END OF PROJECT EVALUATION REPORT

"Strengthening Protection, Resilience, and Preparedness Program for Displaced and Host Communities in Zimbabwe"
(Chimanimani District, Manicaland)

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Acronyms

Acronym	Full Meaning
AfP	Act for Peace
ANCP	Australian NGO Cooperation Program
CBP	Community-Based Protection
CPU	Civil Protection Unit
CPC	Civil Protection Committee
CCW	Case Care Worker
DCP	Department of Civil Protection
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSD	Department of Social Development
DWSSC	District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sub-Committee
EHT	Environmental Health Technician
FFA	Food for Assets
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ISAL	Internal Savings and Lending
KII	Key Informant Interview
LEF	Local Ecumenical Fellowship
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
MWACSMED	Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
MPSLSW	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
MYEDVT	Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PSS	Psychosocial Support
PWD	Person with Disability
RDC	Rural District Council
RIDA	Rural Infrastructure Development Agency
SAG	Sanitation Action Group
ToR	Terms of Reference
VfM	Value for Money
VHW	Village Health Worker
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WPC	Water Point Committee
ZCC	Zimbabwe Council of Churches
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Project Overview

From July 2022 to June 2025, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), with support from Act for Peace and funding from the Australian Government through the ANCP, implemented the "Strengthening Protection, Resilience, and Preparedness Program for Displaced and Host Communities in Zimbabwe." The project was designed in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai and targeted Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities in Chimanimani and initially Mutasa districts, with a focus on improving protection, resilience to climate risks, WASH, social cohesion, and stakeholder coordination. By Year 2, activities were concentrated in Ward 7 (Runyararo), Chimanimani.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Evaluation

This independent endline evaluation assesses the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project using OECD-DAC criteria. It draws on household surveys, FGDs, KIIs, and secondary data reviews, and reflects feedback from government stakeholders, community members, and implementing partners.

1.3 Key Findings (per OECD-DAC criteria)

Relevance

- The project design aligned closely with the geographic, social, and protection challenges of Runyararo – a drought-prone area with poor infrastructure and high post-displacement tensions.
- Activities were contextually grounded, drawing on local leadership, faith actors, and traditional institutions. Adaptations such as the solarized water system, protection services, and food support responded to emerging priorities.
- The project addressed pressing needs: water scarcity, lack of protection services, food insecurity, and weak disaster preparedness. However, the limited reach of some components (e.g., ISALs, seed distribution, livestock) slightly reduced breadth of relevance.

Efficiency

- The project demonstrated strong value for money through community-led implementation, strategic resource reallocation, and integrated interventions (e.g., sports, drama, protection messaging).
- While some components had limited scale (e.g., only 10 households received goats), cost-efficiency was optimized across most activities.
- Multi-stakeholder coordination was robust, with ZCC participating in district coordination meetings and provincial engagements, promoting accountability and alignment with government plans.

Effectiveness

- The project achieved most of its intended objectives:
    - ~ **236 protection cases** were supported from Years 1 to 3 (vs. 1an annual target of 100 cases).

- ~ **2,000+ people** gained access to water through a solarized piped scheme.
  - ~ **Ward-level DRR plans** were developed, and 25 first responders trained.
  - ~ Cohesion between host and IDP communities improved through peace dialogues, community drama, and sports.
- Participation of women and youth in leadership and protection structures was high. However, unresolved issues like access to police services and inadequate infrastructure (e.g., cabins, roads) continue to affect community safety and resilience.
- The Implementation Approaches that ZCC applied where largely effective within the project for instance the multi-stakeholder model, Locally led initiatives, such as peace dialogues, drama groups, and sports for peace tournaments, were highly effective in promoting peaceful co-existence and lastly the participation of churches and faith groups enhanced community trust, ensured cultural sensitivity, and delivered psychosocial support in ways that aligned with community norms.

Impact

- The project significantly contributed to recovery in water access, protection, psychosocial wellbeing, and livelihood resilience. Women and girls reported increased safety, reduced time burden, and leadership empowerment.
- Social cohesion improved with reduced use of discriminatory labels ("Mu Idai") and increased joint activities.
- Food assistance and seed support buffered vulnerable households during the El Niño-induced drought, but small scale limited systemic impact.
- Infrastructure gaps (e.g., lack of police post, fragile housing) continue to undermine resilience.

Sustainability

- Locally led peacebuilding platforms – such as interfaith dialogues, sports, and community drama – have continued beyond project support, though peace committees show declining functionality.
- Water infrastructure sustainability is at moderate risk due to inactive Water Point Committees, solar dependency, and vandalism by roaming livestock.
- Protection systems were integrated into government referral pathways but remain underfunded, especially for emergency response.

Cross-Cutting Themes

- **Gender**: Women comprised over 70% of protection committees and 89% of SAGs, with deliberate inclusion in livelihood and leadership activities.
- **Disability**: Taps were installed close to PWD households; however, disability inclusion lacked dedicated tools and tracking systems. 6 PWDs were recipients of the goat project.
- **Child Protection**: Integrated through school clubs, drama groups, and referral mechanisms.
- **Environmental Sustainability**: Embedded in DRR trainings and FFA (e.g., gully reclamation), though physical infrastructure resilience was not fully addressed.
- **Accountability**: Community feedback was gathered through forums, suggestion boxes, and a toll-free line, and was used to inform adaptive responses.

1.4 Key Recommendations

- **Recommendations for ZCC:** Future programming should adopt a multi-phase, multi-sectoral approach integrating Protection, WASH, Livelihoods, and DRR to enhance long-term impact and sustainability. Program framing should emphasize collective recovery and social cohesion, avoiding distinctions between IDPs and hosts. Key actions include strengthening community structures (peace committees, CBP champions, water committees) through continuous training, support, and integration into local governance, scaling up livelihoods interventions, enhancing water infrastructure reliability, addressing root conflict drivers, strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems, continuing faith-based engagement through LEFs to foster trust and social cohesion and sustaining government collaboration and peer NGO coordination for integrated, systemic development outcomes.

- **Recommendations for Donors (Act for Peace/ANCP):** Donors should prioritize strengthening institutional capacity of community structures beyond project lifecycles, supporting policy advocacy to address systemic protection and DRR gaps, mainstreaming disability inclusion and environmental risk mitigation across all funded interventions, investing in partner capacity building, enabling ZCC to expand scalable, adaptive programming and providing longer-term, flexible funding windows to promote continuity, learning, and systemic change.

- **Recommendations for Local Authorities:** Local and district government actors are encouraged to continue institutionalizing peacebuilding and DRR systems into formal plans, follow up on community-prioritized needs like police posts, roads, and water maintenance, enhance WASH infrastructure oversight and support early warning systems, integrate community-based adaptation practices into development planning and sustain multi-stakeholder coordination platforms to drive integrated service delivery and resilience building.

1.5 Key lessons

- Community-led Sports for Peace and Drama activities were highly effective in building social cohesion, youth leadership, and promoting anti-GBV messaging.
- Faith-based engagement through LEFs increased trust, acceptance, and cohesion between IDPs and host communities.
- Multi-sectoral integration of WASH, protection, livelihoods, and DRR magnified impact, delivering compounded benefits across health, safety, and resilience outcomes.

2. Introduction

2.1 Context

2.1.1 Humanitarian Situation in Runyararo (Ward 7), Chimanimani District

Chimanimani District in Manicaland Province has faced compounding humanitarian crises over recent years. In March 2019, Cyclone Idai struck Chimanimani with devastating impact – over 270,000 people were affected, 341 lives lost, and many remain missing. In the aftermath, hundreds of displaced families from hardest-hit areas such as Ngangu and Rusitu were relocated to a resettlement site called Runyararo in Chimanimani West where the government provided housing for affected households and several other organizations supported with recovery and resilience interventions.

The settlement initially lacked adequate services and livelihood opportunities, leaving families food-insecure and reliant on odd jobs or aid. Many households survive on as little as one meal per day or on boiled maize kernels, with regular meals being a struggle. Socially, the sudden displacement created strains between IDPs and the host communities, including competition over resources like water, land for grazing, and employment. Tensions and trauma from the disaster have manifested in mental health challenges (signs of PTSD, anxiety, depression) among both the displaced and hosts, underscoring a need for psychosocial support. Compounding this post-cyclone situation, Zimbabwe has faced compounding climate shocks in recent years, significantly affecting vulnerable communities, especially in Manicaland. The El Niño-induced droughts of 2023–2024 brought below-average rainfall and extreme heat, resulting in widespread crop failure and water shortages. This led to 7.6 million people falling into food insecurity, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in Chimanimani. The crisis was further worsened by previous extreme weather events, such as Cyclones Chalane (2020) and Eloise (2021), which triggered severe flooding, soil erosion, and destruction of infrastructure and livelihoods. These overlapping disasters disproportionately impacted women, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, exposing them to increased risks of food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and protection-related challenges.

In Runyararo, water scarcity intensified – even the solar-powered boreholes installed by other humanitarian organizations in the area dried up due to lack of rainfall. This exacerbated vulnerabilities and heightened the need for resilience-building interventions. Overall, the community in Runyararo faces a fragile livelihood situation marked by poverty, high youth unemployment, inadequate sanitation (e.g. temporary latrines leading to open defecation), and limited access to basic services. Such conditions pose protection risks and undermine dignity and recovery for the displaced population.

2.1.2 Humanitarian Response in Runyararo (Ward 7), Chimanimani District

To address the escalating humanitarian needs caused by recurring climate shocks in Chimanimani, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), a national faith-based organization,

launched a three-year humanitarian initiative titled **"Strengthening Protection, Resilience, and Preparedness Program for Displaced and Host Communities in Zimbabwe."** Funded by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and supported technically and through grant management by Act for Peace, the program has been implemented in Chimanimani District from **1st July 2022 to 30th June 2025**. The project aims to strengthen the protection, resilience, and disaster preparedness of both displaced and host communities, who have been severely impacted by droughts, cyclones, and other climate-induced crises

The program's goal was to ensure that IDPs and host communities in Runyararo and surrounding areas achieve **enhanced protection, improved resilience, and better preparedness** in the face of disasters, while securing their basic rights.
Specifically, this project aimed to:
1. improve access to a range of services that increase the protection of internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities.
2. improve resilience and capacity of IDPs and host communities to respond to climate-induced drivers of displacement; and,
3. increase understanding and coordination amongst community members, government officials and other key stakeholders / duty bearers to promote the rights and protection of target communities, particularly IDPs.

The intervention embraced a **human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach**, working to include women, youth, and people with disabilities in all activities. ZCC also leveraged its church networks and local presence to foster trust with communities. With the project coming to an end in July 2025, an external evaluation was commissioned in April 2025 to assess the program's performance and outcomes. This assessment was done in Runyararo ward 7, in Chimanimani District to evaluate the

2.2   Purpose and Objectives of the Study

The Purpose of this evaluation was to:
- To assess the performance, results, and strategic value of the program in Chimanimani, in line with OECD-DAC evaluation criteria and to provide actionable recommendations.
- To generate evidence for accountability demonstrating to ZCC, partners, the affected communities, and donors the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes.
- The evaluation is being done as part of learning:
  a) gleaning insights to improve future programming in humanitarian protection and resilience
  b) to better understand what works and what doesn't work in the provision of cross sectorial services for persons affected by disasters.

Specific Objectives:
i.   To assess the extent to which project goals and objectives have been achieved.
ii.   To document lessons learned from the project, including best practices

iii. To gather recommendations from participants and stakeholders

iv. To produce an independent report to ensure transparency and accountability of the project implementation and outcomes

2.3 Structure of the Report

This report is structured to provide a comprehensive and coherent presentation of the endline evaluation process and findings. It is organized in nine main sections:

- **Executive Summary**: Provides a concise overview of the evaluation purpose, key findings aligned with OECD-DAC criteria, conclusions, actionable recommendations, and lessons learned.
- **Introduction**: Outlines the background and context of the program, including its objectives, geographic focus, implementing partners, and rationale for the evaluation.
- **Methodology**: Describes the evaluation design, criteria applied, data collection methods (quantitative and qualitative), sampling strategy, ethical considerations, and limitations encountered during the evaluation process.
- **Findings and Analysis**: Presents detailed findings organized under the five OECD-DAC evaluation criteria- **Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability**. Each subsection highlights evidence-based results, supported by both statistical data and qualitative insights from stakeholders.
- **Cross-Cutting Themes**: Explores how the program addressed key thematic areas, including **gender equality, social inclusion, disability mainstreaming, community participation**, and the role of **faith-based actors** in protection and resilience.
- **Conclusions**: Synthesizes the main findings and provides an overarching assessment of the program's performance and contribution to intended outcomes.
- **Recommendations**: Offers practical, tailored suggestions directed at ZCC, Act for Peace, local authorities, and other stakeholders, with a focus on improving future program design and sustainability.
- **Lessons Learned and Good Practices**: Documents transferable insights and innovations that emerged during implementation and evaluation, which could inform similar interventions in humanitarian and development contexts.
- **Annexes**: Include supporting documents such as data collection tools, stakeholder lists, survey results, case studies, and terms of reference to enhance transparency and provide deeper technical detail.

2.4 Study Strengths and Limitations

2.4.1 Strengths

The evaluation process was supported by various initiatives that include the following:

- The pre-existing relationship between ZCC and the Provincial and District stakeholders significantly facilitated the evaluation process. These established partnerships enabled the research team to easily schedule and conduct pre-evaluation consultations as well as key

informant interviews with relevant stakeholders. This level of cooperation contributed to the smooth coordination and timely completion of the evaluation activities.

- Community mobilization efforts led by ZCC project staff, particularly Mr. Shepherd Munondo, played a pivotal role in facilitating the evaluation process. Approximately **195 individuals** were reached through community sensitization held in Runyararo, which significantly enhanced awareness of the research among project participants. As a result, the household survey was conducted in a welcoming environment, with no instances of respondents refusing to participate. Moreover, the community gathering provided an opportunity for the research team to identify suitable participants for focus group discussions, further strengthening the evaluation's qualitative data collection component.

- To ensure impartiality and minimize potential bias during data collection, the enumerators operated independently without direct interaction with ZCC project staff throughout the fieldwork. This approach allowed for the collection of data directly from respondents without any external influence or interference, thereby enhancing the credibility and reliability of the evaluation findings.
- The enumerator training, post-data collection feedback sessions, data validation processes, and supervisory spot checks all contributed to ensuring the accuracy, consistency, and reliability of the data collected. These measures enhanced the enumerators' understanding of the tools, allowed for real-time troubleshooting of challenges encountered in the field, and ensured that any data quality issues were promptly addressed before analysis.
- A robust triangulation approach – drawing on multiple data sources including household surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews – was employed to enhance the validity of findings. The use of additional data sources helped to corroborate key insights and reinforce the credibility of the evaluation conclusions.

2.4.2 Limitations

The final evaluation process undoubtedly possessed challenges that have the potential to limit the extent to which the evaluation can conclusively draw findings. Several limitations of the project's final evaluation study have been identified, including:

- The evaluation was conducted during the Easter holiday week, coinciding with Zimbabwe's 45th Independence Day celebrations on 18 April 2025. While most provincial and district stakeholders were available, the team encountered challenges engaging approximately three key stakeholders due to their unavailability during this period. Notably, a Key Informant Interview (KII) with the Department of Women's Affairs was later secured, although many district offices were preoccupied with independence commemorations.
At the community level, the timing also posed logistical difficulties. Despite prior sensitization efforts, many community members were either preparing to travel for church conferences or had left for holiday activities. This resulted in a low response rate, with

research assistants often encountering locked homes or vacant residences – frequently reaching only one respondent after every five or six households visited. These factors presented challenges in meeting the intended sample size, although the team ultimately managed to reach the required number through persistence and adaptive field strategies.

- Adverse weather conditions, particularly lightning and thunderstorms, posed challenges during the data collection period. Heavy rains on the 17th and 18th of April 2025 coincided with the household survey exercise, temporarily disrupting field activities and limiting the mobility of enumerators. Despite these setbacks, the team adjusted schedules where possible to ensure that data collection was completed effectively.

- Some sections of the target area, particularly the border section, were difficult to access due to poor road infrastructure, long travel distances, and environmental hazards such as red wood ants (*mhamhasi*). These conditions limited enumerators' ability to reach certain households in a timely and consistent manner, requiring additional effort and time to cover the affected areas.

- Several challenges were encountered during the facilitation of FGDs, which affected the depth and quality of insights gathered:
    - ~ Focus on Individual Issues: Some participants tended to emphasize personal experiences rather than community-level or collective challenges, which limited the broader analytical value of the discussions.
    - ~ Limited Freedom to Share: A few participants appeared hesitant to express their views freely, citing external instructions or perceived constraints, which may have influenced the openness and authenticity of responses.
    - ~ Group Size and Composition Imbalance: Oversized groups were mobilized in some instances, surpassing the planned number of participants. Additionally, there was a noticeable gender imbalance - with significantly more women than men participating. For example, in the youth FGD, only four male participants were present, affecting gender representativeness in the findings.

- The evaluation team did not conduct interviews with organizations or individuals who operated in Runyararo around the same time frame implementing similar activities. As a result, the assessment lacked comparative perspectives that could have enriched the analysis of complementarity, potential duplication, or opportunities for synergy with other interventions in the area.

3. Methodology

3.1 Evaluation Design and Approach

The evaluation employed a **mixed-methods approach**, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis to comprehensively assess the performance, outcomes, and strategic value of the "*Strengthening Protection, Resilience, and Preparedness Program for Displaced and Host Communities in Zimbabwe.*" The design was grounded in a theory-based approach, assessing how program interventions contributed to observed outcomes within the dynamic and often challenging context of Chimanimani District.

The evaluation was participatory and utilization-focused, engaging a wide range of stakeholders – including project beneficiaries (both internally displaced persons and host communities), faith leaders, local authorities, and community committees – to ensure that the findings are contextually relevant, credible, and actionable. Purposive sampling of respondent was done for qualitative data collection. Quantitative data was gathered from desk review, progress reports and a household survey. The Household survey used stratified random sampling.

Key elements of the design included:

- **Quantitative data collection** through household surveys conducted in Ward 7 (Runyararo), targeting a statistically representative sample of program participants to measure outcome-level changes.
- **Qualitative data collection** through focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) with stakeholders including ZCC staff, government officials, traditional leaders, local committee members (e.g., WASH, Protection, ISALs), and other community actors.
- **Secondary data** was collected through project related documents review, including project reports, implementation plans, proposals etc.

The triangulation of these data sources enabled the evaluation to assess both the intended and unintended effects of the program, explore attribution pathways, and provide insights into the sustainability and scalability of results. A conflict-sensitive and do-no-harm lens was applied throughout the process, in recognition of the post-disaster recovery and displacement context.

3.2 OECD-DAC Evaluation Criteria Applied

The evaluation applied the **OECD-DAC evaluation criteria** to systematically assess the program's performance. These internationally recognized criteria provided a structured framework for inquiry, analysis, and reporting.

3.2.1 Key Evaluation Questions

The evaluation's overarching key questions, framed mainly using the OECD criteria, were centred on establishing the contributions of the project to strengthening resilience capacities of IDPs and hosts in Chimanimani. Key questions were:

a) Did individuals and communities in Runyararo recover from the devastating losses that they experienced due to Cyclone IDAI.

b) Are they now better equipped to face future shocks and stresses at individual, household and community level.

3.2.2 Approach of the Evaluation

This evaluation applied the **OECD-DAC evaluation criteria** and the crosscutting criteria as per the interest of ZCC and Act for Peace to guide assessment of project performance. The following evaluation questions define the overall scope of the evaluation:

Table 1:OECD-DAC Evaluation Questions

Relevance:	i.	Was the project design and innovations appropriate for the geographic, social and cultural context of the area?
	ii.	To what extent was the project relevant to the needs and priorities of the targeted communities
	iii.	How responsive was the project to evolving contextual dynamics?
Efficiency:	i.	To what extent were project activities implemented in the most efficient way compared to alternative ways? Value for Money (VfM)
	ii.	What were the facilitators and barriers to the achievement of project outputs and outcomes?
	iii.	What was the quality of cooperation and support from stakeholders? a. Did coordination and oversight mechanisms work sufficiently? How can these be improved in future?

Effectiveness:	i.	To what extent were the project objectives achieved?
		    a. If objectives were not adequately attained, what were the key challenges?
		    b. What was achieved/not achieved and what factors were involved per activity?

	ii.	To what extent did the project strengthen the resilience capacities of communities and hosts to absorb, adapt and transform the test of future climate risks
		    a. Disaggregate the capacities by sex, age and disability status of household head,
		    b. Assess impact on women, men, boys and girls,

	iii.	How effective were the implementation approaches used in the project
		    a. How effective was the multi-stakeholder model in addressing the muti sectoral needs of the IDPs and host communities in Runyararo settlement?
		    b. How effective were locally led initiatives towards building peaceful co-existence between IDPs and hosts and in

		strengthening their resilience to future shocks. Interrogate the effectiveness of locally facilitated dialogues among community members, also interrogate effectiveness of initiatives such as Sports for Peace?
		c. How effective was the participation of churches and other faith groups in project activities?
Impact:	i.	To what extent has the project contributed towards the recovery of the affected individuals and community members?
		a. How has the project changed the lives and or coping mechanisms of vulnerable community members (women, children, elderly, etc.)?
		b. What are target communities' perceptions about the project contribution to long term development outcomes such as food, water security, income, psychosocial wellbeing, protection?
	ii.	What positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects have been produced by the interventions, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended?
Sustainability:	i.	How sustainable are the locally led peace building and social cohesion efforts?
	ii.	What mechanisms are in place to ensure that the water supply system continues to function properly after the project has ended?
Cross-cutting issues:	i.	How was accountability mainstreamed in the project-Accountability to project participants, government, and other partners?
	ii.	To what extent were cross cutting issues (gender equality, disability, child protection, environment, and other inclusion issues factored in the design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the program?

The application of these criteria guided the development of evaluation tools, informed data analysis, and shaped the structure of findings and recommendations, ensuring a rigorous and standards-aligned assessment.

3.3   Data Collection methods

The evaluation employed a **combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods** to ensure a robust, comprehensive understanding of the program's performance and outcomes. This mixed-methods approach enabled triangulation of findings and enhanced the validity of conclusions.

Document and Secondary data review: used to collect information from the proposal and logframe, implementation plans, annual progress reports, baseline survey, mid and endline

survey. The aim was to gather information and data to supplement qualitative interviews and FGDs.

Key Informant Interviews: Interview guides were designed and administered to stakeholders who have been involved in the project in one way or another. A total of **17 interviews** were conducted targeting Provincial, District government stakeholders, and community level stakeholders. The aim was to assess participant understanding and awareness of the changes which have occurred as a result of project implementation. In this regard, key informant interviews provided in-depth information on the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the project in relation to its objectives. Key informant interviews also provided information on post project knowledge, project strengths and challenges in relation to various social, cultural and economic factors that enabled and/or constrained the achievement of project results.

Focus Group Discussions: These were held with a sample of beneficiaries and groups/committees to seek their perspectives on the impact of the project. A community mobilization pooled about 195 people to sensitize and inform regarding the evaluation. From this pool, **8 FGDs** will be considered with a total of **99 people** participating. Purposive sampling approach was used to ensure inclusion of diverse perspectives across the project stakeholder landscape.

Table 2: KIIs and FGD Reach

Key Informant Interviews	FDGs
Provincial Level ~ Local Government Services and Administration), ~ Manicaland Provincial Affairs **District Level** ~ Chimanimani District Development Coordinator ~ Rural infrastructure development agency, previously known as DDF now RIDA ~ Chimanimani Rural District Council ~ Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MPSLSW), Department of Social Development ~ Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWACSMED) **Community Level** ~ 2 LEFs ~ Protection Committee Chair ~ Ward 7 Councillor ~ Matron at Runyararo Clinic ~ Chayamiti Primary school Teacher ~ Runyararo Primary School Headmaster **ZCC Staff** ~ Project Officer ~ Director of Humanitarian Services	~ **IDP Group** with 16 members (14 females) ~ **Host Group** with 12 participants all women. 1 female was a person living with a disability ~ **Mixed Group** with 14 participants from both host community and IDPs, 3 people were people living with disabilities (all females) ~ **Youth group with 14 participants** (5 young boys and 9 young girls/women). ~ **Water Point Committee Group /SAG** with 13 participants. (2 males and 11 females, 1 female was a person living with a disability) ~ **Community Health Participants** (Case Care Work/Health Centre Committee/ VHWs) had a total of 12 participants i.e. 1 male and 11 females. ~ **Local Leadership group** had 7 participants (all men) ~ **Men Group** had 11 participants

Household Survey: This was used to collect quantitative data to assess the performance of the project against result indicators. Respondents were drawn from IDPs and Host community members project beneficiary pool in ward 7. For determination of sample size, Yamane's formula was used. To balance statistical rigor with feasibility, the survey applied a 90% confidence level and a ±10% margin of error. Based on a known population of approximately 400 households in Ward 7, Runyararo, this resulted in a sample size of 80 respondents.

Yamane's formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

where n= sample size

N= target population size

E= 0.1 Margin of error (10% for a 90% confidence level)

The anticipated distribution expected was 70% IDPs and 30% Host community members, however the assessment managed to reach the following:

 The individual study reached a total of 80 households with the following characteristics. In terms of residence location, 67.5% were IDP resident in Runyararo whilst 32.5% were host community residents. This is depicted in Table 1 below

Table 3: Status of Respondents

Responded Type (Location)	Percentage Frequency
Host community Resident	32.5%
IDP-Runyararo Resident	67.5%
TOTAL	100%

Source: Primary Data (N=80)

Demographics
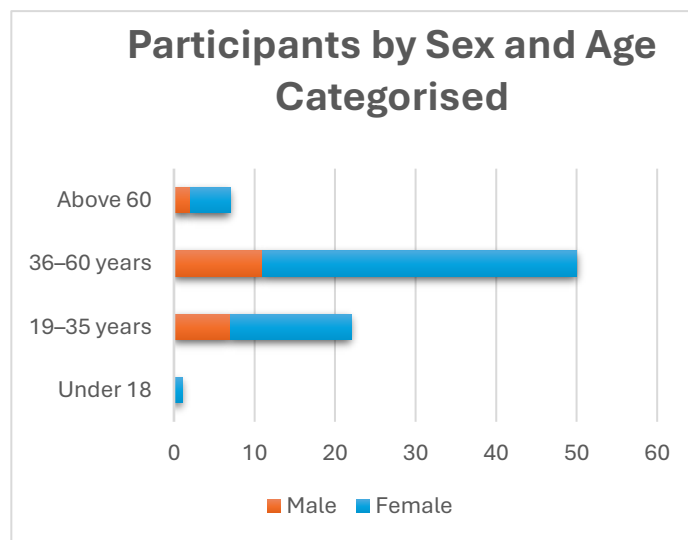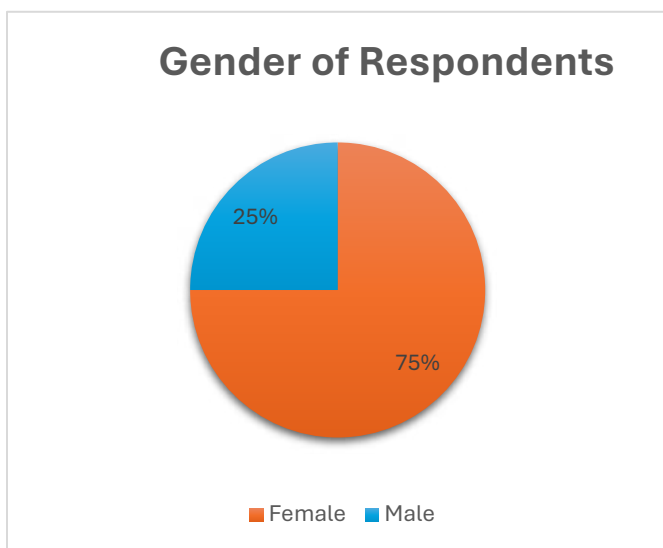
Figure 1: Respondents gender and age

The household survey included responses from 80 participants, with a strong representation of women – 75% identified as female and 25% as male, as illustrated in Figure xxx. Respondents ranged in age from under 18 to over 75 years, with a mean age of 42.8 years and a standard deviation of 12.8 years, indicating a broad cross-section of adult age groups. Additionally, 55% of respondents reported being the head of their household, reflecting the project's engagement with both decision-makers and primary caregivers. In alignment with the principle of leaving no one behind, the survey captured data on disability using the Washington Group Short Set. Findings revealed that 20% of respondents experienced some or significant difficulty in performing basic functions – highlighting the importance of inclusive design in resilience and displacement interventions. Further demographic detail, including religious affiliation and age-sex breakdowns, is presented below:
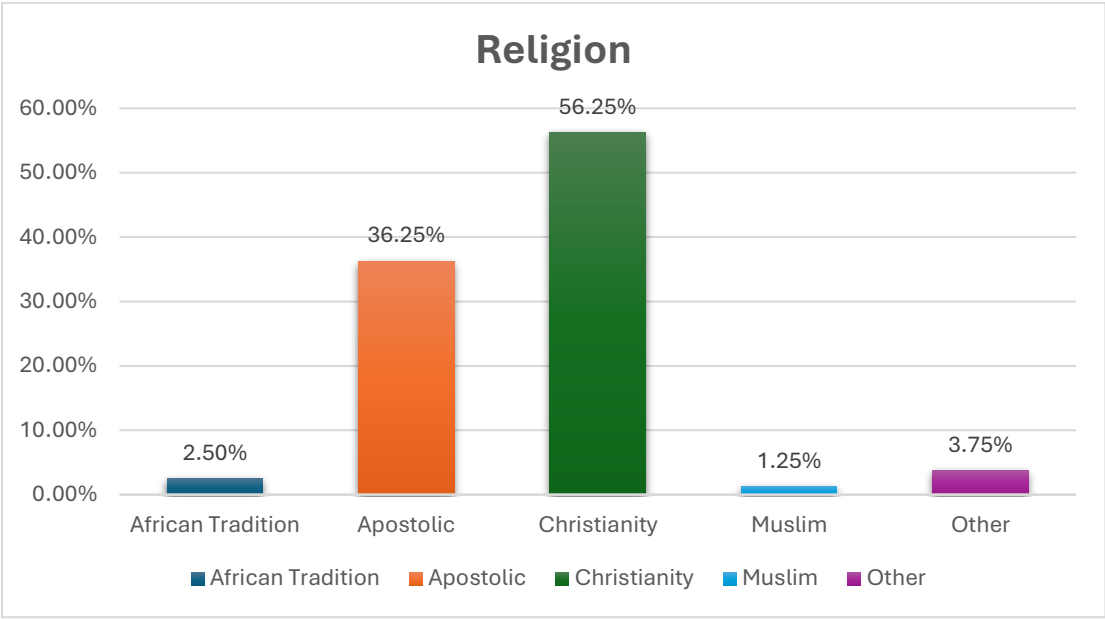
Figure 2: Religious beliefs of respondents

The respondents were also asked about the group they represent and below were the findings:
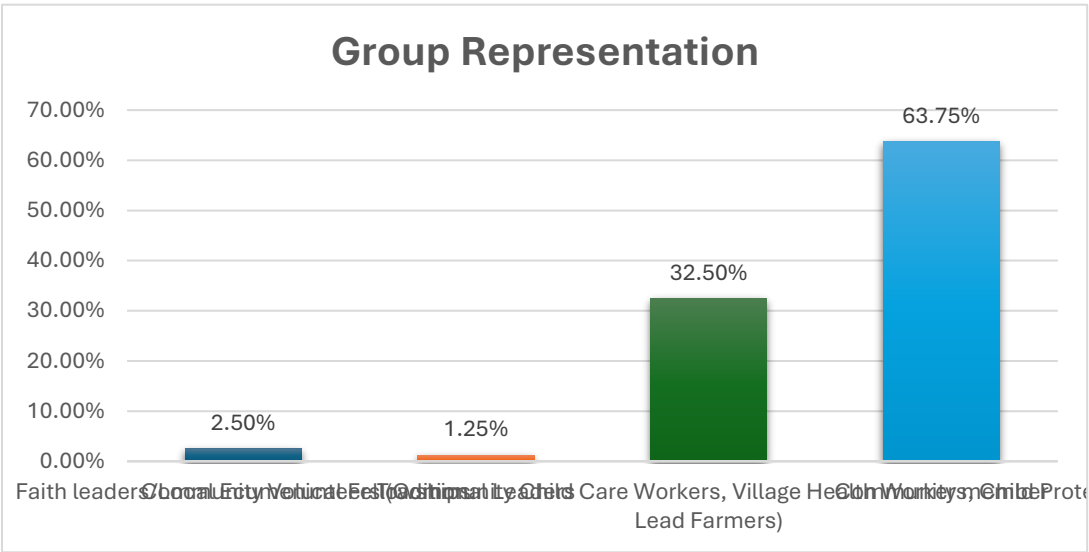
Figure 3: Groups Represented by Respondents

Observations: This was done during the entire evaluation process with the evaluation team visiting physical infrastructure delivered by the project and observing their condition and usage. Images were taken throughout the assessment and those with participants have accompanying consent forms.

