Evaluation report

Contractor: Christian Care

Project Title:

Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience to Mitigate Displacements in Zimbabwe" project External Evaluation

Presented by

Transhup consultancy

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LIST OF ACROYNMS

ARDAS	Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Services
CC	Christian Care
CF	Conservation Farming
DDC	District Development Coordinator
DSD	Department of Social Development
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
FFS	Farmer Field School
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HH	Household
IGA	Income Generating Activities
KII	Key Informants Interviews
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development
PWD	People Living with Disability
RDC	Rural District Council
SADC	Southern African Development Committee
ToR	Terms of References
VSL	Village Saving and Lending

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to Climate Change, Christian Care implemented the project, 'Building sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience to mitigate displacements in Zimbabwe', in Zaka and Bikita districts from July 2022 to June 2025. The key objectives of the project were to strengthen climate resilience for communities in Bikita and Zaka districts through improved stable access to ground water, Bikita and Zaka communities to have improved access to sustainable livelihoods and to strengthen community resilience and responsiveness to protection threats. Christian Care engaged Transhup Investments Private Limited in May 2025 to carry out an endline evaluation of the project they implemented in Bikita and Zaka districts. The purpose of the evaluation was to demonstrate impact, facilitate accountability and support learning and continuous improvement to inform future programming. The objectives of the evaluation were to assess the effectiveness of the project, evaluate the impact of the project, examine the sustainability of the project, assess its relevance, identify improvements and provide recommendations.

Transhup Investments Private limited used a mixed methods approach and methodology to carry out the evaluation. The target population for the evaluation included project participants (women, men, children, Persons with disabilities' Christian Care staff, Government Departments such as ARDAS, EMA, DDC, DSD and Rural District Councils. To collect both quantitative and qualitative data, Surveys, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Key Informant Interviews, Field Observation as well as scanning of Secondary data were used. A total of 360 household questionnaires were administered, 6 FGDs held, and 23 Key Informants interviewed.

Findings

The evaluation focused on the extent to which the project met its stated objectives and outcomes. Following the assessment, the following are the findings of the evaluation:

Objective one: Improving and stabilizing access to groundwater for communities

- Targets set by the project on the rehabilitation of wetlands and the construction of weirs in both Bikita and Zaka districts were successfully achieved.
- The improvement in water access has contributed to improved food and nutrition security in both districts and this has enhanced the possibility of growing diverse horticulture crops throughout the year.
- While the community is enjoying the benefits of wetland rehabilitation, apiculture projects established in such environments are not easily accessed due to fear of snakes.
- The protection of wetlands has restored degraded lands and improved biodiversity protection.

Objective two: improve their livelihoods through conservation farming techniques, agricultural training, and the provision of small livestock.

- The project achieved training of farmers with 96.6% adoption rate of Conservation Farming practices which have resulted in significant improvements in crop yields and with improved soil health, water conservation and sustainable land management.
- There is a decline in the number of communities whose harvest last less than 4 months and an increase in the harvest lasting longer than 4 months.
- Communities in both Bikita and Zaka showed a significant improvement in household income levels including PwDs.
- Household incomes have diversified through the implementation of nutrition gardens, small livestock like chickens, rabbits, goats and turkeys.

Objective three: community responsiveness to protection threats

- The two districts evaluated are susceptible to complex natural and human induced hazards, namely droughts, floods and economic fragility which has compromised the capacity of government, communities and individuals to invest in disaster preparedness and other critical services
- Results show that there is a low proportion of households reporting reduced coping capacity in both districts
- Smallholder farmers are diversifying crops grown with small grains included as they are more tolerant to dry spells. However, maize remains the major crop grown in both districts.

Recommendations:

Objective One: The evaluation team makes the following recommendations:

- The findings led to the recommendation that Christian Care should upscale the Wetlands Protection, Water harvesting and introduction of livelihoods strategy as it has evidently improved underground storage of water while improving availability. This has ensured that communities grow crops throughout the year without water constrains.
- There is need to improve resource availability to targeted communities so that infrastructure projects are not left incomplete or some areas that were proposed for the intervention ended up not benefitting.
- Solar powered water pumping is critical to improve water access especially for upstream beneficiaries to enhance coverage and access.

Objective two:

- The project recorded increased positive utilization of organic fertilizer in the established nutrition gardens to enhance production. The evaluation recommends the increase of organic fertilizers to reduce cost, contribution to reducing the carbon footprint and contribution to healthy harvest and consumption of beneficiaries.
- The project is commended for ensuring that PwDs have increased incomes levels through targeted interventions. The evaluation recommends scaling up this approach in future programmes.
- Farmer field schools remain a viable and less costly approach of reaching out to farmers hence the project may need to consider scaling up to enhance household productivity.
- The participation of young people can be enhanced through integrating entrepreneurship agenda at programming.

Objective three

- The project encouraged project beneficiaries to form self-groups to be able to respond to threats and hazards but this resulted in them doing Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA) on their own. The recommendation encourages the introduction of the VS&L concept or its integration into the new design as it has shown effectiveness in contributing to household resilience.
- Local management structures' financial literacy must be strengthened to ensure adequate resources are mobilized to support maintenance of project assets.
- The recurrence of climate induced shocks signifies the need for the project to integrate disaster risk management in all project management structures.

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INTRODUCTION

Transhup, a team of independent multidisciplinary consultants, was contracted by Christian Care to conduct an evaluation of the project titled "*Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience to Mitigate Displacement in Zimbabwe.*" This project, supported by Act for Peace, ran from July 2022 to June 2025 in the Zaka and Bikita districts of Masvingo province. The end-of-project evaluation was guided by the OECD evaluation criteria: effectiveness, impact, sustainability, efficiency, and relevance. The official engagement between both parties occurred through contract signing following the submission, review, and acceptance of this report. The Terms of Reference (ToR) required the submission of an evaluation report at the conclusion of the process. This document fulfilled that requirement by presenting an overview of the project's key components and the evaluation approach adopted by the consultants.

The final report was structured as follows: the first section included this introduction, followed by a concise background outlining the context and objectives of the assignment. Subsequently, the report delineated the assessment approach that explained the methodology. The final section presented the evaluations, including the results of the evaluation and recommendations based on the findings.

BACKGROUND

Zimbabwe, like other nations in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), faced threats from the increased frequency, magnitude, and severity of disasters, predominantly climate-induced. The impacts of such hazards surged, causing significant setbacks to national integration and resilience-building efforts in already distressed economies, necessitating actions from both government and non-governmental organizations like Christian Care. In partnership with Act for Peace, Christian Care implemented the project "Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience to Mitigate Displacement in Zimbabwe" to enhance the capacities of vulnerable groups to absorb shocks. This project was co-funded by Global Mission Partners and The Charitable Foundation, with its implementation taking place in Masvingo Province.

The project focused on displaced communities and those at risk of displacement, aiming to enhance their resilience and adaptability to threats posed by climate-induced displacement. This was achieved through improved access to sustainable livelihoods and food security, as well as an enhanced ability to address protection threats.

The three key objectives of the project were:

1. **Strengthening Climate Resilience**: Improving and stabilizing access to groundwater for communities in Bikita and Zaka through wetland rehabilitation, weir and irrigation construction, and the establishment and rehabilitation of nutrition gardens.
2. **Enhancing Access to Sustainable Livelihoods**: Ensuring that all communities in Bikita and Zaka districts improved their livelihoods through conservation farming techniques, agricultural training, and the provision of small livestock.

3. **Strengthening Community Resilience**: Enhancing community responsiveness to protection threats, which included community-based protection training and the establishment of self-help groups.

To this end, Christian Care and Act for Peace engaged Transhup consultancy to assess the effectiveness, impact, efficiency, sustainability, and relevance of the "Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience to Mitigate Displacement in Zimbabwe" project during the implementation period from July 2022 to April 2025. Act for Peace and Christian Care acknowledged support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program for this project.

END OF PROJECT EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this evaluation was to demonstrate the positive, negative, intended, and unintended impacts of the project implemented in Bikita and Zaka districts by Christian Care in partnership with Act for Peace. The evaluation aimed to facilitate accountability while providing a learning avenue to inform future programming for Christian Care, Act for Peace, and other stakeholders. The evaluation adopted a rural participatory appraisal approach, ensuring that insights from project beneficiaries, government stakeholders, and program teams were integrated during the assessment.

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, the specific objectives of the evaluation included:

1. **Assess Project Effectiveness**: Evaluating how well the project achieved its stated objectives and outcomes, focusing on the three main goals:

    - Strengthening climate resilience in Bikita and Zaka communities by improving and stabilizing access to groundwater.
    - Enhancing access to sustainable livelihoods through conservation farming techniques, agricultural training, and provision of small livestock.
    - Strengthening community resilience and responsiveness to protection threats.

2. **Evaluate Community Impact**: Examining the project's impact on community knowledge, infrastructure, and skills, including improvements in wetland rehabilitation, utilization of constructed weirs and irrigation systems, established nutrition gardens, and community-based protection training.

3. **Examine Sustainability**: Assessing the sustainability of project outcomes, focusing on the long-term viability of initiatives and whether they would continue benefiting communities after the project's conclusion. The evaluation included stakeholder engagement during the project implementation stage.

4. **Assess Relevance**: Evaluating the relevance of the project's approach, including alignment with the needs of target groups and consistency with ANCP outcomes, as well as the strategic priorities of both Christian Care and Act for Peace. Alignment with government policies and priorities as stated in the National Development Strategy (NDS) 1&2.

5. **Identify Improvements for Long-Term Sustainability**: Identifying critical success factors through interactions with various stakeholders during the evaluation process, and conducting a gap analysis to pinpoint areas for improvement.

6. **Evaluate Best Practices**: Synthesizing what worked well in the project, why it worked, and how it could be replicated or adapted for future initiatives.

7. **Capture Lessons Learned**: Documenting successes, challenges, and failures through interactions with various stakeholders throughout the project cycle.

8. **Provide Recommendations**: Offering recommendations for the design of future phases of the project, as well as for similar government and private sector initiatives.

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION CONTEXT PROFILE

To design an appropriate approach and methodology for Christian Care and Act for Peace, an in-depth understanding of the general prevailing circumstances in the targeted districts was required. To this end, this part of the report presented an overview of the profiles of Zaka and Bikita districts, derived from secondary sources, predominantly the ZIMVAC reports, as well as other official documents from the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and its development partners

DISTRICTS OVERVIEW: ZAKA AND BIKITA

Zaka and Bikita districts are two of the seven districts of Masvingo Province. Zaka district has a total population of 198 889 spread across 46 206 households (Food and nutrition Council Zimbabwe, 2024). The district has a total area of 308 620 hectares and 34 administrative wards which lie in agro-ecological region III, IV, and V. The district is a semi-arid, mountainous area with erratic rainfall averaging 600 - 800 mm per annum. The soils are generally poor and subsistence farming is the main economic activity. The population density in Zaka district is 65 persons/km which is quite high for an area relying on subsistence farming. Hence the environmental consequences are over-utilization of the natural resources, deforestation and severe soil erosion. The district has been experiencing oscillating rainfall patterns over 5 years. By contrast the district has been experiencing a sharp decrease in total rainfall across all parts of the district thus affecting the cropping season. Over a period of 5 years, most dams and rivers across all 34 wards in the district have been affected by siltation due to stream bank

cultivation, illegal miners have also contributed to land degradation like in wards 1, 15, 21, 25, 32 and 34.

According to ZimLAC (2024), in Zaka District there are very few secondary schools in the district with students travelling long distances to school, limiting time for study and exposing them to hazards. The district has a total of 25 health facilities that fairly cover the district. Malnutrition has continued to prevail over the past five years with a sharp increase in Moderate Acute Malnutrition pegged at 3.4% according to Food and Nutrition Council Zimbabwe (2024) and an increase in Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) standing at 1% according to Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (2024). Zaka district also has a compromised minimum acceptable diet, minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency. The highest proportion of households are not meeting acceptable food consumption scores and are constantly declining over the years. However, there is a notable improvement in the proportion of women consuming vitamin and protein rich foods at 57%. For chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and hypertension, the district constantly experiences shortages in medicine supplies. Access to latrines that are considered safe, is limited in the district. There has been a general decline in livelihood trends over the last 5 years due to climate change. Zaka district is classified as a highly drought prone area under the drought risk classification and under the flood risk classification the district is classified as medium risk

Households in Zaka district have relatives or spouses in and or outside Zimbabwe. This is prevalent across all wards in the district. Remittances are usually in form of foreign currency or groceries and clothing. The district also has households who sell one or two production assets during peak hunger periods, for instance households whose main livelihoods were affected during Covid 19. The district also has households with able bodied adults who have experienced low harvests and have no livestock due to shocks and in areas prone to drought, in addition there is a large proportion of households caring for orphans. There are also households with aged, disabled, chronically ill and child headed families with limited productive capacity.

On the other hand, Bikita district has 32 administrative wards with 3 of them in the small scale commercial farming area (ward 23, 28 and 29), 3 in the old resettlement sector (11B, 24, 25, and 26) and 24 in the communal area (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 31, and 32). Bikita district has a total population of 176 000 and it covers 524 246 hectares. Bikita North and West: Mostly mountainous area characterized by Savannas with some minor woodlands consisting of especially (Musasa) and (Mutondo) trees. Bikita South and East: Vegetation is characterized by Savannas, but to a large extent semi diversified with Mopane, Acacia and Baobab trees.

Bikita is losing 156, 737, 734 cubic meters of soil every year. Heavily affected wards are: 18; 20; 21; 22; 24; 25 and 26 which covers about 21.8% of the district. The other 78.2% of the district has minimal erosion but rehabilitation of contours is required. Wards 9; 10; 11; 13 and 15 have higher erosion due to cultivation on lands with over 12% slope (Food and Nutrition

Council Zimbabwe, 2023). Low soil fertility on district soils is mainly due to too much runoff as there is poor mechanical conservation and reduction of plant cover in many parts of the district. There is great siltation due to reduction in plant cover and lack of manure, fertilizers, nutrient return and no fallow practice. Bikita soil is characterised by 3 different types: sand clay loam in the Southern region 1, 2, 3, 28, 29, 25, 26, 23 and 30; sand soil Ward 21, 22, 20, 24, 8, 16 and 12 clay soil. Most rivers in the district are clogged with eroded soils and dry up soon after the rainy season, leading to a lower capacity for irrigation and sometimes to flooding storms. An average of 16% of the district is seriously affected by deforestation as land is cleared for cultivation and trees are being cut for firewood. The most affected wards are 11; 19; 22; 23 and 24. Settlement types in Bikita district are categorized as resettlement, communal, estate farms and growth point. The larger part of the district is communal with some wards sharing both resettlement and communal status like ward 11. Ward 30 also doubles as a new resettlement and mine.

