

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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ACRONYMS

AOP Action on Poverty

CFA Cash for Assets

CGIAR Consortium of International Agriculture Research Centres

CIAT International Centre for Tropical Agriculture

CIP International Potato Centre

CIMMYT International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre

CLIP Community Livelihood Improvement Project

CSB Community Seed Bank

CTDO Community Technology Development Organisation

CGIAR Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research

ELINA Enhancing Livelihoods and Nutrition Adaptation

EFASS Ecological Farming and Small-Scale Mechanisation

ERASE Enhanced Resilience, Adaptation to Shocks and Economic

Strengthening

FACHIG Farmers Association of Community Self-Help Investment Groups

FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation

FFS Farmer Field School

ICRISAT International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

ITPGRFA International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and

Agriculture

MoHCC Ministry of Health and Child Care

PGRFA Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

SEFF Seeds For the Future Project

SPM Seed Production and Marketing

TCF The Charitable Foundation

WHH Welthungerhilfe

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



It is my pleasure to present to you Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) Annual Report for 2024. As we look back, I am inspired by the progress we have made towards our mission of promoting people-centred solutions, research, technology, and innovation systems that contribute to poverty reduction, improved food and nutrition security and creation of an enabling policy environment for all. Our commitment to applying nature-based solutions has made the communities we work with to become more resilient and self-sufficient. By promoting regenerative agriculture practices, we are not only addressing immediate food security needs but also laying the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable future.

Without the support of our funding and implementing partners, this would not have been possible.

I am delighted to report that CTDO continues to innovate and adapt to the changing needs of our target communities. The year 2024 saw CTDO

scaling up the provision of small-scale machinery to smallholder farmers across the areas of operation. This paid dividends to smallholder farmers as witnessed through increased land under cultivation, reduced labour burden, increased productivity, increased efficiency, improved timeliness operations and production of betterquality food. Our efforts to influence the development of an inclusive policy and legislative framework governing seed systems in Zimbabwe were fruitful. We successfully developed an Issues Paper which is under consideration by the Government. We are hopeful that this will culminate into the development of an integrated Seed Policy and legislation for the registration of farmer varieties and recognition of farmers' rights.

Furthermore, CTDO engaged stakeholders in improving the legal framework on conservation and genetic sustainable of plant use resources and natural resources. interventions aimed to transform and develop the capacities of poor rural farmers, empowering them to take control of their environment and build resilient communities without compromising the ability of future generations to derive the same benefits.

the harsh macroeconomic Despite environment compounded by last year's Nino-induced drought, CTDO's interventions, coupled with support from different stakeholders and the work of other civil society organisations, improved the livelihoods of our project participants. We witnessed notable gains in the food and nutrition security, household income generation savings, and the provision of clean and safe drinking water.

As we look forward, CTDO remains committed to its ambition of becoming a leading organisation in sustainable seed and food systems that are adaptable to local climate. and environmental conditions, while promoting livelihoods diversification, appropriate mechanization and the development of people-centred inclusive policy frameworks. We envisage a future where no one and no place is left behind, in line with Vision 2030.

Let me take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to our Board, Management, CTDO Staff, partners and stakeholders for all the support, commitment, services and good working rapport.

Together, we are building a future where communities will have unhindered access to food, and vices of poverty, malnutrition and injustice are eradicated.

Thank you.

DAHLIA GARWE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the CTDO Annual Report for 2024. It is with great pride that I yet again reflect on another year of impact and growth for our organization. I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for the achievements remarkable unwavering commitment of our team. As we reflect on the past year, the CTDO family continues to serve our community primarily the underprivileged marginalised through various initiatives which include farmer-led participatory research and innovation, creating various income streams for the households, investing in renewable energy, education and advocating for policies that end poverty, hunger and nutrition insecurity. The stories of hope and transformation we have witnessed are a powerful tool to influence behaviour change and achieve sustainability of our interventions.

The period under review was characterized by challenges brought about by the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, El- Nino induced drought effect, perennial macroeconomic instability and limited financial support from donors debilitated the

progress in implementation of interventions.

The year ended on a high note as CTDO was honoured to host an international workshop that attracted international guests from FAO, ITPGRFA, CGIAR, titled "From Breeding for Diversity to Regulations." The workshop brought together experts and enthusiasts from around the world to discuss the crucial from fostering iournev biodiversity in breeding practices to navigating the complex landscape of seed regulations with farmer saved seed at the core of the discussions. The workshop provided a platform for insightful discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaboration, emphasizing the importance of small-holder farmers and farmer saved seed and the need to create an enabling environment for the farmer managed seed systems. The underscored workshop commitment towards championing the recognition and establishment of an integrated seed system in Zimbabwe.

Among its successes, CTDO refined its focus by crafting a robust Strategic Plan (2025-2029). The 5-year plan continues to build on the ongoing mechanization drive, biodiversity, policy and legislative framework activities which the organization has been promoting through various projects.

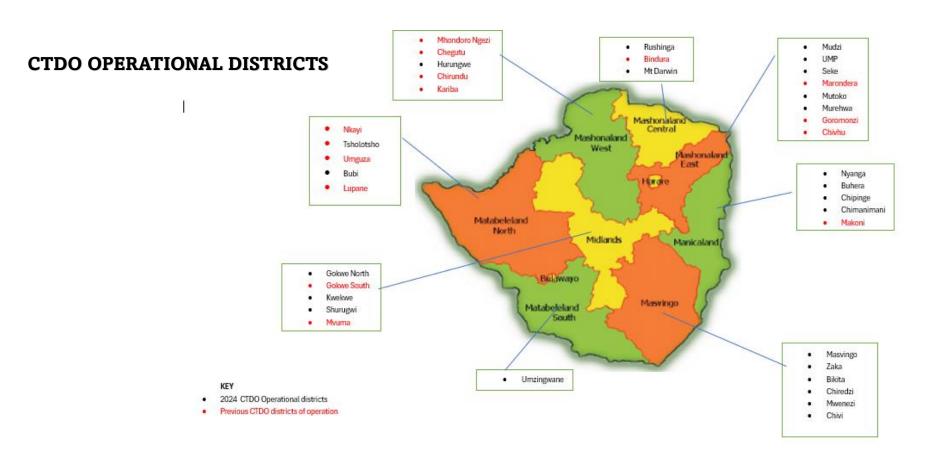
I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Donors, Board Members, Management and CTDO Staff who have committed their resources, time and expertise towards transforming the country's agriculture and ensuring food and nutrition security.

