



DAPP Zimbabwe

Internal Savings and Lending Clubs



At the 25th session of the AU summit, themed "Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063 held in South Africa in 2015, Zimbabwe along with other member States discussed and committed to women's access to health; pushing forward women's economic empowerment; enhancing the Agenda on Women Peace and Security; enhancing women's participation in governance; enhancing women and girls' access to education, health, science and technology."

In line with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development, DAPP works to strengthen the capacity of rural women, providing them with skills in entrepreneurship and business management and giving them greater opportunity to access financial resources and markets.

ISAL – a self driven program

In 2014, DAPP started the Internal Savings and Lending Program and has so far established 197 Savings Clubs in Rushinga, Mutasa and Nyanga districts.

The Savings Clubs are a self-funding micro-finance model. Basically, Savings Clubs consist of 10 to 15 members, but can also involve more members, who agree to meet once every month to save small amounts of money. Once the members have saved enough, they start lending to themselves.

Savings Clubs can be started by anyone who has a passion for it. Women develop their own constitution which guides them in how to control the money.

DAPP has been working to introduce this concept to rural communities and it has been heartily welcomed by poor households, especially women.

The Savings Clubs has given the women more influence on how to use family income to improve the welfare of the family.



Benefits of the ISAL program

The Savings Clubs have a multiple effect on the lives of the families:

- Improved women's economic empowerment
- Increased household income and economic activities
- Increased household expenditure on essential social services
- Increased household access to cash assets and disposable income
- Increased access to business capital for rural micro-enterprise activities
- Improved household resilience to external shock such as food insecurity



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Illustrations of results from Child Aid



Child Aid Mutasa

Child Aid Mutasa/Nyanga is aimed at improving the lives of the 4,800 families through engagement in income generating and livelihood projects. The project managed to establish 96 Internal Savings and Lending (ISALs) with membership of 50 households per club. The club members are contributing an average of between \$5-\$10 per month which they borrow to meet their daily cash needs and return with agreed interest.

The groups operations are guided by Group Constitutions that are stamped by the village heads and ward councillors to guard against defaulting by members. The major impact of these ISALs clubs is their contribution to the improvement in sanitation facilities in the districts. Households borrow money to construct latrines and this accounted to 98% of all the completed household latrines that is 314 of the constructed 320 latrines. Some are even buying water storage containers which protect water from contamination.

All in all, it is prudent and plausible to conclude that the introduction of ISALs greatly improved household income.



Child Aid Rushinga

Families in Rushinga benefited from training that was offered by Child Aid Rushinga in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development, which covered the process of establishing and maintaining of internal saving and lending schemes. Following the training, 12 groups were formed in addition to 18 that were already in existence with a total membership of 416 (32 male and 384 female). The training benefited existing and a new group in documentation which was the groups' weakest points in ISAL management. 119 families benefited from the lending services of the different ISALs and have established or strengthened some livelihoods projects which include flea markets, hair salons, broiler productions and retail shops, where they are getting money to support their families and servicing their accounts. Some of the best examples are 3 families that are constructing residential houses and all the 119 ISAL members secured adequate agriculture inputs for the 2015/16 farming season.

"I cannot enumerate all the benefits of ISAL but it goes without doubt that peoples' lives have changed for the better. Please keep on encouraging our people that together we can make it and that nothing is impossible to good hearts."

Chigango Willard [Beneficiary of ISAL]

Organizational Background.

Development Aid from People to People is a NGO registered in Zimbabwe with the Ministry of Labour and Social Services in 1980. The registration number is W0/22/80.

DAPP Zimbabwe is operating in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Manicaland, Harare and Masvingo Provinces. DAPP Zimbabwe is part of the international Humana People to People Movement. The organization is working in the areas of education and training, health, water and sanitation, community development and agriculture.

DAPP Zimbabwe's funding partners are among others: USAID, DFID, EU, UNICEF, foundations, international and local organizations and business.