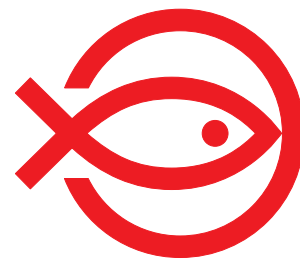


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A Toast to the journey in 2021

From Zimbabwe Country Director: Mads Lindegård

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As we start the new year, I want to extend best wishes for the journey that is 2021 to all DCA staff, our partners, beneficiaries, donors, and supporters.

DCA Zimbabwe made strong gains in 2020, affirming our position as pioneers in urban programming. I am continuously humbled listening to and hearing stories of how many of our beneficiaries can now enjoy three nutritious meals a day, and how our work is strengthening the family unit, cementing ties and allowing families more quality time together. I am proud to say that through our collective effort we improved the lives of more than 200,000 people across the country. We extended our programming into more urban domains. This was only possible through the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the team. And because of it, I can boldly and honestly say that as DCA, in 2020 we lived up to our vision, to make a difference and restore dignity in the lives of the poor in Zimbabwe. Well done, team!

Our innovative programming has improved the livelihoods of 90,000 people by increasing food security through our cash voucher, which

enables households to purchase basic household items through a multi-purpose cash transfer system. These include basic groceries like maize meal, cooking oil, sugar and soap, for their families.

During 2020, we had the rare privilege of hosting the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, empowering remote communities in Lupane and those in Bulawayo to engage directly with the ministry on the benefits of the various projects we support.

At the same time, we focused on increasing household resilience through various initiatives including our mushroom project, where we have taught community members to grow mushrooms improving household sustenance and nutrition. We also provided much needed water to 1,975 households in communities, where water is scarce, through our water kiosks, in places such as Epworth and Mabvuku in Harare: Cowdray Park, Pumula East and Magwegwe in Bulawayo. Through Sizimele we supported the provision of 150 boreholes in Matobo, Insiza, and Lupane reaching out to 6,305 households and providing water for an estimated 63, 272 cattle.

The Public-Private-Partnerships that we brokered with local government, OK and Spar Supermarkets, Schweppes Zimbabwe Limited, Kefalos and Outback Safari Private Limited have laid the foundation to build linkages in 2021 and start connecting the social and economic spheres of the country.

A very exciting prospect indeed. The Lupane Abattoir, a state-of-the-art facility developed in partnership with Outback Safari Private Limited sold more than 200 cattle, while commercialisation of fodder harvesting, and processing was another landmark achievement made possible by working closely with Dulys and Bains Private Limited. This gives us confidence and drive to keep on innovating to create even greater impact in communities.

During 2020, we had the rare privilege of hosting the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, empowering remote communities in Lupane and those in Bulawayo to engage directly with the ministry on the benefits of the various projects we support. As a result, we have been invited to meet with the Minister and assist him and his team as they implement the National Development Plan- yet another testament to our collective excellence in development implementation work.

However, as we start the new year, we cannot ignore the reality that the funding terrain has shifted in line with the reality of a world both grappling with and responding to COVID-19. While I have high hopes that 2021 will finally bring an end to this horrific epidemic, I know that our funding will inevitably be impacted. Ultimately, this means that 2021 will be a year in which difficult decisions will need to be made, and our belts tightened in terms of how we utilise our resources. But I have the utmost confidence that our work will continue to speak for itself and that we will come through with flying colours at the end of the year.

Onwards and upwards!

Mads



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Thank you DanChurchAid from Queensdale OK & Spar Supermarkets

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Following the declaration by the World Health Organisation of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, a state of disaster was declared in March 2020, in Zimbabwe.

On March 29, 2020 government implemented a national lockdown, through Statutory Instrument [SI] 83 of 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19, with effect from March 20 to April 19. This period was later extended to May 3, by SI 93 of 2020, and further extended to May 17, by SI 99 of 2020. The state of disaster effectively brought all social and commercial activity to a standstill in the country.

To remain viable most companies adopted a range of measures including staff rationalisation, to reduce labour costs, non-renewal of fixed term contracts, retrenching permanent and temporary employees, sending staff on leave, and implementing salary cuts among other measures.

Against this backdrop, both Spar and OK Supermarkets in Queensdale reported brisk business during this period thanks of the partnership with DanChurchAid Zimbabwe. The partnership which came into effect in 2020, allows beneficiaries of the World Food Programme funded, DCA Urban Social Assistance Programme to purchase basic food items from select OK and Spar supermarkets. Queensdale in Harare is well positioned to cater for the 28 000 beneficiaries who make up the current caseload of the programme. Both retailers are eternally grateful to DCA for the partnership that increased foot-traffic into their establishments, during a potentially extremely difficult period, as beneficiaries redeemed their entitlements and procured basic food items for their families.

OK Supermarket reported 55 percent of total revenue -amounting to ZWL24 million [approximately USD 240,000], coming from DCA/WFP vouchers. Spar reported 35-40 percent of their business coming from the DCA/WFP voucher programme, despite experiencing a loss of revenue of between



Minister Mavima engaging with beneficiaries in OK Supermarket, Entumbane in December 2020.

55-60 percent during lockdown. As a result, the two supermarkets were able to stay abreast of the economic hardships experienced by most retailers in the country. Consequently, their workers kept their jobs, and their families were not affected by job and salary cuts. This clearly distinguishes DCA's approach which is providing social assistance while at the same time promoting growth of the local economy.

