




Providing **safer water** to Cyclone Idai affected communities of Chimanimani District in Zimbabwe - 2022




VHIMBA PIPED WATER SCHEME
Ensuring regular supply of safe drinking water
Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project [ZIRP]
funded by The World Bank through UNOPS
Project Facilitated by UNICEF and implemented by Chimanimani DWSSC, Chikware community and Africa AHEAD

FOREWORD:

REMEMBERING CHIMANIMANI WITH CLEAN, SAFE WATER

The trail of devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Idai in March 2019 is still visible in the hearts of individuals who were affected by the disaster in eastern Zimbabwe. Mountainous Chimanimani was the worst affected district after a combination of high winds and heavy rain heavily hit Manicaland, Masvingo and sections of Mashonaland East provinces causing significant loss of life, injury, and displacement. The affected districts were already experiencing climate induced droughts and a prolonged economic crisis, thus compromising their capacity to recover from Cyclone Idai.

We express gratitude to the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP), a three-year response strategy funded by the World Bank, designed to mitigate the devastation left by Cyclone Idai in some of the most affected communities. The project laid the foundation for regional recovery and longer-term resilience. Africa AHEAD, through ZIRP, supported communities in Gutu with improved water access before shifting focus to Chimanimani where, over a period of six months we set up 10 piped water schemes, reaching over 7,500 individuals directly with clean safe water for multiple use.

As Africa AHEAD, we are not new to the district, and we pride ourselves in ushering home grown solutions to community problems. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the Africa AHEAD team for being one of the first organisations to urgently respond to the plight of some of the worst affected families by building houses for 75 families. This was then followed by huge investments in WASH infrastructure at 15 health care facilities.

Under ZIRP, and in partnership with UNICEF, we supported WASH activities in nine wards through interventions that include restoration of boreholes, establishment of solarised and gravity fed piped water schemes, protection of springs, and other ancillary infrastructure using build back better principles where appropriate.

