthened advocacy capacity. The project is consistently experienced by communities, government partners, and delivery partners as **qualitatively different from conventional development programmes, due to its participatory design, deliberate inclusion of marginalised groups, and targeting of the most underserved areas.**

Inclusivity is the project's strongest and most transformative outcome. CJC has contributed to profound changes in the participation, visibility, and empowerment of people with disabilities, women, youth, and elderly people. These changes extend beyond project activities to influence community norms, leadership structures, and access to government services.

Procedural Justice

There is **strong evidence** that CJC successfully targeted the most climate-vulnerable and underserved communities and placed community participation at the centre of decision-making. The project established inclusive governance structures – Community Management Committees (CMCs) – that embedded community participation from the outset and shifted beneficiary selection from induna-controlled top-down processes to transparent, committee-based, inclusive approaches. Across all four districts, community members, government officials, and delivery partners unanimously confirmed that CJC worked in the right places with the right people. In particular:

- CMCs ensured representation of women, youth, elderly, and people with disabilities in project governance and decision-making.
- The sequential entry strategy: District authorities → traditional leadership → community – was critical for legitimacy and trust.
- Marginalised groups reported a qualitatively new experience of being included in, rather than excluded from, development processes.

While overall confidence in fairness and transparency was high, **some concerns were raised by indirect beneficiaries** regarding favouritism in beneficiary selection, highlighting the need for continued strengthening of accountability and complaints mechanisms.

Distributive Justice

CJC consistently reached the most marginalised groups and delivered interventions with early evidence of improved climate resilience. Water access was the single most transformative resilience pathway identified across all districts. The 2024 El Niño drought emergency validated the project's multi-sector approach to building household buffers against climate shocks. Key distributive justice achievements include:

- **Water access:** 177 boreholes rehabilitated, 44 drilled, 36 wells sunk – reducing collection distances, cutting diarrhoeal disease, and enabling year-round food production.
- **Livestock:** Goats and chickens distributed to the most vulnerable households – including female-headed households and people with disabilities – with voluntary pass-on mechanisms supporting community spread.
- **Food security:** Direct beneficiaries significantly less likely to go a whole day without eating (46.8% vs 61.8% of indirect beneficiaries).
- **Market access:** 413 business group were trained and 34 formal off-taker agreements signed with private buyers, exceeding the target of 24 – including with Freshmark (Shoprite), SHAIS Foods, and Forest Africa.
- **VSLA growth:** Savings groups in Sinazongwe saw 5x growth in annual payouts, with households using savings for school fees, emergencies, and business investment.

Emerging evidence suggests positive effects on longer-term objectives including dietary diversity, agricultural production and sustained income growth are possible but currently remain nascent due to short timeframes and external shocks.

Transformative Justice

CJC's most significant contribution to transformative justice is the systematic inclusion of historically marginalised groups in community life, decision-making, and government services, alongside the development of advocacy capacity that has enabled communities to access greater support from Government. These changes extend to institutional norm shifts at local and national government level. Particular highlights include:

- **Disability inclusion**: People with disabilities in all four districts moved from systematic exclusion to participation in leadership roles. The Zambian Association for Persons with Disabilities is now providing assistive devices at government cost and the Ministry of Health classified sun cream as an essential medicine for people with albinism as a result of project lobbying.
- **Women's empowerment**: GALS training recipients show significantly higher joint household decision-making on income – 54% vs 39% for non-recipients. Women now hold committee positions and lead groups that were previously male-only.
- **Advocacy outcomes**: Communities successfully lobbied for Constituency Development Fund resources to be spent on community priorities and secured agreement for additional Food Reserve Agency access points to strengthen access to inputs and markets.
- **National policy influence**: Government adopted CJC's disability-inclusive latrine model; a parliamentary disability caucus was established with 88/150 MPs; disability-specific indicators were embedded in Zambia's National Adaptation Plan.

Sustainability and Value for Money

CJC deliberately invested in sustainability through community ownership, capacity building, and integration with government systems. Sustainability prospects are strongest for knowledge-based outcomes (advocacy, inclusion norms, agricultural practices) and simpler infrastructure (hand pumps), where local maintenance systems are in place.

Risks are higher for technically complex infrastructure (e.g. solar-powered systems, weirs) and for market linkages that remain early-stage. The durability of community committees and advocacy efforts may be constrained by the withdrawal of logistical support, particularly transport.

Targeting the most remote and underserved areas maximised equity and marginal impact but increased delivery costs and limited overall reach. This trade-off is inherent to the climate justice approach and was widely recognised by stakeholders as justified, though it has implications for future programme design and scaling.

Lessons Learned & Conclusions

Key Enablers

Evidence-based geographic targeting identified genuinely underserved communities that other actors had bypassed

Participatory, community-led entry – proceeding through traditional leadership first but setting up dedicated and inclusive structures – built legitimacy and trust that underpinned all other outcomes

Water infrastructure has health and economic benefits with spillover effects for indirect beneficiaries

GEDSI interventions systematically challenged historic inequalities and social norms limiting women and people with disabilities from participating and benefiting in community activities

CJC's logistical support enabled government departments to access remote communities for the first time, multiplying project impact

Key Challenges

Project scale was insufficient to meet community need – communities praised CJC's quality while identifying scale gaps as the central limitation

The ~2-year implementation window was too short to fully consolidate behaviour change, particularly for NRM and market linkages

Geographic remoteness amplified costs, delivery challenges and sustainability risks, particularly in Shangombo and Sioma

Some beneficiary selection concerns reported, particularly by indirect beneficiaries, call for more proactive promotion of complaints mechanisms

Human-wildlife conflict (especially elephants) remains unresolved and requires government-level resourcing beyond project scope

Conclusions

The Climate Justice approach has paid off. CJC delivered documented resilience outcomes aligned with community priorities, strong inclusivity gains for people with disabilities, women, youth, and the elderly, and a sustainability outlook strongest where interventions are tangible, income-generating, or institutionally anchored. The additional costs of the climate justice approach – inclusive design, GEDSI training, participatory processes, and disability-specific services – are associated with outcomes that would not have been achieved through standard development programming: documented shifts in community norms, formal institutional linkages for marginalised groups, and community ownership that participants consistently describe as a precondition for sustainability.

Inclusivity is the single strongest outcome of the project. The evaluation provides strong, cross-cutting evidence that CJC is experienced by communities, government partners, and delivery partners as qualitatively different from other development programming. The main distinguishing features are participatory community-led entry; targeting of the most underserved geographies; and systematic inclusion of marginalised groups. These are lessons with direct application to the design of future Climate Justice programmes in Zambia and beyond.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of the endline evaluation of the Scottish Government funded Climate Just Communities (CJC) project in Zambia (August 2026 – March 2026). The primary objective at endline is to evaluate the success of CJC's community-led interventions in building more inclusive and climate-resilient communities, in line with the three pillars of Climate Justice. This acts as a form of accountability to Scottish Government but is primarily a learning-oriented exercise to help Scottish Government and NIRAS design future Climate Justice interventions in Zambia. The main audiences for this report are therefore Scottish Government and CJC project implementers.

This section of the report presents the background to the project and its interventions, while Section 2 outlines the approach to the endline evaluation. Findings are in section 3. Section 4 concludes.

1.1 Background to CJC Zambia Project

1.1.1 CJC Zambia Pathways to Change

The overall impact CJC aims to achieve is: CJC contributes to a just transition and demonstrates the value of the locally led adaptation model.

The CJC Zambia Theory of Change (Annex 1) aligns with the overall CJC programme cross-lot ToC (covering also the CJC projects in Rwanda and Malawi), and sets out the activities, outputs, outcomes and impact needed to address the following problem statement:

Those most vulnerable to and affected by climate change often lack a voice in decisions concerning the response, and the means to advocate for sustainable change and to increase their own resilience to climate shocks and stressors.

The ToC is based on three interlinked pathways to change in line with the three distinct pillars of climate justice:

- **Distributive Justice** relates to equal access to, and sharing of, resources and benefits. This includes both access to resources and benefits and equitable sharing of the costs of responding to climate change.
- **Procedural Justice** relates to transparent, fair and equitable decision-making processes.
- **Transformative Justice** relates to structural inequities and focuses on mainstreaming understanding of climate justice issues, as well as building capacity.

1.1.2 Project Delivery Model

The CJC Zambia project was implemented by NIRAS in close partnership with local delivery partners, the private sector, and technical experts The Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ), Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), and the Green Living Movement Zambia (GLM), were the local Community Delivery Partners (CDPs), providing the entry points into target CJC communities, and responsible for facilitating community participation to design and implement project interventions based on community Climate Justice Plans developed through community climate justice vulnerability assessment and planning processes during a three-month scoping phase in August – October 2023. These CDPs had in-depth knowledge of rural Zambian communities and were responsible for community mobilisation and relationships but also provided a shared service with responsibility for procurement, with the project also bringing in specific technical skills to improve the quality of the interventions and to transfer skills to community members. Technical partners included the Centre for Environment Justice (CEJ) and Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), which led the advocacy activities of CJC. CBM UK and Disability Rights Watch (DRW) were the disability inclusion advisory partners, ensuring CJC Zambia took a strong approach to the inclusion of people with disabilities. The project also worked with local technical service providers and short-term technical assistance to provide innovative solutions, training and climate-resilient infrastructure to communities.

1.1.3 Activities implemented

CJC targeted four of the most climate vulnerable and underserved districts in Zambia, selected based on vulnerability analysis and consultative process during the scoping phase.

Implementation took a phased approach, beginning with scoping activities in six wards in Luangwa, Shangombo and Sinazongwe districts, between August and September 2023. The project ultimately operated within several wards and communities within these districts:

Luangwa, Lusaka Province: 14 wards: Mburuma, Chikoma, Kaunga, Mankhokwe, Mwalilia, Chiriwe, Kapoche, Katondwe, Lunya, M'kaliya, Kabowo, Mandombe, Mphuka, Phwazi

Shangombo, Western Province: 2 wards: Mulangu, State Ranch

Sinazongwe, Southern Province: 4 wards: Chiyabi, Mabinga, Mweezya, Tekelo

Sioma, Western Province: 2 wards: Watembo, Liwandamo

CJC Zambia delivered a portfolio of interventions tailored to community needs and priorities across several workstreams: Climate-resilient agriculture, economic development, disaster risk reduction, natural resource management, WASH, advocacy, and GEDSI.

Activities and outputs in the **scoping phase** led to the development of **community-owned and -specific action plans, Theories of Change and Climate Justice Plans,** which in turn determined specific interventions to be implemented under CJC Zambia over the course of the project. Activities under key intervention areas are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: CJC Zambia Key activities and intervention areas

Climate resilience interventions	
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	· Increasing access to clean water through borehole rehabilitation and drilling new boreholes and wells. · Constructing weirs to capture surface water for livestock and agriculture · Latrine construction and installation of hygiene facilities - led to adoption of an inclusive latrine design being adopted by the national government
Natural Resource Management (NRM)	· Distribution of beehives and training on beekeeping (Luangwa only) · Establishing tree nurseries and tree planting/vegetative cover on degraded/vulnerable lands · Distribution and training in fuel-efficient stoves (Luangwa only) · Training on NRM topics and land use planning to set aside land for farmer-managed natural regeneration and wetland management
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	· Forming/strengthening DRR satellite committees, developing early warning systems, and increasing community participation in DRR · Measures to mitigate human wildlife conflict (e.g. chilli fences) · Rehabilitation of houses following a flood event - new activity (not originally planned)
Climate Resilient Agriculture	· Distribution of goats and chickens and veterinary kits · Distribution of seed and seed sharing/multiplication · Supporting farmers to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices through Community-Led Field Schools (CL-FS) and agroecology field days/exchange visits · Development of new drip irrigation schemes and training of farmer irrigation committees* (not done in Sioma due to water constraints)
Economic Development	· Business coaching for VSLAs and cooperatives. · Creating links to markets for businesses.
Cross-cutting interventions	
Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)	· GEDSI training/sensitisation on with local leaders, GEDSI Champions, etc · Disability inclusion: Identifying and registering people with disabilities, provision of assistive devices and reasonable accommodation, cataract surgeries, training for people with disabilities, support to Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) · Gender Action Learning Systems - training GALS Facilitators and roll-out at community level
Advocacy	· Local level advocacy - Advocacy Champion training, lobbying on removal of barriers to CDF, engagement meetings with community members to take forward advocacy actions, and indabas with local government, awareness campaigns
Adaptive Management Fund	
· Food distribution during major drought event · Budget cut in FY3 meant AMF was discontinued	

2. EVALUATION DESIGN

2.1 Overview

The overall evaluation design is a theory-based, mixed-methods approach designed to respond to a set of evaluation questions and sub-questions agreed between project staff, partners and Scottish Government. The analytical approach for the evaluation was thematic analysis across quantitative (survey) and qualitative data. This involved identifying, examining and recording patterns (or 'themes') within the data, to inform the understanding of pathways of CJC implementation. The endline evaluation draws on Most Significant Change techniques, a participatory evaluation methodology, to collect stories of change from communities through engaging stakeholders in a process of discussing, analysing and recording change in specified domains since the start of implementation (or, where relevant, since the start of the Scoping Phase in August 2023). A detailed design document was prepared to agree on the methodology, followed by detailed data collection tools for the household survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews which are available on request. The evaluation team approach was screened according to NIRAS ethical guidelines for evaluations and adhered to standards based on the UK Government guidelines for Ethical Assurance for Social and Behavioural Research.

2.2 Evaluation Questions

There are three main evaluation questions:

EQ1. What impact has CJC had? How/why, for whom and in what contexts? ***(DAC OECD Criteria: Impact; effectiveness)***

EQ2: How is CJC different than other development projects? (DAC OECD Criteria: relevance; coherence; effectiveness; sustainability)

EQ3: Lessons learned - what worked, and what did not? ***(DAC OECD Criteria: Effectiveness)***

The Evaluation Matrix in Annex 2 contains detailed criteria and sub-questions that supported the evaluation in addressing the EQs.

2.3 Data Collection and Analysis

The endline evaluation gathered primary quantitative and qualitative data from a range of key stakeholders, including CJC project participants (direct beneficiaries), both as individuals (women, young people, people with disabilities, men) and as members of committees, Delivery Partners, and external actors including local and national government. Indirect beneficiaries were also interviewed. This was complemented by a review of secondary data. Data collection took place during January – February 2026. RuralNet was the endline evaluation data collection provider, having also conducted the baseline study.

2.3.1 Quantitative Data

The endline administered a refined and updated household survey in order to capture key changes in household livelihoods and resilience against baseline, including incidence of shocks and stressors to endeavour to capture sustainability of outcomes and resilience It included recall questions to allow some comparison between baseline and endline.

Approximately 20 beneficiaries per ward were selected for the household survey using a two-step sampling process. First, Community Development Partners (CDPs) compiled a longlist of 50 beneficiaries clustered around a specific geographic point within the ward (e.g., a water point) who had participated in three or more CJC activities. From this list, the data collection service provider randomly selected 30 beneficiaries to account for potential dropouts, with the aim of completing interviews with approximately 20 participants per ward.

In addition, around 20 indirect beneficiaries per district were identified through transect walks conducted from the water points across the CJC wards, the direction of which was determined through randomisation methods. This method enabled the team to locate individuals who had experienced indirect benefits—such as improved access to water—without having participated in any CJC activities. The endline quantitative survey was administered to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries across all 4 districts in the sampled wards (Table 2), selecting people with disabilities, women, elderly people, youth, and men.

Table 2: Endline quantitative survey sample size

Sample wards – selecting people with disabilities, women, elderly people, youth, and men	Beneficiaries (no.)			Non-beneficiaries / indirect beneficiaries (no.)			Total		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Luangwa: Cluster 1 Mburuma, Chikoma, Kaunga, Mankhokwe, Mwalilia	11	10	21	16	4	20	27	14	41
Shangombo: State Ranch	7	11	18	12	9	21	19	20	39
Sinazongwe: Mweezya	12	9	21	13	3	16	25	12	37
Sioma: Watembo	15	4	19	11	8	19	26	12	38
TOTAL	**45**	**34**	**79**	**52**	**24**	**76**	**97**	**58**	**155**

Descriptive statistics were produced for all survey questions (tables available on request) and further information on the statistical significance of correlations presented in the report is available in Annex 3.

2.3.2 Qualitative data

Qualitative Data was collected via semi-structured key informant interviews and focus group discussion with key stakeholders across all sampled wards: Luangwa Cluster 1; Shangombo: State Ranch; Sinazongwe: Mweezya; Sioma: Watembo (Table 3). "Realist" style inquiry in interviews, (interrogating change pathways, starting with outcomes and asking how, why, for whom and in what contexts observed change – both positive and negative - occurs) helped to tease out influencing factors and alternative (or combined) explanations for outcomes, which may or may not relate to the project.

CDPs prepared beneficiary lists for the focus group discussions (FGDs) in advance of data collection, ensuring that each group included at least two youth participants and one person with a disability. The gender balance across groups was generally equitable; however, not all FGDs could be fully gender-disaggregated, which may have limited women's ability to participate freely in mixed-gender discussions. The data collection team further disaggregated some FGDs by asking one male and one female participant from the initial group to help identify additional community members who had received specific interventions but were not included on the original CDP-provided lists. This approach, while pragmatic, may have introduced selection bias by relying on beneficiary referral rather than systematic sampling from predefined lists.

For community-level key informant interviews (KIIs), CDPs compiled a longlist of 15 potential respondents per ward or cluster. From these, the data collection service provider selected five individuals, ensuring representation from a man, a woman, a person with a disability, a youth, and an elderly person. KIIs with direct beneficiaries covered topics related to crop production, economic development, natural resource management (NRM), disaster risk reduction (DRR), advocacy, and GEDSI.

The identification of five indirect beneficiaries for KIIs followed the same transect walk approach used in the household survey. Starting from CJC-supported water points, the team identified individuals who had benefited indirectly from programme activities but had not participated directly in CJC initiatives.

Table 3: Key informant interviews and focus group discussions conducted in each District

		Key informant interviews	Focus Group Discussions
Luangwa	Female beneficiary	8	38
	Male beneficiary	8	39
	Gender beneficiary not specified	1	0
	Government	4	NA
	NGO/other	3	NA
Sinazongwe	Female beneficiary	10	69
	Male beneficiary	8	44
	Gender beneficiary not specified	0	0
	Government	5	NA
	NGO/other	2	NA
Sioma	Female beneficiary	1	32
	Male beneficiary	11	23
	Gender beneficiary not specified	1	0
	Government	6	NA
	NGO/other	0	NA
Shangombo	Female beneficiary	3	33
	Male beneficiary	9	32
	Gender beneficiary not specified	2	0
	Government	7	NA
	NGO/other	0	NA
Total		**82**	**310**

2.3.3 Secondary data

The endline evaluation also drew on secondary data including: CJC Annual Reports, CJC Zambia Final Baseline Report (2024), and the Final Evaluation of the Climate Justice Fund[1].

2.3.4 Analysis and synthesis

Quantitative data analysis focused on descriptive statistics and bivariate analysis to compare differences between groups. Thematic analysis of the qualitative and secondary data, with light-touch contribution analyses allowed us to test the ToC and associated assumptions against evidence on observed results, other influencing factors (positive and negative) and alternative explanations for outcomes. We developed synthesis findings through triangulation and assessment of the strength of evidence across the dataset using the rubric below. Our findings were then checked, internally within the evaluation team and through a stakeholder workshop involving project team members.

Quality and strength of the qualitative evidence is based on a combination of strength of evidence that an outcome happened, the degree to which evidence for how and why change happened explains those outcomes. The contribution rating captures the extent to which the CJC project has contributed to outcomes (Table 3).

Table 4: Examples of strength of evidence and contribution ratings

Strength of evidence for outcomes and change pathways	Contribution Rating
No evidence: There is not sufficient evidence to make a judgement	**None:** No evidence that the projector intervention made any contribution
Weak: 'Anecdotal' qualitative evidence only e.g. reported by fewer than 5 individuals • Evidence comes from a small number of sources with limited triangulation; and/or • There are major concerns that the position, knowledge, analytical capacity, reflexivity and potential biases of primary informants lower the reliability of evidence; and/or • There are contradictory insights into what is happening within the broader context.	**Low:** Evidence that projector intervention made some contribution
Partial/emerging: Some qualitative evidence (between 5 and 10 reports) supported by at least one district-level insight	
Medium: More than 10 reports, confirmed by M&E data on progress, supported by district-level insights Confidence is reduced by: • Shortcomings with regard to triangulation; and/or • Concerns that the position, knowledge, analytical capacity, reflexivity and potential biases of primary informants lower the reliability of evidence; and/or • What we know about what is happening within the broader context	**Moderate:** Evidence that projector intervention made an important contribution
Strong: multiple reports, confirmed by M&E data on progress, supported by multiple district-level insights, confirmed by quantitative evaluation data • Based on a good degree of triangulation: i) within interviews, ii) across stakeholders and types of stakeholders and/or iii) across data sources; • Taking into account the position, knowledge, analytical capacity, reflexivity and potential biases of primary informants; and • Also taking into account what we know about the broader context and other causal factors.	**High:** Evidence that project intervention made a crucial contribution

1. Burlace et al. (2021). Evaluation of the Climate Justice Fund: Final Evaluation Report. NIRAS.

2.3.5 Limitations and mitigation

2.3.5.1 Data collection

Issues were noted with beneficiaries sampled to participate in the focus groups discussions and household survey did not show up for participation. This was likely due to beneficiaries being busy with agricultural field activities as the data collection took place in the rainy season, and connectivity issues that caused delays in data collection activities being communicated to beneficiaries.

2.3.5.2 Quantitative data

It was not feasible to conduct a panel analysis comparing the same beneficiaries at endline and baseline. Many respondents interviewed at baseline were not yet confirmed project beneficiaries, as the wards in which the project would operate had not been finalised. Consequently, the proportion of beneficiaries consulted at baseline is too small to allow for meaningful comparison of changes between baseline and endline across districts. In addition, the project expanded into new wards during implementation, such as Sioma, which was not included at baseline. As a result, direct comparison between baseline and endline data was largely not possible, although some population-level proportion comparisons were included in the endline analysis. While project effects were examined by comparing direct and indirect beneficiaries, this approach is imperfect due to spillover effects from project interventions. The evaluation budget also only allowed for a relatively small sample size (N = 155) which limited the ability to robustly explore the relationships between CJC support and various project outcomes. This constraint was particularly evident for interventions implemented more recently, where insufficient time has passed for activities to translate into measurable change, such as the impact of off-taker agreements or livestock sales on incomes. In addition, the sampling approach using water points to select 'indirect beneficiaries' and explore spillover benefits from water interventions meant that we could not measure a quantitative change in distances and time taken for water collection for project wards vs other wards in the district.

