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#### **2.6.1. Factors leading to food insecurity**

A number of factors that contribute to food insecurity differ by region and by each year. Some of the factors leading to food insecurity like droughts are linked to bad climatic conditions. In Zimbabwe, droughts and other secondary effects are a major concern. In September 2015, the Mwenezi District Administrator, Mrs Rosemary Chigwe was quoted attributing high plants stunting growth levels as a result of a prolonged dry spell that usually hits the area (Takawira, 2015). The stunting growth challenge in Mwenezi district, as has been stated by Mrs Chigwe, is prominent in most Zimbabwean rural areas and has impacted heavily on poor farmers.

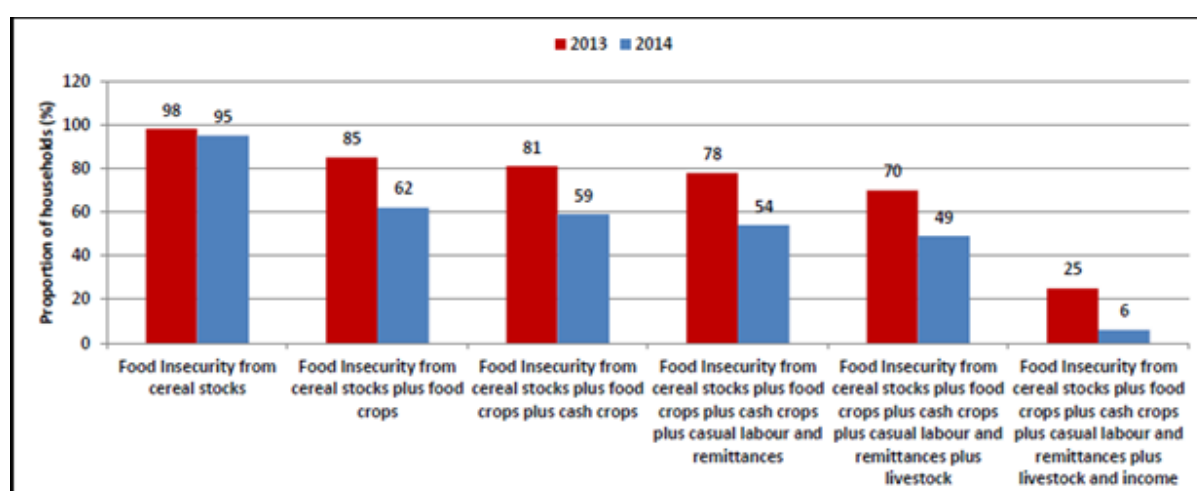
In trying to establish the real factor leading to food insecurity, different theories have been brought forward and these have attempted to provide solutions, but food insecurity has remained difficult to address. Seeking to establish the reasons for the rise in food prices, economists and political leaders have explained the reduction in food availability as an outcome of a number of factors. These include, declining growth in productivity due to drought, water scarcity and land degradation, along with the conversion of food staples into biofuels (or agro-fuels, as they have also been termed) in which the latter is as of a response both to spiralling oil prices and to state-based incentives to reduce national dependency upon oil (Loewenberg, 2008; UNEP, 2009). Apart from all these factors mentioned above, there are other factors affecting food security.

There is a need to look at multiple ways of ensuring food security. This is because food security is not solely accomplished through the production and harvest in the agricultural season concerned. There is a need to have closer focus on the third factors with which their secondary effects are a concern as far as food security is concerned. Therefore, their effects

should not be underestimated. While such explanations are logically appealing, attempts have been and some are going through in different contextual areas inclusive the case study of this research. On the other side of the story, bearing in mind of the secondary effects resulting from such factors such as the ones that has been listed above, both ways which are aimed at trying to get rid of food insecurity through food hand out assistance and the newly adopted C/FFA it should be noted that in combination, both effects have a casual relation to food availability. Nevertheless, such developments such as adoption of new strategies of fighting hunger and poverty are attempts to unmask broader socio-economic settings in the field, along with the actions of powerful corporations and global regulating bodies, which shape the ways foods are grown, distributed and ultimately end up – or for a growing number, don't end up – in the mouths of consumers (Lawrence, Lyons & Wallington, 2010:2).

The country has five natural regions (agro economy zones) defined around climatic conditions with the majority of people in rural areas engaged in subsistence farming, characterized by low productivity and minimal use of purchased inputs and capital (Zeleka & Turigari, 2011:1). The country's food security situation is generally varied based on these agro economy zones as other parts of the country are rich with food reserves while other sections are hard-hit with food insecurity. However, despite the fact that some agro economic zones are capable of boasting high food yield volumes, access to food does not correspond with a balanced diet. Moreover, food security to these agro economic zones has never been consistent in Zimbabwe given threats posed by droughts. On the other side of the coin, where people do not have access to enough food, the households depended on the income source to provide for the families (ZimVAC, 2014:88). Since 2009, between 1.05 million and 1.67 million people, which is 12 to 19 per cent of the rural population, have been requiring food assistance during lean seasons (WFP Executive Board, 2013:3).

Figure 2.3: Food insecurity by income source

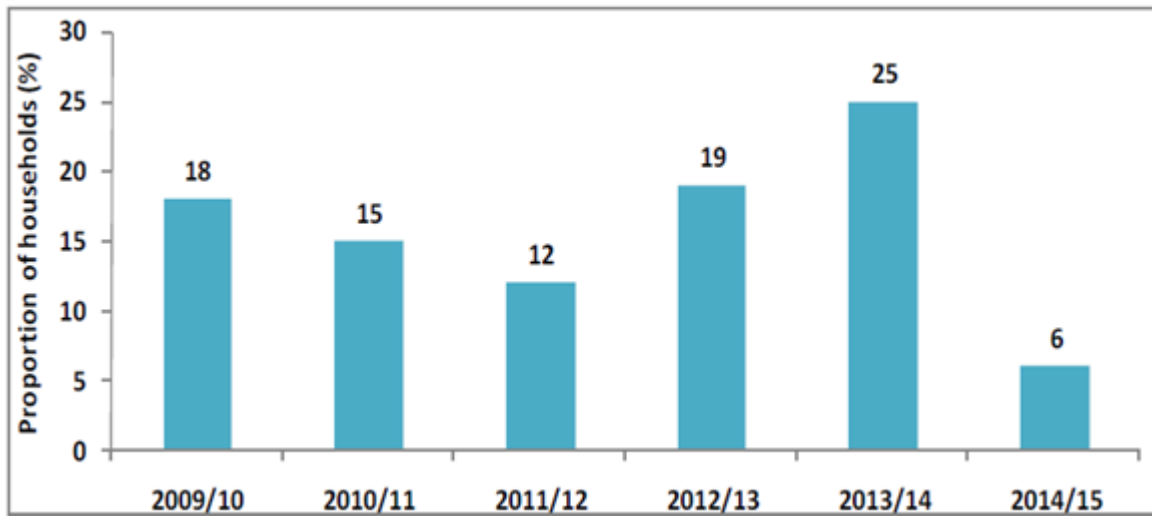


**Source:** ZimVAC, 2014:88

Data used to come up with the above shown statistics was collected between the year 2013 and 2014 by the <sup>8</sup> Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC). In an attempt to show the vulnerability of people to food insecurity, proportions as high as 98% in 2013 and 95% in 2014 was recorded. Zimbabweans depends on cereal and food crops for their staple food. It is a worrying situation as on Figure 2.4, food insecurity from both cereal stocks and food crops are high with 85% in 2013 and 62% in 2014 per proportion of household. The country is a low-income, food-deficit country which is ranked 173rd of the 187 countries on the Human Development Index (WFP Executive Board, 2013:5). This therefore, exacerbates the need for development agencies, as can be evidenced by food aid organisations that have been witnessed in the country. In another supportive statement to strengthen the perception of food insecurity and validate the need of projects like the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation, ZimVAC (2014:87) notes, “The 2014/15 consumption year at peak (January to March) is projected to have 6% of rural households’ food insecure. This is a 76% decrease compared to the previous consumption year.” Thus, all the information shown on the graph shows the country’s food insecurity percentage status per household proportion.

<sup>8</sup> ZimVAC provides information that informs government and development organizations on programming necessary for saving lives and strengthening rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

Figure 2.4: Food Security Trend (2009-2014)



Source: ZimVAC (2014:87)

Figure 2.5 shows the inconsistency of food security in the country. Varying household percentage proportions were recorded from 2009 to 2014. High food security percentage per household of 25% in 2013/14 was recorded and a low percentage of 6% was also recorded in 2014/15 during the same period. This proportion represented about 564,599 people being at peak, not being able to meet their annual food requirements (ZimVAC, 2014:87).

## 2.6.2 Cash/Food for Asset programme

### 2.6.2.1 Programme Background

Generally, most rural economies in Zimbabwe depend on agriculture. At times, for instance during bad seasons, some of these rural areas experience droughts. It is this prevalence of draught that led WFP, a regular food aid organisation in the country to come up with Cash/Food for Asset programme. The programme was the *modus operandi* in trying to solve some of the challenges faced in some rural communities in the country. Dependency on rainfall makes the agricultural sector and the entire economy highly vulnerable to drought (Zeleka & Turigari, 2011:3). This has necessitated the need to initiate other development projects. It helps to explain the beginning of the Cash/Food for Asset programme and other similar project.

In its functional being, the programme was been intended to act as a form of employment for the beneficiaries while they also earning food or cash vouchers. This is mainly because a vast number of people in employed labour force are well off the food insecure as compared to the



unemployed ones. If a person is employed, it means that one job is secured and one has the financial power to live within the Poverty Datum Line (P.D.L). Today, understanding the labour market is as important for addressing food security problems of the rural and the urban poor in developing countries as understanding the food market (Von Braun, 1995:1). Given the high rate of unemployment in Zimbabwe, the C/FFA concept is something which development people (government or NGOs), particularly the funding institutions, really need to ponder about. This is a form of reprieve for most vulnerable people in these remote areas. Since development is a people-focused concept, its contents in specific situations must be clarified in relation to people-related problems (Dale, 2004:21). Therefore, while addressing challenges of food shortages; the programme is also a form of employment. This directly applies to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme where people are farming for food as well as producing surplus for sell. In this way, the development project is clarified in relation to the people's problems.

The research focuses on the socio-economic issues of the people residing in the case study area. Takawira (2015) provides a brief statement about asset creation by Japanese ambassador to Zimbabwe, Yoshinobu Hiraishi who spoke after the completion of the Mwenezi dam under the WFP's robust asset creation programme, said: "the programme seeks to strengthen the power of resistance of the local community to natural disasters such as drought by helping community to build viable assets such as this Dam." In exploring the impacts of the irrigation scheme at Dotito, this research is a juxtaposition of an assessment of the Cash/Food for Asset programme and the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. Dreze and Sen 1989 cited in Von Braun (1995) postulated that it is now widely accepted that food security is at least as much a matter of poverty. There is a correlation between food security and poverty. This is because if at a certain stage, people are food insecure, they also may find themselves in poverty and if they are in poverty, they may also find themselves food insecure. Therefore, it is understandable to say that food security is more or less the same issue as issues around poverty.