This Annual Report is a snippet of some of the progress we have made in efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda through transformation to more efficient,

inclusive, resilient and sustainable agricultural systems.

Thank you!

ANDREW TONDERAI MUSHITA



OUR PRINCIPLES



VISION

Communities with right access to food and free from hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and injustice nationally, regionally, and internationally.

SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE

CTDO envisages a community that is food and nutrition secure, leveraging on locally available resources. Through its various projects, CTDO continues to actively champion the realization of the right to food (and water) which is a basic human right as enshrined in Section 77 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The organization through its diverse projects continue to promote the growing of diverse range of climate resilient varieties and adoption of climate smart farming practices which addresses the four dimensions of food security namely, the availability of food, accessibility, stability and utilization.

Most of the projects by CTDO are anchored on the Farmer Field School (FFS) Approach. The FFS is a centre for experiential learning. The approach was adopted by government as a key extension approach for its extension staff to reach out to several farmers. The organisation championed the production of traditional grains, nutritious dense food and sustainable utilization of local food plants with the support of various government departments and other like-minded organisations. Farmer Field Schools serve as a platform for equipping participants (farmers) with practical skills in minimum soil disturbance, crop rotation, integrated pest management, and soil enrichment. Farmers evaluated the performance of different crop varieties and applied several agronomic practices which are environmentally friendly and replicated their preferred options at individual homesteads.



(L) Live diversity wheel at Mubagwashe and (R) Lead farmer facilitating at a FFS in Murewa, Ward 12

CTDO worked together with farmers, local stakeholders and funding partners to promote intensive horticulture production where farmers grew a diverse range of local food plants such as Cleome (Nyevhe/Runi), Amaranthus (Mowa), Butternuts, Cucumber, King Onions, Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes, Irish Potatoes, Beans (NUA 45) and Leafy vegetables (Rape, Covo). This is the case with **Enhanced Resilience, Adaptation to Shocks and Economic Strengthening (ERASE) Project** in Seke and Mt Darwin Districts. The initiative benefitted more than three hundred (300) poor and vulnerable households. Under the ERASE 3 Project, farmers have widened their access to nutrition dense foods by diversifying the basket of crops they grow. Farmers were trained on value

addition and food preservation of their horticulture products to address the barriers to consumption of local food plants and improve taste, as well as extending shelf life. Ultimately, the communities especially the women, children, the aged, the ill, and People with disabilities have better access to a wider choice of foods.



Farmers picking vegetables –Cleome and Amaranth in Seke and (R) Covo at Muringazuva Nutrition Garden, Mt Darwin

With the goal to improve livelihoods, food and nutrition security of targeted vulnerable households in Nyanga, Tsholotsho and Umzingwane Districts of Zimbabwe, the **Enhancing Livelihoods and Nutrition Adaptation (ELINA) Project** distributed six seed varieties (Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Finger Millet, Orange Maize, Cowpeas and Groundnuts) to 90 Farmer Field Schools (Nyanga - 35 FFS, Tsholotsho – 35 FFS, & Umzingwane – 20 FFS) with a total membership of 2279 farmers.



(L) Zamangokolo FFS finger millet crop in Umzingwane District, Ward 1 and (R) Vukuzenzele FFS cowpeas crop, Tsholotsho District, Ward 10

To guarantee the long-term attainment of nutritional benefits and climate resilience, the ELINA Project also provided households (175), schools, and health centres in Tsholotsho

and Umzingwane with grafted fruit trees (orange, mango, avocado, and nartjie), carefully selected based on community needs, nutritional value, and local climate conditions.



(L) Fruit trees beneficiaries in Umzingwane

Developing plant varieties that meet specific needs.

Under the **Seeds For the Future** (SEFF) Project, Agricultural Extension Officers were trained on seed selection techniques and Participatory Variety Selection (PVS). In addition, forty-five (45) Lead Farmers were trained, and mother trials were initiated for PVS

and Seed Multiplication using the FFS methodology. A total of 144 farmers (69 Masvingo, 30 Mwenezi and 45 Chiredzi) received seed for purposes of multiplication. The seed included sorghum (200kg) pearl millet (200kg) groundnuts (50kg) and rapoko (100kg). Members evaluated different crop varieties based on their breeding objectives to generate farmer-preferred varieties. The goal is to disseminate these varieties and promote their adoption in the community. Shashe FFS specializing in PVS had three (3) lines/varieties as their best after selecting and evaluating for two seasons. They started with 14 lines from ICRISAT where after the first season only seven came out as their best and they further evaluated the seven to come up with the three that performed better.



Practical on Germination test during Local Seed System management workshop

The SEFF Project installed a 4HP solar powered water pumping system at Shashe to provide water to the twelve (12) agroecology household centres of excellence, being coordinated by Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF). The 12 Household centres of excellence adopted several agro-ecological practices that included, water and soil conservation techniques, compost making, integrated crop and livestock management, intercropping, crop rotation, seed management, selection and preservation and natural resources management techniques.

CTDO, through the ERASE Phase 3 Project, facilitated the setting up of 18 FFS to engage in Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) and seed multiplication. PPB involves farmers, researchers and other stakeholders collaborating to develop plant varieties that meet specific needs and priorities. The needs of farmers including their knowledge and preferences were incorporated during the breeding process. The organization also collaborated with the Crop Breeding Institute (CBI) who provided breeding materials and technical support to the FFS. Crops grown included finger millet, pearl millet, sorghum, groundnuts, Bambara Nuts, cowpeas and maize which were intercropped (or rotated) with forage legumes for enhanced soil fertility management.

