

DECEMBER 2023 MONTHLY UPDATE REPORT (12) FOR UMGUZA, ZIMBABWE

PROMOTION OF CLIMATE RESILIENT LIFESTYLES AMONG RURAL
FAMILIES IN UMGUZA DISTRICT OF ZIMBABWE



Implementing Month No: 12

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NHAKA AFRIKAN WORLDVIEW TRUST (NAWT) – MA 305/2007

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Thursday, 4, January, 2024

Joint Management Committee (JMC)

Att. Holger Jacobsen and Team

Seniors without Borders

(Promotion of Climate Resilient Lifestyles Among Rural Families in Umguza District of Zimbabwe

For Umguza District Project, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe)

Denmark

Dear Holger and Team

DECEMBER 2023 MONTHLY REPORT FOR PROMOTION OF CLIMATE RESILIENT LIFESTYLES AMONG RURAL FAMILIES IN UMGUZA DISTRICT OF ZIMBABWE– PROCUREMENT OF SEEDS AND LAND PREPARATION.

The month of November focused on different activities:

1. Distribution of seeds
2. Training on seed planting of the following varieties:
 - 2.1. Maize
 - 2.2. Sorghum
 - 2.3. Millet
 - 2.4. Butternut
 - 2.5. Tomato
3. Tank and Solar distribution and installation at George Silundika

We are grateful for the rains that enabled the farmers to do the planting.

We are so hopeful that the rains will continue so that the seeds which have germinated can thrive.

Yours Sincerely



Bob I M Dzere

Country Director

PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No	ITEM	DETAILS			
1.	NAME OF PROJECT	PROMOTION OF CLIMATE RESILIENT LIFESTYLES AMONG RURAL FAMILIES IN UMGUZA DISTRICT OF ZIMBABWE			
2.	FUNDING PARTNER	The Civil Society Fund (CISU)			
3.	RESPONSIBLE PARTNER	Seniors without Borders Denmark			
4.	CONTACT PERSON	Holger Jacobsen: ejacobsen.holger@gmail.com			
5.	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	Nhaka Afrikan Worldview Trust			
6.	CONTACT PERSON	Dzere Bob I M: bobnawt@gmail.com			
7.	JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (7 members)	Seniors without Borders		Nhaka Afrikan Worldview Trust	
		1.Holger Jacobsen		1.Bob I M Dzere	
		2.Anna Hempel		2.Knowledge Mafukidze	
		3.Bodil Nydal		3.Reginald Sithole	
		4.Britta Junge			
8.	PROJECT LIFE	START	01.01.2023	END	30.06.2024
9.	PROJECT REF: NO Journalnummer:				
10.	LOCATION	COUNTRY	Zimbabwe	PROVINCE	Matabeleland North
		DISTRICT	Umguza	WARDS	14
11.	PROJECT SUMMARY one page	<p>Intervention Title: Promotion of climate-resilient lifestyles among rural families in Umguza district of Zimbabwe</p> <p>The livelihoods of rural households in Zimbabwe continue to be affected by both systemic and idiosyncratic shocks, which include, but are not limited to, systemic shocks such as climatic shocks (drought and prolonged mid-season dry spells, floods, water logging, crop and livestock pests, hailstorms), and economic shocks, notable sharp changes of cereals and livestock prices. This has resulted in increased vulnerability and fragility in rural households, especially in drought-prone regions such as Umguza district (in Matabeleland, Zimbabwe) where most of the people rely on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods. The worsening agricultural conditions, which are an effect of climate change, have contributed to and worsened situations of food insecurity, malnourishment, and undernourishment. Many smallholder families live in a sustained state of hunger, and as of January 2023, 5,8 million people of the 15 million population need food aid.</p> <p>Nhaka Afrikan Worldview Trust (NAWT) in collaboration with Senior without Borders (SwB), will be undertaking an 18-month intervention that will contribute towards improved resilience of vulnerable and food-insecure populations in the disaster-prone Umguza district. The project is targeting 250 vulnerable smallholder farming households in ward 14 (60% female), Umguza district, increasing their capacity to effectively cope, adapt to and recover from climatic shocks and stresses. This will be achieved through three main areas:</p>			

	<p>a) Increasing households' capacities in sustainable agricultural production practices and climate-smart technologies. The target households will be reached using a training of trainers approach using community-trained volunteers. In addition, they will also be trained at an established Climate Change Adaptive Resource Centre (CCARC) which will be equipped with solar-powered boreholes and demo gardens. The project will procure and promote traditional grains (sorghum, millet, finger millet) which are drought tolerant.</p> <p>b) Secondly, the project will enhance farmers' institutional capacities for comprehensive climate change adaptation planning. This will see the facilitation of farmer groups with capacitated leadership structures where women will also occupy decision-making positions.</p> <p>c) Thirdly the project will enhance climate change knowledge dissemination. This will see the documentation and sharing of best practices, carrying out of climate change awareness and adaption actions among stakeholders and households. Knowledge-sharing sessions will be organized where target households will showcase their work to the outside world.</p> <p>As a result of the intervention, it is anticipated that 70% of the households will be applying climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies in their fields; all of them will be using climate information to implement risk-reducing actions thereby improving their resilience to climate change shocks; 60% will be participating in collective input and output marketing actions; and more importantly, they will be a 10% increase in family income.</p>
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Summary for December Report