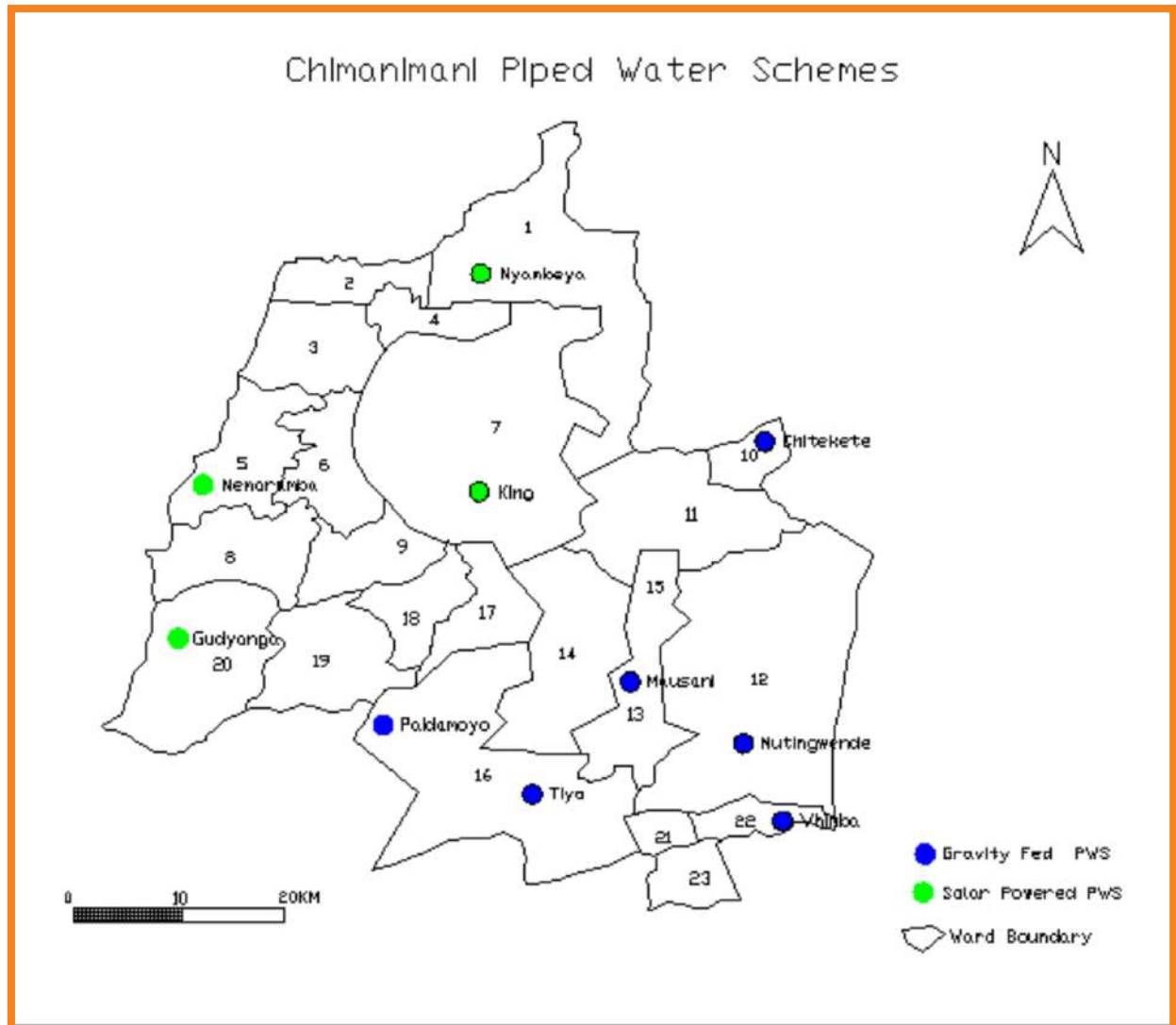
The 10 piped water schemes established by Africa AHEAD have ensured regular supply of safe drinking water, and promoted handwashing and personal hygiene for vulnerable community members of Chimanimani district. In a time where COVID-19 has had a huge effect on families, the provision of water in abundance serves as a conduit to the prevention of the disease whose key preventive measures include hand washing. The reduction in distances travelled by especially women and girls to fetch water means they can devote time to other activities, especially income generating means, thereby contributing to improvements in the lives of the vulnerable.

Strategies to ensure water systems setup up remain functional and users take ownership include the introduction of community-based management systems, involvement of community members and leaders, participatory monitoring of activities, engagement of reputable contractors, respect of local indigenous knowledge systems and supply of durable and quality materials. This way we are sure of the sustainability of our interventions in communities we implement activities.

We are grateful to our partners for their unwavering support in making our work flow smoothly. We worked closely with a number of government departments, NGOs and the private sector just to make sure Chimanimani enjoys clean and safe water. Thank you all for your support.

