



HUMANITARIAN SERVICES AND DIAKONIA



MARCH 2024

ZCC hosts the Canadian Government and Canadian Food Grains Bank in Gutu

On the 3rd of March 2024 the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) hosted the Canadian Government and Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) monitoring visit in Gutu district. The purpose of the visit was to assess the impact of the Humanitarian Early Recovery and Development (HERD) program and draw key lessons on how the different strategies have been working well or could be improved. During the visit the stakeholders had an opportunity to share feedback on how the HERD project was implemented, its successes and areas that need improvement. The project participants across all projects components which include, Conservation Agriculture (CA), Income Savings and Landings (ISALs), Food for Assets (FFA), In kind food distributions and gender had the time to share on what went well, what did not go well and what needs to be done better. The monitoring support visit was conducted jointly with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund and Tsuru Trust (other partners of the Canadian government and CFGB), and the government stakeholders from Gutu district. Kerry Max the Deputy Director for Partnering for Climate Change Canada; Jacqueline Koster the Programs Director from the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund; and Frew Beriso Eyamo the Africa Lead for CFGB Nature Plus program appreciated the efforts by project beneficiaries, the government and ZCC in building community resilience and improving food security.



Project participants from ward 2 Gutu, Canadian Government and CFGB representatives during the monitoring visit at Chigubune business centre ward 2 Gutu

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Mr Tichaona Chimombe (Project beneficiary) demonstrating the principles of conservation agriculture.



ZCC celebrates the women's month at the Greater Harare Mubatanidzwa in Norton

The ZCC celebrated the Women's month at the Greater Harare Mubatanidzwa day in Norton at the Anglican Church where over 1500 women from the ZCC member churches from across the Harare province convened for the commemorate the women's month. The purpose of the gathering was to the milestones that have been done in regards to women empowerment, acknowledge the challenges along and to proffer solutions moving forward. The celebrations were graced by guest speaker from the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services Chaplin Phiri who shared the word from Galatians 5v7 encouraging women to hold fast onto their faith and know that God will come through for them throughout all circumstances they may face in life. After the workshop the Population Services Zimbabwe (PSZ) provided sexual reproductive health services to ensure women have equal rights in deciding freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights. The celebrations also provided women a platform to pray, share experiences and learn from each other. It was a day filled with jubilation and excitement.



ZCC Women Ecumenical Fellowships (WEFs) gathering for the celebration of the women's month at Norton Anglican Church.

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Partner monitoring and support visit in Mwenezi and Zvishavane.

On 5th and 6th of March the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) accompanied the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Felm) for a field monitoring and support visit in Mwenezi and Zvishavane districts where the partner is supporting 600 farmers through scaling up livelihoods and building resilience. This visit, provided the partner an opportunity to gather feedback from project beneficiaries and government stakeholders on the impacts of the program. A tour was conducted in agricultural fields and at community assets established which include Chise dip tank in Mwenezi and Makwasha nutritional garden in Zvishavane where the project beneficiaries had an opportunity to demonstrate the positive impacts brought by the program. After the tour the program beneficiaries and district stakeholders expressed gratitude to the ZCC and Felm for their immense contribution towards improving the livelihoods, food security, and nutrition of vulnerable farmers.



Lead farmer explaining to the ZCC and Felm on how the conservation agriculture program helped him to achieve improved harvests.



Government stakeholders, ZCC and Felm during the engagement meeting at the DDCs office in Mwenezi district.



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Chise Diptank in Mwenezi which was rehabilitated with support from Felm.

Partner visit to Tongogara refugee settlement in Chipinge

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and Act for Peace visited Tongogara Refugee Settlement in Chipinge to gain insights into the living conditions and challenges faced by persons of concern. During the visit, the team engaged with the Settlement Administrator who provided an overview of the settlement and shed light on the various challenges faced by the community.

In addition, the partner had an opportunity to tour several economic empowerment interventions launched by the ZCC at Chipinge vocational center and in the community in an effort to enhance self-sufficiency and build resilience. The partner also had the privilege to interact with ZCC Peace Champions and Youth Dialogue Champions who are actively involved in promoting peace and dialogues within the settlement. This visit enabled the partner to appreciate the efforts by the ZCC in TRC and identify potential areas of collaboration aligned to their strategic priorities for future programming.



