



**Celebrating our
Humanitarian,
Resilient and
Livelihoods
Programming**





THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR WELCOME NOTE

Joy Mabenge,
ActionAid Zimbabwe
Country Director

Welcome to our Special ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) Newsletter Issue of December 2021. I feel humbled and honored for being awarded **Outstanding Leader of the Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) and Humanitarian Efforts Section** under the **Megafest Leadership Business Awards for 2021**. I believe that this award is in recognition of the collective efforts of the ActionAid International family, AAZ team, development partners, donors, government

stakeholders, civic society, social movements, and communities we serve. I would like to thank everyone for their immense contribution and for enabling the AAZ team and myself to promote gender equality, poverty reduction and social justice. Further to the recognition by the Megafest, AAZ in two years in a row in November 2021 won the Zimbabwe Top Charitable Organisation and Social Empowerment Award under the CSR Network Business and Corporate Social Responsibility Awards. The Megafest and

the CSR Network Awards are huge milestones in the recognition of AAZ humanitarian and sustainable development work. They come as huge motivation to the organisation to scale up its humanitarian and resilience building efforts.

Hence, we have decided to produce a special edition of the newsletter focusing on our humanitarian, resilience, and livelihoods work. The newsletter will have excerpts of the awards ceremonies and snippets of our humanitarian

work, locally and regionally as we advance Women-Led Emergency Preparedness, Response and Prevention. The goal for our humanitarian work is to see strengthened resilient communities that can adapt, adopt, transform, and secure climate justice in the face of various shocks and stress such as droughts, floods, and man-made disasters. Thus, the theme of this newsletter is entitled **“Celebrating our Humanitarian, Resilient and Livelihoods Programming”** Happy reading!

MEET THE NEW LEADER IN THE NGO AND HUMANITARIAN SECTOR

Joy Mabenge, AAZ Country Director was on 27 October awarded **Outstanding Leader of the Non-governmental Organisations and Humanitarian Efforts Section”** of the **Megafest Leadership Business Awards for 2021**. Megafest, is one of Zimbabwe’s biggest and Premier Awards companies, which advocates for good business practices and recognizes and rewards the courage, leadership, and creativity of Zimbabwe’s most brilliant business people who play a critical role in raising the profile of professionals in business.



Joy (left holding a certificate and trophy awarded to AAZ under CSR Network Awards in 2021) is a passionate social and economic justice activist and has been part of the AAI family since May 2018. He is currently serving as the Country Director of AAZ, which is part of a global ActionAid International family focusing on social justice, gender equality and poverty reduction. Under Joy’s leadership, AAZ has received about three accolades in the humanitarian sector. In September 2019, AAZ was awarded the Best

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the communities of Manicaland the impact it made in its Women Led Cyclone Idai Response Programme in Chimanimani and Chipinge. The award came from the Corporate Social Responsibility Network Zimbabwe (CSR Network Zimbabwe) under its 2019 Responsible Business and Corporate Social Responsibility Awards for Manicaland. In November 2020, the AAZ's bar rose to winning the Corporate Social Responsibility National Awards and was accorded one of the top 20 organisations for effectively implementing the SGDs and contributing meaningfully to the communities of Zimbabwe. On 26 November 2021, AAZ scooped the Zimbabwe Top Charitable Organisation and Social Empowerment Award out of 100 other NGOs at the 5th CSR Network Annual Zimbabwe Environment Responsible Business and Corporate Social Responsibility Awards.

Joy has over two decades of experience in social and economic justice, humanitarian, human rights, democracy, and governance work. He has worked for and with Zimbabwean and African social movements, civil society organizations, think-tanks, and international non-governmental organisation (NGOs).

Before joining AAZ, Joy was Anglophone Western and Southern Africa Regional Researcher and Representative for the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. He has been responsible for the Resource Centre's coverage of all English speaking southern African countries as well as English speaking west-African countries such as Gambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Ghana. Joy also

served as Regional Information and Advocacy Coordinator at Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, South Africa Regional Office, as well as being the Executive Director for the Coalition for a year. Joy had previously been Programmes Director and Democracy & Governance Manager at Institute for a Democratic Alternative for Zimbabwe (IDAZIM) and held various positions at Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt & Development (ZIMCODD).

As Executive Director for ZIMCODD, Joy has also been intimately involved in building the economic justice movement in Southern Africa as well as strengthening social movements' work and actions particularly through the Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN), which hosts the annual SADC People's Summit.

