

Despite having fresh water resources, a lot of people in Zambia spend a lot of time off their daily activities looking for water to use in their homes. Unfortunately, the water they get is either little in quantity or poor in quality such that it even causes more harm to the health of the members of the household. Hence, the WHO in Kapoor (2001) has attributed that about 30, 000 people die every day as a result of water related diseases at a global scale. While the WHO (2007) study report states that on a global scale, about 4 billion cases of diarrhoea are recorded on an annual basis, 88% of them are attributable to accessibility of unsafe water as well as inadequate sanitation and hygiene. Though the water goal on the MDG targets was met in the year 2010, WHO (2012) argues that 780 million people wait to be served. Furthermore, it has also been argued that many of those water sources classified as improved do not provide water of adequate microbial quality (Bain *et al.* 2012). It's therefore assumed that with the increase in the demand for water, the situation of water accessibility has even become more complicated, if not pathetic. This is because there are more increasing volumes of polluted water today than ever before as a result of the hyper economic activities such as the spread of industrialization and agricultural practices.

The situation in Zambia and Chililabombwe district in particular is such that there are huge challenges in terms of the level of accessibility to water, as well as the quality of the water which is accessible. The complexity of the problem of accessibility to water has been compounded by the increase in the number of settlements in the district which have come about as a result of the increase in population. According to the UNFPA (2013) report, Zambia's current population stands at 13,092,666, with males representing 49.3 % while females represent 50.7% of the total population. There has been a significant increase in the population of Zambia from about 9,885,591 in the year 2000 to 13,092,666, in the year 2010 (CSO, 2012, SNDP, 2010) . The report also indicates that a larger number of people in Zambia are residing in the rural areas, these make up (60.5%) compared to the urban dwellers who command (39.5%) of the entire total population. However, the population of Chililabombwe district is 90,530 people while that of Fitobaula settlement is 580 people (CSO report, 2012).

Furthermore, the increase in population has also taken place in Chililabombwe district. As the SNDP (2010), indicates that the population of Chililabombwe district is now approximately 210,073 people. The increase of population in Chililabombwe district reveals an interesting scenario in which there is need for more jobs, fertile soils, and waste disposal sites, housing units, roads, hospitals and water resources. In an ideal situation, all the necessary social amenities would be in place because of the district's economic contribution to the national wealth through the mining activities. Unfortunately, in the highly industrialized Chililabombwe district, the provision of social amenities is still a challenge.

Below is a map indicating the districts that are found on the Copperbelt province of Zambia;

A Map of Showing Districts on the Copperbelt Province

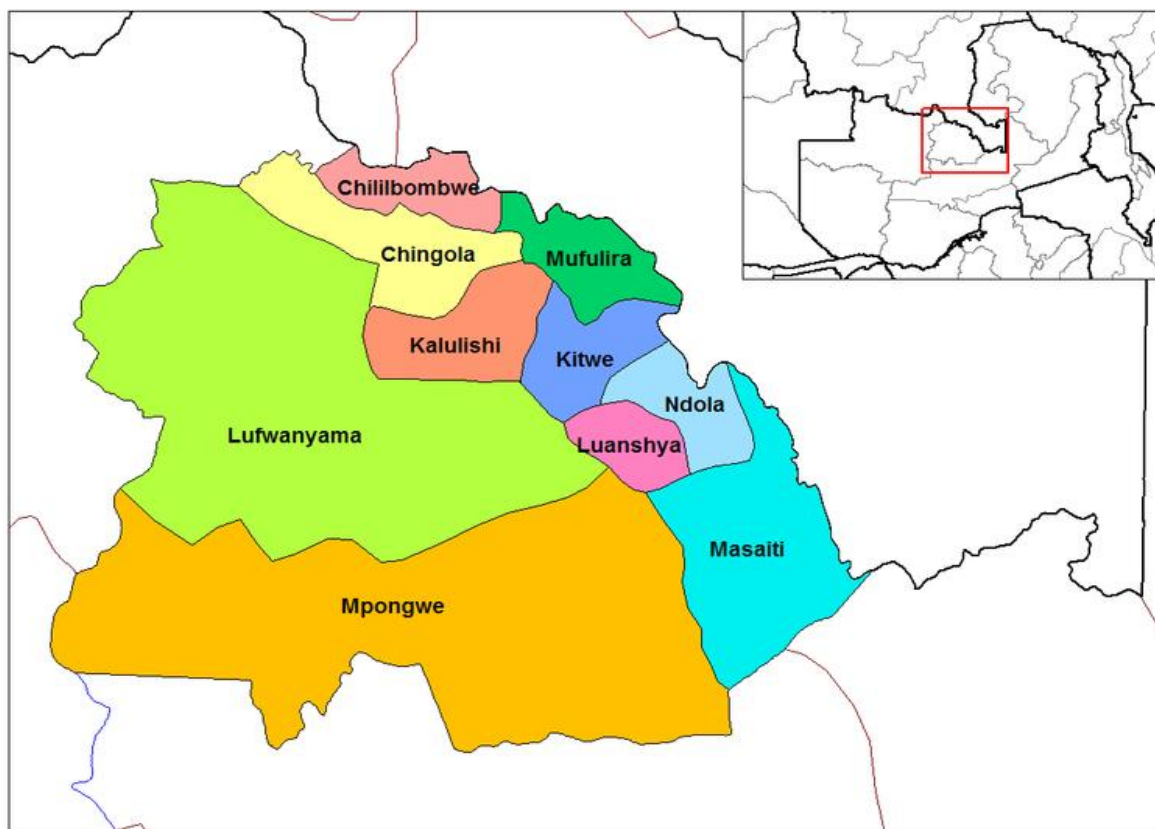


Figure: 2, Districts on the Copperbelt province Source. Courtesy of ECZ, 2011.