

WHAT THE STRENGTHENED ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAMME (SAP) IN ZAMBIA DOES.

It supported small-scale mining communities by strengthening their bargaining power to negotiate higher prices for mineral resources and advocate for improved local services. It raised awareness on occupational safety and child labour.

It also raised awareness for rights and gender equality while promoting conservation farming to improve livelihoods.

The evaluation focus specifically on the implementation in two villages in the Zimba and Kalomo districts in southern Zambia, Chilobe and Chilubwa.



Mining site in Zimba District. Photo: Louise Scheibel Smed

THIS EVALUATION

The evaluation is based mainly on a household survey collected by the evaluators. The survey covered both beneficiary households and non-beneficiary household.

The evaluators compared how each group's situation changed over time. To make the comparison fairer, farmers with similar characteristics were paired.¹

The evaluators also used techniques to check how certain the differences between the two groups were. In some cases, a difference appeared, but it wasn't strong enough to be confident about it. Such results are called "insignificant."

They combined this with qualitative data from the beneficiary villages, to better understand the mechanisms and the context of the effects.

POSITIVES:

The core components related to mining yielded positive effects: increased income; reduced child labour and increased use of protective gear. There were also positive effects on assets and some social services.

POTENTIAL SHORTCOMINGS:

The farming component was less successful with no effect on crop income due to inconsistent and low uptake of conservation farming techniques. Distribution of goats also had no effects. Fruit trees for women were successful, however.

While self-reported gender attitudes improved, there was no effect on gender-based violence. SAP explicitly targeted youth and women but this has not been sufficiently monitored.

¹ The technical names for these methods are Difference-in-Difference

EFFECTS RELATED TO SMALL-SCALE MINING AND/OR STRENGTHENING OF GROUPS



Mining incomes



Positive effects



Total incomes



Positive effects



Water access



Positive effects



Use of protective gear



Positive effects



Asset accumulation



Some positive effects



Schooling



Anecdotal evidence of some effects



Reduced child labor



Positive effects (reduction)



Health services



No effects

EFFECTS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE AND SIMILAR



Application of
conservation
farming



No effects



Crop incomes



Mixed evidence
(effect, if any,
not connected to
conservation farming)



Tree planting
(general)



No effects



Fruit trees



Positive effects



Livestock



No effects



Goats
(intended for women)



No effects

EFFECTS RELATED TO GENDER



Gender attitudes
(self-reported)



Positive effects



Gender based
violence



No effects

This is a summary of the evaluation:

Impact study of the Strengthened Accountability Programme, a programme for small-scale miners in Zambia (2026:1d)

Evaluation authors: Louise Scheibel Smed, John Rand, Carsten Schwensen (Nordic Consulting Group A/S)

The main report is available at: <https://www.sida.se/en/about-sida/publications/impact-study-of-the-strengthened-accountability-programme-a-programme-for-small-scale-miners-in-zambia>

The evaluation is a case study that is part of the Central Evaluation of Sida's Work with Poverty

The evaluation was summarized by Sida / Mattias Lindgren.

Art. no.: sida62854en, **urn:nbn:**se:Sida-62854en

Ljungbergs Tryckeri 2026