A further limitation relates to the survey design, specifically the binary measurement of whether respondents received CJC interventions. Indirect beneficiaries were not asked whether they had received any support through spillover channels, for example, receiving kids or chicks from distributed livestock, or receiving training from beneficiaries who participated in CJC activities. Because these spillovers could not be captured in the quantitative dataset, indirect beneficiaries were excluded from bivariate analyses assessing relationships between CJC interventions and project outcomes. Consequently, only correlations among direct beneficiaries could be assessed, comparing those who received specific interventions with those who did not, rather than examining broader correlations between CJC interventions and outcomes across the full sample. This risks under-reporting project outcomes.

Following data collection, some socio-demographic data was lost, including information on years of schooling, ages of adult household members, and detailed disability indicators. While the dataset includes the number of household members with a disability, it does not include disaggregated information on disability types (e.g., visual, hearing, or mobility impairments). This limits interpretation of findings related to the disability services provided by CJC and beneficiaries' satisfaction with this support.

3. FINDINGS

3.1.1 Procedural Justice

Procedural climate justice relates to transparent, fair and equitable decision-making processes. Procedural justice ensures that the most affected people and communities are prioritised for project support and that they are actively involved in project planning, decision-making and implementation.

Overall, CJC successfully targeted the most climate-vulnerable and underserved communities in Zambia. The project also achieved significant progress in procedural justice by establishing inclusive decision-making structures and ensuring meaningful community participation in project design and implementation.

3.1.1.1 Outcomes

There is strong and widespread evidence from community members, district government officials, delivery partners, and national government respondents that CJC chose to work in the right places and with the right people. CJC's geographical targeting was grounded in a structured, evidence-based methodology – combining climate vulnerability data, analysis of existing programme coverage, national government consultation, and district-level stakeholder input – that resulted in the selection of four of the most climate-exposed and underserved districts in Zambia. Shangombo and Sioma in particular had seen limited prior development programming and NGO presence, with severe challenges with functioning infrastructure and constrained government service delivery. The significant logistical costs of operating in these areas – delivery costs in Shangombo estimated at up to three times those in Luangwa – were a direct consequence of prioritising communities with the greatest unmet need rather than those easiest to reach, but this was observed by delivery partners as being a necessary cost of the climate justice approach. Detailed evidence on geographical targeting is presented in section 3.3.1.

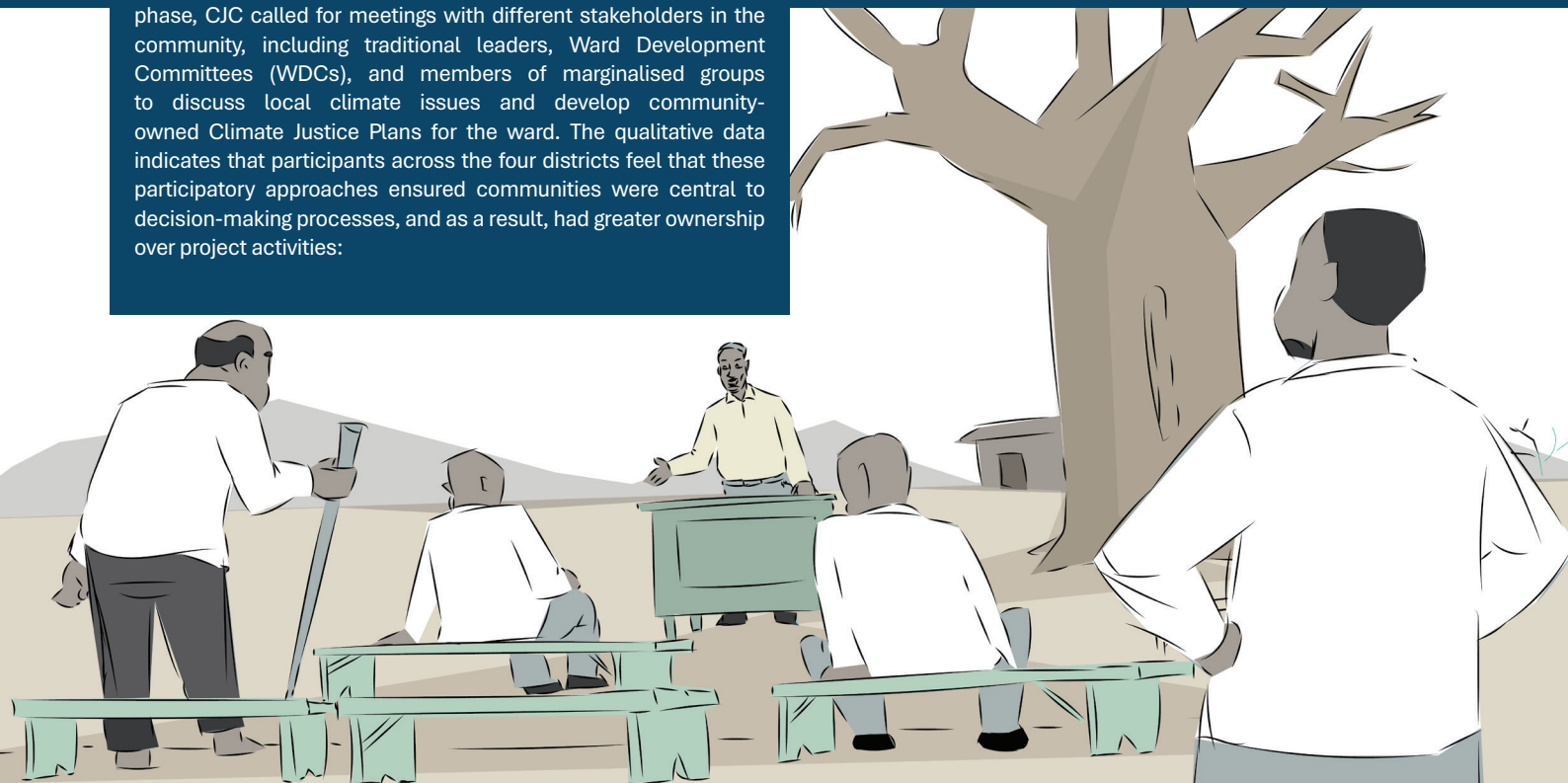
There is also strong evidence that the project was designed and delivered with participatory planning and community-led decision-making at the centre. During the scoping phase, CJC called for meetings with different stakeholders in the community, including traditional leaders, Ward Development Committees (WDCs), and members of marginalised groups to discuss local climate issues and develop community-owned Climate Justice Plans for the ward. The qualitative data indicates that participants across the four districts feel that these participatory approaches ensured communities were central to decision-making processes, and as a result, had greater ownership over project activities:

"CJC does not impose decisions on us unlike other organisations. We are very much involved in all that has been going on and we are part and parcel of the decisions. It's our project, we are in the driving seat … Our input in decision making has been immense, and we are happy to see our plans taken into consideration in the activities we have" ***(KII22, Luangwa, Male, Association for Persons with Disabilities).***

"Unlike other organisations, CJC has involved us in decisions … We were asked what we really want … Decisions to do with CJC project are very inclusive; women, people with disabilities, youth, elderly and men are involved. Because we are involved in CJC decision making, we own the project" ***(KII26, Luangwa, Mburuma, Direct Beneficiary, Male).***

"CJC designed their activities in such a way that the community will take charge even after it comes to an end"

(FGD1, Crop and livestock production, Sioma, Watembo).



CJC deliberately included marginalised groups in decision-making processes and as recipients of interventions, transforming traditional exclusionary practices. The project's inclusive decision-making structures (e.g. CMCs, DRR Satellite Committees) ensured transparent and equitable participation:

"From the word go, CJC has been involving all stakeholders such as the youths, disabled, elderly, women and men which has not been the case with other organisations"

(FGD17; NRM FGD; Luangwa; Cluster 1).

"There was no meeting where some people were not represented. The chairperson for CMC is a person with a disability. We have learnt that even people with disabilities can lead. From the time the project started, there is big change in the way we live. Even at school level the chairperson for PTC can be female. This was not the case in the past. Certain meetings used to be just for men but now we are able to give chance to women to express themselves. Even people with disabilities have been given chance to speak out … I am very thankful to this project because now we can mingle with people with disabilities … We believed that if we get too close to people with disabilities, we might be like them. We have now seen that these are people like us.

(FGD19, GEDSI Direct beneficiaries, Shangombo, State Ranch).

[We] make sure that the things that are meant for the community reach the community … As CMC, we work with GEDSI guidelines, we make sure that GEDSI guidelines are followed. When selecting beneficiaries there are guidelines, we look at gender, inclusiveness, people with disabilities should be part of the programme"

(FGD9, CMC, Shangombo, State Ranch).

Knowledge sharing between beneficiaries receiving training and non-beneficiaries amplifies procedural justice effects of CJC. Several accounts describe trained participants voluntarily sharing knowledge with non-beneficiaries. In Shangombo, an elderly indirect beneficiary observed:

"Before, people never used to share or work together. Now you see people helping each other and even sharing knowledge, especially those who are being trained by CJC – they come home and share the knowledge with their friends and families"

(KII31, Elderly Indirect Beneficiary, Male, Shangombo, State Ranch).

While benefits of the climate justice approach were most significant for direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries applauded the higher-level outcomes of the project, in terms of improved community cooperation and social norm change:

"We see many disabled people participating in many activities … I can tell you that I have seen change in the way we live now. A neighbour offered me some cowpeas seed that he left after planting. They were not many, but the gesture, symbolises something new. We never used to be this kind to each other. Something is happening and I admire being close and part of what is happening"

(KII2, Indirect male beneficiary, Watembo Ward, Sioma).

3.1.1.2 Pathways

The Community Management Committees (CMCs) are the primary institutional vehicle through which community ownership has been operationalised, and their functions are described with a high level of consistency across all four districts and across all respondent types – from CDPs to government officers to indirect beneficiaries. CMCs were designed to ensure inclusive representation of the community, including marginalised groups as well as key institutional stakeholders, such as WDC members, Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWAC) officers, and government agricultural extension officers.

CMCs' power over beneficiary selection marked a shift from traditional decision-making structures in the communities. The GEDSI FGD in Shangombo described that previously the induna[2] would control beneficiary lists, but under CJC the CMC was explicitly given that authority and the induna accepted this – a structural governance change with implications for transparency and inclusion that should extend beyond the project (strong evidence). CMCs identify the most vulnerable beneficiaries in each ward using a process that involves indunas and CWACs, who have detailed local knowledge. They also carry community needs up to CJC and flag issues with project assets.

> *"We represent the community in issues of development. Any organization that comes first passes through us and in turn we inform the community. We monitor things that come into the community. We see to it that all projects are running well in the ward"*
>
> ***(FGD11, CMC, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).***

The community committee approach to implementation, with the CMCs having overall responsibility for the design and delivery of project interventions has therefore created a project environment where communities are leading project governance and delivery.

> *"The community is well involved in most of these interventions as nearly every CJC activity is done by community members with the committee responsible for that particular activity"*
>
> ***(KII1, Direct beneficiary, elderly man, Sioma, Watembo).***

3.1.2 Distributive Justice

Distributive justice relates to equal access to and sharing of resources and benefits to support households and communities to improve climate resilience. It involves directing project support to the most affected areas and people, including women, youth, older people and people with a disability.

CJC consistently reached the most marginalised groups and delivered relevant interventions that show early evidence of improved climate resilience, particularly through better water access and improved agricultural assets and knowledge.

The rest of this section looks first at evidence for CJC contribution towards longer term outcomes, then examines promising change pathways to support improved climate resilience.

3.1.2.1 Outcomes

Improved nutrition and food security[3]

CJC improved acute food security during the project period, with some emerging evidence for reduced hunger; dietary diversity is beginning but not yet consolidated.

There is strong evidence of the project's contribution to acute food insecurity during the 2024 drought – relief food distribution reached vulnerable households across all four districts, and multiple respondents describe the intervention as having prevented severe hunger at the household level.

Emerging evidence suggests CJC is having a positive influence on people's experiences of hunger: In Luangwa, a CMC described gardening enabled by water access as having "reduced struggles with hunger" (FGD16, CMCs, Luangwa, Cluster 1), while a Luangwa District Community Development Officer anticipates that livestock sales will enable households to buy food independently of weather outcomes (KII1, Community Development Officer, Male, Luangwa).

Participation in crop production training and CL-FS support was associated with lower levels of food-related worry over the last month.[4] Findings from the household survey are presented in Table 5. Eighty-five percent of households reported worrying about not having enough food in the past four weeks. However, these concerns were less frequent among those receiving CJC support. A small negative relationship was detected between receiving CJC support and incidence of household members eating fewer meals per day due to food scarcity; approximately 40.5% of beneficiaries reported skipping meals between three and ten times in the last month compared to 35.5% of indirect beneficiaries, and 7.6% reported skipping meals more than ten times compared to 17.1% of indirect beneficiaries. Among beneficiaries, the frequency with which households ate fewer meals per day due to food insecurity differed between recipients and non-recipients of CL-FS training, with non-participant households reporting this more frequently (significant at $p<0.1$).[5] A moderate negative relationship was also found between fewer meals being consumed as a household as a result of food scarcity and CJC interventions – specifically crop production training. A significant, albeit weak, negative relationship between the frequency at which households did not have enough food in the last month and livestock support was identified, likely reflecting the targeting of livestock support to the most vulnerable households, with transfers happening recently livelihood benefits are yet to be realised.

2. Traditional leader or headman within a community, often appointed by a chief.

3. Evidence of improved nutrition and food security operates at two levels in the dataset: short-term relief from acute hunger during the 2024 drought, and emerging longer-term dietary improvement through gardening and crop diversification.

4. (significant at $p<0.1$)

5. Endline household survey

Table 5: Food security outcomes across beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries

Food security outcomes		Direct beneficiary	Indirect beneficiary
Worry about household not having enough food	Yes	81.0%	89.5%
	No	19.0%	10.5%
Frequency at which household did not have enough food in the last month	Rarely (once or twice in the past four weeks)	26.6%**	19.7%**
	Sometimes (three to ten times in the past four weeks)	43.0%**	36.8%**
	Often (more than ten times in the past four weeks)	11.4%**	32.9%**
Household members eating fewer meals in a day because there was not enough food	Yes	72.2%	71.1%
	No	27.8%	28.9%
Frequency at which household ate fewer meals in a day	Rarely (once or twice in the past four weeks)	24.1%	18.4%
	Sometimes (three to ten times in the past four weeks)	40.5%	35.5%
	Often (more than ten times in the past four weeks)	7.6%	17.1%
Any household member going a whole day and night without eating anything because there was not enough food	Yes	46.8%	61.8%
	No	53.2%	38.2%
Frequency at which a household member would go a whole day and night without eating anything because there was not enough food	Rarely (once or twice in the past four weeks)	10.1%***	32.9%***
	Sometimes (three to ten times in the past four weeks)	31.6%***	23.7%***
	Often (more than ten times in the past four weeks)	10.1%***	5.3%***

*The level at which the correlation between beneficiary status and food security outcomes are significant have been noted by * p<0.1; ** p<0.05; and *** p<0.01.*

The project's longer-term contribution to food security in terms of dietary diversity is weak but emerging – the short timeframe between implementation and this evaluation means it is too soon to verify outcomes. Completed cowpea and millet production cycles represent the clearest evidence of dietary diversification beginning to materialise, though these are single-season outcomes at time of data collection. Irrigated vegetable production and livestock should also result in a stronger effect on dietary diversity in future, but it is too early to verify these outcomes in this evaluation. No participant described a sustained, multi-season improvement in household nutrition as a measured outcome, and the 2025 elephant destruction of crops in Shangombo illustrates how quickly food security gains can be reversed in the absence of resolved structural stressors.

Improved health, well-being and free time

Improved health, well-being and free time are the most well evidenced longer-term outcomes observed in the qualitative data, with independent corroboration across multiple districts and respondent types.

The primary health outcome observed is a reduction in diarrhoeal disease, with positive knock-on effects, attributed consistently to the provision of clean water and improved sanitation infrastructure (strong evidence; high contribution).

"Because of the provision of WASH services by CJC the area has seen a reduction in the prevalence of diarrhoea and malaria cases. You can even prove from records at the clinic over there."
(FGD18, WASH, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

"Diarrhoea was high in the community before CJC, but now due to water and toilets provided by the project, diarrhoea has reduced drastically"
(FGD11, CMCs, Sioma).

In Sinazongwe, a Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Officer confirmed diarrhoea reduction and describes a further outcome not evidenced elsewhere in the dataset: increased girls' school attendance and improved menstrual hygiene management, with girls who previously missed school during menstruation now attending consistently as a result of water availability:

"There has been an increase in girls' school attendance as the result of water availability. Menstrual hygiene has been enhanced and girls who could stay away from school during certain days are now found in schools"
(KII8, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Officer, Female, Sinazongwe).

Reduced water collection distances have also freed up time for livelihood activities and enable children to attend school (medium evidence; high contribution). Women, children, and people with disabilities are the primary beneficiaries of this effect. This is corroborated by a Sinazongwe government official account confirming that children previously arrived late to school due to water fetching duties.

"Previously, we used to fetch water from a faraway borehole but now, we are able to fetch water from nearby our homes, which only takes me 10 minutes unlike in the past when I used to take 1hr, 30 minutes"
(KII119, Indirect Beneficiary, Young woman, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

Beyond physical health, the dataset **contains substantial evidence of psychosocial wellbeing improvement among people with disabilities** (strong evidence; high contribution). This finding is consistent across all four districts and across beneficiary and non-beneficiary respondents. CJC's deliberate inclusion approach and GEDSI sensitisation are consistently and spontaneously credited as the mechanism of change by people with disabilities, community members, and government officers alike across all four districts.

"Before CJC, people with disabilities did not have a sense of belonging in this world. But now, they are able to educate their children and sustain themselves."
(KII6, Association for people with disabilities Chairperson).

Increased incomes

Qualitative evidence for increased incomes is emerging but limited, likely due to the short duration of the project, the impact of recent drought with households still recovering, and the longer lead times needed to see material increases in household incomes. The clearest evidence of realised income change comes from Sinazongwe (VSLAs are more mature here compared to the other locations), where there are limited reports of beneficiaries running successful new businesses following the project's business training, producers selling to off-takers, as well as multiple focus groups describing how households able to buy school books, pens, and uniforms for children who previously could not attend school – a concrete and specific proxy indicator of household income improvement. Otherwise, income-related reports describe anticipated future income as a result of project activities, e.g. from livestock that will multiply and be sold, from irrigated crops not yet harvested, and from trees not yet bearing fruit.

"Some of the people whose children could not attend lessons despite Government's Free Education Policy, due to lack of clothes or uniforms, exercise books and pens, have now managed to take their children to school"
(FGD8, Economic Development, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"In the past, Baobab fruits were just being wasted everywhere in the ward but these days, CJC has helped find market for the commodity and people are able to supply in large quantities to Lusaka. Previously, a lot of women used to beg from their husbands and neighbours but these days, a good number of them have managed to engage in business"
(FGD8, Economic Development, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"We are engaged in growing and selling bananas, growing and selling vegetables, selling goats and we are also engaged in savings groups … because of CJC, we now have alternative sources of income and we will be able to cope well in terms of droughts and floods"
(FGD19, WASH, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

There are early indications of improved payouts from VSLAs supported by CJC. For instance, a GLM Field Officer reports one VSLA group in Sinazongwe growing from K6,000 to K60,000 (£2,300) in savings in one year. No beneficiary account across Shangombo or Sioma describes a realised income gain of equivalent specificity to the Sinazongwe evidence. In Shangombo and Sioma income generation is consistently described as constrained by lack of market access, elephant crop destruction.

3.1.2.2 Pathways

Improved water access for household and productive use contributes to resilience through meeting basic needs, freeing up time for productive activities, enabling food production and supporting (future) increased incomes.

Increased water access is consistently described as the single most transformative resilience pathway across all districts, both for meeting basic needs as well as a necessary enabler for food production and increased incomes (strong evidence; high contribution). The project rehabilitated 177 boreholes, drilled and equipped 44 boreholes and sunk 36 shallow wells across the four districts. All target communities describe water as their foremost challenge, given chronically low and erratic rainfall, evidenced by the 2024 drought emergency, which dried up many boreholes, wells, and rivers. Access to clean water is described both as a survival need and as an enabling condition for household food production and income. New and rehabilitated solar-powered boreholes and shallow wells are providing year-round water access closer to households. In particular, borehole rehabilitation, which usually consisted of handpump replacements for non-functional boreholes already in the communities, represented excellent value for money, with one handpump costing about K9,611 (£365), as opposed to the cost of drilling a new borehole, which can cost an average of K226,273 (£9,000). Community members consistently reported life-changing impacts from improved water access.

"Before CJC came to work with us, we had serious water challenges in Kaunga ward… Climate change caused the depletion of water in water bodies due to droughts. It was difficult to grow crops like bananas and sugar cane, but thankfully, with the coming in of CJC, we now have enough water and we have started growing sugar canes, bananas and other crops which we are selling in order to earn a living"

(FGD19, Economic Development, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

Participants also cited the significant **benefits for livestock** of improved water access:

"We are very grateful to CJC for providing us with 2 water points. Before CJC there was only one water point to cater for over 170 households. Often times we used to quarrel and fight at the points as we took turns to draw water because the waiting time was extremely long … our livestock suffered a lot from dehydration and other related diseases. Sometimes we were even forced to sell them because of inadequate water" ***(FGD18, WASH, Luangwa, Cluster 1).***

"Livestock rearing is now a lucrative business because of availability of water. Before CJC, we used to often sell our livestock for fear that they would die of thirst or dehydration. But, with the coming of CJC and the increased water points, we have enough water for our livestock that we can keep and sell"

(FGD19, Economic Development, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

Increased access to water points also confers indirect resilience benefits, particularly for women, elderly, and people with disabilities. Women described reduced time collecting water, as discussed above, which frees time for productive activities, as well as reduced safety risks from collecting water closer to home (e.g. avoiding crocodile attacks from fetching water from the Zambezi and Lake Kariba). People with disabilities described access to water as enabling participation in home gardens and irrigation schemes from which they would previously have been excluded, as well as reduced physical challenges of water collection as the project ensured water points were made more accessible to people with disabilities through affordable modifications. Communities with water points also described a spillover effect to indirect beneficiaries not directly enrolled in the project – the water points function as a public good accessible to all.