Bikita district continues to experience high levels of both chronic and acute malnutrition. Stunting levels remained high since 2016 with the district being ranked in the top 20 districts with highest stunting levels in the country. Although Severe Acute Malnutrition was lower, the Global Acute Malnutrition was pushed high due to elevated Moderate Acute Malnutrition cases to beyond the threshold (UNICEF, 2024). During dry seasons, seasonal water sources dry up leading to increased pressure at boreholes leading to increased breakdown coupled by lack of maintenance. The trend in all wards shows that in all wards there was an increase in the number of boreholes in the wards. RWIMS provided a comprehensive water and sanitation analysis of the wards in the district. The situation remains low in terms of coverage with most wards scoring less than 30% rendering the district a risk one in terms of water borne and hygiene related conditions (UNICEF, 2024).

The major livelihood strategies in Bikita district are crop production (this can be cash crops or food crops), livestock production, horticulture, gathering, mining and village lending and savings. These livelihood strategies are usually affected by rainfall patterns and distribution per year. In addition, the district generally has semi-intensive mixed farming as the main livelihood. Bikita District has a bias towards cattle production. Part of Ward 2 qualifies to be classified in region 2B because it receives more than 800-1000mm annually (Mavhura et al., 2022). Cotton is the major cash crop grown in the district and it is mainly found in Ward 1, 2, 3, 28, 29, 24, 25 and 26. Furthermore groundnut production is also done across the district. According to the Food Poverty Atlas, the prevalence of food poverty ranges between 3.2% to 24%. Ward 30 has the lowest poverty of 3.2% and Ward 3 has the highest at 24.3%.

EVALUATION ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK.

Assessment approach and methodology

The assessment team created a three-phase approach to the assignment, which was based on the assessment objectives and the scope of work outlined in the ToR.

- Phase I: Inception/Preparation.
- Phase II: Fieldwork.
- Phase III: Analysis and Reporting.

Assessment timeline

The evaluation took place between May 5, 2025, and June 15, 2025, or a period of 31 days. Please consult Annex A and Annex B for additional information regarding the assessment work plan and budget, respectively.

Geographic scope and coverage

The districts covered by the assessment are Bikita and Zaka, in Masvingo Province Section 3.6 lists the Wards that were covered in each of the districts. These were chosen using the multi-stage sampling method that is explained in Section 3.5.

Assessment design

A cross–sectional mixed–methods study design was employed for this external end of project evaluation. It was distinguished by (a) being done once-off on a particular sample, with results of data collected during the needs assessment period only being reported even if circumstances did change soon after (e.g during report writing), and (b) mixing different research manipulations for the most balanced reflection of the researched situation respectively.

Assessment Population.

There were 12 Wards in the 2 participating districts, i.e. 4 in Bikita and 8 in Zaka. A total of 6638 households in Bikita and Zaka districts benefited from the intervention based on the Grant Agreement (pgs 27-35).

Sample Size Determination

The primary study respondents were drawn from communities or areas that directly received assistance from Christian Care and Act for Peace project. The project had a large number of beneficiaries hence a sample of the population was selected. To select respondents for the questionnaire, a probability sampling determined by Raosoft online calculator using a 95% confidence level, margin error of 5%, was used whose formula is as follows: $n=t^2 \times p\ (1- p)/m^2$ where

n = required sample size

t = confidence level at 95% (standard value of 1.96)

p = estimated population of respondents in the study area
m = margin of error at 5% (standard value of 0.05
The consultancy team used purposive sampling to target key informants, and these included project implementation team, key government ministries and local leadership. The appropriate number of key informants was determined in consultation with Christian Care.

Table 1 summarizes the sample sizes for both Bikita and Zaka districts used for this evaluation in consultation with Christian Care. Given the geographical expansiveness of the districts under study, a multi-stage sampling approach was employed guided by a consultative prioritization process. The actual beneficiaries that participated in the household were identified through stratified random sampling taking into account youths, PWD and women.

Table 1: Sample size

				Males		Females		Youths		Totals			
District	Number of wards	Total # of beneficiaries	Sample	Males	Males with Disabilities	Females	Females with Disabilities	Youths	Youths with Disabilities	Males	Females	Youths	PWDs
Zaka	4	3452	218	44	8	120	23	12	7	44	120	12	31
Bikita	2	2282	142	55	22	141	57	11	3	55	141	11	79
Total	6	5734	360	99	30	261	80	23	10	99	261	23	110

Data Collection Methods

The core responsibility of enumerators was on conducting the Household (HH) survey, while other team members undertook Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and facilitated the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The consultants recorded responses using traditional notebooks and audio recordings. The following were the proposed methods to be applied by the assessment team to collect the data required for this End of project Evaluation:

Desk Review of literature

The documentation research commenced with an inception meeting between Christian Care and the consultants to better understand the assignment and its parameters. The evaluation team reviewed context-specific secondary data sources for in-depth understanding of the project in the targeted districts. This desk review included materials from various sources, such as the project reports, proposal documents, budget, baseline reports and monitoring reports. The team compiled an evaluation report with data gathered through questionnaires, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and desk review. This comprehensive information was essential for effectively identifying and engaging with specific communities, local authorities and project participants for targeted follow-up interviews.

Household survey

A structured household questionnaire that focused on targeted end of project evaluation assessment aspects in the sampled Wards was used. The questionnaire further elicited relevant demographic variables, which helped identify vulnerabilities linked to gender. The questionnaire was administered using Kobo collect a mobile data collection Application.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

The consultants engaged with key stakeholders, including project staff, government officials, community leaders, and local authorities. Using an interview guide, Key Informants were engaged to solicit expert opinions and experiences on the intervention's outcomes to inform what has worked well and areas for improvement. Simultaneously, audio recordings were made, serving as a supplementary reference should the assessment team seek a deeper engagement with the interview content. However, it's imperative to note that the recording process was contingent upon the interviewee's consent. This provided valuable qualitative insights into the effectiveness of interventions championed through Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience to Mitigate Displacement in Zimbabwe project.

Table 2: Summary of KIIs

Key Informant	Bikita	Zaka
DDC	1	1
RDC	1	1
Agritex	1	1
Councillors	1	0
Lead Farmer	1	2
Water Point Rep	1	2
Irrigation Chairperson	2	1
Chiefs	0	0
PWD Rep (District)	1	2
Youth Rep (District)	0	1
EMA Rep	1	1
Dept of Social Dev	1	1
Total	**11**	**13**

Focus Group Discussions

The evaluation team organized focus group discussions with a diverse range of program beneficiaries with different age groups and working backgrounds. These discussions delved deeper into their experiences, shedding light on the effectiveness of the process, coping mechanisms and impact of the interventions. The number and composition of the FDGs were determined through the consultation with Christian Care partners. Beneficiary selection for

these FGDs ensured vulnerable groups are represented including women and people living with disability.

Table 3: FGD Sample size

Respondents	Proposed sample	Bikita	Zaka	comment
Agriculture (CF) beneficiaries, Small Livestock, weir beneficiaries, wetland beneficiaries and gardens, CBP-SHGs	15	2	4	The sample had all groups represented and each ward had a FGD conducted

Survey

The consultancy utilized the structured surveys to harness data to understand lived experiences and impact of the project for the displaced and at-risk communities. The data collection took into consideration vulnerable groups such as women, people with disability, and the elderly within the community. The consulting team collected data from populations that benefited from the Christian Care programme. The primary intention was to gather quantitative data on the effectiveness of the resilience building project. The questionnaire included methodologies and tools to assess food insecurity through the food Consumption score, Household Hunger scale, Household Food insecurity access scale and Coping Strategy Index (CSI). These tools provided a comprehensive understanding of the project's impact on resilience, food security and well-being outcomes.

Data was collected using Kobo collect to optimize and ease data collection, allow for real-time data validation, reduce errors and improve data quality. The tools were pre-tested after enumerator training in one ward not participating in the Christian Care evaluation. This gave room for fine-tuning the data collection tools incorporating other stakeholders' views and those of the Christian Care.

Observation

The consulting team conducted some observations to verify the construction, establishment and functionality of weirs, gardens, and distributed livestock. This observation guided by the observation checklist and the capturing of pictures was prioritized for reporting purposes.

Materials and Equipment

- Digital camera.
- Tablets.

Data Analysis and Reporting Summary

Table 3 presents a summary of the data analysis approaches used to address the main objectives of the study. Quantitative data was analyzed using SPSS and/ STMs Excel software and descriptive statistics were produced. For qualitative data, Thematic and Document analysis techniques were employed. Quantum GIS and/ ArcGIS 10.6 was used for all spatial analysis processes and mapping in the assessment. Results are presented in Tables, Graphs, narrative forms, photographs, and maps.

Table 4: Assessment framework

Evaluation Specific Objectives	Evaluation Questions	Gender-related Questions	Tools & Techniques	Data analysis techniques	Data Sources
To evaluate the impact of the project on food security, knowledge on climate smart agriculture, restoration of water sources and protection.	What were the key positive and negative impacts of the project What were the unexpected outcomes and consequences · What are the target communities' perceptions about the project's contribution to food security and income? How have conservation farming techniques affected crop yields among farmers? How have increased income-earning opportunities at the household and community levels improved community resilience How has the program reported to have increased access to and improvements in livelihoods		FDG Structured questionnaire K11	Thematic analysis Document analysis	Hhd/Community KII Project staff Local leadership Stakeholders Past Evaluations
To assess the effectiveness of the project in achieving its stated objectives and outcomes	How effective were the farm school approach been in teaching and disseminating knowledge of conservation farming How appropriate were the		Survey questionnaire FDGs KII	Thematic analysis Descriptive analysis Observations	

	interventions used to reach different groups within the project? What were the key challenges in executing outcomes? How responsive was the project in adapting to and overcoming them? What barriers still exist that prevent vulnerable or marginalized groups of people from accessing project activities and services				
To assess the effectiveness of the project in achieving its stated objectives and outcomes	How effective were the farm school approach been in teaching and disseminating knowledge of conservation farming How appropriate were the interventions used to reach different groups within the project? What were the key challenges in executing outcomes? How responsive was the project in adapting to and overcoming them? What barriers still exist that prevent vulnerable or marginalized groups of people from accessing project activities and services		Survey questionnaire FDGs KII	Thematic analysis Descriptive analysis Observations	

To evaluate the relevance of the project s approach in line with the needs of the target group	1.Was the design appropriate for the geographical area How realistic and achievable were the targets set in the project, and were they perceived as overambitious by the local communities? Where recommendations from past evaluations incorporated in the program implementation How acceptable was the quality of outputs to the local communities To what extent did the project respond to the community's priority issues		FDGs KII Survey Questionnaire	Thematic analysis Document analysis Descriptive analysis	Household KI Project staff Stakeholders (Agritex Local leadership.
To evaluate the sustainability of the project's outcomes, focusing on the long-term viability of the initiative and the continued benefits to communities after the project's completion	What mechanisms exist to ensure that benefits of the project be maintained over the long term? How has the implementing partner mainstreamed sustainability in the project design and implementation? Do the local community leaders fully support the		FDG Structured questionnaire K11	Thematic analysis Document analysis	hhd/Community KII Project staff Local leadership Stakeholders Past Evaluations

	initiatives taken by the project? What threats to sustainability are faced by the interventions that were implemented in the communities?				
To assess accountability and draw lessons from the intervention	What key lessons have we learnt from the project implementation/ partnership/ coordination What went well and what can be done better? What methods/ approaches have been used in the intervention to engage and receive feedback from target communities and To what extend have the reporting mechanisms successful		FDGs KII Survey questionnaire	Thematic analysis Document analysis Descriptive Statistics	Stakeholders-Government stakeholders Partners Project staff KI Local leadership
To evaluate gender mainstreaming	To what extent were gender and other mainstreaming (disability, child protection,) factored into stages of the project? What results have emerged from child protection prevention and awareness raising activities? What changes have resulted from the activities		FDG KII Survey Questionnaire	Thematic analysis Descriptive analysis Document analysis	Comunity based protection committee KI Stakeholders-local leadership, Police Activity reports

	of the child protection networks? Of the livelihood opportunities undertaken by adults with disability following the training/ capacity building which were successful and which were less successful and what were the reasons for this? Does the project include strategies for men to act as allies or champions in promoting gender equality?				
To assess the extent to which improved and stable access to groundwater has strengthened climate resilience for communities in Bikita and Zaka	What water infrastructure has been implemented to enhance access to groundwater How has the availability of groundwater changed since the project began? What percentage of households now have reliable access to groundwater? What changes have been observed in crop yields since the community gained improved access to ground water		FDG Structured questionnaire K11	Thematic analysis Document analysis	hhd/Community KII Project staff Local leadership Stakeholders Past Evaluations

	How has the variety of crops grown in the community changed What new agricultural practices or technologies have been adopted due to access better to ground water? How effective were the farm school approach been in teaching and disseminating knowledge of water conservation How has the local market for agricultural products been affected What measures have been taken to ensure sustainable use of groundwater Have there been observed changes in the local biodiversity due to increased water ground water usage How has the quality of ground water been maintained or improved What community structures have been put in place to ensure that gains				

	from the improved access has been maintained				
To Assess and analyze the extent to which all communities in Bikita and Zaka districts have improved access to sustainable livelihoods.	How has the prevalence of food insecurity changed within the community How has the inclusion of PWD in conservation farming impacted their social status within the community. What impact has the training had on vulnerable groups How have the interventions such as conservation agriculture improved crop yields food and income security in the community How has the intervention impacted on the coping strategies of the household to stress and shocks	To what extent did the project involve the participation of vulnerable groups (women, girls people lining with disability in generating sustainable livelihoods			

Evaluation Assessment Team

The assessment team was composed of five highly qualified individuals with qualifications from a wide array of internationally renowned institutions. Refer to Annex C for detailed information on the assessment team. Other than the Consultants, the evaluation team also comprised five enumerators drawn from the sampled Wards in each district to leverage their technical and field expertise, knowledge of the area and local language competence. The enumerators were split into two groups to support simultaneous data collection processes.

