

# Women's Global Connection Proposal Presentation

## AWARENESS OF WOMEN REALITY IN MONGU DISTRICT, WESTERN ZAMBIA

This paper discusses the reality of women in Mongu District. It highlights challenges faced by women pertaining to economic activities, politics, health, HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Mongu district is in Western Province of Zambia. The population of the district is 166,609 of which 86,231 are female and 80,378 are male.

### **Economic Activities**

Subsistence farming is the major economic activity in the district. Although both men and women are involved in farming, women appear to do more work than men. Cattle rearing is another economic backbone of the district. Cattle diseases threaten this activity. This development will have negative impact on the people, especially on women since they own less cattle than men.

### **Politics**

Men dominate the local politics. This is despite the fact that there are more women voters than men. Women tend not to vote for their fellow women. The end result is most political decisions have negative impact on women socially and economically.

### **Health**

Mongu District has one hospital and 28 rural health centers. In sparsely populated areas people have to work long distances to reach health centers. Women as natural health care givers are more affected by this phenomena than men.

### **HIV/AIDS and Poverty**

The HIV/AIDS scourge has not spared Mongu district. However the low economic status of women and female subordination make women more vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS. Poverty cut across different categories of poor people in the district. Female Headed households are waste of than other categories. This is manifested in food insecurity, malnutrition, poor health, high mortality rates and illiteracy levels.

Beatrice M. M. Simona,  
Lilian M. Imbwae  
Sanana M. M. Lewanika  
Mongu, Zambia  
c/o Women's Global Connection  
Cross Cultural Leadership Discussion