

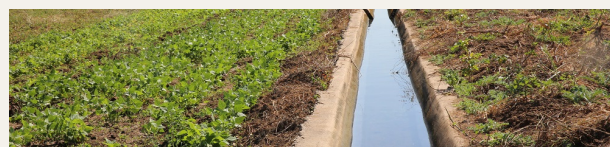
Hope Restored

A photograph of an elderly woman with a warm smile, wearing a blue knit beanie and a white shirt with vibrant, colorful geometric and floral embroidery. She is seated outdoors. In the background, a man wearing a red baseball cap and a white shirt is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing a natural outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

**Impact Stories from the
Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project**

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FOREWORD

The Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) is nearing completion having reached three years of implementing multi-sectoral interventions that transverse the humanitarian-development nexus. Remarkable progress towards achieving key milestones has been made with most TAs done implementing their activities.

The health facilities that have been constructed during the period under review have made great progress. 49% of the work has been done at St Peters isolation ward and Mutsvangwa maternal health center is on 30%. The Village Health Workers (VHWs) peer supervision model has seen the number of people who seek health services increase because of the confidence they have in the model.

All 408 goats that had died during the 1st phase of livestock support were replaced and no further mortalities recorded. 25 black soldier fly demonstration units were established and farmers have already started producing BSF which is an alternative and cheap feed for their chickens. 2,954,500 livestock have been vaccinated and this has improved livestock production in the ZIRP supported districts. 88,516 students from 134 schools across the 9 districts benefited from school bags, school kits and classroom tents. The distribution of additional hygiene kits purchased by funds saved from the education sector is the only outstanding activity and is to be completed before mid-September.

Medium term recovery efforts are almost complete. Small piped water schemes were completed in the 9 districts restoring access to clean water to 28,042 people.

Institutional latrines were retrofitted to facilitate improved Menstrual Health Hygiene through the addition of hand wash facilities, cupboards, wall hooks, mirrors and screen doors. Remarkable progress has been recorded in community infrastructure. 3 access roads have been completed and 6 undergoing rehabilitation with most of them sitting above 50% into completion. Within the irrigation schemes, 6 irrigation schemes have been rehabilitated completely.

To strengthen Early Warning Systems, Chimanmani FM was launched under comprehensive resilience building. This will be pivotal to disaster preparedness and response communication in those communities. The nomination of the Chimanmani Biosphere Reserve was approved and among the challenges that the BR seeks to address, is building resilience against increased extreme weather events, such as the 2019 cyclone Idai; and the impact of mining.

The inclusion of Gender Based Violence (GBV) support and surveillance under ZIRP continues to prove necessary with UNFPA supporting all TAs to mainstream GBV support in their programme delivery.

We appreciate the work that was put into ZIRP by all 8 UN agencies. All this was made possible by the funding from the World Bank, Lots of lives have been transformed.

A lot of progress has been made thus far, lots of lives changed, and great impact made as clearly presented by the stories in this booklet.

COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATION OF UN AGENCIES UNDER ZIRP IMPROVES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN IRRIGATION SCHEMES

"Before ZIRP, the scheme was operating at less than 41%. All the activities that have been implemented here by the different partners have restored productivity of the scheme to what it was in 1997 when the scheme started," Lovemore Mboko, the chairperson of Maunganidze Irrigation Schemes beams. He outlines the various interventions which the scheme benefited from through ZIRP.

ZIRP leveraged on the comparative advantages of the different UN agencies to deliver a holistic program. For restoration of agricultural productivity in the irrigation schemes, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for Projects Services (UNOPS) and World Food Programme (WFP) all contributed to resilience building and climate smart agriculture.

"When we came in, farmers were just producing crops without the market to sell," explains Philemon Chimwe, the ZIRP Farm manager at Gudyanga Scheme. "That is when we made the decision to engage private sector players and link them to farmers. We now have the Chilli Pepper Company based here at Gudyanga Irrigation Scheme and contracting farmers to grow chillies." Processing and value addition at the schemes has improved the income of farmers. "With chilli peppers, I harvest 100kg a week and earn \$104 every week," Senzeni Makoni, a farmer at Gudyanga Scheme explains. Market linkages have seen farmers like Chandafira Sithole of Maunganidze Scheme earn as much as US\$2,448 through tomato crop in 4 months from the same plot where they used to get about US\$400 growing maize.

In addition to crop selection, farmers are supported with capacity building on good agricultural practices, environmental stewardship and business management. The irrigation scheme management committees are also trained to effectively run the schemes.