Seed Production and Marketing

CTDO under the **Books for Life and Cultivating Change in a Warming World Projects**, conducted trainings on seed production and marketing. Three (3) trainings were held in Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe, Rushinga and Mudzi Districts. A total of 300 farmers were trained. The established FFS on Seed Production and Marketing (SPM) around the seven (7) Community Seed Banks (CSB) was done for farmers to gain access to local and national markets and increasing their opportunities for seed sales and income generation. The forty-four (44) SPM FFS facilitate linkages of CSBs with farmers, researchers and extension agents with a focus on Participatory Variety Selection (PVS), Participatory Variety Development (PVD), Participatory Variety Enhancement (PVE), SPM, Local food plants and agroecology. CTDO helped the farmers in sourcing breeding materials for FFS study areas of diverse Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture (PGRFA) from ICRISAT, National Genebank, Crop Breeding Institute, and CIMMYT.

Furthermore, CTDO facilitated the holding of Seed and Food Fairs in Mt Darwin and Rushinga under the theme: "Promoting traditional food and seed varieties for agrobiodiversity and cultural heritage". The events were attended by 271 people (177F, 94M) who included farmers, local leaders, government extension officers, private sector and government departments at district level. The Seed and Food Fairs were held in line with the organisation's thrust of promoting locally led innovations that are geared towards strengthening the Farmer Managed Seed System in Zimbabwe. The events facilitated learning (knowledge and information sharing) and seed exchange among the participants.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES, TRANSFORMING RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Small-scale equipment - The game changer for sustainable agrifood systems transformation

CTDO strategically distributed small-scale equipment to smallholder farmers in the districts of operation. The provision of appropriate small-scale machinery within the production value chain was critical in addressing labour shortages, reducing drudgery for farmers, enabling timeous operations and increasing production efficiency. Addressing

production constraints using small scale machine has seen most farmers increasing the land under cultivation and getting better yields.

Local farmers across the different project areas have benefited from equipment, such as two-wheel tractors, rotavators, brush cutters, tipper trailers, water pumps, multi-crop threshers, peanut butter processing machines, and grinding mills. The equipment is being managed by Farmer Associations. Farmers were trained on equipment use, operation and maintenance.





(L) Farmers in Mt Darwin tilling with a 2-wheel tractor drawn rotavator (R) Grinding mill operator explaining the operations during a donor visit by Bread for the World (Brot) Official (Johann Singer) in UMP.

Some of the projects which promoted small-scale equipment are namely **Ecological** Farming and Small-Scale Mechanisation (EFASS), ERASE, Dryland Sustainable Landscape Impact Programme (DSL-IP) and ELINA. The projects successfully achieved the target of reducing time spent in production, processing, marketing and value addition of traditional grains and legumes. The availability of small-scale machinery was welcomed by smallholder farmers who were motivated to expand the production of traditional grains and legumes. Observations revealed that the utilization of small-scale equipment has seen women having more time to attend to other economic and social roles while at the same time securing adequate food for the household. The provision of equipment also resulted in a huge interest in participation by the youth. Normally youths shy away from group activities such as the FFSs but with the availability of equipment the projects have recorded an increase in the active participation of youths.

Strengthening resilience and agricultural biodiversity

In its efforts to contribute towards the reduction of structural challenges that lead to environmental degradation and perennial food insecurity, CTDO, with the support from different partners has invested in the construction of Community Seed Banks (CSBs) across the districts of operation. Presently, there are more than twenty-four (24) functional CSBs established for purposes of food security, agricultural biodiversity and farmer empowerment. During the year under review, CTDO constructed two CSBs in Masvingo Province. In addition, rehabilitation of Mupinga CSB was completed and the seed bank is

now connected to the electricity grid. Solar systems were installed at Tsholotsho and Umzingwane CSBs respectively. The availability of solar panels has provided light especially at night thereby improving the security at the CSBs. CSB users are also benefitting from accessing power for charging electrical gadgets like phones. At Saunyama CSB in Nyanga, the borehole was solarised enabling farmers to easily access water for irrigation. This has also improved the sanitation and hygiene situation among the communities.

CSBs are fast becoming a hub of various community driven activities which include seed and food fairs, trainings, cookout competitions, and storage of surplus produce which has enhanced the adoption of traditional grains and legumes. At a Seed and Food Fair, the seed section creates awareness on the importance of seed diversity and nutrition whilst the food fair category triggers behaviour changes especially among women on the simple recipes they can try at home for the family to enjoy local dishes. At the fairs, farmers display cereals, legumes, horticulture products, stock feed, oil and fruit seed, locally brewed beverages, and snacks.



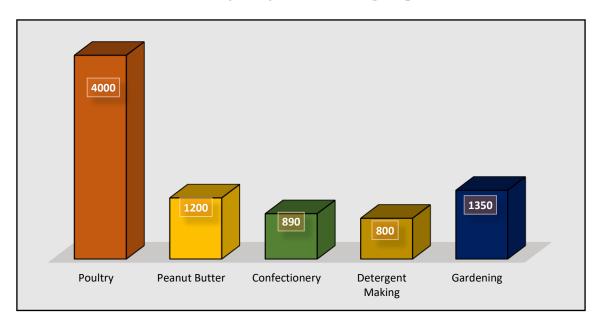
From left, (1) Refurbished Mupinga CSB, (2) The newly built Mubagwashe CSB, (3) Seed Cataloguing session facilitated by RSR Expert at Mupinga CSB.

CSBs have the potential to serve as vital knowledge hubs, while at the same time enabling the preservation and sustainable utilization of local landraces. At Mupinga CSB, the seed bank committee gained crucial skills in cataloguing their preferred cereal, legume, and horticulture varieties, selected for their desirable characteristics such as taste, yield, pest resistance, and drought tolerance. This farmer-driven selection will directly inform the CSB's storage and seed multiplication priorities. Leveraging on the achievements of the **Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security (SD=HS)** Project, CTDO now acts as a key knowledge and learning centre for the broader Cultivating Change and Books for Life Projects. These projects focus on strengthening a network of 7 CSBs and at least 44 FFSs by supporting local climate adaptation initiatives and fostering knowledge exchange across local, regional, and global platforms. CTDO facilitates this knowledge exchange through webinars, publications, exchange visits, and wider dissemination of information in communities of practice. Recognizing the importance of enhancing the functionality of CSBs, new furniture and laptops were provided to farmers to optimize the use of the CSBs.