3.4   Research Plan

The Endline study was carried out in four phases. Below is a summary of the phased approach the consultancy followed:
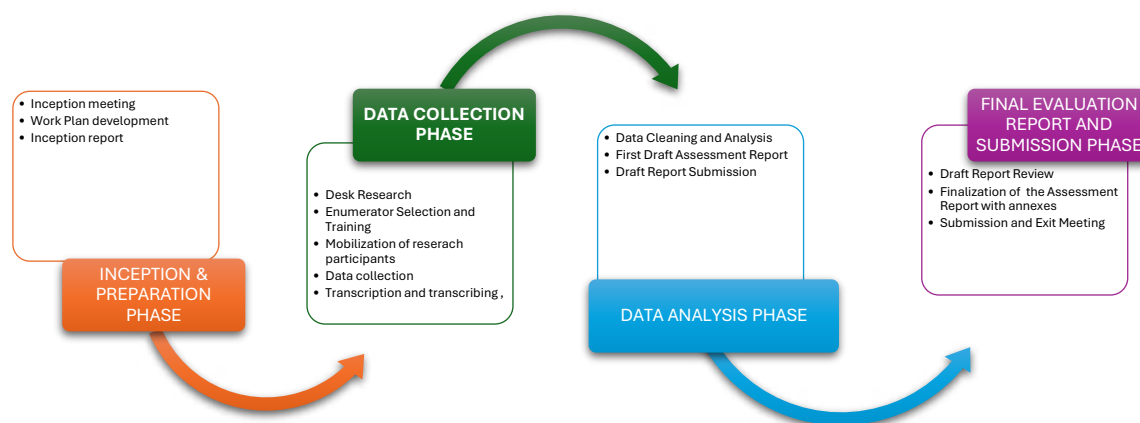
Figure 4: Data Chain Flow Chart

Inception and Preparation: An inception meeting with ZCC leadership was carried out and a work plan developed to guide the process which was documented in the inception report.

Data collection: Using the tools mentioned above data was collected by a team including 6 enumerators and the external evaluator. This phase included their selection and training. The data collection tools were pre-tested to ensure reliability and practicability. It also aided in averaging the time it would take the enumerators to administer the tools. Mobilization of research participants at community and district level was also par of the process and enabled effective sensitization. Pre-evaluation engagements were also used as points for data collection at Manicaland Provincial Offices.

Data Analysis: Data was cleaned immediately from the field and done after populating quantitative data. Qualitative data from the key informant interviews and FDGs was coded and analyzed by outcomes/themes aligned with the evaluation criteria. All recordings were transcribed and translated to English. This data was then synthesized for reporting. Quantitative data gathered from project output reports during the project implementation was analyzed in Excel using descriptive statistics to summarize key indicators such as access to protection and water services. Where necessary comparative analysis on IDP vs Host was also carried out. Cross-tabulations and corelation tests were also applied to explore potential relationships between program participation and reported outcomes. ZCC project team provided valuable contextual insights into explaining the findings. These have been consolidated into draft and final report.

Triangulation and Integration was conducted to strengthen credibility and validity of findings. This allowed verification of trends and claims, contextual interpretation of quantitative results and identification of convergence or divergence between stakeholder perspectives and reported outcomes.

3.5 Ethical Considerations and Informed Consent

This evaluation was committed to upholding the highest ethical standards throughout its design and implementation, ensuring that all participants were treated with respect, dignity, and fairness. Given the sensitivity of working with vulnerable groups, including displaced communities and host populations, a rigorous ethical framework was developed and strictly adhered to.

a) Ethical Protocols

Prior to commencing fieldwork, the evaluation team secured approval from a recognized ethics review board. This process ensured that the proposed methods, tools, and protocols were in full compliance with both local and international ethical guidelines. Special care was taken to protect participants from any potential risks associated with discussing sensitive issues related to displacement, protection, and community dynamics.

b) Informed Consent

All participants were provided with a clear explanation of the evaluation's objectives, procedures, and their rights as research subjects. Informed consent was obtained verbally and, where applicable, in writing ensuring that respondents understood:

- **The purpose of the evaluation**: To assess the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of program interventions.
- **Their voluntary participation**: Participation was entirely voluntary, and individuals had the right to decline or withdraw from the evaluation at any point without any negative consequences.
- **Confidentiality and anonymity**: Personal identifiers were removed or anonymized during data collection and analysis. The evaluation team assured participants that their responses would be used solely for evaluation purposes and that confidentiality would be maintained in all reporting.
- **Use of data**: Participants were informed about how the data would be stored, analyzed, and reported, with assurances that findings would be shared with key stakeholders for program improvement without compromising individual privacy.

c) Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Special attention was given to ethical considerations related to vulnerable populations (such as women, children, persons with disabilities, and individuals experiencing trauma related to displacement). The evaluation tools and processes were adapted to be culturally sensitive and to minimize distress. For example, focus group discussions were organized in safe environments and were facilitated by trained staff experienced in handling sensitive topics.

Additional referral mechanisms were in place to support participants in need of further assistance or psychological support.

d) Data Management and Security

Robust measures were implemented to ensure data integrity and security. All data (electronic and paper-based) were stored in secure locations with restricted access. The evaluation followed strict protocols for data transfer and ensured that all reports and files were anonymized before being shared with stakeholders.

By embedding these ethical principles into every stage of the evaluation – from planning to reporting – the process ensured that the integrity of the evaluation was maintained, the rights of participants were safeguarded, and the findings could be confidently used to inform future program enhancements.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Relevance

4.1.1 Project design and innovations appropriate for the geographic, social and cultural context of the area

Runyararo/Ward 7 is generally a drought prone area with limited rainfall and rocky terrain. Water scarcity was high even for host communities. This affected the opening of Runyararo primary school in the location which was meant to serve the increasing residential population. Water access limitations also posed protection risks for children and women who had to fetch water over long distances. At the time of inception, the area had no police post and protection issues were high. GBV cases and child protection issues would often go unreported and unresolved. The relationship between IDPs and host community members was unmistakenly evident with conflicts and tensions regarding traditional ways of rearing cattle's that the host communities practiced which affected the IDPs wellbeing, for instance the cattle used the area as grazing land so cattle behaviour to roam around the area remained and continued to affect IDP households/gardening. Relationships that started to form between IDPs and host members also caused conflicts while name calling and labelling of IDPs rooted tensions between the two (*maIdai/ Idai People*). Health and Other service provision was poor as there was no health facility close by in 2022.

Considering all of these challenges the project design was largely appropriate to the geographic, social, and cultural context of Chimanimani and Mutasa districts. It adopted a uniform design, prioritizing protection, resilience and disaster risk reduction capacities and improving coordination among stakeholders. These thematic areas aligned well with the prevailing needs of the IDPs in Runyararo who had been relocated to a new location post cyclone Idai.

However, implementation revealed emerging needs and constraints that required adaptive responses. For example, in the first year the project targeted Chimanimani together with Mutasa with the same design, however the resources were spread thinly across the districts and the movements between the two location not only placed a strain on the project staff but also indirectly had an effect on the impact of the project, thus a decision to only focus on Chimanimani ward 7 was made. This significantly improved the chances of higher impact. Protection services were also designed with cultural appropriateness in mind, utilizing existing community leadership structures (traditional leaders, religious leaders, and school-based clubs). The use of sports and drama as engagement tools reflected deep contextual understanding and resonated well with youth and community members. Faith actors played pivotal roles, ensuring cultural legitimacy and improved uptake of protection and psychosocial support services.

4.1.2 Relevance to the needs and priorities of the targeted communities

The project was highly relevant to the needs and priorities of the target communities, particularly in Runyararo where IDPs and host communities faced acute water shortages, protection risks, and

food insecurity. Initial interventions addressed immediate recovery needs such as protection training, DRR awareness, and basic psychosocial support. Over time, the project adapted to meet emerging priorities which is an indication of a strong feedback and learning loop. For instance:

Water Access: Given that all boreholes had dried out and the nearby dam was silted, safe water access was a top community priority. The solar water scheme directly responded to this, reducing water-fetching distances significantly. Additionally, the project design in the second year sought to establish and train Sanitation and Hygiene groups which also expanded in the third year stretching to increasing the number of households accessing water from the piped water scheme. Water infrastructure interventions benefited over 2,000 individuals as a result. Another additional adjustment in Year 2 was the establishment of a piped water scheme with 8 taps/water points and the construction of a Morden toilet facility for both girls and boys including washrooms at Runyararo primary school which enabled the opening of the school in 2024 and supporting the newly constructed Runyararo clinic with water access. According to Runyararo Primary School Headmaster, the ZCC project helped to a large extent with water access and ow they do not have challenges with water access, also the toilets are a step towards better hygiene for the school going children.

Figure 5: Piped Water system and Flush Toilet at Runyararo Primary

The installation of a piped water system and household sanitation facilities in Runyararo significantly contributed to improving access to water within the community ultimately enhancing

the living conditions and community health. Of the households interviewed during the household survey, approximately 84% shared that their main source of drinking water now is from piped water, followed by other sources and borehole and piped combinations. This suggests improvements, likely from the ZCC solarized piped water system, have been adopted by many. Additionally, beneficiaries' contributions to water infrastructure maintenance is an indication of ownership and local initiative.

Main Source of Water

- Piped water: IDPs 52.50%, Host 31.25%
- Other sources: IDPs 8.75%, Host 0%
- Borehole/hand (manual) pump Piped water: IDPs 6.25%, Host 1.25%

Legend: ■ IDPs ■ Host
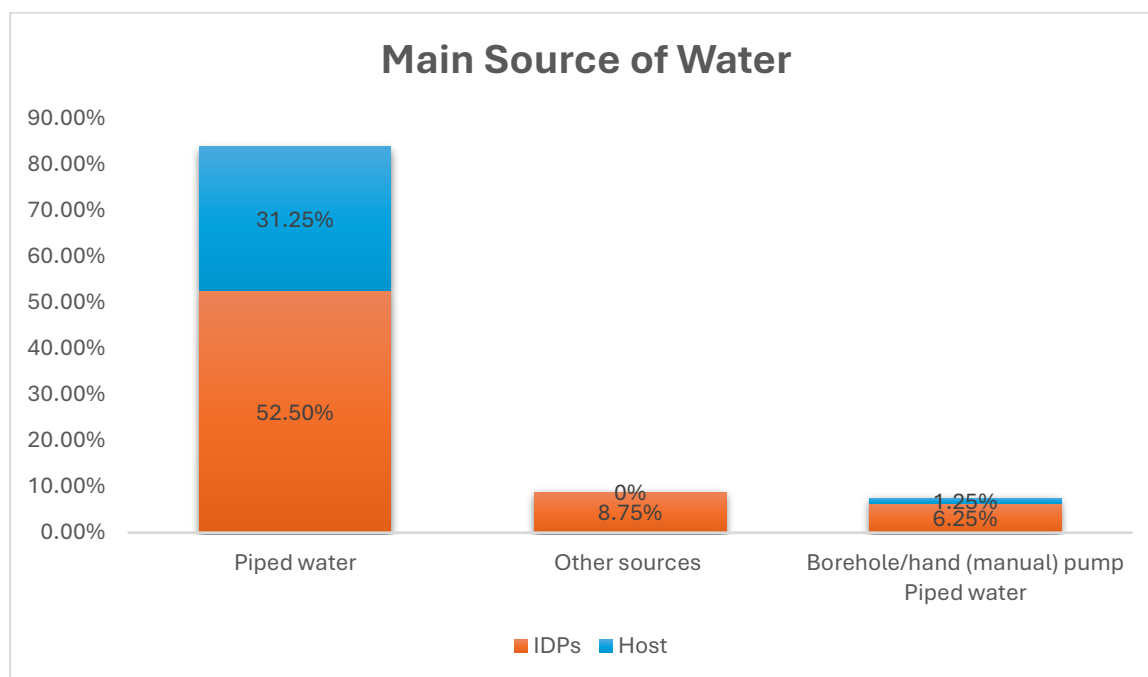
Figure 6: Main Source of Water for Respondents

Protection and Case Management: The identification, referral, and support for **236 protection cases at the time of the assessment** (including GBV, child neglect, child marriages, drug abuse) indicate that the project was tailored to actual emerging threats in the community. The number exceeded targets due to demand, showing alignment to community priorities. The project also prioritized inclusion and equity, as seen in the formation of peace committees with over 70% women representation and efforts to ensure host-IDP cohesion. Ther project reach over **3800** people through protection awareness campaigns, sports for peace, drama and dance activities. Limitations such as narrow beneficiary targeting for protection services in the first year necessitated the expansion of activities such training Community Based protection (CBP) Champions, outreach campaigns on protection issues and accountability of affected persons and Peace building dialogues with IDPs and host communities to ensure more inclusive coverage. Additionally, the project addressed critical protection needs of the beneficiaries and supported both IDPs and Host members to access documentation (IDs and birth certificates). Priorities like unity between IDPs and host communities were also met although there is still a gap between their relationship which still needs to be filled.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery: The design capacitated communities in community-based disaster management and supported them to develop own Disaster Risk Reduction and Management plans that takes into account their context. Their involvement in this process shows how the plans developed were based on community needs and priorities. The El Nino and La Nina climate conditions inducing drought resulted in the need to support households access food and nutrition as such the project responded by providing monthly food rations so households can meet their food consumption gaps under the FFA project component. These context-specific services were added to the design in response to identified gaps.

In the third year, the project design took into account the food security needs and resilient livelihood opportunities for IDPs and selected host community members. Taking this into account various resilience and recovery promoting initiatives that were introduced – including the provision of drought resistant seeds e.g. sunflower, sorghum for 50 households and the distribution of Food for Assets for 50 households and, promotion of goat farming for 10 most vulnerable households – these components directly responded to community-expressed needs for improved livelihoods and nutrition. However, stakeholders highlighted that future projects should not impose livelihood options, but rather co-design them with communities to ensure sustainability. The project directly addressed pressing community needs in water access, protection, and climate resilience. The overachievement of many targets underscores the strong relevance of interventions. However, the reach of certain components (e.g., FFA, 10 selected households supported with small livestock support (goats) was limited due to resource constraints, which somewhat affected the breadth of the project's relevance.

4.1.3 Responsiveness of the project to evolving contextual dynamics

The project demonstrated a high degree of responsiveness to evolving contextual dynamics throughout its implementation period. Key examples include:

- **Flexible Programming**: Initial implementation plans were adapted as new needs emerged. For instance, instead of a midterm evaluation, an end-of-project evaluation was prioritized due to scheduling overlaps and shifting donor visits.
- **Mid-project adaptations** such as the integration of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), food security, and livelihoods interventions based on community feedback during protection and DRR training sessions. Increased knowledge from CBP training, ongoing monitoring, and reflections helped adjust project priorities, such as including mental health, education-related truancy, and emergency medical support.
- **Responsive protection services** such as case management, medical referrals, and psychosocial support, which evolved based on recurring community-level risks and consultations. As more protection cases were reported, the project adapted by exceeding its referral targets and increasing community outreach through drama, sports, and roadshows.

- **Strengthened community infrastructure** through the development of ward-level DRR plans, training of first responders, and water point committees that were formed in response to gaps in disaster preparedness.
- **Government Collaboration**: The project influenced government response, e.g., **engagement and support of the local Environmental Health Technician** to support Sanitation Action Groups, engagement of the DSD officer to support the case management services, the involvement of the MWACSMED supporting ISALs training, group formation and support and the involvement of the RIDA to support with water access related services. Dialogue sessions also led to the identification of issues like **dam desilting and need for ZRP post**, which were referred to authorities.

The project demonstrated high adaptability to emerging challenges and evolving community needs, with strong coordination mechanisms enabling timely adjustments. However, while adaptive measures were taken, some activities such as the seed distribution and small livestock projects had limited scale and coverage due to financial and logistical challenges, highlighting an area for improvement in fully scaling responsive interventions. For instance, community dialogues surfaced unplanned but urgent needs such as dam de-siltation and the establishment of a police post. As the project adapted to emerging needs, not all these were fulfilled or addressed as planned, the project elevated them to district authorities. The project also adapted its M&E plan, conducting an endline evaluation instead of a midterm due to scheduling challenges and donor visits.

4.2 Efficiency

4.2.1   Efficiency of project activities

Project activities were implemented in a cost-efficient manner with significant value for money observed across components. Several key activities achieved or exceeded their targets within the planned budget. For instance, 115 protection cases were identified and supported against a target of 100, and 30 safe space referrals were conducted compared to a planned 20 in year 2. These achievements were possible through strategic reallocation of resources and leveraging existing community structures. The use and involvement of community-based structures (such as trained Community-Based Protection Champions, Sanitation Action Groups, and Water Point Committees), district technical departments, and faith-based leaders enabled extensive reach and sustainability while reducing external inputs for instance consultancy costs. Interventions such as Sports for Peace and community drama served multiple purposes –delivering protection messages, promoting social cohesion, and providing psychosocial support – enhancing cost-benefit effectiveness. The provision of goats to 10 selected most vulnerable households/individuals and the FFA which benefited 50 households was intended to strengthen economic resilience and food security. While this can be a high-impact intervention at the household level, its VfM potential is mixed when compared against the wider community needs and project scale which was targeting 2000 individuals (400 households). Furthermore, the project

demonstrated flexibility in reallocating resources based on emerging needs. For example, as part of disaster risk reduction, funds originally planned for 15 first aid kits were reallocated to sanitation kits to address more urgent public health needs, reflecting an adaptive VfM approach. The community was still supported with 10 first aid response kits to utilize during times of emergencies so this aspect was still addressed.

Despite notable successes, project implementation faced several challenges. There was a mismatch between community needs and available budget resources. Difficult terrain and logistical constraints hampered early-stage activities. Additionally, complex socio-economic vulnerabilities necessitate longer-term and more comprehensive interventions.

4.2.2 Facilitators and barriers to the achievement of project outputs and outcomes

Figure 7: 1.1.1   Facilitators and barriers

Facilitators	Barriers
• The project demonstrated efficient delivery across core components such as protection services, DRR, and WASH interventions, despite resource constraints. • Strong community engagement through leaders, church networks, and trained volunteers enhanced local ownership, participation, and case follow-up. • Effective multi-stakeholder collaboration, with line ministries (MoHCC, DSD, RIDA, MWACSMED), Chimanimani Rural District Council, District Administration through the District Development Coordinator and community leaders, improved implementation, technical support, and referrals. • Targeted training programs (e.g., DRR, CBP, PHHE, financial literacy for ISALs) enhanced community capacity in disaster preparedness, child protection, and small business management. • Use of visibility tools and creative engagement strategies (e.g., roadshows, drama, sports for peace, and peer education) promoted community cohesion and raised awareness on protection and health issues.	• Limited scale of key interventions due to budget constraints (e.g., only 30 households reached with ISAL training out of a planned 150; only 10 households received livestock support). • Solar dependency of the water system resulted in water shortages during cloudy weather; no backup hand pumps were installed. • Poor maintenance and functionality of some water points due to inactive WPCs, lack of spare parts, and vandalism (e.g., taps broken by cattle). • Environmental constraints such as drought-prone, rocky terrain undermined agriculture-based recovery efforts (e.g., impact on seed distribution), this also contributed towards accessibility challenges • Unresolved local priorities due to external budget dependency and administrative bottlenecks (e.g., delayed police post establishment, lack of progress on dam rehabilitation). • Program adjustments and compromises due to overlapping activities (e.g., midterm evaluation replaced by endline; activity delays during donor missions).

• Integration of faith-based approaches and interfaith leadership enhanced trust, social cohesion, and conflict resolution among host and IDP communities.	• Insufficient disability inclusion mechanisms and lack of systematic tracking limited the program's reach to persons with disabilities beyond general access considerations.
• Adaptive resource allocation allowed for real-time program adjustments in response to emerging needs (e.g., introduction of piped water, expansion of protection services).	•Limited resources from government stakeholders supporting the project (partner dependency to deliver services)

4.2.3 Quality of cooperation and support from stakeholders

The quality of cooperation and support from stakeholders was generally **strong and multifaceted**, involving coordination at district, provincial, and national levels. Coordination and oversight mechanisms functioned effectively across the implementation period, with ZCC actively participating in or convening:

- **17 district-level coordination meetings**, including the District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sub-Committee (DWSSC), and DRR planning platforms.
- **3 provincial engagements**, including key monitoring visits by Act for Peace.
- **2 national-level forums** focused on cholera response and refugee programming.

These engagements facilitated **alignment of interventions**, **information sharing**, and **joint problem-solving** across various sectors. Stakeholders appreciated ZCC's transparency and consistency in sharing plans, reports, and updates with relevant government offices, including the District Development Coordinator and relevant ministries. Regular joint monitoring visits and quarterly review meetings further strengthened mutual accountability, while seven internal monitoring missions by ZCC's head office reinforced financial and programmatic oversight. Government departments such as the DSD and the MWACSMED acknowledged ZCC's supportive role in social protection, gender-based violence response, case management, and economic empowerment initiatives (e.g., ISALs, dignity kit distribution, and goat-rearing projects). The MWACSMED noted that the ZCC provided funding and operational support while ensuring government leadership in key activities. However, a few gaps and challenges were observed, particularly in responsiveness from some district-level structures. For example:

- Community dialogue sessions raised issues (e.g., dam desilting, law enforcement presence) that were escalated to district authorities but remained unresolved due to resource constraints.
- MWACSMED cited limited capacity for continuous follow-up and monitoring of supported groups, highlighting the need for sustained resourcing and institutional support.

Overall, the analysis indicates that the ZCC project had been effective in achieving its intended outcomes demonstrating prudent financial stewardship and adaptive efficiency, although scale constraints in high-impact interventions slightly diminished overall reach relative to potential. The project successfully enhanced the community's need to access more water, improved knowledge

and understanding of various protection issues and installed a service seeking behaviour hence the increase in the number of cases identified/reported and supported. With regards to DRR it was adaptive as some of the components were added as a result of community engagement which enhanced project quality, facilitated problem-solving, and fostered local ownership. The project achieved its outputs efficiently, balancing resource constraints with strategic partnerships and community-based implementation modalities that maximized coverage, responsiveness, and cost-effectiveness.

4.3 Effectiveness

4.3.1 Extent of project objectives achievement

The project had 3 set objectives that remained constant over the 3 years of implementation. The design as already mentioned kept changing and adapting to different needs and constraints. As such the extent to which the objectives where achieved varies across sectors. Below is the feedback per outcome over the three years of implementation with regards to project objectives achievements.

Outcome 1: IDPs and host communities have improved access to a range of services that increase their protection.

Table 4: Outcome 1 Achievements

Component	Achievements	What Was Not Achieved / Challenges	Adaptations Over 3 Years
Case Management & PSS *(Year 1-3: Output 1.1)*	-In Year 1 project target 100 cases but reached 78 and of the identified, 92% were referred to existing safe spaces and 87% of the cases were closed In Year 2, 115 cases were identified and followed up (surpassing 100 target). With a target of referring 20 cases again the project surpassed the target reaching 30 cases referred and closed - In year 3 at the time of the evaluation 43 cases had been identified, 100% of these cases were reported and followed up - Strong multi-sectoral referral mechanisms developed. -**OI 1.1** 88% of community members reporting enhanced access to protection services due to the ZCC project - **OI1.4** 247 women and girls' survivors of violence receiving services such as counselling (ANCP indicator G.03)	- Some cases unresolved due to resource gaps (e.g., transport for follow-ups, documentation delays) especially in the first year. - Limited reach to some vulnerable groups like women-headed households and persons with disabilities. - Still gaps in safe shelter and emergency services	- Expanded target from 100 to 115 due to high demand in year 2. - Integrated emergency funds to support transport/medical costs. - Enhanced school-based protection interventions (drama clubs, awareness). - Strengthened foster care referrals (though limited by gov't capacity).
Access to Documentation & Legal Support *(Year 3: Output 1.2)*	- 56 out of targeted 100 assisted with birth certificates in Year 3 to date.	- The project is yet to reach full documentation target for year 3 (only 56/100). - Legal support remained underfunded and sensitive.	- Shifted focus to community-level referrals and documentation via mobile outreach and local leaders. - Some of the targeting expanded to host community members in need of this service.
Mental Health & PSS via LEFs	- 67 people directly reached (47 females and 20 males)	- Initial delays in identifying and addressing MH needs.	- Incorporated interfaith dialogue and religious leader engagement.

