

Oracle

Achieving Triple Nexus Programming



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Patience Ukama

Editors Corner

Reflections on the tropical cyclones in January, after years of devastating droughts, record rainfall, the complete shutdown of industry, loss of income at household level, reduced global development funding, the continued economic crisis, locust infestations, and this season's bumper maize harvest, provoked reflection on the Nexus Approach to programming. Connecting development, humanitarian, and the peace pillars is an intentional strategy through which DanChurchAid (DCA) aims to assist communities to build long-term resilience by implementing nuanced programming in response to different situations and environments. It is globally applied in situations of chronic vulnerability, which unfortunately is the condition of most communities in Zimbabwe due to the

protracted economic crisis. Consequently, it became the theme of this edition. To some, the nexus is limited to the intersection of food-water-energy, informed by the physiological hierarchy of needs, the SDGs, and Agenda 2030. It is easy to see why. Increasing costs of energy have rapidly impacted on the rate of deforestation in both urban and rural environs, leading to encroachment on wetlands, further upsetting the natural ecology which has directly impacted food-water-(and)energy, demanding humanitarian, development, and peace interventions. Thus, the triple nexus approach. In DCA, the nexus is applied with an appreciation that traditionally women and girls have played a significant role in fetching water, food production and processing, at household level. The ability to undertake these tasks has been hampered by security threats from external forces; domestic partners; and society at large. Chronic droughts, macro-economic challenges and the outbreak of the novel COVID-19 pandemic have magnified challenges. The demand to meet family needs and to recover from the multi-layered

crisis is on its own disempowering, and has created additional vulnerabilities for Zimbabweans. Reports of an estimated five thousand unintended pregnancies in children of school-going age, means further disruption to and de-prioritisation of education in favour of fast-track adult and parenthood. Stark inequality resulted in most learners in Zimbabwe being forced to defer their education and stay home, because of poor infrastructure and energy - i.e., Development. No doubt, this will come back to haunt us in years to come. It is my hope that this second edition of the DanChurchAid Oracle is both insightful, and that through these pages DCA's nexus approach will become clear, as will the need for multi-year financing for programmes.

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BUMPER HARVEST - WHAT BUMPER HARVEST?

The narrative of a bumper harvest has firmly gripped most spheres within and beyond Zimbabwe. In many circles it now serves as the premise to the eradication of poverty, propelled by significant economic growth. Among the adherents to this script is the World Bank which predicts economic growth of 2.9% attributed to an agricultural bumper harvest. Indeed, Zimbabwe is anticipating a maize harvest of over two (2) million tonnes. An increase in food production of 200% from the 2019/20 farming season. However, this argument assumes not only consistent maize yields across the country, but consistent income for most citizens. This is not the case. While Nyanga received 1200mm of rain, some areas in Matabeleland South received 700 mm, and places like Chiredzi and Mwenezi District grappled with a locust infestation, resulting in crop losses. In as much as varying rainfall patterns result in varied yields, COVID-19 magnified the poverty situation for the most vulnerable. In Zimbabwe, one-third more people were affected by food insecurity in 2021, than they were 2020. This according to Prime's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), with whose support DanChurchAid provided emergency food aid to 3600 people in Lupane. This amounted to twice as many people confronting potentially life-threat-



Sunflower crops in Lupane

ening levels of food insecurity. Assertions concurred by the ZimVac 2021 report which published, an increase in the number of vulnerable people from 2.2 to 2.4 million attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic collapse. Cumulative COVID-19 restrictions resulted in an over 50% decrease in household income. Ordinary citizens had no means to survive, and far fewer opportunities for casual or day labour to earn the income needed to buy food for their families. Supply chain and transport deficiencies hampered progress in addressing hunger, malnutrition, and access to medication for pre-existing condi-

tions such as HIV, hypertension etc. Market systems were gravely disrupted, creating surplus within some value chain systems, that were not delivered to markets. This meant that vendors were unable to offload fresh fruits and vegetables to the market during lockdown. As a result, many informal traders experienced significant loss of income, exacerbating their already vulnerable economic situations. DCA partner, Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Association (BVTA) President, Mr Aleck Ndlovu said, "Vendors faced serious challenges when the pandemic struck. Especially due to the crippling boarder closures. The pandemic disrupted their livelihoods and led to the collapse of many businesses, restocking challenges, depletion of meagre savings, and failure to pay rates and rentals, as well as biting hunger experienced by thier families." For many families, it will take more than one seasons bumper harvest to recover from this one seasons hardships.