Livelihood diversification and income generation

CTDO received support from various partners and government departments to support a wide range of Income Generating Activities (IGA) and Internal Savings and Lending initiatives. Under the ERASE Project, a total of 30 groups in Seke, Mt Darwin and Rushinga were provided with start-up capital of \$400 per group to boost their IGA activities. Each group co-contributed \$80 towards the start-up fund. The IGA groups ventured into various activities which included gardening, poultry rearing, peanut butter making, goat keeping, confectionery and detergent making. The ELINA Project also distributed Sasso chicks, feed and stress packs to 60 FFS with a total membership of 1478 farmers (325 M, 1153 F) in Nyanga and Tsholotsho Districts. To achieve sustainability and participation of more community beneficiaries the chicken project employs a pass on model and will therefore benefit more farmers in future.

Income Generation Activities (IGAs) for selected groups-2024



The IGA initiative under the ERASE project transformed the livelihoods of more than 430 households who were able to cater for their food, shelter, education and health costs. Income diversification allowed for a year-round cash flow thus reducing households' vulnerability to price fluctuations and food insecurity. Project participants bought household assets such as kitchen utensils, blankets, farm implements and livestock.



IGA groups (Mt Darwin) holding their share outs of groceries

Fish farming in weir dams – An innovative strategy for promoting food security and income generation

Fish farming has huge potential for diversifying opportunities for food security, and income generation among smallholder farmers accessing water from weir dams. Under the **Community Livelihoods Improvement (CLIP) Project,** CTDO established fish farming around the three (3) weir dams constructed in Wards 14 and 17 of Mutoko District. The incorporation of fish farming into agricultural practices has assisted households not only in diversifying their income streams, but also significantly improving their dietary diversity. On average, fish farmers enjoyed a significant increase in income, adding an average of USD30-00 from fish sales to their household income. Aquaculture provided food and nutrition security through three pathways; farmers selling fish to afford a better diet, eating fish to gain access to high-quality protein and micronutrient sources, and using the weir dam as part of an integrated farming system that allows for crop diversification.

Promotion of nutrition dense crops

Horticulture is a major source of livelihood, a means of improving nutrition and driver of household income generation for most farmers. Through various projects, CTDO supported farmers with nutrient-dense horticultural crops such as butternuts and potatoes. Supporting horticultural production improved dietary quality and reduced malnutrition by promoting variety of high nutritional value foods. Improved yields allowed farmers to sell surplus, which resulted in an improved market value for the produce, enabling the farmers to earn a high income and open new market opportunities.



(L) Sarudzai Mutize in an Irish potato field and (R) Nyasha Makamba in butternut plot in Mutoko.

Fodder production, preservation and feed formulation

CTDO worked together with farmers and extension staff to utilize locally available resources in producing supplementary stock feeds for small livestock. Farmers are aware of the benefits of home-made survival feeds in maintaining livestock body condition and productivity during the lean season and saving money on commercial feeds. According to project beneficiaries, improved knowledge of poultry feed formulation using local ingredients has resulted in higher egg production, which led to increased household consumption, egg sales, and egg incubation. Profits from poultry and goat production with fodder and feed formulation are a strong motivation for adoption. One of the beneficiaries, Ms Pawandiwa (in the picture below) has seen an improvement in the quality of goat breed off-springs and indigenous chickens. Farmers operate on a pass-on scheme providing a jumpstart to sustainable livestock production in the project areas.



(L) Boer goats off-springs and (R) improved chicken breeds

Utilising renewable energy

The CLIP Project piloted a 3-drum bio digester in Ward 15, Mutoko District. After discovering that biogas technology adoption was extremely low in the communities where the Carmatec digester was built, the 3-drum bio digester was developed as an innovative technology. The households that benefited from the technology realised benefits such as

reduced cooking time, greater involvement of men in food preparation promoting gender equality, and the adoption of smart cooking techniques.



(L) Gas tank and (R) 1 plate stove installed in Mutoko.

REGENERATING HOPE

Community-managed water systems

The lack of access to clean and safe water has a direct impact on all components of the food system. CTDO contributed towards the provision of clean and safe water in Mt Darwin and Rushinga through the establishment of Solarized Piped Water Schemes (1 in each district). This was made possible with financial support from Bread for the World (Brot) under the ERASE Phase 3 Project. The piped water schemes were designed in such a way that local communities can easily access water at decentralized water access points. The project facilitated the construction of seven (7) Community Water Access Points (with taps), three (3) livestock drinking troughs and two (2) disability conducive latrines.



Villagers accessing water in Rushinga District





Livestock drinking troughs in Mt Darwin

To ensure that communities have access to safe drinking water, periodic water quality tests were conducted by MoHCC. The results showed that the water is safe for human and livestock consumption.

Impact of WASH interventions on vulnerable groups (i.e. PWDs) under ERASE Project







Above: Alexio Wilson (61) travels 40 m to access water using a walking stick at Muringazuva PWS in Mt Darwin District. His right leg was fixated with a metal cast after suffering fractured bone in a traffic accident. Alex used to travel at least 1.5 km to the nearest water source. However, the availing of clean and safe water close to his homestead ameliorated most of his challenges.



Left: Yamurai Choruwa, a visually impaired person, accessing water at Choruwa PWS in Rushinga. He indicated that the installed structures are inclusive and user friendly. He is now able to fetch water on his own unlike before when he used to be assisted when fetching water from a manual bush pump.

The CLIP in Mutoko, Wards 16 (Chiwore) and 23 (Kaunye) has brought relief to the communities through the provision of safe drinking water. The project enabled for the drilling and solarization of a borehole at Nyamashuka Primary School. The school now provides clean and safe water to 280 pupils and more than 230 surrounding households. The project also built a 2-hole Blair Ventilated Improved Pit (BVIP) toilet at the school. The project trained 94 (38M/56F) community members, the Asset Management Committee (AMC) and local leadership on sustainability and maintenance of community assets. Constitutions were drafted and approved by traditional leaders to enable successful management of assets beyond the project.

