

# NEWSLETTER

## BUILDING COMMUNITY-LED RESILIENCE THROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ACTIONS IN MAKONI DISTRICT

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### TOP NEWS

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

The Building Community-led Resilience through Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Makoni District project under Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) in Zimbabwe started on the first of April 2023 ending 31st of November 2024. The people-centered project targeted 200 vulnerable small-scale farmers affected by Tuberculosis and HIV in Wards 12 and 16 of Makoni district. The project came about after a realization that most TB and HIV patients in these two wards are overburdened by household and health expenses. In addition to these problems, TB and HIV patients are expected to adhere to a nutritious balanced diet meal in order to stay healthy which is difficult given the current climatic conditions and ongoing drought. To ensure the project's success, DAPP received funding support from the Civil Society on Development (CISU) in Denmark through UFF-Humana a sister organization to DAPP.

Placing people at the core of their own production, the project promoted the Farmers' Clubs concept which culminated in the formation of four clubs with 50 members each. To build resilience to climate shocks, farmers started garden farming to produce nutritious food for family consumption and also create surplus for sale to raise income. Furthermore, the project facilitated farmers dialogues with local authorities, government ministries and the private sector resulting in the sharing of knowledge, technical skills, agricultural inputs and access to markets. As a result, farmers are benefitting from improved nutrition intake, increased income contributing to better family living conditions and the overall well-being of patients while receiving ART and TB treatment.





## A Visit from UFF-Humana

From April 28 to the first of May 2024, UFF-Humana Country Director Else Hanne from Denmark visited the Building Community-led Resilience through Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Makoni District project. The purpose of the visit was to monitor, evaluate and assist in the project operations. During her visit, Else Hanne interacted, received feedback and input from government line ministries, private and public partners and community members who collaborate with DAPP to ensure the project's success.

The tour gave Else Hanne the opportunity to dialogue directly with farmers and hear their testimonials giving her time to learn more about various productions, market linkages, garden upkeep, the benefits of the installed solar-powered boreholes for drip irrigation and how the project has changed farmers lives. Else Hanne became acquainted with the club life structure and how the clubs serve as platforms for meetings, mutual learning and collaborative problem-solving resulting in increased garden production and improved lifestyles.

Group garden members also shared how they are organized in Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) clubs, their monthly contribution, the guiding constitution and the financial literacy gained through participating in the clubs.

Overall, farmers presented all their diversified income-generating projects like beekeeping, fish and broiler productions. Farmers also presented various climate-smart practice of growing seasonal crop varieties, the application of organic manure and the use of natural pesticides to treat plants.



## PROJECT STAFF



From far left is Majecha Stailine Ruzvidzo the project organizer and second from left is Joseph Kondowe, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. Third from left is Tandiwe Kupenga, the Accounts Clerk and the last one at the far right is Tendai Nyanhongo, the Field Officer.



UFF-Humana Country Director Else Hanne meets DAPP Staff in the Building Community-led Resilience through Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Makoni District.

## Project Beneficiaries

Our goal is to strengthen the adaptation capacities of the 200 smallholder farmers to withstand and prevent the effects of climate change



# MEETING STAKEHOLDERS



At the district's town hall, numerous stakeholders took turns explaining how they are collaborating with DAPP to ensure that the project's aims and objectives are met.



## A visit to a local health facility

The project works closely with the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development to ensure the well-being and nutritional support of families burdened by TB or HIV. During a cluster meeting, the District Medical Officer for Makoni Dr Tendai Nyafesa discussed the project's impact highlighting how the activities within the project are therapeutic and empowering especially on patient's drug adherence, nutrition intake and recuperating.



District Medical Officer for Makoni Dr Tendai Nyafesa (standing) present about the Ministry of Health and Child Care Collaboration with DAPP

Through collaborated efforts, farmers strengthened their collective decision-making and market negotiations resulting in better market penetration. Of the four gardens, Chirunga has already signed a contract with two local supermarkets namely Panmart and TM Pick n Pay. The farmers now have a ready market with a fair price for their garden produces particularly green leafy vegetables, tomatoes, onions, butternuts and carrots. The linkage will go a long way in enhancing farmers revenue, resulting in stronger family economies.



UFF- Humana and DAPP Staff meets Pick N Pay Fruit and Veg Custom Care Manager Kapofu (The lady in all black)



Uff-Humana and DAPP staff meets Panmart Branch Manager Chikwasha (the gentleman in all green)

Uff-Humana Country Director Else Hanne also visited Tandi Clinic in ward 12, where the Sister in Charge Farisai Murungu commended the project's intervention on the nutrition aspect and drug adherence support to TB and HIV patients for the effectiveness of treatment and overall health outcomes.



# COMMUNITY-GARDENS

To promote an all-year garden production, four solar-powered boreholes for drip irrigation were installed to boost production and income generation. Each garden has 50 members with each individual having an average of 14 (1 by 6 meters) vegetable beds. The nutrition gardens were fenced, gated and drip irrigation pipes lined in each bed.

With the assistance of Agricultural Extension Services, farmers are producing fresh and seasonal crops for consumption and income year-round. To ensure the group garden's upkeep, the members formulated a governing constitution and established a committee led by a chairperson chosen through consensus.



To generate more money, farmers in October installed 40 beehives of which more than 14 of the hives have already been colonized. The farmers are expecting to start harvesting and extracting honey for sale in August.



To diversify sources of income, farmers ventured into broiler chicken production with each group garden starting with 100 broilers, feeds and vaccines. From the first batch, all of the gardens sold their chickens for USD 6 and the proceeds were used to buy another batch of broilers. To date, all the group gardens are in their fourth batch. Additionally, some individual farmers have started raising their own broilers for sale while taking lessons from the group production.



Farmers received seeds from the project for their group gardens leading to improved nutrition for TB and HIV patients. Currently, farmers are growing a variety of leaf, root, and fruit vegetables, such as tomatoes, spinach, carrots and onions.



Through the project, farmers in the month of October constructed four fishponds, one for each garden measuring 10x10mx1.5. For a start in November, each pond was stocked with 1500 fishlings and all the gardens are expecting to start harvesting in June for sale.



To raise awareness about the project, named billboards were strategically placed in each group garden. Safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene are crucial to human health and well-being and to promote that in the gardens, restrooms and water taps were installed. Lastly, security is a major concern, so individual male members of each group garden agreed to take turns to protect the gardens at night.



One of the garden's toilet

Water tap installed in the garden