

Work hard in silence and let
the success make the
noise!



Food for thought

Development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming economies."

Low levels of education and training combined with economic dependence, tend to restrict rural women's possibilities to start entrepreneurial activities or to find other income earning positions in an economy where job opportunities are very scarce. This is further exacerbated by negative gender and cultural norms which make it more difficult for women to be socially and economically active. To achieve this, DOMCCP empowered marginalised community members through business skills and issuing of revolving loans and linking them to financial service providers. The project inculcated a spirit of saving through establishing Internal Saving and Lending Groups (ISALs).

Tinapi Maposa aged 51 resides in Mambondiani village in ward 35 in Dora. The place being an arid rural area falling under natural region 5, there are few economic and livelihood opportunities available for the community. Tinapi and her husband were unemployed and they struggled to feed their family with their children frequently getting chased away from school. Her major source of livelihood was horticultural production of tomatoes and vegetables.

Tinapi joined the project in 2015 and underwent trainings in ISALs and business management. She was issued out her first loan of \$200.00 which she invested in poultry production. To boost her income she ventured into buying and selling of clothing items (blankets, sheets, duvets, shoes) from Mozambique and traded the goods for grain in Macheke. Some of the profits accrued were used in paying tuition for her school going children and providing for other household needs. With her business profits slowly picking up, Tinapi managed to purchase a water pump, some water pipes and had a well drilled at her homestead to ease the burden of having to fetch water from distances further away from her home.

Tinapi graduated into phase two of the JLL Loans in 2017.

She now has 2 dams at her homestead, one serving as a source of water for her horticulture project and one for her aquaculture project.

To date she is farming over 300 fish and has already secured some clients for the project. Tinapi now sells freshly produced honey within her locality from her three bee hives. The horticulture project is producing a wide variety of unique vegetables that are rarely grown in rural settings and she has managed to strike a deal with a reputable company. In August 2017, She supplied 100kg of beetroot to Brand fresh at a cost of \$0,17 per kg and her tomato sales to traders amounted to \$400.

The project empowered people like Tinapi Maposa to be adventurous regardless of their background.

Quote : *"Diversifying into different projects is a wise way of spreading income sources and risks"*



Fig 1: Tinapi and her son Atipaishe feeding the fish

BEM/GEM fulfilling the rights of the vulnerable

Emma Chakumbila is a twelve year old girl from Hangaiwa village in Mayo District who's experience is a testimony of how GEMBEM clubs are making a positive impact in the community. GEMBEM stands for Girl Empowerment and Boy Empowerment Clubs. The GEMBEM club initiative provides a platform for children to have peer education sessions where they discuss different issues that affect them as children. Emma's life changed for the worse when her mother developed a mental illness in 2014. Being the first born child in her family, Emily had to take up the responsibility of taking care of her two siblings. Life became very difficult for Emily's family to an extent that the children would go to school on empty stomachs and barefooted. Well wishers and school teachers would occasionally provide for the family. Emily and her siblings did not have birth certificates and this was a huge burden on Emily as this could have hindered her from registering for her grade seven examinations.



Fig 2: Emma, Mr Chakumbila (Emma's father) and her siblings holding the donations they received.

Light was brought into Emily's life through the GEMBEM Club initiative established by DOMCCP in partnership with IM. The club sympathised with Emily's situation and with support from the guidance and counselling teacher at the school managed to organise a civvies day for fundraising. The fundraising was meant for resource mobilisation to assist Emily and her family. The club managed to raise \$53 from the civvies day and the proceeds were used to buy school uniforms for Emily's two sisters, a blanket as well as some tennis shoes.

The GEMBEM club members sourced some donations through the school in order to hire a vehicle to transport Emma's family to Chiendambuya to access their birth certificates. Thanks to the efforts of the GEMBEM Club at Hangaiwa Primary School, Emily and her siblings now have birth certificates.

