



# DAPP ZIMBABWE

## BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1

### The current Zimbabwean situation

Zimbabwe continues to face numerous macro-economic challenges, rising inflation climate shocks and droughts that have a ripple effect on food security, education, health service delivery and community development. Coupled with the impacts of COVID-19, the vulnerability of the majority of the population has worsened.

Despite these constraints, DAPP Zimbabwe with support from its financial and technical partners has continued complementing government efforts in tackling challenges facing vulnerable groups through implementing innovative community-led projects that empower people to improve their well-being.

DAPP Zimbabwe understands that an empowered community is a strong community; therefore it supports families through various initiatives in agriculture, health, education, community development and emergencies.

DAPP Zimbabwe empowers vulnerable rural smallholder farmers through provision of training, capacity building and technical support on improved climate smart agriculture production practices working closely with AGRITEX and other government line Ministries including the private sector.

Community Development remains at the center of our efforts to care for children and vulnerable members of the community such as women, children and people with disabilities. They continue to be trained and empowered to be change agents and advocates for their own rights, demanding for services and holding duty bearers to account.

In our health initiatives focus is on fighting HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, COVID-19 and other communicable and non-communicable diseases. We believe that together we can bring an end to the major public health threats affecting humanity.

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## AGRICULTURE

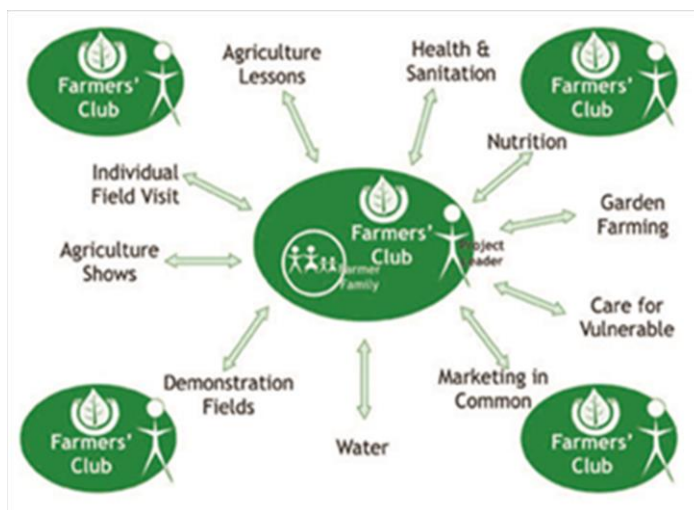
Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) states that, "Climate change is the biggest threat to humanity today" and this is at a time when many parts of the world are already experiencing environmental degradation, water shortages, poverty, hunger and inequality. Zimbabwe's climate change strategy seeks to build both ecosystem and agriculture based livelihoods resilience through the use of climate smart agriculture to promote adaptation.

In the wake of rising food prices and the Covid-19 induced food shortages, there has been increased emphasis on enhancing and building local food systems. In line with the government's climate change agenda, DAPP Zimbabwe places emphasis on food production and improving livelihoods, food and nutrition, and income security in Zimbabwe through mobilizing farmers to fight the impacts of climate change in their groups (Farmers' Clubs).



### FARMERS' CLUBS PROGRAM

DAPP Zimbabwe's Farmers' Clubs Program is a small-holder agriculture intervention which has three projects namely; Farmers' Clubs Mutasa, Farmers' Clubs Gutu and Farmers' Clubs Masvingo Rural. The projects promoted the productive capacity of smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods through agriculture. The projects promote group and individual efforts in agriculture production for 3,000 registered farmers who are organised into 60 clubs with an average of 50 members each.





### Farmers' Clubs Masvingo Rural

The Farmers' Clubs Masvingo Rural project adopted the use of digital extension through sending messages, sharing ideas, how-to-demonstrations and even asking questions through the WhatsApp platform to beat the Covid 19 imposed movement restrictions. The 20 demonstration plots diversified from dominant maize production to embrace more drought tolerant small grains such as finger millet and protein rich legumes including groundnuts, sugar beans and cow peas to improve their usual cereal based diets. The government imposed lockdown periods affected field visits but the Farmers' Clubs successfully conducted one look and learn visit which promoted cross-pollination of ideas and influenced the adoption of small grains as a climate change adaptation strategy.