Irrigation infrastructure in the schemes was damaged extensively by Cyclone Idai. Through engagement of community workers, UNOPS conducted conservation works within the schemes before rehabilitating and constructing canals. In keeping with "Build back better" principles, the design of the canals improved water conveyance and use efficiency. "Electricity shortages derailed progress at the scheme because usually during the day we experienced power cuts and that meant work would be put on hold", explains Edmore Mutsavi, Associate Electrical Engineer at UNOPS. The project has installed hybrid solar systems to power the boreholes and provide adequate water within the schemes. The schemes were fenced off to protect the crops from livestock. The interventions at the Maunganidze scheme, for instance, have extended beyond the 84 farmers who own plots. Farmers can now afford to employ helpers to maintain and harvest their crops. Irrigation scheme committee members are now hosting other schemes on 'look and learn' visits to replicate the good practices implemented under ZIRP.

Through the integration of UN agencies working as "One Project, One Team", farmers in the 7 irrigation schemes that ZIRP supported are better able to withstand future climatic shocks.





BSF Feed

Sustainability is an important aspect of the ZIRP. Whilst farmers who received chickens for small livestock received 25kg of chicken feed, beneficiaries cannot sustain the use of commercial feed. Therefore ZIRP introduced the production of Black Soldier Flies (BSF) as cheap alternative protein source for feeding poultry to enhance production and productivity.

BSF larvae (maggots) are a tasty treat that can be fed to chickens alive as a supplement to their existing feed, to subsidize feed, or as a full replacement of the protein input in poultry feed.

BUHERA: Farmers in Buhera are using household kitchen waste like vegetables, sadza (pap) and manure to attract wild BSF. The BSF produce maggots that augment farmers' chicken feed. The maggots also produce organic grass fertilizer (an alternative to chemical fertilizers), which they are using in their plots for increased crop productivity; "or selling as an additional value-added product."

The BSF (*Hermetia illucens*) is a common and widespread sanitary fly, which unlike houseflies produces high crude protein, fats and other essential amino acids. BSF larvae has a high oil content of 30%, which can substitute soya meal in poultry diets, becoming an important weapon in the arsenal of small-scale and communal farmers in Zimbabwe who were hit hard by Cyclone Idai and escalating input costs.

"BSF are easy to produce. I use locally available material to trap and reproduce the maggots. This has greatly reduced my feed costs. In addition, the quality of my (indigenous) chickens has greatly improved, increasing my household income," says Chiedza Mashangana, a beneficiary of the BSF initiative.

BSF grows well on organic waste such as fresh manure (cattle, pig, goat and poultry), fruit and vegetable waste; all of which are readily available at farm level, making it easy and cheap for farmers to produce BSF larvae.



FAO Officers with Buhera farmers

"As a lead farmer I was supposed to train 25 other farmers, but, I now train close to 45 farmers including some from other villages and wards," said Shadreck.

Shadreck currently produces 3kgs of BSF larvae after every three weeks, from the naturally occurring wild BSF populations. At full capacity and using colonies from registered BSF farmers with healthy colonies, Shadreck is expected to produce 2 tonnes of BSF annually for feeding his poultry.

The commitment of the farmers in Buhera has been a critical factor in the success of the project. Further, the success is also attributed to the collaboration of partners under the "One Project, One Team" ZIRP approach.

BSF production in Buhera is led by FAO in partnership with Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT) and in collaboration with LEAD TRUST. In partnership with CUT, FAO trained 22 lead farmers on setting up colonies, larva management, feed formulation and BSF feeding including infrastructure development. The Lead farmers are responsible for cascading trainings to other communal cluster farmers for better farming methods, including how to produce feed for their livestock.



"When I started producing BSF, many farmers were skeptical about it, others resented the smell. Some just thought it was a bookish experiment from a university that would come to nothing. However, after witnessing the size of my eggs, and having a taste of my chickens, my household is now the center of BSF production," said another beneficiary Shadreck Kombera, nicknamed the 'Professor' because of his knowledge on BSF production.

Extension officers from ward 28 and 29 were also trained on BSF production for backstopping the farmers in their respective areas.

"Farmers like Chiedza and Shadreck started harvesting BSF from the wild and constructing their love cages before input support from the project. They were even recycling disused dishes as feeding troughs. We are also learning from them as they have been able to improve several things through their continuous experimenting," said Francis, an extension officer.

FAO in Zimbabwe, ZIRP project coordinator Brian Nhlema said that BSF production in Zimbabwe was still in its infancy as compared with similar projects in Kenya. He however highlighted that with technical support BSF production could be key in transforming livelihoods of rural communities.