Training of Enumerators

Enumerators were trained for one day by the Transhup Consultant to facilitate standardization of data collection procedure and data quality assurance. The entire assessment team went through all the instruments with the contractor (Christian Care) to ensure that everyone had a common understanding of the instruments. Furthermore, ethical issues were addressed during the training period. Field piloting of the tools was done by each of the enumerators as the training was done virtually. The piloting wards were selected based on being proximate to the enumerator but not participating in the programme.

Data Analysis

Qualitative data (Focus Group, Workshops and Key Informants Interview) was analyzed using Nvivo software, which enabled management, categorization, and analysis of data into thematic categories, revealing common themes and patterns. Quantitative data (Surveys) were captured and analyzed using SPSS and Excel. This yielded a comprehensive set of statistical outputs, including descriptive statistics, paired t-test for independent mean comparisons, predictive models, cost-efficiency metrics, correlation and regression analysis Results were presented in a clear and concise manner, using frequency tables and summary statistics (averages, modes, and medians), to provide a robust and informative analysis.

Data Quality Assurance

The Consultancy team ensured that the evaluation deliverables were of the highest quality before they were submitted to the client. Quality assurance was performed throughout the evaluation process to ensure accuracy and reliability of the data collected, stored and analyzed. Data collected using mobile application software was verified against predefined validation rules and constraints to ensure accuracy and consistency. Before analysis data cleaning was done to identify and correct errors, inconsistencies and inaccurate data. Reinforcing data normalization into standardized format to ensure consistency and for comparative analysis was carried out. In addition, access was restricted to authorized personnel to prevent authorized data modification or disclosure. Regular uploads into the server ensured timely backup of data to avoid data loss. Random spot checks and back stopping ensured quality of data collected by enumerators.

The evaluation team invested in the training and capacity-building of enumerators, equipping them with the necessary expertise to utilize data collection tools effectively. The training covered essential topics such as data quality, accuracy, and reliability, as well as techniques for minimizing errors and biases, ultimately guaranteeing the integrity of the data collected.

Ethical Considerations

The evaluation team continues to be committed to upholding the autonomy and dignity of all individuals involved, treating them with courtesy and respect allowing for informed consent. Participants were fully informed and empowered to make decisions about their involvement, with the freedom to choose whether to participate in the evaluation process. The team adhered to a strict "do no harm" policy, guaranteeing that participants' safety, dignity, and well-being were respected and secured throughout the evaluation process. In collecting data, the consultant was mindful of sensitive social norms and cultural nuances, particularly regarding gender, disability, age, and other factors that may impact data quality and participant well-being. All research tools and methods were carefully designed and implemented to respect these differences.

Assumptions

The following were the assumptions in the execution of the evaluation:

Duration: The expected timeline of the project proceeded without any delays.

T**eam composition:** The consultants were available throughout the evaluation period.

Travel and logistics: Any travel or logistical expenses were estimated based on typical rates and distances, assuming no unforeseen travel restrictions are experienced.

Data availability: It was assumed that relevant data and information for the project assessment will be accessible and accurate.

Economic stability: The cost estimate assumed a stable economic environment, with no significant inflation or economic downturn affecting prices within the project life span.

Stakeholder engagement: The cost included a certain level of engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, assuming their availability and cooperation will not change.

Geographic context: The consultancy assumed operations in a specific geographic area, accounting for local conditions and risks.

Evaluation Limitations / Expected Challenges

The team did not face significant challenges or delays in data collection, though there were instances of poor communication between the parties though it did not delay the evaluation process.

EVALUATION FINDINGS

The evaluation assessed the extent to which the project met its stated objectives and outcomes. The project was designed around three primary goals:

a. **Strengthening Climate Resilience:** The first goal focused on enhancing the climate resilience of the Bikita and Zaka communities by improving and stabilizing their access to groundwater resources. This is crucial for ensuring a reliable water supply, particularly in the face of climate variability.
b. **Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods:** The second goal sought to boost access to sustainable livelihoods through the implementation of conservation farming techniques, agricultural training programs, and the provision of small livestock. These strategies are intended to empower local communities economically and promote food security.
c. **Building Community Resilience:** The third goal was to strengthen the community's resilience and responsiveness to various protection threats, thereby ensuring that community members are better prepared to address challenges they may face.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA PRESENTATION

A household survey was conducted in Bikita and Zaka districts, yielding responses from a total of 360 respondents. The survey revealed a notable representation from the Zaka district, accounting for 54% of the respondents while Bikita was represented by 46%. The survey's demographic analysis showed a significant majority of female respondents, comprising 72% of the total participants, indicating a strong female representation with male respondents constituting 28%. The results show significant women involvement and contribution to local development. The demographic information focused on gender, age and education as detailed in the tables and figures below. Demographic data revealed characteristics of individuals which swayed the manner in which communities engaged to strengthen their resilience through project initiatives.

Age of respondents

The age distribution of respondents was examined and presented in the figure below.

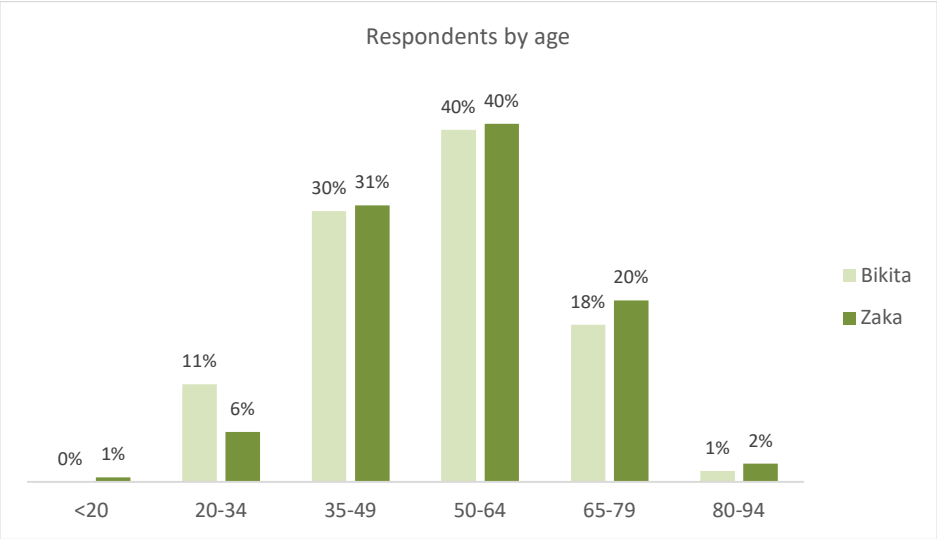


Figure 1: Age Distribution of Assessment Respondents

The results in figure 1 indicate that the majority of project beneficiaries in both Bikita and Zaka districts are aged 50 and above. In Zaka district 62% of the respondents are aged between 50-94 while in Bikita 59% are in this category. While Bikita had a slightly higher proportion (41%) of younger respondents than Zaka with 37%, the proportion of young people participating in the Christian Care projects is generally low in both districts. Hence, there is need to devise innovative ways of engaging this constituency as they possess the energy and innovation to support the implementation of local development interventions that include climate smart agriculture. In response to this phenomenon, one of the young project participants said 'that for our generation to participate in local development we need space to decide and have access to critical resources such as land (Ward 28, Zaka district, 28/05/25). Creative ways to engaging young people in project activities in both districts needs further consideration and prioritization to ensure active groups such as these are represented.

Table 5: Average age of respondents per district

	Bikita	Zaka	Average age in both districts
Average Age	52	54	53

Status of respondents

The marital status is a significant variable in shaping the resilience of communities as it reflects the decision-making structure, supportive mechanisms and the independence exercised by individuals and collectively when faced with perturbations. This factor becomes inescapable in shaping coping and adaptation to socioeconomic shocks affecting communities in Bikita and Zaka districts.

Table 6: Status of respondents

Marital Status	% females status distribution	% male status distribution	% status distribution of all respondents
Divorced	3%	3%	3%
Married	64%	91%	71%
Single	3%	3%	3%
Widowed	30%	3%	23%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

The results in Table 6 indicates that in both districts, 71% of the respondents were married, with 23% constituting the widowed. Of the respondents, males are predominantly married (91%), with a lower proportion of widowhood compared to the females. This suggests that widowhood is more prevalent among women, likely due to longer female life expectancy or cultural patterns where women are less likely to remarry and this attribute influences decision making at household level. The married couples are more likely to support each other and complement each other's efforts when faced with challenges.

In both districts, the average household size was 6 members. Notably, 31% of respondents reported living with individuals with disabilities. Furthermore, a significant proportion (71%) of these respondents were from the Zaka district, indicating a higher prevalence of households with at least one person with a disability hence programming needs to be conscious of this attribute when targeting project beneficiaries.

Education level of respondents

The value of education in building resilience capacities against climate risk by smallholder farmers and community members in general are expressed and discussed below.

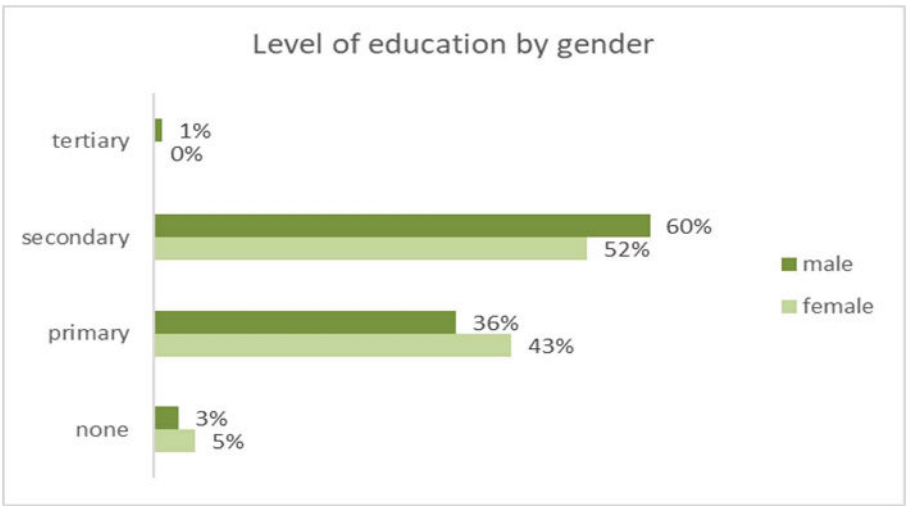


Figure 2: Level of Education of Respondents

The figure 2 highlights that both men (60%) and women (52%) respondents had the highest representation at the secondary level in both districts. A notable proportion of women (43%) attained primary education, however, none of the women surveyed had attained tertiary education and 5% of them had no formal education. This reflects the limitations women are likely to face in adopting technologies and this may compromise their ability to build local capacities against shocks. In addition, government line ministries and development partners need to tailor capacity building initiatives to the levels both women and men can comprehend.

FINDINGS FOR OBJECTIVE ONE.

Improving and stabilizing access to groundwater for communities in Bikita and Zaka through wetland rehabilitation, weir and irrigation construction, and the establishment and rehabilitation of nutrition gardens.

Assessing Project Effectiveness: To achieve the objectives of improving access to water, the project targeted the establishment and rehabilitation of 3 weirs and 3 wetland catchment areas to optimize water retention and usage in agricultural practices. By the conclusion of the evaluation period, the project successfully established or rehabilitated three weirs, reaching an average efficiency rate of 100% for weirs and 100% for wetlands in achieving the intended output. These weir structures were specifically rehabilitated in Bikita's Ward 5 (Chipedo), Makweture in Ward 31 and Mugutanepwere in ward 17 , Zaka

Figure 3: Chapedo and Mukweture weirs (Left Picture shows Chapedo weir in ward 5 and right picture shows Mukweture weir in ward 31 both in Bikita at early stages of construction).

Figure 4: Left-Pictures showing Chapedo weir dam full and overflowing in ward 5 and right shows Mukweture weir in ward 31 constructed by the Christian Care Project in Bikita

Figure 5 below shows that the majority of the respondents (61% in Zaka and 72% in Bikita) attributed changes in the ground water levels changes to the positive impact the project has had on water issues. In both districts, a sizeable proportion (39% Zaka and 28% Bikita) did not agree with the view that improvements in water are as a result of the impact of Christian Care funded projects. Of significance is that focus group discussions suggested that the water infrastructure supported by Christian Care in making a huge difference in the lives of

communities particularly women and girls by reducing distances travelled and offering opportunities to produce vegetable all year round.

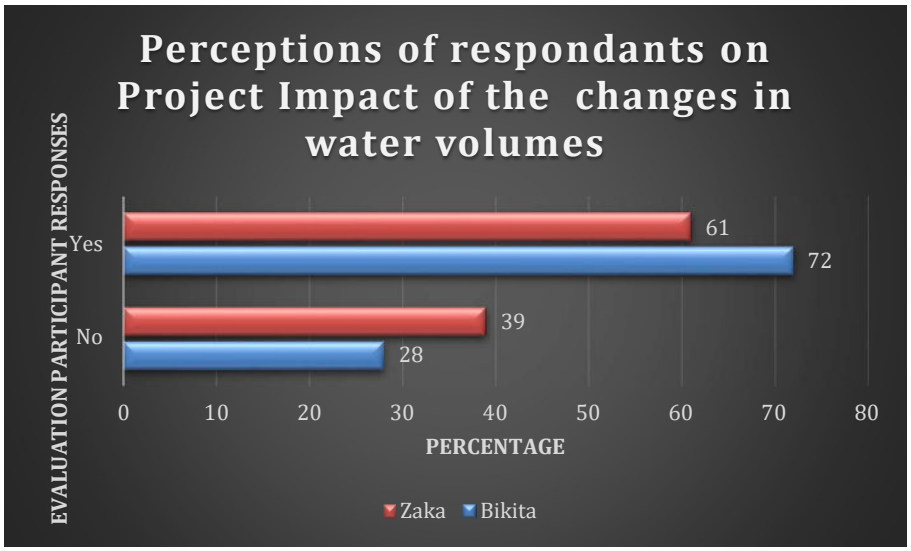


Figure 5: Perceptions of respondents on Project Impact of the changes in water volumes

The respondents in both districts indicated that the change in the volume of ground water was because of the project's positive impact on household and community farming practices and crop diversity. Observations (as shown in figure below) indicate the benefits of wetland rehabilitation which enhances the possibility of growing diverse horticulture crops throughout the year due to improved availability and access to water. By restoring these wetlands, the project not only improved the accessibility of water for agricultural use and daily consumption, but it also enhanced the ecological balance within these areas. The rehabilitation process involved removing debris and re-establishing vegetation.