The two retailers highlight the positive impact on the broader ecosystem of DCA's innovative flagship Urban Social Assistance Programming. It demonstrates the economic linkages between business and the community. On the one hand, businesses seek to create goods and services to meet the needs of society, creating economic value for the company, and satisfying the needs and wants of society. However, without the community that economic value is destroyed, and businesses suffer. Similarly, the community suffers when denied the means to create purchasing power. In 2021, DCA will focus more on these linkages to ensure that the benefits accrue to both social and economic spheres, promoting the sustainability of our work, while also extending the number of participating retailers.



Prior to the pandemic successive droughts and the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai had already rendered 8.5 million Zimbabweans, which is half of the country's population, food insecure. A World Bank country overview estimated extreme poverty to have risen from 29 percent in 2018 to 34 percent in 2019. An increase from 4.7 to 5.7 million people.

Farming Mushrooms, Improving Lives

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The resilience building work of DCA and local partner, The Future of Hope Foundation has caught the attention of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). In November 2020, the BBC released a documentary on the life and trials of Chido Govera, founder of The Future of Hope Foundation. The Future of Hope Foundation works with DCA to train beneficiaries on how to grow mushrooms, to supplement both their meals and income.

“Local organizations are much better placed to understand the context and the nitty-gritty of what needs to be done to develop the country,” said Mads Schack Lindegård: DCA country director, during the BBC interview.

The DCA partnership with The Future of Hope Foundation started in April 2017. The relationship came about through networking, where DCA learnt about The Future of Hope Foundation mushroom projects and developed an interest in it. DCA then invited The Future of Hope Foundation to participate in the development of the Sizimele concept note and the rest is history.

DCA has a bespoke partner assessment tool, which is utilized in the selection of local partners, whose focus dovetails with DCA focus areas such as alleviating poverty and improving food and income security for smallholder farmers including women, men, boys and girls.

Other partners are selected because they bring special expertise to the table when developing concept notes and proposals and eventually during implementation.

“Naturally as a lead agency you need to present a strong case to win, so you select your partners based on the type of the call you are responding to,” says DCA Head of Programmes.

The Urban Resilience programme has five mushroom school hubs in the Epworth district namely, Muguta, Mabvazuva, Domboramwari, Epworth High and Chizungu Primary Schools. The hubs are predominately run by



Beneficiaries of the DCA Resilience Programme harvesting locally grown mushrooms from community project sites.

women who constitute 81 percent of participants. DCA has addition mushroom hubs in Bulawayo.

The objective behind this initiative is to find innovative solutions to facilitate improved livelihoods for households and to introduce climate-smart and easily adaptable solutions to achieve the same.



100 Women: The mushroom woman

This is the story of Chido Govera aka The Mushroom Woman. It is a story about her home, Zimbabwe. And it is also a story about mushrooms.

It never should have happened. Chido, an orphan, became the provider in her family aged seven. At 10 she was destined to marry a man 30 years older than her. But a chance encounter led her to discover the almost magical science of mushroom cultivation at a local university, and set her life on a very different course.

Cultivating mushrooms is unlike growing any other vegetable. Micro-organisms in organic matter provide fuel for air-bound silvery thread-like 'mycelium'.



These anchor in damp soil and then quickly, tiny mushroom pins appear. Chido was enthralled by the way mushrooms emerge from next to nothing and colonise plant material. It reminded her of her Grandmother,

who took Chido foraging for mushrooms in the forest as a child. From humble beginnings, mushrooms grow.

Chido realised she could grow these curious fungi in maize waste. She could feed herself and her family, and make a little money. What if she could teach other orphans to grow and sell edible mushrooms to provide an income? So that is what Chido did.

Today Chido runs a foundation training 1000s of other growers, mainly women and orphans, in Zimbabwe, and across Africa and the world. We hear their stories and discover the mysterious world of fungi.

The Urban dream that never was...

From independence in 1980, the dream of most Zimbabweans was to live in the city and have access to opportunities associated with the bright lights and the modern fast-paced metropolitan lifestyle. Decades of sustained economic decline have turned that dream into a nightmare for many citizens.

A DCA research report published in November 2020 found that most of the surveyed households are grappling with food insecurity. The food consumption scores of households are either borderline or poor whilst household dietary diversity is also medium or poor, with only 25 percent rated good. In the face of climate change and rapid urbanisation access to water and sanitation remains critical.

More alarming is that a higher number of girls below the age of 18-years are being married off, as households battle to cope with the different forms of socio-economic shocks, escalating the numbers of child marriages; school dropouts, and increasing sexual abuse of minors, among other vices.

In December 2020, Childline Zimbabwe stated that they were receiving an average of 50 000 calls a month of cases of child abuse, most of which are incidences of sexual abuse.

In addition, households have had to grapple with the negative impact of the novel global COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant economic lockdown measures to stem the rapid spread of infections which have heightened the plight of the urban poor, particularly those who rely on informal activities for sustenance and survival.

While relief measures are often put in place for people in rural areas, which have traditionally been epicentres of poverty, urban dwellers have no such support mechanisms for assistance. For this reason, DCA is prioritising the plight of the urban poor through its Urban Social Assistance programme, to mitigate some of the challenges.