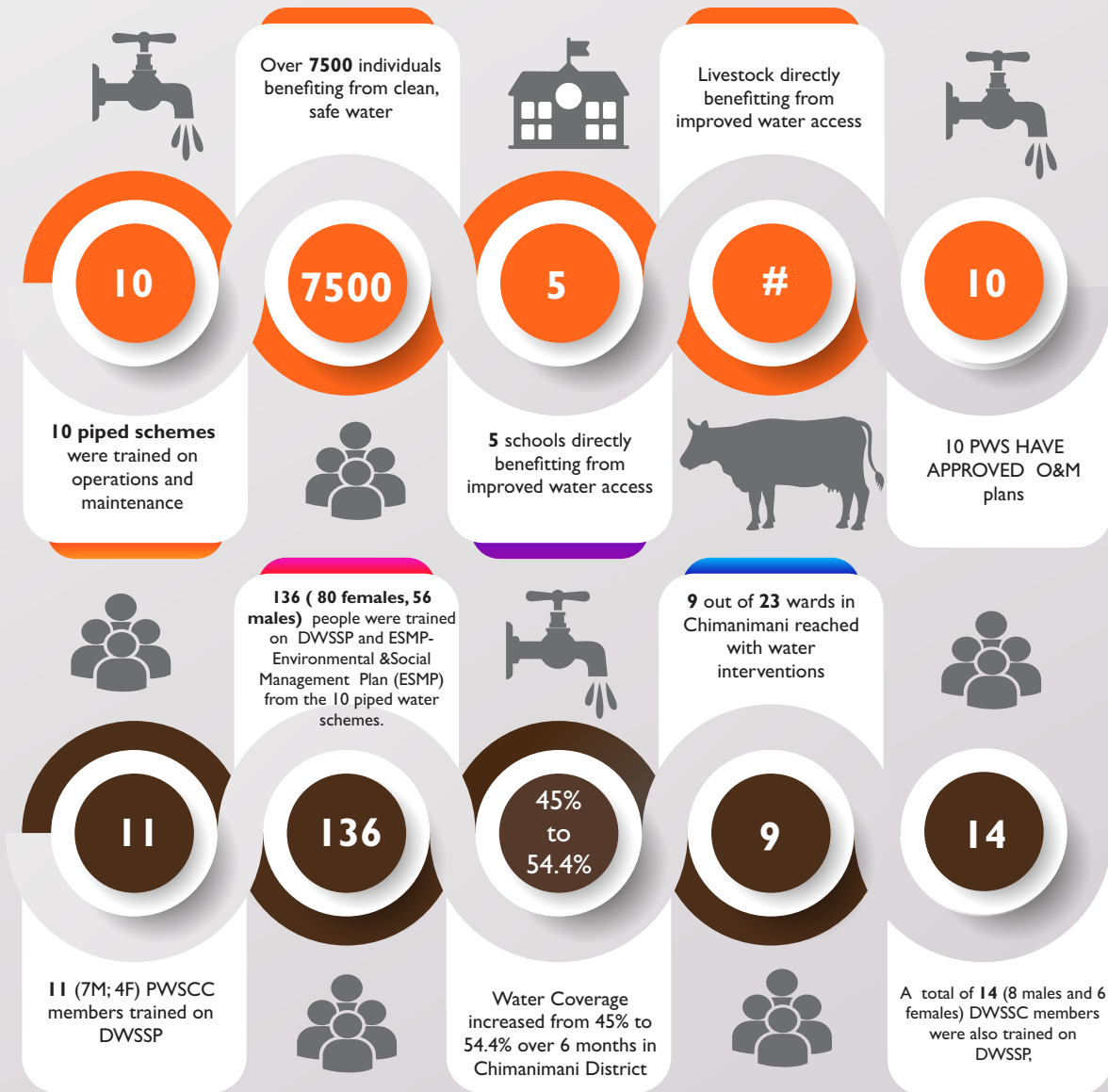


OUR FOOTPRINT IN CHIMANIMANI UNDER ZIRP: PIPED WATER SCHEMES ESTABLISHED BY AFRICA AHEAD



NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

ESMP-Environmental and Social Management Plan.
DWSSC-District Water Supply and Sanitation Committee.
PWSSC-Provincial Water Supply and Sanitation Committee.
DWSSP- Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan.



OUR TEAM



Regis Matimati
Executive Director



Agrippa M Chingono
Head of Programs



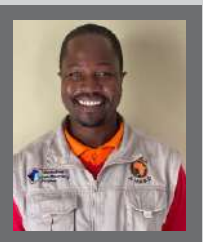
Patience Muserepwa
Head of Finance & Admin



Maven T Masara
Procurement & Logistics Manager



Witness M. Nkomo
MEAL Manager



Engineer Munetsi Mapeture
Project manager



Pamela Mazumba
Finance and Administration Officer



Andrew Muringaniza
Water Technician



Kudakwashe Madziwa
Programs Intern



Lincoln Mutambara
(MEAL Officer)