"Commercial chicken feed is made mainly from soya bean, a rich source of the protein that chickens need to grow. However, soya beans do not thrive in Buhera because the area is dry. The beauty of the black soldier fly it thrives on organic waste streams, which are generated at farm level. With the right technical support, the rural farmers can commercialize BSF production," asserted Brian.

"BSF production has really transformed the way we produce chickens. We are not only producing for household food security but to also enhance household income."



Shadreck Kawayya, lead farmer for BSF production in Buhera shows his BSF poultry feed

CONTROL OF ANIMAL DISEASES STRENGTHENS HERD SIZE IN CYCLONE IDAI AFFECTED AREAS

Cyclone Idai contributed to cattle mortalities in the target districts that ZIRP is working. Already the herd of cattle was reducing due to high tick-borne diseases (TBDs) induced by lack of repairs to communally owned dip tanks and erratic supply of acaricide for community dipping services.

“FAO under the ZIRP project responded to the situation through provision of forage seeds, vaccines for cattle, sheep, goats and poultry, acaricides for community dipping restoration; and rehabilitation of cyclone damaged dip tanks through a Build-Back-Better Approach. FAO is also helping farmers to deal with the effects of the harsh weather conditions, and protect their livestock,” said Brian Nhlema, FAO-ZIRP project coordinator.

Tick-borne diseases have a direct economic impact to rural farmers. At the local level, tick-borne disease reduce farmers' income and food availability for consumption. Tick-borne diseases are also quite notably a major constraint to international trade in livestock products.

Zimbabwe is currently experiencing an incessant January Disease outbreak and many provinces have been affected by tick-borne diseases, particularly Theileriosis, better known as January disease, red water, heart water and gall sickness. Dipping is the most effective way of managing and controlling tick borne diseases in livestock.

“Before FAO we used to have irregular dipping. FAO has been helping us with acaricides; we have been doing regular and recommended dipping cycles. Our cattle are now tick free and healthy and regular dipping has also improved tsetse fly challenges for our cattle.

Tick-borne diseases are now a thing of the past at our Chimhete diptank,” asserted Sherperd Danda, Diptank Livestock Development Committee (LDC) Vice Chairperson. “All functions of a cow are being put to use because they are no mortalities,” he added. Villagers in Chimanimani District rely on cattle “to pay for bride price,” milk, as a source of protein and as a store of value, paying school fees and as draft power.





"The support provided by FAO to community diptanks resulted in reduced cases of tickborne diseases such as January Disease and other TBD related deaths at all the 546 FAO supported community managed dip tanks, showing the impact of regular dipping services," said Department of Veterinary Services' Nyanyadzi Office - Area Supervisor, Mutema Joseph.

"One incorrect assumption is that the withdrawal of FAO support might impact the spread and prevalence of diseases in this area, but we are prepared," says Danda.

"Having learnt a lot and gained immense experience through FAO technical support we look to the future with optimism. The knowledge will help us manage and govern better our dip tanks and strengthen existing partnerships.

"Since FAO is currently providing us with acaricides, we are saving our contributions to ensure that once FAO support ceases we will be able to continue the programme. We are also working closely with the Local DVS office and the police to ensure that farmers who do not get their cattle dipped are heavily fined," he added.

"The ZIRP project complements a number of food security programmes FAO is currently implementing in Zimbabwe. FAO is currently providing support to the Government of Zimbabwe in the formulation of a Livestock Policy and FMD control strategy. Future livestock interventions in Manicaland will hence be implemented in close coordination with other on-going projects.

Livestock Development Committees (LDCs) were also trained on governance matters, environmental and social management at diptanks, including soil and water conservation structures. "The LDCs will also be provided with veterinary equipment and PPE to improve handling of acaricides and other hazardous chemicals," added Brian.



"Cattle are our gold coin. It is a measure of wealth. When a farmer saves he buys a cow to investment money in. When a cow dies because of diseases he loses everything," said Sherperd



“Before FAO we used to have irregular dipping. FAO has been helping us with acaricides; we have been doing regular and recommended dipping cycles. Our cattle are now tick free and healthy and regular dipping has also improved tsetse fly challenges for our cattle. Tick-borne diseases are now a thing of the past at our CHIMHETE diptank.”