"Previously, both humans and animals were walking long distances to find water from Lake Kariba where crocodile attacks were very common but now, CJC has rehabilitated some hand pumps and sunk new ones which has reduced distances and crocodile attacks"

(FGD2, Crop and Livestock Production, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"As an old woman, it was rough fetching water from the handpump. You need a lot of strength to do that. CJC has made my life very easy because now I can just turn on tap and water comes out! It is as easy as pressing on a button"

(KII8, Direct Beneficiary, Elderly woman, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"The water point has been upgraded from handpump to tap. It was a big struggle for me to pump water because I only have one hand. But, now I can easily turn on the tap without any struggle at all"

(KII14, Indirect Beneficiary, Woman with a disability, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

Across all districts, communities described irrigation access as the foundation of climate resilience because it decouples food production from rain-fed agriculture. The positive outcomes of the irrigation infrastructure were most pronounced in Sinazongwe, where irrigation schemes were producing crops nearly ready for sale. By contrast, in Luangwa irrigation schemes were described as newly established and not yet producing – communities had prepared land and fencing but were still awaiting final installation, with one direct beneficiary noting that the irrigation "is expected to help us with income generation" as a future prospect (FGD1, People with disabilities, Luangwa; Cluster 1). This is reflected in the quantitative data, where no clear relationship was found between irrigation support and both the quantity of crop production and the income generated from crops. In Shangombo, the irrigation scheme existed and generated strong community ownership, but respondents explicitly identified the absence of a market as the binding constraint on its economic value (see further discussion of on market access below – the project had provided links to fresh vegetable buyers and a solar drying training was organised but beneficiaries did not report benefits from these interventions yet). In Sioma there is no irrigation scheme due to the lack of sufficient water sources.

"CJC taught the community to practice winter farming after providing boreholes and hand pumps for irrigation as well apart from using the water only for drinking and washing. Farmers now use integrated farming methods and have started practicing winter farming as a result of water points that have been provided by CJC. Due to the introduction of water points, a good number of residents indulge in gardening which has reduced struggles with hunger"

(FGD16, CMCs, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

In Sinazongwe and Luangwa, the construction of weirs is meant to directly cushion against climate shocks by retaining water in the wet season for use in the dry season. As one farmer in Mabinga Ward, Sinazongwe, shared: "Last year I lost some of my cattle due to lack of water. But thanks to the weir dam, I can now provide water for my animals. This has saved my livelihood and ensured food security for my family. "

Sanitation improvements contribute to improved human health and well-being but were not prioritised by communities. The project constructed 67 ventilated improved pit latrines across Luangwa, Shangombo and Sinazongwe in a mixture of household demonstration sites and public facilities in schools, clinics and marketplaces. Local masons were trained to construct these with the vision that the community would voluntarily increase the number of these latrines at household level. Training on good hygiene practices was initially supported by the project and ultimately handed over to the Government. Qualitative data presented above shows stakeholders' beliefs that these interventions have been important in reducing diarrhoea and improving school attendance. However, this activity was not prioritised within community climate justice plans and was ultimately de-prioritised in project implementation in favour of interventions with a greater focus on income generation potential. Project staff reported that CMCs in Sinazongwe specifically requested budget be moved from latrines to increase the number of livestock that could be procured.

A consistent limitation noted across districts is that water coverage remains incomplete. Multiple communities state that many households still lack convenient access, with households in outlying villages still traveling long distances to fetch water; this was noted particularly in Western Province (Shangombo and Sioma).

"CJC has implemented the right interventions based on community needs. However, there is still need for increased water points. There still households walking long distances to fetch water. About 40% of households are still struggling to find water. Our cry is that CJC project should continue"

(KI14, Direct Beneficiary; Male/youth, Sinazongwe; Mweezya).

"Water is not enough, so once the well dries, we will face hunger"

(FGD8, Crop & livestock production direct beneficiaries, Shangombo, State Ranch).

Livestock distribution to build the asset base and social status of the most vulnerable

The **distribution of goats and chickens was the second most consistently evidenced resilience pathway** (strong evidence; high contribution). The project's livestock distribution intervention was extremely popular. Distribution was prioritised for vulnerable households that had not previously owned livestock, including female-headed households and people with disabilities. This targeting was noted as being transformative for poor households who would otherwise not have been able to afford to keep goats or chickens. Several participants reported increased economic status and independence, including for women and people with disabilities, with changes in community perceptions of these marginalised groups. One Indirect Beneficiary in State Ranch, Shangombo (KII30) explained this: "Some women received goats and chickens. This is one way of empowering women. When the livestock multiplies, they will sell and help with the needs of their households. It is a good thing to see women being empowered in this way." A limited number of instances of family members of committee members receiving livestock ahead of more vulnerable beneficiaries were reported (partial/emerging evidence) – see Section 3.3.2 - *Transparency in Beneficiary Selection* for more discussion on this.

Livestock are valued by communities as liquid assets which can provide households with a buffer against shocks, food insecurity, or unexpected expenses: for instance, when drought reduces crop yields, animals can be sold to buy food, pay school fees, or cover household emergencies. This function was described in broadly similar terms across all four districts, though most fully articulated in Western Province where the 2024 drought was most acute. No beneficiaries in the quantitative data reported having sold livestock so far despite the fact that approximately half of goat- and chicken recipients had been successful in producing kids and chicks from livestock distributed by the project. While distribution, survival, and reproduction rates were similar across chickens distributed to both male and female beneficiaries, female goat recipients reported less success in producing any kids—approximately 39% of female recipients compared to 55% of male recipients.[6]

"People have received goats - even those who never had goats are happy and this will help them have money to cushion the effects of climate change on food security"

(FGD9, CMCs, Shangombo, State Ranch).

While not a specific CJC initiative, there is some emerging evidence that community members are choosing to voluntarily pass-on livestock to neighbours as their goats and chickens reproduce. This could be seen as a positive indication of improved cooperation at community level because of the project, and potential spillover of project benefits. The pass-on initiative, if sustained, will enable the intervention to reach additional households who would not otherwise have had access to livestock, leading to an increase in productive assets.

"CJC has taught us to work together … This is evident in the goats' project where people have been brought together by passing on kids to another beneficiary so that in due course everyone should have livestock"

(FGD3, Crop and livestock Production, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

Drought-tolerant seed for post-drought recovery and crop diversification

The project made asset transfers of seed (namely sorghum, millet, cowpeas, early-maturing maize) which served two primary purposes: 1) replenishment of seed stock for vulnerable farmers who had experienced crop failure during the 2024 drought or due to elephant destruction; and 2) seed diversification away from rain-fed maize monoculture and toward a portfolio of locally adapted, drought-tolerant seed varieties.

Across districts, **seed distribution was consistently described as timely and as enabling communities to recover agricultural production within the same or following season. Distribution of drought-tolerant crops was also described by communities as important in enabling diversification and food continuity, particularly given previous reliance on drought-sensitive maize, however yields are at risk from hazards such as flooding or destruction by wildlife** (medium evidence; moderate contribution). Beneficiaries reported eating and selling drought-tolerant cowpeas, sorghum, and millet where previously none existed in the communities.

6. Endline Household Survey Data

"Farmers have been trained in what type of seed to plant. Early maturity seed has been introduced. Right now, people are eating cowpeas and some are selling"

(FGD5; DRR FGD; Sioma; Watembo).

The quantitative findings indicate that approximately half of the beneficiaries consulted received seed from the project. Among these recipients, 28% reported higher yields from the project-provided variety compared with other varieties of the same crop planted that year, with short project timeframes likely affecting this result especially given the importance of improved farming practices (discussed below).[7] Community members also noted that flooding and crop destruction by wildlife could reduce the potential resilience gains from drought-tolerant seed:

"Some people were given seed by CJC – cassava, maize, sorghum, millet and cowpeas. They planted; things germinated and grew but elephants came and ate. The gardens by the river, right now, have been immersed in water. There are floods"

(FGD17; NRM; Shangombo; State Ranch).

Agricultural knowledge transfer and improved livestock management protect assets and support production

Communities across all four districts describe transfer of crop production knowledge and improved livestock management practices as changing behaviour in ways that are expected to outlast asset transfer and improve resilience (Medium evidence of behaviour change; partial/emerging evidence for yield and livelihood outcomes). Prior to CJC's intervention, communities were overwhelmingly dependent on rain-fed maize monoculture and lacked knowledge of drought-tolerant alternatives. Through the Community-Led Field School approach, CJC has introduced climate-resilient, agroecological, and conservation farming techniques, including crop diversification, crop rotation, organic composting, winter farming and irrigated crop production. The project sought to embed knowledge transfer on good agricultural practices and livestock management through including government agricultural extension officers in the CMCs (meaning that government staff were directly involved in delivering the project's CL-FS model and are thus more likely to incorporate gained knowledge/best practices in future extension work). In addition, the project's ToTs approach encouraged consistent adoption and farmer-to-farmer training to ensure that lead farmers could continue training their peers.

Year-round crop production through irrigation and water-enabled gardening is the most consistently evidenced form of crop intensification at endline. While the number of hectares used to grow crops does not differ significantly between recipients of CJC support and non-recipients, **receiving crop production training or being a recipient of CJC support is positively related to both the quantity of crops harvested and the total value of crops during the last production cycle**. The total value of crops produced per beneficiaries during the last production season is approximately 2.1 times greater than for non-beneficiaries. The mean value of crop production in the last production cycle also differed significantly among all respondents across districts ranging from K1477.43 (equivalent to £56.78[8]) in Sioma to K5159.38 (equivalent to £197.51[8]) in Shangombo.[9]

The number of reported applications of integrated pest management, soil conservation and erosion control is significantly higher among crop production support recipients (significant at $p<0.1$). Beneficiaries receiving crop production support also more frequently noted future plans to adopt soil conservation and erosion control techniques and crop husbandry techniques, including planting and weeding, compared to beneficiaries who had not received crop production support. [10]

7. Endline Household Survey Data
8. Based on ZK to GBP FX rate on 06/03/2026: 1 ZMW to GBP - Zambian Kwacha to British Pounds Exchange Rate
9 Endline Household Survey Data
10. Endline Household Survey Data

Climate smart techniques have improved yields and strengthened resilience of around 94% of beneficiaries who received CJC crop production training. Increased yield, planting areas, and production were the most reported improvements (Figure 1). Of the recipients who participated in crop production training, 94.2% reported changes to their production yields and climate resilience as a result. Among those who noted changes, 8% belong to households headed jointly by women and men, 17% are from female-headed households, and 75% are from male-headed households. The proportion of reported changes within each household head category is broadly consistent across all three household types.[11]

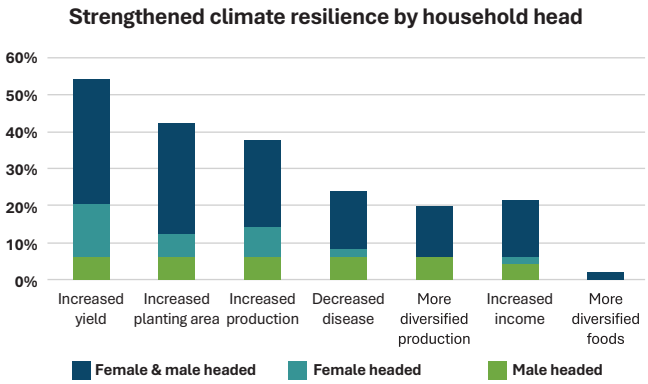


Figure 1: Observed changes as percentage of farmers noting changes as a result of crop production support.

"Previously, farmers used to plant any month and were using archaic farming methods but these days they have been taught modern farming methods like conservation farming, potholing … and have been taught how to plant according to rainfall patterns. For many years now, communities have not been planting drought resistant crops like sorghum and millet, but this farming season, they planted sorghum and early maturing maize varieties" ***(FGD9; DRR; Sinazongwe; Mweezya).***

"CJC has introduced crops that can survive even in times of drought … The knowledge CJC is giving us will live with us for a long time to come and will be passed on to the next generation"

(FGD1; Crop and Livestock Production; Sioma; Watembo).

There is also widespread evidence of communities adopting the project's improved livestock management practices across the districts, leading to improvements in protecting livestock assets. Community members noted the value of the project providing livestock disease management support, namely veterinary kits containing vaccinations and other essential drugs to district Veterinary Officers, as well as training in livestock husbandry. Benefits include improved care of animals and reduced disease:

"Before CJC our goats had no proper shelters. Often times, they could get soaked, stolen, attacked by predators. But, through CJC trainings/workshops I have learnt how to make goat houses, and the livestock are now secure … The goats are not dying of diseases because we have been given drug kits and taught to administer the right medication and we now know the right vaccinations for our chickens … Most of the chickens you see in the community are from CJC project. Before CJC, almost all the chickens in the community died of Newcastle. CJC has even taught us how to cross breed our livestock. Livestock ownership has helped main households to cope with the negative effects of climate change. In times of emergency, one can easily sell a goat and raise the much-needed income.

(KII26, Luangwa, Mburuma, Direct Beneficiary, Man).

Disaster response, preparedness and HWC management support communities to deal with risk of adverse events

The DRR workstream operated across three distinct functions: emergency response to acute climate shocks; proactive preparedness and early warning; and human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation.

The DRR Satellite Committee emergency response function is supporting resilience, through coordinated response to the 2024 drought and disease outbreaks (Strong evidence; high contribution). The DRR Satellite Committee structure enabled communities to signal the 2024 drought and receive a coordinated response of two rounds of relief food and seed from the project, with consistent targeting of highly vulnerable households with less capacity to cope, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and female-headed households. The relief food effort was widely

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applauded and reported as sufficient to support vulnerable households through an acute period of food insecurity. The DRR Satellite Committee emergency response function was activated for other events such as disease outbreaks; for instance, in Shangombo, fall armyworm and locust infestation was raised to the committee and addressed via chemical spraying coordinated with the camp officer. One FGD described the DRR Satellite Committees as a functional conduit for making community needs known:

"With issues to do with climate, we have the DRR committee who respond and find solutions to problems associated with climate change. When we cry as a community, the project responds through the established groups. We had a drought and hunger was severe, through DRR, we received relief food. Only the vulnerable households received … People with disability, elderly, youth, women are highly considered … Also, army worms and locusts invaded the land. We asked for help and were advised to spray army worms and locusts. The camp officer helped with the chemicals"

(FGD5, DRR, Sioma, Watembo).

Access to early warnings has increased as a result of CJC, though evidence suggests the proactive preparedness function of the DRR workstream was less effective than emergency response. Some participants – particularly in Shangombo – noted the benefits of the trainings on indigenous knowledge indicators for early warning and planting cycle planning provided by the project. Of the climate hazards experienced over the last two years, the quantitative data evidence shows increases in the proportion of community members in Luangwa (152% increase), Sinazongwe (114% increase) and Shangombo (585% increase) who received warning for experienced hazards during the endline relative to baseline observations[12]. However, proactive community preparedness – early warning, anticipatory action – is overall not well evidenced in beneficiary and non-beneficiary testimony; there were only a couple examples in the qualitative data of participants confirming they felt capable of acting on early warning knowledge independently. One group of direct beneficiaries in State Ranch, Shangombo claimed: "The early warning signs of climate disaster, we can now stand on our own" (FGD16). Another direct beneficiary in Mweeza, Sinazongwe confirmed that "CJC has sensitised on the importance of following weather forecasts and taking right actions when early warnings are issued such as planting the right type of seed and avoiding flood-prone areas" (KII14). Implementers suggested that the relative lack of reports of community members acting on climate information could be explained by lack of trust in the information in combination with lack of alternatives to be able to act. For example, continuing to plant along flood prone riverbanks despite warnings of flood risk. People prefer to take a chance rather than have nothing – compounded by these areas possessing highly fertile alluvial soils.

Table 6: Proportion of respondents who received warning for hazards

	Luangwa	Sinazongwe	Shangombo	Total
Baseline	31%**	35%**	6%**	24%**
Endline	78%**	76%**	38%**	64%**
% increase in population proportions having received warning for hazards	152%	114%	585%	168%

*Population proportions that differ significantly between the baseline and endline from each other at the 0.05 level have been denoted by ***

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CJC's Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) activities in many cases contributed to resilience at the level of individual knowledge and household-level deterrence (Medium evidence/contribution) **but did not achieve reliable communal protection outcomes. The primary constraint – insufficient government wildlife management – remains unresolved and outside the project's scope to address.** HWC – primarily elephant crop destruction in Shangombo and Sioma, but extending to hippos in Sioma and wildlife near Kariba Dam in Luangwa – functions as one of the most acute and recurrent climate-adjacent stressors across the project. The scale of loss is severe: multiple direct beneficiaries describe losing their entire crop at the point of harvest, with subsequent hunger, deepened poverty, and some cases of loss of life. The stressor intensifies during drought periods as animals range further in search of food and water.

Awareness of actions to reduce human–wildlife conflict (HWC) is significantly higher for households in villages with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees compared to those without. In villages where a DRR committee is present, 70% of households report being aware of measures to reduce HWC. This contrasts sharply with households in villages without a DRR committee, where only about 30% report such awareness, and with households uncertain about the presence of a committee, where awareness stands at approximately 44%.[13]

While knowledge transfer has occurred and individual households have applied the techniques, the communal protection outcome has not been demonstrated as reliable, crop losses continued through the project period including after chili deployment, and the sustainability conditions for the communal fence model are not in place. CJC's response comprised three elements: construction of a communal chili fence, community-developed HWC solutions, e.g. training in chili bomb preparation, and coordination with DNPW. The approach is widely acknowledged and appreciated across communities, and the DNPW officer in Sioma confirmed the methodology and advocated for scaling it up. Multiple respondents describe applying chili techniques independently at household level, indicating knowledge transfer has occurred. However, the evidence of protection outcomes is consistently contradicted. In Sioma, a direct beneficiary describes explicitly that despite installing a chili fence, elephants still entered the maize field. The communal chili fence at Watembo failed through a collective action breakdown: community members removed chili bottles from the shared fence for use on their own fields, a coordination failure between the CMC, NRM committee, and village indunas that left the communal structure non-functional. A person with a disability in Sioma received sorghum seed that was subsequently destroyed by elephants before chili deterrents could be applied. **CJC's HWC response represents an appropriate attempt to address a structural stressor that is beyond the project's capacity to fully resolve.** Resolution of HWC at the scale required in Sioma and Shangombo depends on DNPW (formerly ZAWA) resourcing and government policy on wildlife management. DNPW is consistently described as slow to respond and under-resourced across both Sioma and Shangombo.

Multiple respondents across both Western Province districts frame the elephant problem as requiring government-level resourcing and authority that is beyond what community-based mitigation can address. One Sioma respondent summarises the position directly:

> *"We report to ZAWA but ZAWA people do not usually come. Elephants go ahead and eat from people's fields"*
> ***(FGD18, People with disabilities, Shangombo, State Ranch).***

Financial literacy, business training and market access support resilience through improved VSLA functioning and directly facilitating market relationships leading to off-taker agreements

The project provided financial literacy and business skills training for VSLAs and cooperatives, as well as linking producer groups to markets.

The evidence for savings group establishment and functioning is strong, and there is emerging evidence that the financial literacy and business training activities are contributing to economic resilience; though no households described having drawn on savings during a climate shock during the project's timeframe (partial/emerging evidence for Luangwa/Sinazongwe; weak evidence for Sioma/Shangombo). The theoretical resilience pathway – savings as liquidity buffer during climate shocks – is described consistently across districts and is plausible. However, the pathway has not been demonstrated as operational during an actual climate shock given the short project period.

Several savings groups documented having increased their savings and payouts to members because of the project. The strong results were primarily seen in Sinazongwe, where the 45-member Sianzovu Savings Group increased their annual payout from K40,000 to K200,000 (£7,820), or a payout of about £175 per member (as comparison, monthly incomes in Sinazongwe are around £59/month), Siambaza Savings Group also recorded a savings growth from K15,000 to approximately K45,000 (£1,760), Buche-Buche VSLA increased annual share outs from K6,400 to K60,000 (£2,346), while the Mbobo VSLA grew from K6,800 to K28,000 (£1,095) reflecting strengthened savings culture and financial discipline as a result of CJC.

Across the districts, participants also described savings group benefits: school fees paid, capital raised, women engaging in business, and borrowing for emergencies:

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"Village banking was a challenge in the past because we did not know how to save the right way … People now are able to save … we are able to borrow and know how much interest to pay through the lessons taught by CJC… Savings have been very helpful in case of emergencies such as funerals. In the past we would run to our neighbours in case of emergencies but often times, our neighbours were not able to help us. But now, we can easily borrow from the Savings Groups"
(FGD19, WASH, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

"The trainings we have gone through have enabled us to see a number of opportunities and are able to do business. In some cases, savings groups have been created, and people are able to borrow money to start businesses"
(FGD6, Economic Development, Shangombo, State Ranch).

"I have seen how well some are doing; for instance, there is a young man I know who is running a well-stocked shop after participating in business training by CJC. Community members who were financially strained because of high interest rates from microfinance institutions are now in VSLAs where they are able to save and grow their money as well as borrow at affordable interest rates. They have now access to capital and CJC has linked them to markets. I started a business in poultry after participating in one of CJC business training, which is an indication that even people who may not be considered vulnerable have a lot to benefit from CJC's activities"
(KII7, Sinazongwe, Female Ministry of Community and Development Officer).

"Before CJC, I had made a number of attempts in my business … But after attending a business training conducted by CJC, I completely understood why I was failing … I didn't do market research and I stocking wrong products which had no market where I live. Can you imagine? I was stocking goods like fishing nets; but I live very far from where the river is and as such, no one could come all the way to come and buy fishing nets from my shop … After doing market research and consultations, I decided to buy sweets and bubble gums from the allowance I got from the training. I was amazed how fast they were selling and I continued until I raised enough capital to invest in kitchen utensils. I now have a shop selling assorted items with a capital of K30,000.00 [approx. GBP 1,145]. From the business proceedings, I have managed to buy 19 goats, and I have employed one person. I have also given my wife capital, and she has started doing some business"
(KII11, Male Direct Beneficiary, Sinazongwe; Mweezya).

The data suggests there was effectively no organised relationship between communities and private sector actors prior to CJC. CJC has made a significant contribution in this space in its role as an active intermediary, facilitating initial connections, building trust, and creating the structural conditions (cooperatives, aggregation, value chains) under which private sector engagement could begin. There is emerging evidence on direct community–private sector relationships established, varying by district. CJC's primary mechanism was market linkage facilitation through brokering off-taker agreements between producer groups and buyers and the training of community Market Facilitators. The project also provided value addition and food preservation training which some participants reported as valuable knowledge for supporting market-oriented food businesses. Market linkages have been established in some districts, but the evidence suggests these are nascent and unevenly distributed rather than systemic.