Gladys Chibharo
Hygiene Promoter

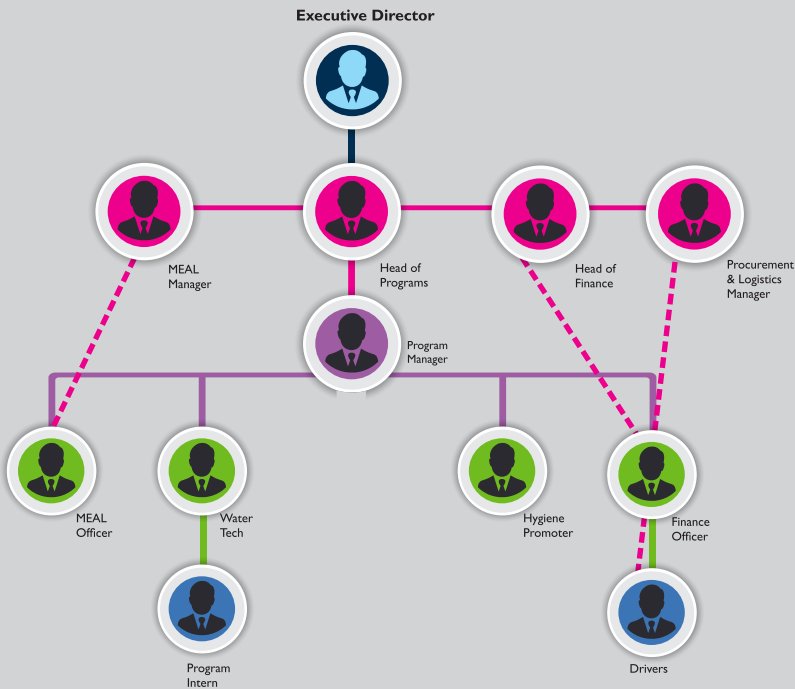


Takudzwa Matimati
Driver



Loveness Mupezeni
Driver

Africa AHEAD Chimanimani team organogram



ZIRP, AFRICA AHEAD IMPROVE WATER ACCESS IN CHIMANIMANI



"It is the first time that some pupils see a tap. For the school, this is a great innovation as we had serious challenges with water to support gardening. Hygiene was poor but it has now been simplified as handwashing has improved through the 10 taps on the handwashing basin and 3 around the school established by Africa AHEAD supporting over 580 pupils, 16 teachers and nearby community members", said Ezekiel Bvumbura, Headmaster of Nemaramba Primary School.

Prior to the establishment of the piped water scheme, community members would scramble for water at one hand pumped borehole. Commotion was rife as there was only one outlet for water. Now the community has access to 12 water

Tsitsi smiles as she drinks clean water from one of the 12 taps recently established by Africa AHEAD in her village with support from UNICEF and the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project, funded by the World Bank. A web of water taps around Nemaramba village is revolutionising water access in Chimanimani District. Nemaramba falls in one of the 10 wards benefitting from enhanced water access under the 'Improving Safe Water Supply in Cyclone Idai affected communities of Chimanimani District' project implemented by AfricaAHEAD between May and December 2022.

"We used to fetch water about a kilometre away from our house but with the introduction of water taps closer to homes, we now get it just 100m away. This leaves us with more time to focus on school and engage in other family activities", says Tsitsi, a grade 7 pupil at Nemaramba Primary School.

The school is one of five across the nine wards benefitting from improved water access for pupils, school staff and nearby communities. Over 7500 individuals are benefitting from the 10 piped water schemes with improved water access in 9 wards of Chimanimani where water coverage has increased from 45.4% to 54.4% in just 6 months of introduction of piped water schemes by AfricaAHEAD.

taps, a development that has improved access to safe water for domestic use and livelihoods engagement such as gardening and poultry production for some community members and schools.

"Community members, school authorities and people from the business community would all queue as early as 4am to fetch water from one point with the furthest family walking as far as 2.5km", says Wonder Munyebvu, the Chairperson of Nemaramba Piped Water Scheme.

"Water shortages are now a thing of the past", he adds.

A 14-member committee controls and manages use of water and maintains the infrastructure set up by AfricaAHEAD.