Cattle dipping at Chimhete Diptank using acaricides provided through ZIRP

"LIFE IS GETTING BETTER"- SPOTLIGHT ON BWERUDZA IRRIGATION SCHEME IN CHIPINGE

"When Cyclone Idai hit in March 2019, and destroyed our irrigation scheme we lost hope for a better future, as our major source of income had been destroyed. In addition my family house was destroyed."

"Without ZIRP support, we would not have recovered, our lives have changed" narrates 39-year-old widow Lucy Chikarata, with a wide smile on her face.

Since 2012 when her husband died, the 0.4ha family plot at Bwerudza irrigation scheme in Chipinge was their main source of income. Proceeds from the irrigation scheme were used to pay for school fees for her three children and purchase of basic commodities for the family.

"ZIRP interventions in the irrigation schemes have resulted in a significant increase in yield in most crops grown by farmers. For example maize increased yields increased from 0.5 to 5t/ha, sugar beans yield increased from 0.9 to 1.5t/ha and onions from 20 to 50t/ha. Farmers are also showing some improved sense of ownership, which is a step in the right direction for sustainability," asserted Brian Nhlema, FAO-ZIRP project coordinator.

In addition, "income and health of farmers has greatly improved. Some farmers were failing to send their children to school but now they are able to do so comfortably, some have built better houses, some bought wheel barrows, bicycles and others even cars. There were issues of gender-based violence (GBV) because of poverty. "

"GBV cases have reduced because people are busy and food secure. In addition, the crops give us carbohydrates, protein and nutrition wise a lot has improved," said Bwerudza Irrigation Scheme Chairperson, Michael Pindeni.

Sustainable agriculture is one among the factors on the frontlines to eliminate climate change effects in developing countries like Zimbabwe. "FAO knows that sustainability and profitability can be found together and that rural farmers are among the drivers of a new green economy," said Patrice Talla, Country Representative for Zimbabwe at a recent tour of Gudyanga and Bwerudza irrigation schemes in Manicaland. This was the thrust of ZIRP in engaging specialist UN agencies to collaborate for the delivery of the project. "Engaging with the private sector is also a high priority for FAO," added Patrice.

Farmers at Bwerudza irrigation Scheme have been linked to formal markets including Mukushi Seeds and Seedco contracts, GMB and the scheme engages with other private sector players like Burkarif, and Blue Eye who are off takers of the sugar bean commodity.

"These contracts will ensure that our farming enterprises will continue even after the ZIRP project. We have built strong relations with these companies as seen by the growth in hectareage this year. In addition, we are looking forward to other partnerships as we plan to expand into other cash crops," said the Chairperson of Bwerudza irrigation scheme.

"Three years after Cyclone Idai our life is getting better. I managed to construct a modern two bedroomed house. Two of my children are attending a boarding school in Marondera and the eldest is on attachment for her catering course."



39-year-old widow Lucy Chikarata, has managed to transform her life through commercial NUA 45 sugar bean seed production for Mukushi Seeds

UNICEF TENTS AVERT CLASSROOM SHORTAGES IN CHIPINGE SCHOOLS

Whenever the storm clouds appear, teachers at Clearwater School in Chipinge pack the over 800 pupils into the Secondary School's only two classroom blocks. "That was the only way we can ensure the children's safety," explained Moffat Sigauke, the headmaster of the school. "Some of the pupils were learning under a tree exposed to the vagaries of the weather. There was no way they could be let out in such unforgiving weather."

Clearwater is a satellite school in south-eastern Zimbabwe, a region prone to harsh weather associated with climate change. Clearwater was among the beneficiaries of education supplies under ZIRP. It received a big tent which accommodates 30 pupils who used to learn under a tree. These pupils would shun school when it was either raining or was too cold.

"By providing the tent, UNICEF made teaching and learning easier. It is better to teach in a tent than under a tree," remarked the headmaster who thanked the World Bank for availing the ZIRP facility that has provided them with a tent and learning materials.

He added that before the donation "there was access to education without quality," at his school and was heartened that pupils were now coming to school every day as a result. Apart from the tent, Clearwater secondary school also got satchels (school backpacks) for pupils, educational kits containing pens, exercise books, textbooks, markers for teachers, chalks, blackboard paint, dusters and other things which the headmaster said made teaching easier.

This was confirmed by a teacher at the school, Maidei Zvotoona, who lives with albinism. Teaching in the searing Chipinge sun would have been difficult for her.

"When we opened last year after the prolonged lock-down, our school coffers were empty. We had to rely on the books donated through ZIRP." "Even teachers did not have books for scheming. Some pupils came to school without pens and mathematical sets. Some travel for ten kilometres and pass in a mountainous area, making the school bags very useful."