(Year 1: Output 1.2)	- 200 faith/religious leaders trained, cascading MH & PSS support. - The household survey shows that 80% of the respondents were aware of MHPSS activities supported by the project, and 88% of the respondents confirmed they used the services and found them helpful.	- Limited coverage in Mutasa for initial quarters.	- Used faith-based platforms for wider reach. - Project dropped Mutasa and focused largely on Chimanimani
Water Access (Year 1: Output 1.3 *Year 2: Output 1.2)*	- ZCC successfully solarised three boreholes in Runyararo community. -1 piped water scheme established in year one was targeting 400 households but only managed to directly serve 80 households. -In Year 2 later this was extended with an additional 10 taps constructed in the community making the total reach 400 households - Distance reduced from 1km+ to <30m for most households. The household survey shows at least 90% of respondents having water access that is less than 500meters away In Year 3 water was reticulated to Runyararo Clinic and a piped water system was also installed at Runyararo Primary, achieving the target of two institutions to be supported with water access OI1.4 60% of Water Point Committee members report enhanced capacity to maintain the community piped water system	- Some households remain unconnected due to resource limitations. - No new boreholes drilled (relied on equipping existing ones).	- Expanded the piped water scheme and added more taps given the pressure on water resources in the target location - Targeted households of PWDs and women with water taps placed nearby.
WPMC Training (Year 1: Output 1.4 *Year 2: Output 1.3)*	- 63 WPCM members (48 females and 15males) selected from 6 water points in IDP and host community were trained, surpassing the target. - 1 WPMS with 8 members was set up in IDP community to manage the ZCC solarised	- Year 2 had fewer trained due to budget adjustments for training duration - Sustainability is limited with only 1 provision for water pint	- Shifted from short sensitizations to detailed, skills-based training over multiple days.

	community borehole - Additional 20 WPCs trained in Year 2. Women constituted 89% of SAG members	management committee tool kit compared to the total number of WPC in the area	
Sanitation and hygiene *(Output 1.5)*	-OI1.2 71.2% of participants reporting increased understanding in safe sanitation and hygiene practical, communicable diseases and nutrition. -This reflects the project's effectiveness in raising awareness and improving hygiene-related behaviour, particularly through community sessions and household-level outreach. - The support provided to Runyararo clinic and Runyararo Primary school indirectly contributed to improving health outcomes for community members	This was largely achieved, however impact on this indicator was limited as the project did not place much focus on sanitation and hygiene	Involvement of SAGs, and engagement together with water point committees over project life span
Community Based Protection to address protection risks and Peace Building Dialogues (Year 2: Output 1.6) *(Year 2: Output 1.4, Output 1.5)*	- Community dialogues, drama groups, child clubs and sports for peace formed. - Increased awareness led to more case identification and resolution. -Roadshows and awareness campaigns reached **3,800+ people** - Outreach campaigns were also instrumental in reaching people with education. -In year 2 the project successfully supported 2 sporting tournaments (volleyball, soccer and netball) which helped in peace building and improve social cohesion. It was also used as a platform to address protection issues in the community -The drama and dance clubs gained recognition in the district and are often invited to different stages to perform e.g. despite weather challenges they were set to perform at the	- Persistent GBV and early marriages due to broader socio-economic factors (e.g., food insecurity). - Limited community trust and conflict between IDPs and hosts.	- Year 1 implementation pinpointed on existing protection issues that needed to be addressed, and the project adapted in year 2 including this output. - Used sports and drama and dance groups to expand protection messaging. - Formed peace committees, integrated school protection programs. -Increased coordination with DSD, ZRP. - Began community-based protection trainings

Independence Celebrations in Nhedziwa. The expansion to schools improved reach and coverage and helped in identifying cases.
-Community based structures are contributing to sustainability, 74% of CBP trainees were women
- The household survey shows that through community-based protection committees, referral mechanisms, and psychosocial outreach, the project increased awareness and accessibility of protection services.
-Positive shifts in knowledge, referrals, and perceptions of safety – especially among women and girls –suggest that the project contributed meaningfully to reducing protection risks and improving emotional well-being in targeted communities

Outcome 2: Improved resilience and capacity of IDPs and host communities to respond to climate-induced displacement drivers

Table 5: Outcome 2 Achievements

Component	Achievements	What Was Not Achieved / Challenges	Adaptations Over 3 Years
Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) management (Year 1-3: Output 2.1)	-In Year 1 52 participants were trained. CBDRM reached 53 people of the total Chimanimani district accounted for 28 members (9 Males and 19 Females) from the IDPs and Ward-level CPC - Ward-level DRR plans developed. -In Year 2, 204 people (158 female, 46 males) from IDP and host community	-resource constraints to support disaster level disaster meeting -the implementation of the CBDRM plan is dependent on the availability of resources at district and community level, this is a threat that could affect management plans	- Incorporated DRR into community dialogue platforms.

	attended the meetings to develop Disaster Risk Reduction and Management plan this was against a target of 225 -The majority of surveyed households (57%) confirmed participation in DRR training, while over two-thirds reported having household-level emergency plans in place. Community DRR committees were present in most locations, with more than 50% respondents expressing confidence in their sustainability.		
Implementation of CBDRM Plans (Year 2: Output 2.2)	- The stakeholders were involved in the review of the plans - 25 first line responders (18 females and 7 males) were trained in first aid by Red Cross Society of Zimbabwe 10 first aid kits were provided to support the trained responders -400 sanitation and hygiene kits consisting of taped buckets, soap and bin liners were also provided -MWACSMED led the establishment of 5 ISAL groups each with 30 members, and 83% of ISAL participants were women.	- Limited scale of DRR coverage for example resources limited the project to procure intended 15 first aid kits but managed 10, ISAL groups target numbers were low. -Food insecurity increased due to El Niño-induced drought.	-Plans adapted to the changing climatic environment -Involvement of Red Cross Society strengthened capacity development and improved DRR response mechanism
Resilient IDP and host community local businesses *(Year 3: Output 2.1)*	By mid-year the project manged to support 30 individuals (5 ISALs) with business development capacity building	- ISAL members not yet linked to outside markets for their businesses, there is also no clear data/information on the businesses that ISAL members are working on (limited) making this difficult to track	-ISAL refresher training - The project adapted to address the need for small projects and income generating initiatives -ISAL training included business skills.

| Enhanced food security and agriculturally based livelihoods for IDP and host community members *(Year 3: Output 2.2)* | - 50 households (44 IDP, 6 host) supported with food rations for 3 months through the FFA.
- Distributed sunflower seeds, sorghum, and cowpeas to 50 households. They were also trained on small grains production, value chain development and marketing which strengthened their resilience capacity
- Therefore **OI2.1:** 100 people reached with livelihood interventions (FFA and seed distributions)
- **OI2.2** 50 people with improved access to sufficient food (ANCP indicator F.01) (FFA)
-**OI2.3** 30 entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services (ANCP indicator G.05) (30 ISAL members were also supported then selected 10 most vulnerable households were supported with small livestock input (goats)), | - Limited scale and coverage due to funding constraints.
- Community expressed demand for longer-term support.
- Drought conditions reduced productivity and follow-up on yields was limited. | - FFA introduced in Year 3 as response to La Niño-induced food insecurity.
- Integrated into resilience strengthening activities.
-Combined with WASH interventions to support backyard gardens.
- Linked water access to food production
-Integrated resilience with protection (e.g., FFA for food-insecure HHs).
- Added seed distribution and small livestock support.
- Limited overlap on the targets increasing on reach

-Continued climate-informed programming into FY25. |

Outcome 3: Increased understanding and coordination amongst community members, government officials and other key stakeholders / duty bearers to promote the rights and protection of target communities, particularly IDPs.

Table 6: Outcome 3 Achievements

Component	Achievements	What Was Not Achieved / Challenges	Adaptations Over 3 Years
Stakeholder Engagement & Coordination (Year 1: Output 3.3)	- Regular coordination with DSD, MoWA, ZRP, RIDA, and Rural District Council. Project was aligned with District, Provincial and National Plans -17 district-level coordination meetings, including the District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sub-Committee (DWSSC), and DRR planning platforms.	-Weak sustainability mechanisms in some ministries due to resource gaps	- Strengthened local leadership inclusion and joint planning (e.g., water points, ISAL group

	-3 provincial engagements, including key monitoring visits by Act for Peace. -2 national-level forums focused on cholera response and refugee programming. - Joint trainings and site visits. - Regular feedback loops are evident showing synergy and good collaboration with stakeholders -There was improved engagement between community and government stakeholders due to ZCC project	- Host community participation was low in early stages.	formation). - Official handover of services to Council.
Community Awareness & Dialogue *(Year 1: Output 3.1, Output 3.2)*	- 2 protection campaigns reached 1800+ people (this coverage is for both Mutasa and Chimanimani) -Project site banners were present in the communities - Community Based Protection trainings resulted in improved capacity of 107 community member. (53 members (29 females and 24 males) of the IDPs and host trained on CBP in the 1st and 2nd quarter. Another 54 people from ward 7 in Chimanimani received the same support in the 4th quarter of the project) - 55+ leaders trained in peacebuilding. (Includes Local Peace Committee to include the IDP committee members, host community village heads, ZCC LEFs, District peace committee members and ZCC field staff) - Formation of ZCC Runyararo Protection Drama Group and youth clubs. - OI3.2 94% community members reported improved opportunities for meaningful engagement between community and government stakeholders due to ZCC project	-Resource constraints limiting reach	- Used interactive formats (drama, dance, storytelling). -Integrated child-friendly methodologies. -Established Protection Committees and Peace Committees
Documentation of Learnings & Handover	- Documented stories of change (e.g., Protection Committee Member's Story). - Progressive handover of services (clinic, school, water points) to council.	- Limited capacity of government structures to sustain all interventions (e.g., e.g limited capacity of DSD to provide emergency funds for survivors at community level).	- Built capacities of ward-based structures (e.g., CPCs, WPCs) to carry on key tasks. - Gradual exit and referral approach.

4.3.2 Strengthening resilience capacities of communities and hosts

The project made notable progress in strengthening resilience capacities of IDPs and host communities in Chimanimani Ward 7, particularly in response to increasing climate-induced shocks such as droughts, water scarcity, and food insecurity. Through integrated WASH, DRR, FFA, livelihoods, and social cohesion interventions, the project enabled communities to absorb short-term shocks, adapt to changing climatic conditions, and begin to transform community structures and behaviours to become more resilient and inclusive. Below is the summary of capacities strengthened by the project:

Table 7: Disaggregate the capacities by sex, age and disability status of household head

Category	Absorptive Capacity	Adaptive Capacity	Transformative Capacity
Women-headed Households	- Benefited from water access (piped water reduced time burden, improved health). - Engaged in ISALs, FFA and received dignity kits.	- Trained in financial literacy and participated in small livestock projects (10 HHs with goats). - Participated in seed distribution and hygiene sessions.	- Many women took leadership roles in Water Committees, Protection Committees and Drama Groups (e.g., 70% women in Peace Committees). - Improved agency in local decision-making.
Men-headed Households	- Participated in DRR trainings and FFA activities. - Worked in trenching and infrastructure improvements.	- Engaged in food-for-assets programs and supported school and clinic construction. - Participated in peacebuilding sports activities.	- Some men became male champions in protection and DRR committees. - Involved in behaviour change campaigns (e.g., GBV prevention).
Youth-headed Households (18–35)	- 25 young people trained as first responders and participated in protection campaigns. - Engaged in climate messaging through drama.	- Youth participated in ISALs and livelihood initiatives. - Supported awareness on early marriages and child protection.	- Formation of school and community youth clubs (e.g., Chayamiti and Runyararo Drama Groups). - Participation in Independence Day advocacy through dance and poetry.
Households with Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)	- Deliberate targeting: taps installed close to PWD households to improve access to water (see Protection	- 2 PWDs included in ISALs; cases of mental disability referred to health facilities and	- Still limited representation in leadership positions, though services were adapted to their needs.

Committee Member's Story). - 6 PWDs were part of the 10 who received the goat project support	supported through DSD.	- Gaps remain in transforming social norms around disability inclusion (KII – DSD).

To effectively bring out the impact on gender below is a table summary highlighting key aspects per gender:

Table 8: Impact on Women, Men, Boys, and Girls

Group	Impact Summary	Evidence
Women	- Gained access to economic empowerment (ISALs, goats). - Improved WASH reduced workload and health burdens. - Strengthened agency through leadership roles.	- *MWACSMED KII*: Women were involved in sports, ISALs, and GBV response. - *FGDs*: Women cited water and protection services as transformative (reduced GBV risks and improved dignity during menstruation).
Men	- Participated in DRR, peacebuilding and infrastructure rehab (trenches, clinic, school). - Gained better understanding of gender roles through outreach.	- *ZCC Staff KII*: Men involved in trenching and DRR, shifting from resistance to active support. - *Men FGD*: Men shared reduced conflict and improved cooperation with host/IDPs.
Boys	- Engaged in drama, traditional dance, and sports for peace. - Reached via school protection clubs and campaigns.	- *Protection Committee Member's Story*: Boys in drama clubs advocating for protection and climate resilience. - *FGDs*: Youth boys benefited from protection messaging in Bumba and Chayamiti schools.
Girls	- Reached through school protection campaigns, leadership in clubs. - Received PSS, redress for abuse cases, dignity kits.	- *Project Report*: 71 out of 115 protection beneficiaries were girls in year 2. - *School Drama Clubs*: Girls performed at district and national events (Independence Day).

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Quotes and Field Voices

Protection Committee Member's Story (Protection Drama Leader):

"ZCC helped us build relationships. We started working together – both host and IDPs – to dig trenches, perform plays, and protect our children. Through drama and traditional dances, we're fighting early marriages and abuse."

FGD with Women in Runyararo:

"We used to walk over a kilometer to fetch water. Sometimes kids went to school without bathing. Now water is close, and we can even plant vegetables. We feel proud and safer."

KII with Rural District Council:

"Before the project, IDPs and host communities were like oil and water. Now, people attend community meetings, play soccer together, and even campaign for peace."

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Evidence of Absorption, Adaptation, and Transformation

The project demonstrated tangible progress in strengthening the resilience of both IDP and host communities across three key dimensions: absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacities. These capacities were built through a combination of infrastructure development, community-based protection mechanisms, capacity building, and integrated livelihood support, all designed to respond to recurrent climate risks and socio-economic vulnerabilities in Chimanimani Ward 7.

1. Absorptive Capacity

Absorptive capacity refers to the ability of individuals, households, and communities to withstand and recover from shocks such as water scarcity, violence, or food insecurity.

- **Access to Clean Water**: One of the most significant absorptive outcomes was the establishment and extension of a solar-powered piped water system. A total of 15 stand-up taps were installed in the communities, reducing walking distances from over 1 km to under 30 meters for at least 2,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries, including persons with disabilities (PWDs), women, and children. Additionally, 8 taps were installed at Runyararo primary and Runyararo Clinic. This intervention directly reduced the health risks associated with unsafe water sources and time poverty, particularly among women and girls

- **Protection Case Management**: The project absorbed community-level social shocks by supporting 236 protection cases, far surpassing the initial target for year 1 and 2. These included cases of GBV (11), child abuse (16), child marriages (11), drug and substance abuse (6), and medical emergencies (17). All cases were referred to appropriate services protection services.

Food-for-Assets (FFA): In Year 3, the project implemented an FFA activity that reached 50 households (44 IDP and 6 host) for three months. Participants engaged in community

infrastructure work (clinic, school, road clearing) and received 40kg maize meal, 8kg beans, and 4L cooking oil per household. This intervention helped buffer against food insecurity exacerbated by the 2023/24 El Niño-induced drought, allowing households to maintain minimal food consumption during a lean season.

2. Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive capacity describes the systems and behaviours that communities develop to adjust to climate risks and reduce long-term vulnerability.

- **DRR:** The project supported the training of 25 first responders and formation of DRR committees in both IDP and host communities. These groups participated in early warning dissemination, emergency preparedness, and risk mapping. In addition, ward-level DRR plans were developed, with 30 community members in Chimanimani trained and capacitated to respond to natural hazards.
- **WASH**: Community adaptation was supported through the training of Water Point Committees (WPCs) and local plumbers. Nevertheless, qualitative feedback indicated that refresher trainings are needed, particularly as some committee members lack clarity on roles and responsibilities. The use of overflow water from the school piped water system for a proposed nutrition garden by Runyararo Headmaster reflects community innovation and adaptation in optimizing water use. RIDA during validation also recommended further pipeline extensions and the installation of five tap stands to reduce water-fetching distances further.
- **Livelihood Diversification**:
    - **ISALs**: A savings and loan group of 30 members was formed, comprising 27 women and 3 men, with 2 members living with disabilities. Members received training in financial literacy, business planning, and group fund management.
    - **Goat Project**: A pilot involving 10 households, each receiving 4 goats, was introduced as a climate-smart livelihood approach targeting the most vulnerable households. The effectiveness of the goat-rearing initiative and stakeholder calls to strengthen post-distribution support for resilience and income generation.
    - **Seed Distribution**: In response to drought and food insecurity, the project distributed drought-tolerant seeds (e.g., mapfunde/sorghum, nyemba/cowpeas, sunflower) to 50 households, promoting household-level food production even under low rainfall conditions.
- **Social Cohesion and Protection:** According to MYEDVT, the project successfully promoted inclusive and youth-friendly activities that enhanced social cohesion and community resilience. Initiatives such as *sports for peace*, community drama, and the *community drug and substance awareness champions* served multiple functions from creating safe spaces, disseminating social messaging, to fostering trust across youth groups. These activities increased positive engagement and coping mechanisms among youth, particularly in high-tension or post-displacement contexts.

3. Transformative Capacity

Transformative capacity refers to the long-term changes in systems, institutions, and power dynamics that enhance community resilience beyond individual coping mechanisms.

- **Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding**: One of the project's most profound impacts was in uniting formerly divided groups. Through consistent community dialogues, the formation of peace committees, and sports for peace events, relations between IDPs and host communities significantly improved. Over 200 interfaith and religious leaders were engaged in peace messaging, promoting tolerance and cooperation. The formation of the Runyararo Protection Drama Group, composed of both host and IDP youth, became a key vehicle for messaging on GBV, child protection, and climate adaptation – and was recognized at district-level events, including Independence Day celebrations.

- **WASH**: The project's potential for long-term transformation is evident in stakeholder recommendations to integrate the piped water scheme serving the clinic with the ZINWA system to ensure sustainable and uninterrupted service delivery. The community-led maintenance model that is based on monthly contributions was welcomed but also seen as needing review to ensure inclusivity and sustainability. RIDA further expressed hope that ZCC would expand WASH interventions to surrounding underserved villages, reinforcing the demand for broader systemic impact and equity in service provision.

- **Resilient Livelihood**: For sustained impact, MYEDVT suggested introducing *vocational skills outreach programs* tailored to youth. Such interventions would address structural drivers of unemployment and further equip young people to pursue dignified livelihoods, contributing to long-term resilience and transformation.

- **Institutional Strengthening**: The project helped establish and support multiple community-based structures:
    - ~ **Protection Committees** functioning across wards and schools.
    - ~ **Water Point Management Committees (WPMCs)** trained in infrastructure maintenance and gender-sensitive water management. While ZCC facilitated training for plumbers and Water Point Committees (WPCs), some members expressed uncertainty about their roles, indicating the need for refresher training before project close-out.
    - ~ **Child protection clubs** in schools (Chayamiti and Runyararo primary schools), enabling student-led reporting and advocacy. This was evidenced by Runyararo Primary Headmaster through a KII.

- **Normative Shifts**:
    - ~ **Gender Roles**: Women's leadership became more visible, particularly in protection, WASH, and peacebuilding committees where women made up over 70% of some committees.

- ~ **Disability Inclusion**: Households with PWDs were prioritized for infrastructure design (e.g., water taps located closer), and PWDs were supported through case management and livelihoods, though challenges remain in long-term inclusion.
- ~ **Youth Agency**: School-aged youth played central roles in awareness campaigns, protection monitoring, and behaviour change education through performance arts and peer outreach.

Through deliberate, phased, and context-responsive programming, the project enabled displaced and host communities to not only survive recurrent shocks but begin a path toward transformation. The interconnected interventions in protection, WASH, livelihoods, and peacebuilding collectively enhanced the community's capacity to absorb sudden shocks, adapt to climate variability, and transform social structures and behaviours that previously left them vulnerable.

Remaining Gaps and Recommendations
- Livelihoods and food security interventions reached limited households; scaling up is necessary for systemic resilience.
- While Inclusion of PWDs and elderly were considered, representation in leadership and tailored support still needs improvement.
- Seed support was helpful, but follow-up on productivity and market linkages is needed.
- Local government and protection structures still lack full capacity to sustain emergency services and case management independently.

4.3.3 Effectiveness of implementation approaches used in the project

The project employed a multi-stakeholder model that brought together civil society, government departments, traditional leaders, and faith-based actors to address the intersecting needs of IDPs and host communities. This model was largely effective, enabling coordinated delivery of interventions across sectors including WASH, protection, food security, health, education, and resilient livelihoods to both IDP and host communities in Runyararo. However, effectiveness varied across sectors with some structural and systemic limitations.

Strengths of the Multi-Stakeholder Model
a) Inclusive Coordination and Oversight
As confirmed through KIIs with government stakeholders, ZCC regularly engaged with district-level coordination platforms (e.g., DWSSC, CPC), convened district meetings, provincial meetings, and participated in national-level forums on cholera and refugee response as shared in past project implementation reports. ZCC currently has a valid MoU with Chimanimani Rural District Council operational until 2028. Chimanimani District Development Coordinator echoed that: "*ZCC staff coordinates well with the district, they inform and engage always! They also share reports and their plans with the office. Even when they have visitors come through, they inform and were always prepared to welcome them and their partners. It was evident in the meeting we had Act for Peace where we*

invited different offices how well the project coordinated with various district offices in Chimanimani. ZCC also communicates when and when not they have resources to support for instance CPU activities at district level." Stakeholders such as the DSD and MWACSMED acknowledged ZCC's role in referrals, case management, psychosocial support, and economic empowerment of vulnerable groups through ISALs and goat projects. Through the various forums there was knowledge exchange, coordination and collaboration. ZCC and AfP as implementing and grant management partners' coordination enabled project adaptations and collaboration to a greater extent. Evidence of the annual project reports and donor visits indicates effective oversight was present.

b) Faith-Based Engagement and Local Ownership

The project's faith-based entry point facilitated strong community trust and buy-in, as confirmed by the community leadership FGD. According to Reverand Takawira (LEF), the church's neutrality helped transcend political and social divides, and its influence was key in protection awareness, unity building, and mobilization for collective action. Faith leaders and LEFs were also instrumental in providing mental health psychosocial support within communities. The faith-based, inclusive, and community-centered approach enabled strong participation, trust, and local ownership.

c) Multi-sectoral Reach and Integration

The model facilitated simultaneous implementation across sectors, for instance the installation of piped water schemes, sanitation awareness, and improvement of access for IDPs and host communities including considerations for persons with disabilities (WASH). The Establishment of protection committees in the community was integrated with community drama and dance-based education, ZCC project and DSD staffs' support on case management, the distribution of dignity kit distributions, sports for peace, community awareness and mobilization efforts. Community dialogues, drama, and Sports for Peace fostered cohesion, protection awareness, and youth engagement. These activities built soft infrastructure for peace and mutual support and enabled a more effective approach towards attaining improved protection outputs within the project (Protection).

The seed and goat distributions, Food for Assets activities, and DRR trainings all aimed at improving the resilient and climate adaptation capacity of the community. Based on the KII with the project staff, efforts were taken to minimize overlapping beneficiary targeting to enable more reach despite the targets being low (Food Security & Livelihoods). The provision of sanitary pads (dignity kits), installation of a piped water system at Runyararo Primary School, reticulation to Runyararo Clinic and community health education increased school attendance among girls with the opening of the school and improved community hygiene (Health & Education). The Health Community FGD emphasized that interventions like water access and sanitary pad distribution significantly improved children's health, hygiene, and school attendance. All these engagements enabled community members to gain access to valuable information, expertise, and resources related to protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and waster access.

Limitations and Gaps

Despite these successes, the multi-stakeholder model faced limitations, particularly related to resource availability, service coverage, and coordination at lower levels. The project reach for seed distribution benefited only 50, the FFA also reached 50 households, and 10 households benefited from the goat project. The targeting and reach raised equity concerns, especially under worsening drought conditions.

Despite water access having improved in Runyararo with the expansion of the piped water system in the second and third year, in the host community some households lack water infrastructure, the guards in the area protecting infrastructure face challenges with the water point committee to manage the water points resulting in rationing of water as noted in the Health Community FGD and through observations. The project intended to address existing weak protection infrastructure in the area and efforts to install a police post in the area were evident from the donor's responsiveness. However, the ZRP stakeholders delayed the process and recommended that the place does not need a post. The district stakeholders then proposed it be established at Copper, this still left the area in need of police presence for more effective response to GBV, theft, and abuse. Several FGDs (women, youth, and health) cited the lack of nearby law enforcement as a key risk.

Effectiveness of locally led initiatives

1. Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion

    a) Community Dialogues and Leadership Engagement

Evidence from multiple data sources indicates that faith-based dialogues, community workshops, and locally anchored leadership training were key to reducing tensions between IDPs and hosts and fostering unity. As described by Protection Committee Member (KII), ZCC entered a split community where "*less than 30 people would attend meetings*" due to mistrust and division. Through training 55 traditional and community leaders, and regular community engagements, the project built social bridges, and unity was gradually fostered with increasing community attendance and active engagement in dialogue sessions. In the mixed FGD with women (IDP and host), participants reported that "*we were facing conflicts between host community and IDPs, but ZCC made peace among us*", and noted a visible change in relationships over time.

A host FGD participant affirmed that "*workshops and dialogues were helpful in conflict resolution*," suggesting that platforms for collective reflection improved understanding and harmony. Participants across groups recognized that the integration of church leaders, village heads, councillors, and volunteers allowed for inclusive discussions, encouraging both IDPs and hosts to view themselves as one community. The AGRITEX Extension Officer highlighted those inclusive approaches – especially integrating host communities into all activities – significantly reduced social tension and selection bias, supporting community-wide cohesion. The dialogues and engagements facilitated platforms helped foster open communication, reduced tensions, encouraged a shared sense of identity, particularly in areas previously marked by division and

empowered local leadership to continue engaging in peacebuilding –such as leading conflict resolution – promoting shared responsibility in community projects, and advocating against harmful behaviours like GBV and early marriage.

A participant in the men's FGD also highlighted that all activities, including dialogues, were "*done in peace and harmony*" and aligned with cultural and religious norms. The project enhanced community-based protection structures such as protection committees and CCWs. However, concerns over the continued absence of a local police post, with survivors needing to travel long distances at prohibitive costs. A Community member through a KII recommended strengthening the protection committee's response capacity through basic tools (phones, bicycles) and sustained support for awareness groups. In FGDs with women and youth, participants echoed this concern, citing insecurity for women and girls due to poor policing and inaccessible justice mechanisms.

b) Sports and Cultural Activities for Peace

The **Sports for Peace initiative** was highly effective in mobilizing youth and promoting cohesion through non-violent, collective experiences. In the youth FGD, participants highlighted that "*sporting helped since it reduces violence and stress and promotes unity*." The host FGD similarly noted that *"Sports brought peace and innovation and helped reduce drug use,"* serving as a protective outlet and reducing drug abuse. Sports created inclusive and culturally acceptable spaces for interaction across groups, particularly in environments where formal reconciliation may have faced barriers. Initially this was viewed as a dividing feature with some games being host versus IDPs but over time and through engagements it became a unifying approach that people looked forward to. Protection Committee Member (KII) further emphasized the role of cultural and creative expression through the ZCC Runyararo Protection Drama Group, which he chairs. The group actively conducts awareness sessions across schools and community gatherings, tackling issues like GBV, drug abuse, and child protection through performance-based education. The expansion of similar groups at Chayamiti Secondary and Runyararo Primary School, teaching *muchongoyo* and *mhande* dances, further illustrates how traditional arts were harnessed for peace education and empowerment. These activities fostered social bonding, behaviour change, and community pride, particularly among youth, and were reported to reduce GBV and child abuse cases in the area.

2. Resilience to Future Shocks

a) Water access

WASH interventions significantly contributed to household resilience and public health, though gaps remain. The Health Community Members FGD praised ZCC for piped water systems: *"We used to walk long distances, one bucket was used for cooking, bathing, and washing — now water is everywhere. It's a big achievement."* Improved access to water enhanced school attendance, hand hygiene, and overall well-being. However, Dokotoko village (Host community)

remains underserved posing pressure on the water available in Runyararo and requires water expansion.

Figure 8: Piped Water system servicing Runyararo supported by ZCC Project

The AGRITEX Officer together with the community leaders in a FGDs emphasized that cloudy weather limits solar water pumping, forcing some households to buy water and jojo tanks further straining water availability for other households. Despite the majority of households reporting access to piped water, when asked about their satisfaction now with regards to accessing water, their satisfaction levels were mixed. At least 58% of the respondents are "**Very Satisfied**" and "**Satisfied**", while others report **Neutral** or even **Dissatisfied**, potentially due to inconsistent supply or maintenance issues. The establishment of a water system at Runyararo primary school and reticulation of water to the clinic and shared by Mr Rakabopa (RIDA), eased water access for daily use and emergencies.

Water Access Satisfaction of IDPs and Hosts

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied
Host	6	9	6	5
IDPs	16	15	15	8
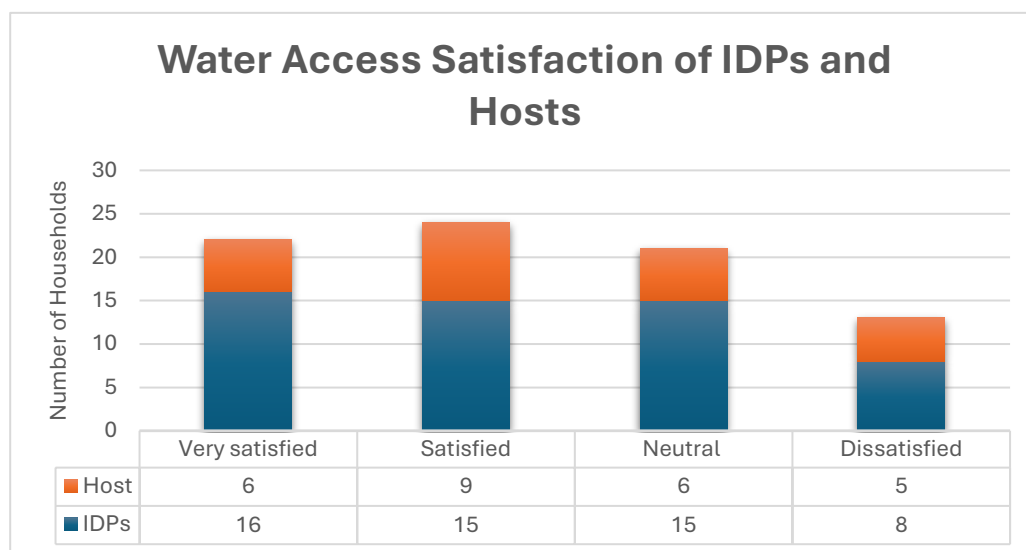
Figure 9: Water Access satisfaction

Figure 10: A tap installed at Runyararo Primary, and tanks installed at Runyararo Clinic

b) Livelihoods and DRR

DRR and livelihood support demonstrated some success but remained limited in scale. FFA, seed distribution (e.g., cow peas, sunflower, sorghum), and ISALs promoted collaboration and income security. The Seed distributions had a great impact to those who received. Protection Committee Member's KII noted these interventions improved food security and also enabled households to

plant crops: "*Mukasvika pamba pamai vangu munona nyemba dzaka waridzwa panze nekuti takakwanisa kukohwa zvakana/ if you visit my mother's house, you will find the cow peas drying in the sun because we had a reasonably good harvest).*

Figure 11: Some of the Sunflowers planted and drying cow peas resulting from seed distribution

The AGRITEX Officer reported good uptake of small grains and nutrition gardens but reiterated the pressing need to expand water access to support future food security, particularly in drought-prone areas. Based on observations, the yields were low, and this was a result of the poor rains and drought. The seed distribution however, only benefited 50 households, and just 10 households received goats. Through KII, an IDP participant shared his sentiments regarding the distribution and thought it was unfair and should not have considered any host community households since it was limited. This may have been a tension and or conflict contributory factor amongst the beneficiaries despite the community being involved in the selection and targeting process. The men's FGD and mixed women's FGD similarly emphasized that food insecurity persists, especially given the El Niño-induced drought, weak soils, and insufficient irrigation.

The project implemented multiple community-based DRR initiatives which increased awareness and preparedness, though coverage was limited. As detailed by Ebo's story, 25 first aiders were trained and equipped with first aid kits now stationed at schools, clinics, and VHWs. These efforts helped the community "*learn to stay prepared*," though the scale remains insufficient for broader emergencies. Several FGDs (men and women) acknowledged that while DRR trainings occurred, the lack of early warning systems, inadequate shelter infrastructure, and absence of localized emergency services (e.g., police, tarred roads) continue to limit resilience.