Mbuya Mushunguruko at home shelling her maize after harvest

MIDLO DAM FINALLY REACHES CAPACITY FOLLOWING 2020/21 RAINS

In December 2018, the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) Sizimele project - in which DCA is the lead partner - came to the rescue of Matobo's, Ward 14, Emadwaleni community in Matobo, Mataberland, through the reconstruction of the 800,000m³ Midlo dam, at a cost of US\$60,000. Constructed in 1952, the dam provided water for domestic purposes, crop irrigation, and livestock. It was the only source of water for the 4326 individuals in the Ward, and supported the broader district population of almost 100, 000. In 2007, the dam breached after severe flash flooding resulting in dam failure. Between 2000 and 2009, more than 200 notable dam failures were recorded worldwide. Sudden, rapid, uncontrollable release of water which a dam cannot contain, is known as dam failure. Eventually, the community, in partnership with the Organisation of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP), under a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) attempted to repair the dam. But the embankment breached a second time in February 2017 on both sides of the central masonry spillway, which was constructed after the 2007 failure. It seemed all was lost for the people of Emadwaleni, until 2017, when the ZRBF Sizimele reconstruction project began. The absence of a dam meant that the residents



Midlo Dam in Ward 14 Emadwaleni, Matobo district, at full capacity after the 2020/21 rains

of Ward 14 did not have an irrigation scheme, farmers travelled 15 km to participate in the valley irrigation scheme in Ward 13, to produce food for their families. Farmers who could not travel the 15 km established nutrition gardens, dotted around the dam, less than 30m from the dam wall. These gardens were washed away when the dam breached in 2017 leaving families without gardens. The ZRBF Sizimele objective is to enable, recovery, and enhance, the resilience of at-risk smallholder farmers so they are food, income, and nutrition secure, in the face of increasing multiple and chronic shocks and stressors. Matobo district, like many districts in Zimbabwe was adversely affected by climate change patterns, leaving many people without food and water. The ZRBF Sizimele intervention not only restored the dignity and livelihoods of the community but, it also re-introduced fish species into the dam, providing an additional nutritional food source. A solar powered water pumping system linked to the dam provided the foundation for Midlo Irrigation Scheme. established in 2019. Estimates were that at full capacity, 200 000 - 300 000m³ of water would be available for irrigation, sufficient to

irrigate between 10 and 15 hectares of land. However, the dam only reached capacity following the 2020/1 rain season. The scheme has a total irrigation capacity of 8 hectares, supporting 51 members (28 females, 23 males), each commanding 0.1 hectare. The project delivers on the energy-food-water nexus. The demand for water, energy and food is expected to increase due to demographic changes, economic growth, as well as changes in climate. Nexus approaches have been considered successful in terms of specifically identifying the linkages across key natural resource sectors to reduce costs and increase benefits. DCA's nexus approach extends to its partnerships model, maximising public-private partnerships in remote areas to benefit communities.

Mncedisi Ndlovu, a member of the irrigation scheme said,

"I would like to thank Sizimele for bringing such a project to our area. I never dreamt of being part of an irrigation scheme. Now I can see my life changing. I am able to grow cash crops that will generate income for my family and I will be able to send my children to school"

THE NEED FOR A NEXUS MODEL FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In the first month of 2021, Mozambique and Zimbabwe experienced two extreme weather phenomena, being Cyclone Chalane and Cyclone Eloise respectively. According to the Global Climate Index 2021 released by Germanwatch, Zimbabwe is one of the world's top 10 nations worst affected by climate change. The index highlights how these 10 countries have been negatively impacted by climate change through disruptions to productivity in key economic sectors including agriculture, roads, dams, and other infrastructure. Ranked by monetary loss and number of fatalities, the five African countries in the global top 10 are Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Sudan, and Niger. Working with the government of Zimbabwe, with support from the European Union Humanitarian Aid, in partnership with Care and Plan International, DCA is strengthening response mechanisms and preparedness for localised rapid onset disasters in Zimbabwe. When Tropical Cyclone Eloise made landfall, it was reported that three people died after being swept away by flood waters in Chipinge. Heavy rains also caused flooding, mudslides and destruction of infrastructure in Manicaland, Mashonaland East and Central, Matabeleland South and Masvingo provinces. Communities had to be evacuated and emergency protocols put in place.

The impacts of extreme weather events including cyclones and flooding, exert economic pressures on local economies, an already strained government, and development partners, who must quickly secure emergency funding to rebuild destroyed infrastructure, and respond to the immediate needs of affected communities. Together, the partners established the Rapid Response Management Unit (RRMU) that leads a comprehensive rapid response framework for rapid onset emergencies in Zimbabwe. This framework includes the issuing of emergency alerts to warn communities ahead of impending disasters, conducting rapid needs assessments, providing cash distribution services to assist affected communities, provision of food and non-food items, as well as the rehabilitation of boreholes, schools, and evacuation centres. The reach of the Zimbabwe Disaster Rapid Response Programme extends to Matabeleland North and South; Masvingo Province; Midlands; Bulawayo and Harare Metropolitan Provinces, reaching over 10,000 individuals. Some of the focal areas are Zaka; Tsholotsho; Mutoko; Mwenezi; Chiredzi; Chirumhanzu; Bulilima; Buhera; Binga; and Beitbridge. Shortly after the devastation of the two cyclones,

communities in the southern lowveld found themselves having to contend with an outbreak of locusts. The locusts ravaged sorghum, millet and maize destroying nearly 8 000 hectares of the crops in Chiredzi and Mwenezi. Locusts were also detected in the Central, Eastern, and Southern regions of Zimbabwe — the worst infestation in decades. The outbreak left scores of farmers facing potential food insecurity. The Plant Protection Research Institute reported an outbreak of three indigenous locust species that damaged between three and 92% of small grains. Sorghum was the worst affected crop covering a greater part of the affected 7853,2 hectares of crop land in Chiredzi and Mwenezi. Other affected crops were pearl millet, beans, maize, sugarcane and cowpeas. Sugarcane damage was minimal at less than 5%. However, the outbreak exposed more than 4800 households to severe food insecurity in the two districts. The most affected areas were Chiredzi wards 1 – 12 and 22 where more than 2457 households had their crops damaged, while in Mwenezi some 2440 households in BJB, Chikokoto and Masungula. Such events, demonstrate the need for a fine scale nexus model approach to disaster management.