The project initially targeted 8 gardens. However, the targets were revised downwards to 4, with the projects completing 3 gardens (Majasi in ward 28 and Mugutanepwere garden in ward 17, Zaka, and Rupinda garden in ward 31, Bikita). The revised targets were arrived at following engagements and agreements with the donor. 1 garden, Chapedo garden in ward 5 Bikita was work in progress by the time of data collection in May 2025. The changes in targets were as a result as the project adopting a flexible approach where targets were needs based. For example, if in that particular year, there was increased need for borehole drilling / weir construction then budget re-adjustments would be initiated and approved by the donor. All the 3 gardens established are functional with communities growing diverse horticulture crops to improve household food and nutrition security.

Figure 6:Left picture shows an established Rupinda nutrition garden with tomatoes in ward 31 and right picture established 2ha Majasi garden in ward 28 , Zaka

Evaluate Community Impact: Examining the project's impact on community knowledge, infrastructure, and skills, including improvements in wetland rehabilitation, utilization of constructed weirs and irrigation systems, established nutrition gardens, and community-based protection training.

The establishment of the weir dams has significantly enhanced access to water for local communities. In both Zaka and Bikita districts, the majority of respondents reported improvements in groundwater accessibility due to the project implemented by Christian Care. A typical example is the Weir in Ward 17 , Zaka which is overflowing and it's a huge relief to local communities and livestock which travelled approximately 17km to access water from Lake Mutirikwi. In concurrence, one of the farmers said ***'weir establishment has brought relief to communities especially us women by making it possible to produce horticulture crops all year round and reducing the distances travelled' (FGD, Ward 28, 27/05/25)***. Specifically, in Bikita District, 72% of project beneficiaries noted enhanced access to groundwater, while in Zaka District, 61% of beneficiaries shared the same sentiment, as illustrated in the figure 5 above . This reflects the impact the projects had in enhancing water access.

Left picture show Mukweture wetland in ward 31, Bikita before rehabilitation, and the right picture show the rejuvenated Mukweture wetland

Left picture showing degraded Majasi wetland in ward 28, Zaka during survey to consider fencing in front its EMA Officer, and the left picture show rejuvenated Majasi wetland with high recharge in ward 28 ZAKA

The case of Majasi reflects the benefits that accrue post rehabilitating the land. While the community is enjoying the benefits of wetland rehabilitation, apiculture projects established in such environments are not accessed due to fear of snakes. In a Focus Group Discussion, one of the **Village Heads in Majasi project said' rehabilitated wetlands have improved underground water recharge and access resulting in communities setting up nutrition gardens. However, snake infestation is preventing project members from nursing beehives' (FDG, Ward 28, Zaka, 28/05/25).** Based on community feedback, it would be prudent that the bee hives are moved from the wetlands to allow for the natural setting of the environment.

Figure 7: Colonized beehives in Zaka district

The project has made a substantial improvement on community knowledge, infrastructure, and skills. This is evident in areas where wetland rehabilitation, the utilization of constructed weirs, irrigation systems, and the establishment of nutrition gardens has been done. Additionally, the formation of community-based protection groups and self-help groups has strengthened local

engagement and resilience. These groups have provided a link through which communities are engaged to address local challenges and contribute towards community aspirations.

The rehabilitation of wetlands and the construction of weirs have significantly benefited households participating in the program. Increased access to groundwater in both districts has led to a marked improvement in agricultural practices. Notably, in figure 9, 82% of respondents reported enhanced crop diversity, indicating that communities are now cultivating a wider range of crops due to the availability of water resources. Improved access to water throughout the year facilitates the growth of horticulture crops and this increases nutritional diversity with the area and adjacent zones. Crop diversity resonates with irrigation scheduling with 22% of respondents indicating that the irrigation schedule has improved which is a demonstration of better management of water resources and more efficient farming practices in face of changing climate.

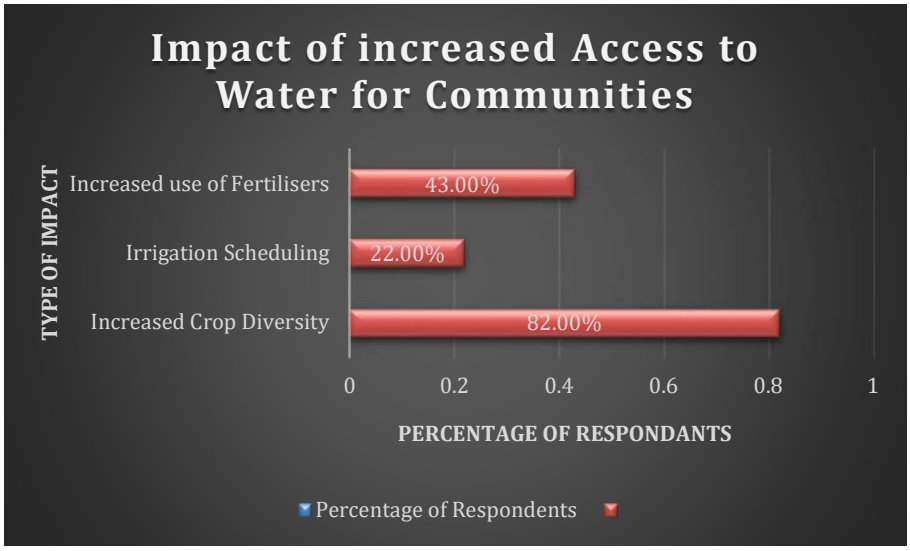


Figure 8: Graph showing the impact of improved groundwater access on households

Increased access to groundwater, facilitated by the project implemented by Christian Care in Zaka and Bikita districts, has led to significant improvements, prompting communities to make various investments. In both districts as indicated in figure 10, 43% of respondents reported investing in farm implements to enhance their agricultural activities, while 14% specifically focused on purchasing irrigation equipment as shown in Figure 10.

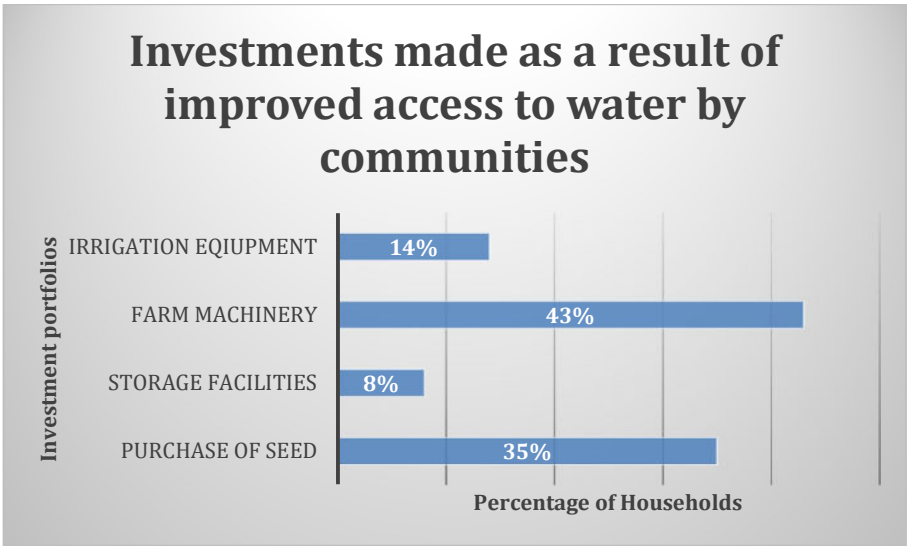


Figure 9; Household Investments and improved groundwater access

Observations from communities downstream of the Mukweture Weir Dam support these findings, as residents have acquired individual irrigation equipment and are now accessing water from the dam using their own pipes. Additionally, 35% of respondents indicated that they are buying seeds in bulk, a direct result of improved groundwater availability. Bulk purchases allow communities to pool resources together, enhance cohesion and understanding of each other. This strengthens community social capital which is necessary to effectively respond to local shocks as confirmed by one of the farmers benefitting from Mukweture Weir who indicated that '***the weir is a huge relief to most residents and due to improved water access, we are able to pool resources together to buy seed and invest in agriculture' (FGD, 29/05/25).*** Furthermore, 8% of respondents noted that they have invested in upgrading their storage facilities, motivated by the increased yields they are experiencing. These investments reflect a broader trend of enhanced agricultural productivity and resource management within the communities.

Sustainability: evaluating the sustainability of project outcomes, our assessment emphasized the long-term viability of the initiatives and their potential to continue providing benefits to communities even after the conclusion of the project. A crucial aspect of this evaluation was stakeholder engagement during the implementation phase, which allowed us to gather insights and feedback directly from those impacted by the initiatives.

One of the project's key strategies to improve access to water involved the construction of weirs and the rehabilitation of wetlands. These approaches were designed to enhance water collection capacity and ensure the availability of water resources long after funding has ended. By creating these structures, Christian Care did not only address immediate water shortages but also fostered an environment where sustainable water management practices can thrive. However, during our evaluation, we identified some concerns among community members who have begun to draw water directly from the newly constructed dams and wetlands. While this is a positive outcome indicating that the communities are benefiting from these resources,

it also raises significant sustainability issues. Specifically, there is an urgent need to regulate water abstraction to ensure that the rate at which water is drawn does not exceed the natural recharge capacity of these systems.

Project Relevance: Evaluating the relevance of the project's approach, including alignment with the needs of target groups and consistency with ANCP outcomes, as well as the strategic priorities of both Christian Care and Act for Peace.

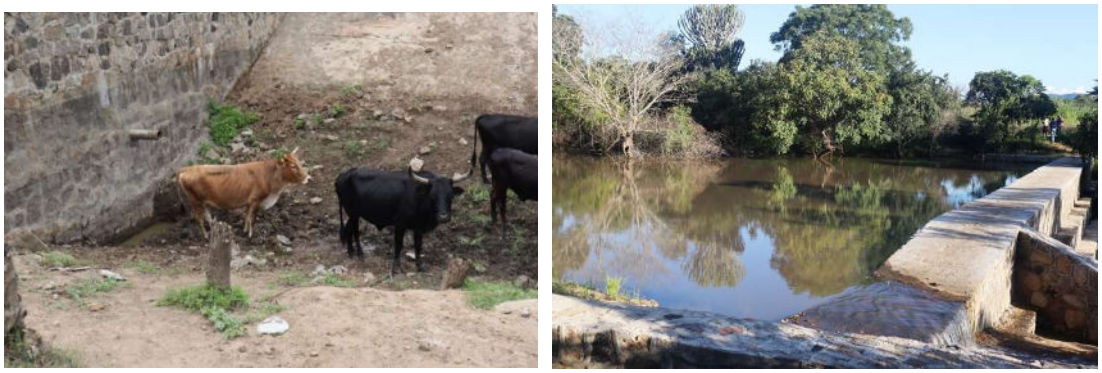


Figure 10: Picture shows Weir in ward 17 in Zaka district weir overflowing yet in the previous year it never had water and livestock suffered as it got water 17 kms away in lake Mutirikwi according to Dam Chairperson

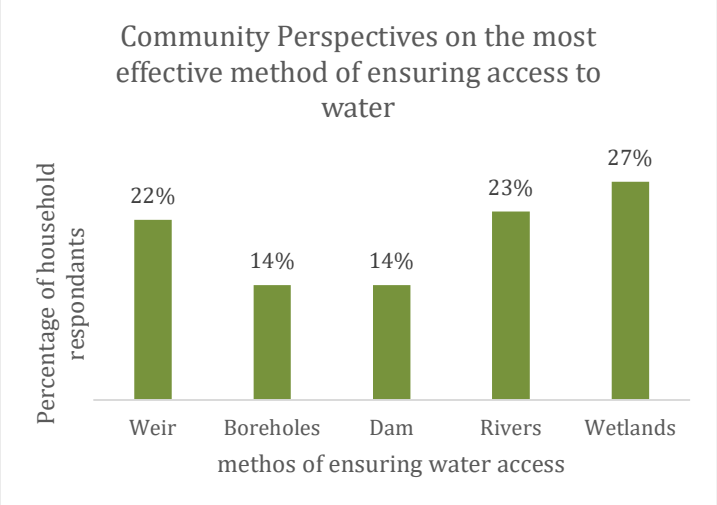
The recent shocks such as drought, crop pests, livestock diseases have had a huge negative impact on communities and their ability to mobilize and invest in less risky livelihoods. The emergence of COVID-19 in 2020, exacerbated the situation by disrupting livelihoods, eroded capacities to cope and this left the majority of households in Bikita and Zaka food and nutrition insecure. The most affected by these shocks included children, women and young people. This precarious situation in Bikita and Zaka led to the design and implementation of projects on conservation agriculture, water access, small livestock and nutrition gardens with Village Saving and Loan Association becoming positive benefits of the project in terms of capital generation. These initiatives were deemed relevant by the communities with one of the Lead **farmers indicating that 'these projects on wetland rehabilitation and small livestock resonate with the need to integrate climate risk to improve access to water and enhance household nutrition' (KII, Ward 28, 30/05/25).** This confirms that the projects under implementation are appropriate for the area given the water and food security challenges experienced in the area and the effects of climate risks. The design of the projects resonates with government thrust on involving communities in all stages of implementation so as not to leave no-one behind including women, young people and People with Disability. The rehabilitation of wetlands contributes to government policy on the preservation of such settings and this was echoed by one of the traditional leaders in **ward 28 in Zaka district who said 'wetlands are traditionally significant as areas that recharge our underground resources hence rehabilitation supports their preservation which is appreciated by communities and government'.** The evaluation concurs that Christian Care in collaboration with Act for

Peace facilitated the design and implementation of initiatives that relate to the context and contribute towards addressing local challenges.