Despite these efforts, significant gaps in disaster resilience remain. Participants in both the women's FGD and men's FGD highlighted that their homes remain structurally weak (e.g., "log cabins leak during rain" or are "attacked by termites"). Both groups noted the absence of nearby police services, which leaves women and girls vulnerable to GBV and limits emergency response capacity. One participant in the women's FGD shared, "*We do not know where to report our cases... Cashel is too far, and we don't have bus fares.*" Although a disaster committee exists, the

men's and youth FGDs noted that there are no structured early warning systems or formal preparedness plans, and communities largely rely on radios or informal networks

Locally led initiatives were highly effective in promoting peaceful co-existence. Faith-based dialogues, cultural arts, and sports contributed to attitude change, mutual respect, and cooperation between IDPs and hosts. The deliberate inclusion of both groups, especially in WASH, livelihoods, and leadership structures, created a sense of ownership and unity. However, efforts to enhance community-level disaster preparedness and resilience were less effective, constrained by infrastructure limitations, protection service gaps, and the absence of robust early warning systems. Continued investment in resilience infrastructure, protection mechanisms, and institutionalized DRR planning is essential to build upon the foundation laid by this project.

c. Effectiveness of the Participation of Churches and other Faith groups

The participation of churches and faith groups – particularly through the leadership of Local Ecumenical Fellowships (LEFs) and ZCC's faith-based identity – was highly effective and contributed significantly to the project's success across multiple components.

1. The involvement of churches improved trust and social acceptance of the project, especially in communities with pre-existing tensions between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host populations. Faith leaders acted as neutral and trusted mediators, helping to:
   - Build bridges between divided groups (e.g., Runyararo and Chayamiti)
   - Address stigmatizing language (e.g., discouraging terms like "Mu Idai")
   - Promote inclusion and shared ownership of community assets and activities

   In FGDs across IDP, host, and youth groups, participants consistently expressed that the church's involvement brought fairness, peace, and emotional reassurance, and that church leaders were approachable and helpful in resolving personal and community issues. Interfaith collaboration through ZCC, EFZ, ZINATHA, and UDACIZA was instrumental in shifting negative perceptions towards IDPs and fostering mutual support within communities. Faith-based dialogues were noted to have catalyzed changes in attitudes towards inclusion and protection practices.

2. LEFs facilitated prayers, Bible study, devotions, and counselling, which contributed to psychosocial well-being and healing for trauma-affected individuals. They also initiated:
   - Community dialogues on GBV and poverty
   - Behaviour change sessions on respect, responsibility, and empowerment
   - Use of games and sports to foster unity and cohesion among youth and adults

   Faith leaders, through LEFs and other networks, played a vital role in delivering psychosocial support. As described by Rev. Mabiyana, church-based counselling helped displaced persons process trauma, adapt to new environments, and reframe displacement through a faith-based lens, thus strengthening community resilience and cohesion. The integration of spiritual and emotional support enhanced the reach and cultural resonance of protection, PSS, and community empowerment efforts.

3. Church structures were actively involved in:
   - Mobilizing communities for project activities and distributions
   - Participating in workshops, FFA, asset management, and feedback sessions
   - Collaborating with ZCC staff and acting as extensions of the implementing team

This contributed to high community participation, especially during events and service provision. The church's role created a safe and familiar space for community interaction, enhancing participation across genders and age groups.

4. The presence of a faith-based organization brought a sense of dignity, purpose, and divine favour among community members, especially those who had experienced displacement and trauma. FGDs Respondents noted that:
   - Faith increased as they saw prayers being answered through tangible support
   - The church promoted neutrality, helping reduce political tensions and making the intervention more inclusive
   - Community members felt more spiritually grounded and supported

Community leaders specifically emphasized that shared faith values helped unify the population beyond political or ethnic lines.

4.4   Impact

4.4.1   Project Contribution to recovery

The project meaningfully supported the recovery of IDPs and host communities, contributing to both the restoration of essential services and the rebuilding of social fabric, dignity, and livelihoods. Across water, food security, protection, and social cohesion, the project offered tangible and psychosocial recovery pathways to vulnerable individuals (IDPs).

Recovery of Individuals and Communities
1. Water as a Gateway to Stability, Health and Dignity
The installation and extension of a solar-powered piped water scheme in Runyararo was widely recognized by community members as the project's most transformative intervention, positively impacting over 2,000 people across both IDP and host communities. The intervention reduced water-fetching distances from over 1 kilometre to under 30 meters for most households – a change that dramatically improved safety, time use, and public health. The households engaged acknowledged how distance to be travelled has improved.

Distance Travelled to fetch Water

	Less than 500m	Between 500m and 1km	More than 1 km
Host	27.50%	3.75%	1.25%
IDP	62.50%	8.75%	0
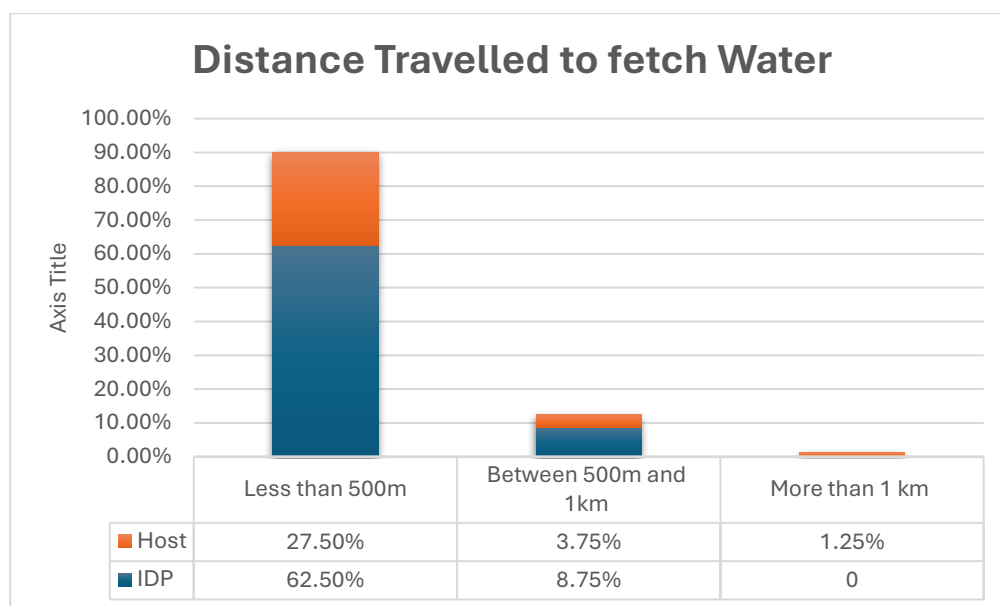
Figure 12: Distance Travelled to fetch Water

The water system was not only vital for household needs but enabled community-based agriculture, improved school hygiene, and enhanced nutrition through small gardens for some of the households. Access was deliberately extended to households of persons with disabilities, prioritizing proximity and ease of access.

"We said our biggest problem was water and ZCC helped us. They even moved taps closer to the disabled people's homes."
FGD participant, *Water Point Management Committee Group*

Figure 13: FGD with Water Point Committees and SAG Members

Compared to 2022, most households report **"Better" access** to water now than in 2022, aligning with infrastructure upgrades during the project. A smaller portion of host community members indicates **"Same"** or no response.
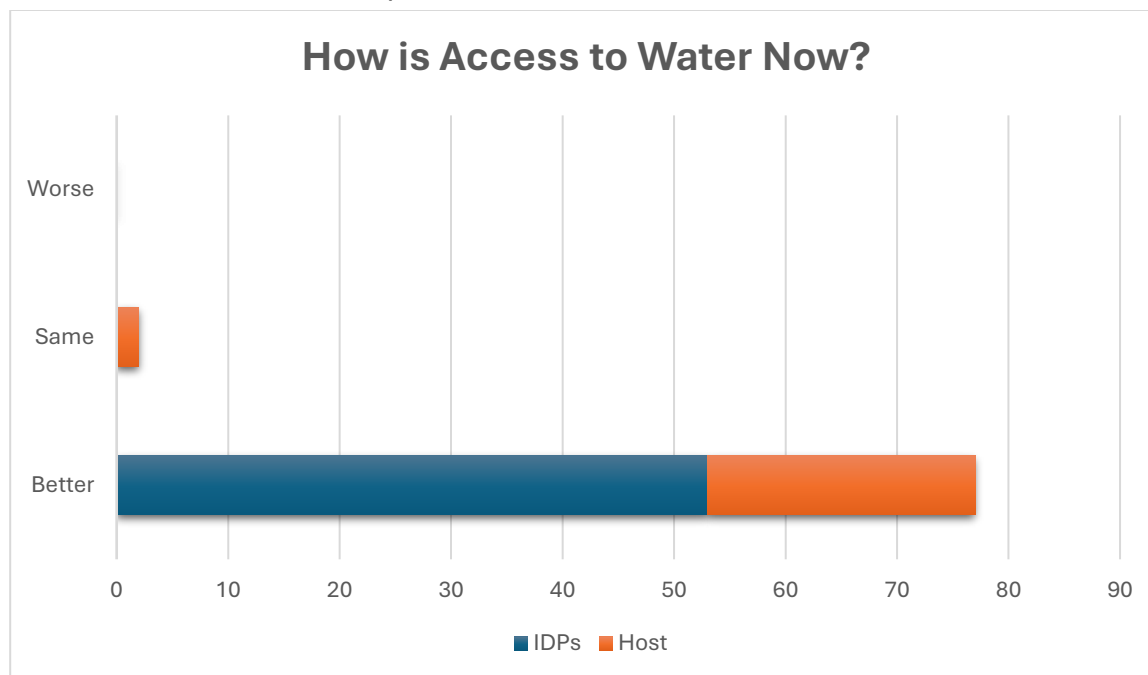
Figure 14: Change on Access to Water

Immediate Recovery Impact

The increased availability of clean water helped reduce the spread of waterborne diseases, which had been common due to reliance on contaminated streams and unsafe storage practices. Community health workers and Village Health Workers (VHWs) reported fewer cases of diarrhoea and skin infections, particularly among children under five.

"ZCC's efforts to bring water and drill boreholes for the hospital and school have ensured a supply of clean water and make it easy for community members to have access to clean water. This has improved children's personal hygiene and reduced illnesses"
FGD participant, woman Host Group, Ward 7

The availability of water enabled households to establish backyard gardens (especially among women-headed households), contributing to dietary diversity. It also improved hygiene practices, including handwashing, menstrual hygiene, and the safe preparation of food.

"When ZCC came, many people were not even staying in these houses because there was no water. Now we have taps near our homes. I even grow vegetables for my family and sell to others."
FGD participant, woman IDP, Runyararo

Women and girls, who previously spent up to 2 hours per day fetching water, now use that time for school, gardening, caregiving, or income-generating activities. This shift also reduced the risk of gender-based violence, as long walks to remote water sources had previously exposed women and girls to threats.

"Back then children were raped due to traveling long distances to fetch water and come back home late thus putting them to risk of rape but now water points are close reducing this risk"
FGD participants, women from Health group Runyararo

Secondary and Long-Term Effects
The piped water system improved privacy and dignity, particularly for women, adolescent girls, school going children, and persons with disabilities, who now have water points placed close to their homes and at Runyararo primary school. The water system was built and maintained through a highly participatory process, involving local Water Point Management Committees (WPMCs), SAGs, District Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee (DWSSC), and community volunteers. This approach that ZCC applied fostered a sense of collective ownership and accountability, with trained committees now taking charge of minor maintenance and reporting breakdowns. The major challenge there is the capacity of water point committee to manage the infrastructure.

Despite the significant gains, some gaps remain. A portion of households particularly those in outer areas of Runyararo were not yet connected to the extended piped system due to budget constraints. The piped water system depends on solar energy to pump water into tanks, this poses a challenge during cloudy and or rainy days where water being pumped is very low.

"kana kuine makore mvura haitobude kunyanya varikumusoro uko haitosvike (when its cloudy the water will not come out of the taps especially for houses on higher ground water will not reach them)"
Male participant, Community leaders FGDs

The household survey also assessed reliability of the water within households. The feedback shows at least 25% of households feel the water is not reliable and available for less than 12 hours a day. This reflected on challenges to having water through as a result of cloud cover and also as a result of the rationing issues raised during FGDs. The validation meeting confirmed that piped water systems had a measurable impact on WASH services, particularly in the school and clinic.

Reliability of Accessing Water

	Somewhat reliable, water available at an average of 12 hours per day	Very reliable through-out the day	Not reliable at all, water available less than 12 hours per day
■ Number of Households	36	24	20
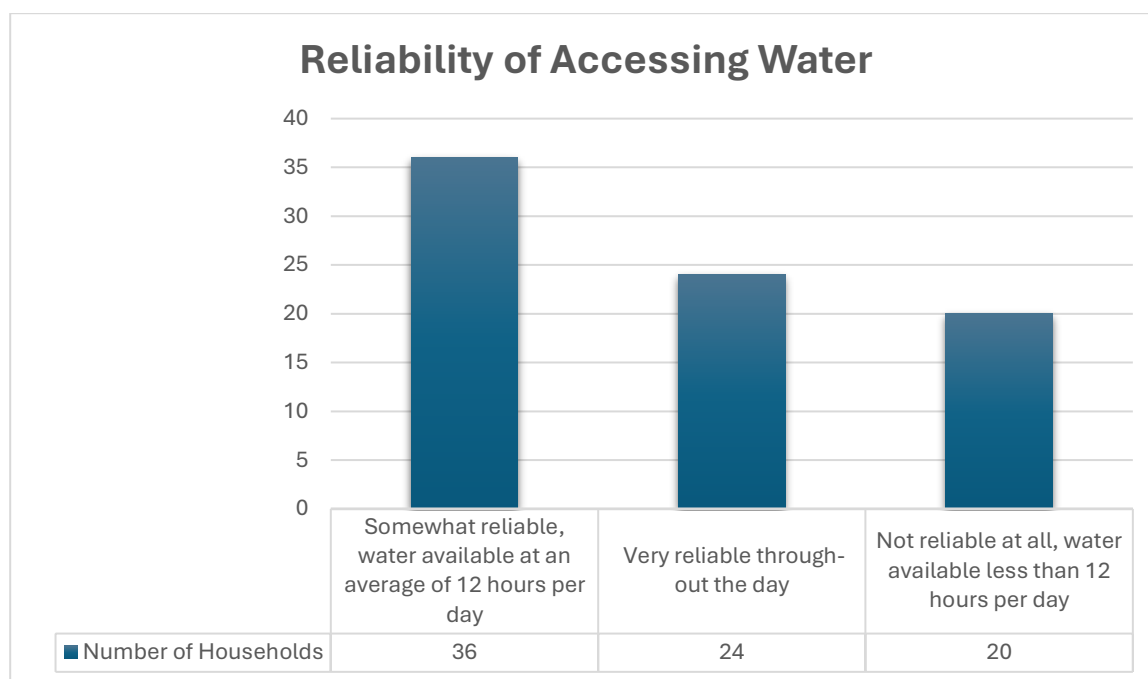
Figure 15: Reliability of the water

2. Protection and Psychosocial Recovery

The project made substantial progress in strengthening community-based protection mechanisms, resulting in notable shifts in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours related to violence prevention, child protection, and psychosocial support. These gains were driven by a combination of capacity building, awareness campaigns, drama-based messaging, and the establishment of localized protection structures. The community case management system had supported 236 individuals – including women, girls, and boys – who had experienced GBV, child abuse, early marriages, neglect, and mental health-related issues. The project facilitated referrals to key service providers such as the DSD, ZRP, local health facilities, and community protection committees. In many cases, the project also provided logistical support, including transport and medical assistance, enabling survivors to access timely care and justice. As a result of these interventions, knowledge levels improved significantly among both adults and children, with more people understanding what constitutes abuse and where to seek help.

a) Knowledge of where to seek help

A key indicator of protection system effectiveness is whether community members know where to turn when experiencing violence, trauma, or legal issues. The survey revealed that 73 out of 80 respondents (91%) reported knowing where to seek help. Commonly mentioned sources included the ZRP, the DSD, local churches, and community-based organisations, including those supported by the ZCC project. This high level of awareness demonstrates strong outreach and visibility of protection referral pathways introduced or strengthened through the intervention. It also suggests a level of trust in both formal and informal structures, which is crucial for timely reporting and early response.

The widespread knowledge of where to access help indicates that the project successfully embedded protection messaging and resource mapping into community dialogue platforms, trainings, and awareness campaigns.

Knowledge of Where to Seek Help
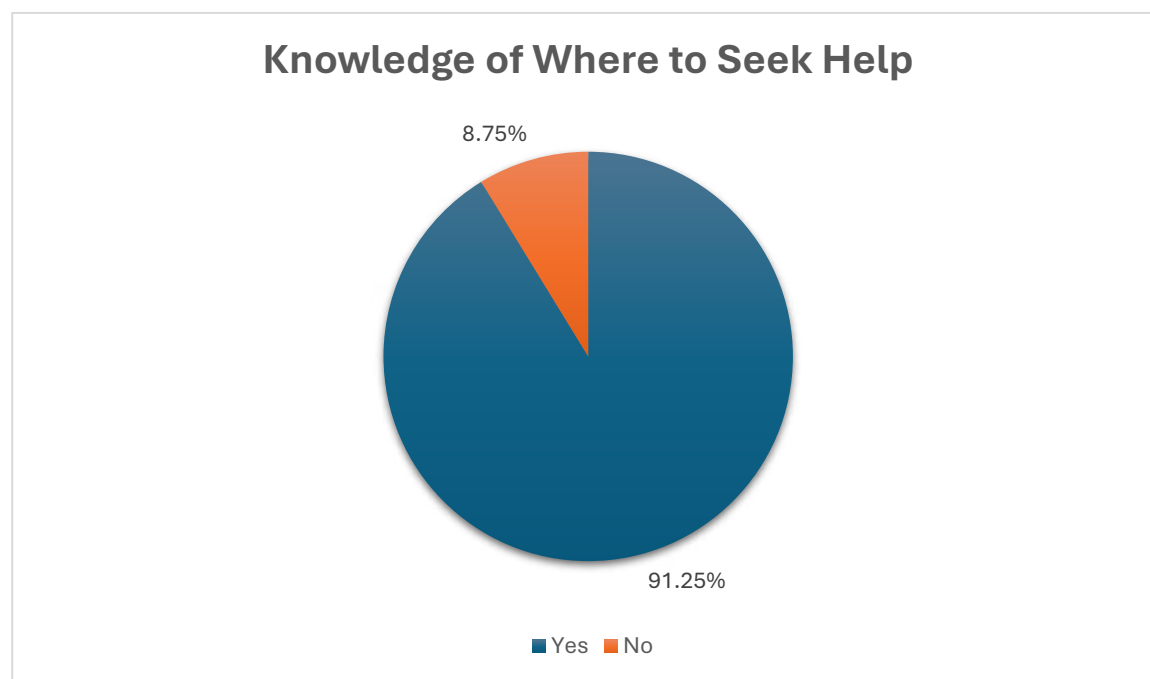
Figure 16: Knowledge of where to access Protection Services

However, sustaining this outcome will require continued capacity-building of local structures, refresher training for referral actors, and ensuring consistent messaging across all segments of the population including youth, persons with disabilities, and those in remote areas.

b) Attitude towards Reporting

Attitudes toward reporting shifted, especially among women and youth, who began to speak out more openly against harmful practices such as early marriage and domestic violence; and behavioural change was visible in increased reporting of cases, stronger community support for survivors, and reduced tolerance for violence, as reported in focus groups and stakeholder interviews. Of the households engaged through the survey, about 79% confirmed referral to service providers, showing strong pathway utilization.

"Now people' know path of referrals and where to report when abused thus reducing the rate of abuse and no one can suffer from within without reporting a case"
FGD participant, woman from Health group Runyararo

"Peacebuilding, sports and recreation activities were also supported by the organization. The school drama and dance clubs that address protection and aims to protect boys and girls is something to be proud of. Sports for peace had a very strong impact on women and youth and we

can see notable improvement in the behaviour of young people with a reduction in early child marriages in the community."
KII Participant, Chayamiti Primary School Teacher

However, a critical institutional gap remains. Runyararo does not have a permanent police post, despite repeated efforts by ZCC and community leaders to advocate for one. The one that was supported by the project was later installed at Copper base where the old police post was before Cyclone IDAI. This absence continues to undermine access to justice, particularly for survivors of GBV and other sensitive protection cases in Runyararo limiting the sustainability of protection efforts.

"In case of violence or problem we do not know where to report to because the nearest ZRP camp is located in Nyanyadzi or Cashel which is very far and because we do not have sources of stable incomes it will be expensive for some of us to reach those places."
FGD participant, woman from IDP group, Runyararo

c) Access to Protection Services

The evaluation assessed the extent to which protection services were perceived as accessible to all members of the community, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and other potentially marginalized groups. Survey responses show that 64% (51 respondents) felt that *everyone had fair and equal access* to protection services, such as reporting pathways, psychosocial support, and referral mechanisms. A further 24% (19 respondents) indicated that while most people could access services, *some groups still faced challenges* – these were often linked to physical distance, lack of awareness, or stigma. Conversely, 8% (6 respondents) reported that *many people were excluded or unaware* of how to access protection services. This points to remaining gaps in outreach and community-level awareness, particularly in hard-to-reach or socially excluded households. An additional 4% (3 respondents) were unsure or did not have enough information to assess accessibility. These findings suggest that while the project made strong progress in ensuring equitable access to protection services, targeted efforts are still needed to reach underserved groups and reinforce inclusive communication strategies. Strengthening collaboration with local leaders, faith-based structures, and existing referral pathways could further improve coverage and trust in protection mechanisms.

Protection Services Accessible to All

Category	Percentage
Not sure / I don't know enough to say	3.75%
No, Many people were excluded or unaware of how to access them	7.50%
Somewhat, Most people could access, but some groups had challenges	23.75%
Yes, Everyone had fair and equal access	63.75%
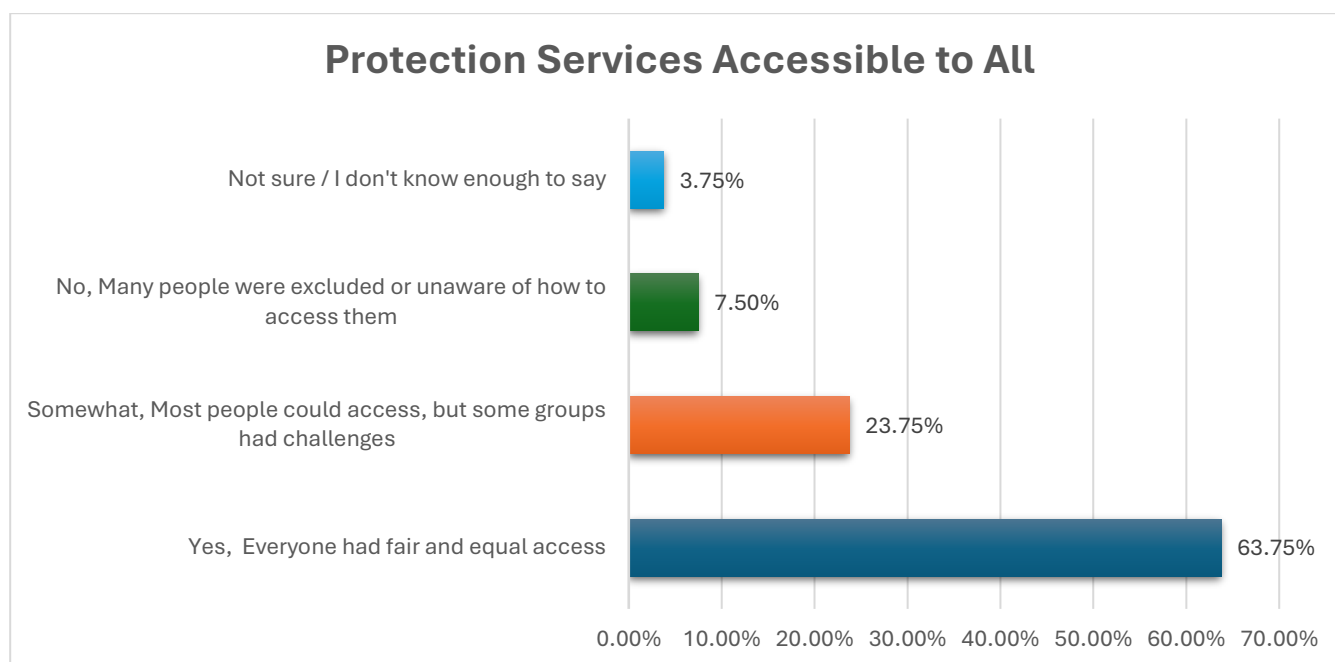
Figure 17: Whether Protection services provided through ZCC were accessible to all

The impact of the absence of a police post includes delayed response and referrals as survivors and local leaders often face long delays in receiving police assistance, especially in urgent cases of domestic violence or child abuse. Some cases have reported to local leadership to resolve cases, but this is always challenging as most cases go unresolved. The lack of nearby law enforcement presence reduces deterrence for perpetrators and may lead to underreporting of crimes due to fear of retaliation or stigma. The project managed to capacitate local actors, however the absence of police places unsustainable burden of providing informal mediation and support in the absence of formal systems. Additionally, some survivors are abandoning cases due to distance, fear, or lack of follow-up, particularly for incidents requiring court action or medical-legal support within 72 hours. Despite ZCC's coordination with stakeholders – including ZRP and district stakeholders – the absence of a formal police base in Runyararo reflects a systemic gap that falls beyond the scope of project-led interventions. Addressing this requires multi-level advocacy and investment from state actors and other development partners.

d) Mental Health and PSS

The mental health and psychosocial support offered through LEFs, community dialogue, sports and drama helped trauma-affected individuals regain confidence and build coping capacity. These interventions were particularly impactful in a context where communities had endured multiple layers of trauma, including forced displacement, loss of family members during Cyclone Idai, chronic poverty, and gender-based violence. By embedding MHPSS in faith-led structures and community spaces, the project made psychosocial support more accessible and culturally acceptable, addressing the stigma traditionally associated with mental health in rural Zimbabwe.

LEFs, composed of trained religious leaders provided basic counselling, emotional support, and referrals to government services where necessary.

"At first, initiatives like the Sports for Peace match between Runyararo and Chayamiti felt more like a conflict than a unifying activity. The use of labels like 'Host' and 'IDP' – especially calling people 'Mu Idai' – created division. But with ZCC's support, things changed. People began to see each other as one community. Togetherness was difficult in the beginning, but now there is real transformation."
KII Participant, Local Ecumenical Fellowships

"Churches offered counselling support providing a safe space for us as community members to share our concerns and receive guidance"
Female participant, Host FGD, Runyararo

Community members, including youth and older adults, gained a clearer understanding of mental health as a legitimate health issue, rather than a spiritual punishment or weakness. This improved recognition of symptoms such as trauma, anxiety, or substance dependency –especially in adolescents and survivors of GBV. There was a notable reduction in stigma surrounding mental illness and emotional distress. Faith leaders reported that people began to open up in safe spaces such as church-based counselling sessions or after drama performances that addressed grief, violence, or substance abuse. Survivors of abuse and trauma began actively seeking psychosocial support, both from LEFs and through formal referrals to existing services. Community members increasingly engaged in peer support, checking in on neighbours, referring cases to trained CCWs, or accompanying survivors to the clinic or social services.

Youth involved in drama groups and school clubs used storytelling and performance to process their own trauma, and advocate for community healing and nonviolence. Sports for peace also played a key role in behaviour modification.

"Sporting has changed the lifestyle of youths, since they now spend time on sports the use of drugs have reduced"
Female participant, woman Host FGD, Runyararo

3. Food Security, Livelihoods, and DRR Recovery
The project contributed to the recovery and resilience of affected individuals and communities by combining food assistance, livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions. These efforts responded to immediate needs caused by El Niño-induced food insecurity, while also equipping communities with tools, knowledge, and assets to reduce future vulnerability and cope with recurring climate shocks.

a) FFA and Emergency Food Security Support

In Year 3 (2024/25), the project provided emergency food assistance to a total of 50 highly vulnerable households, helping them meet immediate consumption needs during a period of food insecurity linked to El Niño-induced drought. This followed an earlier FFA intervention during which a separate group of 50 households received food support in exchange for participation in community asset creation, such as gully reclamation, road clearance and clinic and school site improvements. Each participating household worked a maximum of 3 hours per day, respecting protection standards, and received monthly food rations of 40kg maize meal, 8kg sugar beans and 4L cooking oil for three months. Many beneficiaries expressed pride in contributing to the development of their community, describing the experience as both dignified and rewarding.

"We had nothing in the house when the food came. But what made us proud is that we worked – we built roads and cleared the clinic. It's our work that remains."
Male FFA participant, Men FGD, Runyararo

However, there was a later phase of Unconditional Lean Food Assistance that ZCC provided which was funded by ACT Alliance providing support to another group of 50 vulnerable households as a response to the lean season led to mixed perceptions among earlier FFA participants. While the rationale for different approaches was rooted in context and evolving food security needs and rendering support to the efforts done by the MPSLSW, Department of Social Development, some participants who had worked under the FFA model expressed feelings of inequity or being "used", noting that others received the same support without contributing labor.

"We worked hard for our food – fixing roads and cleaning gulleys. Then others got the same food without doing anything. It felt unfair."
FFA participant, IDP FGD, Runyararo

This unintended perception illustrates an important lesson around community sensitization, harmonized messaging, and equity in targeting especially in contexts where interventions evolve rapidly to respond to changing vulnerability patterns.

b) Seed Distribution and Climate-Responsive Food Production

To support food recovery at household level, the project distributed drought-tolerant seed packs to 50 households. These seeds were suited to the dry conditions of Chimanimani Ward 7 and helped households grow staple crops despite irregular rainfall. The project encouraged integration of nutrition-sensitive agriculture, supported by training in basic planting and seed handling.

"These seeds gave us something to plant even when the rain was little"
Protection Committee Member, seed recipient, KII, Runyararo

c) ISALs and Livelihood Recovery

The ISAL model was a strategic component of the ZCC project's recovery and resilience-building strategy, promoting financial inclusion, income generation, and community-led economic recovery. However, the scope of implementation was modest relative to community needs.

Positive Contributions

- 5 ISAL groups of 30 members (90% women) were successfully formed and trained in savings mobilization, business planning, and financial literacy.
- The group offered members a buffer against shocks, enabling small loans for food, school fees, and emergencies during lean periods.
- Ten of the most vulnerable members were selected for the goat pilot project some of the members were a part of the ISAL groups. This initiatives created a valuable linkage between financial readiness and productive asset support, and testing the viability of integrated livelihood recovery.