“Nhamo ndine kwekukurira, though our father is now old aged he strives to take care of us. Musaitire ini ndoga asi muitirewo vamwe vakaita seni”, says Emma Chakumbila

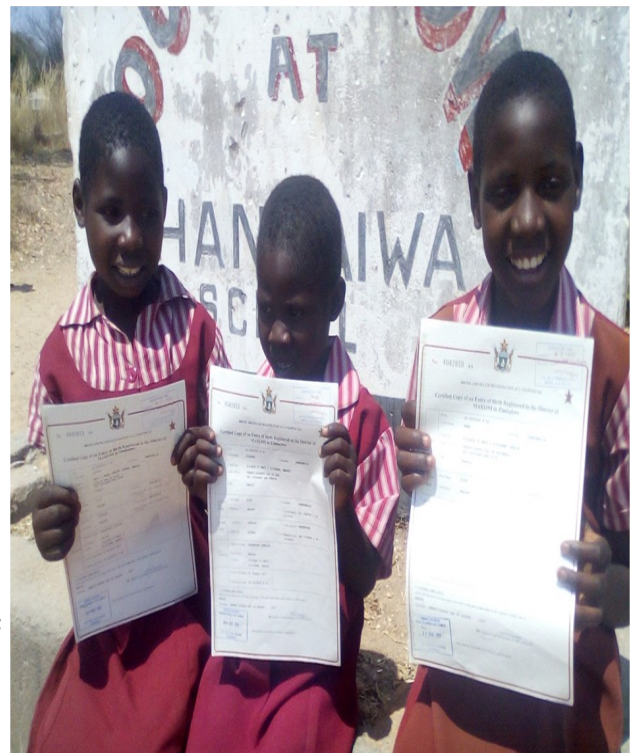


Fig 3: Emma and her siblings holding their birth certificates

DOMCCP has been implementing the Preventive Health intervention in both wards 5 and 35 of Dora Mutare. The intervention focuses on educating the community on Sexual Reproductive Health and other diseases. In addressing the different health related issues in the community, DOMCCP trained community structures such as volunteers, lead mothers, traditional leaders and village health workers to disseminate health related information to the community.

Ellen Chaoma from Chisamba village is one of the Lead mothers trained by DOMCCP who has managed to demonstrate how relevant lead mothers are in her community. Together with traditional leaders and village health workers, lead mothers monitor the welfare of expectant mothers and ensure that they are receiving proper ante-natal care. Previously, expectant mothers would receive ante natal care services from traditional midwives until delivery as defined by cultural norms. In every 20 pregnant women, only 5 would give birth at health facilities. However these practices were not safe for both the expectant mothers and the unborn babies resulting in high maternal deaths.

Having undergone trainings on SRH issues and maternal health, Ellen was now responsible for educating ten households in her village on health related matters. She and other lead mothers and fathers trained the community on the importance of digging pit holes to throw trash, building toilets and washing basins and digging bore holes. A number of households in her village did not have toilets but through her trainings they were encouraged to construct toilets at their homesteads.

To date Ellen has managed to secure malaria kits, baby weighing scales and diarrhoea kits for her community through her local clinic. This has helped decentralize provision of some health services to village level. People no longer have to walk long distances to access health centres to seek some medical services.

Through their work in the community, the lead mothers from Chisamba village identified the need for an ECD school in their village as infants had to attend ECD classes at schools located further away from the village which is very risky for young children. Ellen and other lead mothers from her village raised \$500 towards construction of an ECD classroom in Chisamba. The community assisted by moulding 28 000 bricks to aid the construction. The school can accommodate 43 children at a time and has already produced two classes that have graduated to primary education. A committee made up of community members is responsible for the administration and recruitment of infants at the school. Currently the school is sourcing some funds to use for purchase of doors and window panes for the school.

The lead mothers were empowered to educate their communities on preventive health and they now taken the initiative to contribute to the development of their community through the construction of an ECD school.

Quote :

“ That is the work that we have committed ourselves to do, to serve our community”, says Ellen Chaoma”.



Fig 4: Students at Chisamba ECD Centre



Fig 5: Baby Jayden Chisamba getting weighed at Ellen Chaoma's home

CHARITY BEGINS WITH ME!