Honourable Minister Mavhima inspecting DCA's emergency response storage facilities in Bulawayo

PROVIDING EMERGENCY FOOD AID AND SEED IN LUPANE



Beneficiaries collecting their emergency food allocation in Ward 18, Lupane in March

In January 2021, DCA took decisive steps to eliminate extreme poverty, partnering with Primate World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) to provide emergency food assistance to the people in Lupane, an area which has been deeply affected by droughts in Zimbabwe. The PWRDF has been supporting rural livelihoods, women and men working in agriculture, for over 60 years. Through its generous donors, with the approval of the Global Affairs Office of Canada, DCA provided food, seeds, technical training and advice in seed preservation, pest and crop management, market linkages. "It's critical that we support food security, as PWRDF has since the pandemic was declared in March 2020, providing food, but also support to strengthen the community," said Will Postma, Executive director of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Communities in Lupane experienced two consecutive years of poor harvests in 2018/19 and 2019/20, due to poor rainfall in the district. At the time, the World Food Programme (WFP) was projecting an increase in the number of food insecure people in Zimbabwe from 56% to 60% by December 2020. Acute food insecurity resulted in the adoption

of negative coping mechanisms including unplanned consumption of grains which under normal circumstances would have been retained as seed. Other coping strategies included begging for food from institutions like hospitals and neighbours, disposal of valuable household's assets including livestock and other household assets, and illegal activities like sex work, especially in Daluka ward located along the Bulawayo-Victoria falls highway. Some of these negative coping strategies further exposed women and girls to abuse and diseases. In addition, all land borders were shut down by the South African government on January 11, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including Beitbridge- the busiest port of entry in the region, obliterating any opportunities for remittances. Migrant labourers who ordinarily return from South Africa and Botswana in December were estrained by COVID-19 quarantine requirements preventing them from returning home. Therefore, any income and food relief normally associated with year-end home coming by the migrant workers which eases food and income deficits, did not come. The situation was dire.



The farmer extension department also made an urgent appeal for seeds to assist farmers in the area. Although the government of Zimbabwe had declared a state of emergency, there are no organisations providing food assistance programmes in the district.

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This despite findings by ZIMVAC in September 2020 that 58% of the people in Lupane district had poor Food Consumption Scores. Snap Key Informant Interviews conducted by DCA, showed community leaders reporting that people had resorted to limiting food portions during mealtimes in order to save food for the following days. This has a bearing on the nutrition of communities. The September 2020 ZIMVAC report showed that the number of women of childbearing age were not meeting their Dietary Diversity Scores (DDS), and in Matabeleland North there was a significant drop in number of women of childbearing age meeting the minimum DDS down from 38% in 2019 to 9% in 2020. Anecdotal reports about people resorting to wild fruits and roots also filtered through. DCA's Sizimele Programme High Frequency Monitoring Report (December 2019) indicated that distances to water points were reaching an average 3km against a norm of 1.5km. The labour of collecting water and searching for food falls heavily on women. The fact that most able-bodied men tend to seek employment opportunities in neighbouring South Africa and Botswana put additional strain on women and children, who found themselves caught in a vicious cycle of difficulties and problems. "In our response to food needs around the world, we want to be present and responsive. A project for three months can help families make it through a tough, lean season, while also equipping people—women and men both, to be stronger," added Postma.

This intervention targeted rural wards in Lupane - 16,17,18,19, 20, 21,22- deemed the most affected wards, with a combined population of approximately 29,361 people in 5,872 households. Approximately 3,600 food insecure households (18,000 individuals) received emergency food assistance in the form of maize, beans, and cooking oil, for three months. An additional 1,450 households also received once-off seed support through in-kind distributions.



Farmer Mathe proudly showing-casing his beans harvest in Ndamuleni Village, Lupane

The first distribution took place on January 25, 2021. Partners on the ground worked with community-based advisory committees to identify beneficiaries and ensure that the voices of women - often change agents in their communities - were heard. PWRDF leveraged a 4-to-1 match from the Government of Canada using funds from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank equity. "By partnering with DanChurchAid, we drew on their Sizimele Project expertise,

working with Agritex - Zimbabwe's agriculture extension department, to support farmers on soil and water conservation techniques like mulching, manuring, composting and intercropping," said Postma. Through Sizimele (a UNDP funded consortium programme), farmers were trained on seed management (seed grading, storage and post-harvest management) for future crops. The project provided support to affected families, including female-headed households and those with special needs (e.g., disabled, chronically ill, and pregnant and lactating women). In addition to immediate food support, the project is overseeing a one-time distribution of fast-maturing sorghum and cowpea seeds to help re-establish crop production livelihoods and ensure access to staple food when the food assistance ends. In Zimbabwe, one-third more people were affected by food insecurity in 2021, than they were 2020. This amounts to twice as many people who were confronting potentially life-threatening levels of food insecurity, compounded by a more than 50% decrease in household income. DCA has been working with communities in Lupane for the past seven years implementing resilience building and humanitarian programmes. The ongoing Sizimele Programme is implementing activities covering WASH, Livestock, Disaster risk reduction and protection; activities which intertwine and can align with the proposed actions to ensure continuation and sustainability.