“

The school's pass rate rose from 13 percent in 2020 to 39 percent in 2019. We attribute that to the support receive through the ZIRP project," said the headmaster.

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At Nyaututu Primary, another satellite school in Chipinge, the situation was worse after its makeshift classroom structures were damaged by Cyclone Idai, prompting lessons to be held under trees.

Donors who first arrived at the school said they could not assist because the destroyed rudimentary two and half-metre buildings were not proper classrooms. "Of course they were right but this was all we had," said school headmaster, Liberty Maushe who was disappointed by their reaction. He said it was ZIRP that came to their rescue. "ZIRP donated four tents. These tents have eased the pressure of teaching and learning under trees.

The school's pass rate rose from 13 percent in 2020 to 39 percent in 2019. We attribute that to the support receive through the ZIRP project," said the headmaster. The school has an enrolment of 824 pupils. Sadly, one of the donated tents was destroyed by termites during the COVID -19 induced lock-down.

Spiwe Chinheya, a senior teacher and four other teachers still teach under a tree as classroom shortages persist at Nyaututu Primary school. "ZIRP chipped in and helped us with tents, but still there is a gap. As a teacher, I face challenges when teaching under a tree. Pupils, especially infants, do not concentrate when learning in an open space particularly if their relatives pass by. It's difficult for them to comprehend what they are taught because of the lack of chalkboards. I feel more still needs to be done," Chinheya said.

Maushe, the headmaster, concurred with her saying the school faced furniture and infrastructure problems. "Some classes are sharing one room and there are distractions among learners. There are no chalkboards, no desks. We are trying our level best under the circumstances but the lack of resources is affecting us," said the headmaster.



"I used to miss classes because I did not have sanitary pads. So I would pretend that I am not feeling well, yet the main reason would be that I did not have sanitary pads,"
Yolanda Pidzeni

"My parents lost everything to the deadly cyclone and could not afford to buy me a satchel to carry my books. My books used to get wet or torn because I did not have a school bag to carry them. My parents had no money as all our belongings were washed away by the cyclone,"
Tafadzwa Maposa, a grade six pupil at the school



"There was no difference now between me and other pupils from well-to-do families. My parents could not afford a mathematical set for me and this made me feel out of place at school. Now when we are in a maths class, I simply pull mine out,"
Takura Mhlanga, another grade six pupil

MULTIPLE WATER USE, A SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FOR ZVIPIRIPIRI SOLAR POWERED PIPED WATER SCHEME IN MUTARE RURAL DISTRICT

The availability of safe drinking water for human consumption and livestock has always been a challenge in Mutare Rural District. The district experienced recurrent droughts in the past decade with annual rainfall averaging only between 450 and 600 mm. The main sources of domestic water have been boreholes, deep wells, sand abstraction and rivers, most of which are seasonal.

Due to these water constraints, livestock travelled distances in excess of 10 kilometres to access drinking water and shortages of water impacts heavily on livestock production which is a main source of livelihood for the Mutare rural residents.

Through ZIRP, Zvipiripiri Village in Ward 16 Mutare benefited through the upgrade of Zvipiripiri borehole (hand pump) to a solar powered Piped Water Scheme (PWS). Mutare District Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee (DWSSC) with support from Mercy Corps, embraced multipurpose water use in the design of the solar piped water scheme.

The PWS does not only cater for safe and clean water provision for human consumption, but incorporated construction of cattle drinking trough for livestock as a productive use in addition to the domestic use of the water.

Zvipiripiri PWS is serving 168 households and two schools, Zvipiripiri Primary and Secondary schools. The two schools together have an enrolment of 1,197 pupils. All the 168 households' in Zvipiripiri village own cattle or small livestock in the form of goats or sheep.

The trough for livestock is self-regulating cattle. This ensures that water is used efficiently for the herd of over 500 livestock from within the PWS catchment and beyond. This intervention will certainly improve animal health as livestock can now access clean water from the cattle troughs which were constructed along the PWS system. Access of water for small livestock like goats and sheep was also considered through construction of troughs at the terminal end of standpipe run off channel to collect excess water and ensure maximum utilisation of this precious liquid.



Interestingly even the natural habitants such birds, butterfly's and bees now frequent the water points.

ZIRP has transformed community resilience as livestock is a source of wealth in rural areas and a means of livelihood i.e., source of income, food, and drought power for farming just to name a few.

