



LUSAKA WATER SECURITY INITIATIVE (LuWSI) Water security for all to support a healthy and prosperous city

As one of the fastest growing cities in Southern Africa, Zambia’s capital Lusaka is characterized by deteriorating environmental and living conditions, as well as inadequate basic services. The city is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and as its population grows at a quick pace, water security is increasingly at risk. From inadequate access to water supply and proper sanitation services, increasing groundwater pollution and unsustainable groundwater exploitation, to serious threats to the health of the Kafue River and persistent urban flooding risks, the challenges for the city are manifold. Actions to safeguard access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, protect water resources and sustainably reduce and manage disaster risks in the city are needed.

A STRONG PARTNERSHIP TO TACKLE COMPLEX ISSUES AROUND WATER SECURITY

Natural resources stewardship means that all users of natural resources take responsibility for the shared resources everybody relies on. By forming partnerships, public sector, private companies and civil society work together on eye-level to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.

Many see the problems and are ready to act, but there is not a single entity that can address the various challenges on its own. Isolated efforts risk having only limited effect on the complex water situation in Lusaka. The formation of the Lusaka Water Security Initiative (LuWSI) in 2016 resulted from the insight that the complexity of issues threatening Lusaka’s water security requires multi-stakeholder collective action. LuWSI is now recognised as a key driver of water security in the city, with a steadily increasing membership of currently over 30 partners.

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS UNDER LUWSI

- **Wellfield Protection Project:** Protects Lusaka’s most strategic groundwater wellfields
- **Lusaka West Water Supply Project:** Improves water security for industries and communities to support socio-economic development and resilience
- **Solid Waste and Sanitation Management Project:** Promotes solid waste and sanitation management for a circular economy
- **Green School Partnership Project:** Improves and enhances WASH services in schools, particularly in the most vulnerable peri-urban communities



Installation of a 3.4 km pipeline to improve water access in a peri-urban community of 200.000 residents in Western Lusaka. ©LWSC, Zambian Breweries



Duration	2016 - ongoing
Partners	33 partners from public, private sector, civil society, as well as international organizations
Objective	Strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration to safeguard Lusaka’s water resources while enhancing the sustainable and timely access to water and sanitation for all
Partner contributions (financial and in-kind)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society: EUR 32.619 • Public sector: EUR 153.618 • Private sector: EUR 93.479



Jumbo handwashing stations at Mumana Primary School installed under the Green School Partnership Project. © GIZ Lawrence Kumwenda

PARTNERSHIP RESULTS

- Formalisation and registration of LuWSI as an autonomous organisation limited by guarantee
 - Improved water security in the city through increased collaboration of relevant stakeholders
 - Attraction of over 451.000 EUR in investments thanks to improved water security
 - Embedding of water security in annual budgets, strategies and work plans of partners
 - Establishment of an interactive online knowledge and information management system that includes a water security story map, a flooding story map and a digital atlas
 - Integration of the digital atlas at national level by the National Water Supply and Sanitation Council
 - Continuous monitoring of key water security indicators & ministerial recognition of a 2020 launched Water Security Agenda
 - Strengthened leadership of Lusaka Water Supply and Sanitation Company (LWSC) in the coordination of water security projects
 - Design of long-term financing mechanisms and business models to support water security
 - Commitment of all partners to the Water Security Strategic Framework, based on the jointly developed Water Security Action and Investment Plan (WSAIP)
 - Joint development of 30 project concepts to tackle water insecurity in the city
- Design of innovative approaches to protect groundwater, e.g. ecological recreation parks
 - Introduction of water stewardship awards for businesses and utility companies to incentivize enhanced corporate responsibility for water
 - Institutionalization of development planning in Lusaka City Council
 - Empowered communities through supporting the formation of planning platforms (Ward Development Committees), enabled to engage with public authorities and private sector
 - Improved WASH services in 180 schools, reaching over 259.000 pupils, as well as teachers and community members, located in the most vulnerable communities
 - 20 women from low-income communities trained in the fabrication and maintenance of handwashing facilities
 - Rehabilitation of 32 boreholes, servicing over 743.000 people in marginalized communities
 - Sensitization of over 370.000 community members on Covid-19 prevention under City Council coordination

“We’ve seen a lot of collaboration through LuWSI. We’ve seen our work being made easier because as partners we are able to identify issues, find solutions and sit on one table to discuss about those problems and solutions, and also see how each of us can contribute.” Bwalya Funga, Senior Community Development Officer, Lusaka City Council

ABOUT NATURES

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