DANISH PHILANTHROPY CHANGING LIVES IN TJEHONDO VILLAGE, MATOBO

In Copenhagen, as in Tjehondo Village, Matobo some 350kms from Bulawayo, the name Christian Bitz, is a household brand. The well-known Danish television personality and father of two is an author, nutritionist, designer of cutlery and glassware among other 'for the table' items. In 2015, the famous nutritionist successfully branched out into design, designing a range of plates for the table. Through his television appearances he became known to wide audiences in Denmark, augmented by published articles, and books on nutrition and health published and distributed globally. For several years he worked as research director at the Herlev and Gentofte hospitals, Copenhagen. In 2010, and again in 2011 Christian Bitz received several media awards. And most recently, in 2021, Bitz added philanthropy to his profile, through his generous contribution to the development of Tjehondo Village, in partnership with DCA Zimbabwe. Tjehondo Village has a total of 325 households, each with an average size of five. The village has been gravely affected by climate change and adverse weather patterns that have made even subsistence farming a significant feat for residents. Water is scarce in the village, a nearby dam needs rehabilitation and the two existing boreholes are not only in need of repair, but often go dry soon



Community members gathered for the announcement of Christian Bitz assistance to Tjehondo



The one borehole in Tjehondo Village

after the rains. The borehole is the single source of water for the village people and their livestock. The source of irrigation for their crops is Makhasa dam which is situated in Makhasa Village, 10 km away. The distance makes it difficult for the 71 farmers participating in an irrigation project in the village. A local fishpond which used to be a source of food and income, is non-functional because of the lack of access to water. To assist the village, Bitz has designed a bespoke series of glasses, titled "Kusintha", meaning to win, in Swahili. Profits from these glasses will be channelled to the village and assist in the drilling of a new borehole for the village. This will assist villagers to grow and irrigate their crops, and from the in-



Mr. Christian Bitz



come send their children to school, and where necessary, cover medical and other household expenses. In March, a team led by the DCA Country Director, visited Tjehondo to relay the good news of Bitz donation to the village. The villagers were ecstatic and sent personal video messages to Bitz to share their joy and relay their eternal gratitude for his support. Tjehondo is one of two villages being supported by Bitz, and one of eight villages being supported by a mix of high-net-worth Danish individuals and corporates through DCA in Matabeleland.

TRIPLE NEXUS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

On the 29th of September 2020, the national policy on Devolution and Decentralisation was launched. The policy provides the framework for the implementation of the devolution provisions in the Constitution. The assumption being that bringing government closer to the people, would make government more accountable and responsive to local people. Zimbabwe's rural population are by nature of their remoteness, voiceless, faceless, mass voters. The devolution policy is key to DCA's Active Citizenship work and it seeks to promote sustainable, representative, accountable, participatory, inclusive governance and socio-economic development. In this way realise the key tenets of Agenda 2030, outlined in the cluster of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The three clusters of the SDGs are: ecosystem services and livelihoods (SDGs 2, 3, 6, 7, 13, 15); the green economy (SDGs 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15); rights, justice, equality and inclusion (SDGs 5, 10, 15, 16). The clusters can clearly be mapped against the triple nexus of humanitarian aid, development, and peace. Chronic droughts have led to the majority of rural communities being water and food insecure, and without sustainable livelihoods due to the adverse effects of climate change, coupled with the protracted economic crisis. DanChurchAid has responded with innovative programming, that has sought not only to address food insecurity through various irrigation scheme projects in areas

such as Matabeleland South but, by rehabilitating boreholes and re-constructing dams, as part of its disaster response programming. Across its programming DCA has introduced technology not only to enhance local service provision but also to create market linkages thus, promote and revitalise economic activity essential for development of rural areas. In Tshongokwe, Lupane DCA established a weather station providing real-time weather information for local farmers. DCA's nexus approach extends to its partnerships model. The establishment of public-private partnerships has meant that the Lupane weather station is linked to the national Meteorological Department, and that livestock farmers have an Abattoir within reach, to which they can sell their livestock and create value for the community through collective ownership of such facilities. Co-optive management models, while negotiated with community leaders and partners, provide an anchor even for youth, ensuring continuity of community projects, and foster peace through a collective and mutually beneficial purpose. Where food emergency projects have in rare instances stirred conflict, as programmes can never meet the needs of everyone, DCA has worked with donors such as the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Primates World Relief Development Fund, and suppliers such as National Foods to ensure that aid arrives on time. Furthermore, to ensure resilience and sustainability of these

projects. DCA has negotiated the provision of seed, and partnered with farmers to enhance local farming skills, working with local Agritex Officers. In the same vein, to address social dynamics that result in conflict, and gender based violence, DCA is also working with the Ministry of Women's Affairs at grassroots, remphasising the need for the Devolution and Decentralisation policy.