Weir dams- balancing environmental and socio-economic sustainability

Weir dams play crucial roles in rural communities particularly during the dry season. These small dams serve multiple purposes including domestics use, irrigation and livestock watering making them invaluable for supporting rural livelihoods and ensuring the long-term sustainability of smallholder farmers. CTDO in partnership with The Charitable foundation Community Livelihoods Improvement Programme (TCF) led the initiative to alleviate water crisis through the construction of strategic weir dams in Mutoko. The TCF-funded project built the Nyamhara Weir Dam in Ward 14 using the Cash for Assets (CFA) approach. At least ten (10) villages mobilized labour and material resources needed for the construction of the dam. "Before we had this weir dam, we had a lot of challenges. Water was overflowing without being used or regulated and after a few minutes, we would have lost the water," bemoaned Edmore Katsande, a member of the Weir Dam Committee. The lack of water not only impacted on livestock and agricultural production but also took a toll on community's overall wellbeing. "Our animals had nowhere to drink water, and it was difficult for us to do our gardens. Our lifestyle evolved on travelling long distances of up to 10 km to find water for our cattle. Many of our cattle died because of thirst and hunger," added a female member of Nyamhara Weir Dam, Cresencia Chipfiko. A total of 175 (98F/77M) farmers directly benefited from water harvested through construction of weir dams for crop production. This enabled farmers to carry-out their farming activities all-year round. Communities are now better placed to adapt to and recover from shocks as crop production is contributing the most with regards to income, food and nutrition security.



(L) Clever Nhau irrigating with water from Nhuzvi Weir Dam and (R) Homweyetsuro Group sorting tomatoes produced under irrigation water drawn from Muzika weir dam in Mutoko District.

As part of the cash for assets, 50 households involved in dam construction received USD30 per month for 4.5 months, increasing their household incomes, which had been negatively impacted by the El Nino induced drought. The cash injection prevented households from employing negative coping mechanisms, such as dropping children out of school.



Nyamhara Weir Dam (L) during construction and ® after dam completion

The Nyamhara dam has a capacity of at least 80,000m³, providing sufficient water for 610 local households. It provides water for irrigation of a one-hectare garden, and provides water for at least 3500 livestock, including donkeys, cattle, goats, and sheep. During the reporting period, the CLIP project hosted the Action on Poverty (AoP) Africa Region Program Manager who visited Nyamhara weir dam, Income Generating Activity groups, and project site completed during the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) project in 2015 to appreciate the sustainability of the work. CTDO and its partners, through construction of weir dams, contributed significantly towards an integrated social, economic and environmental approach to effective water resources management.

Supporting access to better sanitation facilities for communities

Although huge strides have been made with access to clean and safe drinking water, lack of sanitation is undermining these advances. According to the World Health Organisation WHO Report-(2023), one in three people live without sanitation. In this regard, CTDO under the ELINA Project collaborated with the MoHCC together with community members to mobilize resources for the construction of toilets. One such initiative is by the Vukuzenzele Care Group in Umzingwane District, which has thirty-six (36) members making monthly contributions towards toilet construction at individual member households. Under this model, a total of 4 toilets were constructed and are now functional. Similarly, Care Group members (neighbour women) are also spearheading toilet construction for its members in Tsholotsho District.



(L) Neighbour women toilet construction initiative with support from EHT-Tsholotsho Ward 5 and (R)

Participants during the PHHE training in Mt Darwin

CTDO joined forces with the Ministry of Health and Child Care officials in training a total of 56 (33F, 23M) communities in Mt Darwin and Rushinga on Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) under the ERASE Project. The objective of the training was to impart sanitation and hygiene information to water users as part of public health promotion. The training imparted knowledge and skills to participants on the dangers of open defecation and drinking water from unsafe sources.

CLIP project received technical back stopping from the Action on Poverty's (AoP) Finance Director Mr. Shrimant and the Deputy Director for International Programs Ms. Lata. The main areas of support were on capacitating officers in Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and participatory monitoring of the project.



Ms Praveen Lata with Gupiti community members and Mr Shrimant at Nyamashuka Primary School piped water scheme.

GROWING RESILIENCE

Scaling up PGRFA management under changing climatic conditions



BSF5 Inception Meeting, Cresta Oasis, Harare (2024)

CTDO and its partners; Southern Mountains Association for Rural Transformation (SMARTD) in Lesotho. Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (BCI) in Malawi and Mentally & Physically Handicapped Development & Counselling Trust (MEPHDECT) in Zimbabwe launched the Benefitsharing Fund 5 Phase 2 project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Regional, national and district inception meetings were held. A baseline survey was carried out across the seven districts of operation in the three countries to ascertain the status quo which will inform project interventions.

Tools and practices for sustainable management of PGRFA

The establishment and management of FFS, as well as gender, youth and disability inclusion in PGRFA are critical ingredients for sustainable management of PGRFA. CTDO trained 66 facilitators across the partner countries (18 technical staff, 42 extension officers and 6 young academics) on consolidation of FFS through Kobo, national, regional and international legal frameworks on PGRFA, functionalising the use of Digital Object Identifiers, and Global Information System within the Multi-Lateral Systems.



Participants at the Training of Trainers workshop at CTDO, Harare



(L) ToT participants in Malawi (BCI) and (R) Lesotho (SMARTD) during the workshop on FFS establishment, PGRFA management, tools and practices

The training of farmers on establishment of FFS on PGRFA, PGRFA management tools and practices across project sites reached more than 514 smallholder farmers.

CTDO, in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme and the Green Climate Fund, is implementing the **Integrated Rural Resilience Building (IRRB) program** in Rushinga District. This program aims to enhance community capacity to withstand shocks and stressors, and to diversify food sources. A total of 2 000 beneficiaries were targeted across all four wards. Over 60% of the programme beneficiaries were women and children. Key programme interventions included the improvement in water supply through drilling and solarizing additional boreholes at community gardens, diversification of food and nutrition through mushroom, poultry, livestock and horticulture production as well as strengthening existing ISAL groups. The table below summarizes activities which were implemented.