Additionally, one would have said that the Cash/Food for Asset programme in Zimbabwe was a reminiscence of the food for work programme which was initiated in many countries and in Zimbabwe, in 1992. Such an initiative was advocated as a means of employment and addressing food security in vulnerable communities. Von Braun (1995) has warned that too little attention has been paid to the idea of investing in productive and remunerative employment for the poor as an alternative to subsidising food (or capital). This statement

shades light on the importance of development projects like the Cash/Food for Asset programme. The WFP decided to implement a programme such as Cash/Food for Asset programme which varied to the usual subsidies food hand-outs in selected districts inclusive of Mount Darwin. This form of a programme, however, is not something new in efforts to address food security. Von Braun (1995:1) postulates that, “during the 1980s, many countries shifted their policies away from food subsidies and toward more developmental policies for poverty reduction and are now striving to implement such policies.”

The inadvertent introduction of the Cash/Food for Asset programme needed to be understood, but first, it is important to get to know how the key organisations are related. WFP is the supreme driver of the programme. However, in implementing the programme, WFP which is in Zimbabwe, is partnered by a host of organisations. In order to understand the works and activities of NGOs, one needs to know the distinction made by Lewis (1998) where he identifies North Non-Governmental Organisations (NNGOs) and South Non-Governmental Organisations (SNGOs). NNGOs are identified as those NGOs with their roots in industrialised countries and SNGOs are characterised as local southern NGOs which exist in many aid recipient countries. In the case study, these NGOs are just the same as WFP, World Vision among other development agencies and humanitarian organisations.

Highlighting the near achievement of the MDGs by some countries where about 72 out of 129 having achieved the target of halving undernourishment by 2015, Mhlana (2015) quoted the FAO Director General, Jose Graziano da Silva as stating that, “the near achievement of the MDG hunger targets shows us that we can indeed eliminate the scourge of hunger in our lifetime. We must be the Zero Hunger generation.” One can easily relate the foregoing statement to the Cash/Food for Asset programme initiation which was initiated during the global crises which shocked the world in 2008. The impact of this was largely felt by food deprived households and individuals. Before the global financial crisis became acutely visible in late 2008, the crisis in food and agriculture had already taken hold (Lawrence et al, 2010:1). In this respect Graziano emphasized the need for elimination of hunger to be mainstreamed into all policy interventions and at the launch of the new sustainable development agenda which was established this later 2015 (Mhlana, 2015).

The inadvertent introduction of the Cash/Food for Asset programme marked the introduction of a project by WFP and partner organisations aimed at working with local farmers. Food security in low-income countries may be achieved through sustained efforts by the local

small-scale and subsistence farming communities, with the active support from local, national and international agencies (Bakker, 2011:1). In order to buy in the idea of the Cash/Food for Asset programme concept, the people staying in the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme spheres of influence had to value the possible impact of the programme on their livelihoods. This is in line with Bakker's (2011:1) elaboration that, "any such effort will endure only if those small-scale farming communities and subsistence farmers feel that their interests are protected."

Therefore, those local communities should be involved in the process of working towards sustainable food security to the extent that they consider that they 'own' the project designed for that purpose (Bakker, 2011:1). In a UN hunger report released on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May to mark commemoration of the world hunger day a document titled 'The State of Food Insecurity' where it shown that the world hunger figures had dropped to 795 million, Mhlana (2015) of *The New Age* wrote that the number of people suffering from hunger has declined to 12, 9% of the population, down from 23, 3% over the last two decades.

### **2.6.3. Conclusion**

The chapter provided an indication of the theoretical framework used for the study as well as literature review on the importance of assessment. In doing this, a theoretical background of the approach was also provided. Reasons underlying the use of the sustainable livelihoods approach were given. An explanation of development projects was provided. This chapter provided a conceptual and theoretical background to the assessment of Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in this research. Looking at the literature review, detailed information on methods of assessment was given. The methods of assessment adopted and reviewed in the study were based on monitoring and evaluation. These research dimensions are fundamental in doing an outcome assessment of the irrigation project. In literature review process, a brief background of the Cash/Food for Asset was given, linking directly to my research on food security in the study area. The next chapter describes the research methodology used for the study and describes the data gathering process.

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Methodology Underpinning the Assessment of the Outcome Impacts of the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe**

#### **3. Introduction**

This chapter provides the contextual background for the study. It also discusses the research methods used for the study. It begins by locating the study within the research setting and thereafter, deals with methodology. The challenges encountered during fieldwork, the method and tools used for data collection, the research design, sampling procedure and sampling techniques are all described in detail in the second part of the chapter.

#### **3.1. Contextual background to this study**

##### **3.1.1. Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe is a relatively small country located on the southern part of the African continent. The country's total population is currently at 13 061 239 (ZimStat, 2012:14). Zimbabwe is divided into ten provinces; namely Harare, Bulawayo, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matebeleland North, Matebeleland South and Midlands.

##### **3.1.2 Mashonaland Central Province**

Mashonaland Central province (Figure 3.1) on page 44 is one of the ten provinces in the country. Just like the other nine provinces in the country, the province is also politically and economically divided. Moreover, according to the Zimbabwe natural regions categorisation the province is located in Natural Region One, meaning that it falls under an area of specialised farming. In this sense the province is an area in which agriculture is economically supported. However, despite the province categorised as falling within the Natural Region One, some of the areas within the province are food insecure. This uneven food security or insecurity which compromises peoples' livelihoods has motivated this study to assess the impact of the intervention initiated by government. The knowledge acquired from the research findings will be made available so they can be used to assess the resultant impact of other development agency's projects.

The province where the study is based, is one of the notorious regions in the country which was embroiled in the disputed Zimbabwean land reform programme. Politically, it is

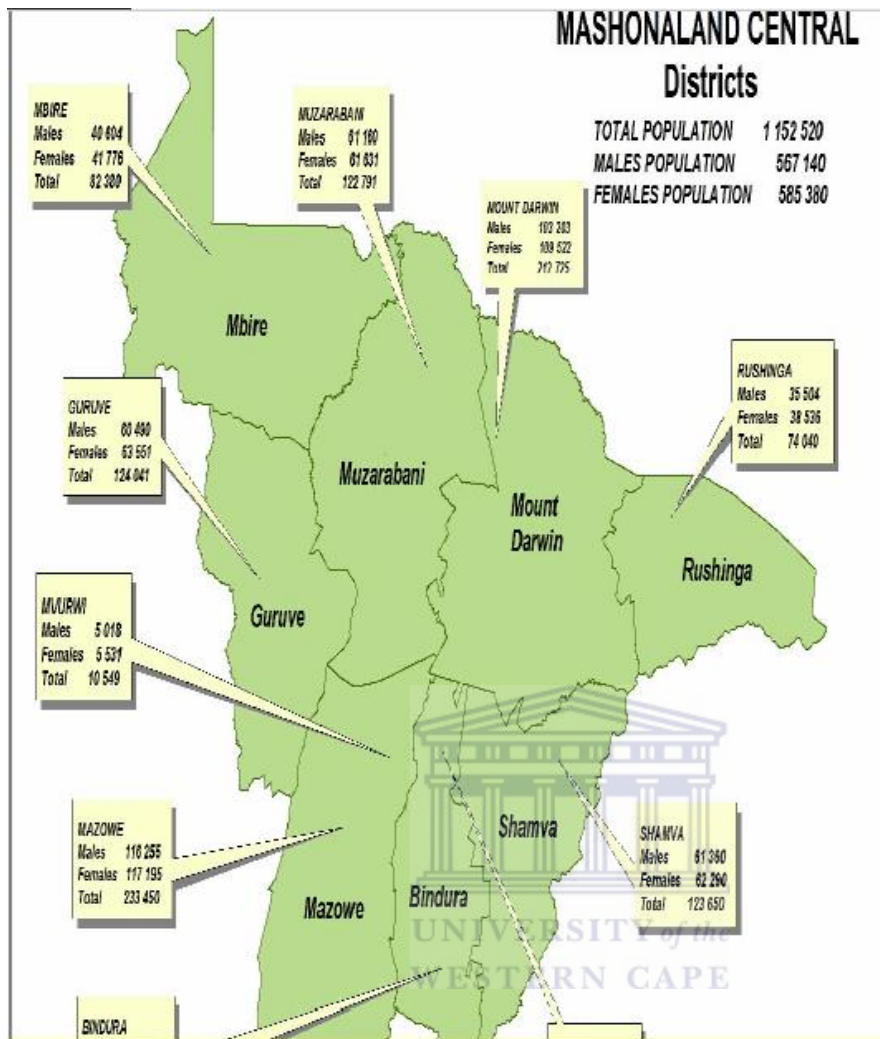
dominated by ZANU-PF loyal supporters and is the party stronghold. According to Makumbe (2008:9), “confronted with the inevitable prospect of losing political power, since early 2000 the ZANU-PF regime has transformed Zimbabwe into a fascist state where the rule of law is not only selectively applied, but new and effectively draconian legislation is generated and used as a tool of repression.” This has culminated in the ruling party to see any organisation, even NGOs as a threat to its power. There are reports of constant <sup>9</sup>threats to Civil Societies and NGOs from the president and his ruling party. For example the, the Daily News (2016) released a story on Mugabe’s recent threats to the NGOs. According to anonymous development practitioners, some of these threats have made it difficult for organisations to operate in Mashonaland Central and other politically instable regions. This usually impacts negatively when it comes to development projects.



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<sup>9</sup> President Mugabe’s recent threat to ban NGOs  
(<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2016/02/02/mugabe-s-threats-to-ban-ngos-ill-advised>)

Figure 3.1: Mashonaland Central and district of the case study area



Source: ZimStat (2012:1)

The province is partitioned into eight (8) districts and its provincial capital is Bindura. Among the eight districts in the province, Figure 3.1 is the Mount Darwin Pfura rural district council, which is where the Case Study for this research is based. In the absence of many sources which can be used to describe the case study area,<sup>10</sup> Mount Darwin town can be described as the town that functions as a capital of the district with a shopping centre serving local areas. The irrigation scheme, which was under investigation in this study, is situated in the Mount Darwin district.

### 3.1.3 Mount Darwin: Case Study Area

The case study area is in the Mount Darwin district, located about 100 kilometres to the North-West of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital city. Babbie and Mouton, (2001:280), postulate

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_Darwin\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Darwin_District)



that case studies are vital tools in scientific enquiry given that they give much information on the context within which they are set. This also inspired my decision to use Mount Darwin district as a case study so that people can make informed statements on rural smallholder farmers, irrigation schemes, food security and their livelihoods.

### **3.1.4 Dotito**

Dotito is a rural town which in the Zimbabwean context is classified as a <sup>11</sup> growth point. The Dotito growth point falls under the Mount Darwin district. This particular area is home to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, the project which is the subject of inquiry in this study. The selection of this area has been influenced by the livelihoods of the people in this area, which in terms of development, seemed to be in the deprivation trap. Swanepoel and de Beer (2012) described the deprivation trap as a situation where people are rendered vulnerable due to poverty, isolation, powerlessness and physical weakness. The majority of the people in the deprivation trap live in rural areas and squatter settlements on the outskirts of cities and towns (Swanepoel and de Beer, 2011:5). As a rural area, Dotito fits into the above description, making it appropriate as a case study. It is the livelihoods of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and how the project impacted on them which form the foundation of this study. Writing on the importance of development projects, although he mentions techno-economic development projects as important, Bapat (2005) identifies these projects as always located in relatively economically underdeveloped regions and in the case of developed states, usually in agriculturally underdeveloped, drought-prone regions, with high out-migrations of people leaving going to other areas. Despite the issue of high out-migration being inconspicuous or unaccounted for in Dotito, the study acknowledges the above statement and agrees that the area is agriculturally underdeveloped and drought-prone.