"We were trained to care for the infrastructure, and we do so to ensure we benefit from the innovation that took place in our community. We have a security guard every night looking after the solar panels and water tanks", said Thinkmore Jena, the Station Controller and a committee member.



SCHOOL LAD LEADS WATER RESTORATION EFFORTS IN CHIMANIMANI

Nimble footed and fast thinking with ample knowledge of local rivers and springs, Thulani Muhani is leading water maintenance efforts in Idai afflicted Vhimba Village, Chimanimani.

The resourceful boy was also instrumental in water restoration which was spearheaded by Africa AHEAD with the generous support of the World Bank and UNICEF.

AA installed a gravity fed water scheme to help villagers recover from the devastating effects of Cyclone Idai which ravished man and land alike. The scheme which draws its source from the scenic mountains over-looking the village supplies water to various key points in the community, including a business centre and Vhimba Primary school.

However the villagers are eternally grateful to their little water hero, Thulani who identified the source of the fresh water that now feeds the community.

How exactly did he do it? Thulani says he has an undying passion for water:

"I love exploring the mountains with their enchanting vegetation and mysterious springs that flow ceaselessly, all year round even in the

dry seasons. It was therefore easy for me to identify the source for the scheme which is actually close to my home;"

With the scheme completed and the project winding down, Thulani has been tasked with ensuring that the school plays its part in the care and maintenance of this key resource. He has since assembled a team of 6 boys that move as a pack, checking for any leakages and potential hazards that could disrupt water supply. In cases where water stops dripping from the taps, the fast paced water boys are the first on site, scrutinizing potential causes that they then communicate to trained pump minders.

"Thulani is very special to us, as the Drinking Water Safety and Security Committee (DWSSC), we work well with him, he is a key asset in identification of problems and potential hazards. We hope he never loses his passion for water matters in our community," said Sarah Muzasi, a recently trained female pump minder.

As the sun sets on the horizons of the picturesque Chimanimani mountains, Thulani can often be seen darting on the slopes with glee, dutifully ensuring that the community has uninterrupted supply of water for another day.



ZIRP RESTORES WATER SUPPLY TO VHIMBA SCHOOL

Vhimba principal, Sozwana Hardson Zvimba monitors students as they draw water from the school taps. Although his eyes are set on the pupils, his mind has since wandered off to a time when simple privileges such as accessing water at the school had once been shattered by the climate-induced Cyclone Idai.

As the ruthless cyclone roared through the mystical highlands, mountains crumbled and settlements disappeared in what has become Zimbabwe's worst ecological disaster to date. Communities woke up to find their geographical outlines altered overnight with whole villages either buried under mudslide rubbles or swept away by angry rivers.

Taking stock of the damage, the villagers discovered that they had not only lost their loved ones but their water source as well.

"Idai robbed us of friends and family, however it also took away our access to safe water as all the pipes that had been installed beforehand were swept away. We found ourselves in dire straits, it was particularly difficult for the school as pupils had to drink from the dirty Rusitu River. We needed water for 940 students and 18 staff members. We had a borehole which unfortunately could not save us as it had become dysfunctional," said Zvimba

Naturally, diarrheal incidences shot through the roof as pupils did not have water to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before

eating. Absenteeism became the norm and not the exception with girls leading the statics.

"The girl child was the most affected as girls bear the burden of fetching water at home. They would therefore fail to come to school to attend to water fetching errands or they would come late. The older girls would miss a whole week of classes or more as they also had their monthly menstrual cycles to deal with. We did not have any sanitary wear, and if one girl messed herself up, we could not even avail water for her to clean up.

"We could not even clean the toilets as there was no water supply at the school. Teachers were transferring from the school en masse, we lost some of our most valued staff at that time as it became harder and harder to persuade them to stay," recalled Zvimba.

However the water fortunes of the school have since changed for the better since the coming in of Africa Ahead (AA) which has restored dignity at the school.

As part of the Africa AHEAD Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project interventions, with supported from UNICEF and World bank, the organisation installed a gravity-fed water piped scheme which added 4 taps at the school in addition to 4 taps that were revived.