The report found that women constitute the majority of household heads in the urban metropolitan areas under investigation and that the majority are between the ages of 19 and 64. About 10 percent of these household heads are elderly and on average about 21 percent of them have health challenges including chronic conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure, which potentially inhibit their participation in different forms of livelihoods.

The research study was conducted in May 2020, with material support from the European Civil Protection and

Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), to provide a household baseline for engagement in Mzilikazi district where there are 61.8 percent female household heads. In Harare South, where there are 52.0 percent female heads of households and 48.0 percent male household heads. In Mabvuku and Tafara 58.8 percent household heads are female, and 41.2 percent are male.

The gender aggregation of data laid bare the disparities in these communities, where females are taking on the traditional male role of household heads, providing, and fending for their families by any means possible. For many, this means venturing into negative coping mechanisms such as sex work, child marriage and intentional separation of the family unit to cope.

For many urban dwellers in Zimbabwe, the urban dream is well and truly dead. Unless something can be done to change the reality for future generations, this cycle will continue to be perpetuated over time. DCA is challenging the status-quo through its innovative flagship urban programming, where it prioritises the urban poor and seeks to build resilience in communities against the socio-economic shocks of urban living.

Minister Mavima Inspects Water Kiosks in Cowdray Park

Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Honourable Professor Paul Mavima was in Cowdray Park together with representatives from Bulawayo City Council, including Acting Town Clerk Mr Kimpton Ndimande and other local government officials to inspect the water kiosks that have been set up in response to the critical water shortages experienced by the city.

The water kiosks are a direct intervention by DanChurch with the support and funding of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

“Our lives were miserable without water,” said Cecilia Mantula, Cowdray Park Water Point Committee Vice-Chairperson. “Despite the danger, as women we had no choice but to wake up around 1am to go and look for the precious liquid to ensure the survival of our households.”

The water kiosk in Cowdray Park caters for 210 households in Ward 28, where residents have not had water since the beginning of March 2020. This forced mainly women and the girl child, to resort to fetching dirty contaminated water from a nearby stream to survive.

The situation was further compounded by lockdown rules enforced in response to the threat of the spread of COVID-19 through Statutory Instrument 83 of 2020.

“We didn’t have water to wash our hands when COVID-19 came along, so life was difficult,” said Cowdray Park Water Kiosk Chairperson, Mr Chipa Nechirongo. “But when DanChurchAid and Schweppes came to our rescue with this water kiosk, we could now follow the COVID-19 guidelines for handwashing and social distancing.”

The project is a Public-Private-Partnership between the City of Bulawayo, DanChurchAid, and Schweppes Zimbabwe which delivers 30,000 litres of water daily to the kiosks to alleviate water shortages. The Cowdray Park water kiosk is one of six water kiosks



Minister Mavima drinking water from the Cowdray Park Water Kiosk.

established by DanChurchAid with the support of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, providing water to 1,975 households.

Six Water Point Committees (WPC) were established and trained in partnership with the Bulawayo City Council Public Relations department to manage their respective kiosks.

These committees are chaired by the ward councillors who are responsible for the day to day running of the kiosks. As part of management, each household in Cowdray Park is allocated up to six buckets (120 litres) of water per week in line with humanitarian SPHERE Standards. Households with elderly and or sick people are allocated up to twelve buckets to help them meet the needs of the household.

Additional management duties of the committees include ensuring that social distancing is observed during the collection of water, that the environment is kept clean, discouraging sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) during the collection of water, and to provide security, and maintain the asset.

Bulawayo has been experiencing water shortages for years, attributed to recurrent severe droughts. The city was forced to decommission three dams due to the water dropping below pumping levels resulting in some suburbs not receiving tap water since March/April 2020.

Professor Mavima is the minister responsible for reporting to the cabinet on water availability and food security across the country.

“We know the problems that affect Bulawayo, and the challenges that residents especially women and the girl child, are facing when it comes to water, and we are working to solve those problems because we cannot become an upper-middle-income country without water,” said Honourable Mavima.

The project has been rolled out to Ngwalongwalo Primary School providing water to 359 households, Pumula East covering 190 households, Magwegwe Terminus covering 444 households, Cowdray Park covering 304 households, Pumula South covering 559 households and Nkulumane covering 119 households, all of whom previously did not have access to water.

Alleviating Water Challenges in Communities by Drilling Boreholes

DanChurchAid Zimbabwe together with local implementing partners, Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) and Dialogue on Shelter are alleviating water security challenges for communities in Harare and Bulawayo.

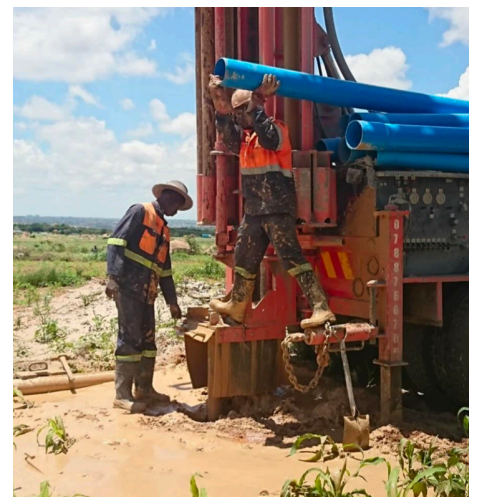
Boreholes were drilled in Nkulumane and Magwegwe suburbs, in Bulawayo, and in Mabvuku Chizhanje area in Harare, under the ECHO funded DCA Resilience Building project. This is a response to the water crisis experienced by residents.