Vulnerable community members in rural areas particularly resettlement areas face a lot of challenges related to health as well as social and economic instability. The spirit of togetherness (Ubuntu) lacks among the resettled households in Mayo since they came from different parts of the country and others are of Malawian origin. There is individualism and little motivation to develop the area as one community.

The project managed to empower vulnerable members of the community who had limited social safety nets through the Star Circle methodology. Star Circles are instilling a sense of independence within the community, taking responsibility to solve their problems using local initiatives and resources without having to wait for external support. Great strides have been made in areas including road rehabilitation, borehole maintenance and repairs, dip tanks and good health seeking behaviour.

Rujeko Star Circle in Hangaiwa centre is one of the Star Circle groups formed and trained by DOMCCP in Mayo ward 35 with the aim of spearheading development and ensuring that the ensuring rights of the marginalised are fulfilled. Having identified the plight of vulnerable groups with support from community leadership, STAR circle members decided to spearhead local resource mobilization in the form of clothes, maize, shoes and groceries. They relayed the message during village meetings and community gatherings. After the resources were gathered the committee in partnership with the school and community leadership allocated donated items to identified needy individuals.

The handover event was graced by the DOMCCP Director (Dr Nyamande). A total of 29 community members benefited from the support, 13 members who are physically handicapped, 8 who are elderly and 8 orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). It was interesting to note that 16 were male representing a 70% vulnerability among men. The general understanding is that women are the ones who are more vulnerable than their female counterparts given the patriarchal nature of our societies.

Quote: “I did not know that the community can also be a donor”.

Words by a Rujeko Star circle member



Fig 7: Rujeko Star Circle members sorting out the items donated by the community



Fig 5 Dr Nyamande handing over some donations to a needy community member.

Woman in business: Making it happen!

Emily Gindireni aged 30 is an example of a young woman who has defied all odds by climbing the ladder of success. Being a single mother of two and a survivor of gender based violence, Emily had to work as a housemaid to fend for her family after leaving her abusive husband. She later relocated to her parents home in Rusununguko, Makoni district where she started growing tobacco. She used the proceeds from farming to venture into the business of buying and selling grocery items.

Emily joined the IM funded project in 2017 and attended all the business trainings the project was offering. Emily previously faced challenges with customer retention and keeping comprehensive records for her business. Much of her focus was on pushing sales without factoring in all the costs incurred.

The business trainings were an eye opener and she grasped the concepts of market research, record keeping as well as business planning. Emily is now realising average daily sales of \$25 with monthly profits averaging \$200.00. Emily demonstrated the will to expand and develop herself. In May 2017 she sold two beasts and used the proceeds to buy a business stand at Rusununguko business centre for \$1381.00. She successfully processed the plan with Makoni Rural District Council for \$150.00 and was given the green light to proceed with construction.

In October 2017 she started building a grocery shop and a butchery. She has invested close to \$1000.00 with 30% of the amount being financed through Internal Saving and Lending and the remainder coming from business profits.

Emily is now a role model in her community. She has proven that a girl child can be self reliant and a successful business owner.

“Ndakuchengeta mabhuku ebusiness rangu uyezve ndakutorongawo zvinhu zvebusiness zvinondibatsira pakufambisa basa mberi.”. These were the words of Emily with reference to the project.



Fig 6: Emily serving customers in the shop she is currently renting at Rusununguko Business Centre, Mayo



Fig 7: Construction workers at work whilst Emily looks on

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Fig 8: Primary school pupils surround a poster during drug substance abuse campaign in Mayo