"This area is very dry and hot, and our livestock had serious challenges to access water. The piped water scheme is a blessing as it will improve the health of our animals and lessen the burden of manually using boreholes to water livestock. We do not hesitate to contribute towards Operation and Management as we want our livestock to continue access clean water without walking long distances which also affects their health"

Nangi Marange, a 56-year-old father of 7 children and resident of Zvipiripiri village

PROMOTING SANITATION THROUGH HYGIENE LABORATORIES IN SCHOOLS



Poor personal hygiene and inadequate sanitation practices among young children leads to communicable diseases. Good health and education are vital components of a child's early development. Schools, especially in rural areas, can play a pivotal role of improving learners health by implementing sanitation and hygiene management practices and running promotional activities.

Through ZIRP funding from the World Bank, Chikomba DWSSC adopted the Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) approach. A structured Hygiene promotion strategy was developed using interactive tools, to facilitate health education and awareness among school children in their School Health Clubs (SHCs). Interactive PHHE training in schools was conducted for a total of 10 schools. Hygiene laboratories have been developed to keep children entertained and interested in Hygiene promotion.

Mahusvu and Mashambamuto Primary are two of the schools from ward 17 that won the Best Sanitation awards and have since received support to develop their hygiene labs.

Hygiene labs have been introduced to inspire the innovative potential of school hygiene clubs to keep children and the community engaged in hygiene Promotion through practiced performances of songs, dance, drama, poems, games, art, and photos. The labs enhance children's participation. Young children are more receptive to new ideas and practices when they can participate and interact with relevant media. The hygiene lab allows them to practise correct and proper use of toilets, running water and hand sanitisers for example. Models of up-gradable ventilated latrines and garbage trucks used in urban areas for waste management are also displayed.

Having adopted good practices from an early age, they are likely to continue so as adults, enabling reduction of water and sanitation related diseases. In addition, children can be catalysts for positive change in their household and community.

The labs are equipped with hygiene equipment models and abstract art. A solar powered television has been installed to provide a more visual lens to issues that are taught during theory sessions. Lessons are extracted from the UNICEF School Health Coordinators Training manual which includes personal, household, school and community hygiene and Sanitation.



FROM RECOVERY TO RESILIENCE IN THE ZIMBABWEAN HIGHLANDS

Zimbabwe is exposed to multiple weather-related hazards. It periodically experiences cyclones, droughts, floods and related landslides, which in turn spawn health epidemics. To compound matters, climate change is increasing both the frequency and intensity of the tropical storms and cyclones in this region. As part of the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project funded through the World Bank and managed by UNOPS, UNESCO has been providing affected communities with support since March 2020 to help them move from the recovery stage to long-term resilience. As the saying goes, prevention is better than a cure.

ZIRP has taken a multidisciplinary approach in analysing climate-related risks to be ready for the next disaster. Experts first assessed the risks posed by climate-related hazards to local communities and their livelihoods. This study found that individual households, schools and hospitals were at a particularly high risk of being flooded or submerged by landslides. UNESCO used its Visual Inspection for defining Safety Upgrading Strategies (VISUS) methodology to inform decision-makers about where and how to invest their resources to make schools safer in a disaster.

UNESCO experts also studied the impact on water security and the wider environment of different climate change scenarios. To do this, they used UNESCO's Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis methodology. This five-step process adopts a participatory, bottom-up approach to identify risks to water security from flooding, cyclones and other water-related disasters.



Local communities, including indigenous population were involved from the outset in designing this risk analysis. This approach has provided a more informed starting point for evaluating different adaptation options and designing more robust pathways that are in tune with local needs. The risk analysis was then combined with the information provided by scientific modelling to identify where to adjust the analysis.

One priority was to set up a Flood and Drought Early Warning System. UNESCO worked with local communities to develop two new community radios. In future, these will help to disseminate alerts and practical information to the population. For instance, in the prolonged absence of rainfall, groundwater can be used to irrigate fields.

UNESCO has also supported the community in its desire to become a biosphere reserve. The community's application to UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Council was accepted on 15 June, this year. This means that the Chimanimani Biosphere Reserve, as it is now known, will be able to count on the support of Zimbabwe's other biosphere reserve and the African Man and Biosphere Network (AfriMab) in its efforts to manage its territory sustainably as it adapts to its current and future climate change.

The Chimanimani Biosphere Reserve is inhabited by about 154,000 people, most of whom speak Ndaou, an endangered language which is also spoken across the border in Mozambique.

Covering a total area of 345,014 ha, it includes the Chimanimani district in Zimbabwe's eastern highlands and forms part of a transboundary landscape that is part of the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot. The intention is to develop the landscape towards a transboundary BR with Mozambique.