The scheme also installed taps in the community to help ease congestion at the school water points.

"We are indeed grateful to Africa AHEAD as water is now readily available at the school. We are now able to retain key staff which has seen our pass rates improve. Students can now come to school every day as access to safe clean water is no longer a challenge.

"Availability of water has empowered the girl child that has been saved from daily water fetching errands, they can now even come to school on the days when they have their periods as water is now available for sanitary purposes. We no longer have to fetch water in

the Rusitu River, therefore waterborne diseases are now a thing of the past. Our fortunes have been completely transformed. We are now even developing a school garden for education and income purposes," said the headmaster.

As the headmaster continues to watch the pupils, a slow smile dawns on his face, he says a silent prayer for the heaven-sent donors that have restored water supply at the school.



A BURDEN LIGHTER FOR DISABLED MAN'S WIFE AS WATER IS BOUGHT TO DOORSTEP

A bucket of water balanced on her head with a baby strapped on her back while carrying logs of firewood in her right hand, Chenai Maronga is one of the overburdened women in Chimanimani District that faces great difficulties in accessing water.

Although most women have adapted to their fate, Chenai's burden is made heavier as she also has to care for her husband who was injured at work. No compensation was received during the unfortunate incident at his workplace. He now relies on Chenai for his daily upkeep.

However, a piped water scheme by Afica AHEAD has made Chenai's burden a lot lighter as tapped water has been brought to their doorstep, saving her the dreaded journey of walking long distances to access clean water.

Spearheaded by Afica AHEAD, the Piped water scheme is part of World Bank Idai Response project which has been hailed for prioritizing the disabled in cyclone ravished regions of Chimanimani District.

Thanks to the project, Chenai is now able to walk a short distances to access water at the community taps that also serve other villagers nearby.

"We used to travel long distances to fetch water, now the taps are just a stone throw away from our home. It is not easy caring for a disabled man because you always have to be available to attend to his needs, so you can never be away for too long," said Chenai.

Compounding her problems is the baby she constantly carries on her back that is also in constant need of her love and care. However with the community taps a few meters from her home, she can easily juggle her roles at home.

The community is not resting on its laurels either; headman Elisha Mapimbiro has pledged to extend the taps into their homestead.

"Our gratitude goes to Afica AHEAD for this life saving project, we will pick up the button from where they left so as to take care of the disabled in our community. The community is mobilizing a kitty that we will use to extend piped water into the disabled man's homestead just so as to reduce the burden on his wife, that not only takes care of her husband and the baby, but the extended family as well," said the headman.



TAPPED WATER INTERVENTION RAISES PROFILE OF REMOTE VILLAGE

King Village in Chimanimani is what one would consider a modern rural community. This attribute can be pinned down to one particular attribute, the availability of tapped water in the community. In the vast rural locales of Zimbabwe, most villagers are resigned to using hand pumped boreholes. Tapped water is therefore a true luxury that most folk only experience when they travel to the city. However, the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) has brought this rich experience to the most marginalized communities in Zimbabwe.

King Village was the beneficiary of a solarised piped water scheme in a project that was implemented by Afica AHEAD with support from the World Bank and UNICEF. The scheme provides the community with water through 9 taps that are strategically dotted across the village.

A visit to the village revealed happy faces drawing water from the taps, a few meters from their homes.

The village head, Elisha Mapimbiro has hailed ZIRP for installing a transformative solar piped water scheme that guarantees safe and reliable water supply in his community.

The project which was implemented by Afica AHEAD with support from the World Bank installed a solarised water scheme that provides water to homes and gardens. The project has since established 9 water points in the community.

"I would like to applaud Afica AHEAD for this noble project which is

providing water to the 78 homes in my village. We are quite happy with the project because we had severe water challenges relying on one hand pumped borehole to serve the whole community. Some villagers had to walk long distances to access water. However we now have modern facilities through this scheme, villagers now have taps near their homes. Fetching water is now easy and hustle free.