### **3.1.5. Reflections on the case study project**

The Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project became the centre of study. All activities at the irrigation scheme became subject for data collection. Information collected at scheme helped in the assessment of the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers at the scheme. I decided to focus on the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project because I saw this as an interesting area of study and it is in line with developmental projects. In this sense, the irrigation scheme constituted a feasible platform for me to do research. In addition to this, the irrigation scheme

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<sup>11</sup> A growth point was generally used to define a rural township in Zimbabwe

also fitted with my initial plan to do a research on a Cash/Food for Asset (C/FFA) programme and in this case the partitioned plots represented the asset. Therefore, in the interest of this study, the irrigation scheme is an asset on which the local people's livelihoods are supposed to be transformed. This boils down to the assessment of the project and which became the essence of the study to probe whether the presence of the project has positive or negatively transformed the lives of farmers. In probing this cause, I have invested much emphasis to the roles and the need for implementing Monitoring and Evaluation as the resulting impacts emanates from such implemented development projects.

### **3.2. Research Methodology underpinning the study**

This study provides an assessment of the Outcome Impacts of the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe. In this section, I seek to describe in detail, the data collection method, the research design, sampling procedure and sampling techniques, and the tools used to for data collection. The unit of data analysis is also presented in this chapter. Intricate information on the socio-economic situations of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is divulged to gain much detail of the project and to establish how it benefits the farmers. In assessing the project, roles of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) have been used in unpacking developments at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. In the build-up to the research design and sampling methods section of this chapter, I feel it is imperative to give an insight into the experiences and challenges that I encountered during my preparations to go conduct fieldwork.

#### **3.2.1. Data Collection - A reflexive approach**

The methodology section outlines the data collection methods and research design that I have used during the fieldwork. However, before I engage in a discussion on the research methods and design, it is fundamental to describe the fieldwork experience. To begin with, embarking on fieldwork for the purposes of data collection was an experience that I was really looking forward to, unknowing the ordeal that was to follow for my entire stay in Zimbabwe (See appendix attached). Conducting the fieldwork turned to be a challenging experienced and took a different course from what I had initially anticipated. As a researcher, I would like to highlight some of the experiences that I have gone through during my brief stay in Zimbabwe while collecting data. The challenges include, refusal to provide information by some of the organisations, and operating on a constrained research budget, since most of the fieldwork



was self-funded. However, there were some positive things to take-away from the whole experience, which was an eye opener to me. After successfully completing the fieldwork, I felt that the experience and challenges I came across added to and improved my research skills and this would be useful in my future work experience.

It was at the point where I was refused access to information by the organisation from which I had initially planned to obtain data from about their project before I decided to explore other possible avenues which provided me a direct link to a developmental project. After deep reflections on possible projects that could be selected, the idea of the irrigation project came up, and fortunately I had chosen the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme.

### **3.2.2 Research Design**

The methodology section was drafted in a way that would foster the best way to collect data and source other useful information. Material gathered in the process provided a platform to explore development projects. In this case study, it was presumed that in order to yield the best possible results on the outcomes assessment of the irrigation scheme as a development project, the research needs to consider the identification and determination of impacts as outlined by Ile, Eresia-Eke and Allen-Ile (2012:2). This means that not all socio-economic issues were considered in data collection, but only selected issues that relate to development were identified and captured in the data collection process. Due to limited sources of information on the irrigation project, only important data such as the socio-economic impacts like poverty, inequality, income and economic activities, employment and unemployment ratios was queried in the data collection session. Such information was gathered to give a true reflection on the livelihoods of people at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme.

### **3.2.3 Method of Data Collection**

Moments prior to travelling for data collection, I drafted the data collection tools and had planned that everything would go accordingly as planned. The data collection tools consisted of questionnaires, interviews and general site observations. I chose this method as it was also used in a similar study on the sustainability of the rural water supply and sanitation scheme by Kwangware et al (2014) which was done in the same province where data was gathered through households' survey, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and field observation.

### **3.2.4 Data collection process**

I recruited a research assistant who was familiar with and had knowledge of the case study area, where the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is situated. The research assistant helped me in conducting interview sessions, assisting respondents in filling the questionnaires and writing notes. In order to identify participants, the names of the beneficiaries of the irrigation scheme, who also constitute the participants part in the research were to be drawn from a pool of names, which were to be provided by the relevant authority. However, I failed to get the list of names of the irrigation scheme beneficiaries from the relevant authority, and in this case I also made use of the snowball sampling method.

### **3.2.5. Indicators for data collection**

I could not acquire secondary data on the case study area and therefore I utilized primary data. In an attempt to try to get relevant information, data was collected using indicators focusing around the following thematic areas (1) socio-demographic characteristics of the case study area and of respondents, (2) food security status and Cash/Food for Asset programme concept application in the case study area, (3) possible socio-economic impact areas of the project such as household food access, health, nutrition and food consumption patterns, child labour, education and self-empowerment, (4) institutional challenges confronting the programme in the case study area. The data gathered is analysed using both qualitative and quantitative tools as follows;

### **3.2.6. Brief explanation on the data collection tools**

During the study, data collection was done using questionnaires, interviews and general observations. Questionnaires formed a great lead in investigating the outcome impacts of the irrigation scheme as a development project. The questionnaires were administered to the plot beneficiaries on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015 at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. In this case the questionnaires were crucial in ascertaining the socio-economic status of the people at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and getting a view on whether or not the scheme has positive or negatively impacted the livelihoods development of the farmers.

Interview sessions were conducted with different organisation officials mostly from local NGOs. The officials consulted are experienced working in assessment related positions such as Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) officers, programmes officers and other related positions alike. Discussions were centred on development projects, the C/FFA and Monitoring and Evaluation. Apart from interviewing officials from different institutions, I also interviewed a

person representing the chairperson of the scheme. I interviewed this individual on the premise that he had knowledge of the irrigation scheme and was part of the leadership at the scheme.

Observations were done throughout the study with attention paid to changes in the livelihoods of farmers at the scheme. Observations were also used to gather information and relate the answers from respondents to the project activities. I observed the irrigation scheme as we toured the scheme because I wanted to relate what the respondents were saying to the practical conditions on the scheme and the community.

### **3.2.7 Sample size and sampling procedure**

I did not use a quantifiable sample size but I used specific sampling methods, the snowball and purposive sampling to get participants. I used these sampling techniques because it was difficult to get participants (beneficiary farmers). I brought in these sampling techniques mainly because I had failed to retrieve a list of beneficiaries to draw up a specific sample size on. Snowball sampling is used to identify participants when appropriate candidates for study are difficult to locate (Dattalo, 2008:6). Therefore, with the few beneficiary farmers at the irrigation site, they managed to refer their colleagues to me. The unavailability of the list also gave me room to employ purposive sampling. When I employed purposive sampling I used my understanding of what a development project entails as has been highlighted earlier in the paper and what a standard livelihood would entail to the beneficiaries. This is because through purposive sampling, elements are selected based on the researcher's judgment that they will provide access to the desired information (Dattalo, 2008:6). Just as in snowball sampling, I saw it fit to employ a purposive sampling method because of the unavailability of a list of beneficiaries from relevant authorities or any published information on the project.

### **3.2.8 Data analysis and presentation**

Data collected was coded and entered into ATLAS ti and SPSS for qualitative and quantitative analysis respectively. Findings from the analysis were then presented statistically and in descriptive form enabling me to have a visual representation of the impact of the project in the case study area. Data generated from interview was recorded, transcribed, analysed and presented in the form of figures, tables and narratives based on empirical evidence.

### **3.3. Chapter conclusion**

This chapter presented the study methodology and described in detail the processes involved. Research methodology aspects that formed the discussion included data collection method, sampling procedure and sampling techniques, and the tools used for data collection. Information collected through the data collection tools provided the research with intricate information used for analysis on the socio-economic situations of the farmers at the irrigation scheme. The information generated therefore provided room to divulge and gain as much needed details of the project and how it impacted on the livelihoods of the farmers. The next chapter outlines and examines the outcome assessment of the project based on data collected.



## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS**

### **Analysis of Research Results to Assess the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe**

#### **4. Introduction**

This chapter consists of the analysis of the research results. The relevance of the chapter in the case study seeks to give discussions as has been gathered from the responses provided by the participants. It provides clarity based on added value in consideration of the responses to the subject matter under investigation. Therefore in seeking clarity, an analysis of information is done based on the responses recorded in the questionnaires, interviews and general observations. After the analysis one should be able to tell the consistence at which the responses were recorded from one interviewee to the other. At the end, all this should help to shed light on development projects assessment. One special means of assessment identified is M&E, a method of assessment that provided a platform to discuss challenges faced in different institutions in its implementation. Therefore the chapter expressed the importance of assessments in development projects entailing that M&E should not be taken for granted. It helped to ensure that outcome assessments the never be underestimated as far as development is concerned. The responses by the interviewees, together with other insights will be able to determine the recommendations for action on current and future development projects. After the data analysis, recommendations will be made sustain the irrigation scheme and which can also be used to other projects alike the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project.

#### **4.1 Farmers' reception of the irrigation project**

This section consists of the quantitative results analysis which is based on the questionnaires administered to the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. In a similar study, Chazovachii (2012) assessed the impact of small-scale irrigation scheme on rural livelihood suing panganai irrigation scheme in Bakita district of Zimbabwe as the case study. In his findings, the scholar established that even though the establishment of the Panganai small scale irrigation project was done as an endeavour to improve the welfare of the people. Nevertheless, livelihood challenges remain a pressing issue as economic and social problems continue affecting plot holders which has resulted in the scheme being undermined. In assessing the outcomes of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme on the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers, the information represented in the analysis is based on the responses from the irrigation project beneficial farmers. In the survey, a total number of twenty four

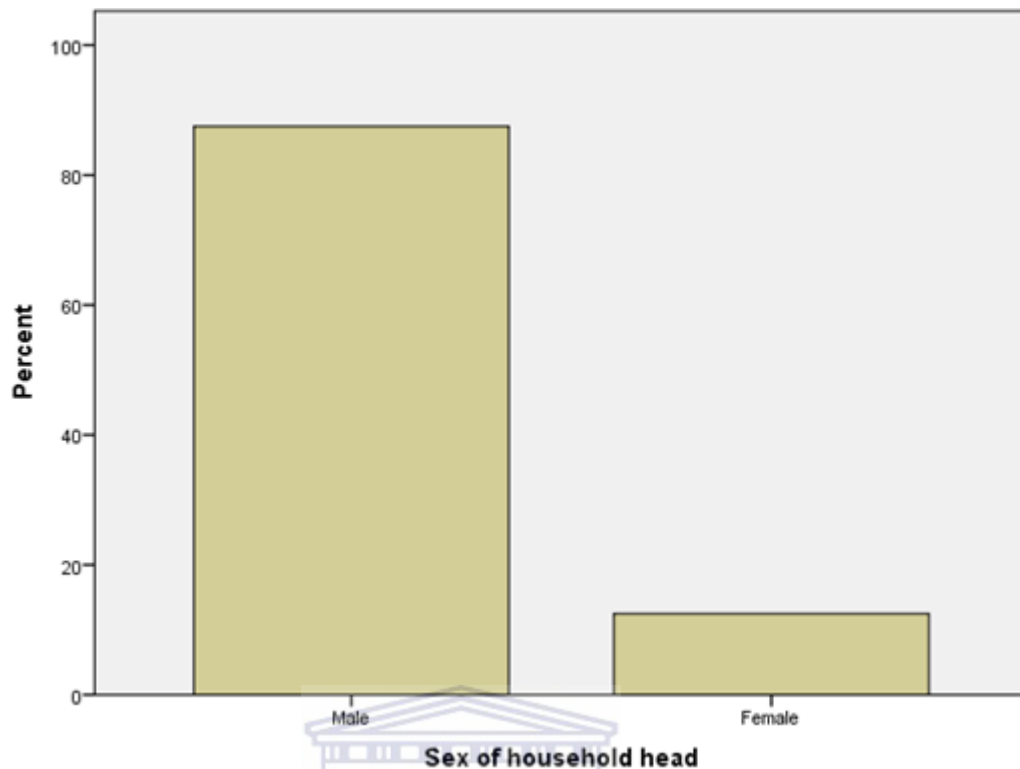
farmers out of the ninety four farmers at the irrigation scheme managed to fill in and complete the questionnaires and the feedback captured and recorded using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) as analytical software.