The report is a summary of activities undertaken in the month of December 2023 in Umguza ward 14 where the project is being implemented. The main activities done were planting of crops at the demonstration plot at George Silundika High School attended by all volunteers and school masters, distribution of seed inputs to the volunteers who went on to share with their Family Farmer Learning Group (FFLGs) members for planting, upgrading of borehole at George Silundika High School for irrigating the demonstration plot and routine monitoring of infield water harvesting technologies and permagardens. A meeting with Nyokeni Village community members was also done to assess challenges being faced at their garden with intention of seeing how the project will assist. The project was also invited by the district to attend an annual budget planning meeting which the Field staff attended. On operation, the project procured a motorcycle for field staff movement in the villages.

Detailed activities

1. Stakeholder meetings

On the 4th to the 6th of December 2023 the programs department represented by Nonhlahla and Mildred attended the end of year budget review and planning hosted by Umguza rural district council. All stakeholders attended the meeting and the project had a chance to present yearly achievements, best practices and challenges to other stakeholders. The main output of the meeting was development of a district strategic plan for the next year 2024 which also incorporated Umguza project best practices especially the infield water harvesting and permagarden concepts which are relatively new to some of the stakeholders. The meeting was followed by another on the 7th, at Umguza Rural District board room. The agenda of the meeting was to find ways to reduce the spread of HIV in Umguza district.

2. Inputs distribution

The project procured and distributed five main crop seed varieties, that is 3 cereal crops all short-seasoned varieties in light of rain-water scarcity in the area and two for horticulture that is tomatoes and butternuts. Two of the cereals, sorghum and millet are traditional crops which do well in drought prone areas. The horticulture seed varieties will help to improve dietary diversity for the families. Each volunteer distributed seeds to the members of their FFLG. George Silundika where the project has established a farmers' training centre also benefited from the seed inputs and this will benefit over 400 students who are also part of the project training program.

3. Training of trainers (Volunteers) on conservation agriculture

A practical training of trainers (Volunteers) on planting of different crop varieties using different conservation techniques was done during the month at George Silundika High School. The training was facilitated by the Program Manager in collaboration with local AAS officer Miss Sikhosana. Seeds planted were maize, sorghum, millet and butternut.

Five plots were demarcated as follows:

Plot 1: Maize seed planted on pfumvudza/intwasa prepared field. Pfumvudza/intwasa is a Zimbabwe government promoted farming concept, based on conservation agriculture principles and involves the utilization of small pieces of land and applying the correct agronomic practices for higher returns. Spacing of 75cm from one planting basin to another and 60cm inter-row is used. Fourteen rows were planted with maize.

Plot 2: Maize seed was inoculated before planting on pfumvudza/intwasa prepared field. The practice of inoculating the maize seed before planting is to make sure that there is enough of the correct type of bacteria present in the soil so that a successful legume-bacterial symbiosis is established. Another fourteen rows were planted.

Plot 3&4: Sorghum and millet seed was planted on interlocking planting basins. Interlocking planting basins are an improvement of the pfumvudza/intwasa planting basins to maximize rainwater use efficiency. Fourteen lines of millet and twenty two lines of sorghum were planted.

Plot 5: Butternut on normal pfumvudza/intwasa planting basins. Six lines were planted (pictures 5-6).

Germination at the plot has already started and is estimated at 90%.

Volunteers have already started training their Family Farmer Learning Groups (FFLGs) using their demonstration plots in the villages. All villages main demo plots per group have already planted and assessment for germination rate is yet to be reported

4. Upgrading of water pumping system for the demonstration plot at George Silundika

The project provided two solar panels and 5000 liter water tank to George Silundika High School to upgrade the water system at the school. The upgrading of the water system will help in irrigating the demonstration plot and thus ensure successful crop production.

5. Meeting with Nyokeni farming households

The project staff held a meeting with Nyokeni farming households to find a way of reviving their irrigation scheme which is already fenced by branches and has a cement-constructed water tank and borehole. The irrigation facility is only functional during the rainy season as the solar panels used to pump water from a borehole were stolen. Three panels are required and the project will supply one together with the pumping system. However before this is done the villagers were then requested to contribute towards purchase of other two solar panels and put in place adequate security measures and maintenance fund to make sure they will not be stolen again. The villagers agreed to the proposal and each household will contribute US\$13. There are 28 households and a

total of US\$364 will be raised, \$240 will go towards purchase while the remainder will be used as security and maintenance fund. To grow the fund, the villagers will establish a village savings and lending club where people will borrow the money and return at an agreed interest rate.

6. Routine Monitoring exercise

The project staff also conducted routine monitoring to all the volunteers demonstration sites and other farming households to assess on uptake of climate smart agriculture practices. The routine monitoring visit showed that there is improved uptake of infield water harvesting structures and permagardens. Out of the 3 villages 16 dead level contours have been dug out, (Imvana Village with 10, Bafford Village with 4, Alicedale Village with 2). We also noted thriving permagardens with people having green vegetables despite the hot weather in Umguza.