CJC facilitated market linkages through off-taker agreements, with 34 formal off-taker agreements signed between community producer groups and buyers, exceeding the target of 24. Examples include:

- **Umoyo Natural Health:** Buys dried baobab fruit powder, masawe (wild berry), tamarind, and dried hibiscus from gatherers in Luangwa and Sinazongwe. One women's cooperative generated K56,400 (£2,205) from three rounds of baobab supply.
- **Choma Museum:** Purchases woven baskets from women's clubs in Sinazongwe (Siansalama Women's Club earned K4,165; six other clubs earned K3,000 each, total K22,165/£606). Cooperative reported sales of K4,000 (£156) in January 2026 alone (approx. 200 baskets).
- **Freshmark (Shoprite procurement arm):** Banana cooperatives in Luangwa secured supply agreement after months of coaching on quality, pricing, and buyer engagement.
- **SHAIS Foods:** Buys millet, sorghum, cowpeas, and groundnuts from farmers in Sioma, creating stable market for drought-tolerant crops.
- **Sylva Catering:** Off taker for dried vegetables (impwa, kalembula, sweet potato leaves) from irrigation scheme groups.
- **Forest Africa Zambia Limited:** One-year contract for baobab supply with groups in Sinazongwe, generating K44,400 to date.
- **Mweezya women's cooperative:** Established 5 functional market linkages in January 2026 with Forest Africa, Makonkoto Super Valley, D.F.M., Brian General Dealers, and Silver Foods Catering for dried indigenous fruits, vegetables, maize, spreads, and organic pest control products.

Most agreements signed are exploratory, non-binding off-taker arrangements; concrete achievements are limited so far reflecting short project timeframes. Where sales to off-takers have been seen, it has been limited to a small number of participants, the relationships are still early stage, and it remains to be seen whether or not they will endure across multiple marketing cycles. A male direct beneficiary in Luangwa describes a one-year MoU to supply baobab fruits to a private buyer, with community members aggregating supply to meet demand:

"Before CJC, I was running a small business. But through CJC my business has expanded. I now deal in maize, goats, onions, bananas and baobab fruits. CJC has introduced us to markets outside the district. For example, I have a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Umoyo Natural Clinic … I have a one-year MoU (June 2025 to June 2026) with UMUYO to supply 1000 by 50kg of baobab fruits. We come together with other community members to meet that demand. I don't work alone. Other community members are involved. As you can imagine, the demand is too high to be met by one individual, and we do it in stages. There has been a great change in my life and that of other community members. For example, I have managed to by a 1 hectare plot where I intend to build a storage"
(KII26, Direct Beneficiary, Man, Luangwa, Mburuma).

A baobab juice company was directly linked to CJC project farmers in Luangwa, enabling sales that would not otherwise have occurred. One direct beneficiary describes entering a one-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Umoyo Natural Clinic to supply 1,000 x 50kg bags of baobab fruits, with a collective supply model involving other community members. Forest Africa Zambia Limited also signed non-binding wild fruit offtaker agreements with several cooperatives and SMEs in Luangwa District, including Gkamuhuza Enterprises and Nkhast Youth Multipurpose Cooperative, covering baobab, ngai and musekese. These arrangements include indicative pricing structures and guidance on harvesting standards.

"To date the engagement is at an early market linkage stage; one cooperative successfully supplied baobab in the last harvesting season, demonstrating initial supply potential. Forest Africa's relationship with the communities is commercial and exploratory, focused on establishing a potential supply relationship for wild fruits".
(Offtaker KII Luangwa)

In Mabinga Ward, Sinazongwe, women's clubs have been selling baskets to the Choma Museum through an off-taker agreement brokered by CJC, with seven women's clubs earning about £600 in the first round of sales. The women reported using the earnings to pay for school fees and other household expenses:

"This isn't just a basket—it's my child's future," shared one woman from Tulinde Women's Club. "For the first time, I feel like my skills are valuable. Someone sees us. Someone values our work."

CJC facilitated a relationship between a local cooperative in Shangombo and a basket-buying company. An offtaker interview confirms that the relationship had moved from theoretical to commercially active, with a first batch of handmade baskets procured and placed on sale. The offtaker described the CJC connection as having provided a structured, lower-risk entry point to rural sourcing that would previously have been seen as too logistically complex.

"Our primary achievement to date has been the establishment of a functional supply chain with a cooperative in Shangombo. We have successfully piloted this relationship by procuring a batch of their handmade baskets, which are now available for sale in our shop. This initial transaction has proven the concept that we can source quality products from this remote community. It has moved the relationship from a theoretical agreement to a tangible commercial activity, allowing us to test market demand for their products."
(Offtaker KII Shangombo).

"From our perspective as a buyer, the CJC project has provided a structured and lower-risk pathway to engage with a rural producer group for the first time. Previously, the logistical challenges and lack of a direct point of contact would have been significant barriers. CJC facilitated that initial connection and helped establish a level of trust. This experience is changing how we view sourcing from such communities; we now see it as a viable possibility, whereas before it seemed too difficult. We are now more open to these kinds of partnerships, provided the communication and supply chain coordination can be reliable."
(Offtaker KII Shangombo).

Where private sector relationships have been established, the data suggests the process has been equitable. In Sinazongwe, the offtaker agreement with Africa Nature's Organic Food was described as participatory: communities were included in consultations with CJC personnel, and producers were involved in shaping the terms of engagement. The process was not imposed but co-constructed, and the offtaker explicitly valued this approach:

"Our relationship with CJC's rural communities has been constructive, characterized by trust and openness. We engaged through meetings facilitated by the Green Living Movement and homestead visits, which allowed us to understand local challenges and aspirations. These interactions culminated in an off-taker agreement signed after consultations with communities and CJC personnel. The process was participatory, ensuring that producers felt included in shaping the terms of engagement"
(Off-taker KII, Sinazongwe)

"We have a positive and constructive working relationship with the producer group. The foundation of the relationship is mutual interest: they have a product to sell, and we have a market for it. The main challenge, however, is the pace of production. There is a significant time lag between us placing an order and them having the finished baskets ready for collection. While we understand the handcrafted nature of the products, this slow turnaround time is the primary constraint in our relationship."
(Off-taker KII Shangombo)

The Luangwa offtaker values the presence of organized cooperatives and inclusive participation of women and youth, viewing Luangwa District as an appropriate target due to abundant wild fruits. They highlighted the need for strengthened cooperative organization, post-harvest handling and logistics to scale impact

Improved natural resource management is underpinned by better understanding of how conservation links to long-term productivity, with spillover benefits.

The qualitative evidence is weak linking NRM activities to tangible resilience changes experienced by communities, reflecting short project timeframes (Medium evidence for observed changes in behaviour/knowledge; moderate contribution given inputs from government and traditional authorities). Survival rates for planted trees are noted as variable across the districts. Limitations of the evaluation include lack of data collected on tree survival, coverage, or ecological outcomes. However, focus

group discussions noted that knowledge about natural resource management and tree planting has helped community members understand how conservation connects to long-term productivity – confirming that CJC's NRM component is understood as relevant to climate resilience.

"We have been teaching people that they need to plant trees and not cutting them down for either charcoal burning or other use but should trim the branches to encourage tree growth. The other thing has been orienting people that planting grass is also important in homes in order to protect the soil from being swept away water currents during the rainy season. Protecting wild animals and other nature by discouraging people from bush burnings. We have also created a 2 hectares forest Reserve and protected it. We have been teaching people for those who intend to do timber business where to get permission and how to cut the tree. Previously, people never used to know the value and importance of conserving trees. They were just cutting down trees for various uses and even bush fires were very common every year, but these days people have learned the importance of trees in relation to climate change"
(FGD10, NRM, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

The project introduced innovative ways of discouraging people from cutting down trees by promoting improved braziers which consume less energy as well as offering people an alternative source of livelihoods by promoting beekeeping, beehives. Besides, they also promote tree planting and at one time gave fruit trees for people to plant such as lemons, guavas, mangoes etc. People have been sensitised to be good stewards of nature by taking care of the environment"
(KII20, Male CMC Chairperson, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

There is evidence of community members using knowledge gained by the project to take initiative on natural resource management issues not directly encouraged by the project: in Sinazongwe, Mweezya ward, the community created a two-hectare forest reserve and have been teaching people interested in starting timber businesses how to do it sustainably. The Forestry Department Officer in State Ranch also reported that traditional leaders are now actively reporting illegal logging activities (KII4).

3.1.3 Transformative Justice

Transformative justice relates to strengthening local capacity, systems, and advocacy and disrupting dominant power relations so that communities can understand climate change and its impacts, claim their rights and shape equitable, sustainable development in the face of climate change.

CJC has impacted wider systems at institutional levels that range from national to local government, to knowledge diffusion beyond the communities where the project is implemented (strong evidence). **CJC's most significant contribution to transformative justice lies in two interconnected areas: the systematic inclusion of historically marginalised groups in community life, decision-making, and government services; and the development of advocacy capacity that has enabled communities to move from passive recipients of development to active claimants of rights**.

These are not separate achievements – the project's climate justice approach treated them as mutually reinforcing, and the evidence supports that framing. Communities that previously excluded people with disabilities, women, and youth from meetings and committees now demonstrate changes in social norms, leadership structures, and government relationships. Communities that previously did not know how to engage duty bearers have lobbied successfully for schools, clinics, maternity wings, and infrastructure, and in some cases have rejected government decisions that did not serve their interests. The project's contribution to these changes is well evidenced and consistently described as qualitatively different from prior development programming in the targeted wards.

Critically, these changes extend beyond individual empowerment: there is evidence of institutional norm change, e.g. the inclusion of a person with disabilities on the CDF committee in Luangwa, Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD) filling assistive device orders in project wards (at cost to government, rather than the project) after CJC demonstrated the need for such devices, and the Government of Zambia's adoption of the disability-inclusive latrine model and updating its national medications list, that suggests the project has begun to shift the systems within which these communities sit, not only the communities themselves. The most significant caveat is that the depth and durability of these changes is uneven across districts and intervention areas – Sioma and Shangombo for instance have persistently traditional gender norms affecting women's level of participation and advocacy activities in particular often saw lower levels of women's participation. The degree to which inclusion and advocacy activities can be sustained without continued external support is a sustainability risk.

3.1.3.1 Outcomes

Inclusion and empowerment of marginalised groups

There is strong evidence of transformative changes in the inclusion and empowerment of marginalised groups within the communities, particularly people with disabilities, women, youth, and elderly persons which represents a significant shift from historical exclusion. The qualitative data indicates that inclusivity is the single strongest outcome of the project's climate justice approach.

Inclusion of people with disabilities

The most consistently documented inclusivity outcome – and perhaps the most powerful outcome of the project overall – is the inclusion of people with disabilities in community life, leadership, and interventions (strong evidence; high contribution). Before CJC, people with disabilities in all four districts were systematically excluded from community meetings, development programmes, and government services. Multiple respondents describe the stigma in concrete terms: people with disabilities were often hidden away at home, shunned and avoided, to the point that many traditional leaders were even unaware of the number of people with disabilities in their communities until CJC. People with disabilities were also routinely excluded from VSLAs/cooperative membership, CDF grants, and social welfare services despite legal entitlement.

CJC addressed these barriers to disability inclusion through: providing GEDSI training to traditional leaders and the wider community; CMC composition requirements ensuring representation of people with disabilities; providing reasonable accommodation (e.g. personal assistants) to support participation of people with disabilities in interventions; targeted assertiveness training on rights for people with disabilities; the use of universal design principles to make interventions (e.g. water points) accessible to people with disabilities; provision of assistive devices such as white canes, artificial limbs, or wheelchairs to support mobility and dignity for people with disabilities; cataract treatment to increase independence of elderly people; and disability registration exercises in partnership with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) and ZAPD to register people with disabilities into the government registration system. Participants received national disability identity cards which were vital not only for profiling the impairment types and degree of disability but for correctly identifying the support needs that people with disabilities required. Once registered in the national Disability Management System, the official government database for persons with disabilities, individuals became able to obtain access to government social protection programmes, business loans, education bursaries and access to economic empowerment opportunities under programmes such as the National Trust Fund for Persons with Disabilities.

These interventions were overwhelmingly reported as life-changing for people with disabilities, in terms of reduced isolation, empowerment, voice, and material livelihood and quality of life improvements:

"Before CJC programme, I could not freely mingle with people because I used to feel very uncomfortable and shy because of my disability. But now, that has changed. I am engaged in community activities and last year the councillor approached me and asked me to be part of the Ward Development Committee"
(KII13, Female Direct Beneficiary with a disability, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"I had no proper shelter. Rainy season was a nightmare but now I live peacefully knowing I have a roof on my head. Every assistance from CJC has made my life more bearable – irrigation, Savings Groups, goats and chickens"
(KII30, Elderly woman with a disability/ Direct Beneficiary, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

"The people with disabilities after receiving those cards have become very confident. In the past, people with disabilities would not come in the open to say they are people with disabilities but now they are free. They now have self-esteem. The allowance they receive has given them some level of independence"
(KII16, Male Social Welfare Officer, Shangombo).

"CJC has enlightened us about our rights. Through their human-rights centred approach, a number of people with disabilities are now registered and have disability cards. Some have gotten crutches and others sun creams and protective clothes. I speak on the radio to sensitise people with disabilities about their rights and also go door to door to enlighten those who do not listen to the radio"
(KII10, Male direct beneficiary with a disability, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"As an office we are now able to pay the right people. We discovered that some children with disability were being hidden – in Liyumbo there was a boy living with albinism who was being hidden but now is receiving care"
(KII21, Male Social Welfare Officer, Sioma).

The project's GEDSI workstream was also noted as transformative for the wider community in terms of changes in social norms and attitudes toward people with disabilities:

"Before the project, we had no knowledge of GEDSI. We didn't regard those people as people like us. For example, when forming committees, we could not allow those people living with disabilities. But there was even a gathering and a celebration for people living with disabilities. People with disabilities have even been promised that they will be given loans. Those people are now free to mingle with others"
(FGD19, GEDSI, Shangombo, State Ranch).

"Long ago we used to look down upon persons living with disabilities… but these days CJC has broken the archaic mentality by emphasising on inclusiveness where the marginalised such as the aforementioned have been brought on board for community participation towards a common goal"
(FGD15, Crop and Livestock Production, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

"As people with disabilities we were excluded from participating in community programmes but that has changed under CJC. The traditional name they used to refer to us as people with disabilities was extremely insulting. Now we are embraced by the community including the headman"
(KII29, Male direct beneficiary with a disability, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

There were also cases of government stakeholders adopting more disability-inclusive programming as a result of the project. In 2025, the Ministry of Health classified sun cream as an essential medicine accessible through local health centres for people with albinism – an institutional outcome traceable to CJC advocacy. The MCDSS has also adopted CJC's disability inclusive latrine model in its government rehabilitation centres to provide skills training and sheltered employment to people with disabilities. The project also provided valuable demographic information to Government of Zambia and ZAPD on people with disabilities and the demand for assistive devices like wheelchairs and white canes through the registration exercise; ZAPD is now filling orders to provide these devices to people with disabilities in the project wards free of charge.

However, the demand for such services surpassed what the project could provide given the high populations of people with disabilities in the project wards. Within the household survey sample, approximately 11% of households reported having a member with a disability. However, only 35% of these individuals had been supported by CJC to register with the national disability office, around 24% had received assistive devices, and no additional disability-related services were reported by the sampled households. These findings indicate considerable scope to expand disability support within the targeted wards.

Women's participation, confidence and decision-making power

There is **strong evidence that the project has improved women's participation and leadership in the communities, with strong household norm change also observed**. There are some emerging outcomes around women's financial inclusion and new women-led businesses.

Women's participation in community leadership has increased substantially across all districts as a result of the project. Before CJC, community meetings were male-dominated spaces; beneficiary selection was controlled by male indunas and women were expected to remain at home. Multiple respondents describe the transformation comparably: women now attend meetings, hold committee positions, and lead groups that were previously male-only.

"Long ago, women were not allowed to attend meetings by their husbands but now, through GEDSI orientations on how people should work together, these days women are able to attend meetings and hold positions in various committees"
(FGD11, CMCs, Sinazongwe).

A key mechanism for this change was the GALS (Gender Action Learning System) training, which operates at household as well as community levels. Community GALS Facilitators have been trained and were described as applying tools within families, shifting norms around decision-making and the division of domestic and productive labour. This household-level shift is evidenced most concretely in marital relationships. Several participants described material changes in domestic relationships, decision-making, and gendered division of labour:

"CJC has helped us even in terms of household relationships; CJC sensitised us about household budgeting through the leaky bucket. Leaking bucket was helpful in addressing conflicts in household spending. And, sometime back, husbands used to discourage their wives from engaging in business but now they are also benefiting from diversified sources of income such as Savings Groups most women are engaged"

(KII14, Direct Beneficiary, Male, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"A lot of husbands previously would not allow their wives to take part in community activities outside the home such as attending meetings/trainings and doing business. Women also thought only men should participate in such activities. But CJC has enlightened us and that has resulted in mutual respect in marriages"

(KII10, Direct Beneficiary, Male, Sinazongwe. Mweezya).

"In the past there were gender roles where boys and men had their own specific roles and women theirs, but these days roles are open for both genders. A husband can now prepare food for a wife, and a woman can also heard cattle in the bush and hold a plough when tilling the field"
(FGD5, GEDSI, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

The attendance of GALS activities is relatively equal across men and women, and both groups reported high relevance and usefulness of the training, with no significant difference between the rating of usefulness between groups and districts being noted.

Receiving GALS support as a woman, positively influences female respondent's degree of input into decisions on livestock production and income generated from other sources. Across the districts, roughly half of respondents reported that decisions regarding household crop production and livestock management during the last production cycle were made jointly. The remaining decisions were split fairly evenly between male and female household leads, though male-led decision-making was slightly more common for both crop production and livestock management. Specifically, being male is associated with higher degrees to which individuals have input into decisions on the use of income generated from crop production, livestock production, and other sources. However, although the frequency with which the female household head is the main decision maker in livestock production and management in the last production cycle is relatively similar across both female recipients and non-recipients of GALS training, households in which the male household head holds primary decision-making authority are notably fewer among GALS-trained women (3.85%) compared to non-GALS-trained Women (16.9%) (significant at $p<0.1$). Conversely, households where decisions are made jointly show a comparatively higher proportion among female GALS recipients—approximately 54% compared to 39% for female non-recipients of GALS training (differences significant at $p<0.1$).[13]

Approximately 70% of female GALS training recipients reported input into most or all decisions on the use of income generated from crop production compared to 37% for female non-recipients of GALS training. Similarly, the number of women with input into most or all decisions on the use of income generated from livestock production differed between circa 65% and 30% for female recipients and non-recipients of GALS training respectively (Table 7).[14]

14.Endline Household Survey Data

15. Endline Household Survey Data

Table 7: Degrees of input into income decision making by female GALS training participants and non-participants

		% of female participants of GALS training	% of female non-participants of GALS training
Degree of input on decisions on the use of income generated from crop production	No input or input in few decisions	3.9%**	8.5%**
	Input into some decisions	19.2%**	43.7%**
	Input into most or all decisions	69.2%**	36.6%**
	No decisions were made	7.7%**	11.3%**
Degree of input on decisions on the use of income generated from livestock management	No input or input in few decisions	3.9%**	7.0%**
	Input into some decisions	19.2%**	52.1%**
	Input into most or all decisions	65.4%**	29.6%**
	No decisions were made	11.5%**	11.3%**

The level at which chi square values are significant have been noted by * p<0.1; ** p<0.05; and *** p<0.01.

Women's access to financial tools and markets represents a distinct and evidenced dimension of empowerment, achieved through VSLAs. Many of the VSLAs targeted by CJC have been women-only or women dominated; these groups have enabled women who previously depended entirely on husbands for cash to save independently, access loans, and invest in business.

Previously, husbands never used to allow their wives to take part in savings but now they have seen the need. There is now competition for development between women and men where both groups seek to do better in income generation activities"
(FGD8, Economic Development, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

The project also experienced challenges in women's confidence and attendance in certain forums and roles requiring women to speak in front of men or meet with duty bearers – for instance as GALS Trainers or Advocacy Champions. In advocacy particularly, men's participation at events dominated, particularly in Sioma and Shangombo, where more traditional social norms were prevalent. However, there were some examples of growing women's confidence in the advocacy workstream. The Advocacy FGD in Sioma (FGD20; all-female; 7 participants) provides particularly strong testimony on voice and agency, with multiple female members independently describing going from silence and fear to active community representation. One stated: "I used to be shy and afraid to speak up, not anymore. I thank CJC for helping us to have a voice." Another in the same FGD: "It is good to see fellow women stand up for each other and be counted. We now know our rights." The group confirmed these skills have been applied in practice, including successfully challenging the Ministry of Health's decision to bring in community health volunteers from outside the ward – the advocacy group rejected the decision, and local volunteers were hired instead.

Gaps in women's participation suggest additional support needed given prevailing gender-proscribed social norms.

More equitable intra-household relationships

Qualitative evidence for CJC impact on intra-household relationships includes both self-reported behavioural change (joint decision-making, men supporting wives' business activities) and observed outcomes (reduced GBV, reduced headman time spent on conflict resolution in Luangwa).

"CJC has improved relationships within the household. We have been taught to work together. For example, if the head of household just drinks beer has not benefit. If a man sells his animals and uses the money on useless things that have no benefit for the family. CJC helped us to understand that whatever the husband gets is for the family and has to be used wisely"
(FGD19, GEDSI beneficiaries, Shangombo, State Ranch).

There is some evidence of reported shifts from unilateral male household decision-making to joint consultation in the qualitative data. One direct beneficiary described imposing decisions on his wife before CJC, and now discussing and agreeing decisions together, including with children on matters affecting them (KII26, Luangwa). In Sinazongwe, the 'leaking bucket' budgeting tool was specifically credited with reducing household financial conflict (KII14, Sinazongwe). FGD data confirms that husbands who previously prevented wives from participating in business or savings activities are now actively supporting and benefiting from their wives' involvement (FGD8, Sinazongwe; FGD21, Shangombo).