The number of farmers during the day of questionnaires dissemination was at 26, 7% representation of farmers at the irrigation scheme. I assume this is because other farmers were engaged in other activities aside of the irrigation as the project is now partially functioning. This concurs with my observations on the irrigation plots where there was a dire situation in which some of the plots were unattended to and remained unproductive. The observations prompted me to question the farmers as to the reason why there were some plots abandoned and a low productive activity at the irrigation. In response, most of the farmers fingered the pressing economic situation. The situation makes it difficult for the farmers who are unable to self-support their crop production. However, this analysis is mainly a descriptive analysis of the views of farmers which reflects the benefits accrue after allocated the plots at the irrigation scheme.

#### **4.2 The Socio-demography of farmers at the irrigation**

The socio-demographic percentage of beneficiary farmers clearly tells that the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project is dominated by male beneficiary farmers as compared to female farmers. This representation can be traced back to the issue of patriarchal dominance in most communities. Figure 4.1 is a gender based graph showing gender of household heads at the irrigation scheme. Research finding showed that 12, 5% of the respondents were women and 87, 5% constituted male beneficiary farmers (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Gender of household head



**Source:** Research findings 2015

However, despite the dominance of male headed families in the case study there are instances where both husband and wives were working together on their plots upon irrigation site visit. In the case of female-headed families, one could find women working with siblings. It is from this that it can be argued that single gender-headed household meant that either one partner had passed away or one is divorced. The issue of gender among household heads was investigated in this study because in a study by World Economic Forum a number of reasons why poverty falls faster in households headed by females were established. According to the report, while poverty decline for both household groups in most countries, it fell faster for Female Headed Households (FHHs) in comparing households with widow and non-widowed heads, married heads with and without a male adult household member and the same for non-married heads (World Economic Forum, 2015). However, a closer analysis at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme reflected that poverty is not selective in the area as both FHH and Male Headed Households (MHH) are struggling to cope up with their livelihoods.



Figure 4.2: A Farmer participating in the study



**Source:** Field Work 23 July 2015

The picture in Figure 4.2 shows one of the female farmers at the irrigation scheme. This picture also gives supporting evidence on the socio-demographic representation of gender particularly the fact that female constitute the number of farmers at the irrigation scheme. The farmer in the picture background, Ms Jenny Chiongotere is one of the single parent family headed household beneficiaries at the scheme.

The farmers were also questioned on how they have benefited from the allocated irrigation plots. A cross tabulation on the responses of the farmers was done using SPSS (see page 62 and 63). The farmers were asked specifically on how the project benefited them socially, economically, or both. The results show a bit of variation of the responses given by the farmer. About 58 percent of the respondents (14 farmers) highlighted that they have benefited economically. The proportion of respondents who indicated social benefits and both social and economic benefits were about 16 percent (4 farmers) and 25 percent (6 farmers), respectively (Table 4.1) per village of origin. Thus, a greater number of farmers pointed out



that they have benefited economically as compared to those who opted for social benefit. Also interesting is the fact that only a few farmers could say they have benefited socio-economically in each village. The fact that respondents could point out some form of benefits shows that the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project had impacts on the farmers' livelihoods. It is important to acknowledge the benefits no matter whether it impacted socially or economically. For example where the benefit was credited is evidence in the study whereby more numbers of the farmers indicated that they have benefited economically. In other words, this result is in line with the economic initiative of the GoZ's attempt to economically empower indigenous people. In similar assessment on the outcome of a development project on the livelihoods of farmers, a study which was carried out in 2013 and 2014 by the Zimbabwe Vulnerable Assessment Committee, It was revealed that the most common household cash income source in rural households is casual labour, followed by food crop production/sales and remittances respectively (ZimVAC, 2014:36). Looking at the information gathered in the case, the present study has come to the conclusion that it is difficult for the farmers at the scheme to cater for their livelihoods.

Table 4.1: The socio-economic benefit responses by the farmers

| <b>Village of origin * How did the project benefited you socially/economically Crosstabulation</b> |              |   |          |                |       |
|--|--------------|---|----------|----------------|-------|
| Count  |              | How did the project benefited you socially/economically |          |                | Total |
|  |              | Social  | Economic | Socio-economic |       |
| Village of origin  | Manjoro      | 1   | 2        | 1              | 4     |
|  | Kagwambo     | 0   | 2        | 1              | 3     |
|  | Mazwimaviri  | 1   | 4        | 1              | 6     |
|  | Kanosvamhira | 1   | 5        | 1              | 7     |
|  | Gwashure     | 1   | 1        | 2              | 4     |
| Total  |              | 4   | 14       | 6              | 24    |

**Source:** Research findings 2015

Despite the inadequate impact on the livelihoods of farmers by the irrigation scheme due to the difficulties in the current economic situation, on the positive side the results also seem to confirm the importance of development projects. The irrigation scheme manage to empower local communities as most of the people who participated in the questionnaires could highlight that they have benefited by gaining access to the plots. In their response, for instance, some responded that they benefited economically since they did not have formal

employment, by acquiring the plots, they could now work on the irrigation project to produce enough to feed themselves and extra to sell for profit.

#### **4.3 Crops produced under the irrigation**

The farmers also responded to a question on the type of crops they farm under the irrigation. Crop diversification is one strategy that smallholder farmers may employ to reduce their vulnerability in the face of global environmental change (McCord et al, 2015: 738). It can ascertain that production of food crops by the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project is necessary to reduce global environment change as well as to ensure that farmers have access to enough food thereby avoiding starvation. In their responses, it was clear that they produce a variety of crops but they still displayed feeling of unsatisfactory due to other challenges hindering them to achieve their full production potential. Some of the crops produced (Table 4.2) are mainly vegetables. Production of such types of crops also has a well-being impact on the health of the farmers.



Table 4.2: Names of some types of crops produced at the irrigation

|       |                               | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Beans, Onions, Potatoes       | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 4.2                |
|       | Beans, Peas, Tomatoes         | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 8.3                |
|       | Beans, Vegetables             | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 12.5               |
|       | Cabbages, Vegetables          | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 16.7               |
|       | Onions, Beans, Potatoes       | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 20.8               |
|       | Peas, Tomatoes, Potatoes      | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 25.0               |
|       | Tomatoes, Cabbages            | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 29.2               |
|       | Tomatoes, Onions, Beans       | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 33.3               |
|       | Tomatoes, Potatoes, Onions    | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 37.5               |
|       | Tomatoes, Vegetables          | 2         | 8.3     | 8.3           | 45.8               |
|       | Tomatoes, Vegetables, Onions  | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 50.0               |
|       | Vegetables, Beans, Cabbages   | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 54.2               |
|       | Vegetables, Green maize       | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 58.3               |
|       | Vegetables, Onions, Beans     | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 62.5               |
|       | Vegetables, Tomatoes          | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 66.7               |
|       | Vegetables, Tomatoes, Beans   | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 70.8               |
|       | Vegetables, Tomatoes, Onions  | 5         | 20.8    | 20.8          | 91.7               |
|       | Vegetables, Cucumbers, Onions | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 95.8               |
|       | Vegetables, Tomatoes, Onions  | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 100.0              |
|       | Total                         | 24        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

**Source:** Research findings 2015

Table 4.2 shows names of some of the dominant types of crops produced at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. It is quite evident from the results shown in the table that a variety of crops like vegetables, tomatoes, onions among others are produced at the irrigation scheme. Looking at the responses given in the case study by participants who were at the site on the day of data collection, one is compelled to say that the farmers at the scheme were mainly into seasonal farming. However, this can be interpreted in the fact that challenges faced by the farmers had a limit into their ability to engage into full farming business. This led to the farmers to be viewed as if they are operating on a seasonal basis. This view was clear from the responses given by the farmers approached to complete the questionnaires. That assured of resources, capital and support, they will be ready to look forward to the project as their main source of business.

In this research, all participants were beneficiaries of plots at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. They were drawn from the five villages namely; Manjoro, Kagwambo, Mazwimaviri, Kanosvamhira and Gwashure. Table 4.3 is a table showing percentage representation of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and their village of origin.

Table 4.3: Participants by Village of origin

|               | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|---------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Manjoro | 4         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 16.7               |
| Kagwambo      | 3         | 12.5    | 12.5          | 29.2               |
| Mazwimaviri   | 6         | 25.0    | 25.0          | 54.2               |
| Kanosvamhira  | 7         | 29.2    | 29.2          | 83.3               |
| Gwashure      | 4         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 100.0              |
| Total         | 24        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

**Source:** Research findings, 2015

In Zimbabwe residential areas are further classified into Wards headed by councillors. So, the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is situated in Ward 9 about two kilometres from the growth point. The farmers to whom the questionnaires were given are local residents from the above mentioned villages. Some of these villages are also in ward 9. Thus, most of the farmers, if not all, who completed the questionnaires are from Ward 9. This confirms the chairman's earlier statement that the beneficiaries at the irrigation project were mainly resident in Ward 9, even though they were a few from Ward 36.

Farmers were questioned about the number of dependents they were staying with. Table 4.4 shows the responses recorded. In the findings it emerged that most of the farmers at the centre had four siblings under their care. Three of them had more than five, and a couple of them had either one or two siblings.