Mr. Hove, District Officer, Ministry of Women's Affairs giving a lesson on gender-based violence in Lupane



Participants at the Post-Harvest training workshop with Agritex in JibaJiba Village, Lupane



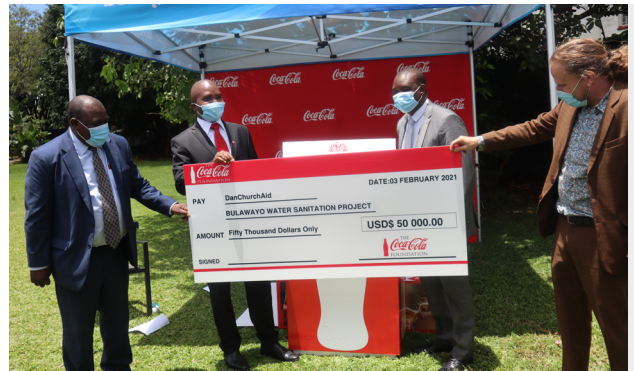
OUR WORK IN PICTURES THIS PAST QUARTER



Finance Assistant, Anna, ready to face the day



The groundbreaking event for the Bulawayo Water Emergency Project, held in March, in Emakhandeni with Bulawayo City Council



Coca-Cola Foundation presented DanChurchAid with a cheque of US\$50,000 for the Bulawayo Water Emergency Project in February



DCA drilled over 150 boreholes in Matebeleland North & South in 2020/21 to provide water to vulnerable communities



DCA's Mr. Taona explaining logistics



DCA resident mother, Mrs Chare, taking care of the country programme team



DCA hosted donors from the European Union delegation in Zimbabwe, the Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and WFP between February & March



DCA said goodbye to Blessing, Finance Intern





60kg of Mushrooms were harvested from fungiculture beneficiaries as part of resilience building activities



Beneficiaries of the Urban Social Assistance Programme received entitlements in February & March



Community training sessions held in Jibajiba, Lupane in April, with the Ministry of Women's Affairs



Churches Convergence on Peace consortium partners, held a quarterly stakeholder meeting in April



We said goodbye to project teams in Bulawayo, Harare and Lupane at the end of their respective projects in March and April 2021



TRIPLE NEXUS URBAN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

By: Dr. Solomon Mungure, DCA Programme Manager

The triple nexus is a novel approach seeking to transform the way that humanitarian, development and peace initiatives are planned, implemented and financed in a more holistic and synergized form to reduce risks and build resilience for communities and citizens. To manage this ambitious endeavour, the three pillars need to collaboratively reduce competition and simplistic fragmentation. DCA believes that comprehensive risk mapping in the three areas allows for programming efficiency and greater transformative impact. The complex vulnerability context of the urban environments in Zimbabwe demands not just humanitarian interventions but serious development investment in a peaceful environment. Within the humanitarian community, the triple nexus has become the “New Way of Working.” We at DCA submit that the deplorable conditions of the urban informal settlements and improvement of the human condition through peace and development are essential in combating poverty and vulnerability. Any efforts geared at compartmentalizing the pillars of the tripartite approach is seen as a threat to the attainment of development goals. Since the Urban Social Assistance Programme was piloted in Epworth in 2018, and eventually spread to Harare South and Mziilikazi in 2019, DCA has worked with government line ministries and departments to facilitate roll-

ing out of its lifesaving interventions. The informal settlements where DCA’s urban programmes are implemented are characterized by deprivation, marginalization and infrastructural deficits. The informality of these settlements is also associated with poor water and sanitation facilities, roads and power networks. As such DCA has complemented government and local authorities with the provision of WASH facilities through the establishment of water kiosks, boreholes and implementing interventions meant to reduce the spread of COVID-19 infections. The water infrastructure support has also been accompanied by resilience activities under the European Union (ECHO) and World Food Programme (WFP) supported projects. These resilience building efforts have been implemented in areas such as entrepreneurship, mushroom production, vegetable marketing, tailoring and market gardening. Some of the vending activities in towns have been linked to rural producer economies to further integrate people into sustainable market systems. In Bulawayo and Harare, DCA has sought partnership with the private sector to roll out the Bulawayo Water Emergency Project in response to the city’s protracted water crisis. In the past years of work within the urban space, DCA has also implemented complementary trainings geared at addressing the sexual and gender-based vio-



lence (SGBV), child protection, nutrition training, all of which contribute to better human security. To ensure equality and peaceful coexistence DCA’s urban humanitarian work upholds the principles of impartiality, neutrality, humanity, and operational independence which help to embrace nondiscrimination. DCA has also made efforts to reduce the risk of aid being politicized. In both our funding and implementation methodologies and plans, DCA believes that the three pillars should be synchronized to ensure improvement of the human condition. To ensure appropriate acceptance of the interventions in communities, DCA has a robust stakeholder engagement and connection with the local institutional networks to facilitate capacity strengthening in addressing shocks and stresses. The triple nexus is theoretically expected to improve policy frameworks across three sectors and promote joint planning for mutual and multi-stakeholder outcomes.