Scale Limitations

- Despite the model's success, only 30 out of a targeted 150 individuals were reached by ISAL activities – representing just 20% coverage.
- This limited scale reflects **resource and time constraints** that hindered broader rollout. The restricted reach constrained the model's potential to drive community-wide transformation or reduce aid dependency at scale.
- In feedback, stakeholders noted that ISALs were beneficial but **not sufficient on their own** to support widespread livelihood recovery. Additional support – such as startup capital, diversified asset packages, or market linkages – was identified as necessary to sustain the momentum.
- There remains a need to create market opportunities and attract more investments locally to reduce the economic pressures that cause people to migrate to urban centers like Ngangu.

While the ISAL initiative proved effective for those reached, its limited coverage underscores the need for scaling in future programming. The pilot demonstrated the feasibility and relevance of combining savings mechanisms with asset transfers (e.g., goats), but broader rollout and support systems are essential for inclusive, community-wide economic recovery.

d) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for Long-Term Resilience

The project made commendable investments in community-based disaster preparedness, which led to noticeable shifts in knowledge, early warning awareness, and coordination capacity. This included the training of 25 community first responders, the formation of DRR committees, distribution of 10 first aid kits, and the development and implementation of ward-level DRR plans. As a result, some community members expressed increased confidence in responding to climate shocks, such as floods and storms.

"Yes, we are now more prepared due to the workshops and trainings we now know our evacuation places like schools and emergency places to go and even the prepared food like dried vegetables and food to eat and our medication should be available with us."
Female Participant, Health FGD, Runyararo

However, these soft and somewhat hardware support, infrastructure gains have not been matched by improvements in physical or structural resilience. A significant portion of the population – including 20 families still living in wooden cabins and board houses – remains highly exposed to environmental hazards. These structures are located in areas infested with red wood ants, and many are in deteriorating condition, posing both health and safety risks.

"The community is not prepared for a cyclone – even a big storm could destroy everything because we don't have strong infrastructure. Some people are still living in wooden cabins or houses with stones on the roof to hold them down. There are also no proper roads."
Young Female Participant, Youth FGD, Runyararo

Figure 18: One of the Board houses where an IDP resides

This gap highlights a critical limitation. While the ZCC project successfully addressed knowledge-based preparedness and some hardware, it did not (and was not mandated to) address infrastructure development or relocation support – responsibilities that fall under government and housing authorities. The community is now more informed, but awareness alone cannot compensate for lack of durable infrastructure – a challenge that may create frustration or disillusionment over time if not addressed through multi-stakeholder coordination.

e) Social Cohesion resulting from livelihood practices

One of the major drivers for the project included addressing existing social cohesion challenges that existed between IDPs and Host community members. Through engagements, there was a sense of unity however not a lot of changes have taken place with regards to conflicts and tensions concerning the rearing of cattle. Host community members still let their cattle freely room within Runyararo and is a habit that hasn't changed much despite being one of the conflicting issues raised but IDPs.

"Their cattle totally destroyed all my crop, there is nothing for me to harvest this year because of that"
Female Participant, IDP FGD, Runyararo

Figure 19: IDP FDG Group

"Host Community members let their cattle roam around everywhere destroying our crops. Currently we are having challenges where the cattle forcefully push on the taps to get water destroying taps and not one wants to fix it even though it's their cattle"
Male participant, Community Member Men FGD, Runyararo

Figure 20: Enumerator with the Men FDG group

Coping Mechanisms Strengthened for Vulnerable Groups

Women and Girls

- Women participated in **ISALs (27 women out of 30 members)**. Additionally, 10 HHs received small livestock (10 households with 4 goats each). In the distribution of the goats, 10 most vulnerable households were selected, of the 10, 6 were PWDs.
- Women led over **70% of peace and protection committees** and were at the forefront of the drama, sports, and WASH committees.
- The household survey shows that at least 74% of the respondents are aware of existing protection Incidents in their communities over the past year and of those aware, at least 76% confirmed that survivors received help. Survivors of GBV and abuse received holistic support (legal, medical, psychosocial), restoring dignity and reducing fear.

"Before, we had no voice. Now we sit on the committees. We decide. We protect our girls. That's the change."
FGD with women leaders, Runyararo

Children and Youth

- **Safe Participation**: Children benefited from drama groups, protection clubs, and traditional dance programs that educated on GBV, early marriage, and child rights.
- **Awareness and Advocacy**: Over **80 school children** reached by community based protection committees and majority were resulting from drama-based child protection campaigns in 2022.

"Through drama and songs, children teach others about abuse. They are now leaders even though they are still in school, they even help with case identification."
Protection Committee Member, KII

Elderly and Persons with Disabilities

- **Improved Access to Services**: Water points were placed near homes of PWDs and the elderly.
- **Protection Inclusion**: Mentally disabled individuals and elderly carers were referred and supported through state and church networks.

Preparedness and Correlation with DRR Project Interventions

The endline survey findings demonstrate that the project contributed meaningfully to enhancing household preparedness for future shocks and crises. A correlation analysis using Spearman's method reveals a strong positive relationship ($\rho = 0.63$) between households having a defined emergency plan and their perception of being better prepared. This suggests that the project's emphasis on promoting household-level disaster planning was effective in strengthening local resilience. Additionally, attendance in DRR training was moderately correlated ($\rho = 0.32$) with perceived preparedness, reinforcing the value of continuous community engagement in emergency preparedness education. Community structures such as DRR committees and early warning systems were also positively associated with preparedness, albeit with weaker correlations (ρ ranging from 0.23 to 0.27), indicating that while these platforms are foundational, individual household practices remain the strongest determinant of readiness.

Notably, households that participated in Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups showed only a weak correlation ($\rho = 0.12$) with preparedness. This suggests that while financial inclusion contributes to resilience in broader terms, its direct influence on disaster readiness may be less immediate. A comparison of preparedness by training participation revealed that 74% of trained households reported being better prepared, compared to just 46% among those who did not attend training. Therefore, the project effectively supported individual and collective preparedness efforts, strengthened local capacities for risk reduction, and laid solid foundations for sustainable, community-driven recovery and long-term development.

4.4.2 Long-term Effects of interventions

The project generated a range of **long-term effects**, many of which were **positive and intended**, while others emerged **indirectly or unexpectedly**. These effects span protection, WASH, livelihoods, governance, and social cohesion, and they reveal the layered impact the interventions have had on community recovery and resilience. Below is a list of long-term effects identified:

Table 9: Positive Long-Term Effects

Type	**Effect**	**Description and Evidence**
Primary – Intended	Improved access to essential services (water,	- Solar-powered piped water system benefits over 2,000 people; reduced travel time and exposure to GBV risks, especially for women and girls.

	protection, case management)	- 236 protection cases identified and supported by the second quarter of year 3. - At least 85.5% of respondents for the household survey felt that women and girls are now safer when compared to 3 years ago. The remaining 12.5% is suggesting perceived impact on GBV and protection. -Piped water system at Runyararo Primary School and the reticulation of water to Runyararo Clinic *"We now feel safer because there are no longer long lines for water… people are home before dark."* *FGD participant, Runyararo*
Primary – Intended	Strengthened social cohesion	- Host-IDP relationships improved through peace dialogues, sport, and protection committees. - Use of labels like "Mu Idai" reduced, communities now identify as one. *"At first, it felt like a war… but now people see each other as one community." – LEF Member, KII*
Secondary – Intended	Women's leadership and empowerment	- Over 70% of community structures (WASH, protection, peace committees) led by women. - Women increasingly speak in public spaces and influence decision-making. -Future programming should consider incorporating structured leadership training modules (self-awareness, conflict resolution).
Primary – Intended	Increased resilience to climate shocks	- 25 trained first responders, DRR committees, and ward-level DRR plans enhanced preparedness. - Climate-resilient seeds, and goat project initiated sustainable coping mechanisms.
Secondary – Intended	Reduced reliance on negative coping strategies	- ISALs and FFA reduced asset-stripping and food skipping and improved food insecurity. - Households now borrow from ISALs instead of selling livestock or skipping meals.
Secondary – Unintended	Increased access to education through water access	-The installation of the piped water system at Runyararo Primary enabled the opening of the school
Secondary – Unintended	Improved maternal health due to access to water	- The reticulation of water to the health facility had positive outcomes on maternal health

| | and hygiene at the health facility | |

Table 10: Negative or Unintended Effects

Type	Effect	Description and Evidence
Primary – Unintended	Unequal beneficiary reach (especially host community)	- Host community members reported feeling left out of early interventions, especially livelihoods and food security initiatives
Secondary – Unintended	Limited functionality of ISAL groups	- Not all ISALs were sustainable; some lacked consistent contributions or had internal mistrust. - Concerns were raised in KIIs about the effectiveness of ISALs without startup capital or mentoring.
Secondary – Unintended	Increased demand for services the project couldn't meet	- ZCC's support raised community expectations (e.g., police base, safe shelter, school expansion), but these could not all be fulfilled. - Runyararo still does not have a police post and some protection issues go unreported.
Secondary – Unintended	Dependency concerns	- Some households began expecting continuous external support for food, resources (e.g., fences) or income. - Need for more emphasis on transitioning to self-sustained livelihoods.

Contribution vs Attribution

While multiple external and internal factors influenced observed changes in resilience and preparedness – such as government support, natural adaptation over time, and the work of other NGOs – available evidence strongly supports that this project played a significant contributory role, especially in improving access to clean water and hygiene practices.

Water Infrastructure Impact: Community feedback indicates that most of the boreholes installed by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) dried up, rendering them ineffective over time. In contrast, the ZCC-led rehabilitation of boreholes and the installation of a solarized piped water system have proven sustainable and impactful, with community members consistently citing improved access to safe water. This intervention filled a critical gap left by previous efforts and was a game changer for daily life and hygiene.

Training and Behaviour Change: Responses to the household survey question – *"Have you or any HH member received training or attended sessions on hygiene or water management in the last 3 years?"* – show that WHH and Tree of life (They implemented a resilient livelihood project in the area between 2022-2024) were the most frequently mentioned providers, and to a lesser extent

village health workers and government entities. However, the quality, continuity, and application of knowledge seem stronger where ZCC programming complemented these trainings. Anecdotal evidence from FGDs and KIIs suggests that behavioural changes were more lasting in areas where ZCC linked hygiene messaging with practical support (e.g., improved water access and protective community systems).

Limited External Support: Aside from WHH and Tree of Life, few NGOs were active in the area. This reduces the likelihood of overlapping program effects and enhances the credibility of attributing positive shifts – especially in community-led water governance, hygiene uptake, and resilience planning – to ZCC's contributions.

While attribution in complex, multi-actor environments is inherently limited, the triangulation of community narratives, project records, and the relative absence of other players suggests that ZCC's interventions made a distinctive and meaningful contribution to the outcomes observed, particularly in water access and WASH-related behaviour change.

4.5 Sustainability

4.5.1 Sustainability of locally led peace building and social cohesion efforts

The project made significant investments in community-driven peacebuilding and social cohesion, particularly in Runyararo where initial tensions between host communities and IDPs were high. The use of faith-based platforms, sports for peace, youth-led drama, and dialogue forums helped bridge divides and fostered a sense of shared identity. These efforts demonstrated strong potential for sustainability, particularly due to their integration into existing community structures, such as churches, schools, and traditional leadership forums. However, some structural and contextual challenges remain.

Key Factors Supporting Sustainability

a) **Community by-in and Initial strengthening**: At inception, ZCC successfully trained over 55 leaders including church, traditional, and community leaders in Chimanimani and Mutasa, focusing on uniting IDPs and host communities. These efforts laid the foundation for early collaboration and reduced initial hostility between communities.

b) **Embedded in Faith-Based Structures and Norms**: The involvement of LEFs ensured that peace messages were contextually relevant and grounded in moral authority, increasing their resonance. Church leaders remain active facilitators of ongoing dialogue and conflict mediation. They also serve as a neutral actor given the political tensions that exist in Chimanimani District and particularly concerning Runyararo, ward 7 resulting from government investments and interests in the area. Faith based facilitation was acceptable and made it easier for faith leaders to mediate and advocate for peace. Inter-denominational cooperation helped bridge social divides and contributes to continued social cohesion and local mediation. The LEF that was interviewed shared a key

sustainability initiative that is pending, which is the intention to establish a church in the area. This has a very high potential on sustainability.

c) **Ownership by Youth and Community Members:** The youth-led drama groups, sports for peace tournaments, and traditional dance performances have continued beyond initial funding, driven by intrinsic motivation and local recognition. Groups like the *ZCC Runyararo Protection Drama Club* have participated in district and community-level events and are invited to schools and public gatherings, indicating ongoing demand and relevance. Despite the weather challenges that affected their performance, they were set to perform on stage at the 45th Independence celebrations at Nhedziwa Primary School. Locally driven dramas and dialogues helped communities internalize protection and mental health themes, which are likely to persist beyond the program life cycle.

d) **Inclusion and Representation**: Deliberate efforts to include IDPs, hosts, women, and youth, helped to build a shared identity and reduce labelling (e.g., "Mu Idai"). The selection and identification process were involving the community in the planning and execution of the project. Diverse representation in peace committees and dialogue forums fostered mutual understanding and joint problem-solving. Women leadership was observed to increase in protection groups (comprising of 70% women) embedding gender responsive governance at local level

e) **Integration with WASH, Protection and DRR Platforms**: Social cohesion activities were linked with protection and disaster response structures, creating multi-functional community platforms that handle conflict resolution, referrals, and planning. The use of the same water points has instilled a sense of togetherness among IDPs and Host community members with the majority of the WPCs including members from both communities. DRR initiatives like the goat project, and savings groups (ISALs) have economic co-benefits and were reported to be ongoing, albeit at varying levels of success.

f) **Capacity Enhancement**: The capacities of established committees were strengthened for service delivery and also problem solving particularly in peace building dialogues at local level. MYEDVT noted the functionality of peacebuilding committees but emphasized the need for refresher training to reactivate and institutionalize their roles. This would help ensure the continued relevance and efficacy of local peace infrastructures beyond the project life span

Challenges to Long-Term Sustainability

- **Lack of Systematic Handover or Support**: Most peacebuilding activities operate without formal funding, relying on voluntary time and borrowed materials. Without minimal support (e.g., for costumes, equipment, transport), some groups risk fatigue or demotivation (drama and dance groups). Although they are still functional, there's limited evidence of institutional support or capacity-building post-project to maintain or expand these efforts.

    "The emergency fund support is a critical component with regards to case management as survivors might need medical examinations and transport to access these services,

secondly, they would need to be placed in another place of safety (foster care), strengthening foster care parents is a gap and limited due to funding. As a department we are unable to provide these services (emergency fund services) due to resource constraints. What the department has taken over/ is responsible for is case management, it is on-going."

Chimanimani DSD KII

- **Limited Institutional Support**: While local government and religious leaders are supportive, there is no formal integration of peacebuilding into ward or district development plans, making long-term backing uncertain.
- **Persistent Socioeconomic Stressors**: Underlying poverty, land disputes, and limited access to services (e.g., the police post) remain potential triggers for renewed tension. As economic shocks (e.g., drought, inflation) continue, peace gains could erode without sustained dialogue, services and livelihood support.
- **Conflict Drivers Still Present:** Root causes of conflict, such as competition over water and grazing land, persist. Without long-term planning on land use and community-based natural resource management, tensions could re-emerge.
- **Limited Functionality of peacebuilding committees:** The locally led peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts in the community face sustainability challenges, particularly with the peacebuilding committees no longer functioning raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of these initiatives.

While locally led peacebuilding initiatives had meaningful short-term impact and created tangible social cohesion, their long-term sustainability remains moderate to weak, largely due to diminished functionality of peace committees, lack of consistent facilitation, and unresolved structural drivers of conflict.

4.5.2 Mechanisms ensuring water supply system continuous functioning

Mechanisms to Support Sustainability:
- **Water Point Committees (WPCs):** Over 60 community members (48 women and 15 men) were trained on water point management and community-based maintenance practices. These committees cover both IDPs and host communities and were tasked with overseeing boreholes, solarized piped water systems, and associated infrastructure. At least 93% of household survey respondents were aware on these committees being present and of the respondents engaged at least 36% are a part of the committee of a household member is involved in maintaining the water points. According to the survey, 60% of the respondents felt the committee have adequate capacity and are always able to manage the source while approx. 24% felt the committees have limited capacity and are sometimes not able to manage the source. Some of the school staff and parents to school going children are part of the WPCs for the points in Runyararo Primary School.
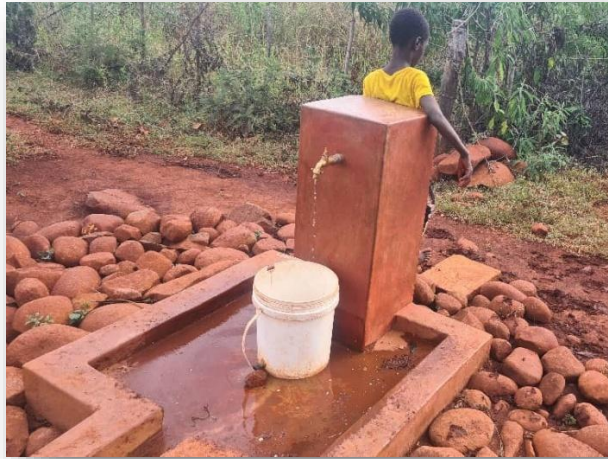
Figure 21: Some taps were left leaking and with no handles, while other points are well managed

- **Knowledge Transfer:** The WPCs received training from relevant government departments (RIDA, MoHCC, RDC) on conflict resolution, system maintenance, and hygiene practices. This knowledge was cascaded to non-trained members to ensure broader community reach.

- **Infrastructure Design and functionality:** The system includes a solarized borehole, water storage tanks, and a network of 15 stand-up taps strategically placed across Runyararo. It significantly reduced distances to water points especially benefiting women, children, and persons with disabilities.

- **Community ownership and engagement:** Community members were actively involved in trenching and laying the water system, building a sense of ownership and responsibility. Additionally, water access points were intentionally placed near homes, reducing strain especially for women, children, and PWDs.

- **Institutional handover and government support:** The infrastructure was formally handed over to the community and the local Rural District Council. The council now oversees the school and clinic services supported by the water system. The MoHCC, through EHTs, continues to monitor water safety through regular sampling. This helps maintain community trust in the system's quality. Chimanimani Rural District Council together with RIDA also take responsibility in the monitoring of the water infrastructures.

- **School and Clinic Integration:** Water access to Runyararo Primary school and Runyararo Clinic means the rural district council has a stake in ensuring continuity of service, enhancing systemic resilience.

- **Local ownership of water points:** Community insights reveal a growing sense of ownership among both IDP and host communities regarding the rehabilitated water points, especially those supported by ZCC. During focus group discussions, community members consistently referred to the piped water systems and boreholes as "our water", reflecting a strong emotional and functional attachment. This was further reinforced by the active

participation of community members in the planning, implementation, and monitoring phases of water-related interventions.

Evidence of ownership:
~ Communities reported initiating minor maintenance activities (e.g., clearing the area, protecting taps from livestock).
~ Locally formed water committees, some trained and mobilized through ZCC facilitation, have been managing daily water point operations and resolving disputes.
~ Testimonies indicated that unlike past NGO projects, the ZCC-supported infrastructure felt community-driven due to the consultative and inclusive process.

Exit Strategy and Linkages to Long-Term Development:

ZCC embedded elements of an exit strategy by:
~ Strengthening community governance structures such as LEFs and water point committees, many of which have linkages to local churches and traditional leaders.
~ Engaging local government departments, including RIDA and RDC, to conduct joint assessments and co-own water infrastructure plans.
~ Facilitating dialogue platforms to anchor sustainability beyond the project's lifespan.

Challenges Identified:
- **Inconsistent Committee Functionality:** Some water point committees were found to be inactive or ineffective, leading to management lapses such as broken taps or unattended leaks.
- **Limited Financial and Technical Resources:** The community lacks spare parts and technical knowledge for more complex repairs, and there is no clear financing mechanism (e.g., fee collection or savings groups for O&M). The project supported with on kit for maintenance of pipes which is at the clinic, and this poses its own challenges with regards to response and repairs. Dependency on ZCC and other NGOs remains high; without further investment or institutional strengthening, sustainability will be vulnerable to leadership changes and resource fluctuations.
- **Solar Dependency:** The reliance on solar energy makes the system highly vulnerable to weather fluctuations. During overcast or rainy days, the solar-powered pump operates at reduced capacity or fails entirely, leaving households without access to water. This intermittency affects daily routines, with women and children often needing to wake early or queue for long hours during low-output days and makes them vulnerable to seasonal weather (cloud cover reduces functionality), with no backup power solutions like hand pumps.

Figure 22: Some of the Solar Pannels installed by ZCC for the piped water schemes servicing the community

- **Water access coverage:** Some households remain unconnected, and resource constraints prevent full community coverage, increasing inequality and potential tensions.
- **Limited supervision** and accountability mechanisms post-training. Without continued mentorship or routine audits, committee engagement may diminish over time.
- **Infrastructure Damage**: Cattle interference has emerged as a major threat to water infrastructure. In attempts to access water, livestock have been observed breaking tap heads or dislodging pipes by hitting them forcefully with their heads. Lack of fencing or cattle control mechanisms around water points leaves infrastructure exposed, increasing repair costs and downtime.

Figure 23: Cows gathering at a tap pushing for water

- **Water related disputes**: These have emerged, including neglect of infrastructure (e.g., broken taps, water left running), highlighting the need for reinforced community rules and leadership enforcement.

- **Limited engagement with ZINWA**: Sustainability mechanisms, such as community-led monthly contributions for borehole maintenance, were acknowledged by stakeholders during validation. However, participants recommended revisiting these arrangements to ensure they are both practical and equitable. The project's long-term success may also

depend on strengthened partnerships between ZCC and public water authorities such as ZINWA.

Water supply systems are **partially sustainable**, bolstered by strong initial training and infrastructure layout. However, sustainability is at risk due to management inconsistencies, lack of financial planning for O&M, and technical constraints. Strengthening committee functionality and exploring mixed-energy options would enhance long-term reliability

4.6   Cross-Cutting Issues and Accountability

4.6.1   Project Accountability

Accountability to Project Participants, Government, and Partners

The project demonstrated a deliberate and multi-tiered approach to accountability, reflected in its coordination, community engagement, and transparency mechanisms.

Accountability to Project Participants

- Conducted five (5) protection and two (2) peacebuilding dialogue sessions where community members raised critical needs (e.g., dam scooping, police post, food aid). While some issues remain unresolved, the sessions ensured bottom-up communication. CBP Committees, SAGs, and ISAL groups played active roles in decision-making, referrals, and follow-up. These groups also served as channels for community feedback and peer monitoring.

Figure 24: One of the suggestion boxes in the area

- Roadshows, IEC materials, and protection outreach provided platforms for knowledge sharing and awareness raising. Participants understood their rights and entitlements, including where to report cases.
- Within the community, there are suggestion boxes where people share feedback to project staff and stakeholders. One of the boxes is managed by the DSD enhancing accountability at community level. About 94% of the respondents for the household survey felt welcome and freedom to participate in the project.

Accountability to Government and Stakeholders

- The ZCC project has indeed set a commendable precedent in stakeholder engagement, particularly with the involvement of various entities such as the DSD, MWACSMED, RIDA, Chimanimani RDC, and DDC, and the Ministry of Youth through joint planning, review and implementation. KII participant from the MWACSMED narrated how they planned together with ZCC and supported with the selection and formation of ISAL groups. The department was also given the financial resources to purchase the goats for the ISAL group members showing transparency and involvement. These strengthened alignment and shared ownership.

- Government Service Delivery Linkages: ZCC worked with local authorities to provide services. For instance, during case management, ZCC supported linkages to service providers such as ZRP and safe houses as part of social protection. *"ZCC gave support including transport and lunch to visit the police and at times social services"*. The engagement with communities shows evidence of recognizing the government service delivery linkages the project provided, another notable example is the support with documentation meaning engagement with the Registrar's Office.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Participation: Government officials participated in joint monitoring visits and review meetings, increasing transparency and legitimacy of findings.

Accountability to Partners
- Act for Peace (AfP) provided technical support and financial oversight. The project replaced the originally planned midterm review with a more comprehensive endline evaluation, as agreed with AfP.
- The project contributed to national coordination platforms (e.g., the World Refugee Day, ANCP meetings) and participated in organizational reflections and regional learning events.
- ZCC maintained strong accountability mechanisms towards the donor, including regular monthly update meetings, submission of narrative and financial reports, and timely communication of successes and challenges. This contributed to effective project coordination and built donor confidence.

Accountability was mainstreamed effectively at multiple levels. The project enabled upward and downward accountability through formal structures, coordination mechanisms, and inclusive decision-making.

4.6.2 Cross cutting issues in the design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the program

The ZCC project demonstrates significant integration of cross-cutting issues across its phases, though the depth of application and sustainability varies by thematic area.

a) **Gender Equality:** Gender equality was intentionally mainstreamed, with a focus on empowering women through leadership and economic participation. 74% of CBP trainees, 89% of SAG members, and 83% of ISAL participants were women. School protection committees addressed girl-child concerns, menstrual hygiene, and early marriage. Gender-based violence cases were actively referred and addressed through community and institutional channels. Data disaggregation by sex was consistently applied, allowing tracking of women's participation in protection, training, and service uptake (e.g., case referrals and WASH training. However, limited documentation exists on specific outreach to women-headed households, which may limit the understanding of intra-group disparities

b) **Disability Inclusion:** Persons with disabilities (PWDs) were included in water access planning: taps were relocated closer to households with PWDs, easing access and promoting dignity. Although not a standalone focus, PWDs benefited from broader interventions such as protection referrals, health outreach, and water infrastructure. Disability inclusion was not systematically embedded. 6 PWDs were among the targeted beneficiaries of the goat project distribution each receiving 4 goats to start the project. No tailored tools, dedicated consultations, or disability-specific indicators were found in M&E frameworks. Only a few cases of disability were identified and supported, suggesting underreporting and limited adaptive programming.

c) **Child Protection:** Strong emphasis was placed on child protection through case management, psycho-social support (PSS), and child rights education in schools and communities. Community-Based Protection (CBP) structures, school health clubs and drama & dance groups led child-friendly peer education actively addressing issues of early marriage, abuse, truancy, and drug use, reaching 80+ children directly and over 1,000 through drama and sports events. The involvement of children in addressing protection issues is remarkable as it echoes the nothing *"Nothing about without us"*. Referral mechanisms to ZRP, DSD, and child welfare institutions were established, with child-related cases supported to closure. Child protection outcomes were clearly tracked through case follow-up reports, and success stories highlight improved community knowledge and reporting.

d) **Environmental Sustainability**: The project supported reforestation and climate mitigation by reducing dependence on firewood – thanks to improved water access and potential for home gardening. The FFA approach linked short-term relief with long-term environmental rehabilitation (e.g., gully reclamation, reforestation).

Figure 25: Some of the gully reclamation work done under FFA

DRR training included climate change, hazard awareness, and early warning systems, with 50+ community members trained in disaster risk management. DRR plans also promoted

small grains and sustainable farming techniques. While awareness was promoted, practical environmental risk mitigation measures (e.g., soil erosion control, tree planting initiatives) were limited in scale. Environmental risks such as infrastructure damage by livestock were not initially mitigated, affecting water system sustainability. Additionally, there was no record of an environmental impact assessment that was conducted for the project.

e) **Inclusion and Accountability**: The program prioritized host and IDP inclusion, addressing tensions through joint committees, dialogues, and peacebuilding sessions. Vulnerable groups were reached through community entry points such as churches, traditional leaders, community mobilization, and school-based activities, promoting cohesion and responsiveness. Communities were regularly consulted during dialogues, FGDs, and outreach campaigns. They reported that their feedback influenced decisions (e.g., water point placement, seed inputs, and goat project inputs). A ZCC toll-free line and community case referrals were established for reporting GBV, abuse, and protection risks, increasing transparency and trust. It was evident that ZCC had placed suggestion boxes around the target area indicating an active feedback mechanism was present.

Cross-cutting issues were integrated from a moderate to high extent in the program's lifecycle. The strongest areas were gender equality and child protection, while disability inclusion and environmental sustainability could be strengthened further through targeted tools, budget allocations, and long-term integration strategies.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Summary of Key Findings by Criterion

Criterion	Key Findings
Relevance	**Appropriateness of Project Design to Geographic, Social, and Cultural Context** The project's design was largely appropriate to the distinct geographic, social, and cultural dynamics of Ward 7, Runyararo. Situated in a drought-prone and rocky area with poor infrastructure and service access, the ward presented significant challenges, particularly for newly resettled IDPs following Cyclone Idai. Water scarcity, absence of a police post, and poor access to health and education services heightened the vulnerability of women, children, and persons with disabilities. Social tensions between host communities and IDPs were exacerbated by land-use disputes – particularly regarding livestock grazing – and stigmatizing language that undermined social cohesion. The project responded appropriately by integrating a **multi-sectoral design** that prioritized **protection, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and water access**, while promoting **peacebuilding and psychosocial support**. Its use of community-based structures (e.g., religious leaders, traditional authorities, and school clubs) and contextually relevant engagement tools (e.g., sports, drama) enhanced cultural acceptability. The inclusion of faith actors helped legitimize protection messaging and foster community buy-in.

Implementation realities prompted a strategic redesign: initially spread across Chimanimani and Mutasa districts, the project was streamlined to focus exclusively on Ward 7, improving efficiency and local impact. This flexibility demonstrated a strong understanding of operational constraints and the need to concentrate resources for deeper engagement.

Alignment with Community Needs and Priorities
The project was highly relevant to the urgent and evolving needs of IDPs and host communities. Initial interventions addressed **immediate post-disaster recovery needs –** including protection services, case management, and basic psychosocial support. Over time, the design adapted to encompass WASH, livelihoods, and DRR based on emerging community feedback.

- **Water Access**: Chronic water shortages were a top community concern. The introduction and later expansion of the solar-powered piped water scheme addressed a critical gap, improving access for over 2,000 individuals and enabling school and clinic operations.
- **Protection Services**: The project responded to high rates of GBV, child neglect, and early marriage. Over 236 cases were supported, and community structures like peace committees and CBP champions were expanded to improve coverage. The project also facilitated access to legal documentation and improved coordination with DSD and ZRP.
- **Livelihoods**: Community-expressed needs for food and income security were met through seed distribution, Food Assistance, Food for Assets (FFA), and goat pilot project support. However, limited scale (e.g., only 10 households received livestock) constrained broader economic impact.
- **Disaster Preparedness**: The development of community DRR plans, training of first responders, and integration of climate-resilient practices reflected contextual relevance. Food distributions under the FFA model addressed immediate food insecurity caused by the El Niño-induced drought.