Table 4.4: Number of dependencies staying with a farmer

|           | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid One | 2         | 8.3     | 8.3           | 8.3                |
| Two       | 2         | 8.3     | 8.3           | 16.7               |
| Three     | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 20.8               |
| Four      | 16        | 66.7    | 66.7          | 87.5               |
| Five+     | 3         | 12.5    | 12.5          | 100.0              |
| Total     | 24        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

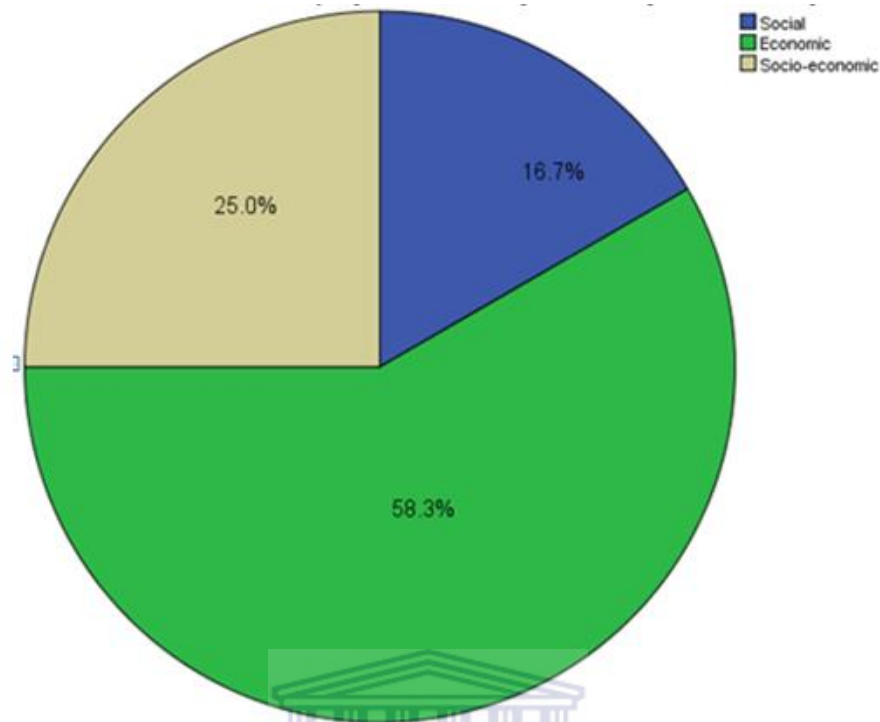
**Source:** Research findings, 2015

The number of dependencies that each farmer stays with has a direct influence on the livelihoods of each farmer's needs. In this case study, based on responses from the participants as well as my observation, most farmers had at least more than two dependencies. It can be argued that the more the dependents one has the bigger and diverse human resource a farmer has. This means that more labour, more production. I had a first-hand experience of this during my tour of the irrigation scheme because at one point I could see families working together in at the plot. However, the number of siblings a farmer has affects the proceedings accrued from the plot. The livelihoods needs of someone with one or two siblings cannot be equated to the needs of someone with three or more dependencies while having the same size of a plot.

#### 4.4 Project Impacts on Livelihoods

The distribution of the irrigation plots was meant to positively better the livelihoods of the farmers in the area. In the case study, the farmers at the irrigation scheme were also inquired on how they have benefited after being allocated plots. Different responses drawn from the participants showed the farmers' diverging views. Initially, the farmers were asked on whether they had benefited socially, economically or both socio-economically.

Figure 4.3: How had the project benefitted you socially/economically



**Source:** Research findings, 2015

Figure 4.3 is a pie chart on percentage representation of gains by the farmers from the irrigation project. The percentage representation of the respondents is based on what the farmers perceived as their gains after being allocated the plots. It can be drawn from the pie chart that 58% of the farmers answered that they have benefited economically while 16.7% stated that they have benefited socially and 25.0% have benefited both socially and economically.

The farmers were further questioned on their specific gains after being allocated plots. This followed after their socio-economic responds to give an insight on the types of gains incurred. Here, the question was much clearer and specific as the farmers were required to give examples of such gains.

Table 1.5: How have you benefited

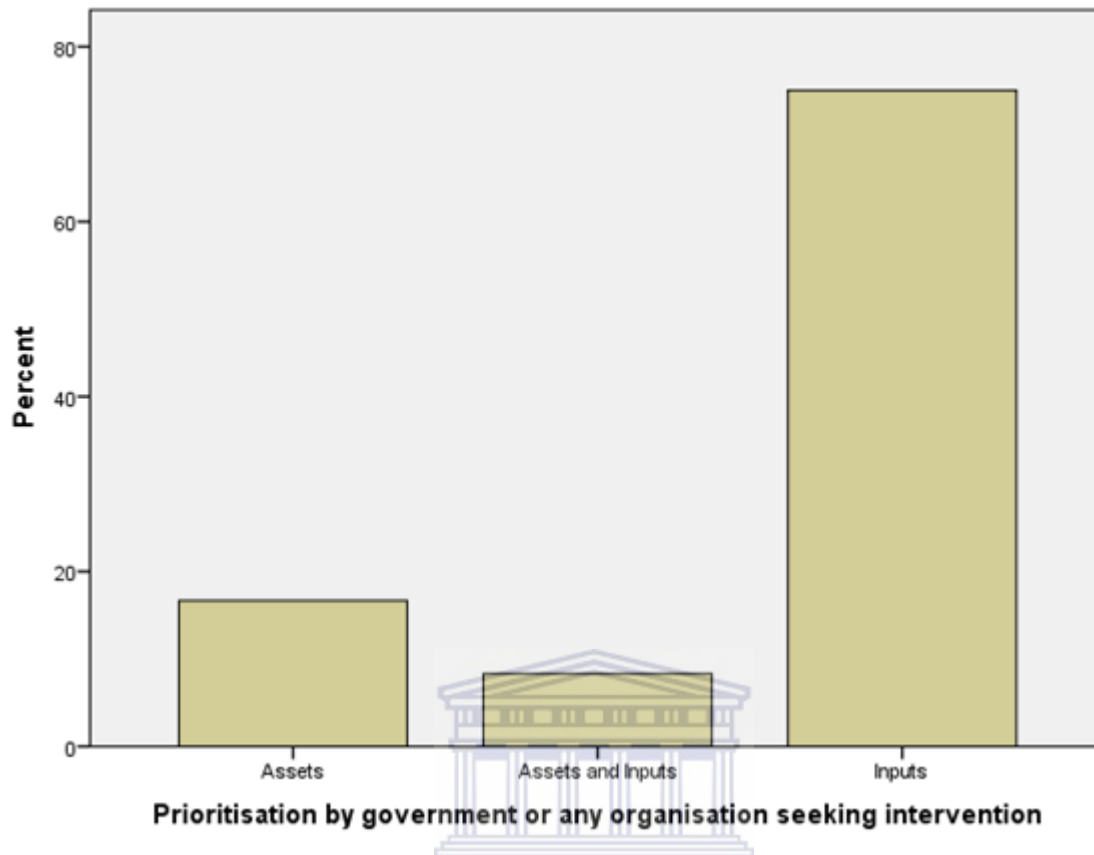
|       |                             | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Income and Food             | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 4.2                |
|       | Income, Food and Plot       | 3         | 12.5    | 12.5          | 16.7               |
|       | Income, Food and Employment | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 20.8               |
|       | Income and Plot             | 2         | 8.3     | 8.3           | 29.2               |
|       | Income, Plot and Employment | 4         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 45.8               |
|       | Food                        | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 50.0               |
|       | Food and Plot               | 3         | 12.5    | 12.5          | 62.5               |
|       | Food, Plot and Employment   | 6         | 25.0    | 25.0          | 87.5               |
|       | Food and Employment         | 1         | 4.2     | 4.2           | 91.7               |
|       | Plot and Employment         | 2         | 8.3     | 8.3           | 100.0              |
|       | Total                       | 24        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

**Source:** Research findings, 2015

A further detailed inquiry on the benefits of the farmers followed. Table 4.5 are research results based on the benefits of the farmers from being allocated the irrigation plot. The result is a resemblance of the information in Figure 4.3 but here in Table 4.5 is a deep down analysis of the actual benefits. The benefits help to spell the impact of the project on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

On the other hand, I went on to investigate on the farmers priorite needs for them to be able to achieve full production potential. In Figure 4.4 is a graphical representation of the responses from the farmers. Basically, the farmers had to select from the given three choices namely; assets, inputs or combined assets and inputs.

Figure 4.4: Prioritisation by government or any organisation seeking intervention



Source: Research findings, 2015

The farmers' responses in Figure 4.4 show answers after they were asked what they would like to be prioritised in case the government or non-governmental organisations seek to intervene to alleviate their situation so that they can fully utilise their plots. The responses prove that the majority of them need assistance in terms of inputs. Faring inputs would help them to grow the appropriate types of crops. Highlighting the need for farming inputs, inputs such as fertilisers and chemicals were mentioned. Apart from inputs, the farmers also expressed the need for assets. After questioning why they needed assets, the farmers highlighted that assets will enable them to successfully carry out their farming production. A handful famers highlighted that the government or any interested organisation seeking to assist them should prioritise both assets and inputs. The difference in responsenses is partly due to the varying degrees of individual farmers' concerns rather than their collective concerns.



Table 4.6: Prioritisation by government or any organisation seeking intervention

|                   | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid Assets      | 4         | 16.7    | 16.7          | 16.7               |
| Assets and Inputs | 2         | 8.3     | 8.3           | 25.0               |
| Inputs            | 18        | 75.0    | 75.0          | 100.0              |
| Total             | 24        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

**Source:** Research findings, 2015

Table 4.6 presents identified sectors/areas of support needed by the farmers. These areas are those that needed focus in case of any intervention by interested partners be it the government or any organisation. Areas that dominated farmers' responses on what they need most have been highlighted in Table 4.6. Most of the respondents spoke of lack of support as a challenge to their success at the irrigation scheme to carryout full production. Thus, on another question I asked them on what the government or any interested organisation should prioritise to enhance production at the scheme. The majority (about 75 percent) were quick to point at the need for input support while a handful (about 16.7 percent) highlighted the need for asset support as can be shown by the frequency and percentage of respondents on Table 4.6.

#### **4.5 Perceptions of development practitioners on challenges in keeping track of development projects**

Keeping track in development projects helps to ascertain progress report on the state of a project. A number of officials working with different organisations with interest in peoples' livelihoods in societies were consulted. It can be argued that the interviewees were drawn from a pool of development practitioners working with different organisations in Zimbabwe. I carried out a qualitative analysis based on their perceptions. The answers acquired are vital as much as development projects are concerned as these officials responded on a first-hand experience. The comments made by the officials really had a direct link and were not far apart from those challenges the farmers highlighted. In my opinion is the fact that while the responses from the farmers and organisation officials seemed different, what I can say is that they had a common contributing effect. Moreover, if one can track down, both conversations had conjugal agreement at the end. This is because one challenge could lead to the other and vice versa. The difference in responses as recorded at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project site is mainly because only a few seem to conform that the lack of the irrigation realising its

full potential was in the lack of support from the government or any other organisation because of political fear. The same point was raised by the officials who responded that not all community development projects are a success since quite a large percentage never reaches their objectives. Dominant in their responses, the officials also pointed out lack of understanding and support as the major factors. However, this does not rule out other contributing factors. Existence and possibility of different reasons as contributing factors to failures in development projects were also acknowledged in Swanepoel & De Beer (2012:45) who stated that, “Many reasons can be given for the failure of projects, but these reasons should be sought at the running of projects, not at characteristics of community development.” In this regard, I had a privilege to carryout interviews with experienced professionals working for development agencies to inquire on their perceptions on development projects at least from those with first-hand experience in the field. In these interviews, I seek to inquire the role of monitoring and evaluation as an important aspect of project cycle management. This information is helpful in enlightening on the institutional challenges facing development projects/programmes as experienced by those interviewed in this study, who are working in development agencies and other NGOs in Zimbabwe.