WORKING WITH CHURCHES TO PROMOTE PEACE TO ACHIEVE TRIPLE NEXUS

In Zimbabwe, the question of peace is a sensitive issue. Violence and conflict have a direct impact on human lives, increasingly more on the vulnerable, mostly women and children. DanChurchAid is non-partisan and was founded in 1922 by representatives of the Danish Evangelical Church. Triple nexus programming acknowledges that in the absence of peace, humanitarian-development initiatives have limited impact. In the recently concluded Churches Convergence on Conflict and Peace (CCCOP) quarterly stakeholder session hosted by DanChurchAid Zimbabwe, with the support of

the European Union, partners asked, how can communities focus on peace when they are hungry? The CCCOP project is an initiative geared at promoting peace and building cohesion in communities, as a necessary pillar of triple nexus programming. Acknowledging that sources of violence in community structures are wide and varied, the project works with various stakeholders, most notably the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, established under Chapter 12 of the Constitution to achieve this objective. Chronic droughts, poor food production, declining incomes, and the impact of

COVID-19, have greatly affected communities, leaving those without, with even less. Given its roots in the community, the church is suitably located, to provide leadership at grassroots level on issues of peacebuilding. In recent decades the church has increasingly been accepted as a humanitarian-development partner, not just in the civic space but equally in the political realm.

UNDERSTANDING IMPEDIMENTS TO SERVICE PROVISION

DanChurchAid recently facilitated a dialogue with Gweru, Masvingo and Mutare residents and rate payers associations on the online media platform 263Chat. The conversation zoned-in on the impact of COVID-19, devolution, and the responsiveness of local authorities in the provision of gender sensitive services such as maternal health. The Associations delved into the challenges at the coalface of service delivery including downsizing of City Councils', reducing the capacity of ailing local authorities, to provide services. Associations described Councils as having unfunded mandates. Waste collection being the most visible service area crippled over the years. Some Councils have been un-

able to get the job done due to non-seating, and absence of quorums at council committees, affecting decision-making processes. Associations indicated that residents were excluded from decision making processes of cities. The Associations felt that the devolution policy was not being implemented effectively, complimented by a deliberate attempt by local authorities to keep citizens in the dark about the policy, dis-empowering residents. The inability and limited desire for transparency on budgeting processes, and billing has resulted in challenges for residents. Gendered services are insufficient, including health facilities, and maternal health care. The few

time, and are not adequately manned by qualified health professionals to provide the public services required. Masvingo was cited as having only three functional clinics, while other facilities had been converted to COVID-19 quarantine centre. All Associations reported that the vaccination drive was hampered by an inadequate number of centres, resulting in residents incurring travel costs, to get to distant centres, or spending long periods of time waiting, which discourage residents from being vaccinated.

SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

If advocacy is the organised effort of citizens to influence the formulation and implementation of public policies, then the DCA Active Citizenship pillar is building a library of successful stories of advocacy as a means through which to solve specific problems, strengthen and empower civil society, as well as promote, and consolidate democracy. Citizen Engagement is a key DanChurchAid ZW Programme pillar ensuring Local Authorities are accountable to citizens, while assisting Local Authorities through capacity development planning



the City and its stakeholders. Some stakeholders offered to assist council with its billing system which has been giving the local authority perennial problems. This is a DCA Citizen's Engagement success story. It demonstrates that UMMRRT's intervention contributed to a change in the City's responsiveness and change in the budget making processes of the City.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Residents have an improved appreciation of their role in improving service delivery.
2. Digital platforms play a big role in advocacy and litigation issues especially when it comes to local governance issues.
3. Effective relationships between the duty bearers and service recipients at every level of the service delivery value chain are critical in unlocking critical revenue to the local authority for service provision.

ADVOCATING FOR FAIR RATES IN MUTARE

If advocacy is the organised effort of citizens to influence the formulation and implementation of public policies, then the DCA Active Citizens is a successful example of advocacy as a means through which to solve specific problems, strengthen and empower civil society, as well as promote, and consolidate democracy. In November 2020, the City of Mutare (CoM) imposed an average of 500% increase in rates for the 2021 budget, without holding budget consultations with residents. Understanding their civil power, the United Mutare Residents and Rate Payers Trust (UMRRT) wrote a letter to residents, asking them to write objection letters to the city. Hundreds of objection letters were submitted to the CoM.

UMRRT's actions resulted in the Town Clerk requesting UMRRT to convene a meeting for the city to engage with key stakeholders such as residents, businesses, and informal business representatives. The stakeholders' meetings were held on 15 and 16 November 2020 at the UMRRT offices. They were attended by all 12 department heads in the CoM, and the engagement was led by the city's Finance Director, Mr Chafesuka. The Finance Director undertook to give feedback to UMRRT after two weeks. The CoM further undertook to reconsider the proposed figures in the budget, with a downward review. The City recommended that the meetings must continue in the spirit of continuous engagements and developing rapport between

EVALUATING URBAN SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMING IN ZIMBABWE