Reports of reduced gender-based violence are notable, though not universal. One male direct beneficiary stated that GBV had reduced and that the headman was spending less time on conflict resolution since CJC's intervention (KII29, Luangwa). CJC's GBV sensitisation is specifically noted, and mutual respect in marriages is cited as a direct outcome of household-level financial and relationship training (KII10, Sinazongwe).

Training GALS facilitators to share tools within communities offers potential for sustainability. Project staff noted that community uptake of GALS should be self-scaling/sustaining so the above outcomes should expand to more households over time. The project trained Community GALS Facilitators who were tasked with sharing the GALS tools with others. However, focus group discussion participants did not discuss this, suggesting the roll-out of this self-scaling mechanism is still emerging.

For women, the savings groups are an important vehicle for changed household dynamics: increased economic contribution gave women more voice in household decisions, and husbands who initially discouraged participation shifted to supporting and even joining savings activities. [In Sinazongwe, one FGD noted a 'competition for development' emerging between men and women, with both now seeking to do better in income generation — reflecting a positive inversion of prior gender dynamics (FGD8 beneficiaries Mweezya, Sinazongwe).

Youth inclusion

Youth inclusion is evidenced across all districts and strong participation of young people was consistently seen across interventions. Young participants described a changed attitude in the community toward young people, particularly in terms of their inclusion in decision-making. Multiple youth respondents described active involvement in project planning, CMC membership, and leadership roles.

"As young people, usually our voice is not heard – only old people are perceived to be wise. But CJC has included various voices from us young people, people with disabilities as well as women."
(KII31, Youth Direct Beneficiary, Female, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

"CJC is very different from other organisations. They have brought us on board in planning and implementing. As young people, they are not doing things for us but actually teaching us how to catch fish. We will be able to stand on our own long before they are gone"
(KII31, Youth Direct Beneficiary, Female, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

Young people were particularly active as Advocacy Champions, with several concrete examples of youth advocacy producing documented outcomes, extending well beyond meeting participation into direct engagement with government. In Sinazongwe, youth respondents independently cite the successful lobbying for a secondary school and clinic – the first in the ward – as outcomes of advocacy training. Youth in Luangwa also describe sustained monitoring of Social Cash Transfer and FISP beneficiary lists, with one noting continued pressure on civic leaders despite slow results.

Improved advocacy skills and awareness of rights resulting in successful advocacy outcomes

The advocacy workstream focused on supporting communities to understand their rights and advocate for improved service delivery and financing to support local climate justice and wider development priorities. Key elements of the approach included training community Advocacy Champions and supporting them to hold duty bearers accountable, particularly at ward and district levels, through interface meetings, indabas, and stakeholder dialogue meetings. The project also invested significantly in socialising and encouraging communities to make applications to access the Government's Constituency Development Fund (CDF), a national fund to finance community-driven development projects as part of the Zambia's DecentraLisation Policy, which includes a provision for 50% of funds to be allocated to climate adaptation. There has been low utilisation of the CDF nationally, so CJC's advocacy partners CEJ and CSPR focused on educating community members about the fund and supporting them to submit applications during the annual CDF application rounds to fund projects at ward level.

There is strong evidence of improved advocacy capacity and rights awareness. Community members across the four districts reported learning to engage with government officials and wider decision-making processes and demand services they are entitled to, and this included marginalised groups (women, youth, elderly, and people with disabilities) also taking a role in asserting their rights and participating more fully in community life.

It looks like most of our members in the community have been trained on how to make their voices heard … we have not been receiving enough rain fall, always water shortages, drought, hunger, elephants causing destruction to crops … This is where people have been trained to talk for and even apply for what they want even through CDF. We have a situation where people no longer fear to express themselves … It is encouraging to see people put their elected officials to task over things they should have done … In the past there was that aspect of not sharing together, working together …

certain people were regarded as burdens in society, especially the elderly and the disabled. But now we see those people getting involved."
(KII2, Indirect beneficiary, Male, Sioma, Watembo).

"Before CJC we were very scared to approach our councillor but not anymore ... Marginalised groups don't even know where to start from but through the project they have been empowered. Sometime back, people with disabilities could not even come out and mingle freely with other people. The elderly were equally not involved in what was going on in the community. It was like they had reached a dead end and were just waiting to die"
(KII7, Direct Beneficiary, Male, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

Multiple respondents described successful advocacy outcomes as a result of community-led advocacy efforts, including securing new school and teacher housing blocks, new maternity clinics, construction of new bridges and cellular towers, and improved service delivery around health centres and school feeding programmes.

"For a long time, the whole Mweezya ward, with 5 zones, did not have any Secondary School but now, we have managed to lobby for one from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) through the Advocacy Committee which was formed and trained by CJC. We also managed to lobby for a clinic at Dambwa which is equally under construction"
(FGD2, Crop and Livestock Production, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

"When we were asking for construction of a Secondary School, some people thought it was not possible to be heard by higher offices starting from the councillor, but we managed to have our voices heard and we were given a 1×3 Classroom Block"
(FGD13, Advocacy (Women), Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

CSPR documented further successful advocacy leading to positive outcomes for schools and infrastructure in Sinazongwe. Community members lobbied at the office of the district education board secretary where a community school faced a shortage of local teachers. The community suggested that voluntary teachers should work at the school while they waited for formal teachers to be employed by the government. This recommendation was granted by the district education board secretary and volunteer teachers were sent to work in these areas to fill this gap. Community members also used scorecard tools introduced by CJC to track and assess the school feeding programme and their recommendations led to measurable improvements at the schools where data was recorded. In Mabinga ward, community members lobbied for a bridge washed away years earlier, engaging the local authority, their Member of Parliament, and the minister for local government in Lusaka – with CJC facilitating transport – resulting in a government contractor assessment and commitment to construct the bridge. (KII5, CSPR).

In Luangwa, a female youth beneficiary described the successful campaign for a maternity wing at the local clinic, a resilience gain that directly addresses a climate-related health vulnerability and will benefit the wider community: *"For a long time we didn't have a maternity wing at our clinic. Expectant mothers used to suffer moving long distances to acquire the needed services. It was worse in the rainy season when some roads become impassable. We demanded for a maternity wing through the council and last year the clinic had a maternity wing through advocacy activities in our area."* (KII27, Direct Beneficiary, Female, Youth, Luangwa, Mburuma). Luangwa communities also advocated to increase the number of FISP fertiliser subsidy beneficiaries from 500 to 1,000 and maintained sustained pressure to ensure Social Cash Transfer (SCT) and Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) lists included the correct people (KII29, Male Direct Beneficiary with a disability, Luangwa, Cluster 1).

Community members advocated for the establishment of a new Food Reserve Agency (FRA) access point to shorten distances for community members to access government food reserves (Sioma). In Shangombo, communities also used their advocacy capacity to directly challenge elected officials on unfulfilled commitments. An indirect beneficiary woman described what she observed at a recent meeting: *"We now have people who have been trained in advocacy, they speak for the community. During meetings, you hear that it was hot at the meeting today as the advocacy group asked the leaders why they are not doing this or that. The council chairperson came in last week and was shocked at how people were free and asked difficult questions. She was told she will not get their votes if she does not honour her promise. She promised to bring a secondary school"* (KII30, Female Indirect Beneficiary, Shangombo, State Ranch). In the same ward, communities independently rejected Ministry of Health volunteers brought in from outside the ward, successfully insisting that local people be recruited and trained instead – a concrete exercise of community rights that required both the confidence and the knowledge of entitlement that advocacy training had built (FGD9, CMC, Shangombo, State Ranch).

The quantitative analysis also points at a significant increase in the number of respondents who have accessed a CDF fund in Luangwa, as well as significant increases in the number of community members that respondents know to have ever accessed a CDF business loan in Luangwa, Sinazongwe, and Shangombo at the end of the project in comparison with the baseline, as presented in Table 8. Note that Sioma was excluded from the baseline, so no comments can be made on Sioma's trends with respect to the baseline.[16]

poultry business but we were only given K15,000. We tried 5 times, but this is when we were given"
(KII22, Male Representative, Association for People with Disabilities, Luangwa).

Table 8: Proportion of baseline and endline populations to report receiving CDF funds or knowing someone in the community who has accessed CDF business loans.

	Timeframe	Luangwa	Sinazongwe	Shangombo	Total
Proportion of respondents or any member of their household to have ever accessed a business loan from CDF	Baseline	1.9%**	0.5%	1.1%	1.1%**
	Endline	9.8%**	2.7%	2.6%	5.1%**
	% increase	414%	405%	128%	347%
Proportion of respondents who know anyone in their community who has a CDF business loan	Baseline	11.4%**	4.8%**	3.9%**	6.5%**
	Endline	46.3%**	56.8%**	20.5%**	41.0%**
	% increase	307%	1079%	422%	531%

Population proportions that differ significantly between the baseline and endline from each other at the 0.05 level have been denoted by **

At a systems level, CJC advocacy work produced changes extending beyond the communities directly involved. CEJ reported that government has simplified the CDF application process following advocacy work under CJC emphasising the complexity of the application process was preventing communities from accessing the Fund. CEJ also influenced government to change its beneficiary selection approach for CDF applications to allow public complaints – the government will now publish a draft list of successful applications so that community members can submit complaints before grants are awarded. DRW's disability-focused advocacy also produced national-level institutional change to establish a parliamentary caucus on disability, as well as advocating successfully for disability-specific indicators to be included in Zambia's National Adaptation Plan (KII2; DRW).

However, some advocacy efforts have been only partially successful or have been slow to materialise.

"CJC has enlightened us more about a number of services we never knew existed and how to go about them - for example the Trust Fund. We are now interacting with various organisations and that has amplified our voice as people with disabilities. As such we have become very aggressive in demanding for our rights. However, we are still a long way in getting what we want, for example we applied for CDF business loan for K60,000 to start

There were some reports of government being slow to initiate work under successful CDF applications – concerns about the transparent management of the CDF have been raised by civil society organisations across Zambia, indicating further work is required to improve the management and administration of the Fund.

"Last year they promised to give us 1 x 3 classroom block, told to do the bricks and after that we will send the contractor. But up to now there is nothing. Once CDF committee sits in December, we will send the contractor. The MP promised a network tower, nothing. The advocacy champions told the MP that if nothing happens, they will not vote for him … The community now has a voice to any issue that affect them"
(FGD9, CMC, Shangombo, State Ranch).

There is strong evidence that the advocacy capacity and the knowledge of rights which CJC has promoted in the communities is sustainable, and the structural channels are also in place for exercising that capacity (WDC relationships, CDF processes, district dialogue meetings, connections to government ministries established through the project). The strongest indication of continued advocacy activity comes from Mweezya, Sinazongwe, where a women's advocacy group explicitly plans to continue working through existing government structures:

16. Endline Household Survey Data

"We shall continue working in collaboration with other committees in the ward and we shall be working with the Ward Development Committee (WDC) who will be able to help us when we want to apply for CDF in order to fund some projects. We make sure all committees and projects continue... Monitoring shall be enhanced with the help of some government departments like agriculture and livestock in order to find suitable interventions in the case of struggling projects"
(FGD7, Advocacy (Women), Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

The WDC–CDF channel is significant: it is a government structure that does not depend on CJC's continued presence, and communities have already used it successfully. The established relationships with district government and CMC–induna legitimisation are institutional assets that will outlast the project.

The risk areas are a reduction in the coordination, transport, and organisational infrastructure that sustained regular collective advocacy action. Where individual Advocacy Champions are embedded in functioning community governance–continuity is most likely, although some logistical support may be needed.

The Sinazongwe women's advocacy group identifies that regular meetings may be harder to convene once transport refunds for participants end: *"there is also a danger that regular meetings may not be successful because there would be no longer transport refunds to be paid to participants as a motivation once CJC ends." (FGD7, Advocacy (Women), Sinazongwe, Mweezya).*

Understanding of climate change and ability to engage in decision-making linked to climate change

The quantitative data suggests a significant, moderate, positive relationship between receiving CJC support and households' understanding of climate justice issues as well as the ability to take action to address climate hazards experienced.[17] Receiving crop production training, both directly for beneficiaries and spillovers to non-beneficiaries, displays the largest positive relationship with a moderate positive correlation to understanding of climate hazards and the ability to influence community decision-making and government. Among direct beneficiaries, those receiving livestock support, business skills training, and irrigation support were found to have a higher degree of understanding of climate hazards, though the strength of this relationship is weak.[18]

3.1.3.2 Pathways

Pathways and mechanisms for achieving transformational justice and systems change are underpinned by the effectiveness of CJC in influencing and changing institutions and relationships both within communities and between communities and other actors and institutions.

"CJC has also introduced us to government ministries e.g. Vet department ... We also have relationships with the private sector thorough market linkages. Sustainability of project is granted because we will keep on networking with both the government and private sector. Besides, through CJC there has been a great improvement in the community relationship with our traditional leaders. Before CJC, traditional leaders would just tell us what to do but now, we normally hold discussions on how things should be done ... The relationships between marginalised groups of people have also improved because no one is left behind. At home, I used to make decisions and impose them on my wife and family as the man of the house but through CJC we now sit and agree with my wife until a decision is made"
(KII26, Luangwa, Mburuma, Direct Beneficiary, Man).

Relationships between communities and traditional authorities for more inclusive governance

There is strong evidence that CJC worked through existing governance structures while transforming them to be more inclusive:

"Traditional leaders have made it clear that in all meetings, even the people with disabilities should be represented. This is a big shift from looking down on others to embracing each other"
(FGD20, Advocacy, Sioma, Watembo).

17. While the relationships are significant, they are of limited magnitude/ influence. The degree of correlation between receiving CJC support and ability to take action is moderate regarding both ability to contribute to community decision making and influence government, while the ability to take action against climate hazards experienced and CJC support correlation is weak (see Annex 3).

18. Some significant relationships were found between the gender and district of respondents with understanding of climate change hazards and influence in decision-making, but the degree of correlation is weak, illustrating small differences between genders and districts of respondents.

One of the clearest structural contributions of CJC's climate justice approach is the shift in community decision-making from induna-dominated, top-down beneficiary selection to committee-based, inclusive processes. The Shangombo GEDSI FGD (FGD19) provides the most specific account: the induna who had previously expected to control the beneficiary list was formally brought to a meeting and told that this was the CMC's role. The CMC selection process – drawing representatives from youth, women, elderly, people with disabilities, and men – is described as a structural departure from previous practice. Sinazongwe respondents describe an anonymous priority-ranking method (writing problems on paper and counting by box) as a deliberately designed tool to prevent dominant voices controlling the agenda.

"Relationships between the community and traditional leaders have improved. CJC made us attend meetings with traditional leaders. The project through the meetings has helped us not to fear indunas so this has made us get closer to our traditional leaders. CJC has helped a lot. Before that if there were handouts, the indunas would get first and the leftovers would be for the rest of the community to share but now everyone shares equally … The project had the induna brought to the meeting and was told that listing beneficiaries was the role of the CMCs. CMCs were given power to list the beneficiaries and things work better" ***(FGD19, GEDSI, Shangombo, State Ranch).***

For women specifically, there is evidence for traditional leaders now explicitly supporting women's participation in activities previously reserved for men, including leadership of committees. In Sioma, advocacy FGD participants described traditional leaders championing women's inclusion (FGD20).

Communities holding Government to account for service delivery

Evidence of improved relationships between communities and government is strong across all districts, with CJC acting as a broker convening communities and government departments, building community confidence to engage officials, and training advocacy champions to hold government accountable. Respondents report that before the project, government officials rarely visited remote communities, particularly in Sioma and Shangombo. CJC's two-stage engagement strategy, first securing government buy-in at district level, then working through community structures, ensured that government departments were partners from the outset.

"CJC is unique in the sense that it has involved district government stakeholders as implementing partners in a more direct and practical way. With other organisations, they only want to involve us during project handover and usually the community looks at us as intruders, and they fail to cooperate with us."

(KI17, Female Ministry of Community and Development Officer, Sinazongwe).

Local government have adopted CJC's inclusion approach: Evidence of government actors formally adopting CJC methods is strongest in Luangwa as well as at national level. DMMU in Luangwa confirmed that CJC strengthened its emphasis on inclusion of people with disabilities across all programmes (KII24, DMMU, Luangwa). Here, Disability Rights Watch facilitated a disability-inclusive district adaptation planning workshop chaired by the District Commissioner himself, resulting in the first disability-specific considerations embedded in Luangwa's disaster mitigation plan (KII2, DRW).

In Sinazongwe, the Ministry of Agriculture's Senior Agricultural Officer noted: *'We never used to engage farmers and review their performance on what could be done better to strategize. We get advice from CJC on how to include the farmers'* (KII25, MoA, Sinazongwe). The Ministry of Agriculture in Sinazongwe described beginning to adapt its farmer engagement practices in line with CJC's model, including putting in place floaters and submissive pumps on irrigation systems so farmers can adjust when water levels drop (KII25, MoA, Sinazongwe).

At national level, CJC generated demonstrable policy influence, concentrated primarily through DRW's disability inclusion advocacy and CSPR's engagement with national government stakeholders. DRW advocated for disability-specific indicators to be embedded in Zambia's National Adaptation Plan to climate change at the Global Disability Summit, a commitment made by the Zambian government. In 2023, DRW wrote to the National Assembly, leading to the establishment of a parliamentary disability caucus with 88 of 150 MPs as members (KII2, DRW). DRW also engaged the Zambia Climate Change Network's cluster advisory group, where they specifically advocate for disability inclusion in climate response, a pillar directly traceable to CJC's model. The Ministry of Green Economy and Environment's Chief Climate Change Officer confirmed that government is developing proposals to replicate CJC's inclusivity approach in future programmes (KII6, Ministry of Green Economy). The advisory steering committee was noted as providing active guidance to the project, embedding CJC within national climate policy processes.

"Government has very limited resources, so CJC has really complemented the climate change space … The government is coming up with proposals to replicate what CJC has done. Particularly the inclusivity of the programme is being considered for future programmes"
(KII6, Chief Climate Change Officer, Ministry of Green Economy).

The strong progress in influencing is well evidenced by policy intent, but this is constrained by lack of government resources.
DRW noted that CJC is one of the only projects in Zambia providing a replicable model for disability-inclusive climate response, and they receive requests from the ZAPD for information about the approach. However, government budgetary constraints represent a structural ceiling on policy influence: climate change and environmental protection account for approximately 3% of the national budget, meaning social inclusion remains peripheral. Government support at national level is therefore 'a challenge' despite positive policy intent (KII2, DRW). This structural constraint is likely to limit the rate at which national-level adoption translates into resourcing.

Improved accountability relationship between communities and government service delivery through advocacy.
Across all four districts, communities reported tangible wins in redirecting or reforming government services. For example: Government agreed to supply 20kg maize bags at 150 kwacha during drought in Sinazongwe, rather than 50kg only, after communities advocated for affordable quantities through the District Commissioner's office (KII7, CEJ). Communities successfully lobbied for a temporary Food Reserve Agency depot to be established locally, dramatically reducing travel distances for food access in Sioma (KII5, CSPR). In Sinazongwe, communities successfully demanded rehabilitation of a bridge by escalating directly to the Minister of Local Government, after which contractors were dispatched to site (KII5, CSPR). CJC convened key government stakeholders with Social Cash Transfer (SCT) responsibilities alongside eligible but unpaid recipients; within two days of presenting a list, all beneficiaries collected their transfers (KII7, CEJ). Government agreed to publish draft beneficiary lists publicly, allowing communities to challenge duplicate or ineligible entries, following advocacy pressure (KII7, CEJ).

CJC's model and reputation attracted engagement from other development actors across multiple levels.
In Luangwa, CCZ reported being approached by non-project wards requesting expansion of CJC to their communities. DRW's disability inclusion model, developed and refined through CJC, attracted collaboration interest from World Vision, which approached DRW regarding joint provision of assistive devices on the International Day for People with Disabilities (KII2, DRW). Other civil society organisations attempted to scale the assistive device supply model to broader networks. Most significantly, Norad, DRW's major funder, introduced a specific climate change thematic area and asked DRW to lead a country programme on inclusive climate action, directly citing DRW's CJC work as the model (KII2, DRW).

3.2 Effectiveness of Climate Justice Implementation Model

3.3.1 Relevance of the Climate Justice approach

Project alignment with community climate change priorities

CJC's interventions closely align with community-identified climate change priorities and needs across the districts (strong evidence). This alignment is itself a distinctive feature of the climate justice approach: the participatory design process invited communities to define their own problems before interventions were designed, and the data shows this was experienced as meaningful by beneficiaries rather than as a formality.

In Sioma and Shangombo, for instance, direct beneficiaries consistently identify the same key priorities: drought (including crop failure and water scarcity), HWC (particularly elephants), and resulting poverty and food insecurity. In both districts, the project's boreholes, drought-tolerant seed, livestock, and chili fence/ bomb training directly correspond to these stated priorities. Beneficiaries confirm this alignment explicitly:

"Previously, organisations were just coming and imposing projects on us. We had no say but these days we are consulted on what we need. Previously, we didn't know how projects were selected but these days we take part in choosing what we need and where it should be"
(FGD15; Crop and Livestock Production; Luangwa; Different wards; Direct Beneficiaries; M:4 F:3).

"CJC involves the community in deciding what interventions to carry out. The activities have a positive effect on our livelihoods because they speak to our needs."
(KII9; Woman Direct Beneficiary; Sinazongwe; Mweezya)

"All the interventions CJC brought into the community fit well. Water points came at the time people were really suffering, drinking dirty water and diarrhoea was common. With clean water, we now have less diarrhoea cases. Look at the goats and chickens, because of drought, people have less or no sources of income, so the livestock will help and act as a source of income"
(FGD5, DRR, Sioma).

DRW (KII2) notes a direct connection between HWC (crocodile and elephant attacks on water-fetching routes) and disability, identifying prevention of disability as part of the rationale for water infrastructure investment.

Several participants describe interventions arriving at the right time – particularly the seed and livestock provision and relief food distribution that coincided with the severe 2024 El Niño drought.

One area where community priorities were not fully met is the scale of coverage. Across virtually all FGDs and KIIs in Sioma and Shangombo, beneficiaries note that **the number of people in need significantly exceeds the project's reach**. This is not a failure of alignment between project and community priorities, but a resource scale constraint – and communities were consistent in asking for expansion of the same interventions rather than redirection.

Relevance of CJC institutional structures

During scoping, the project formed ward-level Community Management Committees (CMCs) to ensure community leadership of all interventions. The CMCs comprise representatives of key local institutions at ward level (e.g. WDC, CWAC, agricultural extension officers, health officers) and representatives of women, youth, and people with disabilities.