### Farmers' Clubs Gutu

The great improvement in production and productivity under Farmers' Clubs Gutu owes to the promotion of pluralistic extension by AGRITEX, the private sector, DAPP and the Step-Up farmers. The project's promoted conservation agriculture (CA) matched well with the Government's Pfumvudza program which also promoted CA and the production of small grains. The collaboration between the project and government through AGRITEX increased the farmers' incentives for taking up conservation farming in the form of inputs resulting in improved crop yields. Farmers' Clubs Gutu maintained 20 club gardens and 20 model fields which were the learning ground for farmers supported by the project. 12 model fields were successful and the farmers harvested 10, 2 tons with a value of \$RTGS357, 000.00 (about US\$4,175). The secret of success lied in the constant farmer support visits which numbered to 742 individual farmers' visits from March to June supporting the farmers on areas like plant nutrition, scouting and pest and disease control among others.



### Farmers' Clubs Mutasa

Farmers' Clubs Mutasa is now running in to the 4th year, promoting resilience among rural farmers and ecosystems in response to climate change. To take advantage of synergies and improve household food, nutrition and income security the 1,000 smallholder farmers organized themselves into Farmers' clubs to promote farmer-to-farmer extension, experience and knowledge sharing in 20 group demonstration plots. The demonstration plots act as the farmer field school where lessons learnt are replicated in individual fields and gardens. Best practices in horticulture production among the predominantly subsistence farmers saw the group selling 1,345 kilograms of leafy vegetables, earning ZWL\$80,700 (about US\$943) even before the end of the horticulture season.





## From Communal to Commercial

DAPP has facilitated a shift from Communal to Commercial farming working with farmers in Guruve. The entrepreneurship driven farmers have since taken up piggery, cattle pen fattening, and fishery farming enterprises working in clubs of 50 farmers. 56 affiliated farmers trained in sustainable agriculture have since put 25 ha of maize under centre pivot water efficient irrigation system. Under dry land crop production 46 farmers practiced potholing on an average of 0, 5 to 1 h each under the Pfumvudza concept promoted in collaboration with government through AGRITEX. Farmers continued receiving practical training in climate smart agriculture with the expectation to transform mindsets to take farming as a business and adoption of improved farming practices.



The project has embraced digital extension and marketing where a total of 29 women were trained in digital marketing, empowering them with skills to market and sell their farm produce on digital business platforms. The women farmers were also linked to AGRO Dealers and the Zimbabwe Women Micro Finance Bank to access credit facilities. The women farmers have already initiated the process of negotiating loans to support income generating projects.



In line with diversification, 38ha winter wheat and 12ha horticultural produce have been added to 25 ha of maize in a move to earn more income from crop production as the farmers respond to new markets.





## HEALTH

### HOPE BINDURA

Zimbabwe is guided by the 95-95-95 targets in HIV prevention and treatment. The government underscores the need for precise geographical targeting of high-risk groups using micro-planning methods to better determine the geographical loci for targeted testing and prevention outreach activities. In line with the same agenda, in the first half of the year, DAPP through its HOPE Bindura project coordinated its efforts with 80 activists reaching 16,399 people through a variety of Health services, Outreach and Opinion forming activities using index partner testing strategy. The project also focused on reaching out to the youths with Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services towards promoting positive sexual behavior change.

### Health Services

HOPE Bindura referred 12,733 people for HIV counseling and testing at local health service providers including HOPE voluntary counseling and testing centre. 19 index partners received HIV testing through contact tracing. A total of 655 people were tested at the center. All HIV positive clients were organized into 179 TRIO groups for treatment adherence support.



The inclusive and 'leave-no-one-behind-mantra-driven', Girls Empowerment project, during the period under review, reached out to 353 adolescent girls and young women armed with health and hygiene lessons as well as HIV counseling and testing. The project's celebrated positive behavior adoption saw 56,301 condoms being distributed through the 75 established condom outlets.