"Gone are the days when we had to wait in long queues for a chance to fetch water which by contrast is now easily accessible even to the elderly and young children as the hand pump has been replaced by user friendly tapes," he said.

The headman rallied the community to dig trenches and provide locally available material to complete the project.

"Everyone was excited with the project and contributed meaningfully through manual labour and local resources. We reaped great benefits as every 10 households now have their own tap. We now drink fresh, clean borehole water from the tap," he said.

The headman said the water points also serve as drinking points for the livestock in the community.

"The waste water is channelled into drinking troughs from which local livestock drink from. We also have another tap within the community gardens for livelihood purposes," he said.

Residents of King Village consider themselves lucky to have the privilege of taped water at their disposal. The community has since taken full ownership of the project and has vowed to extend the community tapes into their homesteads for improved convenience.





BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING IN RURAL CHIMANIMANI

Against all odds, Sarah Muzasi of Chimanimani district has broken the glass ceiling in rural Chimanimani where patriarchal stereotypes reign supreme.

To the ignorant eye, she is just another village woman, trapped in a polygamous marriage with nowhere to run. However Sarah is far from the average village housewife as she has refused to let societal expectations define her. It came as a shock to many in the community that she was the new village pump minder, a male dominated field in rural Chimanimani.

She is now responsible for the upkeep of a piped water scheme that was installed by Africa AHEAD in partnership with UNICEF and the World Bank.

"The men here felt challenged by my elevation. They believe a man should always be above the woman. However they are now forced to recognise me, when they have a problem with the water; they have to come to me for help," she said with a chuckle.

"Most men in this boarder community are polygamous as the female population far outstrips that of the men. They are used to bossing us around and making us do all the hard work. A good instance is when we dug the trenches for the water pipes, most of the men stayed at

home smoking pot or ogling girls across the river in Mozambique. Since water fetching errands are a major problem for women, we soldiered regardless. Now look who is boss," she added with a smile. Muzasi received training to be a pump minder through the AA project which she hailed for restoring safe, reliable water supply in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai.

The enterprising woman holds an executive position in the Drinking Water Safety and Security Committee (DWSSC) which is responsible for community-based management systems, operation and maintenance, risk assessment and management as well as planning.

The project by Africa AHEAD places intentional emphasis on women to be at the centre of each water point since they are the major beneficiaries.

Although Sarah is grateful for the influence she now commands, she says it has put her in a particularly difficult spot. "I have gained both friends and enemies through the training I received from Africa AHEAD. Women emancipation is such a foreign concept here, some women are jealous while some envy me. Similar trainings should be extended to more women in remote areas," he said.

SCHEME WASTEWATER IRRIGATES CROPS OF CHIMANIMANI FARMER

Chimanimani farmer, Caleb Manyange has taken advantage of the gravity-fed water scheme installed by Afica AHEAD to irrigate his crops that now flourishes in green exuberance. He is one of the beneficiaries that has been able to reap huge rewards from the project both at home and in the fields.

The scheme draws its source from the mountains nearby, runs through the pipes and settles in the water tanks, ready to discharge whenever a villager opens the taps downstream. However, so generous is the pour from the mountains to the extent that it overflows into a spillway designed as part of the project. It is here that Manyange draws water and directs it to his garden.

"I am grateful to Afica AHEAD or this scheme which not only provides my family with ample drinking water but also serves as an irrigation scheme for my crops which include Bananas, Maize, Avocadoes, Pineapples and Beans. Now I am assured of safe reliable drinking water for my family and bumper harvests from my irrigated crops," he said.

Manyange uses a simple, yet intelligent mechanism to direct the water into his fields. He simply immerses a small perforated bottle in

the spill pond he dug. The bottle sucks up the water through the perforations which are small enough to serve as a strainer; the water is then directed downstream into Manyange's garden where it juts joyfully in different directions through home-made sprinklers.

"I have 4 sprinklers that are able to provide water to my crops anytime of the day, I have been truly empowered through this scheme," said Manyange.