Grading Shade Construction

 Construction of two grading shades was completed (1 per ward) in Muzika (Ward 19) and Kuhwira (Ward 17) respectively.



Grading shade

Galvanized Steel Tank Installation

- A total of two 40 000 litre tanks were installed in wards 17 and 19.
- The tanks are used for bulk water storage for drip irrigation.



Galvanized Steel Storage Tank

Borehole drilling and Solarization

- Four (4) boreholes were drilled and solarized at Kuhwira, Muzika, Chishonja and Nyagusvura Gardens.
- 2. Installation of 1 Ha drip irrigation system was completed.



Storage tanks and 3kVA solar system at Kuhwira and Muzika
Gardens

Establishment of a Goat Breeding Centre

- One goat breeding centre was established at Huruma Nutrition Garden in Ward 16.
- A total of 6 boer goats (2 bucks and 4 does) were purchased.



Goat breeding facility

Latrine Construction

 Ablution facilities were constructed at Huruma and Chishonja Gardens.



Toilet latrines

Food distribution - a lifeline for children in Rushinga

In response to the shocks emanating from the El Nino induced droughts, CTDO embarked on a food distribution exercise in Rushinga to reduce food deprivation among affected communities. The idea was to avert long term vulnerability and nutrition insecurity while also promoting healthier dietary behaviors. As part of the **Humanitarian Elnino Response (HERE) Project**, CTDO provided lunches to students at seven (7) primary schools namely: Chongoma, Magaranhewe, Rusambo, Mubvundudzi, Mazoe Bridge, Chimandau, and Nyabawa. The students were offered a daily choice between two meal components: sadza and beans, or overnight Maheu. The food distribution provided a lifeline, giving children the courage and resilience to pursue their education.

VOICES OF CHANGE

Promoting an enabling environment for farmer managed seed systems

CTDO in collaboration with the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), hosted a regional workshop on "From breeding for diversity to seed regulations/laws: How to promote an enabling environment for farmers' seed systems." The workshop brought together a diverse group of participants, including representatives from non-governmental organizations, researchers, academics, farmers, and government officials from Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Eswatini, Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Niger, Italy, and Zimbabwe.

Participants exchanged experiences and strategies for scaling up mainstreaming and practices best implementing Farmers' Rights, including building stronger partnerships among various projects and institutions to promote Articles 5, 6, and 9 of International the



Treaty. This collaboration led to the creation of a Community of Practice, and the participants jointly developed recommendations for diversified, and pluralistic seed systems. The workshop informed the Regional Position Paper on national implementation of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the ITPGRFA. It also provided information for the next session of Governing Body of the Treaty (GB11) to be held in Peru, in November 2025 as part of the Resolutions on Farmers' Rights and Sustainable Use.

The workshop outputs formed part of the presentations tabled before the Africa Union Commission meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from December 9 to 13, 2024, for consideration and the same results contributed immensely to the development of the AU Farmer Managed Seed Systems Strategy and Action Plan



https://www.newsday.co.zw/agriculture/article/200035470/smallholder-farmers-disadvantaged-in-the-food-security-fight

A. T. Mushita (CTDO Executive Director) giving opening remarks at the Regional Workshop (The Herald, 25 November, 2024)

'Nothing ever grows without a seed.' – The time is now to regularize Farmer Managed Seed Systems

CTDO in partnership with NIRAS and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) has been implementing the **Markets and Seed Access Project (MASAP) Phase 1** in Zimbabwe and Zambia with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The project aims to establish a vibrant and community driven seed and commodity market system, creating income opportunities and resilience for smallholder farmers in particular women and the youth supported by strong institutions, national and regional policies and innovative private sector actors.

As part of fulfilling the MASAP objectives, CTDO facilitated a baseline study, led by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD) and Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAST), to determine the status and utilization of Farmer Varieties in Zimbabwe. Data was collected from farmers in Tsholotsho, Buhera, Mudzi, Hwange, and Zaka Districts, as well as from key informants in government departments, seed companies, development partners, and research institutions at both local and national levels. Additionally, the Research and Policy Review sub-committee conducted a desk review of National Seed Policies Legislation and Regulations governing the Seed Industry in Zimbabwe. A national validation workshop was held, to validate the study findings and policy review reports. These studies resulted in two reports, which formed the basis for the drafting of an Issues Paper. The Issues Paper was then shared with the government for consideration and possible approval.

CTDO in collaboration with MASAP and the Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APBREBES) held a Plant Variety Protection and Registration of Farmer Varieties Workshop in Harare. The workshop was held under the theme: 'Towards an

inclusive Policy and Legislative Framework Governing Seed Systems in Zimbabwe'. Key national stakeholders from government, civil society organisations (CSOs), farmer representatives, research institutions, academia and private sector participated during the workshop. The objective of the workshop was to deliberate on the implementation of existing and proposed Plant Variety Protection Legal Frameworks in Zimbabwe. The workshop recommended for the adoption of a multistakeholder approach involving government, private sector, farmers and CSOs when coming up with appropriate policies and laws regulating the country's seed systems.

The organization, under the ERASE Project supported the by-law formulation process for Pfura and Manyame Rural District Councils (RDCs). The drafting process was facilitated by the Attorney General's Office (AG's Office) and Ministry of Local Government and Public Works. The drafting process covered several by-laws including environmental, vending, parking, clamping and towing, livestock control, advertising and wells and boreholes. The action contributed to the achievement of active participation and engagement of local communities and authorities in improving the legal framework on conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and natural resources at local level.

The project also facilitated in the drafting of Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAP) for Seke, Mt Darwin and Rushinga Districts through holding of write-shops across the respective districts. The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) took the lead in facilitating the workshops which were attended by respective Rural District Councils (RDC), relevant government departments and local leadership representatives. The major outcomes of the write-shops were the production of draft LEAP documents for the 3 local authorities as required by the project.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Enhanced rainfed agriculture and sustainable landscape and watershed management

Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture (TIARA) programme, led by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), aims to unlock the potential of rainfed agriculture in Africa. TIARA facilitated a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Integrated Landscape and Water Management in Malawi (18–23 November 2024). The field interventions under the programme are being promoted by CTDO (Zimbabwe), FACHIG (Zimbabwe), Tiyeni (Malawi), COMACO (Zambia) and ZAMCOM in collaboration with governments, local authorities and farmers.