CMCs have played an important role in supporting the project to interface with the community. The committees relay project information, mobilise communities for meetings and activities (for instance, securing community contributions of labour and materials for interventions), and disseminate training content to non-attenders. The Field Coordinator in Luangwa described their practical value: *"It has been easy to reach communities at any time as a result of the CMCs and has helped mobilise the communities quickly ... they have helped with recordkeeping ... they also help in troubleshooting issues in the communities and conflict management."*

CMCs operate as an interface not only between community and project, but between communities and the wider governance structures within which they are situated. Participants reported CMCs bringing community ideas and needs to traditional leaders, who convene community meetings to agree or reject them – a legitimisation function for CJ activities that is distinct from upward reporting to CJC and that embeds CMC authority within existing traditional governance rather than bypassing it. In Shangombo, this extended to direct engagement with elected officials, with CMC members warning the MP that infrastructure commitments would affect votes, and sustained monitoring of SCT and FISP beneficiary lists to hold government accountable on service delivery. The post-project significance of this domain is that it provides a lateral channel – through WDCs, CDF applications, and civic leader relationships built during the project – that does not depend on CJC's continued presence to function. Where CMC legitimacy is grounded in traditional leader backing and where government relationships have been established through advocacy activity, this represents the most structurally durable element of the CMC model.

3.2.2 Effectiveness of Implementation Model

3.2.2.1 Approaches to Community Ownership

There is **strong evidence overall that CJC's participatory approaches have resulted in strong community ownership of interventions** (strong evidence; high contribution). This finding is reported across all four districts, by direct beneficiaries, indirect beneficiaries, government officers, and delivery partners, and is substantiated by observable behaviours: community fee collection and cases of innovative alternatives to direct fees for water point maintenance, self-organised maintenance, unsolicited physical labour contributions, and community pushback on decisions they considered inappropriate.

A GLM Field Officer in Sinazongwe described an instance of community action that preceded project prompting: *"The drive and dedication by community members for the irrigation project is very commendable. I was very impressed when I found that the fencing of the 12.5 hectare land was already underway without the involvement of external people."* However, strong community ownership was not universal. At times the pace of the project and timings of activities (e.g. during the growing season) created issues with community availability to participate in infrastructure work. Community members trained by the project also occasionally expressed an expectation that they would be paid for their time (e.g. labour contributions for weirs construction) – this at times created tensions with project staff who felt that payments would reduce community ownership where the community were themselves the beneficiaries of the interventions. In the case of some of the irrigation schemes in Luangwa, community land clearing progressed at a slow pace but quickened with more intensive oversight from the traditional leaders; some project staff remarked that community members may have felt apprehensive about the new technology or not fully understand its use. Other issues noted by project staff included the intensive manual process of land clearance which coincided with a labour shortage during farmers' land preparation period, elephant incursions, labour shortages in vulnerable households and delays in identification and procurement of the required tools by CDPs,

A key feature of the project's CJ approach is **that community ownership was not introduced as a separate objective but was built structurally into the project's entry methodology from the outset**. Participants report feeling that the project listened to their climate needs and priorities during the climate vulnerability needs assessment, and the project was designed to respond to these through community Climate Justice Plans, resulting in a strong sense of ownership:

> *"Because the community was involved, the ownership to us was already there from the beginning"*
> ***(FGD9, CMC, Shangombo, State Ranch).***

Community members agree that CJC did not impose its own priorities or interventions, unlike other development programmes they had seen. Participants reported that the project brought ideas for climate solutions as a framework for possible interventions in response to community needs. The framework served as a set of viable options to support communities to brainstorm possible solutions.

The one exception is perhaps GEDSI, where the project did introduce and enforce inclusion principles from the onset as an important part of the CJ approach. However, it appears this was done in a way that did not create push-back from communities, but rather, showed them the value of taking an inclusive approach. The DRW Field Coordinator confirms for instance how communities initially perceived WASH and agriculture as male-dominated activities and how a mindset shift was required to show the benefits of women and people with disabilities participating in these activities.

The balance of evidence suggests a co-design model in which priorities originate from community-identified needs, implementing partner field staff and NIRAS developed project designs, budgets, and provided technical support and resources, and communities retained authority over site selection, beneficiary identification, and implementation modality. Community committees also developed operational plans for maintenance of activities and infrastructure, which resulted in a sense of ownership:

"Yes, we were part of the design because it is us who chose and identified the needs and where to sink hand pumps and boreholes. Ownership is shown through monitoring. We shall actually be monitoring on a weekly basis … Ownership is also shown through accountability by using an inventory and reports should be compiled. Communities are also encouraged to contribute towards borehole and hand pump maintenance."
(FGD9, DRR, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

The **CMCs are the central institutional mechanism for operationalising community ownership** of project interventions. The CMCs ensured community ownership through community-to-project interface; project-to-community, interface with traditional leadership and local government; and project monitoring and accountability (see discussion above).

The project's knowledge sharing and Trainer of Trainers (ToT) cascade model also helped embed community ownership. CJC used a ToTs model across multiple interventions, with community members trained as lead trainers to train others within their communities. ToTs were used for Community-Led Field Schools (crop and livestock production), as well as business coaching and market facilitation. The project trained community GEDSI, GALS and Advocacy Champions who were responsible for promoting inclusion and advocacy activities within the wider community. The reach of this model is reflected in testimony about non-beneficiaries receiving knowledge spillovers.

3.2.2.2 Collaboration across the project consortium

The project brought together a varied consortium of international and national partners and experts with clear roles aligned to their competence. However, the complexity and ambition of the programme created coordination challenges and slippage in meeting targets. Project staff described the rationale behind the delivery model that brought together different organisations each with a particular role and skillset. C*ommunity Delivery Partners* which brought community facilitation experience led on participatory approaches and support to community structures, technical partners on disability inclusion and advocacy provided specialist support to deliver those interventions and the project management unit oversaw support to partners on financial management, M&E, procurement and technical delivery. The need to establish new field operations for the project (there were no NGOs active in the target districts in several cases), along with the multi-sectoral approach and fast pace of delivery presented challenges. The CDP delivery partners were also less familiar with a commercial contracting approach with high expectations on setting/hitting realistic targets and on delivering rapid and transparent financial management. Over-ambitious targets and the need for intensive follow-up consistently created delays against workplans. In one case, financial management issues required a forensic audit and remedial action. CDP respondents described how the large number of interventions and technical support requirements created challenges in relation to coordination and information flow between the PMU, short-term experts and the CDPs, which was confirmed by the project team. The distance between intervention areas and mixed performance of intervention leads and technical consultants also limited the project's ability to resolve challenges quickly and to identify and follow-up on blockages and issues.

3.2.2.3 Monitoring, evaluation and accountability

CMC members played a crucial role in field-level monitoring, conducting regular field rounds to check on asset condition and activity progress. The GLM and CCZ Field Coordinators both confirmed that CMC monitoring functions independently when CDP field staff are absent, though challenges with record keeping and capacity were noted.

"The CMCs coordinate well the different activities of the project even when the field staff is not there. They move around checking on what is going on well and what is not… They are the bridge between the community and the CJC"
FGD7; DRR; Shangombo; State Ranch).

There is also some evidence that the **project's participatory monitoring created feedback loops between the communities and the project which gave participants a sense of ownership**, though many of the monitoring systems may not yet be well embedded. The District Forestry Officer in Luangwa noted a specific accountability feature that distinguishes CJC from comparable organisations: *"CJC usually holds quarterly meetings where feedback is given compared to other organizations who do not hold such important meetings. For CJC, what is reported on the ground will be found exactly as reported."*

3.2.3 Sustainability

The project invested significantly in embedding sustainability in project interventions. This was done by strengthening community-owned structures, building long-term technical capacity, and ensuring strong linkages with government systems across all workstreams. Community-level committees and community champions – such as CMCs, Water Point Committees, Irrigation Management Committees, NRM Committees, DRR Satellite Committees, Advocacy Champions, and GALS Facilitators – were trained using Trainer-of-Trainers models to ensure knowledge continues to circulate locally after project closure. Technical skills were deliberately transferred to community members (e.g., pump minders, masons, livestock facilitators, seed growers, business coaches), creating locally available expertise for maintaining infrastructure and livelihoods. Interventions emphasised community ownership through participatory planning, contributing locally sourced materials, land preparation, and asset management, which strengthened responsibility and long-term uptake. The project also built durable partnerships with district authorities and national bodies – linking committees to government departments for ongoing backstopping, supporting disability registration for continued access to state services, and contributing models (e.g., inclusive latrines) adopted by government. By combining locally led governance, capacity building, practical skills, and institutional integration, the project designed interventions to remain functional, relevant, and community-driven beyond the grant period.

There is **medium and mixed evidence for the sustainability of project interventions in practice**. The CJ approach means that the sustainability of CJC interventions hinges on community members, namely community committees responsible for overseeing interventions and community climate justice plans, remaining motivated and capacitated to deliver their roles. In many areas, community ownership is strong, particularly given the short project period – the strongest evidence for durability relates to hand pump water infrastructure where WPC fee systems and trained pump minders are functioning – as well as knowledge, advocacy capacity, and inclusion norms which show signs of longevity beyond the project. The greatest sustainability risks relate to solar-powered borehole and weir infrastructure where community maintenance capacity does not yet match the technology installed, technically demanding DRR preparedness activities, and market linkages which have not yet been fully realised, particularly in Western Province. The short project period has limited time to fully embed community ownership and capacity in some cases.

Durability of community committees

CJC was designed with community leadership and participation at the forefront. The capacity and motivation of community committees therefore are central to project sustainability but also pose cross-cutting sustainability risks. CMC members are volunteers, and CDP field staff noted that uncompensated members may lose motivation once project logistical support, including transport refunds, is withdrawn. This concern is echoed by the Advocacy Champions, who indicate transport costs as a specific post-closure threat to sustained advocacy activity. The challenges are compounded by the connectivity challenges, long distances and poor road infrastructure in the project districts, which poses logistical challenges to community participation without external support. While the project provided bicycles to support the movement of the committees, these were reported as insufficient to meet the need and were also not a viable option in Western Province due to the terrain.

There is good evidence, however, of CMCs having strong traditional leader backing and strong working relationships with local government, including the WDCs. It has been agreed that the CMCs will report to the WDCs after project closure, retaining their responsibility for climate justice planning and delivery in the wards. CMCs interface with WDCs to escalate issues to district level, and several respondents describe them as complementary rather than overlapping – providing legitimacy and rationale for their continuation. Similarly, there is also a clear integration for the DRR Satellite Committees, which are a government-mandated community body reporting to the local DMMU. This link should give the DRR Satellite Committees a source of ongoing institutional support for them to continue to carry out their knowledge dissemination, preparedness, and disaster response functions, but whether local government will have the capacity to provide this support is unclear.

Community maintenance of infrastructure

The sustainability outlook of CJC infrastructure varies by infrastructure type. For hand pumps, the outlook is reasonably positive: WPCs collecting modest maintenance contributions are generally functioning across all four districts, pump minders have toolkits, and traditional leaders are actively reinforcing contribution norms. There was only one report of a project borehole breaking down. The WASH FGD cluster in Luangwa (FGD18) describes an innovative local adaptation – switching from direct cash collection to community brickmaking as an alternative source of maintenance funding.

"Continuity will be enhanced through working together. Committees will continue meeting involving traditional leaders in devising plans for possible contributions towards maintenance of water points. Committees will continue monitoring projects like irrigation and water points at least 3 times a year in order to converse with civic leaders to find solutions to failing projects"
(FGD14, WASH Male FGD, Sinazongwe, Mweezya).

Solar-mechanised systems present a more uncertain picture: respondents across Luangwa specifically flag that trained pump minders can repair hand pumps but cannot service solar systems, and spare parts for all pump types are not reliably available locally – sometimes costing more in transport than the parts themselves (FGD18, WASH, Luangwa, Cluster 1). There were also some concerns about weir dam maintenance, despite project investments in training local masons. One participant described not knowing how to fix the weir as his *"greatest fear after project closure. The project is a success but short implementation period"* (KII11). Another FGD stated that dam repair will be unaffordable without external support for purchasing construction materials. These comments indicate a need for further capacity building of community members, or partnerships with the local water department authorities, to ensure CJC's infrastructural investments are sustained.

Irrigation schemes are expected to have good sustainability prospects where they generate income – Zone 5 Sinazongwe is already selling produce, Shangombo has assigned plots to marginalised groups, and government department engagement in Luangwa provides some institutional backing. However, it remains to be seen if community members will use the irrigation schemes and if the irrigation management committees will be able to ensure sustained governance and maintenance of the schemes, particularly from risks including theft and wildlife intrusion.

There are also some examples of collective action failures to maintain community infrastructure emerging within the project period, indicating that communal maintenance models may not be sufficiently embedded in some cases. In Watembo ward, Sioma, for instance, a CJC chili fence was vandalised by individual community members removing the chili bottles to place them around their own individual fields instead, rendering the communal fence non-functional. The identified cause as a breakdown in communication between the CMC, the NRM committee, and the indunas – the three bodies that should jointly have governed the fence.

Livestock survival, reproduction and marketing

Livestock sustainability is evidenced through reproductive capacity and communities' existing knowledge of animal husbandry in local conditions. Multiple communities described goats and chickens as multiplying and passing-on mechanisms – where kids are transferred to new households once the initial recipient's herd grows – are described as operational in several wards.

"There are a number of things that will continue after the project ends — activities like water projects and livestock. Many people feel these projects are ours and with this mindset, they will continue to own the project."
(FGD1, Crop and Livestock Production, Sioma, Watembo).

The main risks are chicken mortality from disease and, in Luangwa, reports of project-distributed goats being stolen. The DMMU officer in Luangwa flagged that some community members treat project-provided assets, including livestock, as belonging to the project rather than to themselves, with reported theft of CJC goats in contrast to locally owned animals that are not stolen – suggesting that ownership norms, though widely described positively in community testimony, are unevenly embedded. A GLM Field Officer flagged this risk as being due to the short project period combined with taking a strongly participatory approach:

"CJC activities are about mind-set change; from a culture of receiving handouts to knowledge empowerment. We therefore needed adequate time to implement the project but because of the short implementation period, we have had to rush some activities and that has not worked well"
(KII5, Sinazongwe. Female, Green Living Movement Field Officer).

Knowledge, advocacy and inclusion

Knowledge sustainability is the most consistently expressed enabler across the dataset. Beneficiaries in all four districts describe the knowledge acquired as something that will remain with them after project closure. The all-female Advocacy FGD in Sioma (FGD20) describes successfully using advocacy skills to hold an MP accountable for CDF grants, confirming that this capacity has been applied in practice beyond the project context.

Advocacy is assessed as likely to continue by most delivery partners. Community training in applying for CDF grants should result in further applications being made to support local community development initiatives, which if successful, will ensure continued funding to community priorities. However, CSPR, CEJ and Advocacy Champions noted the caveat that transport costs for reaching district offices remain a barrier to partaking in advocacy.

Inclusion norms are described as also likely to persist. The disability card system represents an institutional linkage with government that exists independently of project activity and will continue generating services.

"When we look at the knowledge we have now and what we have been able to do with CJC, we know we can go on even if they left us today." (FGD21, GEDSI-GALS (Women), Shangombo, State Ranch).
"We have acquired a lot of knowledge — this will stay with us, and we will continue to apply it to our daily activities and teach others. In advocacy, we are able to go and lobby for what we want."
(FGD20, Advocacy, Sioma, Watembo).

Sustained participation in market linkages and continued private sector engagement

Market linkages brokered by the project are recent and the longevity of private sector – producer relationships is yet unclear. A strong example of functioning market linkage comes from Sinazongwe, where off-taker agreements have been signed, the baobab supply chain has an active MoU, and the GLM Field Officer describes established relationships between communities and buyers as providing a foundation for continued income. However, sustainability in this area depends on long-term partnership relationships being maintained after the project ends. An offtaker in Sinazongwe expressed the opinion that market linkages alone are insufficient without deeper investment in capacity development. They emphasised the need for equipping producers with skills in food handling, standards, and pricing to ensure lasting impact. Overall, their perspective was positive and forward-looking but tempered by recognition that stronger support structures are essential for sustainable growth.

"The existing off-taker agreement provides a framework for collaboration but lacks critical elements that would strengthen producer groups. Specifically, there is a need for training in food handling, adherence to quality standards, and pricing mechanisms. Without these, producers risk being disadvantaged in competitive markets… we expect activities to continue beyond the lifespan of CJC, as the communities have shown commitment and interest in market participation. However, sustainability will depend on building producer capacity. Without skills in quality assurance, business management, and market negotiation, the agreements may not deliver long-term benefits."
(KII Offtaker Sinazongwe)

In Sioma and Shangombo, the conditions for market linkage sustainability are substantially less established: road access remains a fundamental constraint in Shangombo and HWC in both districts poses a risk the surplus harvests that market participation would depend on. The relationship between one interviewed offtaker and producers in Shangombo is positive but strained by the producer group's slow, reactive communication. The buyer wants them to initiate contact when stock is ready, rather than waiting to be asked. There is strong potential for continuation because market demand is real and growing. However, the main threat is the unreliable supply chain (not lack of customer interest).

"The main challenge, however, is the pace of production. There is a significant time lag between us placing an order and them having the finished baskets ready for collection. While we understand the handcrafted nature of the products, this slow turnaround time is the primary constraint in our relationship... We have customers who frequently visit our shop specifically looking for these baskets. The foundation for a sustainable business relationship exists. However, for it to thrive and not just survive, we need to reinforce the partnership. The two key areas for improvement are supply reliability and communication. We need to work towards a system where baskets are available more consistently to meet this growing demand. Furthermore, the group needs to be more proactive in communicating their stock levels, rather than waiting for us to inquire. A simple 'we have stock ready' call from them would make a significant difference."
(KII Offtaker Shangombo)

Forest Africa has entered into non-binding wild fruit offtake agreements with four cooperatives in Luangwa District with the objective of exploring supply linkages for indigenous wild fruits such as Baobab (Mabuyu), Ngai (African Medlar), and Musekese. So far, one cooperative successfully supplied baobab fruits during the last harvesting season, demonstrating supply linkage. The agreements have helped establish a structured market relationship between rural harvesters and a value-adding SME. Forest Africa intends to continue working with these cooperatives during the upcoming harvesting season and in the future, subject to availability and quality of fruits. The engagement is still at an early market-linkage stage, but it has demonstrated potential to generate additional income opportunities for rural households through sustainable wild fruit harvesting.

Overall, the project made great progress in finalising 34 offtaker agreements but further support is required for producer groups to be able to maintain the relationships and produce to the quality standards required by buyers.

Sustained support from local government

Several local government staff expressed that the close involvement of government and traditional leaders in project delivery means *"there will be continuity"* once the project ends. This was seen as a unique strength of CJC's approach.

"The community wonders where we have come from and what we really want. But because we have been working closely with the community, it will be natural for us to make follow-ups even after the end of the project."
(KII17, Female Ministry of Community and Development Officer; Sinazongwe)

Other project stakeholders were less confident that local government would be able to provide sufficient support to the communities. A national government Climate Change Officer acknowledged directly that *"the government alone does not have enough resources to work on the ground"* – the same constraint that made CJC's intervention necessary in the first place. CSPR frames the government response as conditional: *"the government in their capacity, depending on the resources that they have, will respond to these needs."* The conditionality of government support to communities post-CJC closure is a risk, particularly where communities lack sufficient technical knowledge/resources to maintain more costly project infrastructure.

Sustainability outlooks across project sites

Overall, Sinazongwe presents the strongest overall sustainability profile: active irrigation generating income, formally engaged government ministries, strong organisation of people with disabilities (OPD) network linkages to provincial and national level, a structured savings group ecosystem, and trained market facilitators.

Luangwa shows strong sustainability prospects for irrigation and WASH given demonstrated community ownership and NRM rules enforced through traditional authority are robust.

Sioma has a medium sustainability profile, with strong knowledge and advocacy outcomes but documented HWC tool failure and incomplete water coverage.

Shangombo (State Ranch) carries the highest overall risk: extreme poverty, the highest elephant pressure, rated the poorest ward in Zambia's poorest district, and incomplete water coverage. Despite this, demonstrated inclusion norm shifts are genuine and durable gains.

3.3 Lessons Learned

3.3.1 Enablers for achieving climate just communities

Enablers for achieving CJC relate directly to effective design and implementation of the project, and how these support participation, particularly of traditionally marginalised people, and spillover effects in the wider community. The participatory approach is fundamental, and forms the basis for successful implementation and impact, based on high levels of acceptance and trust in the project, supported by attention to barriers posed by existing social norms.

Geographical targeting identified communities with unmet needs

Despite the short three-month timeframe, CJC's scoping exercise was effective at targeting the most vulnerable communities and using participatory approaches to ensure community buy-in of the project objectives and interventions. The evidence is near-unanimous that CJC selected the right districts and wards (strong evidence). This is one of the most consistently corroborated findings in the dataset, with convergent testimony from community members, government officials, delivery partners, and national government across all four districts.

The project selected CJC's target communities using an evidence-informed methodology: a weighted district ranking was conducted based on available climate change vulnerability data (2021 Zambia Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report) and an assessment of climate change adaptation and resilience interventions across Zambia over the last five years. This analysis resulted in a shortlist of districts which were presented for consultation with national government stakeholders and key civil society representatives. This national consultation resulted in prioritising the three most isolated and underserved districts with limited recent climate adaptation programme support – Shangombo, Sinazongwe and Luangwa. The CDPs then consulted with provincial and district stakeholders in these districts agree the final list of communities, selecting two wards in each of the three districts for the scoping activities. Sioma was later added (in early 2024) due to its high vulnerability, and the governance overlaps with Shangombo (the traditional leader for Shangombo resides in Sioma, as the two districts were previously the same district). Additional wards in Sinazongwe and Luangwa were added based on consultations with district-level government, in order to increase the reach of the project.

The case for geographical targeting was particularly strong in Shangombo and Sioma, which multiple respondents independently identify as among the most neglected areas in Zambia. The NIRAS WASH lead notes that CJC *"went into the poorest districts, Sioma and Shangombo, which are so vulnerable and nobody else goes there. There are no roads and there is no power in the Shangombo district."* The Veterinary Department in Shangombo confirms that State Ranch ward was rated the poorest ward in the poorest district in the country. District-level and community testimony across both wards consistently describe the absence of prior NGO presence, functioning infrastructure, or meaningful government service reach – making the case that targeting was not only accurate but that the need was genuinely unmet. The DRW Field Coordinator articulated the equity logic: *"CJC operates in some of the areas with the lowest amount of rainfall, the most arid conditions, and far away from mainstream access to services."* While acknowledging this creates significant logistical cost – estimating delivery costs in Shangombo at up to three times higher than in Luangwa – DRW frames this as the right trade-off given the depth of need and the absence of alternatives.