#### **4.5.1 Institutional challenges of assessments in development projects**

In order to give some concrete ideas on the importance of assessments in development projects, I conducted interviews on monitoring and evaluation. Participants in the interview sessions have been drawn from experienced people currently working in various NGOs, humanitarian organisations and other development agencies in Zimbabwe. These participants include monitoring and evaluation officers, programmes officers, development professionals among other people of various strategic positions in their organisations. The participants were asked a series of questions related to monitoring and evaluation. Their input gathered is used to reflect on the need to prioritise monitoring and evaluation systems in departments, organisations and governments. The participants have raised key issues that I feel are of utmost importance for development projects. Interviews have been conducted as a follow-up on similar challenges or lack of thereof, affecting the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme as a development project. Even though the findings are based on a government owned project, input from experienced personnel can help to shed light on the role of monitoring and evaluation, which has been seldom taken seriously by top managements.

The interviews were designed into five sections which were all related to monitoring and evaluation. The first section tested participants’ knowledge of the C/FFA programme and

required them to give their names, organisations and positions in their organisation. Since the C/FFA programme has been done by WFP in partnership with various NGOs, and for the fact that I did not have access to the full information of all the fifteen local organisations they working with. Section A serves to test knowledge of the interviewed officials to the conceptual programme. The inquiry into the officials' knowledge of the programme was done to help provide a clear insight to support my decision to use the C/FFA programme as a concept in conducting this research. In their responses after I asked them if they knew about the C/FFA programme, most of the interviewed officials expressed an awareness of the project, but some of them were quick to state that they were not part of the programme. For example, one of the interviewee Mrs Priscilla Dembetembe, the Markets and Livelihoods Advisor at GOAL Zimbabwe revealed that their organisation used to be partner to WFP, but the partnership had ended and therefore she doesn't know of the actual programme in question. The same sentiments are echoed by the other interviewees. Even though some admit knowing the programme, they are quick to dismiss any linkages to the programme. This is evidenced by Mr Davison Muchadenyika, a professional development practitioner and Mr Shastry Njeru of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum who both dismissed being part of the programme but acknowledged to knowing about it. An exception is the M&E officer at CARE Zimbabwe who admits that his organisation is partner to WFP for the programme but also states that unfortunately he had never worked on the project in question.

The participants were asked about their understanding of monitoring and evaluation and whether M&E was good for organisations themselves or the communities concerned. Although different responses have come up, almost all of the interviewees suggest that they do have M&E in their organisations. What emerged as different was the way of implementing the system. Stating his understanding of M&E, development practitioner, Mr Muchadenyika says, "Monitoring & Evaluation is a tool and a process that assists on the planning of development projects, and on a second note, it also assists in tracking progress so that we can see whether we are achieving our objects, our milestones that we have set." Priscilla Dembetembe has expressed that as far as she understands M&E, at GOAL Zimbabwe, they call it MEAL acronym of Monitoring and Evaluation Accountability and Learning and pointed that, "we place a lot of emphasis on Monitoring and Evaluation in terms of the different stages that a particular project goes through right from project development to project implementation to project end that is it." It is clear from this statement that GOAL Zimbabwe is one of the organisations which takes M&E as important and seems to be on the

right track as far as implementation of development projects is concerned. Mr Njeru echoes, “Monitoring & Evaluation are considered and some may consider it tools in development that without M&E, you do not really do results but in fact your decisions are based on opinions rather than on evidence.”

On whether M&E is good for the organisations or the communities concerned, the interviewees also gave different responses. The M&E officer at CARE Zimbabwe is quick to the point by stating that, “M&E is good for both. For the community it’s good in the sense that if we do monitoring evaluation we are able to develop projects that really address the felt needs of that particular community and for the organisation, you can use information from your evaluations to fundraise.” He gives this view on the perspective that, the whole M&E subject is so big that he can talk for the whole day. Priscilla Dembetembe has argued that M&E is good for the communities based on the type of agro-based projects by their organisation. Mr Muchadenyika complements the fact that M&E is important to both the organisation and communities, by stating, “The system is also a vital tool in attracting additional funding to the project since without an evaluation you cannot really justify the need for additional resources.” Basically, from all the responses, it can be asserted that M&E is crucial in development context. Its importance was expressed by the interviewees, hence most of them making it a vital system for both communities and organisations in effectively implementing their projects.

#### **4.5.2 Organisation officials’ participation**

The previous chapter has established that M&E concept is a fairly new field in most organisations and developing countries including in Zimbabwe. This has led to many officials to undermine it while others seem to have remained divided on whether organisation officials should implement it or have one of their officials taking full responsibility of it. In investigating on the participation of organisation officials in the monitoring and evaluation process, the questions asked to the interviewees sought to ascertain if officials’ concerns are taken into account. Responding to this, the CARE Zimbabwe M&E officer highlights the involvement of organisation officials before the organisation gets funds. He says, “We develop a proposal and in that proposal we have a logical framework that outlines what is to be done and how it’s going to be monitored. So in a way, all the organisation officials are involved in the crafting of the proposal and the implementation as well as in getting the feedback from the people that are doing the actual work on the ground.” Even though there seems to be no clear answer on CARE Zimbabwe involving organisation officials in the

process, GOAL Zimbabwe's Priscilla Dembetembe clearly states that the organisation officials take part in the M&E process. She says, "We have the learning component where we talk about it. In our M&E framework, in our tools and even in our indicator tracking table which is an interacting platform that we have, everything is very much participatory process. In that platform, if a colleague has something new, for example, a new idea we will look at it and if useful it will then be incorporated into the system and the MEAL manager runs it with the other M&E programme." A closer analysis shows that for a development project to be successful, and have a good track of the progress, an organisation must be able to draft an open M&E system for every official and be able to take the concerns of the officials if applicable and suitable.

Section C of the interviews consists of questions that seek responses on the constraints and potential of development projects, but specifically of relevance here, is monitoring and evaluation. Participants were asked on how M&E for the projects assists target groups and to identify the main obstacles that are/impede optimal successfulness of M&E in achieving intended goals. Priscilla Dembetembe says, "M&E helps targeted groups to understand where they are in terms of where they have started off when we were with them in the first line and through the project implementation and hopefully there should be a positive change in their lives as a result of the project. So, M&E really helps them to understand how far they have come" CARE Zimbabwe M&E officer also spoke about the importance of the vulnerable people participating in development projects or programmes as key to improving their livelihoods. The official said this with a specific reference to the C/FFA programme, when he stated that, "I think particularly this concept of food for asset is important because for example when the targeted people are urged to take part to construct a dam, this is good because this is an asset that they can utilise. For example, they will use the dam to farm which will actually prevent future food insecurity cases whereby they will be able to use the asset to grow food on a continuous basis with the availability of water supply from the dam."

#### **4.5.3 Obstacles that impede optimal successfulness of M&E**

The participants have been asked questions pertaining to obstacles to the successfulness of M&E implementation in development projects. A number of challenges have been noted. Mr Njeru identifies the challenge as rooted in the institutionalisation of the system in an organisation, government or department. He found the major challenge being that M&E as a concept got a bad reputation because it was used or people associate it with a tool that is used for witch-hunting at work place. Another opinion he identified associated with the concept

are people's views which he said that he often heard people saying that if you are very honest with M&E, your weaknesses will be discovered and you will be relieved of your duties at work. However, apart from the bad reputation of the concept from individuals, the interviewees identified obstacles in carrying out M&E assessment. It is my understanding that M&E departments are underpaid. This has a limiting effect to the department to fully conduct tracking of projects and carrying out full assessments. This view was evidenced as Priscilla Dembetembe and other interviewees alike, associated obstacles that impede successfulness of implementing the system with the inadequacy allocation of resources for M&E by organisations, departments or government.

#### **4.5.4 Conducting M&E**

Interviewees were asked for more information related to monitoring and evaluation. The questions included how often the officials conduct monitoring and evaluation. Most answers in this regard have been consistent among the interviewees. In his response to this question, Mr Muchadenyika says that M&E should be conducted in three phases. First, the baseline study which is meant to identify existing conditions. Second, is the mid-term evaluations or mid-term reviews which are done halfway through the project. Thirdly, the end of program evaluation which can be conducted three or four years after the programme has closed, which is meant for impact evaluation. Just like other interviewees, Mr Muchadenyika clarifies that monitoring is an on-going process which we cannot say how often we do it because it is something that is on-going. Priscilla Dembetembe and the other interviewees share the same sentiments regarding M&E. The CARE Zimbabwe official, who in trying to clarify the periodic timeframe for conducting M&E goes on to state that, "In terms of evaluation we have the base-line which is meant to establish the benchmarks." For example, breakdowns such as what the community was like before a development project was implemented. This helps to determine the stage at which the impact of the intervention has effected a change. He then mentioned the mid-line evaluation, which he said it helps to figure out if we are still in the right track to achieve our assumptions. It also entail if the organisation is likely to meet its objective. Finally he mentioned about an evaluation at the end of the project. The final evaluation helps to determine whether the project had achieved its objective. It is a final assessment of the whole project. All in all, CARE Zimbabwe official said that there are evaluation phases throughout the life of a project. However, he admitted that that despite evaluation being in three phases, monitoring is continuous process that organisations do from the start until to the end of a project."



#### **4.6 Conclusion**

This chapter highlighted the importance of doing projects assessment. Special attention was vented to M&E which I identified as a means of assessment critical in development projects. More information on its importance was generated from participants as can be reflected in their everyday work experience. The consistence and similarities in the interviewees' responses were interesting. It helped to shed light on some of the challenges faced in doing assessments, let alone challenges faced by M&E offices and departments in different organisations. Overall, I learnt that outcomes assessment plays an important role in development projects and it should not be taken for granted and its role also should not be underestimated. This finding leads to the concluding chapter of this paper which focusses on the implications of the research findings and gives recommendations to organisations in as much as development is concerned.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### **Conclusion and Recommendations Based on the Outcome Assessment of the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project.**

This chapter sums up the major conclusions of this thesis. It also provides conclusion and recommendations to the study. A final summation of the study is given first highlighting lessons learnt, findings made and recommendations advanced based on aspects identified in this study. Recommendations are given because they are crucial in providing useful information for future researches and case references for potential future development agencies that may need to engage the case study area and country at large. The recommendations are based on the findings of the case study, and are intended to help address issues around current and future development projects in various community settings as can be learnt from the foregoing Dotito-Muchenje irrigation case study.

The study attempted to provide a fair assessment of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. It has helped to ascertain outcomes of the project as a developmental initiative on the livelihoods of beneficiary farmers at the scheme. The C/FFA programme has been used as a concept and a foundational point of departure for the study. In assessing the impact of the project on the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers, monitoring and evaluation was reviewed to help ascertain the importance of assessments in development projects. The study shows that the launch of the irrigation project has been viewed by many as a way to make positive impact in the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers. However, due to some constraining circumstances, it was revealed that the overall goals of the project were not fully realised. Therefore, I had suggested recommendations that would be helpful to take note of for successfulness in development projects.

### **5. Recommendations**

The study found that there is a need for a closer tracking of developments at the irrigation. The finding points to the lack of monitoring of the needs of the farmers. Therefore this study can establish that inadequate monitoring is partly to blame for the unproductive farming at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. Lack of keeping track with events can be evidenced by the state of some of the agricultural activities at the irrigation scheme which is quiet operating at a low rate. According to some first-hand information as has been told by the farmers during the study, they claim to have been operating lowly for the past few years. In this case, one is obliged to say that lack of making follow-up in most development projects



has undermined the importance of agriculture in rural areas resulting in the prevalent of poverty in such areas. The government of Zimbabwe's lack of follow-up on the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation has made sure that the project remained operating below its capacity. In 2004, MLSS stated that, "partly because of the low income generating potential of agriculture, poverty is much more prevalent in the rural areas of Zimbabwe than in the urban areas," reported Zeleka and Turigari (2011). So lack of monitoring made the irrigation to remain a low income generating project. This simply points to the absence of support to the farmers at the scheme by institutions like the government.