The Chimanimani Biosphere Reserve is home to six key biodiversity areas rich in endemic plants and to as many as 88 archaeological sites. Biodiversity-rich areas include the Chimanimani National Park, the Eland Sanctuary and the Haroni and Rusitu Botanical Reserves, which contribute to tourism. The biosphere reserve also supports smallholder agriculture and forestry.

ZIRP has taken a multidisciplinary approach in analysing climate-related risks to be ready for the next disaster. Experts first assessed the risks posed by climate-related hazards to local communities and their livelihoods

Chimanimani Biosphere Reserve

SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH IN RESTORING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE



Community workers rehabilitating Ruwedza road



Caregivers at Ruwedza road construction site

A study by World Bank, (2010) reveals that most projects hardly make deliberate efforts to ensure participation and involvement of the community. Most donor funded projects are not sufficiently flexible to apply proven principles of community development, build local ownership and allow adequate time to build counterpart knowledge and skills threatens the ideals of development. This then defeats the fundamental concept of sustainable development which is to deliver long term affordability, quality and efficiency, value to clients and users.

In order to address these fundamental issues, Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) employed community based approaches in most of infrastructure development works being done in Manicaland. The project ensured that community members affected by Cyclone Idai were included as key partners in developing strategies related to their assistance and protection.

This survivor-centred approach fostered a sense of ownership amongst the beneficiaries of the project and will definitely ensure sustainability of the activities implemented. ZIRP is strengthening the communities' capacity to identify, develop and sustain solutions to any developmental issues.

At Ruwedza Road, a total of 158 community workers, 100 females and 58 males have been employed to work on the culverts and drainage for the road. Employing community members has economically empowered the village custodians who heavily rely on farming as their source of income through connecting them with their markets. Going to work for some of these community members means they can now provide for their families.

The community workers have gained construction skills from the trainings conducted by UNOPS before they commenced work. These skills have seen the community workers constructing their own houses and recovering the losses they incurred during the Cyclone. Apart from construction, the communities have also been trained on health and safety issues as well as gender empowerment. The remunerations granted to community workers have greatly improved livelihoods.

After seeing the importance of having life skills, it heartwarming to note that some of the community workers have gone ahead to acquire qualifications in different fields.

The community workers are now capable of paying school fees for their children, buying

livestock and are also improving their small irrigation schemes by procuring pipes and sprinklers.

The use of locally available materials as well as capacity building of communities has given UNOPS the assurance that the community will be able to maintain the road even beyond the ZIRP project.

The approach used by ZIRP had some positive unintended outcomes across other sectors. The employment of community

workers has significantly contributed to the decrease of GBV cases as people had sources of income. Families can now afford nutritious meals, older women who had no hope of getting employment are now employed as caregivers, and there has been considerable women empowerment in these rural communities.

Further, business is now blooming in some communities as the roads have provided access to business centers and deliveries of goods and services can easily be done now. Its amazing how much can be achieved by simply empowering others.



I am a single parent with 5 children. Through the money I was getting in construction works with UNOPS, I managed to roof my house, buy goats and I am currently saving for a cow. I feel really empowered.

~Nomsa Petro- Ruwedza community worker

I was working as a builder constructing bridges with UNOPS. This really inspired me and i managed to save money from my salary and I acquired a trade test certificate. I am now a qualified builder.

~Fredy Nezandonyi- Ruwedza Community Worker



“...I AM STILL SCARED AND FINDING IT HARD TO TRUST ANYONE...”

“My name is Israel (not his real name) and I am a teenage boy. I was sexually abused by my grandmother (maternal) in April 2022. I have stayed with my grandmother since 2015 after my mother remarried and left me in her care. I have never had a relationship with my mother. Since I was born, I have never met my father nor my paternal relatives. My grandmother was responsible for taking care of me, making sure that I am fed and clothed...she was a mother figure to me.

One day I returned from school early because I wanted to help my grandmother with household chores since she was sick. When I got home she was in her room, I knocked and she asked me to get in. I found her laying on the bed half naked (she did not have a top on). I apologized for getting in because I thought I did not hear her properly and went in without her permission. As I turned back so I could go back she insisted that I get in and help her get up. I was hesitant to assist her at first but she reminded me that she was sick and really needed my help.