Improvements for Long-Term Sustainability: This entails identifying critical success factors through interactions with various stakeholders during the evaluation process and it involved gap analysis to pinpoint areas for improvement.

One effective strategy Christian Care employed was the annual targeting of interventions and a thorough review of community needs. This method allowed the project to align initiatives with the most pressing requirements of the communities served. Further, the evaluation proposes a concerted effort to establish and strengthen water point committees, particularly for weirs and wetlands. These committees will play a vital role in not only overseeing the implementation of water management strategies but also in fostering community ownership, mobilization of resources for maintenance and enhancing accountability. By equipping these committees with the necessary training and resources, we can empower them to manage water resources sustainably, regulate water abstraction, and ensure that any interventions remain effective and relevant over time.

Best Practices: Building weirs and rehabilitating wetlands is an effective way of improving access to water for communities as compared to drilling boreholes.



Lessons Learned: Documenting successes, challenges, and failures through interactions with various stakeholders throughout the project cycle. While stakeholders have advocated for the drilling of boreholes to improve water access, the project demonstrated that the protection of wetlands and weir dams served as an effective and sustainable method for ensuring groundwater availability. These community assets not only provided a reliable source of water for agricultural activities but also contributed to the preservation of local ecosystems. By

prioritizing these natural water management strategies, communities can maintain long-term access to essential resources.

Recommendations: Offering recommendations for the design of future phases of the project, as well as for similar government and private sector initiatives the section below, the evaluation team makes the following recommendations:

a. The findings led to the recommendation that Christian Care should upscale the weir dam construction strategy as it has evidently improved underground storage of water while improving availability. This has ensured that communities grow crops throughout the year to generate income and enhance household food and nutrition security.

b. The targeting of wetlands for rehabilitation was effective in increasing water availability for communities to access for drinking and watering their gardens. This needs to be upscaled as communities are reaping the benefits.

c. The key community stakeholders in Zaka indicated that solar powered water pumping was a critical to improve water access, they suggested pumping water to upstream beneficiaries to significantly enhance coverage, ensuring access in remote areas.
d. The evaluation further recommends increased drilling of boreholes as suggested by key stakeholders, however, emphasis should be put on conservation efforts to enhance ground cover to have effective underground water sources recharge.

OBJECTIVE TWO

Through this objective, Christian Care supported vulnerable communities in Bikita and Zaka districts to improve their livelihoods through conservation farming techniques, agricultural training, and the provision of small livestock.

Project Effectiveness: The evaluation focused on how well the project achieved its stated objectives and outcomes.

The project aimed to train 3300 farmers in conservation agriculture using the farmer field schools approach, a participatory learning method designed to empower farmers with practical skills and knowledge about sustainable agricultural practices. However, the project ultimately achieved training for 3335 farmers, resulting in an effective rate of 101% in reaching its training target. The project has excellent adoption rates, with 99.6% of the interviewed trained farmers indicating that they had successfully adopted conservation agriculture techniques. The Farmer Field School approach was an effective approach to reaching out to farmers which should be encouraged in successor programmes.

The project had a strong inclusion component with a targeted approach to reach out People with Disabilities (PWDs). The project was very effective as in identifying and enrolling PwDs into specific interventions. According to UNCRPD, Zimbabwe's population has 9.2% PwDs

but in this project the inclusion rate was 30% of the participating households had a PwDs which goes above the national average.

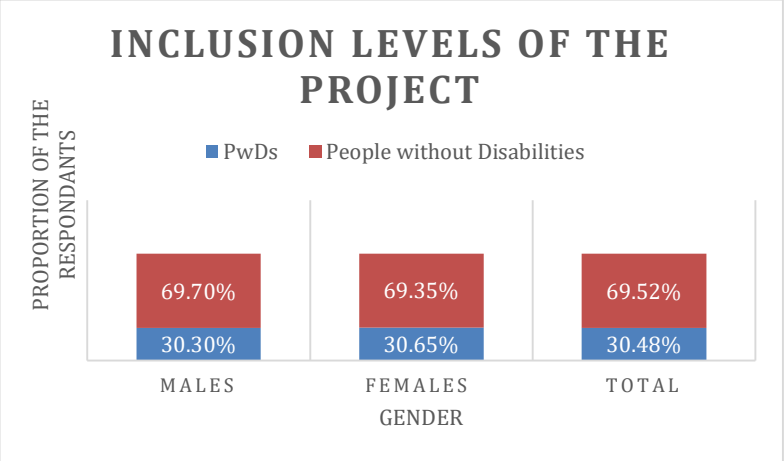


Figure 11: Inclusion levels of the Project

The project was not very effective in working with young people. The average age from the sample population was 54 years for Zaka and 52 for Bikita.

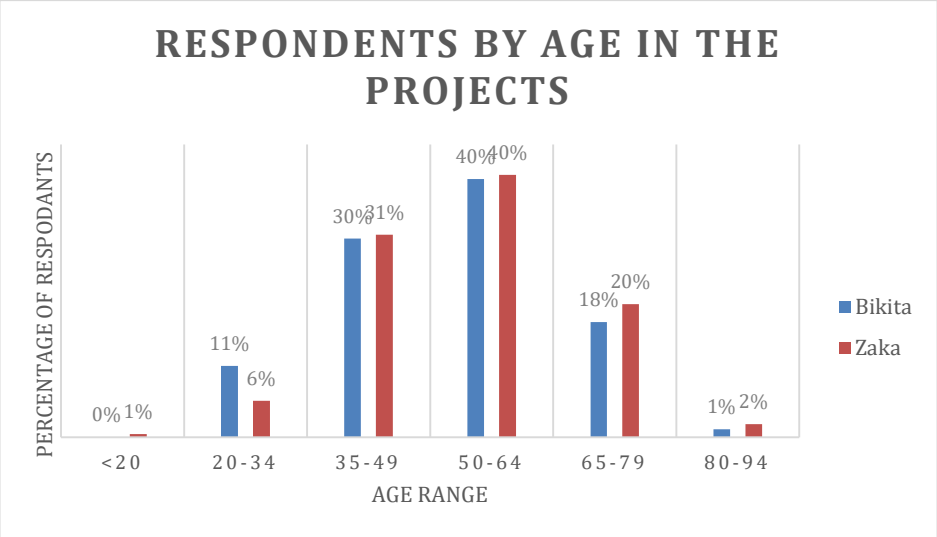


Figure 12: Respondents by Age in the Projects

Young people only constituted 6% of the sampled population as only 23 households out of the sampled 360 had a young people participating in project activities. Further, this means that the project did not influence the resilience capacities of this constituency hence the insignificance change in income levels of young people due to their participation in the project as show below.

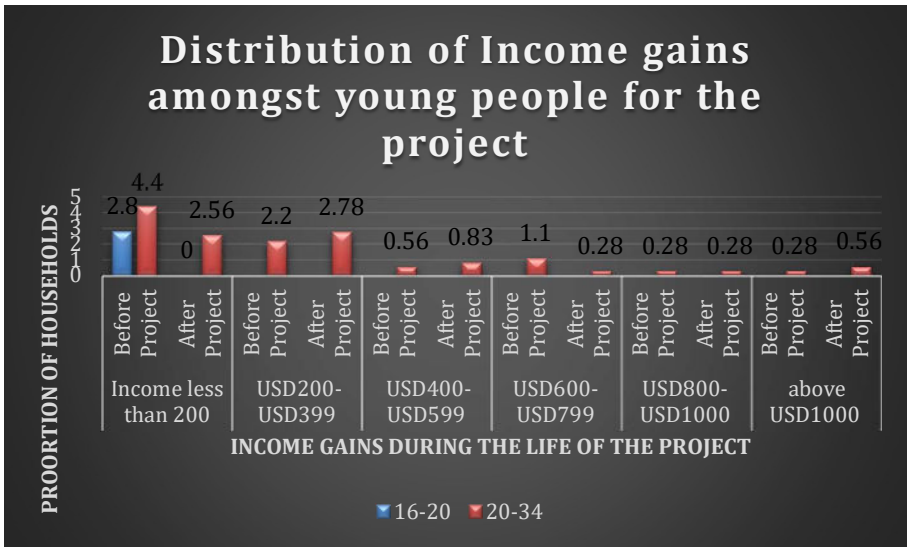


Figure 13: Distribution of Income gains amongst young people for the project

The project was very effective in improving yields of the farmers in the programme as shown on Figure 15. The reflects the contribution the project made towards strengthening household food security as supported by the majority.

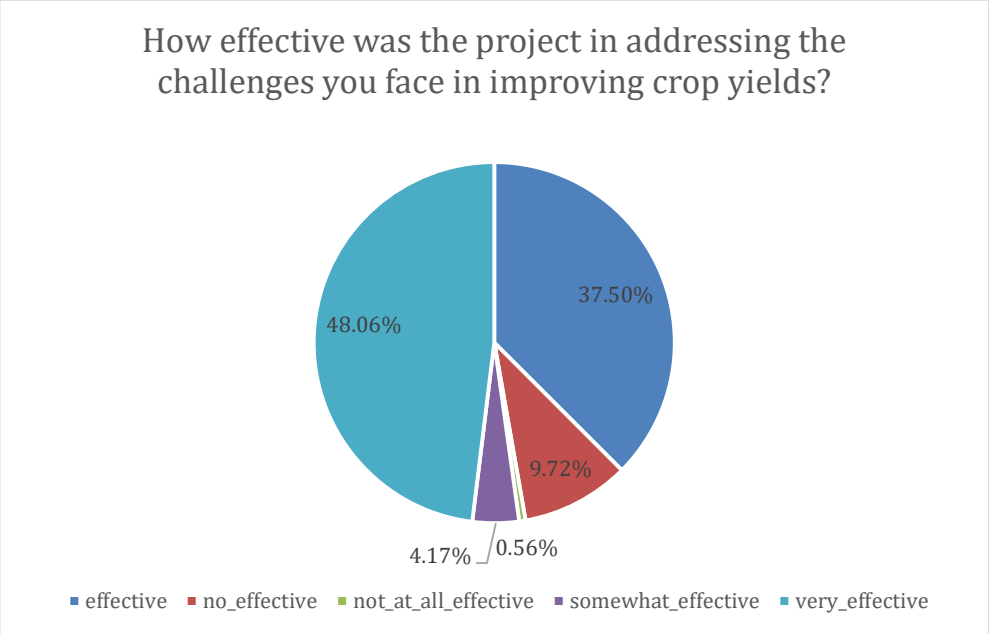


Figure 14: How effective was the project in addressing the challenges you face in improving crop yields

Community Impact: The evaluation explored in details the project's impact on community knowledge, infrastructure, and skills, including improvements in wetland rehabilitation, utilization of constructed weirs and irrigation systems, established nutrition gardens, and community-based protection training.

Crops grown by respondents.

The diversity of crop grown by communities in both districts are as indicated in the figure 11.

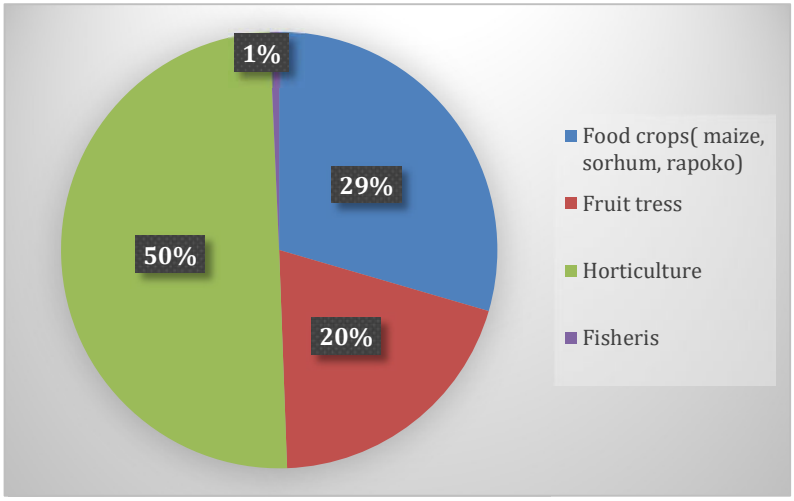


Figure 15: Crops grown

The figure 24 indicates that horticulture crops are the most grown in both districts followed by food crops and fruit trees. The preference of horticulture crops reflects that's communities are exploiting water sources around them to promote all year-round farming and practicing less of dryland farming. The availability of water all year round indicates that community water assets have improved and that they are diverse to harness water for use by the majority. Of importance is the growing of small grains which are more tolerant to dry spells contribute to improved health. One of the youths interviewed said ***'growing small grains is beneficial as it contributes to improved health especially for those experiencing sugar diabetes associated challenges, sorghum and millet helps in reducing health cost' (KII, 30/05/25).*** This shows the faith they have in small grains which in the long run contributes to adaptation to drought situations. Project beneficiaries have recorded increased crop yields through promoting Climate Smart Agriculture especially through the farmer field school (FFS) approach. An example is a farmer in Ward 5 in Bikita who harvested 2 tonnes of maize from a plot cultivated during the 2024/2025 farming season, a demonstration of the potential benefits of these sustainable practices.

The programme had a far-reaching impact with many of these farmers reporting significant improvements in their crop yields after implementing Climate Smart Agriculture practices, which emphasized soil health, water conservation, and sustainable land management as shown in Fig 15.