The boreholes were welcomed by stakeholders including the Ministry of Local Government and Public Works who approved the projects, and the residents of the various suburbs. This intervention will alleviate water challenges experienced by local households, while supporting resilience building and livelihoods activities.

The boreholes were drilled in consultation with relevant key stakeholders such as the Harare and Bulawayo City Councils, the Zimbabwe National

Water Authority (ZINWA) and the various Residents Associations.

The boreholes will each pump water into 10,000 litres water containers, powered by solarized pumping systems. Water Point Committee (WPC) have been selected and trained to manage the day to day running of the water points, and to ensure COVID-19 protocols are strictly adhered to, while maintaining the assets.



Drilling of the borehole in Mabvuku Chizhanje by Nakiso Borehole Drilling on Wednesday, 23 December 2020.

Pioneering Urban Programming

DCA Zimbabwe has set itself aside as a pioneer, through its ground-breaking flagship Urban Social Assistance programming piloted with the World Food Programme (WFP) in December 2018. Contemporary Zimbabwe is deeply tainted by poverty and vulnerability, which has dramatically increased among the urban populace occasioned by political volatility and a complex, severe, decades-long economic downturn.

The programme seeks to enhance the food purchasing power of beneficiaries, improve livelihoods through various resilience interventions enhancing self-reliance and increasing community knowledge on key issues such as nutrition, protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices.

The intention of the programme was to provide a short-term cushion to those identified as chronically vulnerable in the DCA baseline survey covering Epworth district, in Harare. The study supported rankings released by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVac) Lean Season Monitoring Report in January 2019, where with 62.1 percent translating to 196,387 people, Epworth emerged as having the highest number of food insecure households across all urban centres in Zimbabwe.

The Urban Social Assistance Programme commenced with cash vouchers distributed to 18,990 individuals in Epworth, in July 2019. The challenges associated with cash payments included Statutory Instrument 142 which introduced the Zimbabwe dollar and its equivalent, the Bond notes and coins, and the RTGS dollar, as the sole legal tender in the country. This quickly led to DCA switching approximately 4 523 households receiving cash assistance to Ecocash – a mobile money platform owned by Econet.

However, the use of the mobile money transfer modality saw beneficiaries losing up to 40 percent of their monthly entitlement due to market



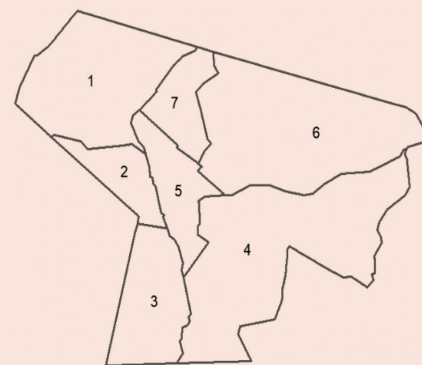
DCA Zimbabwe /WFP Urban Social Assistance E-Voucher Card

distortions, currency instability and Ecocash charges levied at a premium on transactions. In response, WFP and DCA introduced the RedRose e-voucher. Beneficiaries heralded the new system, and the programme was upscaled to 28,000 beneficiaries, across the seven wards in Epworth between April and May 2020.

From July 2020, participating beneficiaries received monthly entitlements of USD9.00 per person per month, revised to USD12.00 per person in September 2020, following recommendation from the National Cash Working Group, factoring in inflation and market pressures.

“It was incredibly disheartening to see the plight of residents in Epworth. I could not believe the situation across all seven Wards,” said Mads Schack Lindegård: DCA country director.

Epworth @ a glance



- According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTATS) 2012 National Census Report, Epworth has a population of 167,462 with males constituting 50.2 percent (83,983) while their female counterparts make up 49.8 percent (83,479) of the population.
- However, the population is estimated to have almost doubled to present day estimates of approximately 250,000.
- The majority of the population are in the productive age group between the ages of 15-64 years claiming 59.8 percent while the 0-14 years and the 65+ years groups constitute 39 percent and 1.2 percent respectively.
- Despite its size, Ward 7 has the highest population density and is known to have the highest number of polygamous families.



Thomas and Betty Maganda

“Our first consideration is that people must live with dignity which comes from agency and empowerment. Our vision as DanChurchAid is for a Zimbabwe in which poverty and hunger has been eradicated and all citizens enjoy their human rights and actively participate in their own development,” said Mads Schack Lindegård: DCA country director.

Zimbabwe’s cost of living as measured by the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ) showed that a food basket for a low-income family of six, increased by 1.27 percent between July and August 2020. However, in the 12 months since June 2019 essential food items such as sugar, cooking oil and rice increased by one hundred percent. This, before family’s factor in the cost of medical services, water – following years of persistent droughts- and consistent power cuts that have crippled the countries manufacturing industries.

DCA is working with local implementing partners to strengthen the resilience capacities of communities and with national and local government structures to ensure that interventions are not just sustainable but aligned to the development plans of an area.

Lindegård stated that the government had been very supportive in ensuring an enabling environment thus the cumulative reach of the WFP funded programme rose from 19,000 to 51,000 individuals in just 12 months. The benefits extending to approximately 12,142 households. Lindegård expressed hope, to see long-lasting results not just in Epworth but in all the metropolitan areas where DCA was implementing this innovative flagship work.