Despite strong alignment with local priorities, resource limitations restricted the scale of several components. Nonetheless, the project demonstrated **community ownership**, responsive design, and a strong commitment to equitable service delivery.

Responsiveness to Evolving Contextual Dynamics
The project maintained a high degree of responsiveness throughout its life cycle. Key examples of adaptive programming included:
- **Design Adjustments**: The geographic focus was narrowed from two districts to one (Chimanimani) to optimize impact. A planned midterm review was replaced by a comprehensive endline evaluation due to operational constraints.
- **Component Expansion**: Based on feedback from protection and DRR sessions, the project expanded to include livelihood support, mental health services, and education-related support (e.g., enabling school reopening through water reticulation).
- **Protection Outreach**: Increased demand for case management led to a scale-up in referrals and outreach through culturally resonant channels like drama and sports.

	- **Government Engagement**: Collaborations with MWACSMED , DSD, and RIDA supported ISAL group formation, case referrals, and water system development. Community-raised priorities such as dam desilting and the need for a police post were escalated to district authorities, though not all could be resolved within the project period. **Overall Assessment** The project demonstrated strong relevance and adaptive capacity. Its integrated and context-sensitive approach enabled it to meet the immediate and evolving priorities of the target communities. While some components were constrained by scale and budget, the overall design and implementation were highly responsive, reflecting an effective blend of participatory planning, local leadership, and systems-level coordination.
Efficiency	**Efficiency of Project Activities** Project implementation was marked by a strong commitment to cost-efficiency and value for money (VfM). Many outputs were delivered within budget, and some targets were exceeded through strategic resource reallocation and leveraging community and government structures. - **Protection case management exceeded its target** demonstrating responsive scaling based on demand. - The project minimized costs through the engagement of trained community actors (e.g., Community-Based Protection Champions, Sanitation Action Groups, Water Point Committees), enabling wide reach without the need for external consultants. - Multi-purpose activities such as Sports for Peace and community drama delivered layered outcomes (e.g., awareness, psychosocial support, cohesion), optimizing resource use. - Interventions such as goat distribution to 10 most vulnerable households(6 were PWDs) and Food for Assets (FFA) for 50 households demonstrated strong household-level impact. - However, limited scale in relation to the 2,000-person project target tempered overall efficiency. - Adaptive management was evident in reallocating funds originally earmarked for 15 first aid kits toward sanitation kits – demonstrating responsive decision-making based on emerging public health priorities. Ultimately, 10 first aid kits were procured, ensuring the intervention still achieved essential functionality and resources allocated to hygiene kits. **Overall Assessment** The project demonstrated prudent financial stewardship and adaptive efficiency, although scale constraints in high-impact interventions slightly diminished overall reach relative to potential. **Facilitators and Barriers to Output and Outcome** **Facilitators include:** - Efficient delivery across protection, WASH, and DRR components despite resource constraints. - Strong community engagement via faith leaders, volunteers, and traditional authorities ensured participation and local follow-up. - Effective collaboration with ministries and local authorities (e.g., DSD, RIDA, RDC, MWACSMED) enhanced implementation and referrals. - Targeted training in DRR, CBP, PHHE, and financial literacy improved community readiness and capacity.

- Resource reallocation enabled responsive programming (e.g., piped water introduction, expanded protection referrals).

Barriers Include:
- Budget limitations restricted scale (e.g., only 30 households reached with ISAL training; 10 households received goats).
- Water point maintenance challenges: inactive WPCs, lack of spare parts, and tap vandalism by livestock.
- Bureaucratic and financial delays stalled priorities such as police post and dam rehabilitation.
- Disability inclusion was limited due to lack of dedicated tracking tools and tailored programming.

Quality of Cooperation and Support from Stakeholders

Stakeholder collaboration was a central strength of the project. ZCC cultivated and maintained multi-level partnerships that improved technical oversight, aligned interventions with government priorities, and enhanced program legitimacy.
- **District-level collaboration**: ZCC participated in nine coordination forums (e.g., DWSSC, CPC) that enabled shared planning across WASH, protection, and DRR sectors.
- **Provincial and national engagement**: Participation in ANCP events, World Refugee Day, and sectoral coordination meetings extended learning and visibility.
- **Regular monitoring and reviews**: Government stakeholders engaged in quarterly reviews and joint monitoring visits, while seven internal audits by ZCC HQ reinforced fiduciary and programmatic compliance.
- **Government technical departments** (e.g., MWACSMED, MYEDVY, RIDA) acknowledged ZCC's operational and financial transparency. MWACSMED specifically noted that ZCC provided direct financial support to facilitate ISAL group formation and goat procurement, enhancing government ownership and capacity.

However, limitations in responsiveness were noted:
- District authorities were unable to fully resolve community-raised issues such as dam desilting or law enforcement gaps.
- MWACSMED highlighted the limited follow-up capacity for supported groups due to resourcing gaps, affecting sustainability of certain initiatives.

Overall Assessment

 Stakeholder engagement was a core strength that enhanced project quality, facilitated problem-solving, and fostered local ownership. Gaps in local government capacity signal a need for longer-term investment in institutional support systems. The project achieved its outputs efficiently, balancing resource constraints with strategic partnerships and community-based implementation modalities that maximized coverage, responsiveness, and cost-effectiveness.

Effectiveness	The project achieved significant progress in meeting its stated objectives across protection, WASH, livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction. While targets were not uniformly met in every component due to resource constraints, the program demonstrated strong adaptability, cross-sectoral integration, and community-centered delivery approaches. **Achievement of Objectives**

- **Protection outcomes** were largely achieved, with 236 cases identified and supported against an annual target of 100 cases. The case management system strengthened community-based protection mechanisms, supported referrals, and promoted school- and community-level awareness. However, gaps in safe shelter, legal support, and police presence remain.
- **WASH interventions** were highly effective in enhancing access to clean water and hygiene. The solarized piped water scheme benefitted over 2,000 individuals, with household-level access improved for women and persons with disabilities. Challenges include weather-induced disruptions and the need for expansion to underserved host areas.
- **Livelihood interventions**, including ISALs, goat distribution, and seed support, built adaptive capacity but were limited in scale. Only 10 households received livestock and 30 joined savings groups against a higher target, constraining the broader impact on food security and economic resilience.
- **Disaster risk reduction efforts** resulted in community DRR plans, first responder training, and strengthened early action awareness. However, the lack of widespread early warning systems and structural resilience (e.g., housing) still limits community preparedness for large-scale climate events.

Strengthening Resilience Capacities

The project strengthened **absorptive capacity** through improved WASH and protection systems, **adaptive capacity** through diversified livelihoods and DRR training, and **transformative capacity** through social cohesion, peacebuilding, and women's leadership. Faith-based engagement, community dialogues, and sports for peace played a central role in transforming relationships between IDPs and hosts, promoting unity and shifting harmful social norms.

Effectiveness of Implementation Approaches

- The **multi-stakeholder model** was effective in mobilizing government, civil society, traditional leaders, and faith actors to deliver multi-sectoral interventions. Coordination platforms and joint planning efforts improved service alignment and accountability. However, gaps in responsiveness and coverage, particularly from under-resourced local government departments, limited impact in some areas.
- **Locally led initiatives**, such as peace dialogues, drama groups, and sports tournaments, were highly effective in promoting peaceful co-existence. These approaches fostered behaviour change, reduced stigma, and created inclusive spaces for collective healing and engagement.
- The **participation of churches and faith groups** enhanced community trust, ensured cultural sensitivity, and delivered psychosocial support in ways that aligned with community norms. LEFs provided emotional and spiritual guidance, improving participation across all age and gender groups.

Key Limitations

- Resource limitations affected the reach of high-impact interventions (e.g., ISALs, seeds, livestock).
- Structural gaps in early warning systems, policing, and emergency infrastructure constrained resilience outcomes.

- Limited disability inclusion in leadership and livelihood programming remains a gap.

Overall Assessment

The project was **largely effective** in achieving its objectives, with particularly strong outcomes in protection, water access, and community cohesion. It laid a solid foundation for resilience and transformation but requires scaling and deeper institutionalization to ensure lasting impact and equitable reach. The project successfully addressed critical community needs. Key achievements included restoring access to clean water through a piped water scheme, strengthening community-based DRR structures, improving protection and psychosocial support systems, and fostering social cohesion between IDPs and host communities

Impact

Contribution to Recovery

The project made a meaningful contribution to the recovery of both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities by addressing critical needs across water access, protection, food security, psychosocial support, and social cohesion. It restored essential services, improved dignity and well-being, and laid the groundwork for long-term resilience.

- **Water access** emerged as the most transformative intervention. A solar-powered piped water scheme reduced water-fetching distances for over 2,000 people, improved hygiene, school attendance, and enabled home gardening – especially among women-headed households and persons with disabilities. The reduction in water-related GBV risks was widely reported.
- **Community-based protection systems** helped identify and support over 236 cases of GBV, child abuse, and mental health challenges. Strong referral pathways were established, and community knowledge, reporting attitudes, and survivor support improved. However, the absence of a local police post limits sustained protection efforts.
- **Psychosocial recovery** was effectively supported through church-led dialogue, LEFs, and drama groups, which normalized conversations around mental health and helped reduce stigma. Faith-based and creative approaches enabled safe spaces for healing and expression.
- **Food security and livelihoods** interventions (FFA, ISALs, seed and goat distribution) contributed to both immediate consumption needs and longer-term economic recovery. However, scale was limited – only 50 households received seeds, 10 received goats, and 30 participated in ISALs – creating equity concerns and highlighting the need for scale-up and market integration.
- **Disaster risk reduction (DRR)** interventions, including training first responders and developing ward-level DRR plans, enhanced community preparedness but did not fully address infrastructure vulnerabilities (e.g., wooden shelters, lack of evacuation roads).
- **Social cohesion** was strengthened through peace dialogues, sport, and the arts. Host-IDP divisions lessened, though tensions around cattle management and resource distribution remain in some areas.

Long-Term Effects

The project generated a range of positive, intended long-term outcomes:

- Improved access to essential services (e.g., water, protection) and increased resilience to shocks through DRR training, climate-resilient seeds, and small livestock.
- Strengthened social cohesion and women's leadership, with over 70% of community structures led by women.
- Reduced negative coping strategies, such as food skipping or asset selling, replaced by ISAL borrowing and backyard gardening.
- Greater psychosocial well-being, with community members reporting openness to mental health support and improved interpersonal trust.

However, some **unintended or negative effects** were also noted:
- Unequal beneficiary reach, especially for host community members during early phases.
- Tensions over fairness arose from differences in FFA and unconditional lean season assistance aid targeting from another ZCC project supported by ACT Alliance.
- Over-reliance on external support risks were observed in some households.
- Raised community expectations for services (e.g., police post, shelter upgrades), some of which exceeded project scope and remain unmet.

Overall Impact Assessment

The project had a strong and multidimensional impact on recovery and resilience. It restored dignity and agency to affected populations, especially women, children, and persons with disabilities. While livelihood and infrastructure gaps remain, the foundation laid by the project – especially in social cohesion, access to services, and community-based systems – positions communities for sustainable progress if supported by continued investment and institutional coordination.

Sustainability	**Sustainability of Locally Led Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion Efforts** The project's investment in peacebuilding and social cohesion yielded strong initial outcomes. Community trust, intergroup dialogue, and youth-led cultural initiatives contributed to a significant reduction in tensions between IDPs and host communities. These efforts were culturally resonant and locally driven – factors that enhance their potential for sustainability. **Key strengths supporting sustainability include:** **Faith-based anchoring**: Peace dialogues and psychosocial healing were led by Local Ecumenical Fellowships (LEFs), which remain active and trusted mediators. **Youth ownership and continuity**: Drama groups, cultural performances, and sports tournaments continue post-funding, with strong community recognition. **Inclusion and representation**: Women, youth, IDPs, and host members were equitably represented in committees and peace structures. **Integration into existing platforms**: Peacebuilding was interlinked with WASH, DRR, and protection structures – providing reinforcement across sectors. **However, challenges threaten long-term sustainability:** - Peace committees are no longer functional, with limited facilitation and follow-up. - Persistent conflict drivers, including land use disputes (e.g., roaming cattle damaging crops and taps), remain unresolved.

- Lack of formal handover and institutional support limits continuity, with peacebuilding not integrated into district development plans.
- Volunteer fatigue and resource constraints affect community-led groups, especially those needing minimal inputs (e.g., drama equipment, transport).
- Economic shocks and absence of police services continue to strain community cohesion and compound protection risks.

Overall Assessment

While the project catalyzed strong community-driven peace initiatives, the **sustainability of these efforts remains moderate to weak**. Strengthening peace committee functionality, embedding peacebuilding in local development plans, and resolving structural drivers of conflict are necessary for long-term cohesion.

Sustainability of the Water Supply System

The water system was one of the most transformative project components, significantly improving access to clean water and dignity for over 2,000 individuals. Initial investments in infrastructure, community training, and institutional handover created a foundation for sustainability.

Mechanisms supporting sustainability include:

- **Water Point Committees (WPCs)**: 60+ community members trained in basic O&M, hygiene, and reporting systems.
- **Institutional handover**: Formal transition of system ownership to the Rural District Council and integration into school and clinic operations.
- **Technical capacity building**: Support from MoHCC, DDF, and RIDA improved local understanding of maintenance and water safety monitoring.
- **Community engagement**: Local involvement in trenching, planning, and usage norms reinforced a sense of ownership.

Challenges compromising sustainability:

- **Inconsistent committee performance**: Some WPCs are inactive or ineffective, leading to mismanagement (e.g., broken taps, water wastage).
- **No financial mechanism**: Absence of user fees or maintenance funds limit's ability to buy spare parts or hire repair services.
- **Solar dependency**: Overcast weather affects pumping capacity, especially for higher-elevation households. No backup hand pumps exist.
- **Infrastructure vulnerability**: Cattle have damaged taps while seeking water, and lack of fencing exposes points to repeated destruction.
- **Unequal coverage**: Not all households are connected, generating frustration and potential tension.
- **Dispute resolution gaps**: Water-related disagreements and system misuse highlight the need for stronger enforcement and accountability systems.

Overall Assessment

The water supply system is **partially sustainable**, strengthened by training, community participation, and initial infrastructure quality. However, **technical, environmental, and institutional gaps** must be addressed – particularly by reinforcing committee functionality, establishing a maintenance fund, and integrating hybrid energy or resilience measures – to ensure long-term viability.

Accountability & Inclusion	**Project Accountability** The project demonstrated a deliberate and inclusive approach to accountability, ensuring that **project participants, government stakeholders, and funding**

partners were consistently engaged through transparent, participatory, and responsive mechanisms.

Accountability to Project Participants

- Community dialogues (5 on protection, 2 on peacebuilding) created spaces for communities to voice priorities such as dam desilting, food support, and the need for a police post. While some issues remain unresolved, these forums fostered **bottom-up communication and responsiveness**.
- Community-Based Protection (CBP) Committees, Sanitation Action Groups (SAGs), and ISAL groups participated in **decision-making, referrals, and peer monitoring**.
- Community awareness was strengthened through roadshows, IEC materials, and outreach campaigns, enhancing participants' knowledge of rights and service pathways.
- Feedback mechanisms, such as suggestion boxes managed by DSD and ZCC, allowed **confidential and structured reporting**, enhancing trust and two-way communication.

Accountability to Government and Stakeholders

- The project worked closely with government ministries (MWACSMED , DSD, RIDA, Chimanimani RDC) in planning, implementation, and monitoring. Ministries co-led activities like ISAL formation and documentation support.
- Government service delivery linkages were strengthened. ZCC provided **logistical and financial support** to enable survivors to access police, medical, and social services. These partnerships reinforced institutional accountability and sustainability.
- Joint monitoring visits and quarterly reviews with government officials promoted **mutual accountability and transparency**, enhancing legitimacy of findings and fostering shared ownership.

Accountability to Partners

- Act for Peace (AfP), as the project's funding and technical partner, provided consistent oversight and collaborated on adaptive changes (e.g., replacing the midterm review with a more robust endline evaluation).
- The project participated in national and regional platforms, including ANCP coordination meetings and World Refugee Day events, contributing to **broader learning and reporting obligations**.

Overall Assessment

Accountability was effectively mainstreamed throughout the project, with structured community feedback, strong government coordination, and donor engagement ensuring upward, downward, and horizontal accountability.

Integration of Cross-Cutting Issues

The project embedded several cross-cutting issues into its design, implementation, and monitoring processes. While gender and child protection were strongly integrated, disability inclusion and environmental sustainability require deeper institutionalization.

a) Gender Equality

- Women constituted the majority in key structures: 74% of CBP trainees, 89% of SAG members, and 83% of ISAL participants.
- GBV was addressed through referrals, dignity kits, awareness campaigns, and female-led leadership in peace and protection committees.

- However, limited documentation on outreach to **women-headed households** may constrain understanding of intra-household inequalities.

b) Disability Inclusion
- Households with persons with disabilities (PWDs) were prioritized in water access planning, and some were supported with protection referrals.
- Despite these gains, **disability inclusion was not systematically embedded** in M&E frameworks. There were no tailored tools or disability-specific outcome indicators, limiting responsiveness and tracking.

c) Child Protection
- A strong child protection approach included school-based clubs, drama groups, and community outreach, reaching over 1,000 children.
- Referral pathways and case follow-ups were effectively supported in collaboration with ZRP, DSD, and health providers.

d) Environmental Sustainability
- Interventions promoted climate-smart agriculture (e.g., small grains, backyard gardens) and included environmental messaging in DRR training.
- However, practical mitigation efforts (e.g., erosion control, fencing, reforestation) remained **limited in scope and funding**, reducing the potential for long-term environmental resilience.

e) Inclusion and Community Representation
- Inclusion of IDPs, host communities, women, youth, and faith actors in planning and implementation processes promoted **social cohesion and responsive programming**.
- Community feedback directly shaped interventions, such as water tap placement and adjustments to livelihood activities.
- A toll-free line, suggestion boxes, and protection committees enhanced **community voice, transparency, and safe reporting mechanisms**.

Overall Assessment

Cross-cutting issues were moderately to highly integrated across the project lifecycle. Strongest areas included gender equality and child protection, while disability inclusion and environmental sustainability remain priority areas for future strengthening – particularly through dedicated tools, M&E indicators, and institutional commitments.

5.2   Contribution to Recovery and Resilience: Analysis of Overarching Evaluation Questions

a) Did individuals and communities in Runyararo recover from the devastating losses that they experienced due to Cyclone Idai?

The evaluation confirms that individuals and communities in Runyararo have made meaningful progress in recovering from the devastating impacts of Cyclone Idai, particularly through improved access to essential services, strengthened protection systems, and enhanced social cohesion. Outcome Indicator 1.1 - *Number of people with sustained access to safe water*, was achieved through the installation of a solar-powered piped water system that benefitted over 2,000 people, reducing water-fetching burdens, improving school attendance, and lowering water-related protection risks. Outcome Indicator 2.1 -*Number of protection cases identified and referred*, was surpassed in year 2, with 236 GBV and child protection cases supported. There is potential to surpass targets in the third year. Outcome Indicator 2.3 - *Number of people participating in psychosocial support activities*, was advanced through faith-led interventions, drama groups, and LEF-facilitated dialogues that fostered emotional healing and reduced stigma. Although

livelihoods support was initiated, with 50 households (50 FFA), 10 households receiving goats and 30 engaged in ISALs, this was insufficient relative to demand, suggesting partial progress against Outcome Indicator 3.1 - *Percentage of households reporting improved food security or income sources*. Thus, while the project laid a solid foundation for recovery, gaps in scale, infrastructure, and legal protection continue to constrain full recovery, especially among the most vulnerable.

b) Are they now better equipped to face future shocks and stresses at individual, household, and community level?

The evaluation found that the project significantly enhanced resilience capacities at individual, household, and community levels. Absorptive capacity improved through investments in safe water systems and protection mechanisms, while adaptive capacity was built via DRR training, small livestock support, and promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices. Transformative capacity emerged through the establishment of inclusive, community-led structures and strengthened cohesion between IDPs and host populations. These outcomes align with several project indicators. Outcome Indicator 4.1 –*Number of communities with functional DRR plans*, was achieved through the development and local adoption of disaster preparedness plans and first responder training in Ward 7. Outcome Indicator 3.3 –*Number of households adopting climate-resilient livelihoods*, was partially achieved, with foundational activities such as backyard gardening and goat rearing introduced, though limited in reach. Faith-based mediation, sports for peace, and joint community dialogues supported Outcome Indicator 2.4 –*Percentage of community members reporting improved social cohesion*, which was positively affirmed in FGDs. However, resilience remains uneven. Inactive peace committees, lack of early warning systems, and infrastructure gaps (e.g., limited police presence, unfenced water points) constrain the full achievement of Outcome Indicator 4.3 – *Level of community preparedness for future disasters*. Sustaining and scaling the project's gains will require deeper institutional investment, stronger coordination, and expanded economic inclusion strategies.

6. Recommendations

6.1   Recommendations for ZCC

- **Program Identification and Framing**: For future programming, it is important to revisit how programs are initially identified and framed. For instance, the title *"Strengthening Protection, Resilience, and Preparedness Program for Displaced and Host Communities in Zimbabwe"* inherently distinguishes between two groups. While this reflects the program's intent, it may unintentionally reinforce perceived divisions. Future initiatives should adopt a more unifying and inclusive framing that emphasizes collective recovery, community resilience, and shared development goals – particularly in contexts where social cohesion is a key objective.

- **Adopt a Multi-Phase, Multi-Sectoral Programming Approach:** To enhance long-term impact, sustainability, and responsiveness, future initiatives should be designed as holistic multi-year, multi-phase programs that integrate core sectors such as Protection, WASH, Livelihoods, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) from the outset to collectively address the layered vulnerabilities communities face. A phased approach allows for interventions to evolve over time – from humanitarian response and stabilization to recovery, resilience, and development – while ensuring continuity and coherence across implementation cycles. Design future programs

with clearly defined phases that reflect both the evolving needs of the community and the maturity of local systems. This will enable programming to remain responsive, community-driven, and impact-oriented, fostering lasting change across social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

- **Strengthen the Functionality and Sustainability of Community Structures**: Future programming should prioritize the reactivation and continuous support of key community structures such as peace committees, water point committees, and community-based protection (CBP) champions. These groups play a critical role in sustaining service delivery, promoting social cohesion, and responding to protection and development challenges at the local level.
  To enhance their functionality and accountability, the following actions are recommended:
    ~ Introduce regular refresher trainings, tailored to each committee's mandate (e.g., case documentation and survivor-centred response)
    ~ Conduct refresher training for Water Point Committees and O&M personnel to enhance capacity and clarify roles.
    ~ Provide basic toolkits and operational support to enable timely and effective service delivery e.g., communication tools or bicycles for committee members.
    ~ Establish routine supervision and mentoring mechanisms, led by local authorities or trained focal persons.

  In addition, **peacebuilding initiatives should be scaled up and formally integrated into local governance structures**. While drama groups and peace committees have had a positive impact on cohesion, their sustainability is undermined by the lack of funding and formal recognition.
    ~ Peacebuilding activities should be included in ward and district development plans.
    ~ Allocate small grants or material support (e.g., costumes, transport, refreshments) to maintain momentum and motivation.
    ~ Support the schools with sporting gear and grounds clearing to ensure the tool can be used more effectively beyond project implementation.
    ~ Train ward and village development committees in basic mediation, conflict transformation, and inclusive dialogue facilitation to ensure localized conflict prevention and response capacity.

- **Scale Up Livelihoods and Resilience Interventions**: To promote sustainable economic recovery and reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance, future programming should significantly expand the scope and depth of livelihood interventions. This involves scaling up Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups beyond the current 30-member pilot structure and ensuring robust market linkages for supported income-generating activities. Key strategic actions should include:
    ~ Broadening seed and livestock distribution using a transparent, inclusive targeting process that ensures equitable access among women-headed households, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.
    ~ Conducting a comprehensive livelihood and market assessment to identify economically viable, context-appropriate interventions that reflect both market demand and the aspirations and skills of target communities. This will enable the co-designing of livelihood initiatives and aid in introducing targeted vocational skills outreach programs that equips youth with market-relevant competencies.
    ~ Integrating an environmental impact assessment to evaluate the sustainability and ecological footprint of proposed agro-based livelihoods (e.g., crop cultivation,

livestock, aquaculture). This will guide the adoption of climate-resilient and conservation-friendly practices.

  ~ Promoting and supporting ecosystem restoration through tree planting along water sources, dam rehabilitation, promoting water harvesting initiatives at community level.
  ~ Designing livelihood interventions with flexibility and scalability in mind, allowing for regional variation in weather patterns, resource availability, and cultural preferences.
  ~ Providing post-distribution support, including business mentoring, group monitoring, and linkages to local extension services and financial institutions.
  ~ Promote the establishment of a school nutrition garden utilizing overflow water from the second borehole.

- **Enhance Reliability of Water Supply through Hybrid System Design**: To ensure consistent and equitable water access, future water infrastructure projects should prioritize the design and installation of **hybrid water systems** that combine solar-powered technology with manual or alternative backup options. The current reliance on solar-only systems has led to intermittent access, particularly during periods of heavy cloud cover or rain, when solar pump output is reduced or ceases entirely. This unreliability disproportionately affects women, children, and elderly persons who bear the burden of water collection. To address this, it is recommended that ZCC and its partners:

  ~ Explore hybrid models that integrate solar systems with grid electricity (where available), hand pumps, or gravity-fed backups to ensure service continuity.
  ~ Install dual-access mechanisms (e.g., manual pump attachments) to enable water retrieval during power disruptions.
  ~ Conduct a comprehensive feasibility assessment to evaluate battery storage capacities, technical maintenance needs, and the availability of local repair services.
  ~ Incorporate community-based management systems with dedicated training on hybrid system operations, minor repairs, and maintenance routines as part of sustainability.
  ~ Coordinate with the RIDA, ZINWA, and Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MPSLSW), to align with existing infrastructure development plans and leverage technical expertise.
  ~ Review and strengthen community contribution models to ensure sustainable O&M financing.
  ~ Consider expanding clean water access to surrounding villages that remain underserved.
  ~ Integrate ZCC's solar-powered borehole system with ZINWA infrastructure at Runyararo Clinic to ensure a reliable water supply
  ~ Support peer learning exchange visits ("look-and-learn") for enhancing infrastructure management and ownership.

- **Address Root Conflict Drivers through Inclusive Resource Governance:** To foster long-term peace and social cohesion, future programming must go beyond surface-level interventions and address the structural drivers of conflict, particularly those related to land use, livestock management, and natural resource competition. One of the recurring sources of tension identified during the evaluation was the destruction of crops by roaming livestock, which has fuelled disputes/tensions between households and contributed to deteriorating host-IDP relations in some areas. To mitigate these risks and promote equitable access to shared resources, the following actions are recommended:

- Facilitate inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms involving community leaders, livestock owners, farmers, women, youth, and local authorities to openly discuss land use conflicts and co-create solutions.
- Support the development and enforcement of community bylaws and grazing management plans, rooted in traditional governance structures but aligned with local government policies.
- Introduce practical land use planning tools, including communal paddocks, fenced farming areas, and rotational grazing systems, with technical support from the Ministry of Lands and Agritex.
- Strengthen the capacity of local leaders and peace committees to mediate land- and livestock-related disputes through training on conflict resolution and participatory planning.
- Raise community awareness about environmental stewardship and the shared benefits of sustainable land management.

- **Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for Program Effectiveness Learning and Accountability**: While commendable efforts were made to monitor project activities and outputs, future programming should invest in strengthening continuous, outcome-level monitoring and learning systems that inform real-time decision-making, enhance accountability, and guide adaptive programming. To support effective tracking of results, the following actions are recommended:
  - Institutionalize regular monitoring and evaluation cycles, including monthly field reviews, quarterly learning reflections, and annual outcome assessments, to evaluate program effectiveness, relevance, and community satisfaction.
  - Develop and deploy standardized M&E tools and templates, including digital data collection forms (e.g., KoboToolbox, ODK), scorecards, and community monitoring checklists, to ensure consistency and timely data flow from the field to management teams.
  - Track both quantitative and qualitative indicators as agreed in the program's M&E framework, with clear definitions, baselines, and targets for measuring progress and impact across thematic areas (e.g., WASH access, GBV response, livelihood recovery).
  - Build the capacity of field staff and community focal points on data collection, analysis, and use of monitoring tools to enhance local ownership and accountability.
  - Ensure data disaggregation by sex, age, disability, and displacement status (SADD+) to support equity analysis and targeted decision-making.
  - Create a centralized, secure database or dashboard system to manage project data, generate real-time visuals, and support evidence-based reporting to donors and stakeholders.
  - Document and Share Good Practices and Lessons through case studies and learning brief to inform future programming and coordinate internal and external exchange forums

- **Strengthen the Inclusion of Youth, Women-Headed Households and Persons with Disabilities in Leadership and Program Participation**: While overall gender inclusion was visible during project implementation, the intentional representation of specific vulnerable groups – particularly women-headed households and persons with disabilities (PWDs) – in leadership, decision-making, and resource access was not consistently documented or tracked. Ensuring meaningful inclusion of these groups is essential to advancing equity,

accountability, and community ownership in future programming. To address these gaps and enhance inclusive development outcomes, the following actions are recommended:

- ~ Establish representation quotas for women-headed households and persons with disabilities within project governance structures, such as ISAL committees, protection groups, peace committees, and community advisory panels.
- ~ Provide tailored leadership and empowerment training to equip women and PWDs with the skills, confidence, and support networks necessary to participate effectively in community leadership and decision-making processes.
- ~ Integrate disability-specific considerations into program design and M&E frameworks, including adaptive tools, accessible communication formats, and flexible engagement modalities.
- ~ Conduct accessibility audits and targeted outreach campaigns to identify and reduce barriers that limit the full participation of persons with disabilities, particularly in remote or resource-constrained areas.
- ~ Track and analyze disaggregated data by sex, age, disability, and household type (SADD+) to monitor participation rates, identify exclusion patterns, and inform corrective actions during implementation.
- ~ Promote the meaningful inclusion of youth in leadership, governance, and decision-making processes, both at community and institutional levels

- **Continued Support for Faith-Based Engagement and Ministry:** One of the key unifying approaches successfully implemented by the project was the active engagement of Local Ecumenical Fellowships (LEFs) and leveraging ZCC's identity as a faith-based organization. This approach fostered trust, strengthened community cohesion, and provided an accessible platform for dialogue, healing, and social transformation, particularly in a context marked by displacement and trauma. To build on this momentum, it is recommended that future programming:
  - ~ Continue supporting and institutionalizing the role of LEFs in peacebuilding, psychosocial support, and protection outreach. This includes capacity strengthening in areas such as trauma-informed care, mediation, and referrals.
  - ~ Facilitate inter-faith and intra-community religious forums to nurture unity and reduce residual tensions between host and displaced populations.
  - ~ Support the establishment of a permanent place of worship, as recommended by local religious leaders, to serve as a spiritual and community hub for both host and displaced populations.
  - ~ Promote faith-based dialogue and inclusive messaging as a tool for addressing harmful practices (e.g., GBV, child marriage), substance abuse, and stigma against vulnerable groups.
  - ~ Integrate LEFs into community development structures, ensuring they have defined roles in coordination platforms, protection networks, and community education.