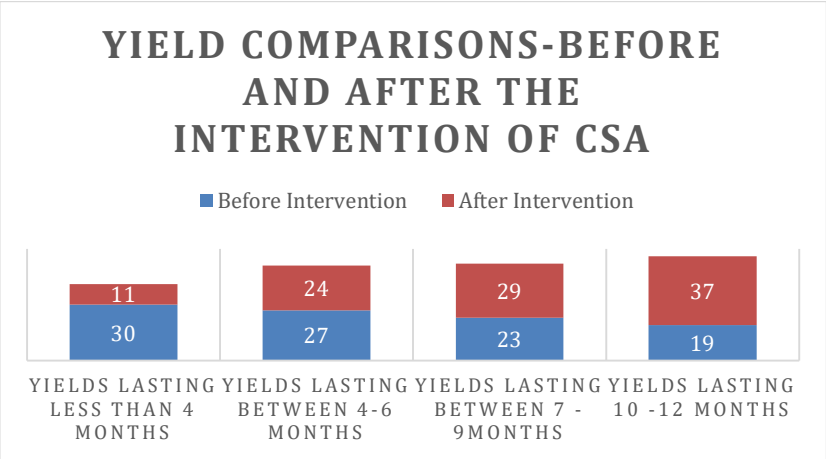


Figure 16: Yield Comparison-Before and After the Intervention of CSA

Figure 16 highlights yield differences before and after the implementation of CSA. The average yield in the 2023/24 agriculture season was 150kgs (3 bags) while in the 2024/25 season, the average yield increased to 385kgs (7.7 bags) per household. The results show that there is a decline in the number of communities whose harvest last less than 4 months and an increase in the harvest lasting longer than 4 months. This is a positive development as it shows that the interventions are transforming agriculture practices and contributing to the resilience of communities. The reduction in number of households producing 4 months food stock and increase in 10 months food stocks indicate the relevance and appropriateness of the interventions reducing the food insecurity situation in both districts. The results indicate that more households are becoming food secure in the area despite the persistence of climate induced shocks in both Bikita and Zaka districts. One of the women said '**we no longer complain of food deficits as the majority of households can harvest yields which last more than 4 four months' (Ward 28, FGD, 30/05/25).** While four months is not too long a period, the fact that there is an improvement in households experiencing yields of more than 10 months shows project success. The improvement in household food and nutrition security is significant as it contributes to one of the national pillars strengthening household food security through supporting and promotion of small grains and small livestock in drought prone areas such as Bikita and Zaka districts.

The focus group discussions with project beneficiaries suggested that Farmer Field Schools (FFS) represent an innovative, participatory educational approach aimed at enhancing the farmers' knowledge and skills through experiential learning. Through this approach, smallholder farmers accessed knowledge quicker and in their mother language and this enhanced their understanding of concepts. One of the farmers in Bikita Ward 31 during a FGD concurred that '**we are taught by those we know in our own language and the distance we travel for practical sessions is very minimal hence knowledge is easily disseminated amongst ourselves' (FGD, 28/05/25).** In collaboration with ARDAS, Christian Care implemented FFS strategy through training farmers to engage actively in practical activities and field experiments. By working collaboratively in groups, participants fostered social ties and collective problem-solving. The curriculum was specifically tailored to address local dry

agricultural conditions, paving the way for training in conservation farming techniques. Farmers in Bikita and Zaka successfully identified their challenges and focused on conservation farming as a viable solution to climate-induced drought. One key informant indicated that "***growing small grains is beneficial as it contributes to improved health especially for those experiencing sugar diabetes associated challenge. Sorghum and millet helps such members of our community in reducing health cost' (KII, 30/05/25).***

- **Figure 17: Yield of small grain in ward 31, Bikita**

Training sessions were conducted during the farming season, allowing farmers to apply their newly acquired knowledge directly to their fields. This approach empowered both women and men by boosting their farming knowledge and confidence. Benefits included enhanced social cohesion as farmers collaborated in groups, improved food security, and increased adaptability to climate change. The FFS model promoted peer learning and knowledge sharing, creating a dynamic agricultural education environment that supports livelihoods and sustainability.

Household income

The community interviews with project beneficiaries revealed a significant improvement in household income following the project's implementation. Most respondents reported earnings ranging from $0.00 to $200.00, with marked changes observed before and after the project. For example, the percentage of respondents earning around $200.00 increased from 22% prior to the project to 31% afterward. Similarly, those earning between $201.00 and $399.00 rose from 7% to 13% as shown in the figure below.

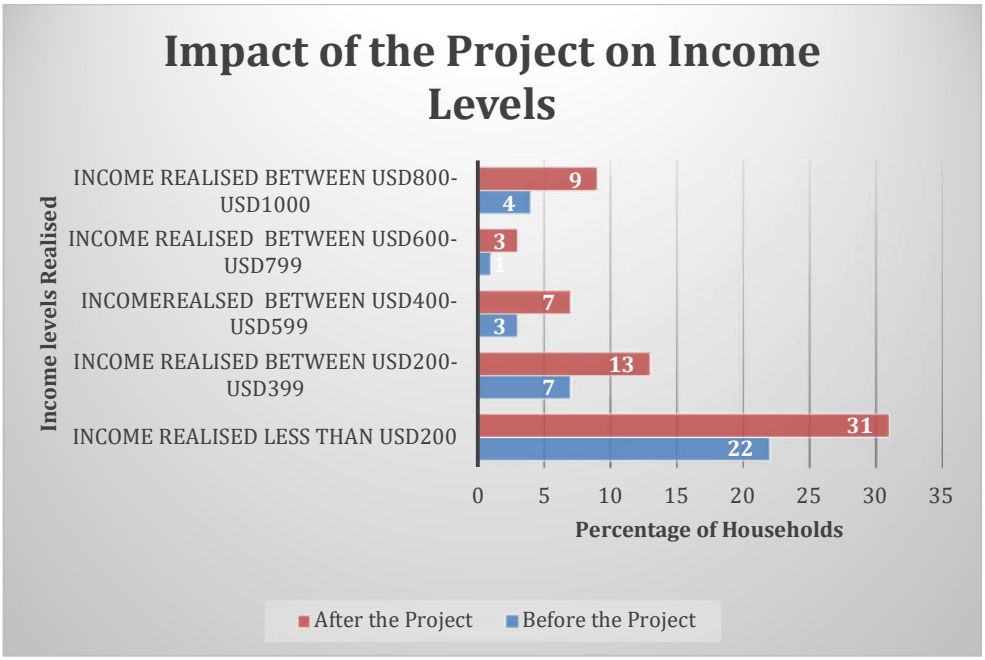


Figure 18: Household income changes pre and post project interventions

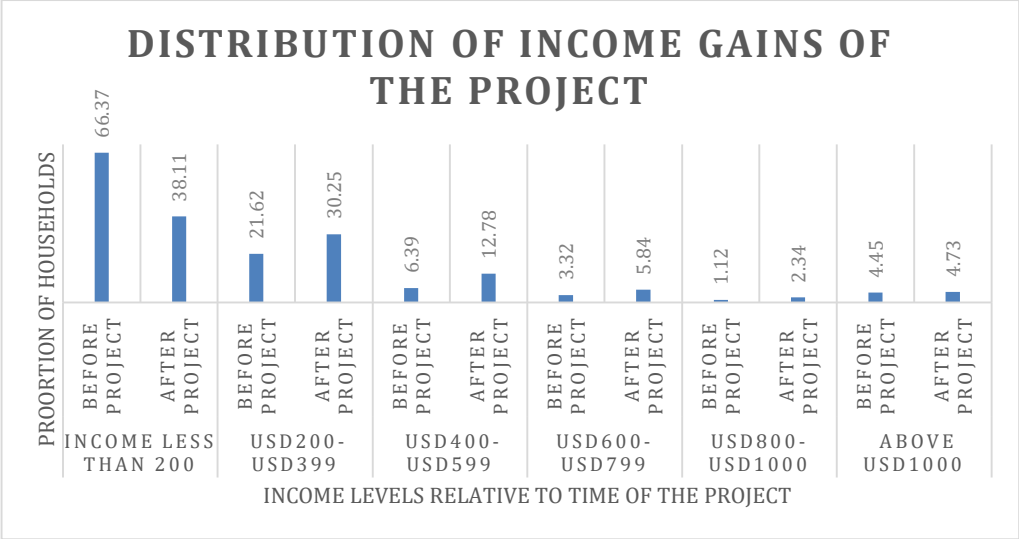


Figure 19: Distribution of Income Gains of the Project

Figure 19 indicates that the older generations, that is 50-64 years, have a better income status compared to younger generations. This confirms their active participation in projects as household heads hence the benefits that accrue to them. This reflects the need to find innovative ways to lure young people to transform their ability to generate income. Another factor is that farming is not attractive to young people, hence programming should promote interventions that appeal to young people. On average, household income increased from $267.00 before the project to $475.00 afterward, indicating a substantial positive shift in financial well-being. The

project's high inclusivity ensured that income improvements were evident across gender and disability lines.

Gender-Specific Income Changes: Income changes relative to gender showed that women's earnings increased from $255.00 to $473.00, representing a remarkable 77.9% increase. In contrast, men's incomes rose from $297.00 to $480.00, reflecting a 61.6% increase.

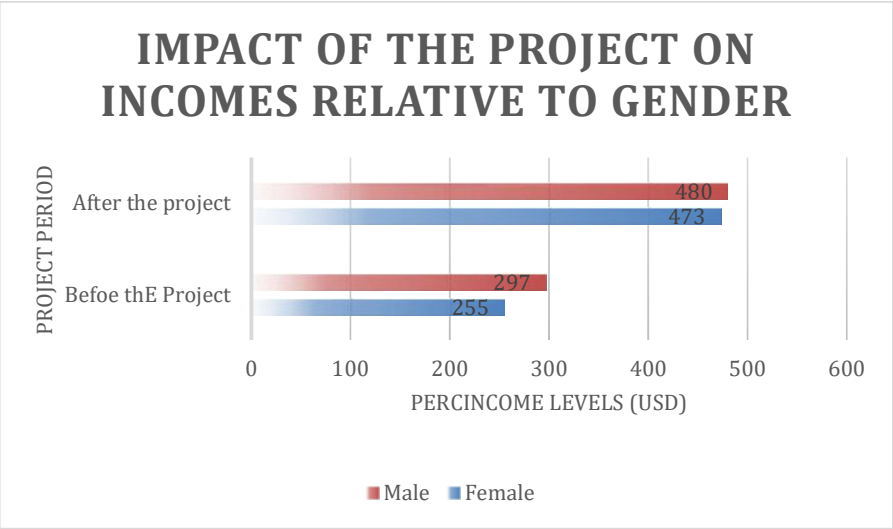


Figure 20; Impact of the project on incomes relative to gender

Income Changes for Persons with Disabilities: For individuals with disabilities, income improved significantly as well, increasing from $294.00 to $506.00, which corresponds to a 72.1% increase. The changes in income may be as result of Christian Care activities and those from other organizations and government due to the heightened focus on this constituency.

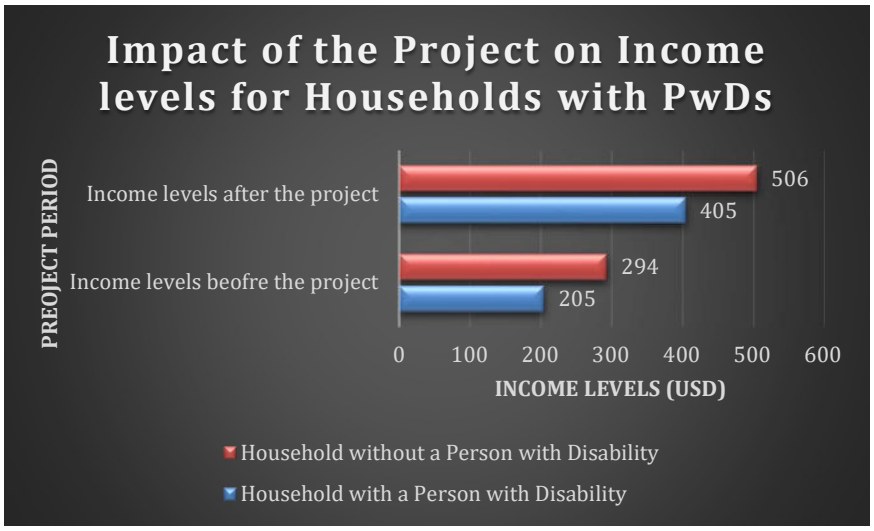


Figure 21: Effect of the Project on the Incomes of PwDs

Household income sources

The data in the table clearly illustrates the positive impact of the project on the community's income sources, which vary significantly across different districts. In Zaka District, for example, 34% of respondents reported that their primary income comes from livestock sales. This can be largely attributed to the project's initiative in distributing small livestock, empowering community members to enhance their income through animal husbandry. The primary sources of income differ by district. In contrast, Bikita District displays a different trend, with 38% of respondents indicating that their main income is derived from on-farm labour. This shift underscores the project's role in promoting agricultural practices, including crop production and horticulture, which have generated job opportunities and increased local employment. In Zaka, crop sales represent the second-largest income source, as reported by 30% of respondents. This indicates that the project not only supports livestock production but also encourages diversification through crop cultivation.

Table 7: Household income sources

Sources of Income	Bikita	Zaka
Crop sales	21%	30%
Fruit and vegetables	24%	12%
On farm labour	38%	23%
Sales from small livestock	16%	34%

Attribution of Income Changes

The changes in income can largely be attributed to the training provided by the Christian Care project. Beneficiaries learned effective saving techniques through Village Savings and Loans (VSL), enabling them to engage in small businesses that enhance their income. Additionally, the training equipped community members with improved skills in crop and horticulture production, leading to surplus yields available for sale. A significant factor in these income increases is the improved agricultural yields reported by 65% of respondents, who credited their income growth to the Conservation Farming training and the distribution of essential inputs. Furthermore, 34% of respondents acknowledged the project's provision of access to improved seeds along with effective crop production methods, which further boosted their productivity. Moreover, 21% of respondents emphasized the importance of financial services and support, particularly benefiting those involved in VSL groups.