(L) Mr Zuma in the deep bed plot explaining the land preparation process, (R) Participants during field visit

Some of the key takeaways include, operationalizing local environmental action plans, amplifying farmers voices on the need for the government and private sector to invest more in rainfed farming, and aggregation of data using Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing in land-use planning and modelling potential hazards.

Establishing and Strengthening Partnerships, Dynamic Linkages and Alliances

The BSF-5 Project facilitated meetings with CGIAR centres including International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Nigeria and Malawi, International Potato Center (CIP) and ICRISAT in Malawi and Zimbabwe, National Gene Banks and National Agricultural Research System (NARS) to facilitate access and transfer of materials from centres to farmers in FFS for on farm trials, testing and evaluation under farmers conditions and selection of desirable traits from available germplasm under research. In Zimbabwe the following institutions took part during the meetings on participatory research, and documentation of best practice; Department of Plant Production Science and Technologies in the Faculty of Agriculture, CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development), Bio-Hub Trust, Crop Breeding Institute (CBI) and My Food is Zimbabwean Alliance members. New relationships and linkages were established. Key areas of collaboration were also identified. The collaborations further revealed key partner strengths in terms of community engagement, provision of diverse plant genetic materials and value chain development.



Building on partnerships with CGIAR institutions during the Market Intelligence Initiative, Market Segmentation and Target Product Profile Definition Workshop in Harare

Under the ELINA project, three (3) District Food and Nutrition Security Committee (DFNSC) (Nyanga, Tsholotsho & Umzingwane) were equipped with a laptops and projectors to assist with improved reporting, committee presentation, documentation and report writing. The district reports were submitted to Provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committee (PFNSC) then to National Multisectoral Food and Nutrition Security Committee (FNSC).

SUCCESS STORIES

Converting waste to energy to save trees

Firewood is the major source of cooking energy in rural Zimbabwe. Women and girls are tasked to collect firewood in surrounding forests, walking distances of more than 10km conducting the exercise. The activity come with many dangers such as harassment and/or all kinds of abuse as they will be isolated in forests areas. Women and girl's ordeal is further exacerbated during the cooking process with the thick, harsh pollutants produced by the firewood.

CTDO with funding from Department of Foreign affairs and trade (DFAT) through Action on Poverty (AoP) is implementing an improved biogas energy initiative in Mutoko district of Zimbabwe. The initiative promotes climate change adaptation techniques to reduce deforestation. The project has managed to increase awareness and utilisation of clean alternative energy sources such as biogas. This initiative has also managed to address gender based societal inequalities being experienced in targeted communities.

Ms. Caroline Kaero, a mother of 5, testified that her life and that of the whole family has changed with the availability of a cheap source of energy for cooking and heating. "The biogas has brought relief to me and my children. Collecting firewood was a strenuous and risky task and we would return home at sunset. We were once arrested by village head for illegal cutting down of trees for firewood, but now I just pick dung from the kraal and generate enough energy for cooking," said Caroline Kaero. Her household has become better in terms of smartness an envy to many surrounding households but also a beacon of utilisation of clean energy and forests conservation.



(L)Caroline K aero cooking using biogas and (R) Biogas Stove

The project promoted a 3-drum bio digester which is an innovative technology that is easier to replicate at low cost. For sustainability and replication ten (10) local builders have been trained in construction of these bio digesters. A family of 5 needs 7,5 kg of firewood for cooking per day, meaning through this technology per year a total of 5 490kg of forestry will be saved.

EVENTS

CTDO with support from various partners and government departments, participated in several national events and contributed towards the development of resilient agricultural production systems through its implementation of various projects. These platforms were also used to share key lessons learnt, networking and raise awareness on traditional grains, and sustainable land management.

National Good Food and Seed Festival

CTDO facilitated the participation of farmers at the National Good Food and Seed Festival held at the Botanical Gardens in Harare. The farmers had an opportunity to: exchange and sell farmer saved indigenous, unique, heirloom seeds, make connections and share knowledge and experiences with farmers and stakeholders from across Africa including Zimbabwe, Malawi, Swaziland, Uganda, Gabon, Togo, Niger, Kenya, Zambia and Brazil The farmers, furthermore, established linkages with potential markets for future output supplies. Farmers also participated in cooking demonstrations during the well-attended festival.



(L) Richard Edesi (farmer from UMP) interacting with visitors at the CTDO

A farmer from UMP (R. Edesi) participated during the national dialogue titled "Markets for smallholder indigenous agroecological produce and products". Civil society organisations, researchers, academia and private sector actors (Dairibord, Associated Foods Zimbabwe, Tanganda, National Foods, Cairns Foods, Nutri Foods, Mafemo Trading, B'Ayoba, Kefalos, Mr Brands, and Kuminda) took part during the national dialogue. The farmers articulated the challenges and bottlenecks small holder farmers face in marketing traditional crops and on promotion of brands of traditional products.

Learning and Exchange Visit to Botswana

As part of learning for improved project implementation, and adoption of best practices, the EFASS Project facilitated a learning and exchange visit to Botswana from 15 to 21 September 2024. Zimbabwe and Botswana share similar aspirations and experiences in the field of agriculture especially in relation to climate change adaptation, support mechanism for smallholder farmers and promotion of mechanization as expounded in their National Visions. The idea was to learn from the project in terms of achievements made and how some success stories could be replicated by farmers in Botswana. The visit provided an opportunity for the stakeholders and farmers to physically interact, observe and identify best practices that could be propagated in different projects.

The exchange visit brought about invaluable experience and benefits for the participants. Farmers were able to learn more about sustainable irrigation using grey water, market gardening, integrated farming, conservation and research on crops and wild species, safflower production and the importance of collaboration with government.