### Outreach Activities

The community outreach programme, facilitated by Hope outreach officers together with the activists reached a total of 8,116 people with HIV information. Male circumcision was also promoted with a total of 121 boys/men being referred for voluntary medical male circumcision to their local clinics and the hospital. In response to the Anti-Natal Care campaign, 15 pregnant mothers were encouraged to go for registration and HIV testing. To promote livelihoods development, the project facilitated the formation of 4 groups of young mothers who were trained in sewing and Internal Savings and Lending to improve their household income.

1, 134 youth and children visited the Youth Friendly Corners to access services



### Opinion Forming Meetings

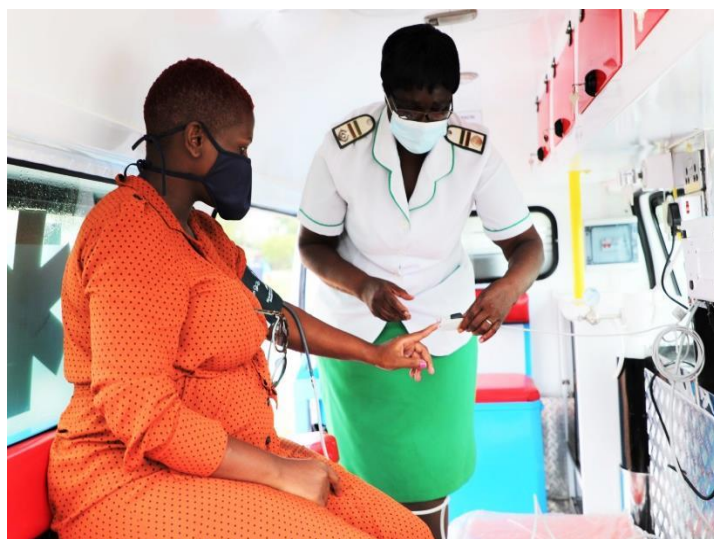
Through participatory engagement, Hope Bindura managed to conduct 5 opinion forming meetings to glean ideas and views on the rights of the girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, Gender based violence, Alcohol and drug abuse among other topics. The highly informative meetings were held under strict Covid-19 health guidelines and saw the attendance of Local leaders, Church leaders, Community Home Based Care givers, including in and out of school youths.



### Total Control of Tuberculosis (TC-TB)

The Total Control of Tuberculosis (TC TB) in Makoni is a community based project which works in support to the Ministry of Health and Child Care's initiatives to improve access to TB/HIV services. The project reached out to 25,820 people during the period under review.

The project adopted more robust approaches including targeted actions such as door to door screening focusing on high risk people who include contacts of TB clients, prisoners, diabetics, the old aged and people living with HIV/AIDS.



A total of 23 TB cases (14 co-infected) were identified and initiated on treatment. An effective anti-defaulting campaign dubbed TRIOs (Treatment Buddies) which has the responsibility monitoring treatment adherence was adopted. The TRIO comprises of the patient and two other close people from the same household.

The project formed 34 TRIOs (Treatment Buddies) to support the patients to avoid defaulting. As a way of supporting patients' livelihoods and consumption of nutritious food, the project distributed garden seeds to the TRIOs.



Field Officers continued to sensitize and encouraged community members to go for TB screening and HIV testing and if found positive, to start treatment early so that we achieve 'Total Control of the Disease'.





## Child Aid

DAPP fosters society's belief in the need to nurture and provide the best conditions for children and ensuring the best living conditions. True to that conviction, DAPP has supported a Child Aid in Zimbabwe program which has been in existence since 1993 with a mission to improve the living conditions of children ensuring that they develop to their full potential. The project works with the entire community to address a range of community development issues such as health and sanitation, income generation, education, district development, environmental awareness and greater opportunities for children.



## Child Aid Bindura/ Shamva

During the 1st half of 2021 the project managed to reach out to 2,000 families who were organised to take action in addressing food sustenance and children's health.

The project facilitated a participatory programme which saw the community members planting 12,161 trees and constructing 12 firewood saving stoves.



To boost household income the project revived 6 group gardens, maintained 500 gardens, facilitated the construction of 5 new fish ponds and the establishment of 28 internal savings and lending clubs. To promote community health, the project distributed 5,838 condoms, facilitated the installation of 250 tippy taps and construction of 120 refuse pits.

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