DCA has built on initial gains of the pilot project in Epworth, securing additional funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) in 2020, and extending the urban programming

initiative to reach 89,000 individuals in Ushewekunze (Harare South); Mabvuku and Tafara (Harare) and Mzilikazi district in Bulawayo.

The combined success of the pilot programme has carved a niche for DCA Zimbabwe that will hopefully be replicated to scale by other DCA country programmes in the future.

“The reality is that the need is not unique to Zimbabwe. From my experience working in several African countries, there is scope for this innovative programming in many other countries where the plight of ordinary people is dire, and people are living without any hope,” said Lindegård.



Making a difference...

In November 2020, DCA and WFP hosted a Japanese media delegation who interviewed beneficiaries of the Urban Social Assistance programme in Epworth. The two beneficiaries from Ward 1 who were interviewed testified to the benefits of the Cash Transfer programme.

Thomas and Betty Maganda who have a family of four indicated that they are now able to focus on issues other than securing food since they joined the programme. Betty became the sole breadwinner of the house in 1994 after Thomas was injured in an accident at work. His employer refused to compensate him, and

Thomas had insufficient means to pursue legal recourse. After months of being sent from pillar to post, Thomas acquiesced to his new circumstances and is often incapacitated by debilitating pain, a constant reminder of his injury.

Andrew John lost his wife in 2016, his in-laws seized all their family property demanding the balance on the bride price he had committed to pay for his wife. Andrew who was now the single father of a family of five, was desperate. Andrew indicated that since he joined the programme, he is now able to feed his family.

Previously he relied on income from seasonal casual labour when he could find work on neighbouring farms. These jobs were backbreaking work, but paid very little, if the farmers paid him at all. At that point he was unable to feed his family and his relationship with his children deteriorated rapidly, along with their health. Andrew is HIV positive and has only recently started taking antiretroviral medication. The Japanese government is a key donor to African programmes. In May, Japan donated more than \$15.3 million to assist vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe affected by droughts and floods.

Improving nutrition -making fresh vegetables available



Dorothy Moyo, a vender at Entumbane Bus terminus in Bulawayo, reported RedRose sales of up to US\$200 in October 2020.

DCA introduced the RedRose voucher system to enable beneficiaries of the Urban Social Assistance programme to redeem their entitlements with ease and make purchases for nutrition laden food stuffs, such as the vegetables that Dorothy Moyo sells at her stall. DCA is working on establishing vendors across all four domains in Harare and Bulawayo being, Epworth (Harare), Ushewekunze (Harare South); Mabvuku and Tafara (Harare) and Mzilikazi district in Bulawayo. This will see the inclusion of small-scale producers into the food value chain.

Supporting Mozambique Communities Affected by Cyclone Idai

To increase resilience to shocks, crises, and disasters among community members, and strengthen community-based systems in Mozambique, DanChurchAid is supporting 1,200 affected households in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, with funding from the Church of Sweden.

Communities in Sussundenga and Mossurize districts of Manica Province, received emergency assistance comprising 1,200 hoes; 3,600 kilograms of sesame seed; 600 kilograms of butter beans; 12,400 kilograms of maize; 26,999 kilograms of sorghum; 600 kilograms of cowpeas, as well as onions; tomatoes and cabbage seeds to improve food security. The project aims to ensure that nobody is left behind.

Communities in Manica Province pre-dominantly rely on agriculture as the mainstay livelihood activity. Agriculture production was however stifled by the cyclone disaster, including lack of production resources, limited knowledge on land use on the changed topography because of flooding.



Beneficiaries from DanChurchAid support in response to Cyclone Idai.



DCA's intervention saw the 1,200 households each receive 3 kilograms of sesame seed; 5 kilograms of butter bean seed; 12 kilograms maize seed; 2.5 kilograms of sorghum; 5 kilograms of cow peas; one 20 gram packet of onion; tomatoes; cabbage and a hoe.

The programme also focuses on strengthening community systems to save lives including, Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR), water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, psycho-social support and provide referral pathways for those facing hunger to access food assistance and other essential services. Attainment and restoration of productive assets including farming tools, livestock and seed materials is still a pipedream for many in the affected areas.

Which seed did we distribute?

Name Of Seed	Variety
Sesame	Lind
Butter beans	Sugar
Maize	Zm 523
Sorghum	Macia
Cowpeas	IT16/IT 18
Onion	Texas grano
Tomatoes	Calj
Cabbage	Copenhagen Market
shovels	Metallic cable

Item description	Quantity per household
Sesame	3 kg
Butter beans	5 kg
Maize	12 kg
Sorghum	2,5kg
Cowpeas	5 kg
Onion	1 package of 20 g
Tomatoes	1 package of 20 g
Cabbage	1 package of 20 g
Chovels	1

Total Quantity Procured

Sesame	= 3600 Kg
Butter Beans	= 6000 Kg
Maize	= 14.400 Kg
Sorghum	= 2699 Kg
Cowpeas	= 6000 Kg
Onion	= 1200 Packages
Cabbage	= 1200 Packages
Tomatoes	= 1200 Packages
Shovels	= 1200

Minister Mavima Commends Initiatives to Uplift Lupane Community

In December 2020, the community of Jotsholo had the rare privilege of hosting Honourable Paul Mavima, Zimbabwe's Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare in their backyard.