- **Institutionalize Community Feedback and Response Mechanisms:** To promote transparency, accountability, and meaningful community participation, future programs should prioritize the institutionalization of robust, accessible, and inclusive community feedback mechanisms as a core component of their accountability frameworks. Effective feedback systems not only enhance trust

between the implementing organization and the community, but also enable early identification of gaps, emerging risks, and areas for program adaptation. Recommended actions include:

- ~ Strengthen and formalize multiple feedback channels – including toll-free hotlines, suggestion boxes, community help desks, WhatsApp lines, and regular community forums – to ensure diverse entry points for different age, gender, and literacy groups.
- ~ Ensure that feedback mechanisms are confidential, accessible, and culturally appropriate, particularly for sensitive issues related to protection, GBV, or exclusion.
- ~ Integrate feedback systems into the project's monitoring and management processes, with a dedicated focal person or accountability officer responsible for receiving, categorizing, and escalating community concerns.
- ~ Implement structured follow-up and response protocols, ensuring that community members are informed of how their feedback was addressed and what actions were taken.
- ~ Track and analyze feedback trends regularly, and use the data to inform programmatic decisions, course corrections, and reporting to donors and stakeholders.
- ~ Publicize the existence and purpose of the feedback mechanisms using posters, community meetings, and radio messages to improve awareness and uptake.

- **Continued Coordination with Government and Local Authorities**: Sustained and structured coordination with government and local authorities is critical to ensure program alignment with national priorities, facilitate service integration, and enhance the sustainability of community-based interventions. The project's existing collaboration with departments such as DSD, MYEDVT, MoHCC, MoPSE,RIDA, RDC, and the CPU has proven valuable and should be further strengthened in future programming. To build on this foundation, the following actions are recommended:
  - ~ Formalize coordination structures at ward and district levels, such as joint technical working groups, district steering committees, and ward-level review platforms that include government officials, local leaders, and implementing partners.
  - ~ Align project planning and reporting cycles with those of government departments to ensure synergy and resource optimization, particularly in WASH, protection, education, and disaster preparedness.
  - ~ Share implementation plans, quarterly reports, and evaluation findings with local authorities to promote transparency and joint decision-making.
  - ~ Build the capacity of local government actors through joint training, resource sharing, and technical support in areas such as DRR, case management, monitoring and evaluation, and inclusive planning.
  - ~ Advocate for the inclusion of successful community-based models (e.g., LEFs, ISALs, peace committees) in local development plans and policy discussions to ensure institutional ownership and replication.

- **Strengthen Coordination with Peer NGOs, CSOs, and Donors**: To maximize impact, avoid duplication of efforts, and promote shared learning, future programming should prioritize strategic coordination with peer NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), and development partners operating within the same geographic and thematic spaces. Enhanced coordination not only fosters resource efficiency but also strengthens collective advocacy, sectoral alignment, and innovation. Recommended actions include:

- Map and engage NGOs and CSOs working in similar sectors (e.g., protection, WASH, livelihoods, DRR) within Chimanimani and neighboring districts to identify synergies, complementarities, and shared platforms for implementation.
- Participate actively in district and provincial coordination forums, such as inter-agency cluster meetings, NGO forums, and donor roundtables, to ensure alignment with broader development and humanitarian frameworks.
- Facilitate joint planning and information sharing, including activity calendars, beneficiary targeting criteria, and emerging community needs, to avoid overlaps and identify potential for joint programming or referrals.
- Co-host technical exchange workshops or learning events, where organizations can showcase effective approaches, tools, and lessons learned from similar or complementary interventions.
- Advocate jointly for systemic issues, such as disaster risk financing, protection policy reform, or expanded WASH infrastructure funding, leveraging the collective voice and evidence base of peer organizations.
- Explore opportunities for shared services or resources, such as joint capacity-building sessions, pooled procurement for community kits, or shared transport for field activities.

6.2   Recommendations for Donors (Act for Peace/ANCP)

- **Support Institutional Strengthening of Community Structures**: Provide flexible and targeted funding to support the institutional development and long-term functionality of community-based structures such as Water Point Committees (WPCs), Peace Committees, ISAL groups, and Community Protection Committees. These community structures have been instrumental in facilitating service delivery, promoting social cohesion, and driving grassroots accountability. However, their sustainability is threatened by the absence of post-project support, limited technical capacity, and insufficient linkage to formal governance systems. Without continued investment, the risk of collapse or reduced effectiveness increases significantly. Strategic Actions for Donors:
  - Allocate specific funding windows or bridge grants to strengthen the capacity of community structures after project closure, allowing for the continuation of critical functions such as water system oversight, case referrals, peacebuilding activities, and savings group management.
  - Support capacity development initiatives, including leadership training, governance coaching, conflict resolution, and financial literacy tailored to each type of group.
  - Encourage linkages between community groups and formal institutions, such as Ward Development Committees, DSD, MoHCC, and Rural District Councils, to promote oversight, legitimacy, and technical support.
  - Enable communities to develop sustainability plans, including resource mobilization strategies, cost-recovery models, and partnerships with local enterprises or cooperatives.
  - Promote peer-to-peer learning exchanges, where high-performing community groups mentor emerging ones, creating a local ecosystem of knowledge and support.

- **Facilitate Policy Advocacy and Structural Support:** Collaborate with implementing partners such as ZCC to actively support policy advocacy efforts aimed at addressing systemic gaps identified during project implementation – particularly in the areas of protection services, disaster risk

reduction (DRR), and secure land tenure for displaced populations. While community-level interventions have been impactful, many of the persistent challenges – such as the absence of local police services, inadequate DRR infrastructure, and insecure land access for IDPs – are rooted in structural and policy-level constraints. These require coordinated engagement with national and subnational authorities, and the support of donors can play a catalytic role in elevating these issues to decision-making platforms. Strategic Actions for Donors:

- ~ Support ZCC and other partners in conducting evidence-based advocacy, including the use of evaluation findings, community voices, and case studies to highlight critical gaps and systemic risks.
- ~ Support engagement with national stakeholders and facilitate multi-stakeholder policy dialogues that bring together government, civil society, community representatives, and donors to co-develop inclusive, locally anchored solutions.
- ~ Provide technical and financial support for the development of policy briefs, roundtables, and national learning forums aimed at influencing structural reforms.

- **Incorporate Disability Inclusion and Environmental Risk Mitigation in Future Funding Calls:** Ensure that future funding calls and project frameworks issued by donors explicitly require the integration of disability inclusion and environmental risk mitigation, with corresponding budget lines, indicators, and accountability mechanisms. Despite some progress during implementation, disability inclusion and environmental resilience were not consistently embedded across all components of the project. Future programming must adopt a more deliberate and structured approach to ensure that persons with disabilities (PWDs) are not only beneficiaries, but active participants in all stages of the project cycle. At the same time, increasing climate risks and ecological degradation demand that all funded interventions incorporate environmental safeguards and adaptation strategies. Strategic Actions for Donors:
  - ~ Include mandatory disability inclusion and environmental sustainability criteria in proposal guidelines and evaluation scoring matrices.
  - ~ Require the development of disability-inclusive implementation plans, including accessibility audits, adaptive tools, and disaggregated reporting by disability status.
  - ~ Integrate environmental impact assessments and climate risk analyses as part of the design and approval process for agro-based, infrastructure, or livelihoods interventions.
  - ~ Ensure dedicated budget lines for disability accommodations (e.g., ramps, sign language interpretation, communication aids) and for environmental resilience measures (e.g., climate-smart agriculture, soil conservation).
  - ~ Monitor and report against inclusion and environmental indicators, such as the number of PWDs in leadership roles, or percentage of interventions that meet environmental safeguards.

- **Invest in Partner Capacity Building and Organizational Development:** Provide sustained support for the institutional capacity development of implementing partners like ZCC to enhance the quality, scalability, and sustainability of community-based programming. While ZCC has demonstrated strong programmatic leadership, community trust, and multisectoral reach, ongoing investment in organizational systems, technical expertise, and staff development will be essential to meet the growing complexity of programming demands – especially in fragile and displacement-

affected contexts. Strengthening local actors aligns with global best practices in localization and ensures a more resilient, agile civil society. Strategic Actions for Donors:

- ~ Support institutional assessments and capacity-building roadmaps to identify and address key gaps in areas such as finance and compliance systems, digital data management, human resource development, and strategic leadership.
- ~ Invest in technical capacity strengthening, particularly in emerging or cross-cutting areas such as Protection mainstreaming and GBV case management, Climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, Disability and social inclusion programming, Conflict sensitivity and trauma-informed approaches.
- ~ Fund training, mentoring, and peer learning opportunities for ZCC staff at national, regional, and international levels to build global-local linkages and continuous learning pathways.
- ~ Promote organizational sustainability by supporting resource mobilization strategies, donor engagement planning, and the development of internal M&E and knowledge management systems.

- **Enable Longer-Term Programming Windows and Flexible Adaptation to Context:** Support multi-phase and multi-year funding models that allow for continuity, adaptive learning, and the deepening of impact across fragile and post-displacement contexts such as Runyararo. Build flexibility into programming frameworks to allow for contextual adjustments as community needs, risks, and priorities evolve. Short-term funding cycles often constrain the ability of implementing partners to address systemic issues, scale proven models, or sustain community structures. In complex environments – such as those involving displacement, trauma recovery, or fragile service delivery systems – longer timelines and phased approaches are essential to enable social transformation, reinforce institutional partnerships, and promote locally driven sustainability. Strategic Actions for Donors**:**

  - ~ Design funding calls that support three- to five-year programs, segmented into clearly defined phases (e.g., stabilization, recovery, resilience) with built-in review points and milestones.
  - ~ Promote a multi-phase program model that allows for the continuation and consolidation of early gains in Protection, WASH, DRR, and Livelihoods. This ensures that promising initiatives (such as peacebuilding committees, LEFs, and ISALs) are not cut short before being institutionalized.
  - ~ Allow for flexible adaptation within program cycles, including reallocation of budgets or strategic shifts in interventions based on mid-term evaluations, contextual changes, or emergent needs (e.g., climate shocks, epidemics, political instability).
  - ~ Incentivize adaptive learning frameworks that embed real-time monitoring, reflection workshops, and participatory review mechanisms to inform iterative program design

6.3   Recommendations for Local Authorities / Government Stakeholders

Local government and line ministries play a critical role in ensuring the continuity, sustainability, and scalability of community-based interventions. As implementing partners transition out, government structures must lead in integrating successful models into formal systems. The following recommendations aim to support institutionalization, equity, infrastructure development, and disaster preparedness in communities like Runyararo.

- **Strengthen Ownership and Resource Commitment for IDP and Vulnerable Communities:** Advocate for greater government ownership of humanitarian and resilience-building interventions. Specifically, national and sub-national authorities should allocate dedicated resources within their annual budgets to support the needs of IDPs and other vulnerable populations. Reliance on development partners for essential services - such as protection, psychosocial support, water access, and livelihood recovery - is not sustainable in the long term. Embedding IDP and vulnerable group support into public financing mechanisms will enhance the continuity, scale, and sustainability of interventions beyond the lifespan of donor-funded projects.
- **Institutionalize Peacebuilding into Local Development Plans:** Integrate community peacebuilding structures – such as peace committees, community drama groups, and interfaith platforms –into formal ward and district development plans to ensure long-term recognition and resourcing. These groups have proven effective in promoting social cohesion and reducing tensions between host and displaced populations. However, without formal inclusion in governance structures, their sustainability remains at risk. Recommended Actions:
  - ~ Assign peacebuilding roles in Ward Development Committee (WADCO) terms of reference.
  - ~ Provide small operational budgets to support outreach activities.
  - ~ Include peacebuilding indicators in local monitoring frameworks.

- **Ensure Follow-Up on Escalated Community Needs:** Act on unresolved community priorities identified during project implementation and community dialogues – particularly dam desilting, establishment of a police post, improved road access, fencing Runyararo primary school, and constructing or establishing disaster/safe shelters in the location. These infrastructure gaps pose recurring risks to safety, livelihoods, and mobility, especially in disaster-prone areas like Chimanimani. Recommended Actions:
  - ~ Include these priorities in district infrastructure development plans and budgets.
  - ~ Coordinate with national ministries for technical and financial support.
  - ~ Explore public-private partnerships or joint ventures with NGOs to address these needs.

- **Enhance Oversight of WASH Infrastructure:** Strengthen the technical oversight, supervision, and sustainability of community water infrastructure, especially solar-powered systems vulnerable to breakdowns. Inactive or undertrained water point committees, lack of spare parts, and unmanaged infrastructure threaten the reliability of water supply. Recommended Actions:
  - ~ Conduct regular site inspections by RIDA or other relevant district/ward structures.
  - ~ Integrate water infrastructure into district asset management plans with assigned budgets for maintenance.
  - ~ Facilitate spare parts supply chains and train local technicians.

- **Operationalize Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction Systems:** Support the full implementation of community-developed DRR plans through budgeted district programs, annual simulations, and stronger local ownership. While DRR plans exist, most remain underfunded and disconnected from ward-level disaster response mechanisms. Recommended Actions:
  - ~ Allocate dedicated DRR funds in RDC budgets.
  - ~ Conduct community-led emergency simulations.
  - ~ Develop ward-level contingency plans linked to provincial CPU strategies.

- ~ Support vulnerable households with land for agriculture to improve their livelihood and access to food security.
- ~ Support school feeding programs to address food insecurity challenges faced by school going children.

- **Institutionalize Community-Based Adaptation in Development Planning:** Advocate for the institutionalization of community-based adaptation (CBA) approaches within formal ward, district, and provincial development planning systems, particularly in climate-vulnerable regions like Chimanimani. Community-led adaptation strategies – such as water harvesting, climate-smart agriculture, and locally-driven risk mapping – have demonstrated strong ownership and contextual relevance. However, without formal recognition and resource allocation, these approaches risk remaining fragmented or pilot-bound. Recommended Actions:
    - ~ Include CBA methodologies in District Development Plans (DDPs), DRR strategies, and Environmental Management Plans.
    - ~ Train local planners and ward development officers on participatory adaptation planning.
    - ~ Facilitate cross-ward learning exchanges to scale successful local innovations.
    - ~ Align local adaptation planning with national frameworks (e.g., Zimbabwe NDS1, National Climate Policy etc..).

- **Ensure Continuous Support and Technical Resources for Capacity Building:** Work with donors and government line ministries to secure ongoing financial and technical support **for local** capacity-building initiatives, especially in areas such as DRR, WASH maintenance, case management, and inclusive service delivery. Sustainable community development depends on the presence of well-trained local actors**,** including committee members, ward-level authorities, and frontline service providers. Capacity gains made during the project period require reinforcement and scaling to prevent attrition. Recommended Actions:

    - ~ Advocate for a dedicated capacity-building fund at district level to support emergency survivor response fund, refresher trainings, technical mentorship, and onboarding of new community volunteers.
    - ~ Engage national ministries (e.g., MoHCC, MPSLSW, MWACSMED) to integrate local training priorities into sectoral training plans.
    - ~ Establish regional training partnerships with local training institutions, NGOs, and academic centers.
    - ~ Track and report on capacity development outcomes as part of district performance monitoring.

- **Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Coordination Mechanisms:** Enhance and formalize multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at ward and district levels to ensure harmonized planning, implementation, and monitoring of development and humanitarian activities. While ZCC and its partners coordinated well with government stakeholders during the project, gaps remain in sustaining structured coordination beyond project cycles. Strengthening these systems will foster greater accountability, resource sharing, and alignment of efforts across sectors and actors. Strategic Actions:

- ～ Institutionalize regular coordination meetings (monthly or quarterly) at the ward and district levels, involving line ministries, DA/DDC, RIDA, RDCs, NGOs, CSOs, traditional leaders, and community representatives etc.
- ～ Designate sector-specific focal points within RDCs and other government structures (e.g., for WASH, DRR, Protection) to lead coordination and serve as liaisons with implementing partners.
- ～ Develop and maintain shared activity calendars and reporting templates across actors to reduce duplication and identify collaboration opportunities.
- ～ Facilitate joint monitoring missions and learning reviews, ensuring joint data collection, mutual accountability, and shared reflection on progress and challenges.
- ～ Integrate coordination results and commitments into the District Development Plans (DDPs), Performance Review Reports, and submissions to national ministries.

7. Lessons Learned and Good Practices

7.1   Leveraging Community-Based Engagement for Social Cohesion

a) Sports for Peace is a Scalable Tool for Youth Engagement and Conflict Mitigation

Sports for Peace proved to be a highly effective platform for engaging youth and building unity across IDP and host communities. It not only facilitated recreational activity in a stress-prone environment but served as a vehicle for messaging on peace, anti-GBV, and substance abuse awareness.

What Worked Well:

- Inclusive and community-owned peace tournaments attracted wide participation and created safe spaces for dialogue and play.
- Activities were interlinked with protection messaging and psychosocial support, making the intervention both fun and socially transformative.
- Youth gained leadership and teamwork experience, with local sports leaders emerging as informal mediators and role models.

b) Community Drama and Arts Offer a Powerful Medium for Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)

Drama and creative arts played a vital role in **raising awareness on sensitive protection issues** such as GBV, early marriage, and intergroup tensions – delivering messages in a culturally acceptable, emotionally resonant format.

What Worked Well:
- Interactive drama performances allowed community members to engage with difficult topics in non-threatening ways.
- Activities often occurred during public events, market days, or commemorative observances, maximizing reach and community dialogue.
- Youth and traditional leaders participated, reinforcing local ownership and legitimacy of messaging.

Both interventions demonstrated that community-led, culturally embedded approaches can create safe and inclusive platforms for collective healing and unity; engage marginalized groups (especially youth, women, and PWDs) in creative leadership; and reinforce protection messaging and complement formal service delivery through informal networks. These models are low-cost, scalable, and replicable, making them well-suited to both humanitarian and development settings.

7.2 Localized, Faith-Based Entry Increases Trust and Social Cohesion

Integrating faith actors through Local Ecumenical Fellowships (LEFs) proved essential in gaining community trust, especially in a politically sensitive and post-displacement context. Faith-based engagement helped reduce tensions between host and IDP populations and increased acceptance of sensitive topics such as GBV and mental health. LEFs significantly enhanced program acceptance, credibility, and social cohesion, particularly in a sensitive, post-displacement context.

What Worked Well:
- LEFs served as culturally respected intermediaries, bridging the gap between displaced and host communities while promoting dialogue, empathy, and conflict resolution.
- Faith leaders were instrumental in facilitating sensitive conversations around GBV, child protection, and peacebuilding in ways that aligned with community values.
- The use of religious language and settings helped normalize project activities, increase participation, and reduce resistance especially among conservative or trauma-affected populations.
- A key lesson from the project is the value of leveraging existing faith structures to deliver both psychosocial support and protection messaging. Faith leaders provided culturally appropriate counseling, restored hope, and contributed to peaceful integration of displaced populations, as evidenced by testimonials from project participants and leaders.

Faith structures provide continuity, legitimacy, and embedded social capital that development programs can rarely replicate on their own. When appropriately trained and supported, faith actors can strengthen social bonds, increase moral accountability, and enhance access to support services especially for women, youth, and marginalized populations.

7.3 Multi-Sectoral Integration Amplifies Impact

Linking WASH, protection, livelihoods, and DRR interventions created compound benefits. For example, water access improvements enhanced both health outcomes and safety (especially for women and girls),

while piped water access to schools and clinics increased education access and hygiene outcomes. This significantly enhances the overall effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the intervention.

What Worked Well:
- Interventions were designed to reinforce each other, such as linking access to clean water with hygiene promotion, and protection services with psychosocial support and livelihood recovery.
- Multi-sectoral planning enabled holistic support for households, addressing intersecting vulnerabilities like gender-based violence, food insecurity, and inadequate shelter through coordinated action.
- Integration reduced duplication and created shared accountability across sectoral teams, resulting in more responsive and flexible programming.

Communities do not experience their challenges in silos and neither should interventions. A multi-sectoral approach enables greater cost-effectiveness, deeper impact, and stronger resilience, particularly in complex environments such as displacement-affected and disaster-prone areas.

8. Annexes

8.1 Annex 1: List of Key Informants

Key Informant Interviewees	Role
Mr. John Misi	Acting Manicaland Provincial Director (Local Government Services and Administration),
Mr Tarondwa Past-Tense	Acting Secretary for Manicaland Provincial Affairs
Mr Elisha Mushayavanhu	Chimanimani District Development Coordinator
Mr Jonathan Rakabopa	Rural infrastructure development agency, previously known as DDF now RIDA RIDA District Head Chimanimani
Mr B. Muchinapo	Social Services Officer, Rural District Council
Mr Tatenda Chipfuwa	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MPSLSW), Department of Social Development Social Development Officer
Mrs Zenda Tecla Mrs Rosemary Mutanda	Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development's (MWACSMED)
Reverend Takawira Naison John	LEF s

Reverend Mabiyana	
Mr Ebo Madzoyanike	Protection Committee Chair
Mr Wonder Matsengiwo	Ward 7 Councillor
Mr Godfrey Gwarire	Runyararo Primary School Headmaster
Matron Zuweni	Matron, Runyararo Clinic
Mr Trust. T. Makamanzi	Chayamiti Primary school Teacher
Mrs Maria Dendere	ZCC Director for Humanitarian Services
Mr Shepherd Munondo	ZCC Project Officer

8.2   Annex 2: Human Interest Stories / Case Studies

From Division to Unity: A Community's Journey Through ZCC's Protection and Resilience Program in Runyararo

When ZCC first arrived in our community, they were introduced through the local leadership as a church-based organization. At the time, the atmosphere was tense - conflicts between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities were common, and community meetings rarely attracted more than 30 participants.

Fostering Unity and Leadership

ZCC began their work by building relationships and training 60 traditional and community leaders. These leaders were empowered to foster peace and unity, especially in sub-villages. Gradually, people began to attend meetings and training sessions. I was one of those trained, and as we engaged more deeply, the walls between IDPs and hosts began to break down.

Improving Water Access and Inclusion

Runyararo faced serious water challenges. Many houses remained unoccupied due to water scarcity. Our community raised this concern with ZCC, and they

Figure 26: Ebo a Protection Committee Chair

responded by solarizing boreholes and providing a submersible pump. This intervention brought relief to both host and IDP communities. We, the residents, dug trenches together for water piping – further strengthening not just infrastructure but also relationships. Importantly, ZCC ensured persons with disabilities were not left behind. Some water points were relocated closer to their homes, improving access and dignity.

Figure 27: ZCC Runyararo Drama group performing for the community addressing teenage pregnancy

Empowering Through Community Based Protection Initiatives

Before the project, issues like gender-based violence (GBV), early pregnancies, and adultery were rampant - exacerbated by unemployment and social tensions. ZCC responded through targeted protection activities, awareness campaigns, and partnerships with Child Care Workers (CCWs), Village Health Workers (VHWs), headmen, and councillors. To support this work, we formed the ZCC Runyararo Protection Drama Group, where I serve as Chairperson. This group uses drama to educate communities on issues like drug abuse, child marriage, and GBV. Our work has reached schools and gatherings across districts and has contributed to a visible reduction in GBV and child abuse cases.

Encouraged by the impact, we supported the formation of school-based groups at Chayamiti Secondary and Runyararo Primary School, using traditional dances like Muchongoyo and Mhande as tools for protection advocacy. These young advocates have reported cases to the Ministry of Labour and Social Services - Department of Social Development, health workers, and the police, playing a vital role in community vigilance.

Building Resilience through DRR and Livelihoods

ZCC also strengthened our capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Twenty-five first aiders were trained and certified, with kits distributed across schools, clinics, and community hubs. We now receive early warning messages through ZCC, the Meteorological Department, and government stakeholders.

ZCC's Food for Assets program mobilized us to rehabilitate gullies, roads, and the local clinic in exchange for food support. Additionally, 50 households received seeds (cow peas/nyemba, sorghum/mapfunde, and sunflower), while others participated in Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups and a goat project.

These interventions not only boosted food production and incomes but also reduced social tensions—host and IDP groups worked side-by-side, restoring trust and solidarity.

Remaining Gaps and Future Hopes

Despite these successes, challenges remain. Solar-powered water systems struggle during cloudy and rainy days. A manual pump would offer a more reliable backup. The goat project reached only 10 people, maybe if it adopted a pass-on model this could widen reach and impact.

Protection services are still limited. The nearest police post is $4 away out of reach for many. Establishing a local police post and supporting the Protection Committee with basic communication tools like phones or bicycles would greatly improve case reporting and referrals.

We also call for sustainability support. Our drama and dance groups need income-generating initiatives to finance transport, refreshments, and continued advocacy.

Though the DRR work made a great start, it ended abruptly. In a dry, drought-prone region such as Runyararo with food insecurity, continuity is essential. Access to water for irrigation remains a major gap, especially in light of the ongoing El Niño-induced drought.

A Legacy of Trust and Inclusion

ZCC has worked with integrity and transparency. There have been no safeguarding or political issues. Their collaboration with government stakeholders, consistent updates to community leaders, and inclusive approach earned our trust. Their legacy lives in the infrastructure they supported, the unity they fostered, and the protection culture they helped build. Spiritually I felt uplifted by their support and I am filled with gratitude.

"Through this project, we did not just survive—we learned to live together, protect one another, and rebuild with hope."

Faith in Action – Building Unity, Healing, and Resilience in Runyararo

When displaced families were relocated to the dry, barren lands of Runyararo after Cyclone Idai, they faced a daunting reality – scarce water, broken livelihoods, and deep emotional scars. As a faith leader serving through the Local Ecumenical Fellowship (LEF), Rev. Takawira became a pillar of hope and healing for the newly settled community.

Through the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)-led project, tangible needs were met: a piped water system transformed daily life by bringing safe water to homes and a nearby clinic; food support helped displaced families survive in a place where limited livelihood plans existed; and protection initiatives prioritized the safety and dignity of children and vulnerable groups.

Beyond the physical support, Rev. Takawira worked tirelessly to rebuild the community's spirit. He led Bible studies, prayer sessions, and sporting activities that brought both IDPs and host community members together. His counselling and dialogues helped heal emotional wounds, foster social cohesion, and tackle critical issues like poverty and gender-based violence (GBV). Many residents, unaware of the seriousness of GBV, began to understand and change harmful behaviours after engaging in the faith-led workshops.

Figure 28: Rev. Takawira Participating in FFA distribution

Importantly, Rev. Takawira also supported the Food-for-Assets (FFA) activities that were introduced under the project to enhance livelihoods and community resilience. By mobilizing and motivating community members, he helped ensure active participation in FFA initiatives, where people worked collectively on projects like gully rehabilitation and asset management in exchange for food assistance. Through his encouragement, the FFA activities became not just about food security, but about restoring dignity, unity, and a shared sense of purpose.

"At first, divisions ran deep. Host and displaced communities struggled to see themselves as one," Rev. Takawira recalled. "*But through prayer, sports, dialogue, and consistent engagement – and through working side-by-side in activities like FFA – unity began to grow. Now, they work together to manage water systems, address community challenges, and build a shared future.*"

Rev. Takawira emphasized that transparency, time, and honest communication were key lessons – allowing people to trust again and to embrace knowledge-based support rather than harbour unrealistic expectations. He believes faith actors have a unique, non-political role in bringing communities together, and advocates for further investment in sustainable livelihoods, continuous education, and psychosocial support to solidify the gains achieved.

Through his leadership and the ZCC project's efforts, Runyararo moved from a place of spiritual isolation and tension to a community where peace, empowerment, and resilience now take root. **"*The hand of God was evident through the project. It revived hope, restored dignity, and united a once-divided people,*"** Rev. Takawira reflected.