7. Motorcycle procurement

A 'project motorcycle' was procured during the month. This will go a long way in addressing mobility challenges for the field staff, one of the main challenges which was also noted during the mid-term project evaluation.

Challenges Faced

- Rainfalls remain erratic.

Plan for January 2024

ACTIVITY	BY WHO
Training of project villagers and agricultural school clubs theoretical and practically on Intwasa	Volunteers, Field staff
Monitoring and evaluation	Volunteers, Field staff
Cultivation and weeding on the main demo plot	Volunteers, Field staff

Photo Gallery

Below are pictures taken to illustrate progress in the project

One Motorbike was purchased for use by the Project Officer Nonhlahla Ndlovu in Umguza





All Stakeholder budget meeting

Seed distribution to volunteers



Pictures above



Pictures above

Below: Pictures 4-5: some of the pictures during the training of trainers planting session. In blue t-shirt is the AAS officer Miss Sikhosana while in orange is one of the volunteer.



Pictures above



Pictures above

Inputs Distribution List							
Name of FFLG							
Name of Volunteer		B. TSHABANGU					
Village		NIVANA					
		Ward					
		14					
Name	ID	Maize K2 PG551	Qty	Sorghu m	Qty	Millet Zadza	Qty
B. TSHABANGU	08-423671V4	11	3KG	11	1KG	11	1KG
J. SIGAUKE	08-44602053	11	3KG	11	1KG	11	1KG
S. NDERELE	21-18682053	11	3KG	11	1KG	11	1KG
N. NALONU	22-079831473	11	3KG	11	1KG	11	1KG
T. NCUBE	24-007868484	11	3KG	11	1KG	11	1KG
P. SIGANDA	19-0373497A	11	3KG	11	1KG	11	1KG
K. SIGANDA	58-191838158	11	3KG	11	1KG	11	1KG

Above is an example of the Seed Distribution Register signed and dated by each NAWT ToT Volunteer



Above: Project staff, Agricultural Advisory Services (AAS} (formerly AGRITEX Officer) Zanele Sikhosana and George Silundika Headmaster standing before the water tank donated by the project.



Observations during the routine monitoring exercise. Mr Tshabangu (one of the volunteers) & wife in a thriving permagarden. Households are already benefiting from the permagarden concept.





Above: Dead level contours at the demonstration field led by Mr Mathuthu (one of the volunteers)





Nyokeni villagers and Nawt project staff in a meeting discussing on the establishment of a fund for the procurement of a solar system to aid the already existing borehole equipment.



Above is George Silundika CEO and Nawt Project Manager inspecting the inoculated Maize seed before planting. Below the volunteers putting the land preparation theory into practice.



Transfer of the water tank and 3 solar panels to George Silundika from Nhemachena's farm.



This serves to confirm that Nhaka Afrikan Worldview Trust on this day: 13/1
transferred the following assets or values (for use and safe custody) to George

1. Water tank of the following description:

1.1. Capacity: 5000 litres

1.2. Value: \$380-⁰⁰ usd

1.3. Condition / current state (new or old) NEW

1.4. Serial no:

1.5. Colour: GREY

1.6. Manufacturer: Drip Tech

2. Solar panels of the following descriptions:

2.1 Capacity or size: 370w

2.2 Value: \$160 x 3 = \$480-⁰⁰ usd

2.3 Condition / current state (new or old) NEW

2.4. Serial/IBAN no: JH82001402746210824
JH82001402746210820 / JH8200140

2.5. Colour: BLACK + WHITE

2.6. Manufacturer: SUPPLIER: FRECON SOLAR PVT LTD

Conditions:

George Silundika High School shall install the equipment at the school for the use of GSHS together with Nhaka Afrikan Worldview Trust shall use the assets in the form of training for the communities surrounding the school as they are trained in climate adaptation projects. GSHS shall make sure there is total security around the assets and keep daily records showing the use of the assets.

Transfer form signed between Nawt and George Silundika.

Abbreviations:

Common Abbreviations in this Project / Program

No	Abbreviation	Meaning
1.	JMC	Joint Management Committee (comprised of 7 members)
2.	NEC	National Executive Committee (NAWT)
3.	FFLG	Family Farmer Learning Group
4.	PMEC	Programs Management Executive Committee
5.	PMC	Programs Management Committee
6.	CISU	Civil Society in Development
7.	SUG/ SwB	Seniors without Borders
8.	NAWT	Nhaka Afrikan Worldview Trust
9.	DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
10	CVC	Corona Virus Challenge
11	COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease of 2019
12	PM	Program Manager
13	PA	Program Accountant
14	PAss	Projects Assistant
15	PC	Program Coordinator
16	PD	Programs Director
17	FC	Field Coordinator
18	CD	Country Director
19	FU	Farmers Units
20	AGRITEX	Agriculture Extension Officer
21	AAS	Agricultural Advisory Services (formerly AGRITEX).
22	SRRC	Sekwi Rural Resources Centre