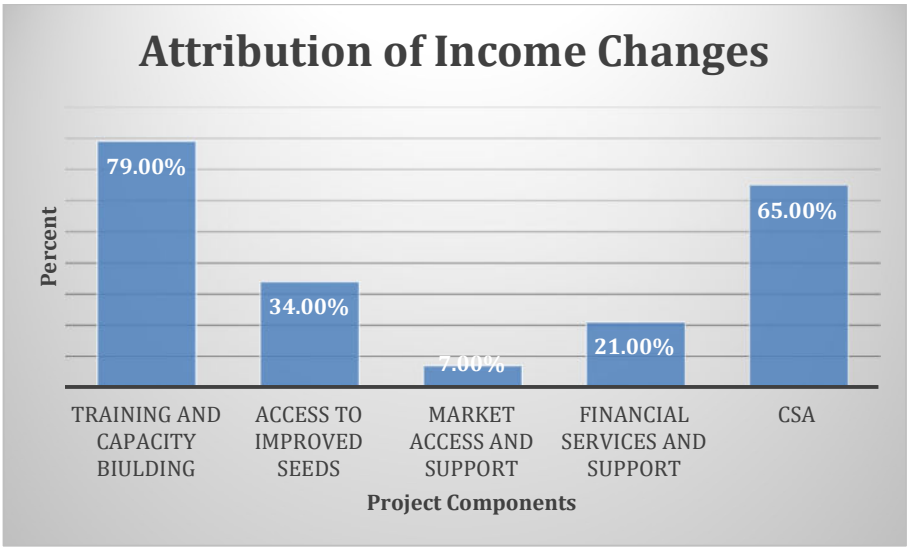


Figure 22: Graph showing Project's Attribution to Income Change amongst beneficiaries

Sustainability of the project activities: Assessing the sustainability of project outcomes, focusing on the long-term viability of initiatives and whether they would continue benefiting communities after the project's conclusion. The evaluation included stakeholder engagement during the project implementation stage.

While the current setup of nutrition gardens offers potential for sustainability, communities in ward 5 (Chapedo garden) are yet to benefit as their garden was under construction at the time of collecting data (May 2025). . Of significance were indications by Christian Care during the validation that this garden was completed by end of June 2025 and is functional. Another challenge cited during the evaluation is limited disability friendly facilities making it difficult for this constituency to access gardens. The evaluation team recommends raised nutrition gardens to reduce bending of PwDs. Further accessible pathways can be made especially wheelchair space and having horse pipes for easy conveyance of water.

The Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approach to promoting food security at the household level has proven to be an effective strategy adopted by the project. The involvement of lead farmers enhances sustainability, as these individuals will remain within the communities to continue training others after the funding period ends. The collaboration with ARDAS provides them with a platform to engage farmers and is very vital as they will keep monitoring the lead farmers post the funding period and provide technical backstopping. Farmers who have embraced various elements of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) should document their successes, which can serve as a valuable resource for encouraging adoption among those who are slower to embrace these practices.

The evaluation has noted different efforts done by project beneficiaries for income generation coupled with the VS&L approach. Once beneficiaries realise the financial benefits of an IGA,

they are most likely to continue even post the funding period. The VS&L approach though not part of the design is one of the positive outcomes as a local financing model that emerged as community income levels improved. The project is encouraged to support such initiatives through training and provision of start-up capital to improve access to financial capital and promote investment in context specific interventions.

Relevance: The evaluation focused on assessing the relevance of the project's approach, including alignment with the needs of target groups, national priorities as outlined in the National Development Strategy (NDS) 1 and consistency with ANCP outcomes, as well as the strategic priorities of both Christian Care and Act for Peace. The evaluation found that the intervention responded to the all the 3 outcomes of the ANCP namely:

- Under Outcome I, the ANCP emphasizes Modality with a focus on delivering programmes in a manner that attains value for money. The project's changes in yields and income levels amongst beneficiaries highlight the value for money. The fact that the assistance was delivered to those who needed it to the most and in the package that they access.
- Under Outcome II-ANCP emphasizes delivering programmes with a focus on Gender Equity and Social Inclusion. The programme has a strong gender component with more than 60% of the beneficiaries being while strong also on disability inclusion with 30% of the benefiting households having a PwDs.
- Outcome III focuses on diplomacy- with a focus on delivering programmes that are people centric. The programme is focused on delivering benefits to the human being in a sustainable manner.

In Ward 5 in Bikita, smallholder farmers began adopting conservation farming practices, though they continued to experience challenges with mulch. This challenge emanates from the demand for crop residues by livestock as it is one of the main sources of winter feed. In addition, recurrent droughts contribute to the lack of residues for mulching. Despite the challenges, conservation agriculture proved viable in both districts as confirmed by one of the farmers during focus group discussions in in Ward 5 in Bikita that ***"I have managed to harvest enough food for my family for the entire year. I have shifted my focus from cultivating large fields to effectively managing my small plot by using mulching techniques and adhering to the principles of conservation farming." (FGD, 28/05/25).*** Additionally, the quality of stover produced through conservation methods improved, providing better nutrition for livestock. Some farmers began using their stover as mulch, which helps retain soil moisture and enhance soil fertility. This practice became crucial in Zaka and Bikita, where rainfall is both limited and unpredictable, allowing farmers to maximize the benefits of available water. Retaining moisture in fields significantly contributes to crop resilience, enabling farmers to withstand the challenges posed by climate variability

Figure 23: A pic showing the harvest from one farmer in ward 5 Bikita in the 2024/2025 season as well as the mulched plot in preparation for the 2025/2026 farming season.

In response to this precarious situation, projects focused on conservation agriculture, water access, Village Savings and Loan Associations, small livestock, and nutrition gardens were designed and implemented. These initiatives have been deemed highly relevant by the communities. **One lead farmer in Ward 28 in Zaka noted, "The projects on wetland rehabilitation and small livestock resonate with the need to integrate climate risk to improve access to water and enhance household nutrition."** (FGD, 30/05/25). This feedback confirms that the projects are well-suited to address the water and food security challenges faced in the region, particularly in light of the impacts of climate risks.

Improvements for Long-Term Sustainability: The evaluation assessed critical success factors through interactions with various stakeholders during the evaluation process, and identified areas for improvement.

- Annual planning and budgeting were a critical success to ensure the project delivered on areas where the community had the biggest needs. The constant review ensured that the organisation responds to the community needs hence a huge impact making sense on the investment.

- Youth Inclusion is not very visible in the project with an average age of 52 and 54 for the districts of implementation. One of the young farmers said, 'young people can only participate if projects embrace entrepreneurship activities such as hairdressing, tailoring, baking, welding and carpentry'. This indicates the need by programming to respond to the needs of young people to assist in minimizing chances of them engaging in drug and substance abuse. Further income realized by young people is below USD200 as shown in figures above. The project should have a deliberate design to include activities that young people will be interested in to ensure their participation.

- Promoting Market Access is a key component that needs to be emphasized more in successor projects. Fig 10 highlights that only 7% of project beneficiaries attribute changes to income to market access and support. Activities ranging from market

linkages, financial planning and costing and negotiation are key to ensuring farmers engage the market more.

Despite providing farmers with starter packs for growing small grains, the evaluation through engagement with ARDAS at district level suggest that the area dedicated to maize cultivation remained twice as large as that for small grains. This discrepancy suggests a need for further education and incentives to encourage crop diversification. Promoting the benefits of small grains and addressing any barriers to their cultivation could enhance food security and income stability for farmers.

Best Practices: Targeted inclusion is the best practice. This targeted approach recognized and leveraged the unique capabilities of PwDs, allowing them to participate meaningfully in the project. It also highlighted the importance of inclusivity in development programs. Conservation farming is one of the concepts Christian Care may need to continue due to its positive impact on household food and nutrition security.

Lessons Learned: Documenting successes, challenges, and failures through interactions with various stakeholders throughout the project cycle. Smallholder farmers need to adopt live mulch to counter challenges faced with fulfilling this critical conservation farming principle. The income changes realized by persons with disabilities (PwDs) were notably above expectations, prompting questions about how this success was achieved. This outcome underscores the effectiveness of targeted interventions and the potential for PwDs to thrive when given the appropriate resources and support. Understanding the factors that contributed to this success can inform future initiatives aimed at empowering marginalized groups and enhancing their economic prospects.

Recommendations: The evaluation has the following recommendations to further enhance the impact of the project:

a. The project recorded increased positive utilisation of fertilizer in the established nutrition gardens to enhance production. The evaluation recommends the increase of organic fertilizers to reduce cost, contribution to reducing the carbon footprint and contribution to healthy harvest and consumption of beneficiaries.
b. The project is commended for ensuring that PwDs have increased incomes levels through targeted interventions. The evaluation recommends scaling up this approach in future programmes.
c. Farmer field schools remain a viable and less costly approach of reaching out to farmers hence the project may need to consider scaling up to enhance household productivity.

OBJECTIVE III

Strengthening Community Resilience: The evaluation focused on how community responsiveness to protection threats, which included community-based protection training and the establishment of self-help groups were enhanced.

Project Effectiveness: The evaluation examined how well the project achieved its stated objectives and outcomes of improving community responsiveness to protections threats through adopting community self groups model.

The project was effective in capacitating beneficiaries to be able to identify protection risks within their communities as shown in the Table 8 below. In Zaka Child marriage is a significant protection risk alongside discrimination and lack of support especially for PWDs while in Bikita GBV is very significant alongside discrimination and lack of support for PWDs.

Table 8: Common protection threats affecting PWD, Women, Girls and the Elderly

Common protection threats affecting PWD, women, girls and Elderly people in your community?	Bikita	Zaka	Grand Total
Child_Abuse_Constituted	9.03%	3.89%	6.17%
Child_Labour	4.86%	16.11%	11.11%
Child_Marriages	8.33%	31.11%	20.99%
Discrimination_And_Lack_Of_Support	28.47%	27.22%	27.78%
Gender_Based_Violence_Prevention	49.31%	21.67%	33.95%
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

The adoption of the Community Based Protection Self Help Groups (CBP-SHG) strategy was effective in ensuring that households are aware of the protection threats as illustrated in Table 11. Community members interviewed indicate that more than 50% are in a position to promote Child Protection interventions. In Bikita, a greater proportion of respondents indicated that they are willing to support GBV prevention interventions. Despite the wide variety of protection trainings led by Christian Care, Child Protection trainings were adopted more by communities in both districts.

Table 9: Protection interventions promoted.

Protection measures willing to promote.	Bikita	Zaka	Grand Total
Child_Protection	38.36%	67.40%	54.43%
Community_Led_Initiatives	28.08%	23.20%	25.38%
Gender_Based_Violence_Prevention	33.56%	9.39%	20.18%
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

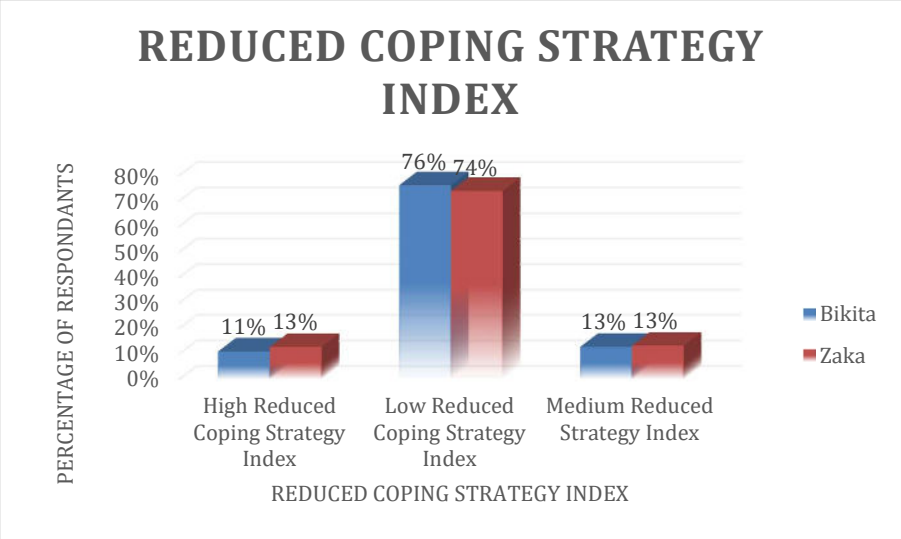
It was encouraging to note that post the project, more than 75% of community members interviewed know threats affecting vulnerable populations. Furthermore, communities were aware that few protection threats go unreported as shown in Table 9.

Table 10: Reporting any threats affecting children, women PWD, girls happening and never get reported?

Threats affecting children, women PWD, girls happening and never get reported?	Bikita	Zaka	Grand Total
No	73.78%	77.04%	75.56%
Yes	26.22%	22.96%	24.44%

Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Community Impact: The evaluation explored the impact of the protection measures through community-based strategies. The project had a high proportion (75%) of households with low reduced Coping Strategy Indices (rCSI) indicating high levels of food security and low incidence of negative coping mechanisms that are protection related. Approximately 13% of the households reported food insecurity and adopting negative coping mechanisms that expose individual to protection risks.



The project had an impact on the utilisation of reporting mechanisms established by Christian Care. The utilisation of the reporting mechanisms have been utilised by 29% of the respondents interviewed while 71% have not utilised the mechanisms as shown in the table below.

Table 11: Utilisation of Project Reporting Mechanisms

Have you used the project reporting mechanisms?	**Bikita**	**Zaka**	**Grand Total**
No	71.33%	69.90%	70.52%
Yes	28.67%	30.10%	29.48%
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

For the 70% that have not utilised the reporting mechanisms, 95% of these indicated that they had nothing to report as shown in Table 13.

Table 12: Reasons for not Utilising the Project Reporting Mechanisms

What could be the main reason of not using the reporting mechanisms	**Bikita**	**Zaka**	**Grand Total**
I_am_not_comfortable_to_use_them	0.93%	5.84%	3.69%
I_don't_feel_safe_to_use_them	1.87%	3.65%	2.87%
It_is_not_appropriate_for_me	1.87%	1.46%	1.64%
No case to report	95.33%	89.05%	91.80%
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Sustainability: The evaluation focused on the sustainability of the protection measures set up by the project. Since the project established 10 community Based Protection self-help groups (CBP-SHGs) these will continue to be available in the community to provide protection services.

Relevance: The project was very relevant to vulnerable populations in the 2 districts. Table 9 shows that vulnerable populations including PWDs, women, children and the elderly experience protection related risks. In response the project had more women as shown in Fig 2 and 30% of participating households had a PWD. Table 13 highlights the relevance of the project as more than 95% of the respondents indicated that they have reported protection issues using the project reporting mechanism.