(L) Participants at the Botswana Learning Exchange (R) Research and technological improvement in renewable energy production in Botswana

World Food Day commemorations at Tongogara refugee camp



CTDO participated at the World Food Day celebrations themed 'Right to foods for a better life and a better future' held at Tongogara Refugee camp in November 2024.

The ITPGRFA BSF visits community seed banks in Zimbabwe

The Chimukoko community welcomed Annamaria Ausania, the ITPGRFA-BSF Coordinator, on the 27th of November 2024. During her field visit, Annamaria engaged with the community's seed bank approach, exploring its connections to the Farmer Field



Schools (FFS), the diversity of crop varieties and supportive local value chains through discussions with the farmers.

Anna-Maria was impressed by the clear understanding of the

roles and responsibilities among the various members of the community seed bank at Chimukoko. She appreciated the detailed explanations of the processes involved in



community seed banking, as well as the illustrations of the diversity wheel and its application in assessing the status of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA).

Events and Exhibitions

Event Details	Venue	Key Highlights
Closing Ceremony of the 2023 International Year of Millets (IYM)	Rome, Italy	CTDO supported Mr Patrick Mutepeya, a smallholder farmer from Mudzi district in Zimbabwe to participate at the FAO IYM (2023) Closing Ceremony. The IYM ceremony provided stakeholders with a forum to take stock on the accomplishment of, and lessons learned from IYM 2023 and identified prioritises for future investments.
March		Find and Application of the United Nation. Millets contribute to better production, better environment, better nutrition and a better life. #YearofMillets #YearofMillets #IYM2023
GHI Launch March		CTDO co-organised and presented at the Global Hunger Index Launch event hosted by WHH

Brot Donor Visit	UMP,	CTDO hosted Johann Singer, the Bread for the World Program
April	Zimbabwe	Officer for Zimbabwe under the EFASS project.
Zimbabwe		CTDO exhibited at the ZITF under the European Union-SEFF banner
International Trade		and 2 nd stall together with Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water,
Fair		Fisheries and Rural Resettlement
April		HARMAN COLOR

May	Mubagwashe Community Seed Bank in Masvingo, Zimbabwe	CTDO under the SEFF project hosted Head of Cooperations from 6 Embassies Netherlands, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Irish and European Union.
WFP Open house and CD Send-off event June	WFP Head Quarters, Zimbabwe	CTDO takes part at the World Food Program Networking Event for the outgoing Country Director, Francesca Erdelmann.
Africa multistakeholder NUS conference July	Ouagadougou Burkina Faso	Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT in partnership with Joseph KI-ZERBO University facilitated an African multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) to promote dialogues between African countries and create synergies for the scaling of best practices on the sustainable use and management of Neglected and underutilized species (NUS) for food and nutritional security management, climate change adaptation and livelihoods.

		Ms Khanye presented a paper on Neglected and underutilised species
Australian Awards		(NUS) project in Southern Africa.
Fellowship Program		CTDO was represented by Head of Programs and Food and Nutrition Security Program Manager at the Australian Embassy certificate
r chowship i rogram		handover ceremony for the successful completion of the Australian
September		Awards Fellowship program with Australian Embassy Head of Mission
Zimbabwe SDG	Golden	CTDO participated and exhibited in the UN event on supporting the
midterm review	Conifer	achievement of SDGs in Zimbabwe.
September	Harare	COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION RICH IN HERITAGE PULL OF POTENTIAL PROBABILITY PROBABIL

Traditional grains Conference October	Lusaka, Zambia	Mr Mushita presented a paper on CGIAR Gene banks. The presentation covered the role and mandate of the CGIAR Gene Banks in the 21 st Century. Discussions were on opportunities to link with Community Seed Banks and the policy and legislative transportation.
DSLIP FAO Global Support Visit November	Vanyoro Seedbank	CTDO Hosted FAO DSLIP Global Coordinator Mr Fritjof and Regional Coordinator Dr Talla in Zaka Vanyoro seed bank, the delegation was accompanied by DSLIP Partner Heads, DSLIP Steering Committee Members and Senior Government stakeholders. It was a Familiarisation and Monitoring visit on the Seed bank concept, the Vanyoro 4 in 1 model and how the Project is integrating Sustainable Land Management and Sustainable Forest Management activities to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality.
Celebrating ANCP in Zimbabwe November		CTDO celebrates with Australian NGO Cooperation Program, 50 years of programming support in Zimbabwe at the Australian Embassy
African Union Commission on Farmer Managed Seed Systems December	Nairobi, Kenya	The African Union Commission- Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD held the 5 th Steering Group Meeting of the African Seed and Biotechnology Platform where CTDO Executive Director (A. Mushita) participated in developing the Africa seed and biotechnology sector prioritises for 2025-2029.

New Projects

Project Name: Strengthening Rural Governance for the Right to adequate Food

Donor: BMZ through Deutsche Welthungerhilfe

Project duration: 01.10.2024 – 31.03.2028 (42 months)

Objective: Progressive governance for the right to food, guided by the principles of participation, transparency, accountability, non-discrimination, and rule of law, for improved food and nutrition security in rural communities.



CTDO, CCMT and Welthunger Hilfe (WHH) launches the Right to Food project funded by BMZ

Project Name: Lean season assistance (LSA)

Funded By: USAID through World Food Programme

District: Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe (UMP)

Target project participants: 93583 beneficiaries

Objective: To ensure food and nutrition security among the 93,583 vulnerable people in UMP district during the peak lean season between November 2024 and March 2025

Project Name: Community Livelihood Improvement Programme (CLIP)

Funded By: Australian Government through Action on Poverty

District: Mutoko

Target project participants: 2400 Households

Overall Goal: To contribute to resilience building among the target community through increasing their absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacities in response to shocks and stressors, eventually leading to improved livelihoods, food self-sufficiency.

Project Name: Humanitarian Elnino Response Project (HERE)

Funded By: The Charitable Foundation through Action on Poverty

District: Rushinga

Target project participants: 3109 pupils, 7 primary schools

Overall Goal: To ensure food and nutrition security among school going children of

age class 6-12 years during the lean season in Rushinga district

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