We are humbled by congratulatory messages coming from various sectors, like one such on social media to the right. Congratulations to Joy, he is a pride for the civic society and a force to reckon with in Zimbabwe. Speaking to AAZ staff after the announcement of the award, Joy humbly said:

“

This is OUR award in recognition of our collective efforts. If we were not pulling together, I would have never received such kind of recognition. Thank you and let us continue doing what we do best-unapologetically taking sides with people living in poverty and exclusion.

11:46

Well done my friend. The sky is the limit. Keep going.



Joy Mabenge
October 31 at 10:40 PM · 🌐



Congratulations
Joy Mabenge

for being named the Silver Winner - Outstanding Leader In Ngo & Humanitarian Effort of The Year at the Megafest Leadership Business Awards 2021



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#SahwiraMukuru #UmnganeOmkhulu

Nyaradzo Group October 30 at 2:57 PM · 🌐

Congratulations Joy Mabenge for being named the Silver Winner-Outstanding Leader in Ngo & Humanitarian Effort of the year at the Megafest Leadership Business Awards 2021.

👍❤️👏 You, Tamali Watyoka and 509 others

265 Comments 1 Share



Like



Comment



Share



Charles Beni
Maooko!

**PICTURES OF JOY IN ACTION
IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK**

When Cyclone Idai disaster struck in 2019, Joy, was one of the AAZ team members to visit Chimanimani, to assess the extent of damage. Here Joy at Skyline Junction where the initial emergency distributions began



Handover of Cyclone Idai Emergency Response goods such as pots and dignity kits to address women's needs in Chimanimani

Tiya Secondary School classroom handover in Chimanimani constructed with support from AAZ in partnership with Simukai Child Protection after school pupils were learning under trees as their school was affected by Cyclone Idai



Joy providing leadership guidance to Activista Zimbabwe members in Gweru in 2018



**From left to right:
Andrew Chikowore, AAZ
Head of Programmes and
Resource Mobilisation,
Evans Gomera, Finance
Manager, Takaitei
Bote, Communications
Focal Person and
Isaac Mumpande,
Humanitarian
Programme and Policy
Manager, received the
Megafest award on behalf
of Joy**

**The Megafest
certificate handed
over to the AAZ
team on behalf
of Joy, who also
received a trophy**



AWARDS HANDOVERS IN 2021



**From left to right:
Andrew Chikowore,
Rumbidzayi Makoni
Women's Rights and
Economic Justice
Manager, Isaac
Mumpande and Evans
Gomera during the
Megafest Awards
Dinner held in Harare**

**The certificate and
trophy for Zimbabwe
Top Charitable
Organisation
conferred to AAZ
in November 2021
under the CSR
Network Awards.**



A REGIONAL VIEW AND PERSPECTIVE

By Esther Sharara,
Humanitarian Advisor for
Southern Africa, AAI

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMANITARIAN ISSUES - SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Southern African region is faced with the global challenges of our time, notably climate change, conflict and Covid 19.

This year, about 47.6 million people in 10 SADC countries are food insecure. In Zimbabwe, 2.9million people were food insecure during the 2021/2022 lean season. We see the major drivers of food insecurity globally at play in the region, fuelling internal displacement and exacerbating the humanitarian situation. In this context, women, children, and young people face heightened protection risks, including Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse.

In response to the Southern Africa Food Crisis, ActionAid brought together Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as a regional initiative providing immediate cash support to affected communities in Malawi, and longer-term climate adaptation and resilience building through scaling up of Agroecology in all four countries. The Zimbabwe food security policy brief launched in December 2020 provided concrete recommendations which fed into the development of the draft of the National Agroecology and Organic Farming policy by the line ministry. This work also scored very highly against the prioritization criteria for work that will feature in the Terra Carta Annual Impact Reporting, due to be published early next year.



The handover of the Zimbabwe Policy Brief. From left, Patrick Mhona, member of the Parliament Portfolio Committee for Budget and Finance, Andrew Itai Chikowore, AAZ Head of Programmes and Resource Mobilisation Patrick Dutiro, from the Parliament Portfolio Committee for Lands, Agriculture and Mechanisation

In response to the conflict in Mozambique, a local ActionAid office was established this year in Cabo Delgado to work more closely with local partners and communities in scaling up humanitarian assistance to IDPs. Our emergency humanitarian interventions in Cabo Delgado are entry points to longer-term development work. Ultimately, addressing the root causes of conflict should be a key priority for governments in the region, and ActionAid continues to advocate for this regionally.

