

APPENDIX CAM11: CONTEXT LETTER (EXAMPLE)

<<Name1>> <<Name2>>

<<Address>>

<<City>>

Dear Mr and Mrs Jansen,

Recently, you have started the sponsorship of through which you also support the whole community. We very much value that you want to be involved in the work here in Mbala. In this letter, we want to share a bit more about our community. The Reformed Church in Zambia has recently started implementing a sponsorship program in the Mbala District of Zambia. The program is implemented in the Mutwizi and Mwamba community. The inhabitants, the majority of which are farmers, grow mainly maize and beans.



Mutwizi West village is one of the six villages in the Mutwizi community. The village is located about 1.300km from Lusaka, the capital of Zambia. Mutwizi West is a village in the middle of the community and most community meetings take place in this central village.

Mutwizi is a community with many hills; either you are walking up -or downhill. Mutwizi West, however, is relatively flat and bordered by by the Mutwizi stream. The water from the stream is used in the gardens and fish ponds. In total, there are 43 households and each of these households has a small piece of land where they do their farming activities. The people speak both Mambwe and Lungu, which are the languages spoken in the districts.

The community at Mutwizi is generally a farming community. They grow Maize, Cassava and beans as their main cash crops. Their farming activities allow the villagers to come together in an attempt to sharing ideas on how to practice better farming methods and how to increase their yields. Mutwizi is a remote area and has inadequate health, education, water and sanitation facilities. In an attempt to improve their lives, this community works very hard in supplementing the provided services. The common desire of the community is to improve their lives. Therefore, this could be said to be the thing that binds the community together.

Mutwizi is a community based in a remote area of the district and its scenery is full of natural beauty. The members of this community are determined to see development in their area. Many of them, especially the young people, have not had much exposure to influences outside of their area. Their desire is to see a change in their area and they are very anxious to see the results of their new actions.

The major economic activity for the people of Mutwizi is farming. Through the work of the Reformed Church in Zambia, small scale farmers in the area have learnt better farming methods and as such, also increased their yields. They grow maize, beans and cassava as their main cash crops. They also keep cows, goats, fish and pigs. Most of them sell their maize to the Food Reserve Agency and the other crops are sold at the market in Mbala and to businessmen and women, some of them coming from as far as Lusaka to purchase beans.

The Mutwizi community does not have access to a government school facility. The community came together and built a school for their children. The community school caters for children from grade 1 to grade 7. The school is located in the center of the community. The furthest village is about 9km away from the school. With the help of RCZ, the children have been able to have a better quality education. Currently, the community accesses medical services 35km away. A rural health post will be constructed that will reduce the distance and increase the health of the villagers.



The people of Mutwizi are proud people because of the things they have been able to achieve for themselves as a community with help from the stakeholders.

The children of this community enjoy playing various local games in their villages together with their friends. The older children usually have to help their parents with housework before they can go play. Some use the time to drink alcohol while some use the opportunity to discuss the developmental activities of their respective villages.

The people of Mutwizi are anxious to see a decent future for themselves. Adults work very hard to ensure that a bright future for themselves and their children is guaranteed. They are more than ready to participate in any program that will bring development to their area. Children feel obliged to walk long distances to get to school for the sake of getting an education. Many look forward to growing up and making a positive difference in their community, families and themselves.

Greetings,

(Village representatives) headman Mutwizi