I then took courage to assist her, just as I tried to hold her up she pulled me and I fell on top of her. She quickly grabbed both my hands and made me to touch her breasts. All I managed to say at that time was, ‘Mbuya’. She then asked me not to scream or make any noise but to cooperate or she would chase me away from her home. When all this was happening I could not believe it, I felt powerless it was as if something had taken over me. She molested me. She then grabbed me and forced herself on me. I remember the pain, it hurt because she was trying to force penetration but she was not succeeding. Out of frustration she then let me go and asked me not to say a word to anybody else I would find myself homeless.

The following morning my private part was swollen and I could not walk properly. I tried urinating when I was at school and the pain was unbearable. I got scared and went to the Village Health Worker who got in touch with the Musasa mobile One Stop Centre team who engaged the police and roped in the Department of Social Development (DSD) to report my case. The Department gave me a place to stay since going back home was not safe for me. When I got the news that my grandmother had been arrested, I felt bad but the DSD officer and the counsellor assured me that it was for my safety and protection.

Whilst I was at the safe house I was assisted me with transport to go for age estimation since I do not have a birth certificate as well as transport to court. The first time we went to court, the proceedings were postponed but the second time we went there, Mbuya was charged with rape and was sentenced to 16 years in prison. I am grateful with the assistance that I got.

**She molested me.
She then grabbed
me and forced
herself on me. I
remember the
pain...**

Israel is one of the many survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) who are being reached with critical support under the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP).

Under the ZIRP, UNFPA is helping reach survivors such as Israel with essential Gender Based Violence services. One key intervention under ZIRP is the delivery of GBV mobile services in remote and hard to reach areas, through the mobile OSCs model.

The model is run by multi sectoral outreach teams composed of health care service providers, counsellors, paralegal officers, and police victim friendly officers. This model enabled Israel to access relevant services with the support of community based workers. Community mobilisation for GBV prevention and surveillance conducted by community workers –Village Health Workers or VHWs and Behaviour Change Facilitators or BCFs – who integrate with the mobile OSCs and other relevant service providers as they refer GBV survivors.

BCFs/VHWs work closely with service providers to facilitate timely referral and access to life-saving services for survivors. Within ZIRP, BCFs/VHWs work with other community based workers that include the agricultural extension workers sensitising on GBV and referral pathways.

“Community based Gender Based Violence surveillance is an important aspect of Gender Based Violence prevention and response in communities as it facilitate timely access to life saving services for survivors especially in cases of sexual violence which is a medical emergency,” said UNFPA Technical Specialist - GBV Verena Bruno.

For Isreal and many other boys the availability of these services are life changing and critical.

“Community based Gender Based Violence surveillance is an important aspect of Gender Based Violence prevention and response in communities as it facilitate timely access to life saving services for survivors especially in cases of sexual violence which is a medical emergency,”
UNFPA Technical Specialist - GBV Verena Bruno.



CHAMPIONS BEHIND ZIRP PROGRAMMING

ASIMTA TARUVINGA- UNICEF EDUCATION



QSN: What are 3 words that best describe your experience with ZIRP?

ANS: Amazing ,Rewarding and life changing

QSN: What was the highlight of this project for you?

ANS:The distribution of the teaching and learning materials to the 134 ZIRP targeted schools and how the schools, parents/guardians and learners were very grateful for this support. It took a burden away from the schools and parents who are facing financial constraints due to the prevailing economic conditions which was then intensified by Cyclone Idai and COVID-19 pandemic.

QSN:f you could change one thing about ZIRP, what would it be?

ANS: Increase of funding and move from project to programme level in order to target more beneficiaries in need.

unicef 

YUSUPH AL AMIN- UNESCO



QSN: What are 3 words that best describe your experience with ZIRP?

ANS: Innovative, impactful, supportive

QSN: What was the highlight of this project for you?

ANS: Impact to the beneficiary communities

QSN: If you could change one thing about ZIRP, what would it be?

ANS:Ability to funding some activities and costs related to the government or its officials



unesco

CHAMPIONS BEHIND ZIRP PROGRAMMING

MOYIZ EBRAHIMJI- UNOPS



QSN: What are 3 words that best describe your experience with ZIRP?

ANS: Engaging , Complex, Satisfying

QSN: What was the highlight of this project for you?

ANS: The people in the team. We have a professional group dedicated to their work and motivated to get the job done. A major part of this project has been continuous problem solving on a weekly basis and the drive of every team member to resolve issues and move on has been really impressive.

QSN: If you could change one thing about ZIRP, what would it be?

ANS: If I could go back and change something it would definitely be the scoping of the project and the choices made on some of the infrastructure interventions. I would also restructure the procurement strategy for the implementation of the project approach.



**Zimbabwe
Idai Recovery
Project**