Fig 9: Students at Mhandambiri Primary School Dora during GEMBEM Club Session

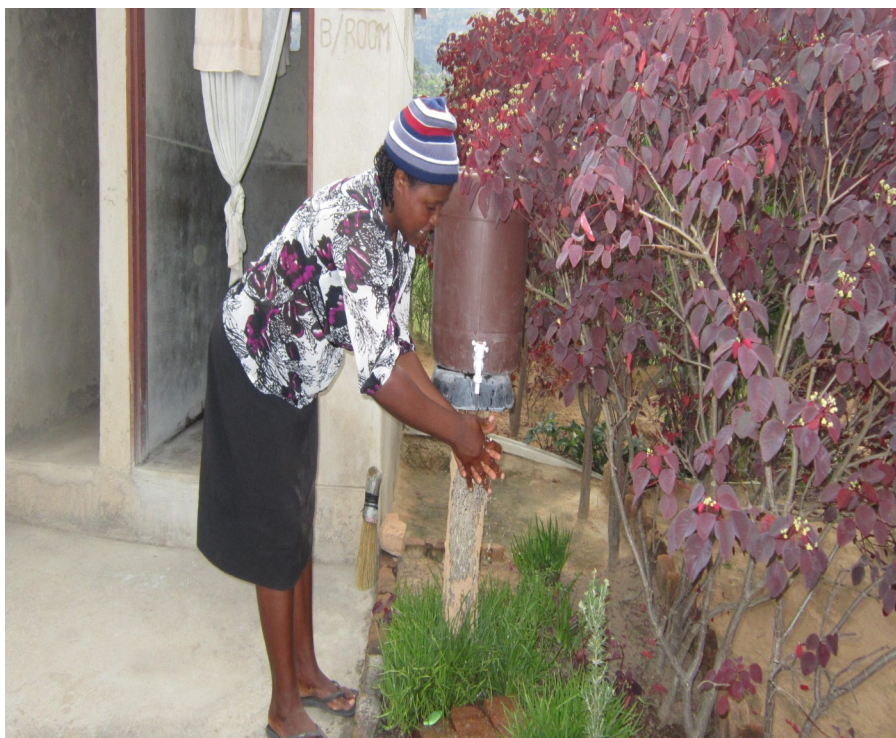


Fig 13: Mrs Rukondo demonstrating how people can wash their hands using a tapped container



Figure 14: pathway to Mrs Rukondo's bathroom and toilet

Mrs Rupondo from Nyadongo village won the overall prize for the most hygienic homestead in Dora. The competition was organized by lead mothers working with DOMCCP in collaboration with volunteers from the two wards in Dora.

Mrs Rupondo and her family benefited through the trainings conducted by lead mothers on hygiene. The lead mothers carried out a number of campaigns aimed at educating the community on the importance of hygiene as a way of maintaining health and preventing the spread of diseases.

Prior to joining the programme, Mrs Rupondo had a makeshift toilet at her home which was a common phenomenon among most households in her village. Without access to clean and safe toilets, the community was at high risk of health problems.

Following the trainings, Mrs Rupondo and her husband managed to construct a separate toilet and bathroom which are up to standard. They also had a drying rack for plates constructed at their homestead.

The Rupondo couple is well known in their village for being very hygiene conscious and their homestead is marvelled by many. They have become role models for their fellow community members with regards to championing and sanitation in rural set ups.

Economic Empowerment project members in Dora have managed to establish a number of different income generating projects with the backing of the support they are receiving from DOMCCP. Despite the potential that lies within the various projects they are running, they face challenges related to securing viable markets for the products they are produce. This is a familiar problem within several rural communities and the problem is being worsened by the cash shortages in the country. The per capita income of people in Dora is generally low and demand is irregular thus lowering their capability to realize profits by selling within their communities. Given this background DOMCCP conducted a market fair which was aimed at giving project members an opportunity to showcase their products to fellow community members, suppliers as well as other stakeholders.

The project members exhibited various products including horticultural products, livestock as well as clothing . The total number of sales on the day reached \$302.33 with an average of \$18.90 per individual. One project members who sells herbal products realized the highest amount of sales worth \$52.00. Following the success of the market fair the local leadership and the community showed interest in having such shows being conducted more frequently in order to lessen the burden of accessing markets.



Figure 15: Mr Bare interacting with project members during the Market Fair



Fig 16: A JLL member showing some of the garments she sews