8.3   Annex 3: Survey Tools

Household Survey Questionnaire

Preliminary Information
Enumerator name
Enter a date
Informed Consent
My name is.....I work for the ZCC. ZCC works with the GoZ in this 3-year project titled "Strengthening Protection, Resilience and Preparedness for displaced and host communities in Zimbabwe". The project is funded by Act for Peace. As we are coming towards the end of the project, we are conducting an end of project survey to assess the achievement of key project outcomes. You have been invited to participate in this survey because you are a registered participant in this program. Your participation in this survey is important because it will help us to deepen our knowledge of the impact of the project and to identify areas that need improvement. Participation is voluntary, you are free to stop at any time or to not answer any question you are not comfortable with. All the responses/findings will only be kept confidentially and will only be used by ZCC and Act for Peace (AfP) staff for program improvement.
Can we proceed with the interview? **Yes/No**

A	Section A: Respondent and Household Details	
	Location:	(a) IDP Camp – Runyararo (b) Host Community [Specify Village/Ward]
	Name of Respondent:	
	Gender of Respondent:	Male Female
	Age of Respondent:	__ years
	Are you the household head:	Yes No
	Do you have any challenges/difficulty in hearing, seeing, walking or climbing steps, washing all over or dressing, or in talking?	No difficulty with any of these Some difficulty with at least one of these A lot of difficulty with at least one of these Can not do at least one of these at all
	Religion:	Christianity, Apostolic, African Tradition, Muslim, Other, Refused to answer
	Which group do you represent in this community?	Faith leaders/Local Ecumenical Fellowships Traditional Leaders Community Volunteers (Community Child Care Workers, Village Health Workers, Child Protection Committee, Lead Farmers) Community member
	How long have you been involved in programs that strengthen Protection, Resilience and Disaster Preparedness with the government or any organisation?	Less than 1 year 1-2 years 3-5 years 5+ years
	Household Demographics	
	Total of number of household members including respondent: (number of people who regularly live and eat in this household)	_____
	Household Composition:	Number of Boys Under 18 Girls Under 18

		Men 19-59 Women 19-59 Men 60+ Women 60+
	Vulnerable Members: Does your household include any members who have difficulty hearing, seeing, walking or climbing steps, washing all over or dressing, or in talking?	Yes No
	If yes specify:	Number of Household members who have difficulty in hearing Number of Household members who have difficulty seeing, Number of Household members who have difficulty walking or climbing steps, Number of Household members who have difficulty washing all over or dressing Number of Household members who have difficulty talking? Number of Household members who have difficulty understanding or being understood
B	**SECTION B: IDPs AND HOST COMMUNITIES HAVE IMPROVED ACCESS TO A RANGE OF SERVICES THAT INCREASE THEIR PROTECTION**	
B1	**MENTAL HEALTH, PYSCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT & PROTECTION**	
B1.1	How would you describe the relationship between the IDP community and the host community today?	Very good – harmonious, Generally good Neutral Some tensions Serious conflicts
	Has this relationship changed in the last 3 years?	Much improved Improved No change Worsened
	If improved or worsened, in what way? (open-ended).	
	If conflicts or disputes arise in your community, do you feel there is a good mechanism to resolve them?	Yes No Not sure
	If yes, who leads it?	Community leaders Project-established committees, Church leaders Other:_____
	Have you or your family participated in any peacebuilding dialogues or training on conflict resolution?	Yes No if yes, by whom, when
	Are the peace committees or dialogue platforms still active in your community?	Yes No
	Do you feel safe from violence or harm in your community?	All of the time Most of the time Rarely Never
	If "rarely/never," what are the main concerns?	Theft violence, gender-based violence,

			harassment other:_____
		In the past year, do you know of any significant protection incidents in your community (such as assaults, GBV cases, child abuse, exploitation)?– do not ask for personal details, just occurrence).	Yes No
		If yes, were those affected able to get help or report it?	Yes No Not sure
		If someone reported a protection incident, were they referred to a service provider?	Yes No Not sure
		If you or someone in your household needed help due to violence, legal issues, or trauma, would you know where to go for help?	Yes – specify police, church, NGO, No
		Do you feel women and girls in your community are now safer or more supported than they were 3 years ago?	Yes No About the same Not sure
		Are you aware of any activities by the project related to mental health and psychosocial support?).	Yes No
		If yes: what were they?	workshops on GBV presence of a protection officer child-friendly spaces, etc., as recalled
		Did you benefit from or participate in any?	Yes No
		Would you say your household is in a better emotional/psychological state now compared to after Cyclone Idai?	Yes – we have recovered somewhat No – still struggling / Mixed
		The project offered mental health and psychosocial support, did you use it and was it helpful?	Yes No
		If yes, where did you get the mental health, PSS and counselling support	Local Ecumenical Fellowships/Church Leader Local Community Volunteer Traditional Leader Government department Other organisation (specify) Did not get any support
		Do you feel that protection services or support (e.g., reporting pathways, counselling) were accessible to all community members equally?"	Yes – Everyone had fair and equal access Somewhat – Most people could access, but some groups had challenges No – Many people were excluded or unaware of how to access them Not sure / I don't know enough to say
		If "Somewhat" or "No": Which groups do you think had more difficulty accessing protection services? (Select all that apply)	Women Men Children Elderly persons People with disabilities Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

			Other (specify): _____
	Did you or any member of your household lose official documents (e.g., ID, birth certificate) during Cyclone Idai or at any point during displacement?		Yes No Not sure
		If yes, did you receive any help from the project or other service providers to replace or reapply for these documents?	Yes – from the ZCC project Yes – from government or another organization No – I did not receive help Not sure
	Were you successfully able to get a new or replacement document?		Yes – all needed documents Partially – only some documents No – still missing key documents Not sure
		If you received help, how useful was the support in helping you regain access to services (e.g., school enrolment, health services, aid registration)?	Very useful Somewhat useful Not useful Not applicable
B2	**Access to Water**		
	What is your main source of drinking water now?		Unprotect Well Borehole/hand (manual) pump Piped water River/Stream Other sources (specify)
	How reliable is the source of water?		Very reliable through-out the day Somewhat reliable, water available at an average of 12 hours per day Not reliable at all, water available less than 12 hours per day Not sure
	How long does it take (one way) to fetch water from this source?		____ minutes. (If source is at home, record 0)
	What is the walking distance from your household to the water source?		Less than 500m Between 500m and 1km More than 1 km Not sure
	Compared to 3 years ago (2022), is your access to clean water now Better, Same, or Worse?		Better Same Worse (If better/worse, ask why – open-ended: e.g., new borehole was drilled by project, or borehole dried up)
	Do all groups in the community have equal access to the water point?		Yes No Not sure
		If No: Which groups face challenges?	Women Elderly Persons with disabilities IDPs Other: _____

	In the past year, did your household ever not have enough water for basic needs (drinking, cooking, washing) for more than 3 days in a row?	Yes No.
	If Yes, how often:	Often Sometimes Rarely
	Do you have a Committee responsible for managing your Water Point	Yes No
	Are you or a household member part of a water management committee or involved in maintaining the water point?	Yes No. If yes, who and what role
	If yes, are women equally represented in Water Management Committee	Yes No
	If yes, does the Committee has adequate capacity to manage the Water Point	Limited capacity, sometimes not able to manage the source Adequate capacity, always able to manage the source Not sure
	Is there a clear plan or system in place to maintain the water point after the project ends?	Yes No Not sure
	Have you or any household member received training on WASH, nutrition, or communicable diseases?	Yes No
	If yes, who offered the training?	Government departments (CPU and government ministries) ZCC Project Other NGOs Don't know Other (specify)
	Overall, how satisfied are you with your access to water in terms of availability, quality, and convenience?	Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied Please explain briefly why you feel that way: _____
B3	**Sanitation and hygiene**	
	What type of toilet does your household use?	Flush toilet Blair Ventilated improved pit latrine Traditional pit latrine None/open defecation, Other
	Have you or any HH member received training or attended sessions on hygiene or water management in the last 3 years?	Yes No – e.g.,
	If yes, who provided it?	ZCC project Government departments (CPU and government ministries) Other NGOs

		Don't know
		Other (specify)
	As a result of this project, can you name some critical times when one should wash hands? (Open-ended) enumerate up to 3 answers;	After using the toilet, Before eating, Before preparing food, After handling waste, Other:_____
	Do all household members regularly wash hands at critical times (e.g., before eating, after toilet use)?	Yes No Not sure
	Do you have a functioning handwashing facility at your home (with water and soap or ash)?	Yes No Partially (e.g., water but no soap)
	Do women and girls in your household have access to private and safe sanitation and hygiene facilities?	Yes No Not sure
	On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very low and 10 being very high, how would you rank your own understanding of the practices to prevent the spread of water, sanitation and hygiene related diseases?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
	Do you feel the water you mostly use is safe/clean?	Yes No Not sure
	Do you treat your water in any way before drinking?	No Boiling Chlorine Other __
C	**Section C: Strengthen resilience to climate-induced displacement**	
	In the last 3 years, has your household changed the way you cope with challenges such as droughts, floods, income loss, or displacement?	Yes No Not sure
	If Yes, what changes have you made? (Select all that apply)	Started saving money more regularly Joined a community group or ISAL Changed livelihood activity (e.g., from farming to business) Moved to a safer location or changed housing structure Now store food or water for emergencies Access early warning information (radio/phone messages, etc.) Other (specify): _____
	Compared to 3 years ago, do you feel your household is better prepared to deal with future shocks or crises?	Yes – better prepared No – still struggling/vulnerable About the same Don't know

	If better or worse, please briefly explain what helped or made it harder (open ended)	
	Is there any community early warning system or way you would be alerted of a disaster (like heavy rains/cyclone) coming?	Yes No Not Sure
	If Yes, how do you receive the warning?	Radio or community loudspeaker SMS or phone messages Local leaders or committees Church announcements WhatsApp or social media Other (specify): _____
	Who manages or operates the early warning system? (Select one)	Community disaster committee Local government (e.g., Civil Protection Unit) Church or faith-based group ZCC project Other NGOs Not sure
	Did the ZCC project help create or train any group related to this early warning system?	Yes No Not sure
	In the past 3 years, have you or any member of your household attended a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) or emergency preparedness training or meeting?	Yes No Not sure
	If Yes: Who provided the training? (Select all that apply)	ZCC project Local government (e.g., Civil Protection Unit) Other NGO or organization Community leaders Church or faith group Not sure
	What is one thing you learned or changed in your household because of that training? (Open-ended, e.g., built stronger house, stored food/water, made emergency plan, etc.)	
	Does your household have a plan for what to do in case of an emergency (such as a cyclone, flood, or fire)?	Yes No Not sure
	If Yes (optional follow-up): What does your emergency plan include? (Select all that apply)	Knowing where to evacuate or meet Keeping emergency items (documents, food, water) ready Having a list of emergency contacts Other (specify):
	Does your community have a disaster risk reduction (DRR) committee or emergency preparedness plan?	Yes No Not sure
	If Yes:	Yes – I am a member or participate actively No – but I know about its work

		Are you personally involved in the committee or activities?	No – and I don't know what it does
		Are women, youth, or persons with disabilities represented in community DRR committees?	Yes No Not sure
		Do you think your community's DRR committee or early warning system will continue after the project ends?"	Yes No Not sure
		Did you or any member of your household participate in an Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) group supported by the project?	Yes No → [If No, skip next part]
		If Yes: How has participating in the ISAL group helped your household? (Select all that apply)	Helped pay school fees Helped buy food Helped start or expand a small business Improved saving habits or financial planning Access to emergency funds Built stronger relationships in the community No major benefit yet Other (specify): _____
D	**Section D: Relevance, Project Participation and other Cross Cutting Issues**		
		Did you feel informed about the project activities before or during implementation?	Yes – fully informed Somewhat – I heard about it but not in detail No – I was not informed at all Not sure
		Do you feel that the project activities were respectful and appropriate to your cultural, religious, and gender norms?	Yes No Somewhat – Explain
		Were you ever asked to give your opinion or feedback on the project (before, during, or after implementation)?	Yes No Not sure
		If Yes: How was your feedback collected? (Select all that apply)	Community meetings Suggestion boxes Household visits Surveys or interviews Through church leaders or committees Other: _____
		If you had a complaint or concern about the project, did you know how or where to report it?	Yes No Not sure
		If Yes: Did you ever make a complaint or raise an issue?	Yes, and it was resolved Yes, but it was not addressed No – I didn't have a complaint No – I didn't feel safe or confident to report
		Do you feel the project included people from all parts of the community?	Yes – it was inclusive No – some groups were left out Not sure
		If No: Which groups were left out or underrepresented?	Women Youth

		Elderly, People with disabilities, Displaced people Host community members/people Other:_____
	Did you personally feel welcomed or supported to participate in project activities?	Yes No – I faced barriers I was not interested Not sure
	Did both men and women in your household have equal opportunity to participate in project activities (like trainings, dialogues, savings groups, or leadership roles)?	Yes No Not sure
	If No: What were the main barriers?	Cultural/gender norms Lack of time (due to household duties, etc.) Fear or insecurity Lack of information Other (specify): _____
	Which of the following activities under the project have you or your household participated in or benefitted from? (Read list and mark all that apply):	Attended training/workshop Attended community meetings/dialogues organized by the project Member of a committee formed by the project (water committee, peace committee, etc.) Other: _____ None of the above (if none, skip next question perhaps)
	What made it easy or difficult for you to participate in or benefit from the project activities? (Select all that apply)	Things that made it easier: Activities were held nearby Information was clearly communicated I was invited or included through local leaders Activities were scheduled at convenient times Support was relevant to my needs Friendly and respectful environment Things that made it difficult: I didn't hear about the activities in time Location was too far Timing conflicted with my other duties I didn't feel included or welcomed Language or communication barrier Cultural/gender norms limited my participation Disability-related access issues Other (specify): _____
	Do you think the support you received from the project (e.g., water, trainings, materials, cash) came at the right time to meet your needs?	Yes No – it came too late No – it came too early I didn't receive any support
	How useful was the support you received in helping your household cope or improve your situation?	Very useful – we are still benefiting Somewhat useful – it helped temporarily Not useful I did not receive any support
	Do you feel the project support was fairly distributed in your community?	Yes – most people who needed help received it No – some people were left out unfairly Not sure / Don't know

	Which one project activity do you think had the greatest impact on your household or community?	Access to clean water Hygiene or health training Disaster preparedness or DRR training Peacebuilding or community dialogues Psychosocial support Protection support (e.g., GBV awareness, referrals) Other (specify): _____
	How did this activity help you or your community? (Short open-ended explanation)	
	Overall, how satisfied are you with the support your household received from the project?	Very satisfied Satisfied Neutral Unsatisfied Very unsatisfied
	Please explain briefly why you feel that way: (Open-ended)	
	What is the biggest unmet need or remaining challenge for your household currently? (Open-ended; this helps identify gaps).	
	If a program like this were to continue or a new one start, what suggestions do you have to improve it? (Open-ended: could be about timeliness, what to focus on, how to involve people, etc.)	

(Thank the respondent for their time. Ensure they know how the information will be used and that their identity will be kept confidential. Provide a point of contact at ZCC if they have any questions later)

Note: The above questionnaire will be /may be translated into the local language (Shona) for actual use. Skips and logical flow will be programmed for electronic data collection. The final questionnaire may be shortened slightly to ensure it can be completed in about 30-45 minutes per household.

Focus Group Discussion Guide

Each FGD will be guided by a set of open-ended questions and participatory exercises, tailored to the specific participant group (e.g., IDP women, IDP men, host community members, youth). The facilitator will begin by introducing the purpose of the discussion: *"We are here to talk about the changes in your community over the past few years and the support you have received, so we can learn what has worked well and what could be improved. There are no right or wrong answers – we want to hear your honest experiences. This is confidential and will only be used to help organizations better assist the community."* Ground rules will be set (everyone's opinion is respected, one person speaks at a time, etc.).

Key FGD Questions/Themes:
1. **Changes in Living Conditions:** *"Think back to three years ago (around July 2022) when this program was starting. What was life like then in terms of your needs and challenges, and what is life like now? What has changed?"* – (The facilitator may use a timeline on flip chart where participants mark significant events or changes year by year. Expect discussion on water availability, housing, food situation, conflicts, etc. Participants can highlight positive or negative changes.)
2. **Relevance of the Project design**: "*Did the activities and support provided by the project match the real needs of your community? Were they suitable for your cultural, religious, and geographic context? How well did the project respond when new challenges emerged* (e.g., drought, increased displacement, economic hardship)?"
3. **Inclusion and Accountability: "***Did everyone in the community have an equal chance to participate in project activities? Were there any barriers for women, persons with disabilities, youth, etc.? Were you ever*

asked for your feedback about the project? Could you raise concerns if something didn't go well? Did you feel heard? Were changes made based on what you said?"

4. **Project Activities Awareness:** *"What activities or support do you remember this ZCC program doing in your community?"* – (List them as participants call out: e.g., piped water scheme, Sports for peace, workshops/meetings, DRR support, formed committees, etc. This gauges awareness and recall.)

5. **Most Helpful Interventions:** *"Of the activities we listed (or others you recall), which ones have been the most helpful to you and your families? Why?"* – (Encourage storytelling: e.g., a woman might say the borehole saved her time and improved her health, or a man might say the peace dialogues resolved tensions, the sports for peace innovation's impact. If not mentioned, probe areas like protection: "Did any support make you feel safer or more supported?"*)

6. **Protection and Safety:** *"Do people here (women, children, everyone) feel safer and more protected now compared to before? Why or why not?"* – (Facilitate discussion on issues like lighting at night, presence of authorities, any reductions in violence, etc. Are women and girls safer when accessing water, latrines, or moving around? Do people know where to get help in case of violence or problems? For women's FGD: *"Is it safe for women and girls to move around, use the latrines, fetch water, etc.? Has that improved?"*)

7. **Disaster Preparedness:** *"If a cyclone or big storm were to happen again, do you feel the your household or community is better prepared now? What has been done to prepare, and what still needs to be done? Are there any disaster committees or early warning systems in place? Has your household or community made a plan for emergencies?"* – (Expect discussion on training received, early warning knowledge, perhaps mention of community disaster committees. Also possibly the lack of durable housing still a worry

8. **Delivery and Coordination**: *"Was support delivered in a timely and fair manner? Were different groups (churches, committees, government) working well together? Did the project use resources wisely? What could have been done differently to improve efficiency?"*

9. **Community Relations**: *How has the relationship between the displaced community and the host community changed through the course of the project?* – (If separate FGDs for IDPs and hosts, each can share their perspective. Were there tensions before? Did anything improve or worsen? Were there specific dialogues, events or committees that helped? Probe for conflicts resolved or remaining: "Can you share an example of a conflict that happened and how it was dealt with?" If project did peace activities: "Did you participate? Did it help to ease tensions?")

10. **Role of Faith/Church:** *"ZCC (church organization) helped lead this project. Did having a church organization involved make any difference to you? For instance, did it affect trust, how aid was given, or using church gatherings for information?"* – (Participants can share if they felt more comfortable or if church leaders mediated issues, etc. If they don't bring it up, that's fine – it's an optional area to explore faith-based advantage or not.)

11. **Suggestions for Improvement:** *"If this project were to continue or a new phase start, what advice do you have? What should be done differently or additionally to help your community?"* – (Encourage specific suggestions: e.g., "more focus on building permanent houses," "projects for youth employment," "longer-term support not just short-term," etc. Also ask, *"What should they keep doing because it worked well?"*)

12. **Most Significant Change (Exercise):** As a closing, do a quick participatory exercise: each person can state in one sentence *"the biggest change in our community/life since this project, in my view, is …"* and also *"our biggest remaining problem is …"*. The facilitator will note these.

FGD Guide for Local Faith Leaders
Purpose: To explore the contributions of local faith leaders and ecumenical bodies in promoting mental health, psychosocial support (PSS), and protection within IDP and host communities through their involvement in the ZCC-led project.
Target Participants: Representatives from Local Ecumenical Fellowships (LEFs), ZINATHA, UDACIZA, EFZ and other faith-based actors engaged in the project.

1. **Role and Involvement in the Project:** *What role did your church or religious institution play in supporting the project? Were you involved in providing mental health or psychosocial support (PSS)? If yes, what kinds of support or activities did you offer? How were you trained or equipped to handle these responsibilities (e.g., by ZCC, Department of Social Development, etc.)?*

2. **Contribution to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:** *What are some of the common psychosocial issues people in your community have faced due to displacement, disasters, or other hardships? How has*

the faith community helped address these challenges? Can you give examples of the support you offered (e.g., counselling, prayer groups, referrals)? How effective do you feel the LEFs and other faith-based actors were in providing this support?*

3. **Protection and Behaviour Change:** *The project included training on GBV, child marriages, drug and substance abuse, and vaccinations. How did you engage with your community around these issues? Were there any changes in community attitudes or behaviours that you observed as a result of your engagement? How did collaboration among different religious groups (ZCC, EFZ, ZINATHA, etc.) influence the success of protection interventions?*

4. **Integration and Collaboration:** *How well did you work with other actors such as Community-Based Protection Committees, the Department of Social Development, or other government or civil society partners? Were there any challenges or lessons in working as faith actors within a broader protection framework?*

5. **Reflection and Recommendations:** *From your experience, what worked well in the way faith-based groups were involved in the project? What could be improved if a similar project were to be implemented again? What is one key change or impact you have observed in the community as a result of your involvement in the project?*

FGD Guide for Community-Based Committees

Purpose: To assess the effectiveness, participation, functionality, and sustainability of community-level committees established or supported by the ZCC project (e.g., Water Point Committees, Protection Committees, ISALs Groups, Sports for Peace Committees).

Target Participants: Representatives from key community committees formed or strengthened by the project (WASH, Protection, ISALs, Sports for Peace). Aim for 1–3 members per committee to participate in a joint discussion.

Duration: 60–75 minutes

Introduction and Roles: *Can each of you briefly introduce yourselves and the committee/group you represent? What was the main purpose of your committee? What activities were you responsible for?*

Functionality and Participation: *How often did your committee meet or carry out its activities? Who participated in your group? Were women, youth, and persons with disabilities included and active? Were women given leadership roles within your committee? If yes, what roles did they hold, and how did they influence decision-making and participation? How were committee members selected, and was the selection process seen as fair and inclusive by the community?*

Capacity and Support from the Project: *What type of training, equipment, or support did you receive from the ZCC project? Do you feel your group was well-prepared to carry out its responsibilities? Why or why not? Was there collaboration between your committee and other groups (e.g., faith leaders, DRR committees, local government)?*

Achievements and Challenges: *What are some successes or positive changes your committee has contributed to? (*Examples: resolved a conflict, repaired water point, supported GBV survivor, helped households save money) *What were some of the main challenges you faced?* (e.g., lack of tools, low participation, community resistance)

Sustainability and Future Prospects: *Is your committee still active? If yes, what are you currently doing? If not, why did it stop? What is needed to keep your committee active and effective in the future? (*e.g., more training, support from local authorities, tools, refresher meetings). *Do you think the community sees your group as useful and relevant?*

Suggestions and Lessons Learned: *What advice would you give to improve future projects that want to support similar committees? What is one thing your committee is most proud of?*

The facilitator will ensure that during the FGD:

- Everyone gets a chance to speak (draw out quieter participants especially women or youth who might defer to elders).
- There is follow-up on interesting points (e.g., if someone mentions a particular conflict was resolved, ask how; if someone says "we got a borehole but it dried up," explore how that impacted them).
- Differences in opinion are acknowledged (if some say an intervention was great and others say it failed, note both and explore why experiences differed).
- Emotions are handled sensitively (if an issue raises anger or sadness, the facilitator will handle it with empathy and possibly steer discussion to constructive solutions after acknowledging feelings).

- The discussion doesn't get dominated by one or two people – use techniques like round-robin or small group breakouts if needed to hear all voices.

Each FGD will be around 60–90 minutes. The note-taker will capture key quotes and consensus points as well as divergent opinions. After the session, the team will debrief what was learned and any unique insights or quotes to use (anonymously) in the report as evidence (for example, a powerful quote like "*Now we fetch water in 5 minutes, before we used to walk an hour – this project brought us dignity*" or "*We still fear the next cyclone because we are in cabins; we need real homes*"). These discussions will heavily inform the qualitative assessment of relevance, effectiveness, impact, etc., and will complement the survey by explaining the "why" behind the numbers.

Key Informant Interview Guides

Below are outlines of questions for different types of key informants. Interviews will be semi-structured – the evaluator will adapt questions based on the informant's expertise and knowledge area. All interviews will begin with an introduction of the evaluation purpose and assurances of confidentiality, then proceed to tailored questions.

A. KII Guide for ZCC Project Staff (Project Coordinator/M&E Officer):

- **Project Design and Relevance***: "What were the main issues this project aimed to address, and how were the activities decided? In hindsight, do you feel the design covered the priority needs in Runyararo?"*
- **Implementation Experience:** "*What were the biggest challenges faced during implementation? How were they overcome?*" (Probe: logistical, community acceptance, coordination, etc.)
- **Effectiveness***: "Which components of the project do you consider most successful, and why? Which had less success or fell short of targets?*" (Probe for evidence they observed – e.g., "water supply improved markedly as piped water schemes were working, but livelihoods didn't pick up due to drought").
- **Outcomes/Impact***: "From your perspective, what have been the notable changes in the community because of this project?" (*Probe each major objective: protection – any cases of GBV addressed, resilience – are people better off economically, preparedness – committees functioning? etc.)
- **Monitoring Data***: "Could you share any monitoring results you collected (like number of people trained, water point usage, any before-after data)? How do those compare with expected results?"*
- **Gender & Inclusion***: "How did the project ensure women, youth, and vulnerable groups were included? What worked or didn't in that regard?"*
- **Sustainability Measures***: "What steps did the project take for sustainability? (e.g., training committees, involving government). Do you think the benefits will continue? What might jeopardize that?"*
- **Coordination***: "Did you coordinate with other actors (government, ZRP, NGOs)? How? Any joint activities or referral systems in place?"*
- **Faith-based Reflection***: "As a church organization, did ZCC bring any special advantages or face any issues in implementing this project? How did the community's perception of ZCC affect the project?"*
- **Lessons Learned:** "*Looking back, what would you do differently in a future similar project? What are the top lessons learned you have noted?*"
- **Any Other Comments***: "Anything else you think the evaluation should consider that we haven't discussed?"*

(This guide will be adjusted if speaking to different staff, focusing M&E officer more on data and logic, field officer on community interactions, etc.)

B. KII Guide for Government Official (e.g., District Development Coordinator or Social Development Officer):

- **Engagement with Project***: "Were you or your department involved in or aware of the ZCC-led protection and resilience program in Runyararo? In what capacity?"*
- **Relevance to Government Plans***: "How did this project align with government efforts for Cyclone Idai recovery and IDP resettlement?"* (Probe: Did it complement the government housing program or social distributions?

- **Observations of Impact**: "*From the government's perspective, what changes have you observed among the IDP community since the project?* (For instance, any improvement in their welfare, self-reliance, reduction in complaints coming to your office?)"
- **Coordination and Coherence**: "*How well did ZCC coordinate with local authorities? (e.g., did they inform you of activities, participate in district coordination meetings, etc.) Could this coordination be improved?*"
- **Sustainability & Handover:** "*Now that the project has ended, is the government or local structures taking over any of the services or activities?* (For example, are you aware if the water points are being maintained by rural council, or water committees linking to any other government departments?)"
- **Gaps**: "*In your view, are there any gaps remaining for these communities that need attention? What would be your recommendation to church organizations or NGOs going forward in Chimanimani?*"
- **General Assessment**: "*Overall, was the intervention helpful from your standpoint, and would you encourage similar partnerships with faith-based organizations in future?*"
- **Political/Cultural Sensitivity**: (tread lightly) "*Anything about the approach or implementation that caused concern or praise among local leadership?*"
- **Any Other Remarks**: "*Any other observations about the project's effectiveness or how the community is doing now?*"

C. KII Guide for Community Leader :
- **Community Changes**: "*How has the situation in this community (Runyararo or the host village) evolved over the last 3 years? What are the biggest changes you've seen?*"
- **Project Knowledge**: "*What did the ZCC project do in your community? Were you involved in any planning or activities?*"
- **Community Reception**: "*How did the community feel about these interventions? (Accepting, any resistance, high participation?) What role did you play as a leader in facilitating or guiding the project?*"
- **Conflict and Cohesion**: "*Have there been conflicts or issues between community members that the project tried to address? What is the current state of relations? Can you give an example of how a problem was solved (or not solved)?*"
- **Support to Vulnerable**: "*Did you see the project reach those who needed it most? (For example, widows, orphans, those with no income – were they helped adequately?) As a leader, did you notice anyone left out?*"
- **Continuity**: "*Now that the project is ending, what do you think will happen? Are the committees or groups formed (if any) going to continue activities? What support might they need?*"
- **Suggestions**: "*If you could tell the project donors or managers one thing to do differently next time, what would it be?*"
- **Comparison**: (if host leader) "*How is life for host community members versus IDPs now – did both benefit fairly? Any tensions remaining?*" (if IDP camp leader) "*Do people want to stay here or move? What are their hopes now and did the project influence that in any way?*"
- **Any Other Thoughts**: (free comment).

D. KII Guide for Other NGOs/Partners (e.g., IOM, WHH representative):
- **Awareness and Coordination**: "*Are you familiar with the ZCC-led program for IDPs in Chimanimani? Did your organization interact or coordinate with it?*"
- **Coherence**: "*From your viewpoint, were there overlaps or gaps between what ZCC did and what other agencies (like yours) did? (e.g., WHH focused on water – did ZCC complement that by training water committees? Or IOM gave shelters – did ZCC complement with livelihoods?)*"
- **Effectiveness (external view)**: "*Do you have any observations on the effectiveness or impact of that project on the community? Sometimes agencies observe changes even if it's not their project – anything you noted?*"
- **Challenges:** "*In working in that area, what challenges did you face that maybe ZCC also would have faced (like community dynamics, logistics)? Did you see them handling things differently as a faith-based org?*"

- **Collaboration:** *"Were there any forums or meetings where ZCC participated with others (like cluster meetings)? How was their engagement?"*
- **Recommendations**: *"What would you suggest for better coherence among aid actors in Chimanimani? Are there unmet needs that require more attention collectively?"*
- **Value-Add**: *"Do you think having a local church organization implementing made a difference in outcomes or community trust, compared to typical NGOs?"*
- (These questions help assess **coherence** and external perceptions of **effectiveness/sustainability**.)

E. KII Guide for Donor Representative (if applicable, e.g., Australian Embassy/DFAT):
- **Expectation**: *"What were the main outcomes you expected from funding this project? To what extent do you feel those have been met?"*
- **Reporting**: *"How was the project's reporting and accountability to you as a donor? Any notable strengths or shortcomings in how results were communicated?"*
- **Field Observations**: *"Did you or your team visit the project site during implementation? If yes, what were your impressions?"*
- **OECD-DAC Criteria**: *"We are evaluating by DAC criteria – any particular criterion you are most interested in or concerned about for this project?"* (This is a chance for donor to emphasize, for example, sustainability or gender impact, which we ensure to address.)
- **Future Funding**: *"Would the results of this project influence your willingness to fund ZCC or similar organizations again? Why or why not?"*
- **Feedback to Implementer**: *"Do you have any feedback that you'd want communicated to the implementers (ZCC) regarding performance or lessons?"*
- **Strategic Alignment**: *"How did this project fit into your broader humanitarian strategy in Zimbabwe? Was it coherent with other projects you funded (perhaps in other districts or sectors)?"*
- **Continuous Improvement**: *"From a donor perspective, what could have been done to improve project delivery or monitoring?"*

Each KII will be scheduled for about 30-60 minutes, depending on depth of discussion. The guides above are not exhaustive; the interviewer will tailor follow-up questions to each conversation. For instance, if a government official brings up a specific incident (like distribution of government aid), the interviewer will explore how that interacted with the project. If a ZCC staff mentions a mid-course adjustment, that will be delved into as a lesson learned.