The visit was part of a two-day tour of community initiatives that are reshaping the lives of residents in the district. Accompanied by Lupane Chief Mabhikwa, Vusumuzi Khumalo, and Permanent Secretary in the ministry - Mr. Simon Masanga, the Minister started the day with a tour of Lupane Abattoir, followed by a tour of Tshongogkwe Irrigation Scheme.

Hon. Mavima commended the work being done by the community, local, and international partners to uplift the community towards achieving the national goal of becoming a middle-income country by 2030.

Set up at a cost of USD330,000 contributed on a 50:50 funding arrangement between Sizimele and Outback Safaris Private Limited, the project is managed under a Community Trust into which 10 percent of slaughter fees per beast go to the Trust, to cover other community development projects. After a Livestock Processing Indaba, held in 2019 attended by players in the beef value chain - government, private sector leaders, civil society, academia, local leadership (district), representatives of farmer



Tshongogkwe Irrigation Scheme members meeting Minister Mavima in December 2020

associations and groups, agreed to set up an abattoir in Lupane.

Conceptualised in conjunction with local structures (chiefs, headman, councillors, government departments) to promote local ownership and buy-in, it seeks to enable recovery and enhance the resilience of at-risk smallholder farmers.

A three-year project set up by Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund - Sizimele (ZRBF- Sizimele), in which DanChurchAid Zimbabwe is the lead partner, the abattoir is

providing processing facilities for the large cattle population in the area, estimated at 107 000, while uplifting a target of 31,455 households in three districts -Matobo, Insiza and Lupane.

Sizimele is funded by the United Nations Development Programme; ECHO; UKAID and the Church of Sweden (Sverige) and the Programme is led by the Government of Zimbabwe.

Community representatives expressed their joy at receiving such a distinguished guest, and proudly shared testimonies of how the Tshongokwe Irrigation Scheme had improved their lives by giving food for their families to eat in the current climate change regime. The project has also given them an income with which to send their children to school and make investments towards better futures.

Started in 1966, the scheme has grown over the years to a 24.4-hectare scheme with 64 plot-holders. It utilises drip irrigation powered by two solar boreholes connected to two 10,000 litre water tanks, easing the burden of securing water, a common hardship in Lupane. Female members constitute 64 percent of the irrigation scheme.



Minister Mavima addressing partners in the Lupane Abattoir in December 2020.



Outback Safari demonstrating facilities at the Lupane Abattoir to Minister Mavima.

In October 2019, the Tshongogkwe dam dried up for the first time in over four decades because of climate change, making it difficult for farmers to continue producing at the expected scale. Farmers grow vegetables including tomatoes, butternuts and Michigan pea beans among other vegetables and crops. Last year, a record harvest of 10.8 tonnes Michigan pea beans was recorded, demonstrating the continued success of the scheme.

Sizimele has facilitated private sector linkages for both projects, enabling the 64 farmers

participating in the Tshongokwe Irrigation Scheme to grow 7.2 hectares of Michigan pea beans for Cairns Foods at an agreed off-take price of \$1,10 per kilogram. Sizimele has also facilitated a Public-Private-Partnership for the Lupane Abattoir comprising the local community through the Rural District Council, Sizimele and Outback Safaris Private Limited to set up, construct, and operate the grade B cattle abattoir.

Sizimele is complex and diverse resilience project, which also assisted in the development and annual updating of 57 ward level disaster risk management plans, three district plans, and two provincial plans; installed 57 rain gauges; three automated weather stations to enhance early warning systems and reached out to 42 275

beneficiaries on disaster risk reduction training and resilience-building initiatives.

These include training of 25 942 farmers on climate-smart technologies to increase productivity; as

well as, rehabilitating and drilling 163 boreholes; establishing seven irrigation schemes and rehabilitating three dams. The project has also constructed 150 pit latrines (103 household latrines and 47 infrastructure latrines) and installed 299 climate-smart equipment (greenhouse, moisture sensors/full stops, boreholes, rippers).

To diversify local livelihoods, Sizimele has trained 2 503 youths on entrepreneurship and provided grants worth USD 500 to 90 successful youths; identified and built the capacity of 40 agro-dealers at the community level; constructed 12 feedlots and renovated two processing centres.

“We cannot achieve this ambitious goal of becoming a middle-income country by 2030 alone,” said Hon Mavima. “This is why I am happy that we have development partners such as DanChurchAid and others.”

Jotsholo is a small town in the Lupane district, in the province of Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe. It is located approximately 205 km northwest of Bulawayo.

Active participation in law-making

As part of the WePayYouDeliver consortium, DCA participated in a Write-shop to peer review draft Bills prepared by the Inter-ministerial task force on the alignment of legislation to the Constitution. The meeting was hosted by the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on the Alignment of Legislation to the Constitution (IMT) and the Ministry of Local Government Public Works (MoLGPW), in November 2020.

The Transparency Responsiveness Accountability and Citizen Engagement (TRACE) funded project seeks to influence the government’s devolution framework to ensure better service delivery through enhanced citizen participation. The draft Bills that were prepared include the Provincial Councils Administration Amendment Bill, the Rural District Councils Amendment Bill, and the Urban Councils Amendment Bill. The Bills are important to the WePayYouDeliver

consortium because these laws are expected to facilitate the devolution of the powers and responsibilities of government as required by Section 264 of the Constitution. This is the last stage of the law-making process where citizens can meaningfully influence the law-making process at the Executive stage.