The macro-economic crisis and impact of COVID-19 on productive formal and informal sectors disproportionately affected urban livelihoods. In an effort to meet basic food needs of the urban poor, DanChurchAid began implementing its urban social assistance programme, in 2019, with funding from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations, and UN-World Food Programme in four of the most-poor urban districts in Zimbabwe namely, Epworth (at 48.3% food insecure), Harare South (33.2%), Mzilikazi (27.7%) and Mabvuku and Tafara (30%), according to Zim-VAC Urban 2019. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic compounded urban poverty resulting in more households being unable to meet basic food needs because of loss of income opportunities brought on by strict lockdown measures. This after the Structural Adjustment programmes of the 1990s that brought new macro-economic dynamics to the urban populace, resulting in massive unemployment, high inflation, food shortages, and deterioration of social services. This exposed urban communities to poverty and vulnerabilities that were unattended to. Where historically rural households were most vulnerable, urban households were impacted more severely by the pandemic, after years of sustained economic shocks. Poverty and food



insecurity surveys typically targeted rural communities since urban areas were considered better, mainly because of secure employment for much of the population. Thus, they typically received comparatively less humanitarian-development attention than rural areas. DCA's experience in piloting and expanding urban social assistance programme places it, as the best fit partner for urban food assistance programming in Zimbabwe through coherent case profiling of food insecurity experiences of the extreme urban poor mainly residing in informal settlements. Research shows that urban food insecurity hotspots are now common due to underlying urban decay processes caused by collapse of economic activities like mining. (e.g., Kwekwe, Redcliffe and Hwange) and industrial activities. A high prevalence of malnutrition has also been recorded in these spaces. Whilst, where it relates to water, sanitation and hygiene, high levels of pollution continue to affect urban drinking water, adding yet another dimension to the urban problem. The pandemic raised the curtain on the need to mainstream protection, given the number of cases of gender-based violence, that prompted a multisector response across the country. It is plain to see therefore, the need for a dedicated urban social assistance programme to address the rising urban crisis. In addition, future humanitarian-development respons-

will need to keep in mind, human impact on the planet and how this is matter, and water. These manmade perturbations impair ecosystems and diminish their capacity to deliver ecological goods and services. As a result of environmental degradation, food and water insecurity are already increasing in many parts of the world, including in Zimbabwe. These insecurities will be further aggravated by global demographic, climate changes, and increasing urbanisation. Demonstrating the centrality of resilience building in communities. Ensuring human health and well-being, therefore, also requires a change in mindset about managing the environment. Traditional approaches to managing environmental resources such as water or land are treating resources in isolation rather than in combination. Such approaches ignore the interconnectedness of environmental resources—that is, how the use of and alterations to one environmental resource may impact others. Decades of un-curtailed bad environmental practises such as deforestation, poor waste management both industrial and domestic, occupation of wetlands etc. have led to among other effects large-scale soil erosion and soil degradation. These will continue to impact urban populations escalating the urban crisis even further in the future. There is still much to be done in Urban programming.

COMING TOGETHER TO DELIVER LONG-TERM WATER SOLUTIONS IN BULAWAYO

DanChurchAid Zimbabwe with grant funding from the Coca Cola Foundation, partnered with Bulawayo City Council (BCC) to bring water to desperate residents in parts of the city. The project is a continuation of successful water sanitation and health (WASH) projects in the city, in partnership with BCC and Schweppes Zimbabwe Limited, since 2019. Bulawayo has long endured water risk, having experienced several climate change induced droughts because of, for example El Niño and La Niña climate patterns. In 2019, DCA successfully partnered with BCC to intervene when a diarrhoea outbreak struck the city, due to the consumption of contaminated water, in the absence of safe drinking water. In partnership with Schweppes, DCA provided support to 2,181 households in dire need of clean, safe drinking water in Bulawayo, through the establishment of community managed water kiosk, from the drilling of solar powered boreholes, equipped with storage tanks and taps, to ease the drawing of water. With the US\$50,000 grant received from the Coca-Cola Foundation in February 2021, DCA has been able to build on efforts made towards providing sustainable water and sanitation solutions for low-income households, in high density suburbs in the city. The project delivered six solar powered boreholes to BCC, which were handed over by the three partners to



Project partners: Coca-Cola Zimbabwe, Bulawayo City Council and DanChurchAid, breaking ground in Emakhandeni in March 2021

residents in Emakhandeni A, Emakhandeni B residents in, Pumula South, Magwe North, Old Pumula and Pumula South – New Venture. Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony held in March 2021, at Emakhandeni Carpark near Maunga Shops, Coca-Cola Zimbabwe Country Manager, Milidzani Ncube said: “There is a saying in that, ‘when drinking water, never forget the one who dug the well’. Our connection with the Zimbabwean people has always been good and is here to stay. We recognise water needs and will make sure to deliver safe drinking water and sanitation to reduce water borne diseases. As the Coca Cola Foundation, we believe in hydrating all.” DanChurchAid Country Director, Mads Schack Lindegård, extended his appreciation to the Coca-Cola Foundation for the funding, saying it would help alleviate water shortages in the city. “Zimbabwe has gone through major challenges in terms of climate change, which has seriously affected the availability of water. Less rains means less water, and paradoxically now we are looking at green fields due to rains we just experienced. But this is becoming more and more an exception to the rule of global climate change,” he said. This intervention is however not unique to Bulawayo, as DCA seeks to improve water availability in vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe.

Areas like Mabvuku and Tafara have gone for more than 20 years without running water while the suburban areas of Chitungwiza have been dodged with water shortages since the 1990s. According to the United Nations, certain regions such as Southern Zimbabwe were badly affected by climate change. As such, Lindegård highlighted that it was crucial to create solutions that supplied water to communities. “As DCA it is our opinion that everybody needs to have water and we connect people to each other. We connected the Coca Cola Foundation, a private company, with the city of Bulawayo, a government entity that provided the land and engineering including ourselves, an NGO to provide expertise to deliver water services to the poorest of the communities,” said Lindegård. BCC deputy mayor, Mlandu Ncube, urged Bulawayo residents, the key partners of this project, to value community ownership. “We have water point committees set up at each water point established by council. Whether it’s a borehole or water kiosk. These water point committees are community members who run the water points and are responsible for coordinating activities, liaising with ward councillors, providing security and conducting participatory health and hygiene education on water conservation, social distancing, sanitation and hygiene,” he said. The boreholes were handed over to BCC in May 2021, completing the project.