COVID-19 is on red alert in the federation, the highest ActionAid emergency classification level, which allows for it to be treated as an agency-wide priority. Southern Africa ActionAid

countries continue to educate, raise awareness, provide PPEs and access to clean safe water. ActionAid Malawi as a sub-recipient of two Global Fund grants is leading community efforts in the Covid response in that country. Globally, ActionAid is part of a global alliance of civil society organizations calling for vaccine access and equity for all.

Regional linkages exist, and ActionAid engages with regional civil society, United Nations (UN) Agencies, Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat, SADC Parliamentary Forum to amplify the work in countries and advocate for an enabling policy environment in the region.

FROM THE HEAD OF PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION: WHAT A JOURNEY!



**Andrew Itai
Chikowore,
AAZ Head of
Programmes
and Resource
Mobilisation**

AAZ continues to make a mark in the development arena with its work on gender equality, poverty eradication and social justice deepening by each year. In the face of drought induced food insecurities and the Coronavirus pandemic, the organisation has in recent years fundraised to implement lifesaving interventions such as the COVID-19 Response, the Southern African Food Crisis Response (SAFCR) and the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) Programme. AAZ'S humanitarian programming focuses on women's protection, leadership, and accountability to stakeholders. In eradicating poverty and food insecurity, our work has sought to build resilience of small-medium scale farmers and communities to withstand the pressures and shocks caused by climate change and other emergencies such as COVID-19. Programming impact has been achieved by advocating for policy changes to improve funding to the Civil Protection Unit to prepare for humanitarian hazards and emergencies, the adoption of agroecological practices, including influencing towards the improvement of production efficiencies, productivity and facilitating communities' access to viable markets.

Overall, in 2020, AAZ reached a total of 519,514 people comprising 296,099 female and

223,415 males through various interventions. The organisation's social justice interventions have resulted in some of the following changes in communities:

- *Enhanced quality of life and reduction in gender-based violence for women and girls*
- *Increased income for women and the youth*
- *Access to well-functioning and diversified markets for small to media-scale farmers (small grain crops, livestock sector-cattle, goats, pigs, poultry value chains)*
- *Effective participation in decision making for women and youth*
- *Improved access to gender responsive public services for women, girls, and the youth*
- *Support towards smallholder farmers to remain resilient and ensuring food security by supporting the implementation of climate resilient sustainable agriculture approaches such as agroecology in the face of shocks and stresses such as droughts, floods and lately COVID-19*
- *Advocacy and policy influencing for women and girls' access to social protection, promote women leadership during emergencies and ensuring communities get back better from where they were (improved livelihoods) before disasters.*



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WOMEN-LED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

The focus of our humanitarian programming has been to strengthen communities' preparedness, in the face of disasters, and build resilience among the vulnerable communities to mitigate the impact of hazards on the Zimbabwean communities. Using the AAI humanitarian signature of promoting women leadership, protection and accountability during emergencies, a total of 127,965 people comprising 69,579 female and 58,386 males were reached by various AAZ

humanitarian response projects in 2020 such as the following:

- *Lean Season Assistance (LSA) Programme*
- *Southern African Food Crisis Response (SAFCR)*
- *Cyclone Idai Response*
- *COVID-19 Response*
- *Local Rights Programme (LRP) Emergency Response*
- *Youths in humanitarian action*

Using the AAI humanitarian signature of promoting women leadership, protection and accountability during emergencies, a total of



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LEAN SEASON ASSISTANCE



Left:
Registration
of people
assisted
under
the LSA
programme
in Mutare
Rural in
October
2021.

The LSA programme implemented with support from the World Food Programme (WFP) since 2018 in Nyanga, Makoni and Mutare Districts, enhanced shorted term food security among about 300 000 targeted food

insecure people. It resulted in the reduction of malnutrition among children under five years and lactating mothers. The 2021-2022 LSA programme is reaching 104,654 people in Mutare Rural who are supported by food in kind.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN FOOD CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAMME

The Implementation of the SAFCR Programme has resulted in the adoption of agroecology practices resulting in food security in areas such as Chiendambuya, Nyazura, Hwedza, Binga and Nkayi. The use of agroecology practices is part of efforts to promote the sustainable use of available resources, minimize the use of external inputs and improve the diversity of agroecology farming elements.

This includes the use of water harvesting technologies, nutrients recycling, the practise of zero tillage to promote soil conservation, use of animal manure to substitute artificial fertilisers as well as local feed formulation for livestock in a bid to strengthen linkages between crop and livestock production. Through learning about climate change, weather patterns, how to adapt to climate change and growing small grain crops like sorghum, farmers have improved their yields resulting in food security.