Consortium representatives that participated in the Write-shop included: DanChurchAid (DCA), Local Governance and Capacity Building Trust (LGT), the Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Combined Harare Residents Trust (CHRA), the Harare Residents Trust (HRT), the Masvingo United Residents and Rate-payers Association (MURRA), and the Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association (BPRA).

Supporting Schools and Markets with PPE in Response to COVID-19

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In November 2020, DanChurchAid Zimbabwe responded to alert letters from District Schools Inspectors urgently requesting support in procuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the primary schools in the areas where DCA provides urban social assistance. Upon receipt of the alert letters, a PPE assessment was conducted within 24 hours in five schools in Mzilikazi, five in Mabvuku and four in Harare South.

These schools constitute 10 percent of schools with learners receiving school fees assistance from DCA. Assessment findings were generalised to all schools, and PPE was procured with funding from ACT Alliance and ECHO.

In Bulawayo PPE donations were made to the following 10 schools: Cowdray Park Primary; Gampu Primary; Insukamini Primary; Lukanyiso Primary; Magwegwe Primary; Mkithika Thebe; Mpumelelo Primary; Nkulumane Primary; Ntshamate Primary and Hyde Park Primary Schools.

While in Harare donations were made to the following 10 schools in Mabvuku: Mabvuku Primary; Donnybrook Primary; Tafara 1 Primary; Batanai Primary; Tashinga Primary; Tafara 5 Primary; Mwanandishe Primary; Success College; Shingirayi Trust and Tshinhirano Primary School.

"We are eternally grateful to DanChurchAid," said Tariro 5 Government Primary School Headmistress, Mrs Tamari Shumba.

"The materials arrived on time and in good condition. The quality is excellent. We would not have managed to get through Grade Seven examinations without this assistance. However, we still require masks. The children often lose their masks, but we cannot prevent a child from sitting exams just because they do not have a mask" said Shumba.

Schools through-out the country are in serious need of PPE to assist them in managing the global pandemic, COVID-19. DCA donated up to 3,022 litres of sanitizers; 604 five litre units of liquid soap; 21 footbaths, 43 thermo-guns for temperature reading and 189 handwashing buckets.



DCA Zimbabwe handing over PPE secured with ECHO, to Donnybrook Primary School Headmaster Mr. Clyton Mutsvanga, together with the District Schools Inspector Mr Chiyangwa (on extreme left), Mrs Dube from the Provincial Government, and Deputy Headmaster Mr Kinsley Mlambo (extreme right).

Donations were also made to 11 schools in Harare South namely - Crest Breeders Primary; New Royal Stars College; Simbarendenga Primary; Rujeko Primary; Kudzanayi Primary; Ruvheneko Primary; Mhizha Primary; Bradford College; Herentals College; Links Academy; and New Creation College.

A separate donation was made to Tariro Primary School in Hopely on Friday, 20 November 2020 ahead of the distribution to the other schools as part of regular programme implementation work.

Meanwhile in Bulawayo, the Sizimele Market aggregation project led by DCA also responded to calls to step up prevention of COVID-19 in marketplaces to protect both traders and buyers.



DCA Zimbabwe assisted 32 schools in Epworth, Harare South and in Mzilikazi with personal protective equipment (PPE). The donations were made between November and December 2020.

With financial support from the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF), DCA partnered with Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Association (BVTA) and responded through COVID-19 awareness campaigns in marketplaces, COVID-19 focused newsletters, COVID-19 focused radio sessions, and the deployment of 50 market stewards to monitor compliance of COVID-19 regulations at marketplaces. Through the project DCA spearheaded the re-marking of market bays in line with new physical distance guidelines, distributed over 1,000 masks, 50 handwashing water dispensers, and 500 sanitizers to vendors and traders, and assisted in the sourcing products through linkages to producers.

During the period October to December 2020, nine food markets benefited from this project. Namely: Entumbane, Nkulumane Sekusile, Malaleni, Shasha, Pumula, Hyper terminus, Emganwini, Magwegwe Conron and Lobengula. Five non-food markets benefited from COVID-19 protection materials. These being Nkulumane, Entumbane, Highlanders, City market and Emganwini. This assistance reduced the financial burden on traders to buy PPE from their already diminished incomes negatively impacted by COVID-19 lockdown regulations.

The project is currently finalising a documentary focusing on the effects of COVID-19 on vendors and traders and how Sizimele is alleviating these

United Bush Dairy Diversifying Income for Smallholder Farmers in Mash West

The local government represented by the District Development Coordinator -Mr Tariro Tomu and Department of Agriculture Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), visited the DCA funded Dzumbunu/Monera United Bush Dairy in Chegutu Ward 10, in Mashonaland West Province, in December 2020.

The 39 smallholder farmers in Ward 10 welcomed the delegation led by the Farmers Association of Community Self-Help Investment Groups (FACHIG) and took them on a tour of various project sites, including seed material multiplication sites for ginger, garlic and turmeric, as well as the Marirangwe United Bush Dairy initiative.