Table 13: Reasons for not utilising the Project Reporting Mechanisms

Reasons of not using the reporting mechanisms	**Bikita**	**Zaka**	**Grand Total**
Comfortable_to_use_them	0.93%	5.84%	3.69%
Don_t_feel_safe_to_use_them	1.87%	3.65%	2.87%
Not_appropriate_for_me	1.87%	1.46%	1.64%
No_case_to_report	95.33%	89.05%	91.80%
Grand Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Assigning PwDs to livestock interventions resulted in improved income levels for this constituency. This targeted approach recognized and leveraged the unique capabilities of PwDs, allowing them to participate meaningfully in the project. It also highlighted the importance of inclusivity in development programs. Future initiatives should prioritize the inclusion of marginalized groups, ensuring that interventions are accessible and tailored to their specific needs. Training and support systems can be established to facilitate their involvement in income-generating activities.

Recommendations: the evaluation offers the following recommendations

a. The project included various activities aimed at improving the protection of beneficiaries, though these were only loosely connected to Outcome 3. For instance, the project celebrated international commemoration days, such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, but these did not directly influence Outcome 3

b. . There is strong political will within communities to enhance efforts in GBV prevention, which the project should leverage. This can be achieved through targeted activities that support and expand upon the initiatives they are already implementing to address GBV.

c. The Community-Based Participatory Self-Help Groups (CBP-SHGs) are somewhat underrepresented in the project, despite their recognized impact in providing knowledge. There is a need for greater investment and documentation of their role in driving behavior change.

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ANNEX A: Consultancy Team

Team Composition and Relevant Expertise- Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the assignment, four specialists with complementary expertise constitute the team as follows:

Dr. Thabo Ndlovu the Lead Consultant is a Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian specialist. He is currently the Resilience Lead for Mercy Corps and former Director of the Institute of Development. He is the former member of the Africa Science Technology and Advisory Group on Disaster Risk Reduction under the African Union Commission. He has served several organizations, including Institute of Development Sciences as Director, World Vision International Zimbabwe as Agriculture Officer, European Union as Programme Officer, Zimbabwe Developing Communities Programme as Programme Coordinator and Heifer Project International as Project Officer. Dr Thabo Ndlovu has in partnership with Eswatini University developed and supported the implementation of drought anticipatory action in Eswatini. His research interests are in anticipatory action, resilience, climate smart agriculture, climate mitigation and adaptation, Three-Pronged Approach and Community Based Participatory Approaches. Thabo has published on disaster preparedness and response, sustainable agriculture, irrigation farming, disaster risk reduction and cash transfer modalities. He has participated in projects such as the Strengthening of the research collaboration on Disaster Risk Reduction in Southern Africa funded by the World Bank/SADC. Further, he developed the Sustainability Plan and the Business Continuity Model for the Southern Africa Development Community Humanitarian and Emergency Operation Centre (SHOC). He is also the Co-Chair to the Climate Mobility Africa Research Network whose focus is on climate mobility and disaster induced migration.

Dr Mlamuleli Tshuma the Evaluation Field Coordinator is a Disaster preparedness and Emergency response specialist. He is a holder of a PhD in Disaster Management from the University of the Free State in South Africa, a Master of Science Degree in Disaster Management from the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe and a Bachelor of Science Honours in Geography and Environmental Studies from the Midlands State University in Zimbabwe. He is a dynamic and dependable environmentalist and humanitarian professional driven by a strong passion for excellence in saving lives and ensuring environmentally sustainable development. Has in-depth knowledge and skill in climate change mitigation, relief projects, community development, environmental science, and managing natural and anthropogenic disasters. Adept at environmental planning and management, organizational communication, spatial organization of human society, establishing quality management systems, enhancing emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Demonstrated capabilities in coordinating various organizations in humanitarian response and national humanitarian operations as well as handling projects at field level. Known for being efficient and effective in identifying problems and giving strategic recommendations to management teams. Familiar with rural environmental systems and general set-ups.

Belinda Maphosa is a multi-skilled, self-driven humanitarian and development practitioner, detail-oriented Information Technology (IT) Professional. Specialize in

database development, data management, and administration. Proficient in Knowledge Management, Data Analytics, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Experienced in Data Visualization and creating interactive dashboards using PowerBI, Power Query and Advanced Excel. She is currently the M&E Officer for Mercy Corps for a Market Driven Programme. Expert in developing and implementing Monitoring and Evaluation systems and tools. In depth knowledge in designing mobile application surveys using Kobo, ODK, Tangerine, Magpie and Commcare. Data analysis expert with strong proficiency in SPSS, Excel, and Python, to drive informed decision making. Collaborated in and supported comprehensive assessments and evaluations, encompassing Post Distribution Monitoring, experimental and quasi-experimental research designs, baseline and end-line evaluations, and value for money analysis, to drive evidence- based decision-making and project effectiveness. She holds a Masters in Big Data analytics and Business Administration, in addition to BSc (Hons) in Monitoring & Evaluation and Bsc in Information Systems.

Khuphukani Ndlovu is a passionate and dedicated Development Practitioner with over ten years of experience in development and humanitarian programs, serving as both an advisor and officer. I have a proven track record in stakeholder engagement, child programming and safeguarding, youth initiatives, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), psychosocial support, livelihoods, and community empowerment. His expertise includes project team leadership, training and capacity building, socio-economic research, and partner engagement. Skilled in facilitating workshops, Monitoring and evaluation, community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM), and food security programs, adeptly utilize various data collection and analysis tools to drive monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities in Zimbabwe and the region. He possesses sound knowledge of SPHERE standards and Project Cycle Management, and proficient in several software packages for presentations, report writing, and data analysis. Khuphukani is currently the Youth Entrepreneurship Advisor with Silveira House under the Amalima Initiative funded by USAID. He is fluent in English, Ndebele, and Shona. He boasts of a MSc in Disaster Management, BSc in Monitoring and Evaluation and a Bachelor of Social Science in Development Studies

Harrington Chuma is a committed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) specialist with over ten years of experience in the non-governmental sector, having worked with organizations such as World Vision, Environment Africa, Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe (Help from Germany), Silveira House, and Caritas Zimbabwe. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with both local and international entities to enhance community resilience and improve disaster preparedness. Harrington's expertise encompasses a wide range of disaster risk management

ANNEX B: Key Informant interview guide

End of project evaluation Key informant Interview guide

Section A: General Information

Province: Masvingo **Name of District:**	**Ward:**
Date of Interview:	**Participants: 1. Male 2. Female**

EVALUATION CRITERIA	**QUESTION**
Introduction	**1. What was done in the community by the project**
Effectiveness	2. How has the training approach (Farmer Field School) helped the community to learn and adopt conservation farming practices. What key areas of the approach have been most effectives. Was the approach accommodating different groups in the community (e.g women , people living with disability) 3. How were different groups selected and reached by the project? What are your views on the process that was used? What recommendations do you have to ensure the process is inclusive? 4. What challenges were experienced by the project during its implementation and how were these addressed? **5. Which barriers are still existing that prevent vulnerable groups like the disabled from accessing project activities.** **6. How do you think the project could be more inclusive, equitable and accountable to the target populations?** **7. What are the community accountability mechanisms put in place by the project?** **8. What are the available opportunities for communities to do consultation and feedback within the project?** 9. **Did the activities of the project led to sustainable livelihoods, food security and protection to mitigate the threat of climate induced displacement.** *Probe for responses according to the different categories* **10. How effective have been the Community Feedback Mechanisms in addressing protection issues for children, women PWD, girls in the community?**
Relevance	11. Was the project suitable to the communities of Bikita/Zaka district. Give a explanation to the response 12. Do you think the project responded to your priority issues as a community? Give a explanations to he response **13.** The project focused on displaced people relative to their protection issues, to what extent did the project become relevant to its objective.

Sustainability	14. How will the community ensure that benefits of the project are maintained in the long term? 15. Explain how are the local community leaders can support the initiatives taken by the project? 16. What threats to sustainability are faced by the different interventions that were implemented in the communities? **17. How sustainable is the current Community Feedback System** **If there are any gaps, how can they be addressed.**

ANNEX C: Focus Group Discussion interview guide

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE TO MITIGATE DISPLACEMENT IN ZIMBABWE
– KII GUIDE

My name is_____ I am an enumerator / consultant conducting a rapid assessment on behalf of Christian Care in _____District. For this survey, you have been selected to participate in this research. We are therefore requesting for your permission to participate in this study. This information, in addition to data already collected through other means will help us provide the much-required evidence on the water access, Food security & Livelihoods, climate change and resilience) situation in this district.

A. WATER

1. What is the state of communal water infrastructure and the water supply situation in the area/ward/district? ***Probes****- On functionality or lack thereof, if non-functional reasons thereof, accessibility to all community members- children, women/girls/disabled, etc.*
2. How safe are locals as they move back and forth to fetch water? ***Probes*** *– What are the protection risks for women, children, men, youths, etc.,*
3. Which community institutions are in place to deal with water access issues in the area? ***Probes*** *- On their roles, their effectiveness, and limitations, sources of support for these*
4. Are there any marginalized/vulnerable groups that cannot access water infrastructure and services in the area? ***Probes*** *- What are the reasons, what is being done to address this, is it effective?*
5. Which strategies and activities can be employed to improve access to water coverage at community and household levels in this district/Ward/Village for the most affected populations?
6. In your view, what are the key positive and negative impacts of the ground water interventions?

B. LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

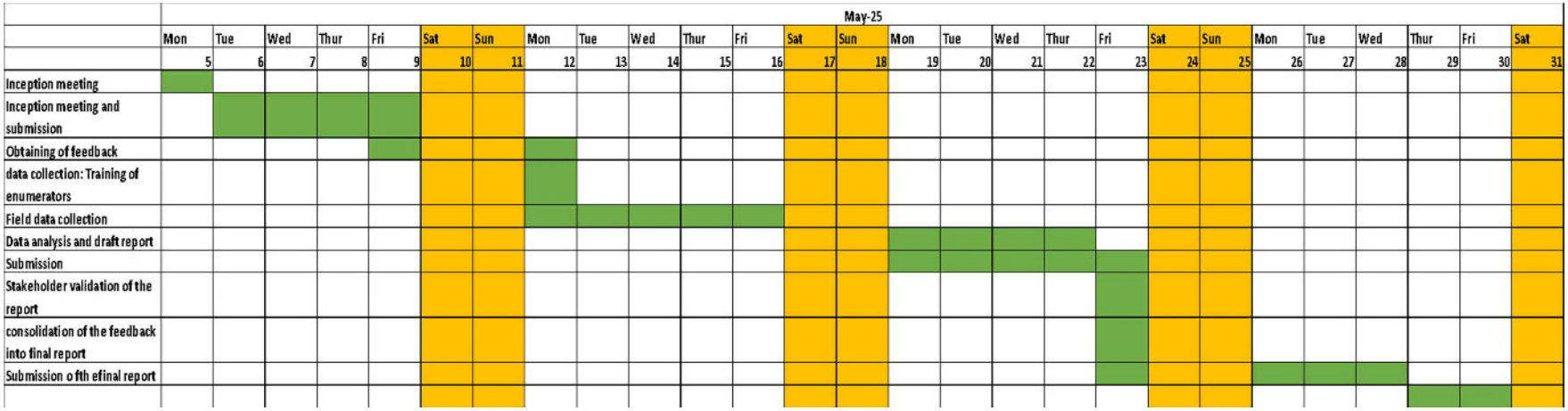
1. Can you briefly describe the main sources of livelihoods in Bikita and Zaka districts? ***Probes*** *- Any differences between men and women, enablers, disablers?*
2. What is the state of food (in-) security in these districts? ***Probes*** *- Reasons for state described; peak hunger months, actors and programmes, affected demographic groups etc.*
3. How has the Farmer Field school approach to teaching, and disseminating knowledge on conservation farming been effective and sustainable?
4. How have the Climate Smart Agriculture interventions such as conservation agriculture improved crop yields food and income security in your area?
5. Have the food security interventions changed the types or quantity of food your households/community consumes?
6. Were appropriate food and nutrition security interventions designed and implemented to reach different groups within the project?
7. What were the key challenges in executing food security interventions, and how responsive was the project in adapting to and overcoming them?
8. Are there specific agricultural practices or technologies that you believe would help your households/community become more resilient to climate-related shocks?
9. What were the key positive and negative impacts of the project?

F. Resilience

1. Comment on the types of shocks prevalent in this area and highlight the most affected populations.
2. How is your institution assisting vulnerable groups to build their capacities to prepare for and recover from the identified shocks?
3. Comment on the obstacles faced by your institution and vulnerable groups in preparing for such shocks?
4. Suggest sustainable ways through which capacities of your community can be strengthened to prepare and recover from future shocks?

The End
Thank
You

ANNEX D: WORK PLAN



ANNEX E: BUDGET

Activity	Consultants	Consulting Days	Total Units	Daily Rate	Total Amount (USD)
Inception Meeting	Lead Consultant	0.5	1	150	70
	Associate Evaluation/Field Coordinator	0.5	1	100	50
	Gender and Protection Specialist	0.5	1	100	50
	Lead Report Writer	0.5	1	100	50
	M&E Specialist	0.5	1	100	50
Document review, tools development and writing reportreport	Lead Consultant	1	1	150	150
	Associate Evaluation/Field Coordinator	2	1	100	200
	M&E Specialist	3	1	100	300
Training of enumeators in the 2 districts	Associate Evaluation/Field Coordinator	2	1	100	200
	M&E Specialist	2	1	100	200
Data collection	Gender and Protection Specialist	4	1	100	400
	AssociateEvaluation/Field Coordinator	4	1	100	400
	M&E Specialist	4	1	100	400
	Stakeholder workshops	1	2	300	600
	Transport (charged @ 0.55/km	2	800	0.55	880
	Enumerators	4	5	30	600
Data analysis and report writing	Lead Report Writer	3	1	100	300
	Lead Consultant	3	1	150	450
Interim Report Presentation	Lead Consultant	1	1	150	150
	Lead Report Writer	1	1	75	75
Data analysis and report writing	Lead Report Writer	3	1	100	300
	Lead Report Writer	3	1	75	225
Final draft report presentation	Lead Consultant	0.5	1	150	75
	Associate Evaluation/Field Coordinator	0	1	100	0
	Lead Report Writer	0.5	1	100	50
	M&E Specialist	0.5	1	100	50
Incoperating stakeholder feedback and report submission	Lead Consultant	1	1	150	150
	M&E Specialist	1	1	75	75
Grand Total					**6500**