### **5.1 Government involvement in irrigation schemes**

The GoZ concentrates on irrigation projects for several reasons. First of all, it is important to note that the government is the major owner of land in Zimbabwe. However, even though some of the irrigations are farmer managed, the government need to take initiatives that would boost irrigation schemes in the country. This would be a huge step in the right direction for the sector as there are issues that the government ought to initiate which would benefit the irrigation schemes in the country. Initiatives may come in different perspectives like provision or subsidization of inputs to the irrigation farmers. The inputs the government can offer may include seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides among other inputs required for a successful agricultural production. Unavailability of such initiatives to the irrigation farmers highlight gaps in policy interventions in the agricultural sector in general. Lack of such initiatives has also been evidenced at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in particular. Such initiatives are enigmatically important that they would boost developmental projects in the country nevertheless each project has its own challenges peculiar to it. Despite project specific challenges, it is vital to note that there are other challenges that are more of a blanket and are applicable to all irrigation schemes.

Apart from all these problems and other challenges being faced by the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project, it is critical for one to note that Government intervention is essential for the success of such irrigation projects, yielding high production and wage rates.. According to FAO (2000) report, high incomes above the annual minimum wage of Z\$ 16 800 paid to an unskilled worker in the Zimbabwean industry have been reported in other irrigation schemes in the country. For example, irrigation schemes such as Chitora, Murara, Mzinyathini and Wenimbi were reported to have provided higher incomes as can compared to other schemes. In noting this, it has become clear for one to understand the challenges

being faced by farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. This case study has also scrutinized most of these challenges, therefore one would be obliged to say that no matter how independent they might be, developmental projects need government support in order to be successful.

The lack of support of farmers from responsible institutions leaves farmers to operate on constrained budgets. They struggle to get inputs, thereby making crop production difficult for them. However, most development projects characteristically require well detailed budgets to be directed towards projects. For instance, the WFP has a well accustomed budgetary allocation directed towards its financial year programmes within a given country or project. In line with the above, in 2012 the WFP issued its protracted relief and recovery operations to Zimbabwe under the scope of responding to humanitarian needs and strengthening resilience to food insecurity (WFP Executive Board report, 2013). One can note that the organisation had a clear plan of the project as can be seen in Table 5.1. In the case of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, if the government had adopted the same approach, the project would have been different from what I have witnessed on the ground.

Table 5.1: Protracted Relief & Recovery operations plan in Zimbabwe

|                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Number of beneficiaries             | 1,230,000 (yearly maximum)         |
| Duration of project                 | 24 months<br>(May 2013–April 2015) |
| WFP food tonnage                    | 144,021 mt                         |
| <b>Cost (United States dollars)</b> |                                    |
| WFP food cost                       | 71,282,052                         |
| WFP cash/voucher cost               | 31,540,000                         |
| Total cost to WFP                   | 206,091,593                        |

**Source:** WFP Executive Board report, 2013

Table 5.1 shows the projected WFP executive board report of a calculated budget of what it will cost the organisation to carry out protracted relief and recovery in Zimbabwe. The budget was meant to cover a period of twenty-four months, stretching from May 2013 to April 2015. The failure to draft a budget and to map a clear plan for the operation of the Dotito-Muchenje

irrigation scheme can also be traced back to the much publicised political climate in the country which could be said to have challenged farming operations as well. Basing on the research findings of this study, a well-planned budget drafted for a development project and complete independence from political alliances are important recommendations.

## **5.2 Determinant factors for successful or unsuccessfulness of projects**

On the other hand different institutional arrangements and policy interventions could undermine the success of a project. These factors are worth considering because they had managed to lead other irrigation schemes to be successful than the others. According to a study done by FAO (2000) on ten irrigation schemes in Zimbabwe, it was established that some schemes had more impact than others and generally farmer managed schemes have more positive impacts than government managed schemes. This same effect is also a major production challenge at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. The above statement helps to stress differences that exist between farmer managed and government managed schemes. Other challenges like water supply, transport, assets ownership, management, planning, operation and maintenance also stood out at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project as in other irrigation schemes per the FAO (2000) study. Therefore, it is in the interest of this study to suggest that where it lacked, the government become more involved to support farmers that they improve utilization of the irrigation schemes.

Farming mechanisms need to be boosted at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. Technology or simple agricultural mechanisation has brought great productivity for many farmers in similar projects in other countries. Even though he also implicates mechanisation as the main trigger for a call for ecological justice and respect for nature, Bapat (2005:13) admits, “Human activities resulting from modern industrial and infrastructure growth are seen as being essential for bringing about rapid economic growth and social justice.” It is within this economic growth and social justice that farmers in the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project can be able to take advantage and grow their business and productivity.

### **5.2.1 Livelihoods diversification**

There should be a diversification of livelihood activities in rural areas. Ellis (2000) postulated that for survival strategy of rural households in developing countries, farming on its own does not provide a sufficient means of survival in rural areas. This leaves room for other development projects to coherently synergise with farming.

Figure 5.2.1: A diversified rural livelihood (A)

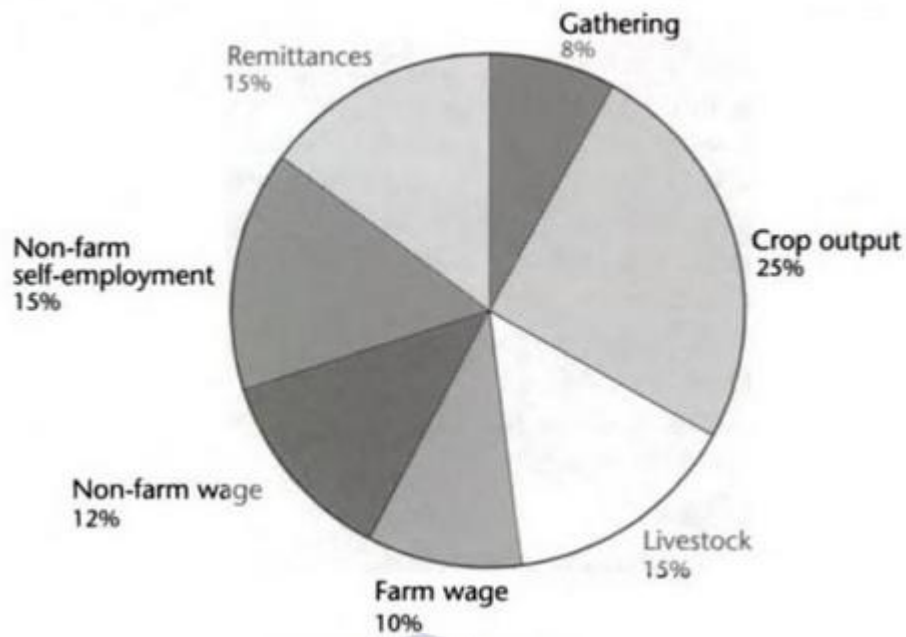
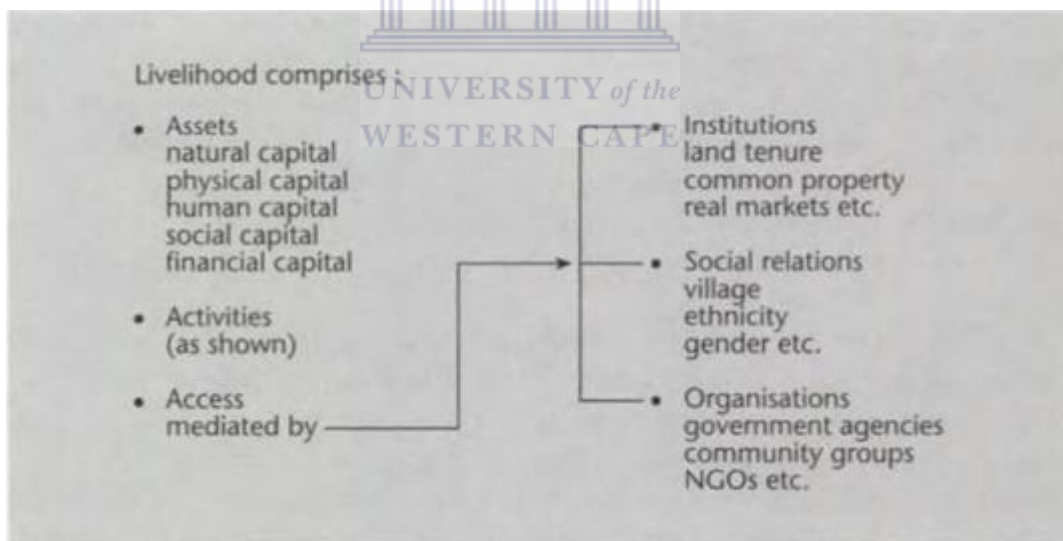


Figure 5.2.1: A diversified rural livelihood (B)



**Source:** Ellis, 2000

Figure 5.2.1 (A) and (B) shows a typical rural livelihood diversification. It is in this sense that for better livelihoods, farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme should diversify their activities for livelihoods sustainability. For instance, in times of difficulty, the farmers should focus on other activities such as livestock production. It can be recommended that these other activities should be able to link and speak together with the irrigation project.

## **5.2 Concluding Remarks**

This thesis covered several aspects of irrigation farming. The concluding remarks focus on the challenges faced by farmers.

## **5.3 Remarks on farming implements**

The first major contributing challenge identified in the study is the need to boost farming implements. It has been discussed that the farmers need farming implements such as farming inputs like seeds, fertilisers, assets like fence, farm-mechanisation and dripping pipes for watering among others. In this case one can say the challenges are cancerous from one project to the other, as the same problems at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme were present in other projects that were studied.

## **5.4 Remarks on policy intervention**

The second remark is based on the need for good specific and consistent policy intervention for irrigation schemes which should be initiated. These policies ought to be policies that would help and incentivize farmers. For instance in order to promote full production on irrigation schemes, government should prioritize service provision for the schemes e.g. maintenance of electricity, assets, dripping pipes etc. According to FAO (2000), government managed schemes, Ngezi Mamina, Mambanjeni and Rozva, often experience electricity cuts because of failure by government to pay the electricity bills in time. This problem also applied to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme.

## **5.5 Remarks on institutional arrangements**

The third remark focusses on determinant factors affecting developmental projects. Determinant factors such as institutional and policy interventions can be defying factors for successful and unsuccessfulness of a project. For instance institutional factors such as project management and committee set-ups need to be at par with the ongoing project on the ground. In the case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation schemes, farmers are heavily affected by political influence. For instance, a particular farmer narrated how a change in the Member of Parliament representing the region had impacted negatively on the project of recent.

## **5.6 Remarks on spheres of influence**

The fourth and last remark is on the need to combat overly political influence in development projects in order to establish a clear cut of developmental projects from social ills and political spheres of influences. This means the separation of projects related issues from negative social ills and political interferences. In this regard, FAO (2000) gave an example of

how a conflict between two kraal heads impacted negatively on the performance of the Rozva irrigation scheme.