The project run by DCA, in partnership with the Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust (ZADT) and FACHIG, supported by Red Dane is based on an innovative, inclusive, private-sector linked dairy production model, where small-holder farmers own shares, earning monthly dividends based on the profits. The average dividend value per month is currently US\$12, with the potential to grow exponentially, diversifying income and livelihoods for smallholder farmers.

Marirangwe United Bush Dairy currently has a total of 94 cattle owned by the 39 participating smallholder farmers in the area, of which 54 are being milked and produce an average of 13 litres of milk per cow, amounting to a total of 771 litres of milk per day. Milk production varies per cow, resulting in the cows being grouped into high, average or low producing cows. The cows are then fed a special formulation of bush dairy meal measured at 500 grams per litre of milk that each cow produces per day, to deliver on the nutrient requirements of each cow. Therefore, a cow that produces up to 20 litres of milk will be given 10 kilograms bush dairy meal per day.

This milk is sold to a local offtaker-Kefalos - for processing, at a price of between 36 to 41 cents per litre, subject to the quality of milk. Quality is based on the bacterial content, fat and protein of the milk among



Marirangwe United Bush Dairy Chairperson, Mr Mind Chivakira showcasing ginger and turmeric seedling beds.

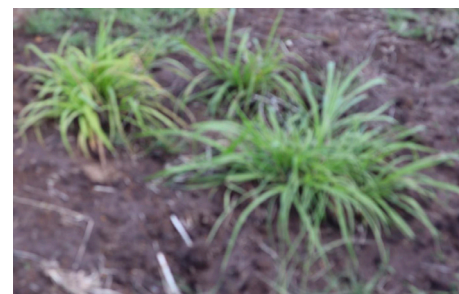


Marirangwe United Bush Dairy cattle grazing.

other factors, for which the farmer is penalised if they exceed the threshold for each element. The cost of producing a litre of milk ranges from between 24 to 26 cents per litre, assuming there are no adverse factors related to the health of the cows and hygiene in the milking process.

The private-sector partnership is a strategic capacity building intervention set up to provide technical advice, providing invaluable experience and learning to the smallholder farmers, who traditionally have not ventured into dairy farming due to limitations in know-how and dairy business expertise, including financial systems, marketing and management.

Farmers are utilising the proceeds from the bush dairy milk sales to diversify their farming activities into favourably priced spices and herbs, which will deliver better returns than traditional maize crops. The project is geared at transforming the lives of vulnerable women and men in rural communities through entrepreneurial and sustainable projects.



Bana grass being grown by farmers.

Farmers are looking at selling their ginger crop at US\$3 per kilogram. Given yield estimates of 20 tonnes per hectare, farmers could potentially make up to US\$60 000 per hectare, against an average production cost US\$19 000 per hectare for inputs including seed, fertilisers, and lime.

With the guidance of AGRITEX, farmers are also embarking on a project to grow Bana grass, a fodder crop which will improve the conditions and marketability of their stock outside the United Bush Dairy project.

Mr Tomu, the DDC for Mashonaland West Province, commended the farmers and AGRITEX officers for the hard work that was evident through-out the project sites and identified the visit as a learning opportunity for the betterment of the province, and indeed the entire country in pursuit of the national goal of becoming an upper middle-income country by 2030.

Victory for Residents as Civic Agency Secures Water

Harare has been facing acute water challenges that have seen most suburbs, especially those in the northern parts of the city, not getting tap water for years. Areas like Mabvuku, Tafara, Greendale and Masasa Park, had gone for over five years without water supply.

Most residents depended on boreholes or unprotected wells.

The acute water shortages have seen most high-density areas exposed to frequent cholera and typhoid outbreaks caused by poor hygiene and drinking unsafe water from unprotected water sources.

The scarcity of tap water saw residents overcrowding and fighting to access water at the few community boreholes, most of which had become dysfunctional due to over-use. With the advent of COVID-19, the water shortages significantly compromised the capacity of communities to practice good hygiene through frequent handwashing which also made it difficult to practice social distancing as people always jostled to access the scarce resource.

In response, the Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) conducted civic education on COVID-19 prevention protocols. Residents suggested the need for litigation to compel government and Harare City Council to deliver enough safe water to enable communities to practice good hygiene and fight the spread and contraction of COVID-19.

CHRA then filed a successful High Court application supported by affidavits from residents providing testimonials. As a direct result, Harare City Council was compelled to fix all dysfunctional boreholes within 48 hours. The Ministry of Finance was ordered to release funds to the Council for the purchase of water treatment chemicals to help increase water production. The City Council was also ordered to provide marshals to control crowds and ensuring maintenance of social distancing at community water points.

Council went on to rehabilitate over 20 boreholes dotted around the city, and in some areas provided water using water bowzers. This small victory resulted in the re-opening of water in some parts of Harare that had gone for years without water supply.

DanChurchAid with the support of the Department for International Development (DFID), now the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, is working with residents' associations throughout the country

to ensure that more civic victories are won and that all of Zimbabwe's citizens benefit from what should be public services. Additionally, DCA has sunk boreholes in Mabvuku and Epworth to alleviate the water challenges.

Other Residents associations in Chitungwiza, Mutare, Masvingo, Hwange and Gweru have also followed suit, using the CHRA case as precedence. Chitungwiza and Mutare won their cases with the rest having judgements reserved on their cases.



Beauty Moyo drinking water at a tap from a DCA installed water facility



Mrs Ndlovu collecting water to drink in the hot sun