Before practising agroecology, Portia Mukondo of Chiendambuya used to harvest 0.6 tonnes of sorghum on average from her field but after adopting agroecology in 2020, she harvested 1.2 tonnes which showed a 100-percentage improvement.

Mrs. Mpofu from Mbire supported under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF)



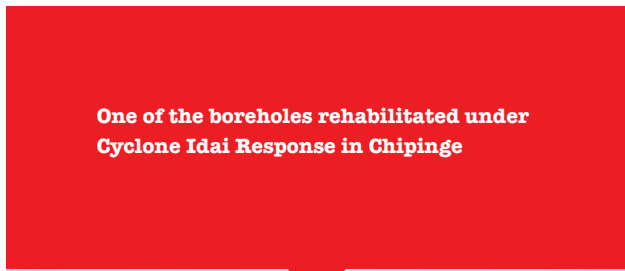
CYCLONE IDAI RESPONSE

At least 2,617 women and girls recovering from the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai had access to protection services, offered through the Safe Spaces established in Chimanimani and Chipinge. The Safe Spaces allowed women and girls to participate in activities that empower them as well as ensure that they access critical information on their

risks, rights, and needs. These include access to information regarding SRH services, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) referral pathways, basic numeracy, and literacy skills. To promote women's protection, 40 households who survived the effects of Cyclone Idai benefitted from the construction of 40 temporary shelters (wooden cabins) in Chimanimani.



Ever Tekeza from Ward 1 Chimanimani, one of the women supported with temporary shelters after Cyclone Idai destroyed her houses



A total of 1,423 people in Chimanimani and Chipinge whose water sources were destroyed by the Cyclone Idai now have access to safe and clean water. Seven water sources in Chimanimani and four in Chipinge were repaired and four of these water points were equipped with maintenance kits.

One hundred thirty-one (131) school pupils from Tiya Secondary School in Chimanimani from April 2021 experienced improved access to

education following the handover of a classroom block comprising two classrooms constructed by AAZ in partnership with Simukai Child Protection Programme and with funding from ActionAid Ireland and the Electric Aid. Three-quarters of Tiya Secondary School infrastructure was destroyed by Cyclone Idai devastation in March 2019. Cyclone Idai caused loss of lives, livelihoods, and a disruption in the education system of many schools in Manicaland with many children left to learn under trees.



A total of **1,423** people in Chimanimani and Chipinge now have access to safe and clean water.



131 school pupils from Tiya Secondary School in Chimanimani from April 2021 experienced improved access to education.



The new classroom block for Tiya Secondary School

COVID-19 RESPONSE

AAZ implemented various COVID-19 response programmes between 2020 and 2021 which resulted in improved health, access to personal protective equipment (PPEs) and information. As the indefinite extensions of the COVID-19 lockdowns during phases 1, 2 and 3 of the disease, the situation of most households that work in the informal economy, which constitutes the greater part of the Zimbabwean economy was exacerbated. Those from the informal sector struggled to

provide for their families since the informal sector was only allowed to operate late in the year due to COVID-19 lockdown. AAZ intervened by providing food aid in vulnerable communities of Zimbabwe. COVID-19 also resulted in government departments failing to provide quality gender-responsive public services. As such the organisation has been spearheading policy work to push for improved public service delivery, the lack of which has affected women and girls, the most.



Joy Mabenge, AAZ Country Director with some of the sanitary wear for women which are dignity kits distributed during COVID-19 Response as part of the AAZ humanitarian signature which emphasizes on women protection

Part of the PPEs distributed in AAZ LRPs and project sites. Here Andrew Chikowore, AAZ Head of Programmes and Resource Mobilisation (third from left) handing over PPEs to Ministry Health and Child Care Officials from Nyanga.



ZIMBABWE RESILIENCE BUILDING FUND

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE SHOCKS AND DISASTERS

The Zambezi Valley Alliance (ZVA) is part of the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF), being implemented in Binga, Kariba and Mbire Districts. With a set target of 45 105 households, the project has reached 53,589 households through various interventions, with 45% being female-headed households. The project seeks to increase the capacities of communities to protect development gains and achieve improved well-being outcomes in the face of shocks and stresses through a set of interrelated activities. As such, ZRBF-ZVA has managed to increase average monthly household incomes by 68% from US\$57 to US\$96 comparing 2020 to 2021 periods.