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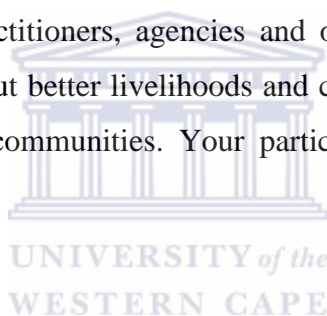
## **ANNEXURES**

### **Annex I: Questionnaire Guide**

#### **Questionnaire for household plots beneficiary respondents at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district**

**Research Topic: An outcome assessment of a developmental project: a case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district in Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe.**

My name is Edmore Mlotshwa and I am a Masters student at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. I am conducting a study assessing the outcomes of development projects. I am inviting you to participate in my study to fill in this questionnaire. All information collected in this questionnaire is anonymous and confidential. The information that you provide will be used solely for research purposes and it is envisaged that the results will assist policy makers, development practitioners, agencies and other interested stakeholders with information that might bring about better livelihoods and community development in Mount Darwin District and any other communities. Your participation and input will be highly appreciated.



#### **SECTION (A)**

##### **Personal and demographic information (Please tick the appropriately)**

1. Age of respondent

Under 20years (1)    21-64years (2)    65+years (3)

2. Marital status

Married (1)    Widowed (2)    Divorced (3)    Single (4)    Other (5)

3. Sex of household head

1. Male (1)    Female (2)

4. Who is the breadwinner?

Father (1)    Son (2)    Daughter (3)    Mother (4)    Other (5)

5. How many dependents are you staying with?

1. None (1)    One (2)    Two (3)    Three (4)    Four(5)    Five+ (6)

6. Which village do you fall under?

(1)Manjoro (2)Kagwambo (3)Mazwimaviri (4)Kanosvamhira (5)Kanosvamhira (6)Gwashure

7. Please indicate the highest level of education attained.

No formal education (1)    1.O-level (2)    2.A- level (3)    3.Tertiary level (4)

8. Are you formally employed?

Yes (1)    No (2)

9. What is your total household monthly income?

-\$101-200 (1)    \$201-300 (2)    \$301-400 (3)    \$401-500 (4)    \$501+ (5)

10. Do you engage in any other income generating activities apart from farming on the irrigation?

No (1)    Yes (2)

**SECTION B: The irrigation project**

11. Do you know any irrigation project in the area?

Yes (1)    No (2)

12. If yes? Please state the name of the project

(1) Dotito-Muchenje    (2) Other projects

13. Do you know any activity towards community development as part of the project?

Yes (1)    No (2)

14. Do you know any agriculture activity as part of the project?

Yes (1)    No (2)



### SECTION C: Socio-economic impact

15. If you know any agricultural activity at the irrigation, please name any three crops you are farming at the irrigation project

(1) Vegetables (2) Onions (3) Tomatoes (4) Beans (5) Potatoes (6) Green maize (7) Cabbages (8) Peas

16. How do you rate the level of importance of the project in the community?

Very important (1) Important (2) Somewhat important (3) Not important (4)

17. Are there any notable positive changes in your livelihoods ever since the project was initiated?

Yes (1) No (2)

18. If yes, how do you rate the change?

Very important (1) Important (2) Somehow (3) Not important (4)

19. Have you personally benefited from the organisation?

Yes (1) No (2)

20. If yes, please select one of the below

Income (1) Food (2) Plot (3) Employment (4) Market (5)

21. Indicate your level of satisfaction by the irrigation project towards livelihoods.

Very satisfied (1) Fairly satisfied (2) Somewhat satisfied (3) Not at all satisfied (4)

22. What do you think made you a beneficiary?

Local resident (1) I know someone who was allocating the plots (2)

23. How has the irrigation project benefitted your livelihood, select any of the following?

Social (1) Economic (2) Socio-economic (3)

24. Do you think this kind of a project is important towards community development?

Yes (1) No (2)

## **SECTION D: Challenges at the irrigation**

25. What should the government or any interested development agencies prioritize towards the project?

Cash (1)    Loan (2)    Asset (3)    Inputs (4)    Other (5)

26. If other, please specify selecting any of the following

Money (1)    Fertilisers (2)    Seeds (3)    Others (4)

27. What should the government or any other organisations concerned engage on as an effort to improve food security in the district through the irrigation?

Training (1)    Increase farming expertise (2)    Other (3)

28. What are your other suggestions for a more effective functioning of the irrigation project/programme towards community development?

Electricity (1)    Fence (2)    Irrigation equipment (3)

**Thank you for your participation.**

**The End**



## **Annex II**

### **Interview questions for development practitioners/organisation officials**

**Research Topic:** *An outcome assessment of a developmental project: A case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district, Mashonaland Central Province: Zimbabwe.*

My name is Edmore Mlotshwa and I am a Masters student at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. I am conducting a study investigating on the outcome assessment of developmental projects. I am inviting you to take part in the interview. All information collected in this interview is anonymous and confidential. The information that you provide will be used solely for research purposes and it is envisaged that the results will assist policy makers, development practitioners and other interested stakeholders with information that might bring about better livelihoods and community development. Your participation and input will be highly appreciated.

#### **❖ Name, Organisation, Position held**

##### **A. Basic knowledge on M&E**

1. How do you as officials understand M&E in development projects?
2. Do you think M&E is good for the communities concerned or organisation? Please elaborate?

##### **B. Organisational officials participation in M&E process**

1. Do the organisation officials fully participate in M&E concerning organisation projects?
2. If yes, do the organisation officials freely articulate their concerns during M&E? If yes, are their concerns taken into account in planning processes?
3. How do you ensure that officials, are kept updated for the programme, do they have access to information regarding the project that will be running?

##### **C. Constraints and challenges in implementing the process**

4. Do you think vulnerable people participation in development projects/programmes helps in improving livelihoods?
5. In what way does M&E for these projects assist targeted groups?
6. What are the main obstacles that are/impede optimal successfulness of M&E in achieving intended goals?

**D. Additional information on M&E**

7. How often do you monitor and evaluate the programme?
8. Does the community, take part in monitoring and evaluation exercises of the project?
9. What is the purpose of monitoring and evaluation exercises?
10. Any recommendations or suggestions on the roles of M&E in development projects?

**Thank you for your participation**

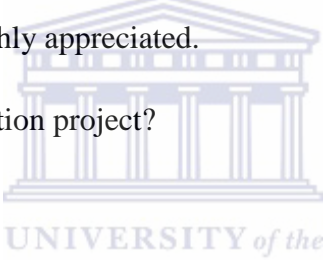


### **Annex III**

#### **Interview questions for the Irrigation project Chairman**

**Research Topic:** *An outcome assessment of a developmental project: A case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district, Mashonaland Central Province: Zimbabwe.*

My name is Edmore Mlotshwa and I am a Masters student at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. I am conducting a study investigating on the outcome assessment of developmental projects. I am inviting you to this interview to answer on few questions. All information collected in this interview is anonymous and confidential. The information that you provide will be used solely for research purposes and it is envisaged that the results will assist policy makers, development practitioners and other interested stakeholders with information that might bring about better livelihoods and community development. Your participation and input will be highly appreciated.

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1. How many farmers at the irrigation project?
  2. How many villages or wards?
  3. What kind of help would you commission or recommend for the irrigation project?
  4. How do you get and administer water supply for the project?
  5. How is the irrigation project run in terms of structured administration, do you have a committee?
  6. What are the challenges do you face at the irrigation?
  7. What are your recommendations to get the irrigation to achieve maximum production?
  8. How do you allocate plots e.g. in case someone became inactive or passed away?

## **Appendix IV**

### **Challenges faced during data collection**

#### **1. My journey from Cape to Harare**

Given the limited resources at my disposal, before embarking on field work, I pondered thoughtfully on how I was going to cope with field work expenses. Initially, together with my supervisor, we had tried to source for research grants from relevant offices but it had proved futile. After trying unsuccessfully to get funding, I resolved to leave for data collection after gathering momentum and courage in the spirit that I should do this in the best interest of research and academic purposes. Therefore, I left Cape Town in the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015 aboard a Mango Flight scheduled for the six o'clock departure. It took approximately two hours plus additional minutes to land at the OR Tambo international airport. There was a slight delay in landing at the airport due to the heavy fog which had saturated the airport and the surrounding areas posing a risk for safe landing for planes. After a while, we landed safely then I waited for the next flight connection to Harare, Zimbabwe. I had to endure six hours, waiting for the next flight to Harare. I left OR Tambo international airport and arrived in Harare at exactly quarter to six (17:45). Due to the long immigration processes, I had to leave Harare airport at dusk to take a local taxi to connect to the rank where I had to get a bus to my home. It was a long day for me and I got home after ten (22:00). The ordeal of travelling at night especially without adequate financial back-up with no convenient transportation it's something I need to forget and would not want anyone to remind me again. It is a lesson to me and anyone else who wish to conduct a study like this to have fully financial coverage of expenses. Furthermore, this also helps to stress the challenges faced in the country, which is not only unique to the farmers under investigation but extend also to the greater part population in general.

#### **2. Activities after arrival**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2015, my second day, I left my place of local residence in Zimbabwe for Harare the capital city where most organisations' offices are based. It is important to bear in mind that it is a considerable distance to connect from the case study area which is outside the capital city, Harare. On this day, my efforts to try to connect with the WFP Zimbabwe personnel proved fruitless. Still tired from the previous day's long journey, I was forced to return home without anything concrete. On the third day, which was Friday, I decided to take

a rest. This was vital for me so as to shake-off all the fatigue of the previous days of travelling.

The next activity on my schedule was on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July after a well-deserved weekend break. I woke-up early morning for Harare and upon my arrival I headed straight to the WFP Zimbabwe offices. On my arrival, I learnt that the person whom I had been in constant contact with all along and who knew about the research project had been changed to a different work station. This news was heart-breaking for me. Honestly, this made a huge challenge to my data collection. This is when the whole business of using a humanitarian or any other NGO was turned into a total nightmare. After some concerted efforts to see the assistant or the person who had replaced him, it became clear to me that most organisations in Zimbabwe are so protective of information.

### **Getting cleared**

I approached the District Administrator (DA) of the Mount Darwin district and provided a statement of intent. The DA requested a supporting letter from the institution of study supporting the need for a research and I provided one. I then got an authorising letter from the district, which made it easier for me to approach other relevant authorities. After obtaining the letter from the DA, I was referred to the Agritex office where I had to meet the Agritex head. I had to seek authorisation from the Agritex as it is an organ of the government which oversees agrarian issues in the country. The district Agritex office made contact with their Agritex officers operating in Dotito so as to expect me. It is from this moment that the whole research went smooth. Upon arrival in Dotito, I was welcomed by two Agritex officials who later introduced me to the irrigation scheme chairperson and the farmers.

### **Limitation of the study**

The greatest limitation of the study relates to financial constraints as I used own limited funds. Another limitation of the study was to do with translation of information to and from, English and Shona. This is because during the visit at the irrigation scheme, most if not all farmers approached at the irrigations scheme are predominantly Shona speaking. Therefore, I feared that the translation process may have resulted in misinterpretation and loss of meaning. Another limitation in the study was the unforeseen events like time-frame in terms of commuting to and from the irrigation scheme.