

CONFERENCE

Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) at the LGAZ Annual Conference

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Foreword by Johan Lilja, Secretary General at ICLD

This is a time when there is a real need for local democracy, as the whole world has suffered a pandemic unparalleled in terms of infection and distribution. The COVID-19 crisis has shown with extreme clarity, that we are all part of a shared, global world. It has also shown that combatting infection is as much a local matter as a global one. Democratic systems have been under considerable pressure for a long time now, and the pandemic has made the situation even worse. In a time when society's endurance is being tested by massive, global challenges, it is important to note the ability of local governments to identify solutions at a practical and concrete level.

That is why I am particularly proud to present the partnership between Malmö in Sweden and Lusaka in Zambia in this booklet. Through their result-oriented partnership, they found new ways to improve the ability of young people to gain influence in their local context. Read more how on page 4. Moreover, find more information of our ongoing Municipal Partnerships throughout Zambia on page 3. I hope you will find this result of ICLD activities to be helpful in your important work in your local government!


Johan Lilja
Secretary General



About ICLD

The Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) is a non-profit organisation, whose principal is the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. Our operations are financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). ICLD's mission is to support democratic participation and change at the local level. With its focus on local democracy, local self-governance and decentralisation, ICLD strengthens local governments' capacity to analyse, prioritize and implement Agenda 2030 in accordance with their own needs, priorities and resources.

The ICLD Municipal Partnership Programme

The fact that global challenges demand local action is highlighted in the Sustainable Development Goals. Through municipal partnerships, the capacity of local governments is strengthened for combatting global challenges in a local setting. This, in turn, can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals globally. Municipal Partnerships are reciprocal, results-oriented collaborations between municipalities and regions in Sweden and local governments in ICLD's partner countries. By sharing experiences of how similar problems can be addressed in different context, the partners create new knowledge together, along with new methods that increase citizens' influence in local decision-making processes. The result is a sustainable change in the way to better and more democratically meet citizens' needs.

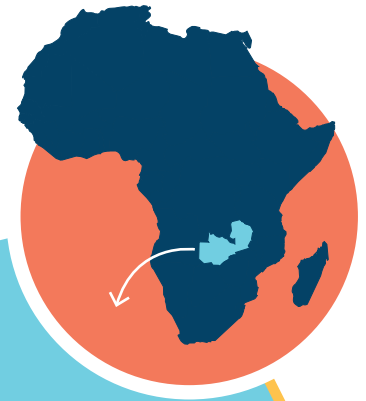
Ongoing partnerships in Zambia

1.

Lusaka City Council and Lidköping in Sweden have collaborated within the Municipal Partnership Programme since 2016. The project is linked to the Agenda 2030 goal 11, sustainable cities and communities by focusing on improving both parties' waste and recycling systems. Lusaka City Council have also worked with the City of Malmö, see more on page 4.

2.

Chililabombwe and Alingsås in Sweden have collaborated within the programme since 2014 on citizen dialogue. In their current project, Chililabombwe created a youth council where they have elected a Junior Mayor to represent the young people's perspective in Chililabombwe.



3. CHINSALI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

2. CHILILABOMBWE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

5. LUNDAZI DISTRICT COUNCIL



ZAMBIA

4. RUFUNSA TOWN COUNCIL

1. LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL

13 CLIMATE ACTION



3.

Chinsali Municipal Council have collaborated with Piteå municipality since 2013. Having worked on women's empowerment issues, the partners are now a part of the ICLD Human Rights network. They are currently formulating their next projects with Human Rights as a thematic focus.

4.

Rufunsa district is involved in ICLDs Human Rights network. Together with Kungsör in Sweden, they are embarking on a project which aims to increase the participation of youth and bring youths' perspectives in local decision making.

5.

The partnership between Forshaga Municipality in Sweden and **Lundazi Municipal Council** aims to formulate policies and strategies to address and mitigate problems brought about by climate change, strongly addressing Agenda 2030, particularly goal 13.

The partnership between Lusaka City Council and City of Malmö

“There is need to move away from the traditional way of doing things whereby we depend on the adults to continue making decisions on behalf of the young people. It is therefore time to engage the young people in the local decision making processes as they best understand the issues that affect them in their communities and so workable solutions are best derived from them.

Chisha Chakulanda, Project leader in Lusaka

Lusaka City council and the **City of Malmö**, Sweden have collaborated within the Municipal Partnership Programme since 2014 on sustainable energy issues.

Through their project “*LuMa Youth for Change*”, the partners found new ways to improve the ability of young people to gain influence in local environmental issues. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, they developed a digital toolkit that also makes it easier for other municipalities to involve youth in issues related to climate and the environment at the local level.

Lusaka and Malmö both saw the need to develop better strategies for the participation of youths to make their important perspectives heard. Together, they planned and tested new methods. They also identified appropriate platforms for youth to gain influence locally and be part of the local dialogue around environmental and climate issues. The long term goal was to increase the capacity of the municipalities to include youth in their work on these issues.

The voices of youths were present throughout the project. During a radio workshop, a group of young people from Lusaka broadcasted conversations about the importance of young people’s engagement in environmental issues. The project also learned from methods that other municipalities, such as the Helsingborg youth council in Sweden have used to include youth groups in a better way. In Lusaka, the project has resulted in the ongoing organising of a local youth council, the Junior Council. A plan has been prepared for the council based on workshops with youths and politicians in Lusaka. In Malmö, educational activities have been conducted where new methods for dialogue between youth and decision-makers have been tested.

In Malmö’s Green Student Council, the students have been able to give input to the city’s new environmental programme. Through the programme “*Young Ocean ambassadors*”, the youth have been able to engage their fellow students on issues around the environment and climate concerning the oceans and have direct dialogue with representatives of The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and The Ministry of the Environment.

Youths were engaged frequently as part of the project, here the project leaders from Malmö and Lusaka.



Project leaders from Malmö and Lusaka conduct a radio workshop alongside local youth in Lusaka.



Youth and the project group in Lusaka.

In line with the National Youth Policy of 2015 the Zambian Government has given due priority to youth development and empowerment and underscores the importance of youth participation and involvement in National Development, the formation of the Junior Council is therefore a good initiative to enhance local democracy.

The project learned from other Swedish municipalities, the project group and steering group is here at a visit to the youth council of Helsingborg. The methods that have been tested have been compiled by the municipalities into the Swedish digital toolkit *Ungas delaktighet i miljö- och klimatarbete* that was launched during 2020. In the toolkit, there are tools that provide guidelines to how other municipalities can engage the youth, such as a checklist for dialogue with youth and children. You find this checklist on page 7 in this booklet.

Children and youth will have to live long with the consequences of decisions made today in the environmental area. At the same time, they don't have the right to vote yet and they cannot access the channels that adults have to make their voices heard. Both Malmö and Lusaka have a young population, so here we could see that both our cities faced a similar challenge.

Linnea Uppsäll, Project leader at the environmental department in Malmö

Since we tested different methods in the project, we wanted to share the experiences to civil servants in other municipalities in a way that's easy to use and develop further. We noticed that much of the current material is very comprehensive, so we wanted to lower the bar and take away some of the nervousness that sometimes exists when civil servants are starting dialogues with children and youth. That makes it easier to get started.

Linnea Uppsäll, Project leader at the environmental department in Malmö

The digital toolkit from Malmö is a good example of how municipal partnerships can produce results that make it easier to disseminate methods and experiences to several municipalities. The toolkit has been spread to other departments within Malmö and to other municipalities through the Swedish network Klimatkommunerna.

The partnership was recently showcased in the international handbook on decentralised cooperation by Platforma and NALAS (Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe).



The project group visiting the neighboring municipality Helsingborg.

“ In Zambia we say “*Imiti ikula empanga*” (the young trees that are growing make the forest) therefore the young people we see today will make the next generation and amongst them will emerge future leaders. Therefore, in order to enhance local democracy, we need to ensure young people are involved in local governance whilst they are still young.

Chisha Chakulanda, Project leader in Lusaka



A project workshop regarding youth participation on social issues and reproductive health A project workshop regarding youth participation on social issues and reproductive health

“ *Imiti ikula empanga*

CHECKLIST

FOR YOUTH INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

Globally The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to be heard on issues affecting them and locally The Zambian Government has given due priority to youth development and empowerment and underscores the importance of youth participation and involvement in National Development. (National Youth Policy, 2015).

In order to actualize the National Youth Policy, the Government has come up with seven thematic areas and one of these is the Strategy on youth and governance which highlights amongst others to; Enhance the capacity of youth civil society (youth organizations, NGOs and associations) to effectively participate in decision-making and programme implementation and to promote civic engagement and political participation of youth at local and national level and advocate for an affirmative action for youth representation in decision-making. (National youth policy analysis, 2015). Furthermore there are activities which have been highlighted under this strategy and of particular interest is the activity on Youth leadership program which is to be implemented to enhance youth participation in decision-making processes.

The following checklist will therefore highlight the processes that can be used to achieve young people inclusion and participation in decision making starting at the local level, as well as to enhance dialogue between civil servants and young people. A case study of Lusaka City Council will be used showcasing the formation of the Junior Council.

The checklist has been produced under the umbrella of the **"LuMa Youth for Change"** project, as part of the municipal partnership between Lusaka and the City of Malmö, and for Lusaka City Council the formation of the Junior Council will be showcased as a case study.

1. Define The Aim/Goal and Come Up with Objectives to Achieve the Goal

As a project team it is important to define the scope of your goals and create a road map. The goal is youth inclusion and participation but remember to set boundaries within what is achievable at a local level and also with the available resources, it is good to be ambitious but begin with small steps.

2. Identify The Target Youth Groups

In Zambia a youth is defined as one who is between the ages of 15 -35, therefore this encompasses youths who are in high school, tertiary education and youths in the community. Therefore, depending on your objectives you can identify the youths you want to work with.

For the LUMA project, Lusaka chose to work with youths in the age bracket of 15 – 18 and these are the youths in high school and for the purposes of the Zambian education system these are youths from grade 8 – grade 12. Also ensure that you are gender sensitive to cater for equal representation for both male and female.

"A tip here is to identify structures where the young people belong for e.g. schools, colleges/universities, community structures or civil society groups for youths."

3. Identify Stakeholders with similar objectives

There are usually some civil society groups, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) who may have similar objectives for youth inclusion/climate change issues therefore take time to identify such groups and engage them to see if you can work together to achieve your objectives. Usually these provide a good technical resource as well as financial support. This should be done at the inception of the project as partners want to be part of the program from the beginning.

Lusaka City Council had identified WWF and Plan International who had similar objective to be part of the process for Youth inclusion.

4. Set Up Meeting with The Young People

You want to get the young people's views and opinions on youth inclusion and participation in local governance therefore arrange a meeting. This meeting should be in a safe space where the young people are comfortable and they can freely express their opinions.

In the meetings provide a leading role ask the necessary questions but do not dominate, allow the young people to own the meeting by allowing them to talk freely. Take note of all opinions expressed and do not be judgmental.

If you have a large group in one meeting you can break the children in smaller groups in order to allow for effective participation.

If you are working with young people in schools remember to plan your meetings in consideration with the school calendar and in consultation with the schools. In some cases, Consent forms from the school may need to be obtained.

5. Set Up Meetings with Local Politicians

You want the local politicians to buy into your goal for youth inclusion therefore set up a meeting to get their views and opinions on youth inclusion. Remember you don't want to impose therefore you need to engage the local politicians. This meeting will provide you with valuable information and insights that you can use to achieve your goal.

Present the findings from the meeting with the young people to the local politicians and establish common ground where the problems are and thereafter chart a way forward. During the presentation of the findings from the young people you can invite the young people to present their position to the local politicians if they are willing.

In Lusaka it was established that the formation of the Junior Council would be an effective and sustainable platform to ensure that the young people can participate and be included in the decision making processes on various issues which also included environmental issues vis a vie climate change issues. Therefore, the Junior Council would be a replica of the main council, complete with junior councilors representing the 33 wards in the city headed by a Junior mayor and a deputy.

6. Process for Formation of the Junior Council

1. Ensure that the junior council program is institutionalized through a full council resolution
2. Form a technical working group comprising of representatives from all departments in the local authority, so that no one feels left out and this group will spearhead the formation of the Junior Council through coming up with; a concept note and setting up of the terms and references
3. Engage various interested stakeholders such as District Education Board Secretary (DEBS) and organizations with similar objectives
4. Set the roadmap for selection of the junior councilors which will include:
 - Advertising for junior councilors in schools
 - Receiving application letters from interested candidates
 - Shortlisting of applicants
 - Conducting interviews
 - Selection of successful candidates
 - Orientation workshop for successful candidates
 - Installation of the Junior mayor and the deputy

7. Platforms for Young People Engagement

It is important to identify various platforms within and outside the municipality/city council through which young people can speak out and carry out various activities as part of youth engagement.

Identify already existing platforms which can be used by young people. Remember it is easier to work with already existing structures as opposed to creating new ones. This is also due to the fact that resources are a challenge in most Local Authorities.

Lusaka City Council had identified the following platforms:

- Green Schools Partnership Program (GSSP)
- Make Zambia Clean Green and Healthy Campaign
- Pop up Radio Shows (Agents of Change)

8. Wrap Up and Review

Review the entire process in order to learn from issues that may have gone wrong and try to correct the mistakes for future dialogue processes to include young people. Finally call it a wrap!!



LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL



City of Malmö



Swedish International
Centre for Local Democracy