COMMON COVID-19 MYTHS

Drinking a cup of warm water every morning prevents coronavirus? FALSE

You can only prevent infection by washing your hands regularly with soap and water, avoiding touching your face, and keeping your distance from others.

COVID-19 only affects old people? FALSE

The virus affects people of all ages. Older people, and people with pre-existing conditions, appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

You can prevent coronavirus by breathing in hot steam? FALSE

Breathing in steam or herbs does not prevent or kill the coronavirus.

Hot weather kills the virus? FALSE

The virus is currently spreading even in hot and humid climates.

Garlic is a good remedy for coronavirus? FALSE

While garlic or other vegetables may be good for your overall health, they do not protect you from coronavirus.

COVID-19 doesn't affect black people? FALSE

The virus has so far affected people of all races and ethnicities, across all the continents of the world.

There is no cure for COVID-19 FACT

Call 2019 if you suspect a case of COVID-19



Eleven Dogs Inc.

One of the fliers used to create awareness on COVID-19 under the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund

ZRBF-ZVA has managed to increase average monthly household incomes by



68% from
US\$57 → US\$96
comparing 2020 to 2021 periods.



From left to right Miriam Mwinga, Elizabeth Size, Agent Chisenga and Lindiwe Sibanda from Mushumbi Crop and Livestock Innovation Centre in Mbire where they have brought their cattle for breed improvement and fattening supported under ZRBF ZVA.

ZVA has contributed significantly to reducing food insecurity from 65.4% in 2019 to 50.7% in 2020 with moderate and severe food insecurity. These achievements were because of significant strides registered in communities with smallholder farmers adopting agroecological practices that have helped increase yield, with households having 83% higher yields in sorghum compared to provincial averages. The project introduced the sustainable dipping model as a response to a plethora of livestock-related diseases and non-compliance to dipping protocols where households contribute to the purchase of acaricides and a total of US\$36 276 was raised resulting in the purchase of 210.45kg and 1424.4litres of acaricides. Coupled with improved water supply through rehabilitation and establishment of water points, cattle dipping sessions have improved leading to a reduction in heartwater by 67% and anaplasmosis by 74% by June 2021, and thereby reducing livestock mortalities. Youths have been supported with hay bailing machines and bush mills. They have managed to raise

a total of US\$15 251 through the provision of services to the communities. All these gains are protected by improvements in transformative capacities of communities through development of Ward Resilience Plans and improvements in district by-laws that place communities ready to respond to any impending shocks and stresses.



Mrs. S Gondwe Chairperson of the Zlybapota Goat breeding group in Ziyakamama Village, Ward 21 of Binga supported under ZRBF-ZVA

LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A VIEW FROM THE LRPS



drinking water through the provision of eight solarised and reticulated boreholes. Nutrition Gardens were also established at each solarised water point and this has resulted in improved nutrition at household level. In Saunyama LRP, Nyabombwe footbridge (above) was constructed in partnership with Nyanga Rural District Council (RDC), and this has improved access to education to children who are now able to attend school. At the same time, the risk of children drowning as they attempt to cross the flooded river has been reduced.

The nine local rights programmes (LRPs, which are AAZ long term operational areas) have in the past year implemented some emergency activities in response to COVID-19. The activities include the PPEs which were supplied to all the 180 schools located in the LRPs covering Makoni, Nyanga, Hwedza, Nkayi and Binga, targeting 7 200 children on Child Sponsorship. The provision of PPEs and awareness-raising resulted in the reduction of COVID-19 infection among children. The same schools were provided with handwashing facilities. Communities in the LRPs now have access to clean and safe



Rural Women Assembly (RWA) members from Dakamela in Nkayi LRP made detergents to help fight COVID-19 as part of the campaign to push government to provide adequate PPEs in public spaces

The activities include the PPEs which were supplied to all the



180

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7 200

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ZIMBABWE AGRICULTURAL GROWTH PROGRAMME

STRENGTHENING AND UPGRADING SMALL HOLDER LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN GOAT AND PORK VALUE CHAINS

The Value Chain Alliance for Livestock Upgrading and Empowerment (VALUE) project under the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Programme is one of AAZ's projects being implemented in 20 districts, broken down as 12 for the goat value chain and eight for the pork value chain. These projects are spread out

across various provinces namely Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East and Manicaland.

The project is targeting to directly impact the economic viability of 11 000 farmers in the 20 districts (10 000 under goat and 1000 under pork) by addressing system-level constraints and Improving production, organisational efficiencies, and market competitiveness of small and medium-scale producers.