Luangwa and Sinazongwe were similarly validated. The DMMU officer in Luangwa confirmed the project is working in the right communities where needs have not been met, citing floods as a specific current stressor. Community members in Sinazongwe across multiple FGDs independently confirm their ward was selected on the basis of having the most severe water, agricultural, and climate-related needs within the district.

Participatory, community-led approach establishes legitimacy and engenders trust

CJC's participatory approach is the most consistently cited enabler for achieving climate just communities, with strong evidence across the qualitative data. The approach is rooted in project design and carried through to implementation. The evidence on participatory entry is strong and consistently described as a distinctive feature of CJC's approach that directly enabled community acceptance, trust, and ownership. CJC's entry strategy of proceeding through District Commissioners and traditional leaders before reaching community members, was also consistently described as establishing the legitimacy and trust that underpinned everything else. CJC entered every ward in a similar way: first engaging district government, then traditional leadership – chiefs, indunas, headmen – and only thereafter convening inclusive community meetings where all groups, including people with disabilities, youth, women, and the elderly, were invited to identify needs and propose solutions. The effect of this sequence was that interventions arrived with traditional leader endorsement already established, which in communities where indunas hold significant authority dramatically reduced resistance and accelerated acceptance.

> *"They come to us through our traditional leaders and here, we respect our traditional leaders and what they accept, it means we have all accepted"*
> ***(KII19, Youth Direct Beneficiary, Male, Sioma, Watembo).***

In Sinazongwe, government partners credited this approach with ensuring community buy-in and long-term ownership. In Shangombo, the District Commissioner noted that having the blessing of both district administration and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) was the critical precondition for community acceptance – a context-specific adaptation not required in the other three districts. In Luangwa, CCZ's pre-existing community relationships amplified this effect. The presence of established partner infrastructure (CCZ and GLM respectively) strengthened the quality of community engagement in both Luangwa and Sinazongwe.

The formation of Community Management Committees (CMCs), Water Point Committees (WPCs), Advocacy Committees, and activity-specific groups created formal structures for ongoing community agency. CCZ (CDP) noted that communities had become so engaged that they could articulate project details more clearly than CDPs themselves. NIRAS intervention leads corroborate this from a project design perspective: the participatory planning approach is cited as essential for generating context-specific solutions that communities actually own. Examples (also discussed elsewhere) include goat pass-on that community members independently instigated, monitoring and reporting of illegal logging; and community-led fencing of the 12.5-hectare irrigation site in Sinazongwe.

CJC's practice of convening separate inception meetings for youth, elderly, women, and people with disabilities (confirmed in Sinazongwe – FGD4 GEDSI-GALS) was particularly important for enabling these groups to articulate their specific needs without being dominated by men or traditional authority figures. This is perceived as a departure from other organisations' approaches, which community members across all four districts describe as exclusionary.

Knowledge, training, and capacity building are a foundational enabler

Across all four districts, beneficiaries describe how training in climate-smart agriculture, DRR, GEDSI/GALS, advocacy, financial literacy, NRM, and livelihood diversification has built their capability to act independently, claim rights, and adapt to climate change (strong evidence). The training approach in CJS is particularly valued as a contrast to other NGO approaches, described by communities as simply delivering handouts. In Luangwa, CMC members stated: *'the greatest weapon CJC imparted in us with, Knowledge!'* (FGD16, Luangwa CMCs). However, in Luangwa and Sinazongwe, some beneficiaries report that practical components of livestock training were incomplete – theory was delivered but syringes for veterinary demonstrations were missing (FGD15, Luangwa). This is a project implementation gap that reduces the full impact of the training enabler.

Water infrastructure as a universal benefit creates spillover effects while enhancing credibility and trust

Water infrastructure – boreholes, hand pumps, solar-powered tanks, and dams – was consistently identified as the single most impactful tangible intervention and the one that creates benefits across the entire community regardless of direct project enrolment. Evidence is strong, triangulated across all four districts, direct and indirect beneficiaries, and government partners. It is also the intervention most commonly cited by indirect beneficiaries as a reason they consider the project beneficial despite not receiving other inputs. It is also the primary means by which the project avoids creating divisions within communities – while other material inputs (goats, chickens, seeds) go to selected beneficiaries and can generate resentment, water serves everyone. This spillover effect has been recognised by CJC as a deliberate design feature.

GEDSI approach: dismantling pre-existing social norm barriers

CJC's GEDSI approach, which includes the GALS training methodology, deliberate representation requirements in committees, and community sensitisation on rights and inclusion, has been a significant enabler of both project effectiveness and social norm change (strong evidence). A male FGD participant in Shangombo (FGD19, GEDSI) described a previous belief that proximity to people with disabilities was contagious and noted that CJC had corrected this. GALS training in Sioma and Shangombo is cited by both women and men as having transformed household decision-making. Women in Shangombo (FGD GALS) describe being emboldened to report illegal timber cutting. However, the depth of transformation is more variable, and some evidence points to persistent gaps.

Improved government reach and access to remote communities to amplify results

CJC's role in enabling government departments to access remote communities they had previously been unable to reach is a significant but understated enabler. CJC provided logistical support (transport, fuel, food) that made field visits viable for the Forestry Department, Veterinary Department, Water Department, Social Welfare, DMMU, and Ministry of Agriculture, among others, across all four districts. This created a multiplier effect: government departments were able to do their own work alongside CJC activities, producing benefits beyond the formal project scope.

3.3.2 Barriers to achieving climate just communities

Project scale insufficient to meet needs/demand hampers impact

The gap between community need and project reach is a consistently identified barrier for CJC. Communities universally praise CJC's quality and approach while simultaneously identifying the scale of unmet need as the central limitation (strong evidence across all four districts from both direct and indirect beneficiaries and government partners). This is not a critique of CJC per se but reflects the scale of structural vulnerability in these communities and the scarcity of public funds.

In Sioma (Watembo Ward), one direct beneficiary estimated 500 people in need with only 20 benefiting from material inputs such as goats and chickens (KII1). In State Ranch (Shangombo), the irrigation scheme reaches only 2 of 4 zones; other zones have no water (FGD19). In Mweezya (Sinazongwe), only 4 disability-friendly toilets serve 269 people with disabilities (KII10) (the latrine targets were reduced as a result of community demands to pivot budget to livestock distribution). In Luangwa, CJC operates in only 14 of 17 wards. Across all districts, water infrastructure provision, while valued, is acknowledged as insufficient for population needs – communities in all four districts specifically call for more boreholes. However, the project also wanted to be mindful of hydrogeological limits. In drought-prone Zambia, there were concerns that drilling large numbers of boreholes can exceed the natural recharge capacity of local aquifers, especially where groundwater is shallow, seasonal, or dependent on limited catchment inflows. Sustainable spacing of boreholes is therefore

essential to prevent over-abstraction, protect yields, and maintain long-term aquifer health. The project therefore commissioned a hydrogeological study to identify appropriate places for borehole drilling, being mindful of such considerations. New borehole drilling was also the most expensive single intervention undertaken by the project, posing natural limits for the number of new water points that could be installed.

The scale gap generates specific social tensions. Where livestock, seeds, or food distributions go to named beneficiaries, those who are equally or more vulnerable but not selected feel a sense of injustice. In Sioma (FGD5, DRR), the few who are literate tend to be involved in multiple committees, creating a perception of this leading to an inequitable concentration of benefits. In Shangombo (KII6, government staff), the perception of communities as 'used to handouts' means the scale gap reinforces existing expectations of external provision rather than building self-sufficiency at community level.

In terms of differences between districts, Shangombo (State Ranch) faces the most extreme scale gap both because of the depth of poverty (described as the poorest ward in the poorest district) and the geographic vastness of the ward. In Luangwa, the scale limitation is also compounded by cross-ward variation in reach.

Indirect beneficiaries interviewed in all four districts were substantially more likely to raise the scale barrier than direct beneficiaries. Their perspective is critical for understanding equity dimensions that may be invisible when evidence is drawn primarily from project participants.

Short implementation period and activity delays limit results and sustainability

A combination of a short project lifetime and delays in delivering specific inputs is consistently identified across all four districts as a barrier to achieving CJC (strong evidence). The two elements are distinct: delays concern activities that were eventually delivered late, while the short implementation period concerns the overall project timeline relative to what would be needed for durable impact, with the latter exacerbated by the former.

CJC's implementation window of approximately two years is widely described as insufficient, especially where activities rely on mindset change (see analysis in 3.2.1). NIRAS (KII11, NRM) identifies FMNR and wetland management as interventions specifically at risk due to their dependence on long-term behavioural change that cannot be consolidated in a short window. Communities across all four districts express concern that the project is closing right at the moment when momentum has built, suggesting another two to three years implementation necessary for lasting change.

The short project window potentially limits the depth of sustainability measures. DRW (KII2) identifies the CMC structure as unlikely to survive without project support, perhaps because there will be fewer incentives for the committee to volunteer their time and fewer opportunities for dialogue between the WDC and CMC without project field staff facilitation. GLM (KII1) cannot guarantee water point fee sustainability. Despite communities committing to contribute to maintenance costs, there are many examples where this has ultimately failed and even with trained local pump minders, project-provided toolkits, durable materials and high-quality installation, borehole equipment will eventually require replacement. Communities may struggle to raise funds for this. NIRAS WASH lead (KII10) identifies solar-powered irrigation infrastructure as likely to deteriorate without local repair capacity, while noting that the steel structures used weaken over time in contrast to concrete alternatives.

Geographic remoteness, communication challenges and poor infrastructure impact project efficiency and dampen opportunities for beneficiaries

Geographic remoteness is a structural contextual barrier that amplifies all other challenges and increases the cost and difficulty of project delivery (strong evidence across all four districts and stakeholder types). Remoteness also limits beneficiaries' ability to access government services and markets for their produce. Advocacy committee members in Sinazongwe (FGD7, Advocacy Females) describe spending their own money on phone credit and transport to engage with district offices: a direct financial barrier to the advocacy activities CJC has trained them to pursue – but also a signal that they are willing to invest their own resources in such an activity. The absence of electricity across all five zones in Mweezya (Sinazongwe) limits economic diversification: one male direct beneficiary (KII11, Sinazongwe) explicitly identifies inability to engage in fresh fish trading due to lack of refrigeration as a lost opportunity linked to electricity absence – a widespread problem in Zambia.

Physical distance to services is compounded by inaccessible infrastructure. The FGD with people with disabilities in Shangombo highlights ongoing difficulty accessing accommodation support and assistive devices. Road conditions and transport costs mean people with disabilities with mobility limitations face near-total exclusion from district-level services.

Participatory processes in the most remote communities were materially constrained by infrastructure deficits – particularly the absence of mobile network coverage and the logistical difficulty of convening meetings across dispersed populations. EFZ (the CDP operating in the Western Province) described the baseline condition directly: "*The West Wards are very hard to reach, given that there is no network, no communication, and lack of proper roads. People need to move kilometres to find network, which makes planning meetings challenging, as everything needs to be done longer in advance*" (KII4; EFZ). This was not merely a logistical inconvenience – it created a consistent structural asymmetry in who could participate, since those living furthest from meeting points or communication infrastructure faced the highest barriers. Community members flagged the same concerns: *"we also have a challenge of communication because of lack of Talk Time. We use our money to buy talk time which we cannot afford to sustain the communications." The same FGD also notes that during the rainy season, physical movement between communities became difficult and meeting attendance at local level suffered*" (FGD15, Crop and Livestock Production, Luangwa, Cluster 1). Monitoring and follow-through were also affected by physical scale. In Luangwa, committee members described being unable to conduct adequate field monitoring because *"we*

use bicycles which are not even enough for all committee members. It is purely voluntary work... we just go round without food, a situation that can easily discourage some members" (FGD15, Crop and Livestock Production, Luangwa, Cluster 1). The scattered, low population density of households across large wards further compounded this in Western Province.

Communication breakdowns between the project and the communities created a related but distinct problem: delayed implementation that eroded community morale and momentum. Multiple Luangwa respondents independently describe this. *"Bringing everyone on board in terms of planning and carrying out activities is very essential but delays in activity implementation and communication breakdown can demoralise people"* (KII31, Direct Beneficiary, Female, Luangwa, Cluster 1). A female youth beneficiary in Mburuma ward, Luangwa describes preparing land for fencing following community agreement, only for the fencing materials to be delayed*: "we cleared our farm area in readiness for fencing but because of delays, the place looked neglected with nothing going on for some time"* (KII27). These accounts are concentrated in Luangwa, suggesting that while communication infrastructure was a project-wide challenge, the operational communication and implementation delays were most acute in that district. CMC members describe a structural communication gap (FGD9, CMC, Shangombo, State Ranch): when the project reduced beneficiary numbers from those initially promised (due to budget constraints), the CMC bore community blame without having agency over the decision.

Transparency in the beneficiary selection process: Some participants expressed concerns about favouritism and transparency in beneficiary selection, limiting achieving full procedural justice.

Concerns about the transparency and fairness of beneficiary selection processes are reported across multiple sources (medium evidence). Direct beneficiaries and CMC members generally affirm that selection is fair and community-led, while multiple indirect beneficiaries (in Sioma, Shangombo, and Luangwa) more frequently raise concerns about nepotism, exclusion of the most vulnerable, and lack of communication about selection criteria. Such complaints are not unusual in projects of this type where it is not possible for field staff to physically validate every proposed beneficiary raised by the CMC, traditional authorities validate lists and poverty and vulnerability are widespread. However, it is important that proactive promotion of in-project complaints mechanisms amongst the wider community is used ensure those who do not benefit understand the processes followed and that CDPs continually try to investigate and address such complaints.

In Sioma, a male youth indirect beneficiary (KII29) describes his grandmother accessing food distribution through personal connections with a committee member. A woman indirect beneficiary (KII28) describes able-bodied men and committee members receiving goats while widows were excluded. The Water Department in Shangombo (KII5) notes a specific bias in State Ranch, with committee members enrolling relatives. GLM (CDP, KII1) acknowledges that selection through headmen may inadvertently favour family members. Where the problem is identified, in some cases it is corrected through the project's own accountability mechanisms. In Sinazongwe (FGD6 and FGD7, Advocacy), for example, the advocacy committee intervened to correct lists in Zone 3 where people with disabilities had been omitted, and in Zone 1 where satellite committee members had enrolled relatives.

> *"The way the beneficiaries are picked, there is a bias... People are bringing names of their relatives and friends"*
> ***(KII15, Shangombo, Water Department Official).***

> *"In Zone 3, some disabled were left out on the list of cowpeas beneficiaries. We managed to converse with the headman, and the list was adjusted to accommodate the disabled. In Zone 1, there was a tendency by the Satellite Committee to select their relatives."*
> ***(FGD7; Advocacy Female FGD; Sinazongwe; Mweezya).***

The DMMU in Luangwa (KII24) raises a related issue: project-provided goats were being stolen while community-owned goats were not, attributing this partly to a sense that project assets are 'not ours', suggesting that the framing of project assets as 'external gifts' rather than community property may undermine the ownership CJC intends to create.

Low literacy and education levels slow down knowledge transfer. Limited technical capacity threatens effective maintenance of project infrastructure posing a risk to sustainability

Low literacy and limited formal education among community members is identified by some community members (beneficiaries, government officers and CDPs as a contextual barrier to knowledge transfer, record keeping, financial management, and technical maintenance of infrastructure (partial/emerging evidence). This was a recurring constraint across districts, though most visible in Shangombo and Sioma. In Shangombo, record-keeping and communication challenges related to literacy are noted by CMC members, while the economic development FGD in Sinazongwe (FGD8) describes savings groups struggling with 'wrong calculations due to large figures of money when savings grow' because most members completed only Grade 7. One FGD summed it up: *'All the trainings we have received are very important. But we have a problem as many of us are not educated. So understanding takes time.'* (FGD10, NRM, Sinazongwe, Mweezya). The practical consequence for participatory processes was uneven: in Sioma, community members themselves observed that low educational attainment meant the same few individuals carried committee responsibilities across multiple groups – *"we have few people who have been to school, as such, you find one individual is found in almost all the groups and activities"* (FGD5; DRR; Sioma; Watembo). This narrowed the de facto pool of meaningful

participation even where formal inclusion structures were in place. The DMMU in Luangwa also flagged illiteracy as a contributing factor to ownership challenges, noting it compounded a sense of entitlement around project-provided assets. (KII24, DMMU, Luangwa).

Relatedly, the absence of local technical expertise to maintain modern water infrastructure (solar pumps, weir dams) is identified as a specific sustainability risk by beneficiaries, CDPs, and other implementers, representing an implementation gap – although training was provided to community members in irrigation system maintenance. In Luangwa (FGD19), pump menders trained by CJC can repair hand pumps but not solar water systems. The transition from externally funded infrastructure to community-maintained assets requires sustained behaviour change (e.g. willingness to save for replacement hardware) and capacity support that perhaps even projects with long timelines or Government cannot accommodate – hence the large number of boreholes requiring maintenance addressed by this project.

Unmet needs and gaps beyond project scope (structural constraints and-, limited experience of accountable government)

A consistent theme across all four districts are fundamental development needs that fall outside the CJC project scope and for which no other adequate provision exists. These structural gaps – absence of secondary schools, electricity, dip tanks, markets, roads, adequate health facilities, and veterinary services – constrain the broader climate resilience agenda even where CJC delivers well within its mandate (medium evidence). These gaps undermine CJC's objectives. For example, the absence of a produce shed means farmers must transport maize long distances to the Food Reserve Agency at significant cost.

For indirect beneficiaries, these structural gaps are often the primary grievance – they experience CJC as a project that has helped others while leaving them with the same underlying poverty and lack of services. An indirect beneficiary woman in Sioma (KII28) articulates this: *'Here we still need clean water and the water points that are there at the moment are not enough. We also need roads; many NGOs fail to reach some places because of sand.'*

A slowness or absence of government response to community needs persists, even where CJC has enabled communities to articulate them. In Shangombo, DNPW/ZAWA is noted as only responding to HWC after deaths occur. Youth indirect beneficiaries in Sioma (KII29) describe a history of leaders making unfulfilled promises. A female indirect beneficiary in Luangwa (KII35) states: *'It is as good as not being part of the community decision-making process because we don't see results.'*

3.3.3 Benefits and Trade-offs in Targeting the Most Vulnerable and Underserved Areas

CJC deliberately targets the most vulnerable and under-served communities in each of its four districts, selected in line with CJC's climate justice framing: the people least responsible for climate change and least able to adapt are concentrated in precisely these remote, poorly served communities. This targeting decision generates a distinct set of benefits – including equity impact, community transformation, and moral imperative – alongside genuine costs and trade-offs relating to delivery efficiency, reach, and value for money (strong evidence).

Benefits of targeting the most vulnerable and underserved

Addressing gaps left by absence of other actors, especially in the most remote and underserved areas: The most consistent benefit of CJC cited across a range of stakeholders is that CJC reaches communities that no other NGO or government service has meaningfully served. EFZ (CDP) states that before CJC's arrival in State Ranch Ward, Shangombo, no NGO other than government had installed water points there – and government provision was minimal. State Ranch is described as 'one of the worst wards in the country in terms of poverty levels' (KII4, EFZ). Similarly, the District Commissioner in Shangombo confirmed: 'To be honest, we don't usually visit State Ranch' (KII15, DC Shangombo), a statement corroborated by the Forest Department (KII4), which had never had a community presence in State Ranch before CJC. Watembo Ward in Sioma is described as a 'new ward' with multiple infrastructure gaps and no prior NGO presence. This means that the marginal impact of each intervention is far higher in these locations than it would be in less remote areas. CCZ (KII3) reinforces this: communities in rural areas *'are isolated and vulnerable... you are helping people who are forgotten,'* also noting that: *'60–70% of Zambia's population live in rural areas where government services do not reach. The project aims to supplement government efforts.'* This framing situates CJC's targeting not as a narrow programme choice but as engagement with the structural underservice of the majority of the population, arguing that a programme focused on accessible areas would, by definition, serve a minority of the most vulnerable.

Government reach multiplier: A specific benefit of working in underserved areas is that CJC's logistical support enables government departments to access communities they cannot ordinarily reach. The Forest Department (KII4, Shangombo), DMMU (KII20, Sioma), Vet Department (KII17, Shangombo), and Water Department (KII5, Shangombo) all confirm that CJC's presence and logistics gave them their first sustained access to these communities. This multiplier/ amplification effect, where CJC investment also activates government capacity, partially offsets the high delivery cost and represents an efficiency gain specific to underserved locations.

Catalytic effect on future investment: CJC's catalytic function, where its presence demonstrates the viability and value of working in previously avoided areas, has potential to generate follow-on investment from other actors, multiplying the project's long-term impact beyond its own direct reach. A direct beneficiary woman in Shangombo (KII25) observes: *"Our ward has been neglected but now a lot of organisations are showing interest. CJC is leading the way."* However, this evaluation did not validate this claim so it can be treated as 'emerging evidence.'

Trade-offs, Costs, and Tensions

High delivery costs undermine 'value for money': While operating in vulnerable and underserved areas addresses need, this comes at a cost in terms of relatively high project 'overhead' costs in reaching more remote beneficiaries.

Reduced reach within target areas: A paradox of targeting the most underserved areas is that the depth of unmet need, mentioned above, far exceeds what the project can meet due to the scale of the problem. This creates a situation where the project both transforms the community and leaves the majority unserved. This scale gap is, in part, a product of the targeting decision: concentrated investment in the most remote areas means fewer absolute beneficiaries can be reached for equivalent cost than in more accessible locations.

Sustainability risk in isolated contexts: The same remoteness that justifies targeting these areas creates acute sustainability challenges. Without local technical expertise, spare parts availability, mobile network, or nearby market infrastructure, project gains are more vulnerable to reversal after closure. The absence of pump menders trained to maintain solar water systems (e.g. Luangwa FGD19 and multiple other sources), the high cost of accessing spare parts and the absence of electricity for productive use in Mweezya all represent sustainability risks that are structurally linked to the underserved nature of these locations.