ZCC Director for Humanitarian Services and Diakonia Mrs M.T. Dendere with a project beneficiary involved in the goat production project.

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ZCC Staff and AFP representative with the Tongogara Refugee Camp Administrator

Amplifying the voices of the interfaith leaders on sexual reproductive health in Bulilima, Gwanda and Mwenezi districts

In a bid to increase the voices of the interfaith leaders on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) in partnership with Christian Aid, Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Small Medium Enterprise Development organized Training of Trainers workshops on Sexual Reproductive Health targeting 300 interfaith leaders and 66 healthcare workers in Bulilima, Gwanda and Mwenezi districts. During the workshops the interfaith leaders from various denominations were capacitated on family planning, adolescence sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene and gender based violence. Through these capacity building exercises the religious leaders are expected to address the religious barriers which hinder access to SRH services within their religious circles and empower their congregants to exercise their SRH rights. In addition, the Sexual Reproductive Health champions will be responsible for promoting the adoption of safer sexual and reproductive health practices and menstrual health and hygiene education with their communities as well.



The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) in partnership with Christian Aid, Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Ministry of Women Affairs conducted a Training of Trainers workshops on Sexual Reproductive Health targeting interfaith leaders and healthcare workers in Gwanda district.



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Capacitating inter faith leaders to take a leading role in the fight against cholera.

The ZCC has continued to leverage on its interfaith network across Zimbabwe to raise awareness and improve knowledge, attitudes, and practices among inter-religious groups on epidemics affecting communities. In an effort to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with the outbreak of cholera in and around Harare, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) with support from Save the Children International (SCI) and the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) hosted a cholera sensitization meeting in Chitungwiza at Utano Center on the 27th of March. The sensitization meeting was attended by 34 interfaith leaders (18 Male: 16 Female) from various religious groups namely Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association (ZINATHA), Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs in Zimbabwe (SCIAZ), Union for the Development of Apostolic Churches (UDACIZA), Dare Re Mweya, and ZCC member churches. During the exercise the inter religious leaders were capacitated on what is cholera, its causes, signs and symptoms, transmission routes, case management, infection prevention and control and WASH. This sensitization meeting is expected to improve cholera awareness and education among inter-religious groups.



A representative of the Apostolic faith (UDACIZA) giving feedback during the workshop



Group photo of the Inter religious leaders who attended the cholera sensitization meeting in Chitungwiza at Utano center.

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The ZCC improves household income and resilience through Sustainable Goat Production Hub in Mbire district.

In a bid to improve household income and resilience, the ZCC with support from Global ministries constructed a goat pen and purchased 40 goats for the ZCC livestock training and demonstration center in Mbire district. The goat stocking exercise which was completed at the livestock demonstration center is expected to improve small livestock production, management and marketing for the local farmers through providing practical hands on learning experiences. Furthermore, in the near future as the goats breed and multiply vulnerable local farmers will be supported to restock through the goat pass on initiative. Through the concerted efforts of the ZCC and its partner the lives of vulnerable farmers will be transformed through sustainable goat production which will contribute towards diversified livelihoods, improved household income and resilience.



Contractor establishing Goat pen.



Completed goat pen with 40 goats.

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Partner monitoring and support visit in Chimanimani district

From the 18 to the 23th March the ZCC hosted the Act for Peace and the Australian Embassy for a joint monitoring and support visit in Chimanimani district, Ward 7 in Runyararo community. This monitoring and support visit provided an opportunity for the partners and stakeholders to assess the achievements of the strengthening protection and resilience building program. During the visit the partner and stakeholders had an opportunity to appreciate the Runyararo piped water scheme project which has changed the lives of school learners, teachers and host communities through improved access to WASH services and water for livelihoods. As part of the visit the stakeholders and partner conducted site assessments of a local health institution to identify potential areas for future programming and also toured Ngangu township to comprehend the extent of the damages caused by the Cyclone Idai disaster.



HSD Director addressing the community members at Runyararo IDP camp



ZCC General Secretary Rev Wilfred Dimingu, HSD Programs Director, Maria Tendai Dendere and Mikaela O'Neil (Act for Peace) at Runyararo Settlement.

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Upcoming Activities

- Education Secretaries Meeting
- Health Services Administrators Meeting
- Official opening of the UK Home Office Shelter
- Cholera Awareness Campaigns
- Training of School Health Coordinators and Health facility staff on cholera prevention.



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