The project is targeting to directly impact the economic viability of

11 000 farmers in the **20** districts

10 000 under goat and **1000** under pork

GOAT VALUE CHAIN INTERVENTIONS

The VALUE project established 12 goat improvement centres (GIC) which are offering animal health, animal nutrition, breed improvement, marketing, and capacity building services. The centres are commercially run by goat producer business associations – which are organisations of small and medium goat producers formed under the project. VALUE has contributed significantly to improvement in animal health at the centres with an average of 247 goats being dipped monthly at each centre.



Loveness Tonhedzai from Chipinge supported under goat interventions

To date, 4164 goats have been vaccinated at the centres and over 1000 local breeds does have been crossed with exotic bucks to improve the carcass weight of the slaughter stock.

The Rushinga GIC has so far sold 3 699kgs of goat meat through the direct marketing model being championed by the project. Across the 12 goat improvement Centres (GICs) direct marketing activities have so far generated US\$11,499.



We are grateful for the support rendered by the VALUE project and the EU in constructing this centre which has addressed various challenges we were facing in the district. We are now dipping our goats, accessing veterinary drugs, growing fodder crops, and selling our goats collectively and directly to consumers, this has increased our profit margins by at least USD3 per goat,

Regis Kasako,
the Rushinga GIC Business Development Officer.

PORK VALUE CHAIN INTERVENTIONS

Under the pork value chain, the project has supported farmers through capacity development of syndicates, trainings and extension, superior genetics supply, learning and information exchange, lowering feed cost among other initiatives. The establishment of Mashonaland East and West Pig Production Business Syndicates has been one such great success which assisted in stimulating increased production, productivity, and profitability of pig production business through offering diverse value chain support services to both members and non-members. To date, some of the key services being offered include truck hiring to reduce transaction and transportation cost, superior genetics supply to increase production efficiency and effectiveness, bulk input purchase to reduce production costs, on farm feed formulation to



Reward Mazorodze one of the farmers supported under the ZAGP VALUE project

reduce the cost of feed among others. The on-farm feed formulation initiatives have assisted farmers in saving more than US\$7 per bag of feed as they are now buying or producing own feed material for on-farm feed formulation than buying commercial straight feeds.

On improved genetics, for example, production from the 244 top-quality genetics imported from South Africa has been started and farmers already benefiting from grandparent stock and F1 progeny. To date, 468 pigs in the form of weaners, breeding gilts, boars and over 4369 doses of semen have been sold as at end of October 2021 in the Mashonaland East and West production corridors. For small holder farmers, this is a real game changer as witnessed by Mr. Magwengwe, Marondera, ward 1 small to medium farmer who purchased

4 first generation (F1) gilts from the project. In his own words, Mr Magwengwe said:



The performance by the superior genetics is very exciting, what I have seen is a great promising start in terms of born alive which is more than 14 piglets for now, far higher than less than 12 recorded from inferior breeds. Despite being reasonably priced when compared to other commercial prices, there is value for money. I really want to encourage other farmers to buy the improved breeds as this is a game changer.

YOUTHS IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

AAZ is prioritising youth leadership in humanitarian response by providing strategic support and capacity for young people to actively participate in humanitarian response. Young people continue to be marginalized and highly affected during humanitarian crises. Young people are uniquely placed to play a valuable and necessary role in citizen-led accountability initiatives and have been put in the driving seat for accountability, when responding to humanitarian crises.

On the 15th of January 2021, the City of Mutare issued a press release committing to carry out emergency works, drainage construction and opening (including removing silt and opening

blocked culverts), following the flash floods that destroyed infrastructure in Mutare urban. This was after the media was awash with documentation of complaints on poor service delivery, from Activista Zimbabwe members, a movement supported by AAZ. This demand for action by young people for the City Council to carry out emergency works to improve the drainage systems in these areas was to remind local authorities that humanitarian crises are not just a mere disaster but a service delivery issue.

Over and above holding duty bearers to account, Activista members have also used their skills and professions in responding to the Cyclone Idai disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic. The active involvement of the young people in humanitarian action also involved mobilising material and financial aid for Cyclone

Idai survivors during the Cyclone Idai response, producing and distributing face masks and sanitisers, training other young people and women to produce detergents to use for handwashing, and offering paraprofessional




legal services for GBV during the COVID-19 pandemic. Youths have also used online campaigns such as podcasts (as in the above picture) to advocate for gender-responsive public services in the face of COVID-19).



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