Trade-offs between community ideas and technical perspectives: Whilst community ownership was a crucial ingredient to CJC, there were moments where communities de-prioritised interventions that Government public health officials might consider important (e.g. latrine construction and sanitation training) or where community perspectives did not lead to the best implementation decisions and greater technical input could have been helpful. For example, one respondent noted:

"We are involved in planning and implementing activities through the headman and CMCs. For example, as the result of our own decision we chose to buy goats from the plateau which had challenges adapting to our hot environment. The goats from the plateau look huge and attractive but they could not adapt to our harsh environment, and some died. The decision was not imposed on us by CJC, it was our collective decision as a community and we take full responsibility." ***(KII11 Mweezya, Sinazongwe.)***

Tension between vulnerability-targeting and livelihood viability: The evidence suggests a tension between selecting the most vulnerable as a matter of equity and selecting those with enough resources to sustain and multiply assets. For example, Vet Department in Shangombo (KII17) noted that: *'The project was choosing beneficiaries based on levels of vulnerability, but if it were up to us, we would have chosen those with better capacity to take care of the animals. We look at viability and sustainability, so that they can produce more.*' Selecting the most vulnerable may maximise equity but does not always maximise sustainability of material inputs.

Trade-off between depth and breadth of programming: CJC approach is based on evidence that relatively heavy investment in an integrated package of resilience investments would make the most difference to targeted households, rather than a more focused programme in one sector or a system-oriented project working at greater scale. This means the project prioritises direct benefits for a relatively small number of households, tackling infrastructural and structural barriers in the localities. However, the corollary of this is complexity/cost in delivering high technical quality across such a diverse portfolio and higher staff costs.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Climate Justice approach has "paid off" overall, delivering documented outcomes in resilience in line with community priorities, strong and specific inclusivity gains for people with disabilities, women, youth, and the elderly, and a sustainability outlook that is strongest where interventions are tangible, income-generating, or institutionally anchored. The additional costs of the climate justice approach – inclusive design, GEDSI training, participatory processes, specific services for people with disabilities – are associated with outcomes that would likely not have been achieved through a standard development programming model: documented shifts in community norms, formal institutional linkages for marginalised groups, and a sense of community ownership that many participants describe as a precondition for sustainability.

Inclusivity is the single strongest outcome of the project's climate justice approach, extending well beyond mere participation in project activities – including documented changes in community norms, leadership structures, wider participation and empowerment of women, youth, and people with disabilities, and rights-based linkages to services for marginalised groups.

The evaluation provides strong, cross-cutting evidence that CJC is experienced by communities, government partners and delivery partners as qualitatively different from other development programming. The primary distinguishing characteristics include participatory and community-driven approaches to engagement, a focus on reaching underserved geographic areas, and the systematic integration of marginalised groups. Community governance structures such as CMCs produced accountability, community ownership and governance change that are expected to extend beyond the project.

The endline evaluation highlights the following key lessons:

Targeting the most underserved areas maximises equity and marginal impact but constrains scale. Geographical targeting based on vulnerability data and stakeholder consultation was highly effective in identifying communities with genuinely unmet needs. In the most remote districts, CJC reached populations that had received little or no prior NGO or government support, generating high marginal benefits. However, the depth of need far exceeded project reach, creating persistent scale gaps and social tensions between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Targeting the most vulnerable creates a tension between equity and viability: Selecting beneficiaries based on vulnerability maximised equity but did not always maximise sustainability of productive assets, particularly where households lacked the capacity to maintain livestock or infrastructure.

Participatory and sequential entry through traditional and civic leadership is critical for legitimacy. Sequential engagement, starting with district authorities, then traditional leadership, and only then community members, was fundamental to building trust, acceptance, and legitimacy. This approach significantly reduced resistance and accelerated community buy-in, particularly in contexts where traditional authority is strong.

Participatory approaches strengthen ownership but do not automatically ensure equity: Participatory needs assessments, community-led siting of infrastructure, and the use of CMCs generated strong ownership and engagement. However, reliance on headmen and committees sometimes reinforced existing power dynamics, leading to perceptions of favouritism and exclusion among indirect beneficiaries.

Committee-based governance enables ownership but creates accountability tensions: CMC and sub-committee structures operationalised community ownership and inclusion, including for marginalised groups. However, committees sometimes bore community blame for decisions driven by budget constraints, and their sustainability post-project remains uncertain.

Water infrastructure delivers universal benefits and reduces social tensions: Water infrastructure created benefits for both direct and indirect beneficiaries, generated strong spillover effects, and reduced intra-community conflict associated with selective material inputs. It also enhanced project credibility and trust. Continued exploitation of ground water (especially for irrigation) in drought impacted areas requires complementary measures to improve aquifer recharge and water conservation – including rainfall harvesting measures and on-farm soil and water conservation approaches.

Training and capacity building are among the most durable project contributions: Communities consistently valued training (e.g. climate-smart agriculture, advocacy, GEDSI/GALS, financial literacy) over material inputs. Training enhanced agency, rights-claiming, and adaptive capacity, and was seen as more sustainable than handouts. However, gaps between theory and practice reduced effectiveness in some technical areas.

Short implementation periods undermine sustainability and behavioural change: The approximately two-year implementation window was widely viewed as insufficient for consolidating behaviour change, maintaining momentum, and embedding sustainability, particularly for interventions dependent on long-term practices such as natural resource management and market access.

Low literacy limits inclusive participation and sustainability: Low literacy and education levels slowed knowledge transfer, concentrated leadership roles among a few individuals, and constrained record-keeping, financial management, and technical maintenance.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

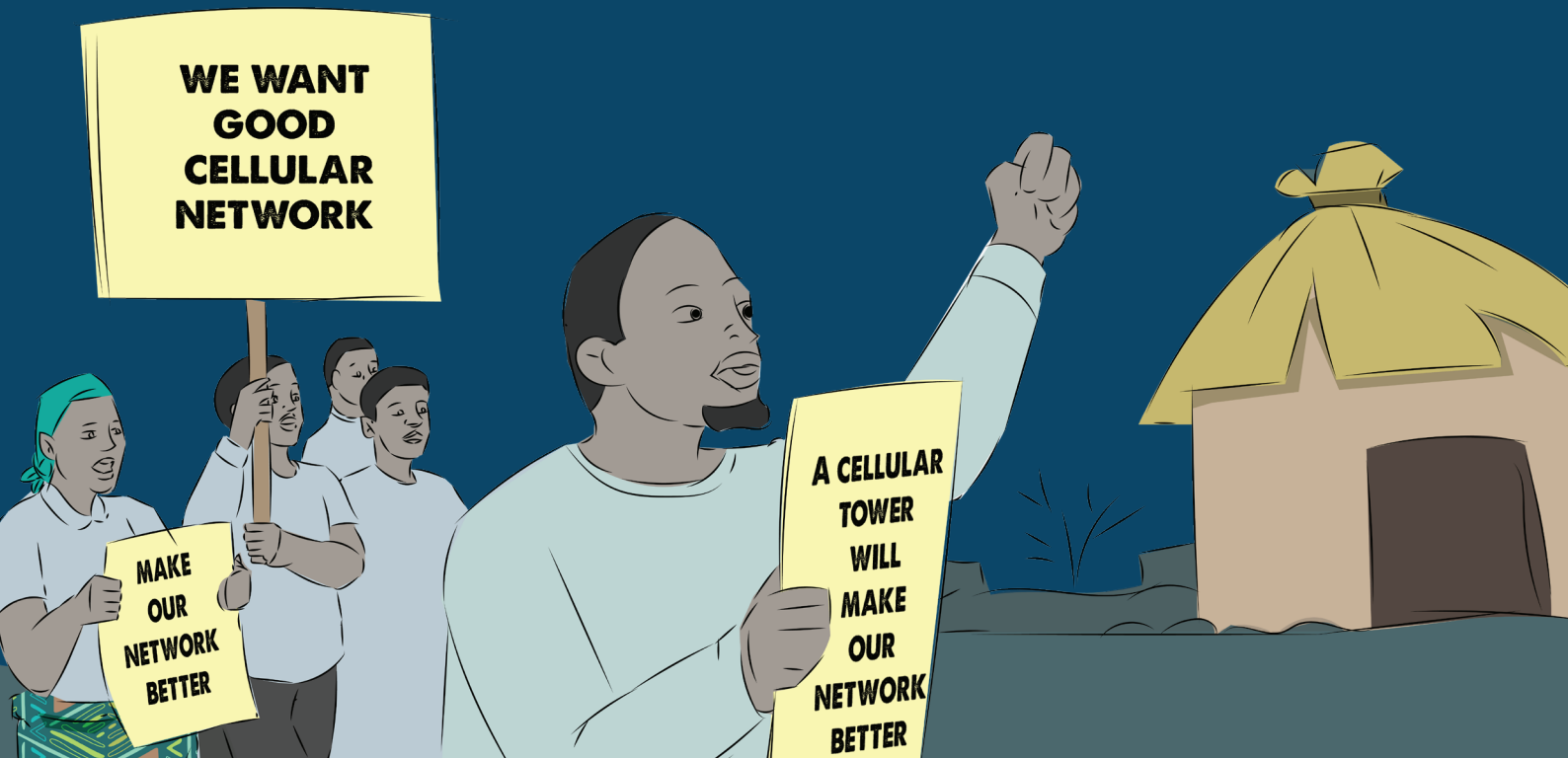
Based on the analysis in the report, the evaluation team has prioritised the following recommendations:

Donors should:

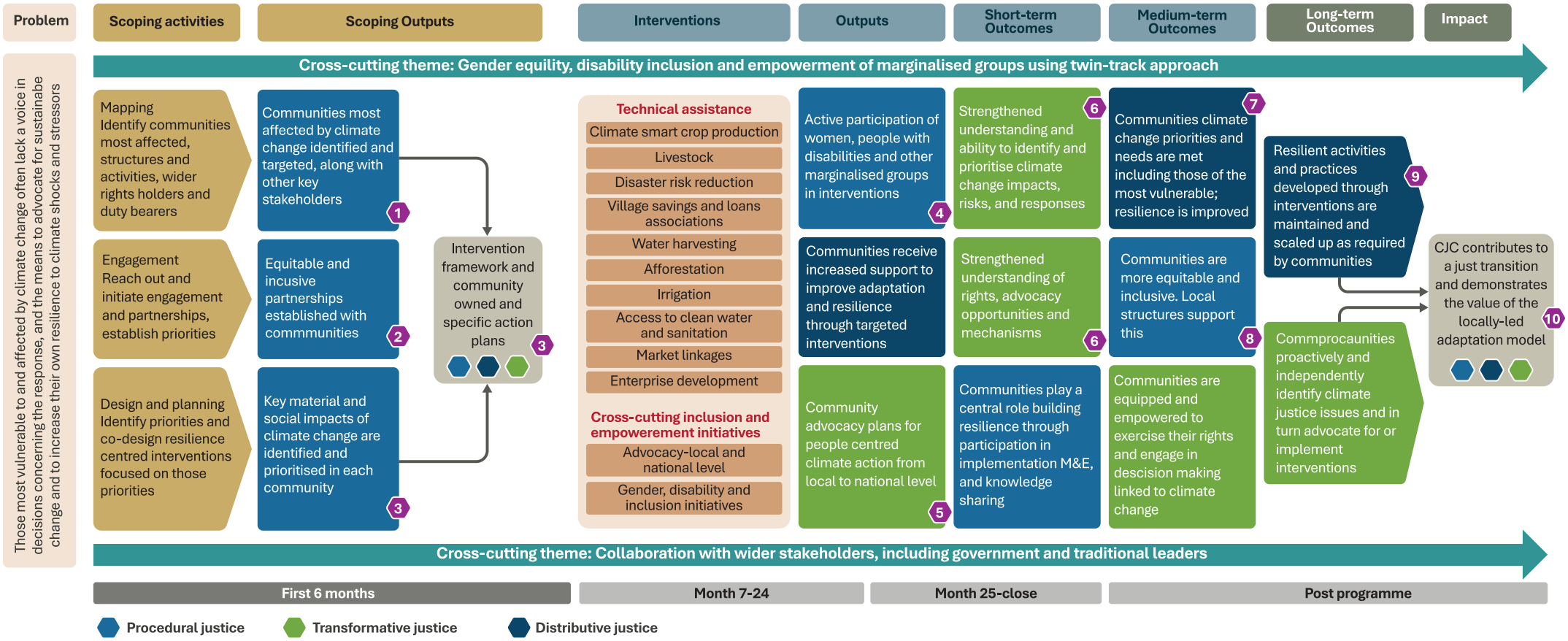
- Design project with longer timescales to strengthen impact and sustainability in community-led resilience programming.
- Continue investment in reaching under-served and vulnerable areas with shared public goods such as water infrastructure whilst strengthening inclusion, justified by the climate justice principles.
- Consider strengthening approaches which influence the behaviour of government and private sector in programme design to expand the scale of climate justice investments.
- Consider whether community-level projects could be insufficient to address the structural challenges identified by communities and to design separate investments to tackle these at a wider scale. For example, the human-wildlife conflict issues flagged by communities as a major barrier to climate resilience could not be adequately addressed by CJC and require a dedicated partnership with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and park managers. Similar issues could relate to wider watershed or hydrological planning, or the quality of weather forecast information.

Implementers should:

- Continue to invest in successful approaches to inclusion and shifting structural drivers of inequality.
- Continue to ensure project systems work in low-literacy contexts, using visual tools, simplified records, peer-to-peer learning, and leadership rotation to widen meaningful participation.
- Continue to combine robust technical and managerial support with strong community facilitation capabilities. Invest further in participatory MEAL alongside proactive promotion of complaints mechanisms to ensure targeting and delivery issues can be quickly identified and resolved.
- Consider maintaining the integrated approach across water, food security and income generation but strengthen infrastructural and knowledge-based activities above direct asset transfers since these reach larger numbers of people and create fewer internal community tensions around targeting.
- Consider the trade-offs between the desire to provide holistic support against a breadth of community priorities with the complexity of technical support and management requirements to ensure targets are realistic and delivery of the highest priority remains on track.
- Continue to identify political space at the national level for uptake of good practices evidenced through CJC. Whilst community-led climate justice projects naturally have a local focus, allocation of resources to work at understanding national political economy and work on strategic influencing can enable scale up of good practices. Such investments would also require a different donor approach as adaptive politically informed delivery is less suited to rigid targets and time-based monitoring.



Annex 1 CJC Theory of Change



Annex 2 CJC Evaluation Matrix

Table 9 : Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Question	Indicator/Criteria	Data Source	Analysis
EQ1. What impact has CJC had? How/why, for whom and in what contexts? (DAC OECD Criteria: Impact; effectiveness)			
1.1 What have been the main achievements of CJC (in Distributive, Procedural and Transformative Justice). Why, for whom and in what contexts?	Evidence for key outcomes in the theory of change and outcomes and processes in the mini theories for the key interventions areas Evidence for shocks and stressors, household and community response. Evidence of community understanding and ability to identify and prioritise climate change impacts, risks, and responses. Evidence of Community understanding of rights, advocacy opportunities and mechanisms Evidence for communities exercising their rights and i) influencing policy/decisions (from duty-bearers and others) related to climate change that affect them? ii) pushing for action on structural inequalities. Evidence of inclusive community participation in project design and implementation, e.g. through scoping CCJA and Climate Justice Planning and ongoing project governance and delivery – e.g. through CMCs.	Quants Survey KIIs across range of stakeholders FGD across range of groups	Quantitative Analysis Most Significant Change Thematic analysis
1.2 How did CJC impact wider systems (for whom and in what contexts?)	Evidence of influencing government actors to adopt CJC approaches or models of inclusion Evidence of influencing other development actors Evidence of private sector changing how they decide to engage with rural producer groups	KII with local and key national gov't staff on CJC Advisory Steering Group; District Consultative Group	Thematic Analysis
1.3 How has CJC influenced relationships between: i) communities and Government; ii) communities and private sector; iii) traditional leaders and other demographic groups e,g women, people with disabilities etc; iv) intra-household.	Evidence for strong and equitable partnerships between: the project and communities; communities and government actors; communities and private sector actors; traditional community leaders and marginalised groups	KII: CDPs, community members and HH including marginalised groups; women; PWD; community traditional leaders; private sector actors (eg value chain etc); local government; District Consultative Group FGD: CMCs	Most Significant Change Thematic analysis
EQ2: How is CJC different than other development projects? (DAC OECD Criteria: relevance; coherence; effectiveness; sustainability)			
2.1 Does taking a climate justice approach pay off, despite the higher costs? (in terms of improved climate resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability of outcomes – how, for whom, in what contexts)	Evidence that community-level leadership/decision-making is more equitable and communities are more inclusive because of CJC Evidence for the extent to which the programme meets communities' climate change priorities and needs as planned; extent to which this has improved resilience. Evidence for outcomes and processes that will last beyond the end of the project.	Quants Survey KII: CDPs, community members and HH including marginalised groups; women; PWD. FGD: CMCs	Quantitative Analysis Most Significant Change Thematic analysis
2.2 To what extent has community ownership been created by the participatory approaches? i) Which elements have been the most important/ effective? (eg Climate Justice Action Plan; Community Based Monitoring); ii) To what extent are interventions driven by community or CDP ideas?	Evidence for community ownership of the interventions. Evidence that community members/groups play a central role in implementation, M&E, and knowledge sharing	KII community members and HH including marginalised groups; women; PWD. FGD: CMCs	Thematic analysis Most Significant Change

Evaluation Question	Indicator/Criteria	Data Source	Analysis
2.3 What has been achieved by the CMCs? What could be sustained from these groups?	Evidence for communities maintaining and scaling up the activities and practices developed through interventions Evidence for communities proactively/independently identifying climate justice issues and advocating for or implementing related actions	KII: CDPs, community members and HH including marginalised groups; women; PWD. FGD: CMCs	Thematic analysis Most Significant Change
2.4 How and to what extent did scoping activities for 1) geographical targeting; 2) using participatory approaches as entry points to communities, achieve their intended objectives	Evidence that geographic targeting identified communities most affected by climate change (inclusion) Evidence for inclusion of women, people with disabilities and people from other marginalised groups. Evidence for who, if anyone, is missing out (exclusion).	KII: CDPs, community members and HH including marginalised groups; women; PWD; local government; District Consultative Group FGD: CMCs	Thematic analysis
EQ3: Lessons learned - what worked, and what did not? (DAC OECD Criteria: Effectiveness)			
3.1 What are the main enablers and barriers for achieving CJC?	Evidence for benefits/trade-offs in targeting and selecting the most vulnerable and under-served areas?)	KII: CDPs, community members and HH including marginalised groups; women; PWD. FGD: CMCs; District Consultative Group	Thematic analysis
3.2 To what extent did the different entry points of the CDPs impact community ownership in different contexts?	Comparison between different CDP approaches and community ownership outcomes	KII: CDPs, community members and HH including marginalised groups; women; PWD. FGD: CMCs	Thematic analysis
3.3 To what extent did CJC implement the 'right' interventions in the right combinations, at the right times?	Evidence for CJC responding to changing needs due to changes in priorities the context?	KII: CDPs; Community Members/ Households FGD: CMCs	Thematic analysis

Annex 3 Bivariate Tables

Table 10: Correlations between food insecurity receiving CJC interventions

		Indirect beneficiary status	Female respondent status	Western Province region	Crop production training	Livestock support	CL-FS support
Frequency at which household did not have enough food in the last month	**R**	0.25***		0.250***	-0.256**	-0.228*	-0.291**
	P-value	0.00		0.004	0.041	0.070	0.020
	N	155		132	64	64	6
Household members eating fewer meals in a day because there was not enough food	**R**	0.27**	-0.134*	0.254***	-0.224**		-0.311***
	P-value	0.01	0.096	0.001	0.047		0.005
	N	83	155	155	79		79
Frequency at which household ate fewer meals in a day	**R**	0.29***					-0.305**
	P-value	0.00					0.021
	N	155					5
Any household member going a whole day and night without eating anything because there was not enough food	**R**	0.41***		0.344***	-0.418***		-0.350***
	P-value	0.00		0.000	0.000		0.002
	N	155		155	79		79
Frequency at which a household member would go a whole day and night without eating anything because there was not enough food	**R**	0.49***					-0.452***
	P-value	0.00					0.005
	N	155					37

The level at which r-values are significant have been noted by * p<0.1; ** p<0.05; and *** p<0.01.

R-values between 0-0.19 can be classified as very weak correlation; 0.20-.39: weak correlation; 0.30-0.59: moderate correlation; 0.6-0.74: strong correlation; and 0.75-1.00: very strong correlation.

Table 11: Correlations between CJC support and degree to take action on climate hazards experienced

		Direct beneficiary interventions				Direct and indirect beneficiaries				
		Irrigation support	Livestock support	CL-FS	Business skills training	Recipient of CJC interventions	Male respondent status	GALS participation	Crop production training	Western Province status
Degree of understanding of climate hazards	r	0.21*	0.23**		0.26**	0.41***	0.15*	0.24***	0.40***	-0.24***
	p-value	0.06	0.04		0.02	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
	N	79	79		79	155	155	155	155	155
Extent to which households are able to take action to address the hazards being experienced	r	0.26**	0.31***	0.28**	0.21*	0.29**		0.17**	0.28***	-0.37***
	p-value	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.00		0.03	0.00	0.00
	N	79	79	79	79	155		155	155	155
Extent to which the individual/household is able to contribute to community level decision making	r				0.19*	0.49***		0.29***	0.41***	-0.14*
	p-value				0.10	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.09
	N				79	155		155	155	155
Extent to which the individual/household is able to influence government	r					0.51***	0.19**	0.35***	0.50***	
	p-value					0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	
	N					155	155	155	155	

The level at which r-values are significant have been noted by * p<0.1; ** p<0.05; and *** p<0.01.

R-values between 0-0.19 can be classified as very weak correlation; 0.20-.39: weak correlation; 0.30-0.59: moderate correlation; 0.6-0.74: strong correlation; and 0.75-1.00: very strong correlation.

Table 12: Degrees of input into income decision making by female GALS training participants and non-participants

		% of female participants of GALS training	% of female non-participants of GALS training	Chi-square	df	p-value
Degree of input on decisions on the use of income generated from crop production	No input or input in few decisions	3.9%	8.5%	8.32	3	0.04**
	Input into some decisions	19.2%	43.7%			
	Input into most or all decisions	69.2%	36.6%			
	No decisions were made	7.7%	11.3%			
Degree of input on decisions on the use of income generated from livestock management	No input or input in few decisions	3.9%	7.0%	11.30	3	0.01**
	Input into some decisions	19.2%	52.1%			
	Input into most or all decisions	65.4%	29.6%			
	No decisions were made	11.5%	11.3%			

The level at which chi square values are significant have been noted by * p<0.1; ** p<0.05; and *** p<0.01.