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT THROUGH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Necessity is the mother of all invention, or so they say. The COVID-19 State of Emergency response exposed many vulnerabilities in the traditional way of doing things. Since the advent of the millennium, twenty years ago, ICT has been regarded as both a vehicle and a catalyst for development. Despite this, Zimbabwe was tried and found wanting at the peak of the global pandemic. Thousands of children were left behind in the education cycle. Many of these children are still on the legacy hot-seating schooling schedule, where different classes or grades of learners are taught in shifts in the morning, mid-morning, and afternoon to compensate for the disproportionate student to teacher ratio, or infrastructure to learner ratio, depending on the constraints of the school. Reports of 5,000 teenage pregnancies, brought home the harsh reality of the true cost of the extended lockdown. Affirming that schools not only provide a centre for education, but clearly provide a haven, safeguarding children from negative idle machinations. On the other side of the coin, those who are fortunate enough to attend private schools, reaped the benefits of new technology, and were mostly able to continue their lessons unperturbed. The same is true of the informal economy.

Commentators argue that, “Zimbabwe’s informal econ-



Programme Lead, Diego Matsvange & Information Technology lead, Blessing Manyiyo, debating ICT

omy is the economy”, providing employment for 85% of the national workforce. This ground to a halt during lockdown. While the formal economy could initiate various “work from home” policies, based on the provision of modern technology-based tools, those in the informal sector, including vendors, had no such options and were hard hit. In response, the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) funded Sizimele Consortium, developed a mobile application called Sizimele, a digital marketplace for food, agricultural and related supplies that is tailor-made to keep informal traders and buyers in close contact. ZRBF Sizimele Application Ambassador: Lisa Ncube said, “Knowledge is a priceless commodity that ZRBF Sizimele is dedicated to sharing with informal traders. It’s a pleasure to see informal traders operating their business via the online space”. The Sizimele Application which can be downloaded on Google Play Store offers 30 percent offline services and 70 percent online services. This application connects buyers and sellers to each other in the virtual trading space. The user-friendly application presents potential buyers with opportunities to purchase goods by category - cars, cereal grains,

computers, edible plant stems, fruits, farming equipment and livestock. Buyers can easily navigate between categories. The Sizimele application allows for various payment methods including cash on delivery, mobile money transfer, swipe and Zimswitch Interchange Technology (Zipit). By all accounts the Sizimele application comes as a breath of fresh air to informal traders who were hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. DanChurchAid, acknowledging the transformative role of technology has pioneered a similar tool for its disaster response programming, enabling citizens to report impending disasters in their communities, and linking them online to disaster respondents to verify reports in time to initiate effective disaster response measures. “We need to adapt,” says Mads Schack Lindegård, DanChurchAid Zimbabwe country director. “There is no point in continuing to do things in the same old way and expect different results. To be truly effective, responsive, transformative and make sure that no one is left behind, we need to embrace technology fully, there is no way around it.”

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INFORMAL TRADER

Mrs Kamonzi collects waste in order to put food on the table and send her children to school. On a good month she makes between \$10 and \$20, while her husband achieves the same. Resulting in a household income of between \$20 and \$40 a month. More than most of the people who live in their neighborhood in Ushewokunze, Harare South. Next to their makeshift single room is a swamp, filled with sewer water and domestic rubbish, no doubt a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Mrs. Kamonzi dismisses the swamp, saying that she and her family do not even notice it, or the smell, any more. She is quick to mention that her children know that they cannot play on that side of the house. Her home was recently flooded, and most of the clothes have been put out to air. She continues to answer questions posed by the team of donor partners that have come to visit her home on this particular afternoon in March. Her youngest child feeling playful, is among the guests, enjoying the attention. She has no idea why all these people have come to their home or what they are discussing with her mother. At her age, why should she care? Mrs Kamonzi relates some of the challenges that she experienced during the recently ended January to March 2021, Lockdown. She speaks with ease of the difficulty in securing food and the



Mrs Kamonzi from Ushewokunze, showing DCA Country Director her waste bottle collection for the month

challenges presented by the movement restrictions on her business. Today her husband is not home. He has gone out in search of more collectable waste to help put food on the table. What surprises the delegation at her door the most, is Mrs Kamonzi's plea for assistance for her neighbours, who she describes as suffering. She narrates of the many occasions she has dealt with a knock at her door, accompanied by a hungry face in pursuit of a

handout in the form of whatever grain or food she can spare on that day. Often times, she has nothing to give, as she has nothing herself beyond the meal for that day for her family. Most families in Ushewokunze had reduced the number of meals consumed, as a way of stretching their meagre resources. Wilfred Kamonzi is a beneficiary of the DCA Urban Social Assistance Programme funded by the WFP.



Mrs Kamonzi & her daughter interacting with DanChurchAid staff, and donors from WFP, the European Union, and Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs